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U.S. Army photo

The NRA, the foremost guardian of the traditional American right to “keep and bear arms,” believes every law-abiding citizen is entitled to the ownership and legal use of firearms, and that every reputable gun owner should be an NRA Member.

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Photo by Forrest MacCormack



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**THE COVER:** Springfield Armory certainly wasn't first when it comes to ARs, but the Illinois maker has now expanded its Saint pistol line to include the EVAC and PDW, the latter of which is shown on this month's cover topped by a Trijicon MRO. For a complete report on Springfield's latest large-format .223 Rem. pistols, turn to Managing Editor Kelly Young's story beginning on p. 38. Photo by Forrest MacCormack. Design by David J. Labrozzi.



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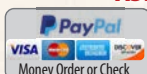
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### The Guns Of Operation Varsity

The largest of all World War II Allied airborne jumps was Operation Varsity in March 1945. Read here to learn about the cutting-edge firearm tech employed during this huge, costly jump across the Rhine.

[americanrifleman.org/varsityguns](http://americanrifleman.org/varsityguns)



### Keep Your Gun Running: Survival Kits For Rifles

In any survival situation, your firearm needs to be in peak operating condition to keep you fed and defended. Here's what to think about for your firearm's own survival kit. [americanrifleman.org/riflekit](http://americanrifleman.org/riflekit)

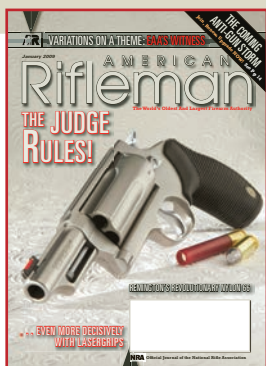


### Surplus Self-Defense: SIG Sauer P226

Gun buyers in stores and online can find plenty of used guns, particularly former law-enforcement arms. Are these good choices for self-defense? Read more at [americanrifleman.org/surplussig](http://americanrifleman.org/surplussig).



Tune in Wednesday nights to the Outdoor Channel for the best firearm show on television. Now in its 18th year, "American Rifleman Television" brings you a Feature, a "Rifleman Review" and an "I Have This Old Gun" segment in each show. To preview upcoming episodes, visit [americanrifleman.org/artv](http://americanrifleman.org/artv).



## Here Comes The Judge!

### July 29

The Remington Model 700; Winchester Model 1895 Rifle In .405 Win.; M1C Sniper rifle

### August 5

The Taurus Judge Revolver Story; EAA Girsan MC28 SA-TV Pistol In 9 mm Luger; U.S. Cal. .30 M1A1 "Paratrooper" Carbine

### August 12

SIG Sauer's P-Series Pistols; Colt King Cobra Target In .357 Mag.; U.S. Model Of 1917 Colt Revolver

### August 19

King of the "Snake" Guns: Colt's Python; Smith & Wesson Model 948-2 Revolver In .22 WMR; British Pattern 1853 Enfield Rifle-Musket



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## THE KEEFE REPORT

According to some sources, as many as 2 million Americans have become new firearm owners since the beginning of this year. As an NRA member, you are an influencer and likely know someone who has recently chosen to exercise their Right to Keep and Bear Arms.

NRA, chartered in 1871, is an educational, recreational and public service organization dedicated to the right of the individual citizen to own and use firearms for recreation and defense. Every law-abiding firearm owner of good repute should be an NRA member. Many of those who purchased firearms over the last six months did so for protection of themselves, their families and their homes—and it is NRA that protects their right to do so. You should encourage them to join.

For nearly a century and a half, NRA has been the leader in firearm safety training, and the association continues that role to this day. In addition to the training resources offered by NRA's Safety & Education Dept., *American Rifleman* offers information not just to our members, but also for all those interested in responsible firearm ownership at [americanrifleman.org](http://americanrifleman.org).

Written by Digital Managing Editor Evan Brune, "The NRA: Your Resource For Firearm Training And Knowledge" ([americanrifleman.org/resources](http://americanrifleman.org/resources)) concisely describes NRA's role in firearm safety through the NRA Education & Training Division. This includes a number of distance learning classes, with "Basics of Pistol Shooting" being one of them.

There is also "The New Gun Owner Guide: 3 Essential First Steps" that begins with NRA's safety rules and offers some resources for beginning shooters. It also links to the NRA Publications Mentor Program, and there are several articles that every new gun owner should read—as well as a helpful video on gun safety basics. You can learn more at [americanrifleman.org/mentor](http://americanrifleman.org/mentor).

But in the pages of this magazine and online we also dig deeper than basic firearm safety. For those who



purchased a carbine in the past six months—or at any time really—we enlisted one of today's most respected trainers, Sgt./Maj. Kyle E. Lamb (Ret.), to cover things every AR carbine owner should learn. In his article "The AR-15: Best Home Defense Gun?," he wrote: "The AR is very easy to shoot. Head out to the range and test my theory. Ask anyone who wants to join in on the fun to try shooting a scored event, under pressure, with a pistol at home-defense ranges. After you see their performance, try the same with an AR, I will bet money you see much better control of the system." You can read the story at [americanrifleman.org/arhome](http://americanrifleman.org/arhome). We actually asked him to do a series on the carbine called "AR 101," which also includes stories on basic AR shooting positions and another on how to zero the AR, all of which are online.

But it's not just with the modern carbine that we offer more advanced techniques. We went to retired FBI agent Bill Vanderpool, who was one of the last to teach FBI agents how to use double-action revolvers, with an in-depth article on "Running the Gun: Double-Action Revolver Revisited." This article would be very useful to any new revolver owner, as well as anyone who has had one for decades ([americanrifleman.org/double-action](http://americanrifleman.org/double-action)).

Every day, the staff editors of *American Rifleman* post content to [americanrifleman.org](http://americanrifleman.org). Whether you're interested in new firearm evaluations, the history of the gun, firearm safety or just being a better shooter, there's something there for everyone—and it's all just a click away.

Sincerely,

*Mark A. Keefe, III*



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**A** 17-year-old male forced to defend a home fatally shot an armed intruder March 22 in Cobb County, Ga. Local law enforcement said three suspects attempting to rob the residence were confronted by the young armed citizen, whose shots hit two of them. One home invader succumbed to his wounds at the scene as his partners in crime fled. The two accomplices, including a man wounded in the robbery, have since been charged with murder, aggravated assault, attempted armed robbery, burglary and possession of a firearm during the commission of a crime. Police said they do not plan to charge the armed citizen who acted in self-defense. (fox5atlanta.com, Atlanta, Ga., 3/23/20)

**A** dice game in Hinds County, Miss., took a bad roll after one teenaged male tried to rob another participant. In the early morning hours of April 6, according to the Hinds County Sheriff's Office, a man trying to leave the scene was approached at his vehicle by the would-be robber, who allegedly fired a gunshot into the car. The victim exited his vehicle and fired back at the assailant, who then fled in a stolen car with two other occupants. Deputies reported that the stolen vehicle later crashed and all inside fled. However, the instigator was found across the street from the wreckage with gunshot wounds and was subsequently taken to a nearby hospital. Investigators said one of the accomplices was also struck, and both were in stable condition. The suspect reportedly would be charged with attempted armed robbery, aggravated assault and possession of a stolen vehicle, and he was also wanted for other felony charges. The armed citizen was questioned by deputies and released. (wjtv.com, Jackson, Miss., 4/6/20)

**B**aton Rouge Police said that a three-on-one attempted holdup ended in the death of one perpetrator and incarceration for his accomplices. According to investigators, the trio was held off by a 26-year-old man who exchanged gunfire with the criminals while acting in self-defense. The armed citizen reportedly suffered serious injuries in the attack, and as a result, the surviving thugs were arrested and booked into Baton Rouge Parish Prison on charges including attempted first-degree murder and principal to first-degree murder. (theadvocate.com, Baton Rouge, La., 5/1/20)

**A** motorsports store owner was finishing a late-night dinner with his girlfriend in the parking lot April 22 when two men reportedly came up to his vehicle and started shooting. The businessman and his girlfriend took cover as he returned fire and subsequently

ended one thug's criminal ways, fatally wounding him. The other man fled, but was later arrested to face charges of conspiracy to commit robbery, attempted robbery and assault with a deadly weapon. While the store owner and his girlfriend were not struck in the attack, news accounts said the deceased armed attacker had been hit multiple times. According to reports, the owner was trained in firearms protection and has a valid permit to carry concealed. The Clark County district attorney ruled that the shooting was a clear case of self-defense. (8newsnow.com, Las Vegas, Nev., 4/25/20)

**A** 32-year-old Arizona man, who allegedly attempted to break into a home around 10 p.m. on April 16, was shot by the homeowner during the attempted break-in. The intruder allegedly stole a vehicle before breaking into the home, which was reported to local law enforcement. After being shot by the armed citizen, the alleged intruder was taken to a local hospital and treated for his wounds. The armed citizen sustained minor injuries during the struggle with the intruder, who was later booked into the Maricopa County Jail for robbery, theft of means of transportation, residential burglary and trespassing. (abc15.com, Phoenix, Ariz., 4/17/20)

**A** Panama City, Fla., man in his 70s fatally shot a home invader who was attacking his wife on the morning of May 26. Sheriff's deputies said the intruder was initially standing in the residence's driveway, acting erratically, making threats and swearing. The 31-year-old bandit then burst through a glass door and began beating the homeowner's wife. The armed citizen said he could not physically stop the younger man, so he retrieved his firearm from another room and stopped the threat by firing at the intruder. The woman subsequently required treatment for her injuries at a nearby hospital. (fox6now.com, Panama City, Fla., 5/28/20) ★





*"The Beginner"*

*Jack and His 10/22® Carbine*

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By Wayne LaPierre  
Executive Vice President

## A Time Like No Other

**W**e are in a time of historic responsibility, a time of fundamental threats to our freedom and, yes, a time of great opportunity—if we dare to seize it.

There are now tens of thousands of new gun owners; people who, in part because of this pandemic, have decided to embrace their Second Amendment rights for the first time. These people need our help. They need to know that here at the NRA we have the resources for them to find certified instructors ([nrainstructors.org](http://nrainstructors.org)), the best gun-safety advice available ([gunsafetyrules.nra.org](http://gunsafetyrules.nra.org)) and a lot of how-to support from NRA Publications ([nrapublications.org](http://nrapublications.org)).

Most important, they need to know that NRA members like you are the reason they have the freedom to purchase, own and use firearms. There can be no question that without you and your strong membership support, this sacred freedom would have died a long time ago. Now, it's up to you and me to bring as many of these first-time gun owners into our NRA family—so they too can play an active role in defending and strengthening our Right to Keep and Bear Arms.

As we survey the political landscape leading up to the most consequential national election in the history of our Second Amendment freedom, one thing is clear: Winning in November will require the most monumental effort you, me and the NRA has ever put forth.

Media elites are twisting facts, fabricating stories and outright campaigning for every anti-gun politician on the ballot this November.

Gun-hating billionaires like Michael Bloomberg and George Soros are spending tens of millions of dollars to flat out buy an anti-gun majority in Congress.

Joe Biden—the most anti-gun presidential candidate we've ever faced—is promising to “take on the NRA” and eviscerate our Second Amendment rights like no other president in history. He's vowed to resurrect the disastrous Clinton-era ban on the manufacture and sale of semi-automatic rifles and standard-capacity magazines. And if you think you're safe from Biden's ban because you already own an AR, think again. Under Biden's plan, every gun owner in America who owns a semi-automatic rifle would be forced to register their firearms with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. According to Biden, gun owners will have only “two options”: register your guns or sell them to the government.

He's also promising to institute a national gun-rationing scheme that would bar every

law-abiding American from purchasing more than one firearm per month.

Last but certainly not least, Biden has vowed to bankrupt firearms manufacturers by changing the law to allow anti-gun lawyers to bury them under an avalanche of crippling, frivolous lawsuits.

Biden and anti-gun forces across every inch of the political spectrum are lining up to take our guns.

The question is: Who among us will line up to stop them?

I know I can count on you. As an NRA member, you've already done more to protect the Second Amendment than most Americans will ever do in a lifetime.

However, with nothing less than the full measure of our freedom on the line this November, I hope you'll consider doing even more.

**“WE'VE OVERCOME  
CHALLENGING ODDS AND WON  
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Help grow the strength of our membership by recruiting as many new NRA members as possible.

Finally, when you go to vote on Election Day, bring at least five other pro-freedom voters with you.

You and I are battle-tested warriors in the fight for freedom. We've overcome challenging odds and won victories for our Second Amendment rights that few thought possible. Now, as we charge headlong into the most crucial months of the biggest Election Year fight we've ever faced, I know that your continued NRA leadership, activism, and support can and will make all the difference on Election Day.

Thank you, as always, for your friendship. It is a true honor to fight by your side!

*Wayne LaPierre*



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By Carolyn D. Meadows  
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# Crisis Inspires Clarity

It is hard to believe we are past the halfway mark of 2020—a year full of challenges and changes to our everyday lives that only a few months ago would have seemed unimaginable. The COVID-19 international health crisis descended upon our country swiftly and mercilessly, and I continue to pray that the millions in our NRA family remain healthy and safe as we emerge from the lockdown and economic peril.

Being forced to confront such turmoil has summoned a clarity on what matters most in our lives as Americans. In addition to gratitude for God's incalculable blessings of faith, family and friends, we have been moved to reflect deeply on the unique freedoms our nation has enjoyed for nearly 250 years. Any restrictions on those Constitutional guarantees are anathema to our American way of life, thus it is incumbent on us to continue safeguarding freedom for future generations.

That is why, in this year of what no doubt will be the most critical election of our time, we must not squander the strength of focus caused by uncertainty. The unknown consequences of national disorder prompted millions of law-abiding citizens—your neighbors, friends and family members among them—to become first-time gun owners, largely to protect themselves and their families from those who would do them harm. They were able to exercise these rights and freedoms in many cases as a direct result of the efforts of local gun stores to remain open during the lockdown. Your NRA leadership and NRA-ILA worked relentlessly to defeat attempts by some state-elected officials to suppress citizens' Second Amendment rights by closing gun stores. We must continue to support NRA-ILA and ensure its efforts were not in vain.

Throughout our history, respected elders have taught family members the rules of safe gun handling, marksmanship and overall respect for firearms, along with the responsibility that accompanies gun ownership. Sadly, that is not always the case today. Now is the time to be proactive and protect your Second Amendment-protected liberty at the grassroots level. If you know any of those new gun owners, warmly welcome them into the ranks and share your knowledge with them. Use this opportunity to become a positive influence. Offer mentorship. Teach newcomers the NRA Rules of Gun Safety. With ranges now open in most states, start them on a path to lifelong fulfillment and personal security. Refer them to expert instruction at [NRAInstructors.org](http://NRAInstructors.org). Encourage them to join our organization, founded 150 years ago to promote civilian marksmanship skills, and one

that works tirelessly to guarantee our rights remain intact. Help to pass down these time-honored traditions to a new generation.

If you are a hunter, your activity is one that remained unaffected in most places, rightfully deemed essential as a way for many Americans, especially in rural areas, to put food on their tables. Please continue to take to the field this fall and invite others to experience the outdoor lifestyle with you. Demonstrate safe, ethical hunting and proper etiquette while you share the conservation values that are the heart of hunting, an activity where physical distancing comes naturally. Prospective hunters can learn the ropes while at home by taking NRA's free online hunter safety courses. Do your part to steer those new to hunting to [NRAHE.org](http://NRAHE.org).

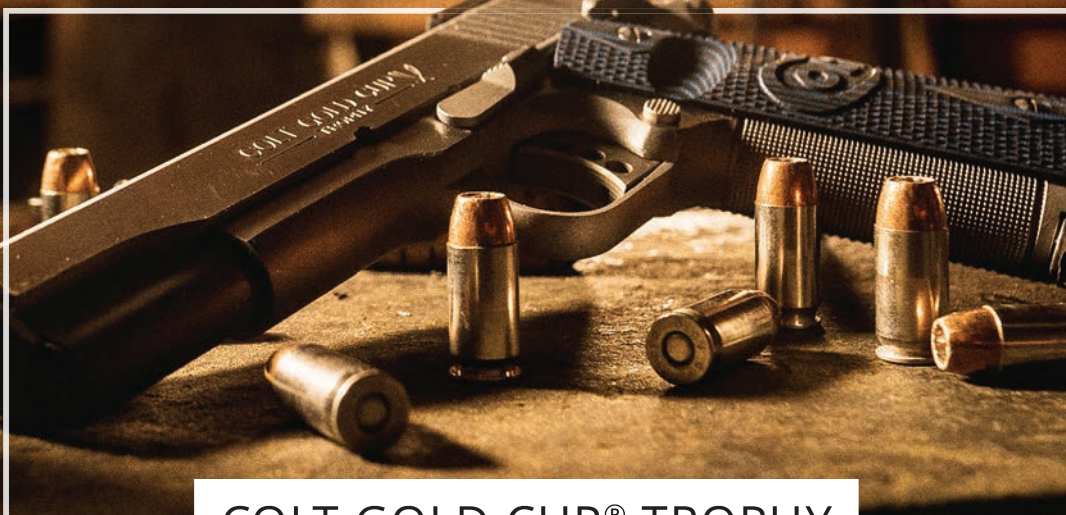
Our gun rights were under siege long before the pandemic, but, again, just when the need for personal safety could not have been clearer, they come under attack by opportunistic politicians. New and longtime gun owners need to be aware that their actions at the polls this November will affect our future as a free people, and with it, our ability to protect ourselves in future crises. Voter apathy is equivalent to a vote for anti-gun candidates. Just look at recent events in Virginia to see the disastrous policies that come from politicians bought and paid for by Michael Bloomberg when gun owners don't make their voices heard at the ballot box. Let us not ignore the warnings of radical anti-gun politicians. When they say they intend to trample on our freedoms and restrict the rights of the law abiding, they mean it!

We must fight against any bit of complacency in the aftermath of quarantine. Be assured that many anti-gun groups have been quietly shoring up their anti-freedom tactics. I am reminded of the 19th century short story, "Rip Van Winkle," about a lackadaisical villager who wanders into the mountains, falls asleep and awakens 20 years later, unaware he has missed the entire American Revolution and an election. When he finds his way back to town, he is asked for whom he had voted. He naively declares himself a loyal subject of King George III, a response not well-received by those who had fought for his freedom.

For your sake and our country's sake, stay aware, stay vigilant, and stay engaged. Together, NRA members have made the difference in elections to safeguard our Constitution. And we must do so again in November to save our republic.

*Carolyn D. Meadows*





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By Jason Ouimet  
Executive Director,  
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# "No Place" For Gun Confiscation In America

Americans idly speculating as to what life might be like if Joe Biden succeeds in his bid to become the next president of the United States, need look no further than to our neighbors up north.

On May 1, Canada's Liberal Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that, "effective immediately, it is no longer permitted to buy, sell, transport, import, or use military grade assault weapons in this country."

The regulation itself—which doesn't define (or even use the term) "military grade assault weapon"—applies to any of the more than 1,500 firearms listed by make and model, as well as any present or future "variants or modified versions" of these guns. Every target shooting and hunting configuration of the AR-15—the most popular rifle in America—is now a "prohibited" firearm. According to Mr. Trudeau, there is "no use and no place for such weapons in Canada."

Almost every gun owner in Canada now has until April 20, 2022, to destroy, disable, or surrender these guns to law enforcement, although in the haste to impose the ban, the Liberal government has yet to release any details of its confiscation and "fair compensation" scheme.

Prime Minister Trudeau and Bill Blair, the federal public safety minister, justify the ban by claiming that it applies to firearms "that were not designed for hunting or for target shooting" but "were designed for soldiers to kill other soldiers... guns that belong on a battlefield and not on our streets." The law includes a ban on any firearm with a "bore diameter of 20 mm or greater," with no exception for ordinary 10- and 12-gauge shotguns with a screw-in choke tube. Also at odds with these assertions (as pointed out by representatives of shooting sports groups and the firearm industry), the Canadian government had been providing transport permits for the now-banned guns for the "purposes of sport shooting" for over 30 years. The new gun law itself blatantly undermines the government's specious rationale, as the banned guns may still be used for actual hunting pursuant to aboriginal or treaty rights or for sustenance hunting or trapping.

Like Justin Trudeau, Joe Biden blindly supports gun control and prohibitions on what he misleadingly calls "assault weapons." The former senator boasts that he co-wrote the Clinton-era Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, which banned commonly-owned semi-automatic firearms and magazines with a capacity of over ten rounds. After the ban expired in 2004, a Department of Justice-funded study noted that "assault weapons" had rarely been featured in crime even before the ban and concluded that the

law's effects on gun violence were likely "small at best and perhaps too small for reliable measurement."

Joe Biden persists in promoting this unconstitutional policy, and has made the issue a cornerstone of his campaign. His "Biden Plan" includes bans on magazines that "can hold multiple bullets in them" and "assault weapons," but avoids explaining what "assault weapon" actually means. The plan "will give individuals who now possess assault weapons or high-capacity magazines two options: sell the weapons to the government, or register them under the National Firearms Act," which would require a \$200 federal tax on each firearm and each magazine. So if you own 5 firearms and 20 magazines, you would owe \$5,000 in taxes!

During an August 2019 interview with CNN's Anderson Cooper, Biden was even more extreme. Asked about gun owners who thought a Biden administration "means they're going to come for my guns," a strident Biden responded, "Bingo, you're right if you have an assault weapon. The fact of the matter is they should be illegal. Period."

We shouldn't be too shocked if Biden starts pointing to Canada as the new exemplar of "reasonable" gun control.

After all, on the campaign trail in 2015, Hillary Clinton said, of Australian-style gun confiscation where firearms were taken from licensed owners and destroyed: "it would be worth considering doing it on the national level if that could be arranged." Support for mandatory government "buybacks" of "assault weapons" modeled on Australia's regime featured prominently in the platforms of more recent Democratic contenders. Anti-gun politicians will find it hard to resist applauding a new example just next door, especially as gun owners in Trudeau's Canada are not protected by a constitutionally enshrined right to keep and bear arms.

Americans have rejected these candidates and their hostility towards peaceable gun owners, understanding that disarming law-abiding citizens does nothing to enhance public safety. Later this year, voters have the opportunity to send the same clear message to Joe Biden, and vote to safeguard their Second Amendment rights and their freedom.

I ask you to join me in this fight. The NRA's network of grassroots volunteers can use your help to ensure that in November, we elect candidates who respect the Second Amendment. Please go to **[nraila.org/grassroots/volunteer](http://nraila.org/grassroots/volunteer)** to sign up to help. Working together, NRA members and like-minded civil rights advocates will continue to be an unstoppable political force for protecting our right to keep and bear arms now and for the future.



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## Joe Biden's Unreasonable Gun Control Agenda

# Malarkey Moderate



By Jason Ouimet  
Executive Director,  
NRA-ILA



# To borrow language from the Biden campaign, the notion that Barack Obama's former vice president is a reasonable moderate is malarkey.

Gun rights supporters know that as a lawmaker Biden voted in favor of radical gun controls that trampled upon the rights of law-abiding Americans and against legislation to protect those rights. As vice president, Biden led the Obama administration's assault on the Second Amendment.

Since joining the 2020 Democratic presidential field, Biden's positions have gotten more extreme. Candidate Biden has endorsed everything from gun-owner licensing to confiscation of commonly owned semi-automatic firearms and handgun bans.

During his 36-year career in the U.S. Senate, Biden supported all manner of gun control. In 1993 Biden voted for the Brady Bill, which imposed a five-day waiting period on handgun sales. Later discussing Biden's role with the legislation, the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence noted that Biden had "worked hard for passage of the Brady Law."

In both 2004 and 2005, Biden voted against the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act. The successful legislation halted anti-gun efforts to bankrupt the firearms industry. Prior to the PLCAA, gun control activists, big-city mayors, and high-powered attorneys had teamed up in a campaign to turn tort law on its head so that firearms manufacturers and dealers would be held liable for the third-party criminal misuse of their products. Biden was so opposed to the PLCAA's codification of traditional principles of culpability, that in 2004 he gave a floor speech urging his colleagues to oppose the measure.

On his campaign website, Biden claims that he "will prioritize repealing" the PLCAA. This would mean the end of the American firearms industry, and with it the eventual end to the right to keep and bear arms.

The Senator from Delaware repeatedly voted for legislation to ban traditional gun shows. On multiple occasions Biden endorsed legislation to redefine "armor piercing ammunition" in a manner that would have banned common hunting, sporting, and self-defense ammunition.

However, there is one piece of gun control legislation for which Biden is the most proud. During the 2020 election cycle the declining politician has never failed to remind anyone within mumbling distance of his support for the 1994 ban on commonly-owned semi-automatic firearms and magazines. Biden's campaign website boasts, "In 1994, Biden—along with Senator Dianne Feinstein—secured the passage of 10-year bans on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines." Worse, in August 2019 Biden penned an opinion piece for the *New York Times* where he not only credited himself with the ban, but claimed that the ban worked.

In truth, a pair of Department of Justice-funded studies of the ban, conducted in 1997 and 2004, found longtime senator's signature gun control measure ineffective. The 1997 study noted, "At best, the assault weapons ban can have only a limited

AP photo by Nati Harnik

effect on total gun murders, because the banned weapons and magazines were never involved in more than a modest fraction of all gun murders." The 2004 study determined that "AWs [assault weapons] and LCMs [large capacity magazines] were used in only a minority of gun crimes prior to the 1994 federal ban," and that "the ban's effects on gun violence are likely to be small at best and perhaps too small for reliable measurement." Faced with this evidence, Congress let Biden's pride and joy expire.

Despite this decade-long failure, Biden has doubled-down on his original gun ban. Like Senator Feinstein, who once claimed that if she had the votes it would be "Mr. and Mrs. America, turn them all in," Biden not only wants to ban the future sale of commonly-owned firearms and their magazines, now he wants to confiscate these guns from law-abiding owners.

During an August 5, 2019 interview with CNN's Anderson Cooper, Biden was questioned about his position on gun confiscation. Cooper asked the candidate "So, to gun owners out there who say well a Biden administration means they are going to come for my guns?" Biden responded, "Bingo! You're right if you have an assault weapon."

Since his candid exchange with Cooper, Biden has continued to present evidence that he is adamant about gun confiscation.

On the eve of Super Tuesday, Biden appeared at a Dallas campaign rally with failed Democratic senate and presidential candidate Robert Francis "Beto" O'Rourke. At the rally, Biden announced, "I want to make something clear. I'm going to guarantee you this is not the last you'll see of this guy." The presidential hopeful added, "You're going to take care of the gun problem with me. You're going to be the one who leads this effort. I'm counting on ya."

Following the campaign event, Biden and Beto were seen together at Texas hamburger chain Whataburger. Video of the duo showed Biden saying, "This guy changed the face of what we're dealing with regarding guns, assault weapons... and I just want to warn [Beto's wife] that if I win I'm coming for him."

Biden's enthusiastic approval of the Beto gun control agenda was another

endorsement of gun confiscation. Beto's support for gun confiscation wasn't merely his position on gun control, it became the tentpole of his abortive presidential campaign.

Asked during the September 12, 2019 Democratic debate about his position on confiscation, Beto famously responded in the affirmative, stating in part, "Hell, yes, we're gonna take your AR-15." Hours later, the O'Rourke campaign was selling t-shirts with the strident slogan. Given the chance to clarify his remarks in the days following the debate, the failed candidate remained steadfast in his support for confiscation.

## CANDIDATE BIDEN HAS ENDORSED EVERYTHING FROM GUN-OWNER LICENSING TO CONFISCATION OF COMMONLY OWNED SEMI-AUTOMATIC FIREARMS AND HANDGUN BANS.

The evidence is clear. At the very least, Biden supports confiscation of America's most popular firearms.

In November 2019, the "working-class" pol attended a posh private fundraiser in the Seattle area where the topic of gun control came up. According to the *Seattle Times*, Biden told attendees, "Why should we allow people to have military-style weapons including pistols with 9 mm bullets and can hold 10 or more rounds?"

Pistols are the most popular category of firearms in America and 9 mm is the most popular caliber of pistol. Industry figures show that Americans own tens of millions of 9 mm pistols. Americans own 9 mm pistols for the same reason they are the choice of countless federal state and local law enforcement agencies—they are a reliable and effective tool for self-defense.

Compounding the fanaticism of Biden's position is that his proposed handgun ban is in direct conflict with established U.S. Supreme Court precedent.

In *District of Columbia v. Heller*, the Court struck down the federal enclave's handgun ban. In doing so, the Court made clear that the Second

Amendment protects the right to possess firearms "in common use" for "lawful purposes like self-defense." Pistols chambered in 9 mm are not just a common firearm, they are arguably the most common. Further, given the popularity of the AR-15 platform, the *Heller* opinion should preclude Biden's entire gun ban regime.


Biden's support for gun confiscation and 30-year history of gun control advocacy should be enough to prompt any Second Amendment supporter to oppose him. However, this year gun owners don't need to settle for voting against the anti-gun candidate. On November 3, gun owners have the opportunity to cast their ballot for a tried and true defender of Second Amendment rights in President Donald Trump.

As of early June, the Senate has confirmed 198 of President Trump's judicial nominees. This includes U.S. Supreme Court Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh, both of whom have expressed their fidelity to the U.S. Constitution and its Second Amendment since joining the Court.

At the outset of his presidency, President Trump signed legislation to repeal an Obama-era rule that would have made 75,000 law-abiding social security beneficiaries choose between their social security benefits and their fundamental right of self-defense.

While on stage at the 2019 NRA-ILA Leadership Forum President Trump defended the rights of American gun owners from foreign interference by withdrawing the U.S. from the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty.

And, at the height of the COVID-19 crisis, President Trump worked to preserve Americans' access to firearms and ammunition by designating "Workers supporting the operation of firearm or ammunition product manufacturers, retailers, importers, distributors, and shooting ranges" as critical infrastructure.

With most of the mainstream press willing to mislabel Biden as a political moderate, it is imperative that all those who support firearms freedom work to educate the public about his extreme anti-gun agenda. Through battle-tested grassroots communication efforts, NRA members and other gun rights supporters can finally expose Biden as a malarkey moderate. 



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By Todd Grable  
Executive Director of  
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# LAST CHANCE: NRA Membership Rates Rolled Back to 1995 rates until July 31st.

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But even as America focuses on fighting this virus and reopening our country, patriots like you and me must remember that the national elections on November 3rd will determine whether or not nearly 230 years of Second Amendment freedom can survive. Our only chance to win – and save our freedom – is for NRA members to band together, fight this battle with all our strength, and rally a record number of gun-owning voters to the polls. But we can't get the job done without your help.

That's why – to make sure that every NRA member has a chance to make a personal impact on this election – we've taken a special step for members like you. We've extended the deadline on our extraordinary dues rollback opportunity until July 31st.

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But please don't wait. This deadline cannot be extended again, and I don't want you to miss this opportunity. To claim your discount and gift, you must take advantage of these offers before our special website is taken down at midnight on July 31st. If you haven't already locked in your exclusive discount and gift, I urge you to do so NOW.

Remember, the toughest – and most important – election of our lives is now less than four months away. If we lose, the Second Amendment will be destroyed, and we'll lose our guns forever. That's why I'm asking you to give NRA the resources we need to fight and win this battle by claiming your limited-time discount and gift today.

Let's not be the first generation in American history that failed to keep freedom's torch burning and pass it on. Please help us preserve our Second Amendment freedom – not just for ourselves but for our children and grandchildren – by extending or upgrading your NRA membership today.

Thank you again for your rock-solid dedication to freedom. I hope to hear from you soon, and from all of us at the NRA, I wish you and your family all the best at this time.

*Todd Grable*

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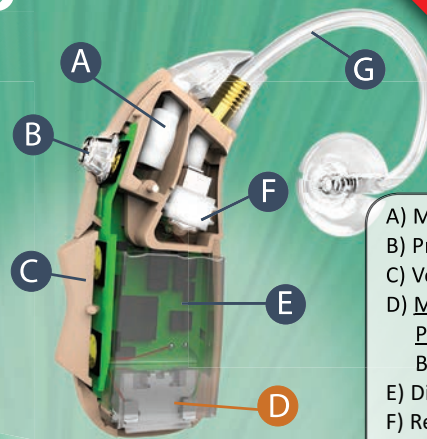
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## READERS WRITE

### From Iwo To Korea

Field Editor Martin K.A. Morgan wrote a very nice article on "The Men & Guns Of Iwo Jima" (May 2020, p. 56). We used many of the same small arms in Korea. The Chinese brought a lot of Thompsons into the war, and we got them from their dead in northeast Korea in 1950. I believe the Thompsons and other U.S. arms were left for the Chinese Nationalists. Mao's people ended up with them.

In Spring 1951, my forward observation (FO) team, usually attached to E Co., 2nd Btn., 1st Marines, was temporarily assigned to 5th Co., 2nd Btn., Korean Marine Corps Regiment, just before the Chinese Spring Offensive, when 2nd Btn. went into reserve. Raymon Gragg, E Company's warrant officer, who was a Wake Island sergeant, temporarily took over our FO team because he spoke Japanese. The Korean Marine battalion officers spoke Japanese from Korea's 40 years under Japanese rule. Warrant Officer Gragg was armed with a shotgun. While I was with the battery, I was armed with an early Browning Automatic Rifle, with the option of "single-shot" (semi-automatic) or "full-automatic" selections. On FO I carried an M1 Garand rifle. The other team members had M1 rifles or M2 carbines. Some also had M1911 pistols.

During the Chinese Spring Offensive (1951), the Korean Marines performed well. Most of the "U.N." line fell back but stopped the Chinese. Afterward, our FO team rejoined E Co., and we resumed the offensive to the north.

That was long ago. The Korean War (1950-1953) is barely mentioned these days, but is remembered by its participants. We're getting old. We helped save South Korea. I'm awfully glad I was too young for Iwo Jima and Okinawa. *Semper Fi!*

J. PATRICK MORRISON, USMC, KOREA 1950-1951

### The Johnson & The Stinger

I want to thank Martin K.A. Morgan for the very informative story on the battle for Iwo Jima. I have a question about one of the guns covered in the article and one that was not. My wife's uncle, John Sardella, was in the 3rd Parachute Btn. and served on Bougainville. After the unit was disbanded, he served with the 5th Marine Division in the battle for Iwo Jima. He passed away a few years ago, but said he carried a Johnson Light Machine Gun. Was the Stinger a modified Johnson?

A corporal and a squad leader, Jonny was shot in the head by a sniper during the battle and was evacuated by air. He survived the war with a steel plate in his head, living into his 90s. Thanks again for all of your research and an outstanding article honoring the brave men who served in this battle.

GARY VAN LINGE, IDAHO

*The Stinger and Johnson Light Machine Gun are two totally different designs that were intended to do two very different jobs. The Stinger was designed to be used as an aircraft arm, and the M1941 Johnson LMG was meant to be used on the ground. Some of the Marine paratroopers of the 1st Marine Parachute Regiment were armed with the Johnson LMG, and they used it in combat on the island of Choiseul in the Solomon Islands in October 1943. The Paramarines were disbanded at Camp Pendleton in February 1944. The Johnson LMGs were turned in at that time and not used by the Marines again during World War II.*

—MARTIN K.A. MORGAN, FIELD EDITOR

"Readers Write" affords members an opportunity to comment on material published in *American Rifleman*. Single-topic letters are preferred and may be edited for brevity. Send letters to: Readers Write, NRA Publications, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030-9400 or email us at [publications@nrahq.org](mailto:publications@nrahq.org).





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## Emperor Selassie's Treasure

**T**oday we know it as Ethiopia, before that it was the Abyssinian Empire, and it was headed by Emperor Haile Selassie from 1930 until he was deposed by a communist military dictatorship in 1974.

After the communists took over, firearms handed in by the people (including a Winchester 1895 in .405 Win.) and obsolete military arms all went into storage. Thankfully, it's pretty dry there. That's where they remained until Uli Wiegand of InterOrdnance ([royaltigerimports.com](http://royaltigerimports.com)) bought the lot, ranging from muzzleloaders to M1 carbines to guns furnished by communist nations in the 1970s. There are early bolt-actions, as well as Fabrique Nationale Mausers with the Abyssinian crest. Guns left by the Italians, who occupied Ethiopia from 1935 to 1941, include just about every model of Carcano. Mausers bought before or given to Ethiopia after World War II are joined by lots of Lee-Enfields.

To learn more about these firearm treasures that could be straight out of "Raiders of the Lost Ark," go to [americanrifleman.org/ethiopia](http://americanrifleman.org/ethiopia).





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## Foundations Of Sniper Marksmanship

**A**uthor and law enforcement sniping instructor John C. Simpson undertook his 123-p., 6"x9" softcover *Foundations Of Sniper Marksmanship* mainly because of the frequency with which he encountered students who lacked even a minimal knowledge of riflecraft. In it, he offers chapters on: Marksmanship Fundamentals, Positions, Minute Of Angle, Reading Your Scope Knobs, Live-Fire Practice, Recommended Reading, Rifle Maintenance, Ballistics, Sniper Functional Fitness Test and Snipercraft Qualification Course. Those seeking an entertaining armchair tome filled with lengthy histories and encyclopedic equipment lists are likely to be disappointed. Rather, as the back cover suggests, "This is not an over-your-head, in-your-face blast of complex information. It's a starter-level gold mine of straightforward, mission-critical information that will help you develop your abilities as a new sniper."

Sure enough, despite the utilitarian nature of the black-and-white photos and line drawings with which it is illustrated, the book is filled with clear writing that conveys innumerable nuggets of knowledge that could only have resulted from years of experience. *Foundations Of Sniper Marksmanship* should serve well as an initial volume for those new to the subject and as a worthy review for those who already have a shelf full of similar works. Price: \$25. Contact: Looseleaf Law Publications, Inc.; (800) 647-5547; [looseleaflaw.com](http://looseleaflaw.com).

—BRIAN C. SHEETZ, SENIOR EXECUTIVE EDITOR



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Contact: MTM Case-Gard; (937) 890-7461; [mtmcase-gard.com](http://mtmcase-gard.com).



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## COMBAR

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A vise block can make a world of difference for those attempting to either build or make alterations to an AR-platform firearm, and the Wheeler AR Upper/Pic Rail Vise Block is a high-quality, multi-function unit capable of securing the upper receiver both right-side-up and up-side-down for a variety of tasks. Designed for use with any bench vise of 6" or larger, and compatible with both the AR-10 and AR-15 patterns, depending on what's needed for the project at hand, the machined aluminum block can engage the receiver either via its takedown lugs (pins included) or its top-mounted rail. And, of course, its utility is not just limited to AR uppers—the vise's Picatinny rail interface allows it to secure most any item with a section of M1913 rail. Price: \$44. Contact: Battenfeld Technologies, Inc.; (573) 445-9200; [wheelertools.com](http://wheelertools.com).



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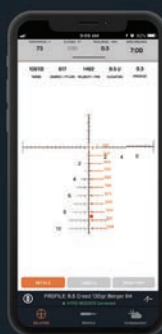
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## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

### '03 Civilian Purchases

**Q** Could American civilians order '03 Springfields from U.S. arsenals or were they for the military only?

**A** Civilians were not able to order Model of 1903 rifles directly from Springfield Armory or Rock Island Arsenal. However, from 1910 to 1916, limited numbers of Model 1903 service rifles were sold to NRA Life members via the National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice (NBPRP), forerunner of the Director of Civilian Marksmanship (DCM). These were standard military issue '03s, and the only modification was a hand-stamped "N.R.A." and "Flaming bomb" marking on the front tang of the floorplate assembly. The program was canceled pending America's entry into World War I.



In the 1920s to the mid-1930s, several types of National Match, International Match and Special Target Rifles manufactured at Springfield Armory were sold via the DCM to NRA members who participated in sanctioned matches. No service rifles were sold during this period, and there were never any direct "orders" for these match and target rifles from Springfield Armory. All sales were through the DCM.

—BRUCE N. CANFIELD, FIELD EDITOR

From the thousands of questions and letters on guns, ammunition and their use that *American Rifleman* receives every year, it publishes the most interesting here. Receiving answers to technical and historical questions is a privilege reserved to NRA members.

Questions must be in the form of letters addressed to: Dope Bag, NRA Publications, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030-9400; must contain the member's code line from an *American Rifleman* or *American Hunter* mailing label or membership card; must be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed, legal-size envelope; and must be limited to one specific question per letter. Non-members may submit a question with a membership application. We cannot answer technical or historical questions by telephone, email or fax, and we cannot place even an approximate value on guns or other equipment. Please allow eight to 10 weeks for replies.

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## FAVORITE FIREARMS

### The Hunt For A Remington 3200

**B**ack in 1975, a friend of mine invited me to a skeet range, and he brought his Remington Model 3200 over-under shotgun for me to use. I had used over-unders before, but never a Remington 3200. I was amazed at how well that shotgun fit me, and my accuracy seemed to have improved with it, so I decided that I would buy one someday.

At the time, a Remington 3200 was a fairly expensive shotgun and kind of hard to find at the local gun shops in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. I remember seeing one once, but it was too expensive for me. In 1976, I enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, and my first assignment was in Jacksonville, Fla. I couldn't get that Remington shotgun out of my mind, so I looked all around the local gun shops but never found one. This was before the Internet, when finding things was not as easy as it is today.

Then, after about six months, I was

looking at the classified ads one day when I found: "For Sale - Remington Over and Under Shotgun, Excellent Condition, \$450." I was determined to not let this one get away from me. After calling the seller and making the deal over the phone, I went directly to my bank and took out a loan to buy it. Since I was only an airman first class (E-3) at the time, I was not flush with money.

When I met the seller at his house and received the shotgun, I was amazed at the condition; it looked brand new. I went through

several boxes of shells during the remainder of my tour at Jacksonville Air Force Station. For the next 20 years, I was stationed only at overseas bases and never knew if my firearms would be authorized at the next one, so I left all my guns at my parents' house.

After I retired from the Air Force in 2000, I was finally reunited with my favorite shotgun, the Remington 3200 over-under. I will never sell this shotgun, and hopefully it will always remain in my family.

STEVE KAPP, OKLAHOMA

Nearly every shooter has a favorite firearm. If you would like to share the experience of owning yours with other *American Rifleman* readers, or on [americanrifleman.org](http://americanrifleman.org), send a sharp color photograph of the gun, accompanied by its story in fewer than 400 words, with your name, address and daytime telephone number to: Favorite Firearms, *American Rifleman*, National Rifle Association, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030-9400, or email it to [americanrifleman@nrahq.org](mailto:americanrifleman@nrahq.org). Photos and submissions cannot be returned and may be edited for clarity and brevity.



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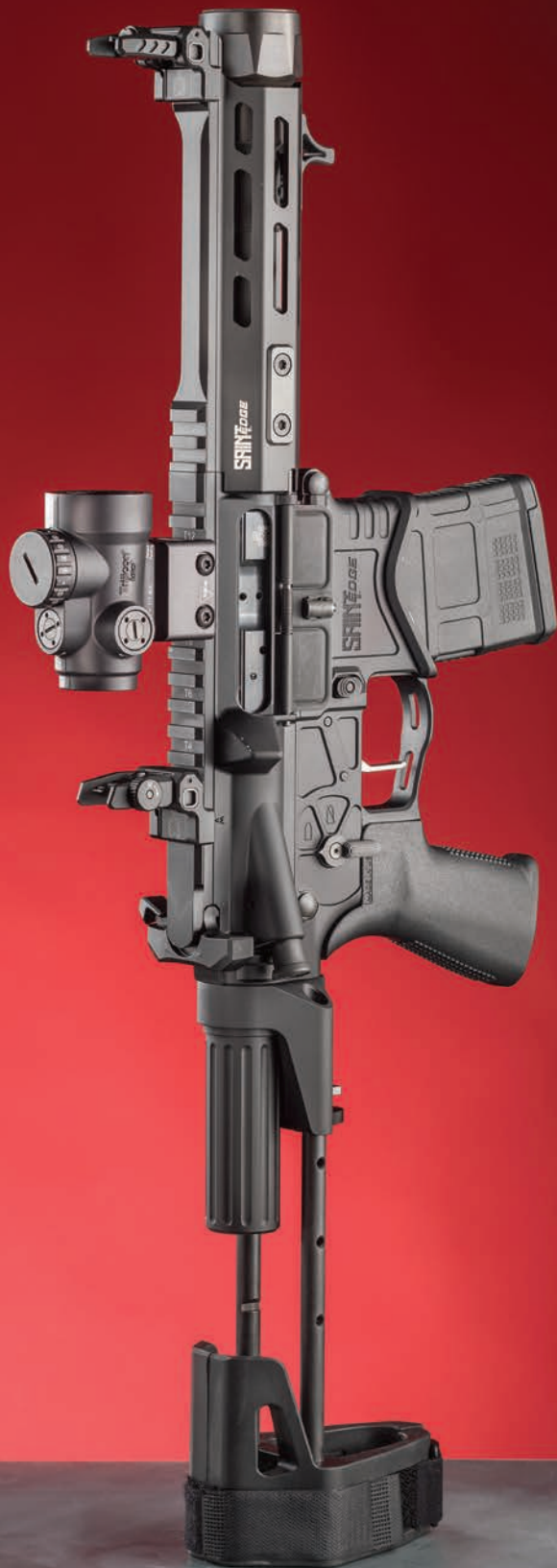
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# SHORT BUT SWEET

## *Springfield's New Saint Edge Pistols*

Springfield Armory was quick to jump on the AR pistol craze back in 2017, but its two new Saint Edge models—the PDW and the EVAC—take portable firepower in whole new directions.

BY KELLY YOUNG, Managing Editor

**I**sense a pattern beginning to emerge. It's almost as if owner and CEO Dennis Reese walked into a Springfield Armory product strategy meeting at some point in 2018 and decreed, "I want you to make everything smaller!"—because much of the company's design focus since right about that time has been on compactification. Heck, even the M1A's most recent new model is the relatively abridged 16"-barreled Tanker. Fresh off the introduction of the Hellcat (the manufacturer's superb contribution to the budding yet immediately booming micro-compact pistol market), Springfield is pushing the bounds of conventional size constraints yet again in 2020 with the announcement of a trio of exceptionally small and agile additions to its Saint family of AR-platform firearms: the Edge PDW, Edge EVAC and Victor .308 pistols. And as an outspoken proponent of explicitly short and light firearms—for both entirely practical and wholly recreational reasons—I'm loving every second of it.

Particularly interested in the two .223 Rem.-chambered Edge pistols, *Rifleman* reached out to Springfield immediately following their unveiling at SHOT Show 2020 to request a test sample of each.

Generally speaking, the AR platform has continued to shrink in size since basically the original conception of the AR-10, and that trend has accelerated sharply during the past five years or so. Today, most AR makers offer at least one large-format pistol option and many have entire pistol lines, and at a time when the AR market as a whole is struggling, consumers continue to snatch these pint-size models up in large quantities. Most of the manufacturers that I've spoken to confirm that their AR-pistol variants have become among the fastest-moving product segments in their catalogs during recent years—and in some cases it's by a rather wide margin.

Springfield Armory was quick to respond to the current trend, striking while the iron was hot by introducing its first Saint pistol back in 2017. But neither the PDW nor the EVAC are your run-of-the-mill AR pistol; they take the movement into exciting new directions by offering functionality beyond just a shortened form factor. Similar in core operation and sharing nearly identical receiver sets, the two models both offer extreme portability, they just come at the concept from two divergent approaches, differentiating themselves primarily by way of their highly specialized furniture.

# SPRINGFIELD'S SAINT EDGE PISTOLS

The PDW enters the rifle-caliber AR-pistol scene as one of its most diminutive members, a result of its 5.5" barrel being paired with a quick-deploy Maxim Defense SCW Brace that can be collapsed all the way down to the very end of its proprietary truncated receiver extension. Measuring just 18.75" while stowed but only 23.50" with its arm brace fully extended, the seriously compact PDW weighs a mere 5 lbs., 11 ozs. On the other hand, the 7.5"-barreled takedown EVAC was designed for discreet storage within, and rapid assembly from, its included 12"x10"x5" padded carrying case thanks to a folding arm brace assembly and patent-pending removable handguard/barrel system. The former is Law Tactical's Gen 3-M Folding Stock Adapter; the latter is Pantheon Arms' Dolos Take-down System.

These are both intended to be serious defensive tools, and, as such, my initial interest in evaluating them was essentially threefold. First, although Springfield has seemingly chosen its partners well, and the OEM components used by these pistols are well-regarded within the industry, they are still systems that are more complicated and less battle-proven than the simple tried-and-true designs of conventional ARs, so reliability was my utmost concern. An especially small "paperweight" is less valuable in a fight than a larger gun that actually runs.

Second, sure, rifle-caliber AR pistols are incredibly popular right now, but do they actually generate enough kinetic energy to be viable fight stoppers? It varies by propellant, but .223 Rem. typically requires at least 24" of barrel length in order to achieve full burn. So pistol-length barrels leave a significant amount of ballistic potential on the table—and the velocity loss per inch often increases greatly as barrel length decreases. Sure, a shorter-barreled package is handy, but I wanted to determine firsthand whether the compact barrels of the new Saint Edge pistols were sacrificing too much effectiveness for the sake of maneuverability. Also, something to be aware of: Ammunition is designed to function within a specific envelope of velocities, and the abbreviated barrel of an AR pistol may very well drop your load of choice below this terminal performance window—although soft-point projectiles do tend to be more forgiving in this regard, typically expanding at a wider range of velocities.

Third, short-barreled .223 Remingtons throw a lot of sound and fury by virtue of their unburnt powder (see above), making proper flash/blast mitigation a vital consideration for those planning to rely on these guns in defense of life and limb, potentially while in the dark. Otherwise you run the risk of basically flashbanging yourself into a stupor after just a few shots—during a circumstance where you'd best have your wits and senses at your disposal. So I was curious to gauge just how well the muzzle devices selected for the PDW and EVAC

handled the maelstroms their guns were creating.

How'd the new Saint Edge pistols fare? I'll cover that in a bit, but as I alluded to above, the PDW and EVAC share a lot of common DNA, so before getting to the aspects of each gun that distinguishes it from the other (and from plain-Jane AR pistols), I'll first briefly touch on what the two new models have in common.

## Shared Components

Both new Saint Edge pistols are built around forged 7075-T6 aluminum upper and lower receivers that are then hard-coat-anodized for added durability. Lightening cuts have been made to portions of the receivers that aren't high-stress areas in an effort to minimize nonessential mass. The upper of each pistol makes use of a right-side forward-assist plunger, brass deflector and dustcover, and the lower employs M4-style feed ramps and incorporates an integrally machined trigger guard as well as a flared and deeply relieved magazine well. Springfield's nylon-tipped Accu-Tite tensioning screw is also present, making it possible to remove any play from between the two receivers.

A 5" section of Picatinny rail runs atop the upper receiver of both the PDW and the EVAC for the installation of an optic, and both come with a supplemental set of iron sights—in my opinion an absolute necessity for a defensive gun that might be called into action at any time. The sights included with the Saint Edge pistols are a polymer, adjustable, flip-up set with a post front and a dual-aperture rear. Each pistol employs a direct-impingement operating system, with a low-profile gas block pinned to the barrel 4.5" from the chamber on the PDW and at 5" in the case of the EVAC. Given their extremely short-barreled nature, both pistols also come from Springfield with a forward hand stop



*Both the Saint Edge PDW and EVAC pistols come with a set of adjustable, polymer, flip-up back-up sights (top). The lower receivers (bottom) of each also feature lightening cuts, bilateral safeties and a nickel-boron-coated, flat-blade trigger.*



affixed to their handguards at the 6-o'clock position, and even with this safeguard in place, you're going to want to be extra mindful of the placement of your fingers as you run these guns—as wandering too far forward is a mistake you only get to make once.

The PDW and EVAC each make use of Reptilia's CQG pistol grip, a lightweight polymer unit designed with a more vertical grip angle specifically for use with large-format pistols and short-barreled rifles. Shortened slightly to both cut weight and to streamline its profile, the CQG stands just shy of 3.5" tall, compared to standard pistol grips that are typically closer to 4" in length. Each pistol ships with one 20-round Magpul PMAG, and while the guns are naturally capable of accepting and feeding from standard-capacity 30-round boxes, the shorter magazine's baseplate aligns nearly perfectly with the toe of Reptilia's grip, which should help limit snagging.

As members of the performance-driven Edge subfamily of Saint firearms, Springfield's most highly refined AR models, both the PDW and EVAC benefit from a number of bells and whistles that provide enhanced performance.

Chief among these, to my mind, is an excellent nickel-boron-coated, micro-polished, single-stage trigger. The flat-blade triggers on both our sample pistols were better than average, with no perceivable take-up or overtravel, and only slight creep before the relatively light break. Taking the average of 10 pulls, the PDW slightly bested the EVAC, its trigger breaking at 4 lbs., 12 ozs., compared to 5 lbs., 3 ozs., for the larger takedown. Both were far better than is typically necessary for a short-range defensive encounter, but there's no such thing as excessive performance when your life is on the line.

Saint Edge guns do provide a bit of extra functionality for southpaw shooters that the baseline and Victor models do not, in the form of bilateral 90-degree safeties, however, the mid-size charging handle that comes with either the PDW or the EVAC features only a left-side latch for right-handed use. All other controls are in the standard locations for the AR platform: The push-button magazine release is on the right side of the lower receiver above the magazine well, and the bolt release lever is opposite it on the left side.



## Saint Edge PDW

The Saint Edge PDW is not the first AR pistol to utilize a CQB-style sliding arm brace such as the Maxim SCW to achieve extraordinary compactness. However, Springfield is certainly the largest manufacturer to date to apply this concept to the AR platform, meaning that not only will the PDW almost certainly be the most readily available gun of this type, but—at an MSRP of \$1,699—it will likely be the least expensive option as well.

Maxim's SCW assembly is composed of several parts. A 7075 aluminum housing is attached directly to the rear of the lower receiver, with an abbreviated (about 4" long) receiver extension threaded to the receiver through a hole in the housing. A rubber forearm loop connects to the housing via a pair of rigid steel rods, and when the brace is collapsed, these rods extend through the housing to ride along either side of the lower. Internally, the system utilizes a proprietary buffer/bolt carrier system in which the forward end of the buffer nests within the tail of a shortened bolt carrier design.

The SCW can be deployed to any of five length settings

(each about 1 $\frac{3}{16}$ " apart) thanks to a series of notches cut into the rods that engage a detent in the housing. In its retracted state, the unit's rods do make it somewhat more difficult to actuate the pistol's safety selectors, and there is just barely enough room for the charging handle to make its full travel to the rear, but all operations are possible nonetheless, and the PDW is capable of both firing and cycling regardless of the configuration of the brace. An ambidextrous QD sling socket in the rear, bottom of the housing is conveniently placed for use with a single-point sling.

To extend the brace, simply pull back on the forearm loop until the detent engages the length-setting notch of your choice. Once locked in place, depressing a button on the left side of the housing allows the SCW to be shortened again. Many AR pistols offer no length adjustability at all, while others permit a small amount, but they basically require you to take the gun out of commission in order to make a change—that the PDW can be deployed to full readiness in a split second, without the need to find and activate a control, presents a major tactical advantage.



# SPRINGFIELD'S SAINT EDGE PISTOLS

Given the exotic nature of its rear end, the PDW's handguard and barrel seem relatively mundane by comparison. The pistol's 5.5" chrome-moly-vanadium steel barrel is cut with six-groove, 1:7" right-hand-twist rifling, and it has been given a Melonite finish both inside and out to enhance corrosion and wear resistance. Affixed to the barrel via 1/2x28 TPI threads, the Maxim Hate Brake is a combination muzzle booster/linear compensator that regulates exhaust gases to enhance reliability while simultaneously directing flash and blast forward and away from the shooter. It's a bit tight in a few places, but the PDW's aluminum handguard is free-floated of the barrel. The octagonal fore-end bears at least one M-Lok-compatible slot on seven of its eight faces, with the top surface instead featuring a pair of Picatinny rail slots at each end.

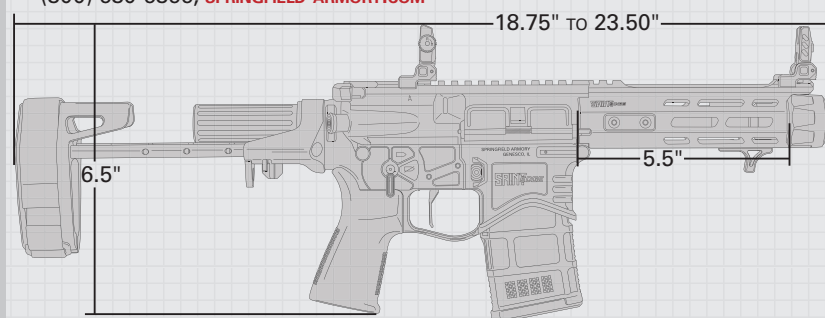
During function testing, the PDW worked great; I ran the pistol hard—to the point of heating up the handguard to sweltering levels—but reliability stayed constant throughout.

The shape of the SCW brace may make establishing and keeping cheekweld problematic for some shooters, depending on how far forward they like to choke up on the gun. Shooters who typically square-up on their target will likely have no problem maintaining contact with a forward-extending lip on the forearm loop, and people who tend to crowd the charging handle will likewise find plenty of real estate on the receiver extension for their face. However, those who generally hold their cheek to the gun somewhere in the middle distance may not have a particularly comfortable shooting experience.

As far as accuracy is concerned, the PDW is more than up to the task of a short-range defensive encounter. Firing five, five-shot groups, my three test loads—Hornady's 73-gr. Critical Defense Rifle, Remington's 62-gr. Ultimate Defense Rifle Bonded and Speer's 75-gr. Gold Dot—managed an average extreme spread of 2.12" at 50 yds., a result that would have been even more impressive had the gun not shown a strong distaste for the selected Remington ammunition.

## SPRINGFIELD ARMORY PDW

**MANUFACTURER:** SPRINGFIELD ARMORY (DEPT. AR), 420 W. MAIN ST., GENESEO, IL 61254; (800) 680-6866; [SPRINGFIELD-ARMORY.COM](http://SPRINGFIELD-ARMORY.COM)



**ACTION TYPE:** DIRECT-IMPINGEMENT, SEMI-AUTOMATIC, CENTER-FIRE PISTOL

**CHAMBERING:** 5.56x45 MM NATO (.223 REM.)

**RECEIVER:** 7075-T6 ALUMINUM, HARD-COAT-ANODIZED

**BARREL:** CHROME-MOLY-VANADIUM STEEL, MELONITE FINISH; SIX-GROOVE, 1:7" RH TWIST RIFLING

**MAGAZINE:** MAGPUL PMAG; 20-ROUND DETACHABLE BOX

**SIGHTS:** ADJUSTABLE, FLIP-UP, LOW-PROFILE

**TRIGGER:** SINGLE-STAGE, NICKEL-BORON-COATED; 4-LB., 12-OZ. PULL

**WEIGHT:** 5 LBS., 11 OZS.

**ACCESSORIES:** OWNER'S MANUAL

**MSRP:** \$1,699

## SHOOTING RESULTS (50 YDS.) SPRINGFIELD PDW

.223 REM. CARTRIDGE	VEL. @ 15' (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
<b>HORNADY CDR 73-GR. FTX</b>	1630 Avg. 41 Sd	431	1.20	2.22	1.53
<b>REMINGTON UDRB 62-GR. PSP CLUB</b>	1754 Avg. 40 Sd	424	3.16	4.38	3.92
<b>SPEER GOLD DOT 75-GR. GDSP</b>	1605 Avg. 13 Sd	429	0.74	1.06	0.90

### AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD

2.12

NOTES: MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 SHOTS OVER AN OEHLER 36 CHRONOGRAPH AT 15 FT. ACCURACY RESULTS FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 50 YDS. FROM A SANDBAG REST. TEMPERATURE: 70° F. HUMIDITY: 11%. ABBREVIATIONS: CDR (CRITICAL DEFENSE RIFLE), FTX (FLEX TIP EXPANDING), GDSP (GOLD DOT SOFT POINT), PSP CLUB (POINTED SOFT POINT CORE-LOKT ULTRA BONDED), Sd (STANDARD DEVIATION), UDRB (ULTIMATE DEFENSE RIFLE BONDED).



The PDW's Maxim Hate Brake (top, arrow) is a combination muzzle booster/linear compensator that pretty effectively mitigates the pistol's blast/flash. A button on the left side of the SCW brace's housing (above, arrow) allows it to be shortened—to extend the brace, simply pull rearward on the forearm loop.



Chronograph results show that the pistol was generating about 425 ft.-lbs. of energy at 15 ft., which is less than half of what could be expected from a 16" carbine, but, with good shot placement and properly expanding ammunition, this would be sufficient to stop a threat.

I have to give Maxim's Hate Brake high marks in the blast/flash abatement department, as, while the pistol is unquestionably loud, I shot the two Saint Edge pistols side-by-side, and despite its shorter 5.5" barrel, the PDW did seem to be the quieter of the two. And while fireballs were frequently observed, particularly once the range lights

were turned down, the flash wasn't as bad as initially feared. Felt recoil, while certainly more than a conventional .223 Rem. carbine, was highly manageable.

Springfield Armory dared to dream small—superlatively small—with its new Saint Edge PDW, and what it does, it does well. The package is considerably more controllable than a handgun, while being far more handy and maneuverable than a 16" carbine. It will just be up to the buying market to decide whether the PDW's advantages overshadow the compromises inherent to all .223 Rem.-chambered AR pistols.



## Saint Edge EVAC

As with the PDW, the components that lend the EVAC its distinctive portability aren't exactly new, but their inclusion on a Springfield Saint will bring them much more fully into the mainstream spotlight. Conceptually, I love the idea of this pistol; inconspicuous and convenient to transport, yet relatively swift to assemble and bring to bear on a threat, the EVAC has enormous potential as either a truck gun or a go-bag essential, and it offers an impressive amount of firepower in either role. But my previous experience with both folding and takedown ARs has been spotty at best, so going into this evaluation I was more than a little leery of a design that employs both. I'm happy to report that the subsequent performance of the gun has put my early concerns to rest.

The typical direct-impingement AR's reliance on a buffer mechanism that reciprocates within its tubular receiver extension during operation precludes the use of a folding stock/brace design. The Law Tactical Gen 3-M works around this limitation because, not only does the 4140 steel adapter introduce a left-folding hinge at the rear of the lower receiver, but it also includes an extension that installs to the rear of the gun's bolt carrier to ensure proper function of the buffer when the unit is not folded. The EVAC is capable of firing in its folded position, but this practice is not endorsed by Springfield, and it obviously cannot cycle while in this condition.

Protruding from the rear of the Law Tactical adaptor is a receiver extension designed specifically for use with the included Gear Head Works Tailhook Mod 1 pistol brace. Quick-detach sling sockets abound on the EVAC, as one is cut into each side of the lower receiver just behind the rear takedown pin, the Gen 3-M has one each on its rear and bottom faces, and another is present on the left side of the Tailhook Mod 1. With

no provision for length adjustment, the 7.5"-barreled EVAC measures 17.5" when folded and 26" when deployed.

Pantheon Arms' Dolos takedown system consists of an aluminum tri-lug assembly affixed to the upper receiver that interfaces with a steel lock collar connected to the handguard/barrel assembly via a ratcheting mechanism. It's a really simple design to operate. To assemble from its stowed state: lock the bolt carrier group (BCG) back; insert the gas tube and chamber into their corresponding holes in the upper receiver; and then twist the fore-end in the counter-clockwise direction until hand-tight and the Picatinny rail atop the handguard aligns with the rail atop the receiver. To disassemble, simply lock the BCG back and pull down on the unlocking tab at the bottom of the tri-lug assembly while rotating the handguard clockwise until the fore-end and barrel come free. Damage to the system is possible if the BCG is allowed to slam home under spring tension while the handguard is detached, so care should be taken to ease the action closed when the two components are separated.

Apart from its takedown capabilities, the EVAC's free-floating handguard is a fairly standard M-Lok-compatible aluminum unit. Given the gun's potential in an outdoor survivalist scenario, Springfield decided to make the pistol's barrel out of 416 stainless steel in order to provide an added layer of rust resistance beyond its Melonite finish. The barrel is rifled at the same twist rate as the PDW, and the muzzle is also threaded 1/2x28 TPI, but instead of the Maxim Hate Brake, the EVAC comes from the factory with a new proprietary brake that disperses gases through 14 holes arranged around the muzzle in the shape of a seven-pointed star.

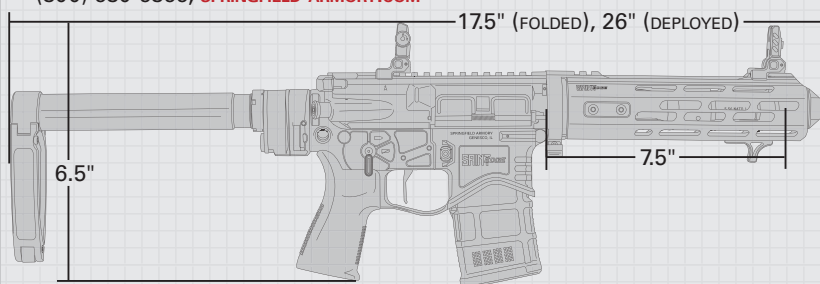


*An extension is inserted by finger pressure into the rear of the EVAC's bolt carrier group to ensure that it functions properly when the gun's Law Tactical Gen 3-M hinge assembly is locked open for firing.*



## SPRINGFIELD ARMORY EVAC

**MANUFACTURER:** SPRINGFIELD ARMORY (DEPT. AR), 420 W. MAIN ST., GENESEO, IL 61254; (800) 680-6866; [SPRINGFIELD-ARMORY.COM](http://SPRINGFIELD-ARMORY.COM)



**ACTION TYPE:** DIRECT-IMPINGEMENT, SEMI-AUTOMATIC, CENTER-FIRE PISTOL  
**CHAMBERING:** 5.56x45 MM NATO (.223 REM.)  
**RECEIVER:** 7075-T6 ALUMINUM, HARD-COAT-ANODIZED  
**BARREL:** 416 STAINLESS STEEL, MELONITE FINISH; SIX-GROOVE, 1:7" RH TWIST RIFLING

**MAGAZINE:** MAGPUL PMAG; 20-ROUND DETACHABLE BOX  
**SIGHTS:** ADJUSTABLE, FLIP-UP, LOW-PROFILE  
**TRIGGER:** SINGLE-STAGE, NICKEL-BORON-COATED; 5-LB., 3-OZ. PULL  
**WEIGHT:** 7 LBS., 2 OZS.  
**ACCESSORIES:** OWNER'S MANUAL  
**MSRP:** \$1,949

## SHOOTING RESULTS (50 YDS.) SPRINGFIELD EVAC

.223 REM. CARTRIDGE	VEL. @ 15' (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
<b>HORNADY CDR 73-GR. FTX</b>	1933 Avg. 37 Sd	606	0.94	2.22	1.40
<b>REMINGTON UDRB 62-GR. PSP CLUB</b>	2171 Avg. 28 Sd	649	2.36	2.84	2.60
<b>SPEER GOLD DOT 75-GR. GDSP</b>	1839 Avg. 39 Sd	563	1.18	2.38	1.56
<b>AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD</b>					1.85

NOTES: MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 SHOTS OVER AN OEHLER 36 CHRONOGRAPH AT 15 FT. ACCURACY RESULTS FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 50 YDS. FROM A SANDBAG REST. TEMPERATURE: 70° F. HUMIDITY: 11%. ABBREVIATIONS: CDR (CRITICAL DEFENSE RIFLE), FTX (FLEX TIP EXPANDING), GDSP (GOLD DOT SOFT POINT), PSP CLUB (POINTED SOFT POINT CORE-LOKT ULTRA BONDED), Sd (STANDARD DEVIATION), UDRB (ULTIMATE DEFENSE RIFLE BONDED).

The EVAC ships with a set of polymer flip-up sights, a forward hand stop and a proprietary muzzle brake (top). The takedown pistol stows conveniently within its included 12"x10"x5" padded case (above), and can be assembled and brought to bear in about 10 seconds.

In all, the gun weighs 7 lbs., 2 ozs., which is a bit heavier than might be expected of a compact AR pistol, but given the added metal employed by both the arm brace and handguard assemblies, this shouldn't be too surprising. Use of the Law Tactical and Pantheon Arms designs together does require that a proper sequence be followed in order to efficiently deploy the EVAC, however, as the Gen 3-M cannot be folded with the BCG to the rear, but the Dolos system requires that it be locked back in order for the handguard/barrel to be attached/detached.

For fast deployment, first unfold the receiver extension and lock the Gen 3-M in the open position. Next, use the charging handle and bolt release lever to lock the BCG

back. Lastly, affix the handguard assembly and release the bolt forward to chamber a round. With just a small amount of practice I was able to get the entire operation—from concealed within its Blackhawk-brand case to fully ready to rock—down to just more than 10 seconds.

The EVAC's rectangular storage case is compact enough to fit within most medium-size backpacks and many desk drawers, on most shelves, and even under some car seats. And, of course, the bag is nondescript enough to hide in plain sight in those situations where gun security is not a concern. I do, however, have one nit to pick; in its stowed configuration within the storage case, the tip of the EVAC's gas tube is somewhat unprotected and vulnerable to damage if the padded box is impacted hard enough on that side. It's unlikely to be an issue for most users, but the potential for mishap is there.




The Law Tactical Gen 3-M allows the EVAC's buffer tube and Gear Head Works Tailhook Mod 1 arm brace to fold along the left side of the gun. Note the tail of the extension (arrow) added to the rear of the bolt carrier group to ensure reliable function when the unit is locked closed.



Function testing of the gun went smoothly; there was one failure to extract that occurred very early on, but the EVAC quickly sorted itself out and ran without any further hiccups. At around the 300-round mark I did notice the easy operation of the Dolos mechanism start to become increasingly gritty, a problem that was immediately remedied by a thorough cleaning and greasing. Shooters planning to both put a lot of rounds through their EVACs and to de-assemble/re-assemble it frequently would be wise to give that interface some extra attention during maintenance. The EVAC was noticeably louder than the PDW, and it seemed to produce more flash as well. This is mitigated somewhat by the fact that its probable intended uses are less likely to be indoors within an enclosed space than the PDW's are.

Using the same three loads I shot through the PDW, the EVAC performed slightly better accuracy-wise than its smaller brother, and the extra 2" of barrel did cause pretty significant increases (between 31 and 53 percent) in the velocities those ammunitions produced. I also shot one 15-round group at 25 yds.—removing and then re-installing the handguard/barrel assembly after every three rounds—to determine whether any point-of-impact shift was occurring. The result was a tight 13-round cluster with only two impacts that could even very liberally be considered fliers, so I'd say if any shift is occurring, it's not by a particularly meaningful amount for a fighting gun at fighting distances.

At an MSRP of \$1,949, the EVAC is Springfield's most expensive Saint, but it also offers capabilities that no other model in the line—and very few ARs across the entire industry, for that matter—can. The ease with which it can be inconspicuously transported and stored allows it to provide a level of preparedness, in new places and new ways, previously unavailable to the AR platform. Like I said before, folding and/or takedown ARs have been pretty hit-or-miss up to this point, and it's nice to see how this type of gun looks when a company knocks the concept out of the park. 

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# FIRST GARANDS

## THE "GAS TRAP" M1 RIFLE



The rifle that became the "greatest battle implement ever devised" during World War II was not flawless as adopted in 1936. Ever heard of a "gas trap" Garand?

BY BRUCE N. CANFIELD, Field Editor



"GAS TRAP" M1 GARAND RIFLE

Photo courtesy of  
James Julia Auction Co.

One of the most famous and respected U.S. military service rifles of all time is the "U.S. Rifle, Caliber .30, M1," popularly known as the Garand in recognition of its inventor, John C. Garand. The rifle is well-known due its widespread use in World War II and Korea, as well as its popularity with many present-day collectors and shooters. What is not so widely known, however, is that the rifle as originally adopted in 1936 and manufactured for the first four years was markedly different in one aspect from the version so well-regarded today.

The genesis of the M1 began shortly after World War I in 1919, when John Garand was hired to work at Springfield Armory on the development of a semi-automatic rifle. Even before Garand was employed, a number of domestic and foreign semi-automatic rifle designs had been evaluated at Springfield, but none had proven to be satisfactory. One of the more promising designs was the Danish Bang rifle, which featured a "muzzle cap" that trapped the escaping

gas after it exited the muzzle and utilized it to operate the rifle's action. First tested in 1911, several variations of the Bang rifle were evaluated at Springfield as late as 1928.

After some experimentation, including an unusual primer-actuated design, John Garand settled on a gas-operated mechanism for his rifle. Although the Bang rifle had not proven to be satisfactory overall, Garand undoubtedly was influenced to some degree by the rifle's gas system. His gas-operated T1 prototype rifle was chambered for the standard .30 Springfield (.30-'06 Sprg.) cartridge, but Garand was directed by Ordnance to scale down the rifle to a .276-cal. cartridge championed by John Pedersen, who also had a semi-automatic rifle in parallel development at Springfield Armory during that time. Designated as the T3E2, Garand's .276-cal. rifle subsequently edged out the Pedersen design and was recommended for adoption. Nonetheless, for several reasons, the War Dept. disapproved of the .276 cartridge and mandated the rifle instead be chambered for the .30-cal. cartridge, which had been John Garand's preference all along. In 1934, 80 such .30-cal. rifles, designated as the T1E2, were fabricated in Springfield Armory's Model Shop and thoroughly tested with very good results at several Ordnance facilities.

*World War II soldiers practice close-order drill with gas trap Garands (L.). An experimental T3E2 Garand (below, top) is shown with a variation of the Danish Bang semi-automatic rifle (below, bottom) tested at Springfield Armory in late-1918.*

Photo by Frank Iannamico



# THE FIRST GARANDS

The rifle was adopted on Jan. 9, 1936, as the "U.S. Rifle, Semiautomatic, Caliber .30 M1." "Semiautomatic" was soon dropped from the nomenclature as there was no need to denote the type of mechanism.

A signature feature of the new M1 was its Bang-influenced gas system, which has been dubbed by collectors today as the "gas trap" in recognition of the manner by which the escaping gas was collected. The front sight on early-production rifles had straight protective ears, but it was found that inexperienced shooters sometimes mistook one of the ears for the sight blade—which was obviously deleterious to accuracy. The problem was soon corrected by making the ears flared so they were easily distinguishable from the front sight blade.

The rear sight was one of the best ever used on a military service rifle, before or since. It had a peep aperture and was easily adjustable for windage and elevation. The windage knob was secured to the pinion by a spanner nut.

A feature unique to the "gas trap" rifles was a metal "lip-type" ferrule that separated the front handguard from the gas cylinder. These rifles also utilized an operating rod spring and separate compensating spring that were of the keystone (square wire) configuration. As originally adopted, the M1's stock did not have a recess in the butt



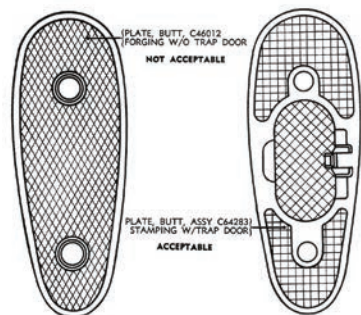
*The follower rod on a gas trap M1 rifle is fitted with a "square wire" operating rod spring and separate compensating spring (above). Note how they differ from the follower rod and familiar "round wire" operating rod spring of a World War II-production M1 rifle, which is not accompanied by a compensating spring (below).*



for storage of cleaning implements, etc., and used a one-piece solid buttplate.

When inspection of a rifle was successfully completed after manufacture, a Final Inspection Stamp, often colloquially termed a "cartouche" by collectors today, was impressed into the left side of the stock. The stamp consisted of "SA/SPG." "SA" indicated manufacture by Springfield Armory and "SPG" represented the initials of Chief of Small Arms Inspection Stanley P. Gibbs, who was a civilian employee at Springfield. All of the "gas trap" M1 rifles bare Gibbs' inspection stamp.

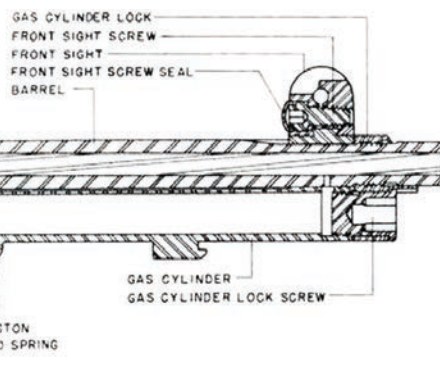
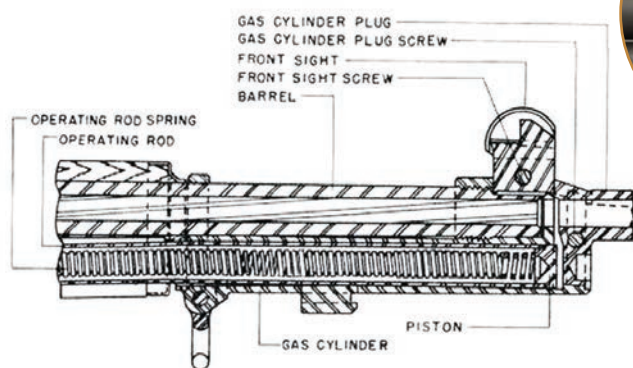
Another interesting feature of the gas trap M1s was the presence of "Drawing Numbers" on most components consisting of a letter prefix ("A" through "F") that denoted the size of the component and a number that identified the specific part. As many of the parts were subsequently changed for better performance or easier manufacture, a "revision number" was added. For example, the initial Drawing Number of the rear sight aperture



*An Ordnance Dept. drawing shows the early, solid M1 rifle buttplate (L.) as found on gas trap rifles and very early gas port rifles. The later and more common buttplate has a hinged door to access the butt trap recess.*



*The muzzle of a "gas port" Garand (inset) will be familiar to most modern-day Garand owners. Ordnance Dept. drawings reveal internal views of the gas trap (below, L.) vs. gas port mechanisms.*







U.S. Army photo

*This World War II-era photo shows a U.S. Army infantryman firing a gas trap M1 rifle. A surprising number of unaltered gas trap rifles saw active use during the war.*

was “B-8868,” and with the first revision of the component it was changed to “B-8868-1.” The Ordnance Dept. eventually came to the conclusion that the marking of so many parts wasn’t worth the effort, and, as production continued, fewer and fewer parts had Drawing Numbers applied. Eventually, only the major components, such as the receiver, barrel, operating rod, bolt and trigger housing were marked with Drawing Numbers.

While many small nagging glitches cropped up and were solved one-by-one during the initial course of production, a major problem occurred when it was found that many of the new rifles jammed on the seventh shot. Finding the cause of the so-called “seventh round stoppage” resulted in Springfield Armory engineers having to burn the midnight oil. It was eventually determined to be a slight deviation in John Garand’s original specifications. The tooling was changed, and most of the affected receivers were modified to rectify the problem, and the rifles remained in use.

The first M1 rifles saw very limited issuance in the fall of 1937 when a total of 48 rifles were sent to five different Army bases. Since only a small number of the rifles were starting to be issued, few soldiers had seen an example. The new semi-automatic rifle was certainly a revelation to the relative handful of soldiers who had the opportunity to fire the Garand, and the vast majority of those preferred it to the bolt-action M1903 rifle.

Many soldiers who had never been anywhere near an M1 bad-mouthed the rifle due to a lot of unfounded rumors floating around the barracks. Much of this angst was due to the simple fact that many people are reluctant to accept change, and the M1 rifle certainly represented change. As the rifles began to see more field use, however, another problem surfaced. The “gas trap” gas cylinder proved to have several weaknesses. The screw that held the gas cylinder plug in place could become loose, thus causing the gas cylinder to become slightly misaligned. This could result in a bullet striking part of the gas cylinder and blowing it off the end of the barrel. This wasn’t terribly common, but it

did occasionally happen—and it needed to be fixed. Also, extensive firing could result in carbon build-up inside the gas cylinder. It was hard to get cleaning patches into the gas cylinder, and it was often necessary to disassemble the component in order to clean it properly. It has been said that it sometimes took a chisel to get out the accumulated carbon. Also, the gas cylinder was not a particularly strong attachment point for the bayonet.

John Garand, working in conjunction with the Springfield Armory Engineering Dept., developed a new gas system that was ready for preliminary testing in early 1939. Rather than trapping the gas after it left the muzzle, Garand’s new design had a port drilled into the bottom of the barrel through which the gas was channeled to impinge on the operating rod.

Interestingly, Ordnance Dept. and Springfield Armory documents of the period routinely referred to the gas systems as the old and new “front ends,” decidedly



*A worker assembles an early gas trap M1 rifle at Springfield Armory. Note the Drawing Numbers on the rear sight aperture, rear sight cover, bolt and operating rod.*

## THE FIRST GARANDS

untechnical terms. A letter dated March 8, 1939, from Ordnance Maj. Guy H. Drewry to Lt. Col. Raymond Marsh at Fort Benning stated: "The new front end has gone through a 10,000 round test and it has been found necessary to make some minor changes. These are primarily, however, to facilitate production. The functioning during the test was very good. We are planning to equip ten rifles with the new front end and send them to Benning for test and observation just as soon as we can. This will probably be some time within the next two or three months."

The refinements on the new gas system apparently took a bit longer than originally anticipated, and Maj. Drewry followed up with a letter to Capt. H.G. Sydenham at Fort Benning on June 10, 1939: "The new front end for the M1 Rifle is coming along fine. We expect to send down shortly to Benning eight or ten rifles with the new front end for test. The main trouble that we have had has been in determining the proper size of the gas port for the most efficient operation."

This letter was followed by one written Oct. 4, 1939, from Maj. Drewry to Col. Marsh: "The ten U.S. Rifles, Caliber .30, M1, with the new front end were shipped from Springfield Armory on September 27, 1939, by express, so I imagine they have probably arrived there by this time and are being tested. I hope these tests can be completed as early as practicable so that we may obtain clearance for this design."



*The rear sight windage knob with spanner nut used on gas trap and gas port rifles manufactured prior to circa 1942 (l.) was somewhat lower-profile than that of World War II-vintage rear sight windage knobs, which used a "locking bar" that could be hand-tightened to hold adjustments more securely.*

Testing at Fort Benning (and elsewhere) did indeed validate the new gas system, and the design was recommended for adoption by the Ordnance Committee on Oct. 26, 1939. The Springfield Armory Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1939 contained the following details regarding the new gas system for the M1 rifle under the heading "The following developments in technological processes and engineering practices have been developed by the department during the past year:

*[N]ew method of securing Gas Cylinder Assembly to the Barrel of the M1 Rifle and an improved method of trapping gases required for operation. The newly developed gas cylinder assembly not only provides a more rigid and positive positioning of the gas cylinder on the barrel but eliminates variations in the size of the gas orifice and greatly improves the accuracy of the piece. Ease of maintenance has been of paramount*



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*consideration during the design of the assembly and the cost to produce it will be less than that of the previous model.*

In addition to the rifles sent to Aberdeen, a number of others were distributed to Frankford Arsenal, the Cavalry Board and the Infantry Board. The Springfield Armory Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1940 (July 1, 1939 to June 30, 1940) stated the following regarding the new gas cylinder:

*Delivery of the re-designed front end for the M1 rifle started in June, 1940. At the present the machinery for the old front end is rapidly being adapted to the manufacture of the new components in greater quantities.*

Even though the new "gas port" barrel was 24" in length as compared to the 22" barrel of the "gas trap" model, the overall length of the revised rifle remained about the same since the "false muzzle" of the original design was eliminated. The rifle's weight of approximately 9 lbs., 8 ozs., was not affected by the change in gas systems.

Even after the order was given to change over to the new design, M1 rifles with the older gas system continued in production so that the existing supply of earlier parts could be used up. Thus, it was not until August 1940 that the last of the gas trap M1s came off Springfield Armory's assembly line, by which time some 32,000 additional rifles of this pattern had been manufactured. It should be noted that this figure represents the number of gas trap M1s made after the new gas system had been adopted but before the tooling was changed to incorporate it into the manufacturing process.

A memorandum from the Subcommittee on Small Arms to the Ordnance Technical Committee contained the following information pertaining to the adoption of the new gas system. The memo makes it clear that the gas trap rifles already issued were to remain in service until substantial repair, such as barrel replacement, was required. The memo also disclosed the number of rifles that had been manufactured with the older gas system:

*Reference a. covers the adoption of a new gas cylinder for the M1 Rifle. It recommends the adoption of the new design of gas cylinder for current manufacture. However, no mention is made concerning the disposition of rifles having the old style gas cylinders after the barrels thereof become unserviceable and require replacing. There were approximately 48,119 of the subject rifles manufactured with the old style gas cylinders and barrels.*

#### *Recommendations*

*This sub-committee recommends that the authorization be granted to replace the old style gas cylinders and barrels with the new style gas cylinders and barrels, as the old assemblies become unserviceable.*

While this document reveals the number of gas trap rifles originally made, there are still some questions

*M1 rifle Serial No. 2126, manufactured at Springfield Armory in April of 1938, still remains in its original "gas trap" configuration.*



regarding the serial number range for these rifles. For example, it is known that some gas port rifles assembled in mid-1941 were in the 40,000 serial number range, and serial numbers as high as the 51,500 range have been reported by credible sources as original gas trap rifles. This overlap in serial numbers between gas trap and gas port M1 rifles during this period was a case of the Ordnance Dept. using up gas trap parts still on hand in order to put as many M1 rifles into the hands of troops as possible, even if they weren't of the latest design. A surprising number of unaltered gas trap rifles saw service during World War II and were not updated to gas port configuration until sent to ordnance facilities to be rebuilt during, and after, the war.

After 1940, gas port M1 rifles that passed inspection at Springfield were stamped "SA" along with the initials of the Armory's Commanding Officer. Unlike the "SA/SPG"-marked gas trap M1 rifles, the Final Inspection Stamps of the commanding officers of Springfield were also accompanied by the now familiar Ordnance Dept. "crossed cannons" escutcheon.

While the new gas cylinder was the most notable change in the design of the M1 rifle, numerous other modifications were made during the course of production. These included elimination of the separate compensating spring, a change from a keystone spring to the more familiar "round-wire" spring and the incorporation of a buttstock recess that was accessed by a buttplate having a hinged trapdoor. It was found that the rear sight did not always hold the adjustments securely, and early in World War II the spanner nut on the windage knob was replaced by a "locking bar" that could be hand-tightened. As the gas trap rifles were subsequently rebuilt and converted to gas port configuration, they were fitted with the updated parts. Typically, all that remained from a gas trap rifle after rebuild was the receiver, and even that part was modified to correct the "Seventh Round Stoppage" defect.

Despite the myriad changes made in the various components of the M1 rifle as production continued through 1957, the revised gas system was the only major modification of the rifle since its adoption in 1936. It should be noted that even if the gas system had not been changed, John Garand's rifle would still have been the best general-issue semi-automatic service rifle fielded in significant quantity by any nation during World War II. The change from the gas trap to the gas port system simply made a good rifle even better.

Today, the M1 rifle enjoys tremendous popularity with many collectors and shooters. For a collector, the acquisition of an original gas trap Garand is a worthwhile, but extremely elusive, goal. It is widely considered the "Holy Grail" of M1 collectibles, as well as a little-known, yet historically significant, U.S. military rifle. ★



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REVOLVERS

# THE WHEELGUN



## WHY IT STILL HAS APPEAL

As more and more models of concealable semi-automatic handguns become available, is an entire generation overlooking the defensive “snubnose” revolver?

BY WILEY CLAPP, Field Editor



For no really good reason, there seems to be an attitude among prospective handgun buyers that holds the revolver in low esteem. In a majority of jurisdictions, Americans are legally permitted to carry firearms for personal defense and have long gravitated to the small, light, short-barreled revolver to play this role.

But times have changed and continue to change as I hunt and peck my way through this story. Shooters look into hideout guns of a different sort, largely because we now have hideout guns of a different sort. The short, light, flat, powerful and reliable defensive semi-automatic pistol is now a practical reality. They're selling a lot of them, and they are crowding out the wheelguns.

So, we'll look again at the compact revolver as a primary defensive tool, with a view toward stacking it up against the modern concealed-carry semi-automatic pistol. Understand at the outset that I do not scorn this latter class of pistol, but rather respect them for their positive impact on self-defense. I have a number of them, shoot them fairly often and admire the ingenuity that created them. But the gun that habitually rides with me when I leave the house is a snubby revolver. I am talking about the small-frame revolver—Colt D Frames, Ruger LCRs and SP-101s, Smith & Wesson J-frames or Taurus Model 85s, principally chambered in .38 Spl./ .357 Mag.—and not larger-frame wheelguns that take bigger cartridges and have absurdly short barrels.

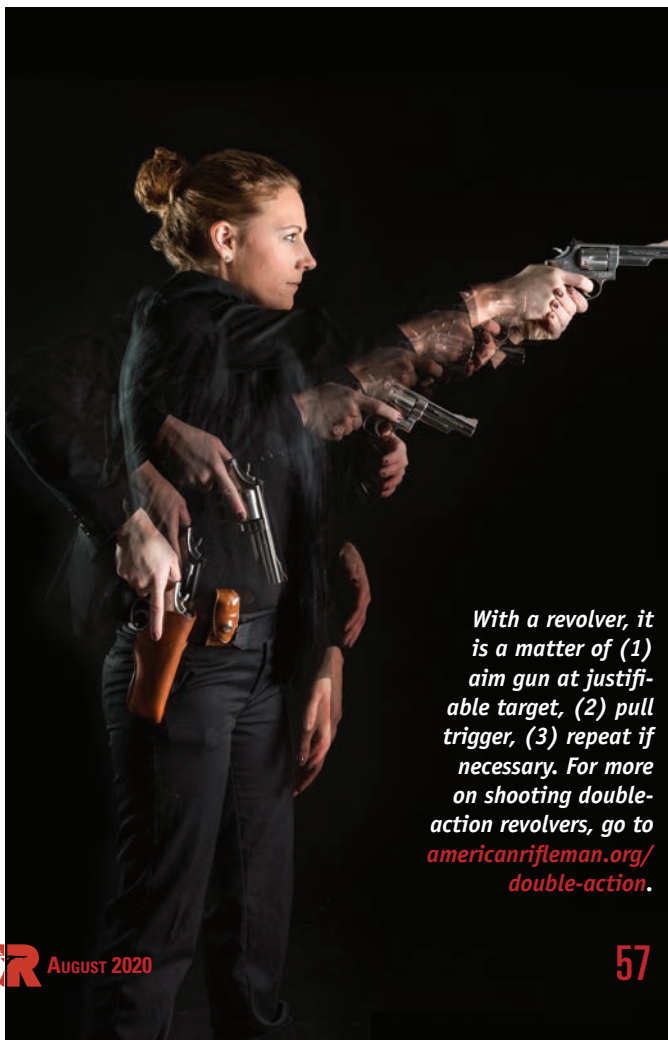
Not so long ago, it was easier to make a case for the revolver over the pistol. That's because the semi-automatics truly small enough to conceal and carry were woefully underpowered. We now have a really fine series of compact, polymer-frame, 9 mm Luger-chambered pistols, such as SIG Sauer's P365, Springfield Armory's Hellcat and S&W's Shield among others. Major developmental effort went into today's 9 mm Luger ammunition, and it is much better than it was as recently as a few years ago. But, inevitably, the major reason shooters choose the semi-automatic over the revolver is capacity. Capacity beyond five or six rounds is not the case with the snubby revolver. The lure of a few more shots in that magazine is so strong that there are companies that make aftermarket extensions for pistol magazines that hold a few more shots. There's nothing wrong with capacity, but it is not all there is to consider.

Realistically, what should a typical concealed-carry-licensed citizen require from his firearm? The gun is a tool, and how well it performs mechanically is no more important than how skillfully it is deployed. But a defensive gun should, first of all, be capable of delivering a fight-stopping shot, assuming that the shooter does his part. Gun and cartridge combinations that have good performance records are fine, but those with the very best records are what you need. This is not a cut-and-try situation we're discussing, but rather a life-threatening crisis. The present state of affairs in the concealed-carry world is such that there is a power advantage in the compact revolver over the semi-automatic. Ruger, S&W and Taurus all make snubby revolvers in .357 Mag., and Colt just added that chambering with the King Cobra. And there is not much doubt that

the old mid-1930s magnum has a huge record of success in stopping events that need to stop.

The latest breed of compact semi-automatic carries the same virtues that handgunners of a century-plus past found on the Borchardt, Browning, Bergmann, et. al. Unfortunately, many of the same vices are also there. The reason these things were called semi-automatic pistols was because they reloaded their own chambers. When a charge of powder burned, it forced a bullet down the barrel and out. But, in the rearward vector, that energy cycled the action and caused the gun to extract, eject, feed and chamber for subsequent shots. If, for any reason, that first round failed to develop the necessary energy, the gun was useless. The shooting schools all teach effective techniques for quickly resolving such malfunctions, so pay close attention on Tuesday afternoon drills (at Gunsite). Unhappily, the worst of the semi-automatics to work the malfunction drills with is this new breed of small pistols. They are so small that there's not a lot of contact surface. In complete fairness to the polymer 9 mms, their reliability is superb; I have done stories on many of them, and I've often reported perfect functioning—100 percent. And, because they are replenished from pre-loaded magazines, they reload more quickly than revolvers—even when using the latter with speedloaders or strips.

*continued on p. 74*



*With a revolver, it is a matter of (1) aim gun at justifiable target, (2) pull trigger, (3) repeat if necessary. For more on shooting double-action revolvers, go to [americanrifleman.org/double-action](http://americanrifleman.org/double-action).*



# LEE-ENFIELD No. 5 "JUNGLE CARBINE"

BY MARK A. KEEFE, IV, EDITOR IN CHIEF

During World War II, jungle fighting experience in the Pacific Theater led the British military to the conclusion that a rifle shorter and lighter than the standard-issue, bolt-action, .303 cal. No. 4 rifle was required. The No. 4 was 44½" long, weighed 8 lbs., 11 ozs., and had been adopted in 1939 to replace the Short, Magazine Lee-Enfield (SMLE)—renamed the No. 1 Rifle in 1926—that had served with modifications since 1902 (Jan./Feb. 1995, p. 52). Coincidentally, late in 1942, experiments had begun at the Royal Small Arms Factory Enfield with lighter No. 4s. The result became the No. 5 rifle (better known unofficially as the "Jungle Carbine"), and the guns were made from shortened and lightened No. 4 rifles that were originally designated "No. 4 Lightened."

The No. 5 Mark I, as finalized in March 1944 and officially adopted on Sept. 12, 1944, had an overall length of 39½", a 20½" barrel with a "flash eliminator" similar to that used on the Bren light machinegun, a buttplate assembly with a rubber recoil pad, a side-mounted rear sling swivel and a shortened fore-end. The bolt handle, receiver and barrel were lightened by removing metal from non-critical areas, as were several other parts. The one-piece top handguard resembled

that of a sporterized gun, as much of the forward portion of the barrel was exposed. A new No. 5 Mk I blade bayonet, affixed by a lug integral to the flash eliminator, was added in lieu of the spike bayonet as used with the No. 4. The No. 5's aperture rear sight was adjustable out to a more realistic 800 yds., as opposed to 1,300 yds. for the No. 4. Two "marks" of rear sight were made; the Mark I was of milled steel while the body of the Mark II was of stamped steel. The No. 5 had a 10-round-capacity box magazine and was loaded by five-round stripper clips.

The No. 5 was quite popular with the troops and was even proposed to replace the No. 4 in general service, but the "Jungle Carbine" was plagued by a "wandering zero" problem that proved to be the handy little rifle's undoing. After much investigation, the accuracy problem was found to be "inherent in the design," and the No. 5 was declared obsolete in July 1947, though some of the rifles were produced through the end of the year. According to Ian Skennerton in his excellent reference on this family of rifles, *The Lee-Enfield Story*, 169,807 No. 5 Mk I rifles were manufactured at Royal Ordnance Factory (ROF) Fazakerley and 81,329 at the Birmingham Small Arms (BSA) Shirley Plant. This is a relatively small

number as compared to the more than 4 million No. 4 rifles made during World War II alone.

Markings are generally found on the left side of the receiver, and typically include the mark, date of manufacture and maker's markings, such as "ROF(F)" for Fazakerley made-guns or "M47C" for BSA Shirley production.

Commonwealth countries also experimented with shortened, lightened rifles. "Rifle No. 6" was the designation given the Australian efforts, though only prototypes and trials rifles were produced. Australia never switched its production to the No. 4, so the No. 6 was based on the No. 1 rifle as produced at the Lithgow Small Arms Factory in New South Wales. The No. 6s looked like the No. 5 because of the flash eliminator and cut-down (though grooved) fore-end, but used either a No. 1 buttplate or a swinging trap with the sling swivel on the bottom.

Ishapore, the principal Indian arsenal, also never switched over to making the No. 4 rifle and experimented with No. 1-based "India Pattern Jungle Carbines," but they were not formally adopted. Canada's Longbranch experimented with a number of "No. 4 Canadian Lightweights" with a one-piece stock and other changes, though these, too, were never put into production. ★

## Instructions

Disassembly of the unloaded No. 5 begins with depressing the magazine catch (32) and removing the magazine. Open the bolt and move it partially rearward, then depress the bolt release (9) and allow the bolt head (12) to ride on its rail over the release (FIG. 1). Rotate the bolt head up and draw the

bolt assembly rearward and out of the receiver (38). It may be necessary to flip up the backsight (2) to allow the bolt head to clear the receiver.

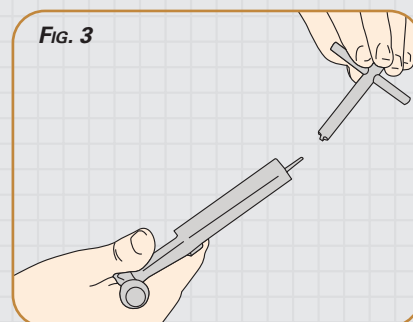
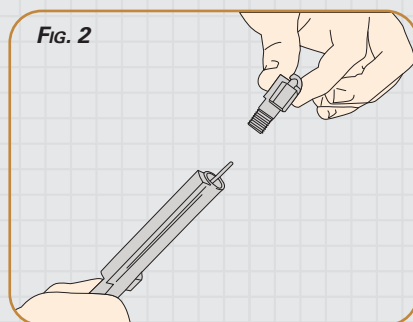
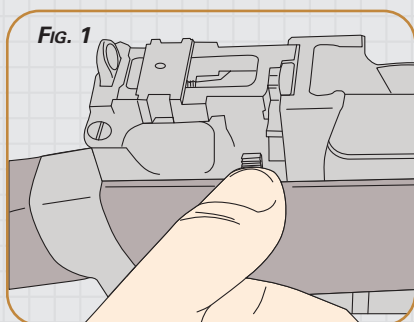
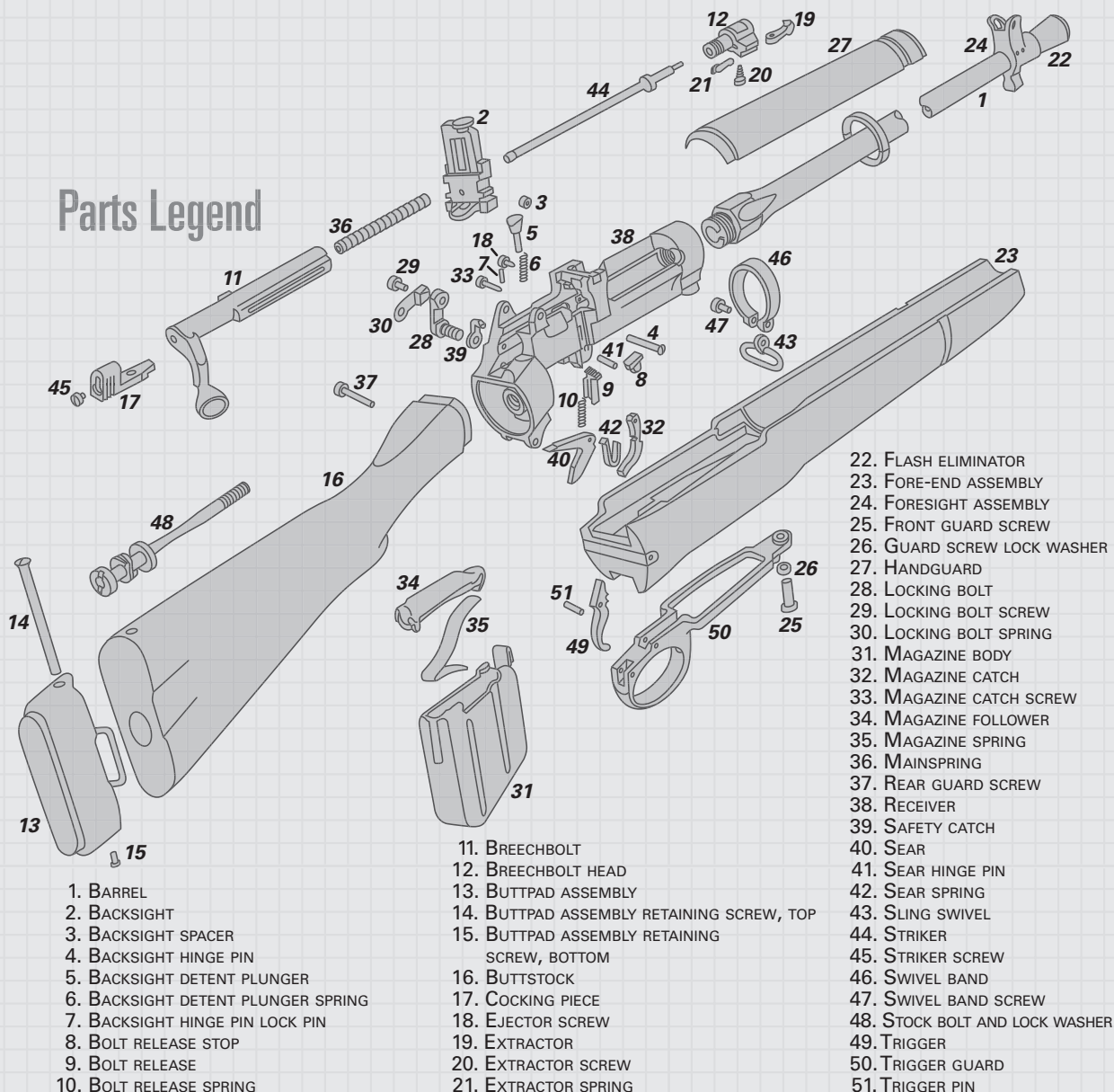
Turn the bolt head counterclockwise and off the breechbolt (11) (FIG. 2). Twist the cocking piece (17) until it moves to the lower of its two notches,

taking most of the compression off the mainspring (36). Turn out the slotted striker screw (45) on the rear of the cocking piece.

The striker (44) is screwed into the cocking piece. There are two notches on either side of the striker's shoulder about 1" down from the pin's tip. To



## Parts Legend



remove the striker, insert a takedown tool from the front until the projections on either side of its point engage the notches and simply turn out the firing pin (**Fig. 3**).

Fore-end (23) removal begins with unscrewing the front sling swivel band screw (47) and removing the sling

swivel band (46). Next, turn out the front guard screw (25) and the trigger pin (51), allowing the trigger guard (50) with the trigger (49) attached to be pulled off of the fore-end. The stock's fore-end is now free to drop off the bottom of the barreled action.

To remove the buttstock (16),

turn out the top and bottom retaining screws (14 and 15) and slide the buttstock assembly off the rear of the buttstock. Insert a long-bladed screwdriver into the recess in the buttstock and turn out the stock bolt (48).

Reassembly of the No. 5 is in the reverse order.



FROM THE BENCH



# Barnaul Ammunition's Affordable Rifle Cartridges

BY B. GIL HORMAN, Field Editor

American distributor MKS Supply has been in business for three decades. Best known for providing dealers with products from Hi-Point Firearms and Inland Mfg., MKS decided last year that it was time to expand its catalog to include affordably priced ammunition as well. To do so, MKS formed a new importation, distribution and marketing relationship with Barnaul Ammunition, one of the largest manufacturers in Russia.

The Barnaul brand is not as well known here in the United States as it is in Europe, but if you're hearing the name for the first time, be assured that this is not some wet-behind-the-ears manufacturer. With decades of production experience under its belt, this company's history dates back to 19th-century Saint Petersburg, where

one of the country's first cartridge plants was established.

Dubbed "Arsenal P," it provided the Russian military with ammunition during World War I. During World War II, the factory was moved to Barnaul, Russia, where it produced more than 1.8 billion cartridges during the course of that conflict. Today, Barnaul offers around 200 commercial varieties of practice-grade, hunting and self-defense ammunition—that's in addition to its military contracts.

All of the ammunition Barnaul manufactures employs cartridge cases formed from mild steel, instead of brass or aluminum. The steel is treated with various corrosion-resistant finishes including lacquered, polymer-coated, zinc-coated and brass-washed. The company's bullet

options include tried-and-true full-metal-jacket, soft-point and hollow-point designs.

In fact, if you've fired a wide variety of steel-cased ammunition, there's a distinct possibility that it was manufactured in Russia by Barnaul for one of the many private labels the company supplies. But now MKS Supply is determined to pull back the curtain and give American shooting sports enthusiasts an opportunity to get to know this affordably priced, steel-cased ammunition by the name of the company that actually makes it.

This brings us to the great cartridge-case debate. Are steel cases as good and reliable as brass? Yes, they can be. It all boils down to how well a given cartridge fits a particular firearm. Each individual firearm's chamber has



# SHOOTING RESULTS (100 YDS.)

CARTRIDGE BULLET WEIGHT/TYPE BARREL	VEL. @ MUZZLE (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
<b>7.62x54 mm R</b> <b>203-GR. SP BT</b> <b>23.5" STANDARD</b>	2217 Avg. 35 Sd	2,215	2.05	2.31	2.17
<b>7.62x39 mm</b> <b>123-GR. FMJ</b> <b>16" MID-WEIGHT</b>	2388 Avg. 16 Sd	1,557	1.78	2.03	1.91
<b>.223 Rem.</b> <b>55-GR. SP BT</b> <b>24" BULL</b>	3149 Avg. 28 Sd	1,211	0.96	1.04	1.01

NOTES: AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 SHOTS FIRED NEXT TO A LABRADAR CHRONOGRAPH AT THE MUZZLE. ACCURACY RESULTS FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 100 YDS. FROM A BENCH REST. TEMPERATURE: 78° F. HUMIDITY: 32%. ABBREVIATIONS: FMJ (FULL METAL JACKET), Sd (STANDARD DEVIATION), SP BT (SOFT-POINT BOATTAIL).

minute dimensional differences; no two are exactly alike. Then you have to take the action's tolerances into consideration. Some are tighter, while others are more forgiving. Last but not least, the cartridges themselves are built to a particular set of specifications. In short, cartridge-to-gun fit is not all that different than hand-to-glove or foot-to-shoe fit. Both can be quality options but not be a good fit for each other.

With that being said, there are plenty of firearm makes and models that run reliably when loaded with steel-cased ammunition. For those who own these models, steel-cased cartridges can provide a measurable reduction in ammunition costs. But how do you know if a given load is going to function reliably in your gun? A trip to the range with just two or three 20-round boxes should be enough to find out if a particular cartridge and your gun are going to get along.

To find out how well Barnaul ammunition performs, I requested three different rifle cartridges that I enjoy shooting, 7.62x54 mm R, 7.62x39 mm and .223 Rem. The bullet types were selected to fill particular shooting roles, with rifles that would push the cartridges' limits in one way or another.

Many of the Americans who have experience with the 130-year-old 7.62x54 mm R rimmed rifle cartridge know it as the chambering designed for the Mosin-Nagant family of

bolt-action rifles. The 7.62x54 mm R has a rich history and provides down-range performance comparable to the venerable .308 Win. When topped off with expanding bullets, such as the 203-gr. boattail soft-point tested here, it's a viable option for hunting medium and large game.

Although bolt-action rifles can be counted on to cycle most ammunition reliably, semi-automatic rifles tend to be more demanding. That's why I used a 23.5"-barreled Molot Vepr, which is based on the AK-47 design, as a launching platform. Poor cartridge-to-chamber fit can be quickly identified in a semi-automatic by frequent failures to feed and eject properly.


I'm happy to report that both the ammunition and the rifle ran reliably throughout the testing process. When fired with four other loads during a previous range test, the Vepr tapped out five-shot groups of 2" to 2.25" at 100 yds. The Barnaul 203-gr. soft-point produced similar results with an average group size of 2.17".

For the 7.62x39 mm, I was looking for an affordable practice-grade round for punching holes in targets and ringing steel plates on the shooting range. Barnaul's 123-gr. full-metal-jacket load was just the ticket. It was paired with a hybrid AR-15 from Palmetto State Armory called the KS-47 Gen2. This 16"-barreled, gas-impingement-operated semi-automatic has a lower receiver that's been modified to accept AK-47-pattern magazines. It's a gun and ammunition combination that's handy and fun to shoot. The KS-47 printed an average group size of 1.91" with the Barnaul cartridges, while other loads yielded

groups around 2.5" in size. And it operated flawlessly to boot!

I recently worked with a top-quality AR-15 upper assembly configured by Luth-AR for varminting. When attached to a target-shooting lower, the 24" stainless steel bull barrel chambered in .223 Rem. is a real tack-driver. Firing premium varmint-hunting loads resulted in groups around 0.75" to 0.85" in size. But these rounds also happen to cost \$1.10 to \$1.15 per shot.

When participating in a hunt that calls for high round counts, such as prairie dogs or ground squirrels, higher ammunition costs can be prohibitive. With this in mind, I was curious to see how the Barnaul 55-gr. boattail soft-point would perform with this upper receiver. The cartridges proved to be utterly reliable, with an average group size of 1.01". Although the group sizes were slightly larger, the Barnaul cartridge was available for \$0.28 per shot at the time of testing. Is a 0.16" gain in group size worth approximately a 76 percent reduction in ammunition cost? Each individual's shooting requirements are different, but for my needs, this is a winning combination.

At the end of the testing process, hundreds of rounds of Barnaul ammunition had been fired through multiple platforms without any malfunctions. That alone would make this steel-cased ammunition a good investment. But considering the respectable levels of accuracy that accompany the lower prices, Barnaul is a real bargain. For more information, visit [mkssupply.com](http://mkssupply.com) or [barnaulammo.com](http://barnaulammo.com). 

A sample of Barnaul loadings available through MKS Supply include (l. to. r.): .30-'06 Sprg., 7.62x54 mm R, 7.62x39 mm, .223 Rem. (both ball and soft-point) and 5.45x39 mm.





# Rock Island VRBP-100

**T**wo trends have taken hold in the tactical shotgun market over the past few years—bullpup layouts and box-fed magazine systems. While neither idea is particularly new, the recent innovation of combining both features into one firearm has led to some interesting shotguns. Case in point: Rock Island's VRBP-100.

The VRBP-100 is made by Turkish manufacturer Derya Arms and imported by Rock Island Armory Imports. A gas-operated, semi-automatic design, the action of the VRBP is based on the Rock Island VR series, which includes the AR-styled VR60 and VR80. These models use a steel barrel and 7075 aluminum receiver housed in a polymer chassis. The gas system runs below the barrel with a piston, bolt carrier and return spring positioned around a support tube.

The bullpup design of the VRBP-100 results in an overall length of 31" with

a 20" barrel. To put this into perspective, a traditional semi-automatic or pump shotgun with a 20" barrel typically stretches past 40" long. Also, despite its barrel length and the fact it can be fired from the shoulder, the VRBP-100 is less than 5" longer than the 14"-barreled pistol-grip-only "Shockwave"-type firearms.

The shotgun feeds from steel, detachable box magazines, and two five-rounders are supplied with the shotgun. A magazine block is also included to limit capacity for those who want to use the shotgun for hunting purposes. Rock Island also makes a nine-round and 19-round magazine for the VR series. With a fully loaded 19-rounder in place, the shotgun is surprisingly well-balanced, despite its over-the-top appearance, with the magazine's extreme curvature placing the weight under the pistol grip. Its capacity places the VRBP on par with drum-fed and dual-magazine-tube shotguns.

Bullpups tend to have a rear weight

bias, and to this end the VRBP's recoil pad is cut at an angle and serrated to hold the stock into the shoulder pocket. With even the largest magazine installed, it is possible to comfortably hold the VRBP-100 on target with only the shooting hand. The length of pull is adjustable with the three supplied stock spacers, yielding a 1.25" range of adjustment.

Both the safeties and magazine release buttons are bilateral. The thumb safety is a 90-degree lever above the grip on both sides. Located to the rear of the magazine well, the magazine release buttons are easily reached by the thumb of either the shooting or support hand while grasping the non-drop-free magazines for removal. Despite these bilateral controls, the factory recommends that the VRBP-100 be used right-handed only, as the ejection port is on the right side. Despite successfully shooting the VRBP left-handed with the loads we tested (the ejection port dustcover acts as a nice hull deflector), we recommend following the factory guidelines. The



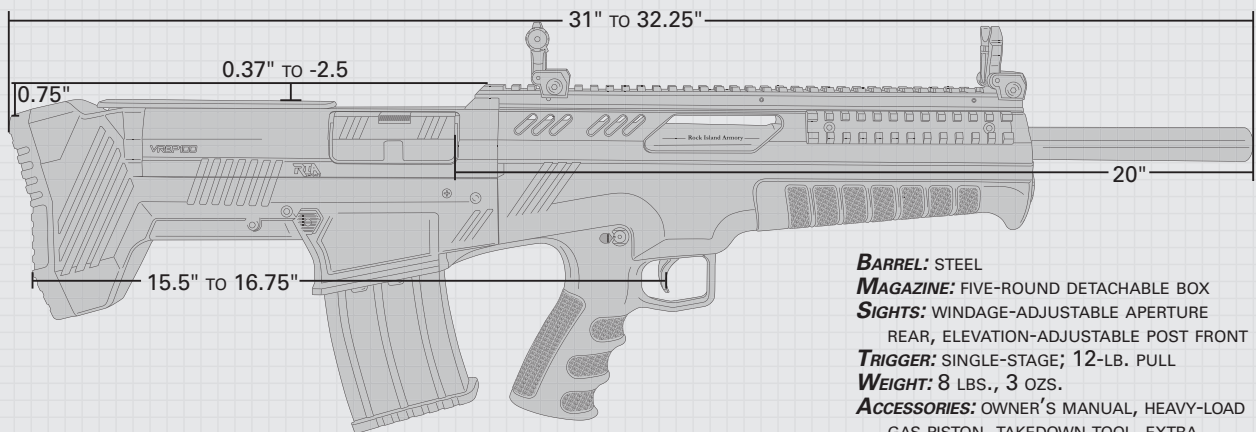
*The Rock Island VRBP-100 is supplied with three stock spacers that allow length of pull to be adjusted within a 1.25" range (l.). The disassembled shotgun reveals a gas-piston system that mounts below the barrel (below). Magazine options include (below, l. to r.): available 19- and nine-round models and a five-rounder, of which two are included.*





## ROCK ISLAND VRBP-100

IMPORTER: ROCK ISLAND ARMORY (DEPT. AR), 150 N. SMART WAY, PAHRUMP, NV 89060; (775) 537-1444; [ARMSCOR.COM](http://ARMSCOR.COM)



**MANUFACTURER:** DERYA ARMS (TURKEY)  
**ACTION TYPE:** GAS-OPERATED,  
SEMI-AUTOMATIC SHOTGUN

**GAUGE:** 12; 3"  
**RECEIVER:** 7075-T6 ALUMINUM, ANODIZED  
**STOCK:** POLYMER

**BARREL:** STEEL  
**MAGAZINE:** FIVE-ROUND DETACHABLE BOX  
**SIGHTS:** WINDAGE-ADJUSTABLE APERTURE  
REAR, ELEVATION-ADJUSTABLE POST FRONT  
**TRIGGER:** SINGLE-STAGE; 12-LB. PULL  
**WEIGHT:** 8 LBS., 3 OZS.  
**ACCESSORIES:** OWNER'S MANUAL, HEAVY-LOAD  
GAS PISTON, TAKEDOWN TOOL, EXTRA  
MAGAZINE, THREE CHOKE TUBES, CHOKE  
TUBE WRENCH, MAGAZINE PLUG, LOCK  
**MSRP:** \$774

non-reciprocating charging handle is on the front left side of the fore-end, and the bolt is held open after the magazine's last round is fired. An AR-15-type "paddle" bolt release is positioned above the magazine on the left side.

The VRBP-100 comes from the factory with folding front and rear backup sights mounted on a 13" aluminum section of Picatinny rail, and the stock has an adjustable cheekpiece to accommodate the use of an optic. The shotgun also comes with a 5" polymer rail section on the right side of the fore-end. There are no other provisions on the shotgun for mounting rails. Two quick-disconnect sling mounts are molded into the left side of the chassis.

In order to accommodate the wide variance in 12-ga. loads, the VRBP-100 comes supplied with two gas pistons, "heavy" for 3" shells and "light" for 2¾" shells. To change the pistons out the shotgun must be partially disassembled to remove the barrel and access the gas system. With a little practice the process takes about two minutes. There is storage in the stock under the recoil pad to carry the takedown tool

and spare piston. To add to its versatility, the shotgun has a screw-in choke system that uses Beretta/Benelli Mobil threads, and it comes supplied with full, modified and cylinder chokes.

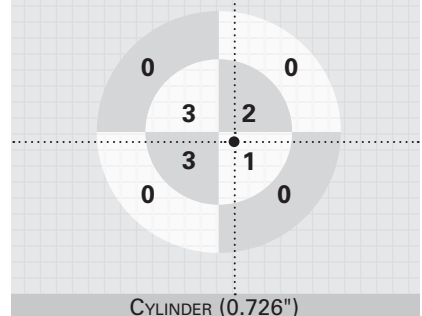
Rock Island recommends an initial 500-round break-in, with the first 50 rounds being standard-velocity loads before lighter loads are used. During our testing, the shotgun was reliably cycling light target loads before reaching that mark. Following the break-in period, the light piston functioned with all the 2¾" shells we fed it, from light birdshot to slugs. With the heavy piston installed, the VRBP was flawless with all 3" magnum loads. Trigger pull is a hefty 12 lbs., but had little take-up and a positive reset. It is easily managed with a shotgun "pull" instead of a rifle "squeeze."

The VRBP-100 is marketed as "ideal for home defenders, hunters and competition shooters alike" and it fits all three categories. Competitive shooters have already embraced Derya shotguns throughout the world. For the hunter, the bullpup design makes for an easy-to-handle package when climbing into a deer blind or tree stand, combined with the VRBP's flexibility to handle everything from birdshot to slugs. For


### SHOOTING RESULTS (25 YDS.)

FEDERAL PREMIUM PERSONAL DEFENSE  
12-GA., 2¾" 00 BUCK  
AVERAGE PELLET COUNT: 9  
MEASURED VELOCITY @ 4 FT.: 1101 F.P.S.  
AVERAGE OF 10 PATTERNS

● = POINT OF HOLD



21" INNER CIRCLE:	9	(100%)
30" OUTER RING:	0	(0%)
TOTAL HITS:	9	(100%)

home defense, the shotgun provides a handy overall length with no legal restrictions, backed-up by quick and simple reloading. In the Rock Island VRBP-100 a bullpup layout and boxed magazine system have combined to form a potent pairing in an affordable and reliable package. 

*The flip-up sights are mounted on a 13" M1913 Picatinny rail that also allows for the mounting of optics (l.). The gun is supplied with a "light" and "heavy" gas piston to tune its function to a wide range of shells (r.). To change the piston, the shotgun must be partially disassembled by removing the barrel to access the gas system.*





# Strasser RS 14 Evolution Tahr

Use of straight-pull bolt-action rifles by hunters in the U.S. has traditionally been limited. These designs are quite popular in Europe, however, and can offer several benefits over traditional turnbolt designs. Among these straight-pull hunting rifles is the RS 14 Evolution Tahr, built by Strasser in Austria. The RS 14 rifle combines modern engineering with traditional design, resulting in a unique and attractive option for hunters who want a straight-pull.

The most notable element of the Strasser is, quite naturally, its bolt assembly. Unlike traditional bolt-actions that use the rotation of the bolt handle to release two or more locking lugs, Strasser rifles are a straight-pull design. While some other straight-pull rifles use a cam to rotate the bolt as the handle is retracted, the Strasser uses an altogether different method. The Radial Element bolt does not rotate, but, instead, the locking lugs retract back into the bolt body, allowing the release from battery. These four steel lugs interface with a receiver extension that sits just to the rear of the chamber. The barrel does not thread into the receiver, but rather clamps on under significant pressure.

The receiver itself is built from lightweight aluminum, and a Picatinny rail is integrally machined

into its top for simple and foolproof scope mounting. Identical ejection ports are present on both sides of the receiver, allowing the rifle to be converted from right-hand to left-hand configuration, or vice versa, and single-loading of the chamber from either side. A spring-loaded plunger-style ejector works in conjunction with a sliding-plate extractor to facilitate the extraction and ejection of spent cases or loaded rounds. Bilateral buttons on either side of the receiver release the detachable box magazine, which fits flush with the underside of the receiver. The safety is located at the rear of the bolt; sliding the catch upward puts it in the “fire” position, and moving it downward puts the rifle on “safe.” The bolt handle articulates rearward to unlock the bolt from battery, and, if the user wants to cycle the rifle without firing, a button on the safety catch allows the bolt to unlock. A red cocking indicator is visible on top of the bolt body.

Like many European rifles, the Strasser is a take-down design. Though the procedure is a tad complicated if one doesn’t consult the manual, assembly and disassembly can be accomplished quickly and requires no additional tools other than the included 4 mm hex wrench. In order to disassemble the rifle, a plunger on the receiver body is depressed to allow

the bolt to slide free. With the bolt removed, a small lever releases the trigger guard, which can be removed from the bottom of the receiver. The trigger mechanism houses an L-shaped hex wrench, which is used to remove the fore-end screw. A steel rod is encased inside the fore-end and can be used to rotate a lever 90 degrees, which releases the barrel. The process is easier than it sounds, and the result is a very portable rifle ideal for traversing the globe in a compact take-down case. Reversing the procedure assembles the rifle.

Because the barrel can be removed readily, cartridge changes on the Strasser RS 14 rifles are incredibly simple to accomplish. Twenty-two different chamberings are currently offered in three major cartridge categories: Mini, Standard and Magnum. Choices range from .223 Rem. all the way up to .458 Win. Mag., meaning that a single rifle can be used to hunt all of the world’s game. Users are not restricted to short- or long-action chamberings or magnum or standard bolt faces—every Strasser Evolution can be adapted to fit all 22 cartridges by swapping barrels,



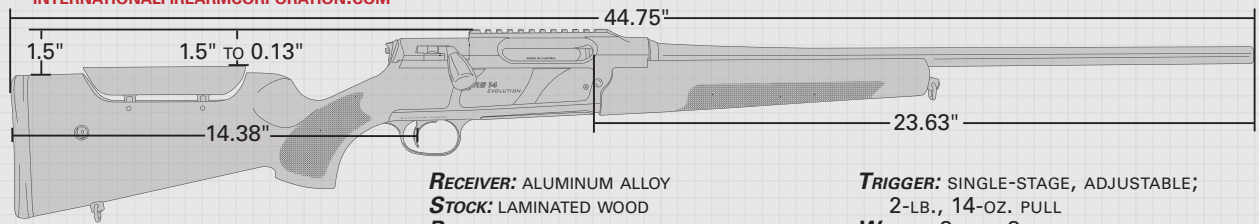
*The Strasser’s construction details include a triangular, non-rotating bolt (above, r.), and an integrated clamping lever for securing the barrel (inset). The trigger group consists of a detachable module that is adjustable for pull weight.*





## STRASSER RS 14 EVOLUTION TAHR

**IMPORTER:** INTERNATIONAL FIREARM CORP. (DEPT. AR), 5701 E. RENO AVE., SUITE E, MIDWEST CITY, OK 73110; (844) 432-4867;  
**INTERNATIONALFIREARMCORPORATION.COM**



**MANUFACTURER:** STRASSER (AUSTRIA)  
**ACTION TYPE:** STRAIGHT-PULL, BOLT-ACTION,  
 CENTER-FIRE REPEATING RIFLE  
**CHAMBERING:** 7 MM REM. MAG.

**RECEIVER:** ALUMINUM ALLOY  
**STOCK:** LAMINATED WOOD  
**BARREL:** CHROME-MOLY STEEL;  
 SIX-GROOVE, 1:9.4" RH TWIST  
**MAGAZINE:** TWO-ROUND DETACHABLE BOX  
**SIGHTS:** NONE; PICATINNY RAIL, BARREL  
 DRILLED AND TAPPED FOR IRON SIGHTS

**TRIGGER:** SINGLE-STAGE, ADJUSTABLE;  
 2-LB., 14-OZ. PULL  
**WEIGHT:** 8 LBS., 8 OZS.  
**ACCESSORIES:** OWNER'S MANUAL,  
 DISASSEMBLY WRENCH  
**MSRP:** \$4,309

bolt heads and magazines. Barrels are available with or without adjustable iron sights. The detachable box magazines hold two rounds of magnum ammunition, and standard and micro chamberings hold three. A larger capacity "driven hunt" magazine is available as an optional accessory—those hold five and six rounds, respectively.

The trigger mechanism on this series of rifles is unique in that it is both adjustable and can also be used for single set use. With the trigger assembly removed from the rifle, a plunger can be moved from one position to another to either lighten or increase the pull weight, with three possible settings available. Our test rifle's trigger broke at 2 lbs., 14 ozs., on the heaviest setting, 2 lbs., 9 ozs., on the lightest, and a mere 8 ozs. when used with the single set feature engaged.

Several different two-piece stock designs are offered on the Strasser that include highly figured walnut with a cheekpiece, walnut and laminated thumbhole versions as well as a laminated stock with a pistol grip and adjustable cheek piece. Our test rifle was the Tahr model, which ships with the aforementioned adjustable laminated stock. It came equipped with four QD sling swivel attachment points, pressed checkering on the palmswell and fore-end, and an adjustable comb. Stocks with left-handed cheekpieces are available as well. Fore-ends attach to the receiver securely and allow the barrel to float freely along its length.

The primary advantage of a straight-pull is the speed with which the rifle can be loaded. Europeans hunt lots of driven game, so the ability to quickly cycle the action without losing proper cheekweld is an advantage. Thanks to


### SHOOTING RESULTS (100 YDS.)

7 MM REM. MAG. CARTRIDGE	VEL. @ MUZZLE (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
<b>BARNES VOR-TX LR</b> <b>139-GR. LRX</b>	3136 Avg. 24 Sd	3,035	0.66	1.11	0.98
<b>HORNADY PH</b> <b>162-GR. ELD-X</b>	2886 Avg. 37 Sd	2,996	1.24	2.21	1.76
<b>WINCHESTER EBGLR</b> <b>168-GR. ABLR</b>	2816 Avg. 21 Sd	2,958	0.75	1.47	1.10
<b>AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD</b>					1.28

NOTES: MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 SHOTS FIRED NEXT TO A LABRADOR CHRONOGRAPH AT THE MUZZLE. ACCURACY RESULTS FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 100 YDS. FROM A BENCH REST. TEMPERATURE: 56° F. HUMIDITY: 72%. ABBREVIATIONS: ABLR (ACCU-BOND LONG RANGE), EBGLR (EXPEDITION BIG GAME LONG RANGE), ELD (EXTREMELY LOW DRAG), LRX (LONG-RANGE X), PH (PRECISION HUNTER), Sd (STANDARD DEVIATION).

this system, reloading the Strasser can be accomplished with incredible speed that cannot likely be matched by any other action type, with the obvious exception of autoloading designs.

Our test rifle was chambered in 7 mm Rem. Mag., and we used three factory hunting loads to evaluate the Strasser's function and accuracy. At first, we were a bit skeptical of the performance. Heat associated with repeated five-round groups didn't do the rifle any favors with the first load, with some evidence of double-grouping. Three-shot groups would result in one-hole clusters, with the final two shots opening things up considerably. Then we switched loads and those problems disappeared; with the other two brands tested, accuracy ranged from good to great.

The engineering on the RS 14 Evolution Tahr is impressive, the construction is solid and the lines are pleasing. The Strasser deviates from the classic American style of hunting rifles, but in doing so offers some impressive features; its take-down and multi-chambering abilities are both attractive attributes for the traveling hunter. 



*While unconventional in its locking method, the straight-pull Strasser's bolt nevertheless has a typical plunger-style ejector and a sliding-plate extractor in its enclosed face.*

The *American Rifleman* has used the phrase "Dope Bag" since at least 1921, when Col. Townsend Whelen first titled his column with it. Even then, it had been in use for years, referring to a sack used by target shooters to hold ammunition and accessories on the firing line. "Sight dope" also was a traditional marksman's term for sight-adjustment information, while judging wind speed and direction was called "doping the wind."

**WARNING:** Technical data and information contained herein are intended to provide information based on the limited experience of individuals under specific conditions and circumstances. They do not detail the comprehensive training procedures, techniques and safety precautions absolutely necessary to properly carry on similar activity. Read the notice and disclaimer on the contents page. Always consult comprehensive reference manuals and bulletins for details of proper training requirements, procedures, techniques and safety precautions before attempting any similar activity.



Earlier this year, Gov. Ralph Northam said he had no plans to confiscate guns.

## Lessons In The Value Of Strong State Firearms Preemption Laws

**LATEST  
LEGISLATIVE  
NEWS FROM  
INSIDE THE NRA  
INSTITUTE FOR  
LEGISLATIVE  
ACTION**

### IN MEMORY NRA-ILA CONTRIBUTIONS May 1 - 31, 2020

**Frank Garst**, Salem, VA (from: Mrs. Shirley Garst); **Billy Loftis**, Locust Grove, GA (from: Mrs. Gerry Loftis); **Stanley Garner**, Nashville, NC (from: Barbara D. Garner); **Dwight Palmer**, Eastpointe, Michigan (from: Mrs. Lillian Palmer)

## NRA-ILA

**ILA Grassroots:**  
**(800) 392-8683**

**NRA-ILA: (703) 267-1170**

**NRA-ILA website: [nraila.org](http://nraila.org)**

**A**long with the sweeping success of the Right-to-Carry movement, strong state firearms preemption laws have been among the most important developments over the past half-century in the way average Americans own and use firearms. To open a circa 1970 edition of ATF's State Laws and Published Ordinances is to encounter an incomprehensible patchwork of county and city regulations that made it impossible for otherwise law-abiding gun owners to confidently exercise their right to keep and bear arms.

Understanding how uniform statewide firearms regulation has benefitted gun owners, gun control activists are doing their best to undermine existing state firearms preemption laws. Gun control backers and local officials have determined that they are able to pass stringent gun controls in politically homogenous local jurisdictions that cannot be enacted at the more ideologically diverse state level. Moreover, there are local anti-gun officials that seek to exploit gaps in state firearms preemption laws to attack Second Amendment rights.

The most visible attack on state firearms preemption in 2020 has occurred in Virginia. As part of a raft of gun control measures pushed by disgraced Gov. Ralph Northam, the state enacted HB 421. The legislation weakened the state firearms preemption statute and Virginians' right to carry by granting local authorities the power to prohibit "firearms, ammunition, or components or combination thereof" in a host of locations.

Specifically, the locations are:  
(i) in any building, or part thereof, owned or used by such locality, or by any authority or local governmental entity created or controlled by the locality, for governmental purposes;

(ii) in any public park owned or operated by the locality, or by any authority or local

governmental entity created or controlled by the locality;

(iii) in any recreation or community center facility operated by the locality, or by any authority or local governmental entity created or controlled by the locality; or

(iv) in any public street, road, alley, or sidewalk or public right-of-way or any other place of whatever nature that is open to the public and is being used by or is adjacent to a permitted event or an event that would otherwise require a permit.

The locations listed in (i)-(iii) empower localities to create a hodgepodge of local gun-free zones that will encumber law-abiding citizens as they move about the state. However, the implications of location (iv) are even worse. Under that change, localities are empowered to create roving gun-free zones that may change by the day or hour. Such authority has the potential to create an indecipherable mishmash of gun-free zones that would ensnare even the most well-meaning and diligent gun owner.

The change in Virginia's preemption law goes into effect on July 1, but the fashionable D.C. suburb of Alexandria hasn't waited. In May, the city council drew up legislation to restrict firearms to the full extent allowed under the new legislation. A violation of the city's proposed ordinance would be punishable as a Class 1 Misdemeanor, carrying a penalty of up to 12 months in jail and up to a \$2,500 fine.

Knowing the importance of strong state firearms preemption laws to the exercise of Second Amendment rights, gun control advocates and anti-gun politicians are working to erode the hard-fought protections gun owners have achieved over the last several decades. Gun rights supporters must work to equal and better their efforts in order to maintain and strengthen these vital laws.

AP photo by Bob Brown/Richmond Times-Dispatch



# Florida Supreme Court Strikes Gun Ban From Ballot

**O**n June 4, the Florida Supreme Court declared an effort to ban commonly-owned semi-automatic firearms through a ballot measure invalid, describing the proposal as “misleading” and a violation of state law.

Anti-gun group Ban Assault Weapons Now (BAWN), a project of several gun control groups including the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence and March For Our Lives, had attempted to place the gun ban on the ballot in 2020, but failed to obtain the required signatures. Having secured roughly 175,000 signatures, in recent months the group’s goals shifted to placing the measure on the 2022 ballot. With the Supreme Court’s decision, gun control advocates will have to start the ballot measure procedure over from scratch if they intend to continue this attack on Floridians’ Second Amendment rights.

The measure would have amended the Florida Constitution to prohibit the possession of an “assault weapon,” defined as “any semiautomatic rifle or shotgun capable of holding more than ten (10) rounds of ammunition at once, either in a fixed or detachable magazine, or any other ammunition-feeding device.” The summary stated that the proposed semi-automatic ban, “Exempts and requires registration of assault weapons lawfully possessed prior to this provision’s effective date.” In truth, the actual language of the proposal did not exempt these firearms, only a current owner’s continued possession of their guns. Under the proposal, such firearms could not be lawfully transferred, and therefore would have eventually become contraband.

FL ST § 101.161(1) requires that “Whenever a constitutional amendment or other public measure is submitted to the vote of the people, a ballot summary of such amendment or other public measure shall be printed in clear and unambiguous language on the ballot ...” In their opinion, the Supreme Court determined that “the ballot summary affirmatively misleads voters regarding the exemption” and that the “misleading language violates section 101.161(1) ....”

The Supreme Court’s decision to protect Florida voters from a misleading ballot measure is a monumental victory for NRA members and all law-abiding gun owners throughout the Sunshine State. However, faced with well-financed opponents intent on undermining the Second Amendment, Florida gun rights supporters must remain vigilant in the continued fight for our firearms freedom. 🏹



Wikimedia Commons photo by Bruin79



Photo courtesy Don McLean

**A**ny music fan will tell you that it’s nearly impossible to hear the song “American Pie” and not sing along. It’s hard to believe that superstar Don McLean released the song almost 50 years ago, partly inspired by the deaths of Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and the Big Bopper (JP Richardson) in a plane crash. “American Pie” was named one of the top five songs of the 20th century and to celebrate, McLean recently announced plans for a global tour in 2021 to give fans a chance to relive the many memories it created. NRA Country’s Vanessa Shahidi asked McLean some questions and learned a few new things about the Songwriters Hall of Fame member. Be sure to catch all the news and announcements about McLean online at [www.DonMcLean.com](http://www.DonMcLean.com).

**VS: Do you have a favorite personal firearm?**

**DM:** I am a collector of early western movies, originally collecting 16 mm film of the greats like Hoot Gibson and Buck Jones. This led from one thing to another: a love of western history, then western film history, horsemanship (I’ve ridden for 30 years) and guns of the West. My favorite was always the single-action Colt and my favorite rifle was the Winchester Saddle Ring Carbine.

**VS: What makes the outdoors special to you?**

**DM:** I fell in love with the outdoors because the town where I grew up was surrounded by woods in which we all played. That changed my life and I could never live in a city. I chose to be a ramblin’ singer who writes songs because it suited my need to be free and take orders from nobody.

**VS: What are some of your best outdoors memories?**

**DM:** I have always lived in a wilderness area. The happiest moments of my life were spent riding alone in the forest on a series of great trail horses and having adventures in great weather and rough weather.

**VS: Did you know “American Pie” would be such an impactful song when you wrote it?**

**DM:** “American Pie” is my most famous song and the most ambitious. I wanted a big, complex song about America which captured its power and genius. I decided that politics and music would influence each other moving forward.

**VS: You’ve already made big plans for next year. Tell us about those.**

**DM:** I’ve planned a world tour for 2021 as well as a brand new album, Still Playin’ Favorites, and many other events to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the American Pie album. I look forward to getting back out in front of fans of all ages.

*NRA Country is a lifestyle and a bond between the country music community and hard-working Americans everywhere. It’s powered by pride, freedom, love of country, respect for the military, and the responsibilities of protecting the great American life. Visit [nracountry.com](http://nracountry.com) and follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.*

# NRA® Online Regional Report

To search for events in your area, go to

**[nrapublications.org/regional-report](http://nrapublications.org/regional-report)**

Visit the links below to find gun shows, programs, clubs, events and training in your area.



## LAW ENFORCEMENT

**[le.nra.org](http://le.nra.org)**

Public and private officers interested in becoming law enforcement firearm instructors should attend one of NRA's Law Enforcement Firearms Instructor Development Schools. NRA Police Pistol Combat competition is intended to be used as an extension of an officer's training.



## GUN SHOWS

**[gunshows.nra.org](http://gunshows.nra.org)**

Dates and locations of gun shows are subject to change. Please contact the show before traveling. Discounted NRA memberships are sold through NRA recruiters. Some shows may offer free admission to people who sign up for new memberships or renewals.

To become an NRA Recruiter contact NRA Recruiting Programs at **[recruiter@nrahq.org](mailto:recruiter@nrahq.org)**.



## AREA SHOOTS

**[ssusa.org/coming-events](http://ssusa.org/coming-events)**

For more information, send an email to Shelly Kramer at **[mkramer@nrahq.org](mailto:mkramer@nrahq.org)** or call (703) 267-1459.



## FRIENDS OF NRA

**[friendsofnra.org](http://friendsofnra.org)**

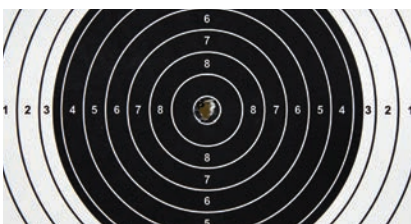
Friends of NRA events celebrate American values with fun, fellowship and fundraising for The NRA Foundation. To learn more about events in your area, visit **[friendsofnra.org](http://friendsofnra.org)**, contact your local field representative or send an email to **[friends@nrahq.org](mailto:friends@nrahq.org)**.



## TRAINING

**[refuse.nra.org](http://refuse.nra.org)** | **[nrainstructors.org](http://nrainstructors.org)**

The NRA's Refuse To Be A Victim® program provides information on crime prevention and personal safety. To learn more about the program, visit **[refuse.nra.org](http://refuse.nra.org)**. The most up-to-date seminar and instructor training schedule is available on the Internet by visiting **[nrainstructors.org](http://nrainstructors.org)**, or online training is available at **[nraonlinetraining.org](http://nraonlinetraining.org)**. Questions? Email to **[refuse@nrahq.org](mailto:refuse@nrahq.org)** or by calling (800) 861-1166.



## STATE ASSOCIATIONS

**[stateassociations.nra.org](http://stateassociations.nra.org)**

Joining NRA-affiliated state associations supports NRA's mission in your state. See **[clubs.nra.org](http://clubs.nra.org)** for more information.

## Member Information & Benefits

### NRA.ORG

**MEMBERSHIP ACCOUNT  
INFORMATION: (877) 672-2000  
NRA Headquarters: (703) 267-1000**

**MEMBER SERVICE** (800) 672-3888

**NRASTORE.COM** (888) 607-6007

#### 5-STAR MEMBER BENEFITS

NRA Wine Club (800) 331-9754

ManageYOURiD (888) 759-7866

Medical Concierge Network (800) 352-6094

Global Rescue (800) 381-9754

NRA Travel Center **[NRA.HotelPlanner.com](http://NRA.HotelPlanner.com)**

#### INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Grassroots/Legislative Hotline (800) 392-8683

**OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT/  
GIFT PLANNING** (877) NRA-GIVE

**THE NRA FOUNDATION** (800) 423-6894

**NRA INSTRUCTOR/  
COACH FIREARM TRAINING** (703) 267-1500

**EDDIE EAGLE GUNSAFE PROGRAM** (800) 231-0752

**REFUSE TO BE A VICTIM** (800) 861-1166

**RECREATIONAL SHOOTING** (800) 672-7435

**NRA AFFILIATED CLUBS** (800) 672-2582

**RANGE SERVICES** (877) 672-7264

**COMPETITIVE SHOOTING** (877) 672-6282

**LAW ENFORCEMENT** (703) 267-1640

**FRIENDS OF NRA** (703) 267-1342

**NRA MUSEUMS/  
GUN COLLECTOR PROGRAMS** (703) 267-1600

**SHOWS & EXHIBITS** (877) 672-7632

**MEDIA RELATIONS** (703) 267-1595

**HUNTER SERVICES** (844) 672-6883

The "NRA Regional Report," a service for NRA members, is an up-to-date listing of NRA conducted and/or sponsored events scheduled in your region for the current month. Call to verify event dates and locations before traveling.



**2021 NRA ANNUAL MEETINGS  
MAY 14 -16 • HOUSTON, TX**

For hotel accommodations at the  
NRA Annual Meetings, visit **[nraam.org](http://nraam.org)**







By Joseph P.  
DeBergalis, Jr.  
Executive Director,  
General Operations

# 30 Years Of Giving Back

**F**or some, the headlines about *freedom* and *our future* may sound like someone else's business. It's exactly what the NRA Foundation has been supporting for the last 30 years.

In spite of the pandemic, the NRA Foundation has continued to champion for the programs we hold most dear. While its *Friends of NRA* program has been put on hold during these uniquely trying times, like many other activities across this great nation, we have been working diligently to come back stronger than ever. One hundred percent of the net proceeds from the NRA Foundation's *Friends of NRA* program are used to support charitable Second Amendment-related programs. What's really unique about the way the Foundation administers those funds is the split with the State Fund areas who raise the money through local *Friends* banquets and events. At least half of those funds remain in the state where they were raised, with grant awards prioritized by the State Fund Committees who know their local needs best. For example, the average State Fund grant of approximately \$4,000 may help cover a club's expenses to send their youth airgun shooters to the state championships, outfit a team with recreational ammunition and targets, or make Eddie Eagle available to a local elementary school at no charge to the parents. The remaining "national" share, along with other contributions and endowment distributions, makes it possible for the NRA Foundation to fund eligible NRA programs such as *NRA School Shield*, *NRA Education and Training*, scholarships, and competitive shooting tournaments.

If your eligible organization or program needs funding assistance, you're invited to apply for a grant through the NRA Foundation each fall. Application deadlines vary by State Fund area, so be sure to verify the deadline

specific to your area. More information can be found on the NRA Foundation's website at [nrafoundation.org/grants](http://nrafoundation.org/grants).

## Giving Back

While this year has been a challenge, we've proven how strong we are when we unite. Your donations contribute directly to our *freedom* and *our future*. Your gift of any size to the NRA Foundation will make a difference. Those gifts can be made through the mail by check, online or over the phone by credit card. Many of us are just trying to support our own families this year, so giving to the NRA Foundation might come in the form of volunteering your time or gifting from your estate, rather than reaching for your wallet. Whatever support is right for you and your family, please contact the Foundation at 877-NRA-GIVE, email [nraf@nrahq.org](mailto:nraf@nrahq.org), or look through the complete list of options at [nrafoundation.org](http://nrafoundation.org).

There are likely NRA members who have struggled this year due to COVID-19. As the country begins to re-open, please consider supporting all of those who support our Second Amendment rights. Consider visiting a re-opened range, booking instruction with an NRA-certified instructor or stopping by your local FFL to purchase firearms, ammunition or accessories. The NRA Business Alliance program was established in 1992 to provide NRA member businesses with a marketplace to sell goods and services to fellow NRA members. Here is a link to our Business Alliance Directory that will allow you to sort businesses by state and category of business — [nraba.org/BA/Directory](http://nraba.org/BA/Directory).

We'll soon be back together celebrating freedom.

**THE NRA FOUNDATION**  
TEACH FREEDOM

[nrafoundation.org](http://nrafoundation.org)



Photo by NRA

# Important Notice To Members: Exercise Your Rights Assist In The Nomination Of Directors

The NRA Bylaws provide for the election of one-third of the members of the Board of Directors each year. This means that the terms of office of 25 Board members will expire at the 2021 Annual Meeting of Members in Houston, Texas, on May 15, 2021. Also, any members filling vacancies on the Board that occurred after the last regular election must stand for election in 2021, in the same manner as those whose terms normally expire at that time.

Additionally, one Director is elected for a one-year term on the occasion of each Annual Meeting of Members, by a plurality of the votes cast by individual members present in person and entitled to vote. The candidates for this 76th Director seat are those who were nominated for election on the mail ballot, but were not elected by mail.

The members of the NRA Board of Directors are listed below according to the expiration of their terms of office. As a result of the COVID-19 public health crisis, the NRA's ballot processing and tabulation vendors were forced to suspend services. Therefore, at press time for this

article, the results of the 2020 mail ballot election of the NRA Board of Directors were not yet known, and the list indicates when terms would have expired prior to the 2020 mail ballot election. You may, if you wish, recommend any of the present Directors whose terms expire in 2021. **DO NOT RECOMMEND** any of those whose terms expire in 2022.

The Nominating Committee will meet in Fairfax, Va., on Sept. 19, 2020, to select Director nominees.

There are two ways NRA members can place names of eligible members in consideration for Board service. One is to recommend them to the Nominating Committee for consideration, and the other is to circulate a petition obtaining the required signatures for placement on the ballot.

The following information about each process has been summarized from the NRA Bylaws. A copy of the Bylaws will be provided to any member who sends his or her request to the NRA Secretary along with a return addressed, stamped envelope (\$.80 postage required).

## Recommendations To The Nominating Committee

All NRA members are urged to recommend suitable individuals as nominees for election to the NRA Board of Directors.

**1** Recommend as many persons as you feel are well-qualified. You may supplement your recommendation with any background or biographical material that you feel would be helpful to the Nominating Committee in arriving at its decision.

**2** If in doubt as to the membership status of any person you wish to recommend as a nominee, submit the recommendation and the membership status will be checked at NRA Headquarters.

**3** These recommendations should be received by the Secretary as soon as possible but must be received no later than Aug. 30, 2020, (20 days prior to the Nominating Committee meeting).

## Nominations By Petition

Any member (sponsor) may submit petitions calling for the nomination of qualified members to the Board (see eligibility requirements in the box on the next page). The sponsor may be an NRA-affiliated organization. Petition packets may be obtained from the NRA Secretary. Requests should be mailed to the Secretary at the address printed on the following page.

**1** Petitions must be received no later than Nov. 3, 2020, (no more than 45 days after the Nominating Committee meeting).

**2** No petition for nomination of a Director shall contain the name of more than one proposed nominee, and no more than one signature by any member shall be counted on an official petition for any one candidate.

**3** Proposed nominees must indicate their principal city and state of residence.

**4** A petition shall not be circulated without the proposed nominee's written permission, and that permission must be on file with the NRA Secretary by the deadline for receipt of petitions.

## THE NRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Terms Expire in 2020

Thomas P. Arvas  
Paul D. Babaz  
Clel Baudler  
J. Kenneth Blackwell  
Dave Butz  
Ted W. Carter  
Patricia A. Clark  
Anthony P. Colandro  
Allan D. Cors  
Charles L. Cotton\*  
Richard S. Figueroa  
Graham Hill  
Kevin Hogan  
Curtis S. Jenkins  
Herbert A. Lanford, Jr.  
Robert E. Mansell  
Lance Olson  
Melanie Pepper  
Jay Printz  
Todd J. Rathner  
Mark Robinson  
Carl T. Rowan, Jr.  
Ronald L. Schmeits  
Steven C. Schreiner  
Leroy Sisco

Mark E. Vaughan  
Linda L. Walker  
Howard J. Walter  
Heidi E. Washington

### Terms Expire in 2021

Scott L. Bach  
William A. Bachenberg  
Ronnie G. Barrett  
Robert K. Brown  
Dean Cain  
David G. Coy  
Edie P. Fleeman  
Joel Friedman  
Maria Heil  
David A. Keene  
Carrie Lightfoot  
Duane Liptak, Jr.  
Carolyn D. Meadows\*  
Bill Miller  
Owen Buz Mills  
Il Ling New  
Robert A. Nosler  
Kim Rhode  
Wayne Anthony Ross  
Don Saba

William H. Satterfield  
John C. Sigler  
Kristy Titus

### Terms Expire in 2022

Joe M. Allbaugh  
Bob Barr  
Matt Blunt  
Larry E. Craig  
Carol Frampton  
Sandra S. Froman  
Mark Geist  
Marion P. Hammer  
Susan Howard  
Tom King  
Willes K. Lee\*  
Karl A. Malone  
Oliver L. North  
Johnny Nugent  
Ted Nugent  
James W. Porter II  
Bart Skelton  
Dwight D. Van Horn  
Blaine Wade  
Allen B. West  
Donald E. Young

\* Officer



**5** Only official petition forms provided by the Secretary's Office, which may be duplicated in full size (8½" x 11"), may be used to collect petition signatures.

**6** The petition may contain a brief resume approved by the prospective nominee.

**7** The name, address and membership number of the sponsor **MUST** be indicated on each sheet of the petition.

**8** The name of the person circulating the petition sheet, if different from the sponsor, whether the sponsor be an individual or organizational member, should be indicated on each sheet.

**9** Petitions **MUST** bear the membership identification numbers, names, addresses (street, city, state, zip code), signatures and date of signing of a number of members eligible to vote that is not less than 0.5% of the number of valid ballots cast in the most recent mail ballot election of directors. (Members eligible to vote are Lifetime members and annual members with five or more consecutive years of membership.) Please contact the Office of the Secretary (1-800-672-3888, ext. 1057) for the total number of signatures required.

**10 ANY SIGNATURES OBTAINED BEFORE THE PROSPECTIVE NOMINEE IS QUALIFIED TO HOLD OFFICE WILL BE RULED INVALID.**

**11 ANY SIGNATURES OBTAINED BEFORE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS ON SEPT. 5, 2020, WILL BE RULED INVALID.**

**12 SIGNATURES WITHOUT MEMBERSHIP IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS WILL BE INVALID. IF THE NUMBER IS NOT INDICATED ON THE MEMBER'S IDENTIFICATION CARD, HE OR SHE MAY:** (a) copy the identification number from his or her NRA magazine label or (b) obtain it by calling NRA's toll-free number: 1-800-672-3888. When calling, it is important to give the last name, address and zip code as it is carried on the NRA membership record (including designations such as "Jr.," "Sr.," etc.) in order to obtain the proper identification number. Nominees and sponsors may call the toll-free number to obtain membership identification numbers for those who do not include them on signed petitions. Staff is only permitted to give identification numbers, and may not indicate voting status.

**13** Not more than five petition nominees shall be from any one state during any one year. If more than five are submitted, the five with the greatest number of valid signatures will be nominated.

**T**he NRA Board of Directors consists of 75 NRA members elected by mail ballot, and one member elected on the occasion of the Annual Meeting of Members. The right to hold the office of Director is limited to NRA Lifetime members who have attained the age of 18 years and are citizens of the United States, and who have been Lifetime members for at least five years at the time of nomination (although this membership requirement may be waived by the Executive Committee). Directors are elected for three-year terms, with the exception of the Director elected at the Annual Meeting of Members, who serves for one year. The terms of office of one-third of the Board expires each year.

The Board of Directors has general charge of the affairs and property of the Association and formulates and establishes the broad policies and programs under which the Association operates.

In past years, the Nominating Committee has taken several factors into consideration concerning those recommended for election to the Board. The Committee has felt that nominees should be persons well-known and respected in their communities, with broad experience and background in the affairs of the Association, and with the time necessary to devote to NRA activities. While these factors are not requirements, they may help in the selection of those recommended for nomination to the Board.

**14** The Secretary will determine the validity of all petitions received and the eligibility of all signatories.

**15** If a petition is determined to be invalid, the Secretary must immediately notify the proposed nominee and the sponsor stating the reason for the ruling. The petitioner may appeal the ruling to the Nominating Committee within 14 days.

**16** If the appeal is denied, the petitioner may appeal to the Board of Directors, which will act at its next meeting. If the Board rules the petition valid, the proposed nominee will be declared a nominee for the next election.

## Election Procedures

**1** The names of those selected by the Nominating Committee and of those nominated by petition, together with short biographical sketches, will be published in the March 2021 Official Journals.

**2** A ballot will be mailed to each member eligible to vote. It will contain the list of names proposed by the Nominating Committee and those nominated by petition and, in addition, provide five blank spaces for write-in candidates.

**3** The ballot, properly executed, must be returned by the date indicated on the ballot.

## Mail this form to reach NRA by Aug. 30, 2020

Additional copies of this form are available upon request by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to NRA Headquarters. If you do not want to cut this form out of the magazine, send in a letter or postcard with the same information. Mail to:

**NRA Nominating Committee**  
11250 Waples Mill Road • Fairfax, VA 22030

I recommend the following individual for consideration as a nominee for election to the NRA Board of Directors in 2021.

Nominee Name \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Identification Number \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

### Recommended by:

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your Complete Address \_\_\_\_\_

Your Membership Identification Number \_\_\_\_\_

To submit online go to: [nrarepublications.org/nomination](http://nrarepublications.org/nomination)

## Rescheduling Of The Annual Meeting Of Members

**T**he National Rifle Association of America announces that the 2020 Annual Meeting of Members has been rescheduled. **The meeting will be held Saturday, Sept. 5, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. Central Time in Halls A/B/C of the Springfield Expo Center located at 635 E. St. Louis Street, Springfield, Missouri.** Please join us and participate in the business of your Association and voting for the 76th Director. The Membership Verification Room, where balloting for the 76th Director will take place, will be located in Hall 2 of the Springfield Expo Center, and will open on Friday, Sept. 4, 2020, at 9:00 am and close at 8:00 pm. Balloting will continue on Saturday, Sept. 5, 2020, at 8:00 am and conclude upon adjournment of the Annual Meeting of Members. The results of the 2020 mail ballot election for the NRA Board of Directors will be announced at the Annual Meeting of Members. Please visit [www.nraam.org/membersmeeting](http://www.nraam.org/membersmeeting) to pre-register for this event. For additional details, visit [www.nra.org](http://www.nra.org) and follow the NRA on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.



Photo by NRA

NRA International rifle competitors honored during the 2015 National Matches awards ceremony.



Photo by John Parker

## NRA International Rifle Teams Benefit From AmazonSmile

**T**he U.S. Palma Rifle Team Foundation supports Palma Rifle team competition at the international level. A vast sum—approximately \$250,000—is required every four-year cycle to properly select, train and transport the 26-member team to the site of the host country for the World Long-Range Individual and Team Championships. This competition has been previously held at locations including Camp Perry, OH, in August 2015; and Wellington, New Zealand, in January 2019 (the U.S. team won a bronze medal in New Zealand). The next World Championship will be conducted in South Africa in 2023. As you can see, securing funds to support U.S. teams is critical with all of the international travel involved.

Recently, the High Power Rifle community set up a 501(c)(3) charity to receive donations via the AmazonSmile Foundation. The goal is to raise money for the NRA International Rifle teams that are traveling overseas to shoot over the next few years, and beyond.

Here is how you can donate. Visit [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and select “Palma Promotions, Inc.” as your charity. After you do this, every purchase you make on Amazon will result in the company donating 0.5 percent of your purchase price to Palma Promotions. Best of all, this will cost you absolutely nothing, and the International teams will benefit greatly from the donations. The more people who sign up, the more the International Rifle teams stand to gain from Amazon's charitable donations.

While shopping via [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the same convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, including the usual low prices and wide selection—plus the aforementioned added bonus that will help support the Palma Promotions charity.

“The AmazonSmile charity contribution program is important to us,” said Walt Walter, a member of the NRA Board of Directors and longtime High Power Rifle committee chairman. “This is a method we are using to raise money for our International Rifle teams.”

## NRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Communications intended for any member of the NRA Board of Directors should be addressed to:**

(Name of Board member), NRA Office of the Secretary, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030; or [nrabod@nrahq.org](mailto:nrabod@nrahq.org); or (703) 267-1021. Please include your name, contact information and NRA membership I.D. number, as only communications from NRA members will be forwarded.





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Examples of small-frame revolvers suitable for concealed carry include the Ruger SP-101 (above), Taurus 85 (top), Colt's new King Cobra Carry (top, r.) and the Smith & Wesson 340PD (below).



new class of pistols have built safety measures into the lock-work of many of them and left the manual safety out. Still, making the semi-automatic pistol work requires a greater awareness of what is happening in and around the gun. In the functionality sense, the revolver is a marvel of simplicity.

When we began this discussion, I never identified it as an effort to decide which type of handgun is best for the job. I was concerned with ensuring that, if shooters chose to reject the small revolver, they did so with some logic. That isn't happening, and, with rare exceptions, the revolver is usually rejected simply because it only carries five rounds. Reasonably believable statistics tell us that defensive shootings usually involve three or fewer shots, so what difference does it make? But, as the pages of the "Armed Citizen" tell us, often it requires more than the average to stop the threat. If you want to use a pistol, you have some great ones from which to choose.

My presentation was of necessity rather brief, but there is one more point that is important. Anything a maker can do to build a defensive firearm that is simpler, smaller and lighter, the better I like it. There is a tendency to not take the gun when it creates a problem, and the time you decide not to take it will be the terrible day that you need it. I've had many vigorous, if not heated, discussions about the wisdom of firing hot .357 loads in a snubby that weighs less than a pound, and I freely concede that it hurts. Having followed the development of those guns at Smith & Wesson closely, I know they are safe to shoot, but not much fun. In general, the snubbies are as viable as ever. By now there's more than a few "yeah sure, but ..." guys in the back row. 

Much has been made over the concealability of the two types of guns. At first, it seems like the semi-automatic would be easier to hide because it is thinner. In a belt-mounted holster, a slim pistol can really fit up tight under the kidney area. But in pockets, a semi-automatic often prints badly, since its basic shape is two straight lines intersecting at a slight angle. It's true that the cylinder in the center of the revolver's mass makes for a bulky center section, but the overall irregular shape hides pretty well. You do have to use a hammerless design or clip the hammer spur off to get a snubby revolver smoothly out of the pocket. I would argue that the edge goes to a properly equipped snubby revolver, but I have to concede that the edge is really slim.

I am reasonably familiar with revolvers, and that familiarity skews my personal choices a bit. But the important hand movements that permit me to keep a revolver in action are simpler. For a revolver, it is a matter of (1) aim gun at justifiable target, (2) pull trigger, (3) repeat if necessary. Checking the revolver's status is possible with one hand and in only seconds; doing a press-check on a semi-automatic is a more complicated procedure. Fortunately, the designers of this





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# MODEL 1836 HALL CARBINE (TYPE II)



**GUN:** MODEL 1836 HALL CARBINE (TYPE II)  
**MANUFACTURER:** HARPERS FERRY ARMORY  
**CALIBER:** .64  
**MANUFACTURED:** 1839  
**CONDITION:** NRA FINE (ANTIQUE GUN STANDARDS)  
**VALUE:** \$3,250



The United States military entered the percussion era pretty early with the 1833 introduction of a caplock, breechloading carbine based on the Model 1819 Hall Flintlock rifle—an issue longarm manufactured variously by Simeon North and Harper's Ferry up to 1840. The 1819 had the distinction of being the first military breechloader to be adopted by the U.S. government.

Designed by John H. Hall, its works were fairly simple, based on a rising block hinged at the lower, rear that was released and then held in place by a simple curved catch on the underside of the stock, just forward of the trigger guard. The firing mechanism was wholly contained within the breechblock, making it easy to dismount, clean and service. To load, a soldier had merely to push rearward on the catch, pop the breechblock open to load using a paper cartridge containing powder and ball, and prime. To ready the rifle for firing, the block was snapped shut and the action put on full cock.

Even though the operation of the mechanism necessitated a gap between the block and barrel, leakage, though noticeable, was certainly not odious enough in good-condition arms to cause distress to the shooter. Hall's rifle could be loaded considerably faster than a standard muzzleloading smoothbore musket or a rifle. Though the 1819 Hall was never general-issue, it did see service with specialty troops.

Ordnance types were so impressed with the system they decided it would be just the ticket to incorporate in a cavalry carbine. Accordingly, in 1833, a percussion smoothbore—the U.S. military's first—was adopted. The gun was offered in both .52 and .579 calibers. Bowing to the needs

of mounted troops, the carbine's overall length was considerably shorter than that of the rifle, and it was equipped with a sling bar and ring. Curiously, authorities felt an integral sliding bayonet would also be a good idea, so the arm was fitted with a 24¼"-long, under-barrel triangular blade, which could also be removed and used as a cleaning rod. As well, a compartment for a combination tool and wiper was set into the stock behind the trigger guard.

The '33 received good marks from its users, but it was felt a few changes were needed; thus, the Model 1836 made its appearance. Overall, it looked much like the 1833, though the caliber was increased to a 0.64" musket bore, and the sling ring and bar were removed and re-sited to the wrist of the stock in the guise of a simple turning eye-bolt. The hammer had a hole drilled into its midpoint that held a jig during manufacturing. Initially, "Type I" '36s had an implement compartment, though, for economy, it was eliminated after about 1,000 carbines were built, resulting in the Type II. Finish involved a brown lacquered barrel and fittings and a casehardened breechblock.

Some 2,020 Model 1836 Halls were built between 1837 and 1840. They saw service with the 2nd U.S. Dragoons during the Second Seminole War in Florida (1835-1842). Today, Model 1836s are generally found in better condition than 1833s, indicating their use was probably more limited than that of their predecessors.

The Type II we're looking at here is a typical example of those usually encountered. It retains about 50 percent of its barrel lacquer, exhibits traces of casehardening, and maintains a pristine bore. As such, value would be \$3,250.

—GARRY JAMES, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

*American Rifleman* does NOT accept submissions for the I Have This Old Gun column. Topics are assigned to Field Editors in advance. Due to the volume of mail received, our writers are not able to answer individual questions. Please consider instead sending your correspondence and questions through our Dope Bag/Q&A service, which is available to all NRA members in good standing. Details appear in the Q&A section.





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