

\$5 U.S. \$6 Can.

THE GUIDE TO MODERN SMALL ARMS

Vol. 10 No. 2

MACHINE GUN NEWS

AUGUST 1996

M16
Detonation!

British
GPMG
L7 Series
"The Beast"

The SOF Convention:
Mecca for the
Weaponry
Crowd!



"Let 'er Rip"
Live Fire SMG Class

S.C.R.C. MK-26
"Entry Team Model"
Suppressor

BUYERS:
LOOKING FOR
GUNS, PARTS &
ACCESSORIES?
CALL L.M.O

LONG MOUNTAIN OUTFITTERS



SELLERS:
GUNS, PARTS
ACCESSORIES
FOR SALE
CALL L.M.O.

.50 CAL. AMMO! LAKE CITY ARSENAL!

LMO has obtained a small quantity of **LEGAL** U.S. Government .50 cal. ammo. This is mid to late 1980's manufactured that was properly stored. We have receipts from the government contractor who legally sold it to us. If you want some top quality ammo without the headaches of buying something "Unpedigreed" then we have your ammo. This was not "Remanufactured" or "Imported" from some Third World, 105 degree humid jungle; it has all been properly stored and is the best you can get!

Lake City 1980's, M33 Ball Ammo.

Linked for M2HB, in 100-rd cans, two cans per wooden case. \$2.25 per rd ★ 200 @ 2.15 per rd ★
★ 1000 @ 2.00 per rd ★

Lake City 1980's M33 Ball with 1-in-4 tracer, linked for M2HB, in 100-rd cans, 2 cans per wooden case
★ \$250/100 rds ★ \$200 for \$480 ★ 1000 for \$2250 ☆

Armor Piercing Incendiary Tracer!!!

U.S. Government Frankford Arsenal 1950's mfg. No guarantees on the tracer although what we tried worked perfect. This APIT is in sealed 120-rd spam cans, 10 rds per box. Once again, this is NOT "Remanufactured" ammo—all original from proper storage, and it's beautiful! ☆ \$3.00 per rd ★

★ 120 @ 2.75 per rd ★ 240 @ 2.60 per rd
★ 960 @ 2.45 per rd ★

Armor Piercing Incendiary M8!!!

This is Frankford Arsenal U.S. government 1950's mfg, in sealed cases—none better for blasting out there! ★ \$2.75 per rd ★
★ 200 @ 2.60 per rd ★ 1000 @ 2.45 per rd ★

20 mm Target Practice Ammo.

Post WWII linked for the Hispano series (MK12). Nice and clean, legitimate source ammo. Only a small quantity available! ★ \$7.00 per rd ★
★ 100 @ \$5.00 per rd ★ 200 + @ 4.00 per rd ★

35 mm Dummy Rounds—about 14" long, new in their storage tubes. The inert projectiles are a brilliant purple—these are gorgeous!

We have less than 10 left.

★ Retail \$85 ★

Ordering ammo: .50 cal. ammo is shipped FOB Harmony, Maine. The charge is \$11 per hundred East of the Mississippi. West of the Mississippi you need to call for a quote. Larger quantities will be figured "as ordered." If you want it delivered at Knob Creek in Kentucky in October 1996, prepay your order and there will be no delivery charge! Incendiary and tracer must be legal in your area, or we will not ship to you.

.50 CAL. M2HB'S!!

We have a small quantity of U.S. Government manufactured, combat grade Saco M2HB machine guns available. These are the real thing—built for U.S. forces. These have never before been offered on the civilian market and never will be again. Guns are like new, and should provide years of reliable service. "Sideplate guns" make you nervous? These are the answer for the fifty shooter. You still have to be proficient with the gun, and be careful, there is no substitute for safety and training. These are fully transferable to individuals! **Saco M2HB \$7500**

M3 TRIPODS!!!

These do not have the T&E and pintle, are brand new Government tripods, not rewelds or refinished!!

We have 10 left. Only \$750

WE WILL CONVERT YOUR REGISTERED M16 FROM .223 TO 9 MM SMG FOR ONLY \$950.00

SEVERAL NEW COLLECTIONS ARE COMING IN SOON! CALL FOR PRICES AND DETAILS.

WALTHER MPK FULLY TRANSFERABLE, NIB. AMERICAN 180's, THREE OF THEM. MAC-10, - 45's, 9 MM, & 380's POWDER SPRINGS. FN-MAG 58, FULLY TRANSFERABLE. AC-556 RUGERS—FOLDERS, USED, NIB, TWENTY COMING! REISING M50's—FOUR, 35 DIFFERENT M16's FROM USED AFTERMARKET TO NIB A2's!

All seller info remains confidential. **BUYERS** call with your needs; we'll cross with our list from dealers! All weapons preinspected before final transfer from L.M.O. Dealers get FFL on file and call for prices.



P.O. Box 45, Harmony, ME 04942
(207) 683-2169 ■ Fax (207) 683-2172 ■ Class 10 ■ LMO4MGS@AOL.com

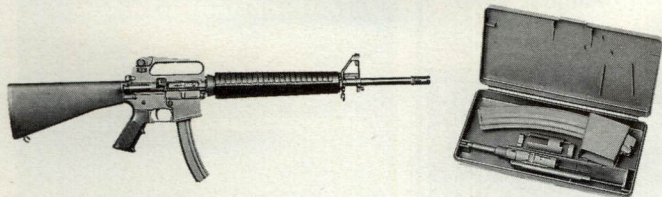


Jonathan Arthur Ciener, Inc.

Ammunition prices continue to rise. The government continues to try to restrict supply.

.22LR CONVERSION KITS

Save your valuable ammunition **AND** still enjoy your shooting sport **AND** do more for less money.



The "ATCHISSON" MKIII .22 LR Conversion Kit for

AR-15

\$139.00 w/10-rd. mag.
\$179.00 w/30-rd. mag.
Spare 10-rd. mag. \$23.00

M16

\$159.00 w/10-rd. mag.
\$199.00 w/30-rd. mag.
Spare 30-rd. mag. \$59.00

The "HOHREIN" .22 LR Conversion Kit for

Mini-14/AC556

\$119.00 w/10-rd. mag. **\$159.00** w/30-rd. mag.
Spare 10-rd. mag. \$23.00 Spare 30-rd. mag. \$59.00
Standard kit fits serial number prefix 181 thru 187.
Prefix number 188 kit, add \$10.00. AC556 uses standard 30-rd. mag. kit.



The "CIENER"

BERETTA 92/96 and TAURUS PT92/99 .22LR CONVERSION KITS

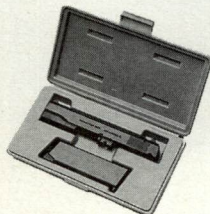
The "CIENER"

1911A1 .22LR CONVERSION KIT

Patented
Models for full size, Combat Commander, and Officer's .45 ACP pistols (specify)

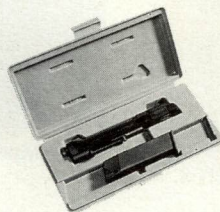


From .45 ACP to
.22LR in 10 seconds
for just
\$179.00
Spare 10-rd. mag. \$35.00

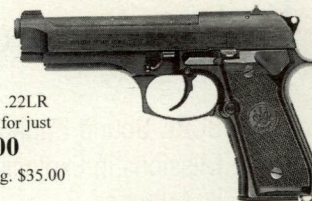


Kit on Series 80 Colt

Kit in Fitted Case



Kit in Fitted Case



Kit on Beretta 92FS

From 9mm to .22LR
in 10 seconds for just
\$199.00
Spare 10-rd. mag. \$35.00

Rifle kits consist of all the parts necessary to change your firearm to function with inexpensive .22LR in moments.

The pistol kits consist of a new slide, .22LR barrel, return spring and guide rod, recoil buffer and magazine in a fitted plastic case.

The pistol kits and magazines are offered in Gloss Black, Matte Black, and Silver finish at no additional charge.

They function **FLAWLESSLY** (guaranteed) using quality High Velocity ammunition. The pistol kits can even use Hyper and Standard Velocity.

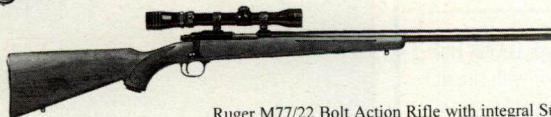
Order direct: No FFL required. Send Cash, Certified Check, Money Order or C.O.D. Personal check orders held two weeks to clear.
Include \$5.00 shipping per kit. Due to limited quantities, handgun kit orders are prepaid only.

Jonathan Arthur Ciener, Inc.

Manufacturer of the Finest in Suppressed Firearms
"The Standard For Comparison"



Ruger MKII Government Model Pistol
with "HIGH VOLUME" Suppressor
Parkerized or Stainless ONLY \$599.00



Ruger M77/22 Bolt Action Rifle with integral Suppressor
Blue ONLY \$725.00, Stainless Steel ONLY \$715.00

Shipping - \$5.00 per Pistol/Supp., \$10.00 per rifle. NFA Dealer's fee is included.
Does not include Federal Transfer Tax.

NFA Licensees send a copy of FFL with EIN number and Class for our illustrated
informative catalog and confidential dealer price list.
All others send \$5.00 for catalog or \$14.00 for catalog and distinctive logo T-shirt or
Baseball cap (specify).

CURRENT RETAIL PRICES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1996

RUGER MARK II Pistol with Suppressor	\$499.00
RUGER MARK II Stainless Steel Pistol with Suppressor	\$575.00
RUGER MARK II Pistol with 8" "High Volume" Supp. (Park. or S/S)	\$599.00
RUGER MARK II 10" Barrel Stainless Steel Pistol with Suppressor	\$599.00
WALTHER TPH Stainless Steel Pistol with Suppressor	\$799.00
Suppressor fitted to your firearm	\$399.00
WALTHER PPK, PPK/S Pistol with Suppressor (Blue or S/S).	\$889.00
RUGER 10/22 Deluxe Sporter Rifle with Suppressor	\$575.00
BROWNING BA22 .22LR Auto Rifle with Suppressor	\$679.00
RUGER M77/22 .22LR Bolt Action Rifle with Suppressor	\$725.00
RUGER K77/22 .22LR Stainless Steel Rifle with Suppressor	\$715.00
MARLIN 880 .22LR Bolt Action Rifle with Suppressor	\$549.00
REMINGTON 700 BDL Varmint Rifle w/Suppressor and Barrel cover.	\$995.00
Suppressor and Barrel Cover fitted to your Heavy Barrel	\$495.00
RUGER M77V Heavy Barrel Rifle w/Suppressor and Barrel Cover	\$995.00
Suppressor and Barrel Cover fitted to your Heavy Barrel	\$495.00
AR-15/M16 Suppressor (Fits A1 & A2)	\$375.00
M1A/M14 Suppressor	\$375.00
RUGER MINI-14 Suppressor (GB model only).	\$375.00
MAC 10 (.45 or 9mm) MAC 11 (.380), or SWD M11/9 (9mm).	\$375.00
UZI SMG or S&W M76 & MK760 Suppressor.	\$399.00
BARREL/SUPPRESSOR ASSEMBLY for UZI semi, M3/M3A1 Grease Gun, or Sten MKII.	\$449.00
BARREL/SUPPRESSOR ASSEMBLY for HI-STANDARD .22 Auto	\$399.00
BARREL/SUPPRESSOR ASSEMBLY for THOMPSON "CONTENDER" (.22 only)	\$559.00

WANTED: PARTS FOR MINIGUN and MK19 Mod. 3 GRENADE LAUNCHER

8700 Commerce Street

Dept MGN.

Cape Canaveral, FL 32920

(407) 868-2200, Fax 2201

MACHINE GUN NEWS

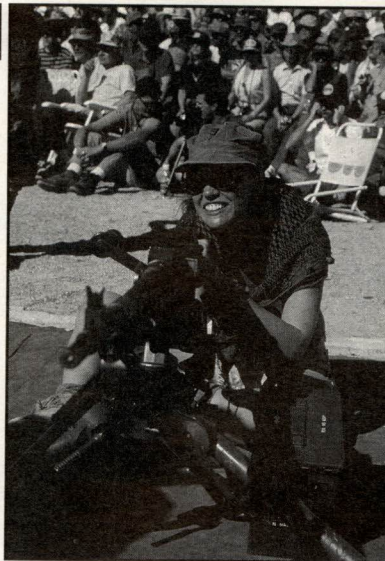
THE GUIDE TO MODERN SMALL ARMS

Volume 10 Number 2

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Fire Power Demo at SOF (page 34).

On the Cover: Mini-gun and explosion typical of weapons on display at Soldier of Fortune Convention in Las Vegas. Photography by Jim Bonis. Inset photo of firing line by Robert Walchli.

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M2HB .50 CAL. MFG. F.N. BELGIAN

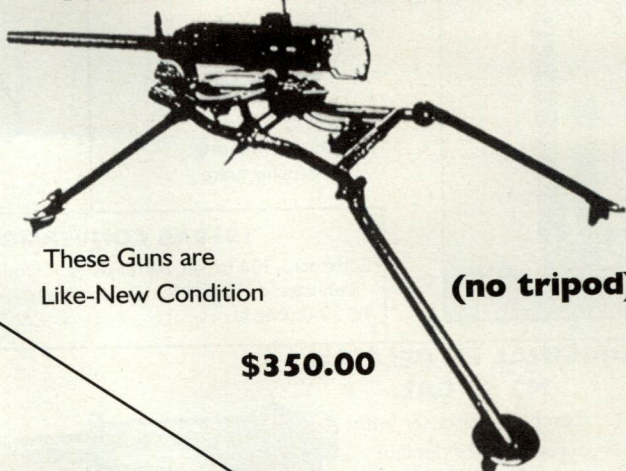


Firearm Only

Superb Quality in Excellent Condition

\$2500.00

FN MOD. 30 LMG IN .308 CAL.

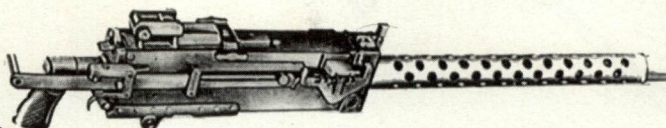


These Guns are
Like-New Condition

(no tripod)

\$350.00

THE BROWNING M37 LMG



\$950.00

FN-MOD D LMG IN .308 CAL.



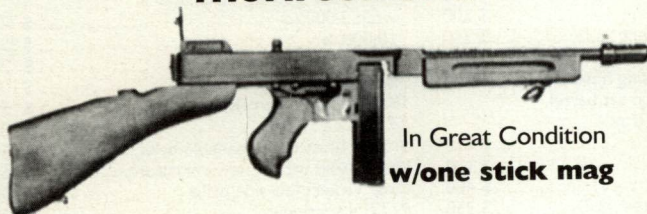
Made on special contract from Israeli Gov't. New
\$550.00

LAW ENFORCEMENT ONLY
CLASS III DEALERS &
LAW ENFORCEMENT INQUIRES ONLY.

Must have letter of Purchase or
Demonstration for Government Agency.

**All Firearms in Excellent
Functional Condition**

ORIGINAL U.S. G.I. WWII 1928A1 THOMPSON SMG



In Great Condition
w/one stick mag

\$450.00

**Original G.I. 50-rd. drum
available additional
\$300.00**

ORIGINAL U.S. G.I. WWII M1 THOMPSON SMG



In VG+ Condition

\$250.00



\$250.00

SWEDISH K EXCELLENT CONDITION

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Satisfaction Guaranteed
Please Include Shipping With Order! • Returns To Be Made Within 10 Days

BRITISH 2 INCH MORTAR



Airborne Version
(short or long)
\$150.00

Comes with orig.
shipping crate



ORIGINAL WWII MORTARS

Rendered unserviceable according to BATF specifications. However, they are still considered Title I firearms.

Must have standard FFL license.

Original WWII Russian 82 mm Model 37 complete with baseplate and bipod

\$450.00 + shipping

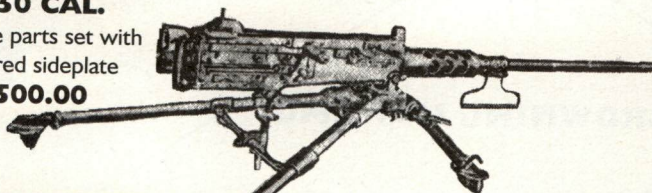
1919A6 CONVERSION

Buttstock, .308 barrel, barrel jacket, bipod,
flashhider, carry handle new condition \$350.00
W/.30-06 barrel \$250.00

ORIGINAL FN BELGIAN

M2 50 CAL.

Complete parts set with
registered sideplate
\$2500.00



FN BELGIAN M2

Complete with tripod
T&E pintle

\$4500.00

FN BELGIAN M2 50 CAL.

Complete parts set
no cut parts
\$1,550.00

Quality Machine Gun Complete Parts Sets

FN M2 .50 cal. HB less right side plate	\$1550
ANM2 .30 cal. in .308 Browning, orig. complete.	\$ 950
ANM2 .30 cal. parts set only	\$ 450
ANM2 .308 conversion parts set	\$ 550
M1A1 Thompson U.S., G.I.	\$ 200
MAT 49 (for dummy only)	\$ 125
MAS 38.	\$ 200
Italian WWII Breda Model 30 6.5.	\$ 550
Beretta Model 38/44	\$ 165
MAG 58	\$4500
PPS 43	\$ 150
Madsen Model 46, .30-06	\$ 225
FND BAR .308	\$ 625
1928A1 Thompson U.S., G.I.	\$ 350
1928A1 Thompson w/flnned barrel & Lyman sight U.S., G.I.	\$ 575
1928A1 Bolt compl. U.S., G.I., N.O.S.	\$ 150
1928A1 actuator U.S., G.I., N.O.S.	\$ 85
ZK383 excellent cond. with bipod.	\$ 250
Less bipod.	\$ 200
Swedish K, excellent condition	\$ 250
MG15 orig. German WWII	\$1350
FN-30 in .308 comp. less right side plate, good serviceable condition	\$ 250
2 or more each	\$ 200

ORIGINAL WWII GERMAN MG42 BOLT HEAD

Complete with extractor assembly & rollers, new cond.

\$150

WHY LAY IN THE DIRT?

Original WW II Vickers Tripod
w/ammo box adaptor

\$385.00



Original WW II Vickers Tripod w/ammo box adaptor for U.S. Browning BFMG 17A1, A4, M37. Includes one box.

Magazines

M3 U.S. .45 cal.SMG 30-rd.	\$ 10	PPS 43 mags 30-rd. (ea)	\$ 35
12 for	\$100	PPSh-41 Mags 30-rd.	\$ 35
ZK383 30-rd	\$ 65	Lanchester-STEN 50-rd. mags	\$ 55
Madsen .30-06 30-rd. mag 5—each in original carrying can	\$ 75	MP40 mags 32-rd. orig WW II A (ea)	\$ 55
FND BAR .30-06	\$ 15	B (ea)	\$ 30
L2A1 30-rd., unissued cond	\$ 75	10 for	\$250
MP41 32-rd., very good	\$ 55	Reising 30-rd. new-made, guaranteed.	\$ 55
MP38/40 flat side mag	\$ 55	Sterling 45-rd. exc. plus	\$ 55
Thompson 30-rd. mags	\$ 10	10 for	\$500
Bren 8 mm 20-rd. mag.	\$ 65	Orig. WWII Thompson 50-rd drum, vg	\$200

Accessories

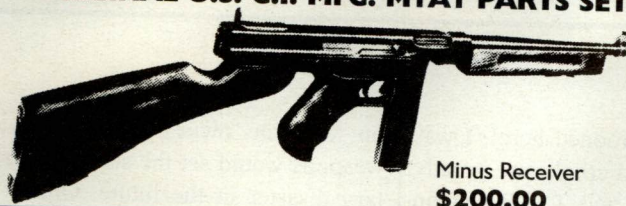
FND Barrel .30-06	\$ 100	1919A4 IMI .308 cal. links, new in wrap 2,000 for	\$ 75
FND Barrel 8mm	\$ 200	10,000 for	\$350
FND Barrel .308 cal. excellent	\$ 250	1919A4 .30-06 barrels, used.	\$ 25
1908 Maxim sled mount top strap	\$ 250	5 for	\$100
1908 Maxim steam condensing hose.	\$ 100	1919A4 .30-06 barrels, new	\$ 50
MG3 MG42 .308 Conversion set barrel, flashhider, top cover, feed tray, Rheinmetall Mfg.	\$ 850	3 for	\$100
MG3 100-rd. assault box	\$ 100	Vickers brass tab reloadable belts	\$ 50
MG3 complete bolt	\$ 400	Vickers Mk1 tripod, new condition	\$ 250
MG3/42 .308 barrel 4140 Steel H.T.	\$ 250	Orig. Vickers left-side plate	\$ 200
MG15 Gunner's Wallet-complete with 2 spare firing pins, 2 spare extractors, 2 complete firing pin holders, ruptured case broken shell extractor and oiler	\$ 450	P17 Bolts stripped	\$ 15
MG15 Bolt complete	\$ 350	Browning .308 broken shell ruptured case extracting tool	\$ 15
MG15 Barrels	\$ 350	British 303 broken shell extractor for machine gun or rifle	\$ 10
MG15 75-rd drum loading tool.	\$ 350	MG34 feed trays	\$ 65
1919A4-A6-M37 IMI Mfg. .308 cal. new unissued barrels (ea.)	\$ 100	MG34 bolt extract tool	\$ 35
2 for	\$ 170	U.S. G.I. M2 60 mm mortar canvas carrying slings new in wrap	\$ 20
3 for	\$ 250	U.S. G.I. M2 .50 cal. barrel new in wrap (ea.)	\$250
		2 or more (plus shipping)	\$200

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ORIGINAL U.S. G.I. MFG. M1A1 PARTS SET



Minus Receiver
\$200.00

CZECH MOD ZK 383



Complete Parts Set 9mm Parabellum quick-change barrel w/bipod & 30-rd. mag. This is one of the finest quality SMGs ever produced.

Less Bipod
\$200.00

GREAT FOR NON-GUN

\$250.00

ORIG M2, 60MM WW II MORTAR

Complete. w/sight, bipod, base plate
& original. shipping crate

\$1250.00

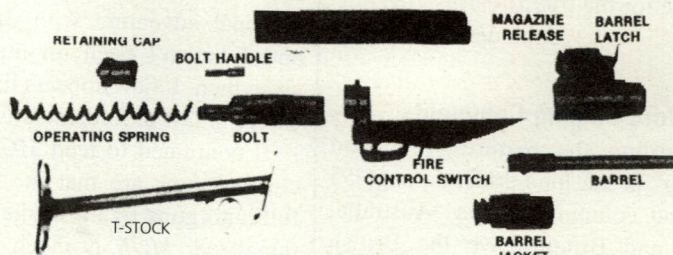


Bipod
\$250.00

Shipping crate
\$65.00

Fully transferable on Form 4
to FFL individual or dealer

ORIGINAL WWII BRITISH STEN MKII & MKV COMPLETE PARTS SET

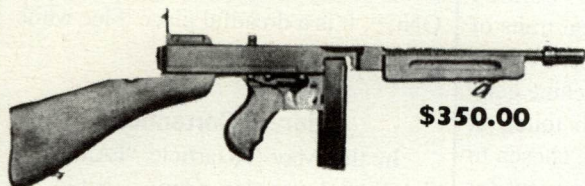


MKII.....\$150 MKV.....\$ 250

It comes with T-stock. If you want a Loop stock, it is \$15 extra.

ORIGINAL U.S. G.I. 1928A1 PARTS SET

Complete with lower trigger housing group, buttstock, smooth barrel & cuts compensator, stick mag., no drum



\$350.00

Original. WWII G.I. issue
50-rd. Drum
Exc. plus cond.

\$200.00

With Lyman sight & finned barrel
\$125.00 additional.

Orig. actuators, new-in-wrap. exc.
cond. **\$85.00**

Bolt complete with actuator
..... **\$125.00**

COMPLETE 1919A4 .308 CONVERSION SET

1. New unissued .308 IMI barrel.
2. Enlarged belt holding paw.
3. Front & rear cartridge guides.
4. Right rear cartridge stop.
5. .308 booster cap, muzzle bearing.
6. .308 bolt stripped.

\$350.00

Will modify your 1919A4 Top Cover
to use .308 Links **\$ 65.00**

Complete Top Cover modified to use
.308 Links **\$150.00**

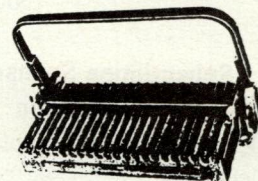
These still function in 8mm & .30-06

ORIGINAL WWII

MG 34 ACCESSORIES

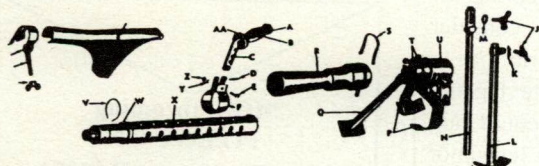
- .308 barrel \$250
- .308 feed tray \$150
- .308 feed slide assembly \$150
- .308 booster cone (hard chrome) \$ 50
- Flash hider soaking can \$ 50
- Orig. transit chest \$100
- .308 conversion set \$575

BROWNING M3A1 .308 CAL., LINK LOADING MACHINE



Complete with 2000
new-in-wrap IMI .308 Links
\$275.00

COMPLETE 1919A6 CONVERSION KIT



ORIGINAL WWII 1919A6

FLASHHIDER BOOSTER

\$75.00
Very Rare!!

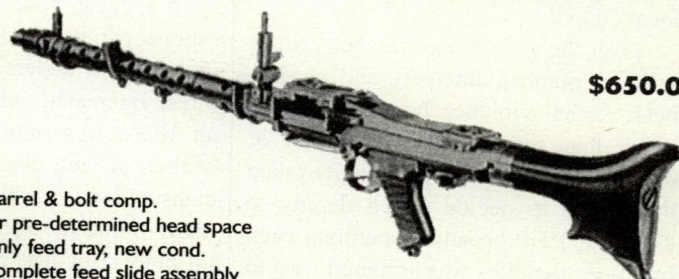
1919A6 conversion buttstock,
.308 barrel, barrel jacket,
bipod, flashhider, carry
handle new condition

\$350.00

With .30-06 Barrel

\$250.00

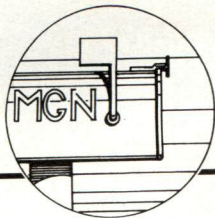
COMPLETE MG34 .308 CONVERSION KIT



\$650.00

- .308 barrel & bolt comp.
- Set for pre-determined head space
- .308 only feed tray, new cond.
- .308 complete feed slide assembly
- .308 hard chromed reduced orifice booster cone

Installed, Test Fired, and Guaranteed



Incoming

Sniping Comments

I have subscribed to your great magazine for several years and it has been very informative. The recent changes are even better than in the past. A look at the history of sniping is perhaps the best yet! Thank you for providing a magazine for the true firearms lover.

John des Groseilliers

More Sniping Comments

Regarding the feature "Precision Shooting" in the June issue, on page 55 (left hand column), it says "Australia, Canada and Britain have the British Parker Hale bolt gun in .308." This is true for Australia, Canada, but not for the U K, where this weapon was never adopted.

The Parker-Hale M85 and the Accuracy International Model PM slugged it out years back for adoption as the new British forces sniper rifle, and though both weapons met the stringent military criteria the PM was eventually selected as the L96A1.

Nick Steadman

Subscription Sponsorship Suggestion

I have been a Deputy Probation Officer since 1965. I started a subscription to *MGN* five or six years ago. At that time I had been assigned to "Adult Investigation" for four or five years. The job involved doing presentence investigations, virtually all felonies, for various local courts.

Over the years I had watched crimes grow in number, intensity and ghastliness. Lethal violence became the rule rather than the exception. The sort of case that management would have taken three days to decide which deputy to assign in 1970 became something each of fifteen deputies was assigned two to four times a month, every month. Gang violence is big in Southern California (or "The Lowest Pit of Hell" as it is

called by exiles marooned here). I was aware both cops and crooks are greatly molded by movies and TV. Based on those media I thought both would be going to full auto firearms in a big way. I subscribed to *MGN* as a way to professionally prepare for what seemed an inevitable trend. Four plus years ago my personal adventure with cancer began and I haven't been on the job much since then. It now appears likely that my career in law enforcement is over.

I continued to read *MGN*. My conclusions now are that the portrayal of full-auto guns by all media is very fictionalized. *MGN* is much more like a specialized machinist's journal than anything else. My impression is that as much can go wrong as can go right with a "machine gun." It seems to me that a high degree of **technical competence, skill and hard work** are needed to keep these machines in reliable working order. These are not the typical traits of criminals, violent or otherwise. Perhaps technology will design a "machine gun" that is as reliable as a flush toilet; at which time persons who have chosen to be ignorant, inept and lazy may opt for their use. Until then the use of full auto weapons by criminals is likely to be the exception rather than the rule. A magazine capacity of 300 to 500 in a standard sized 9 mm magazine that currently holds 32 would probably be another prerequisite. Perhaps computer data compression technology would be helpful to achieve that seemingly impossible goal.

I suggest your magazine consider "sponsorships" of *MGN* subscriptions to members of federal and state legislatures. Interested subscribers could buy an *MGN* subscription for the legislator of their or your choice. Although politicians and street criminals seem to share many traits, the former tends to read a lot more. It is just vaguely possible that some of them could learn something other than popular gun control and media myths about your hobby. A ban

on civilian ownership of full-auto weapons would set the stage for a military disaster in the future. One of the reasons this country has mostly excellent firearms in our military is the vast civilian expertise currently extant. Ban the ownership and you ban the experts. Without experts things turn into crap. Wars are not won with excrement despite the strong beliefs of diplomats in bullshit.

I have appreciated many of your nontechnical articles, particularly those by Mr. Shea. I suppose this is a lot of words to say "don't waste another 32 cents sending me a renewal letter" but I felt your fine journal deserved better than that.

Please accept my best wishes for the future.

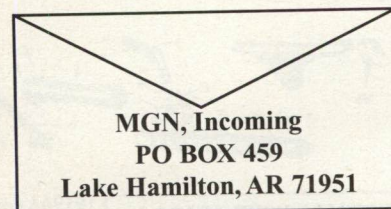
James Burns

P.S. If any of you are ever in Southern California, LEAVE AT ONCE, it is a dreadful place. Flee while you can.

Address Correction

In the May '96 article "FAMAE'S S.A.F. Submachine Gun" listed an address incorrectly. The correct address is: Vector Arms, Inc. 270 West 500 North, N. Salt Lake City, UT 84054. Phone: (801) 295-1917.

Send comments and suggestions to:



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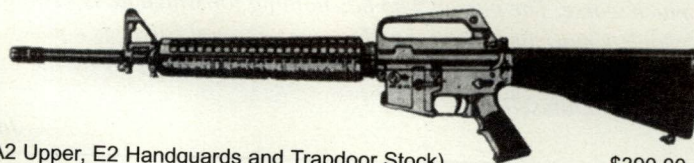
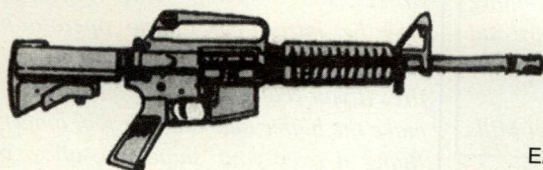


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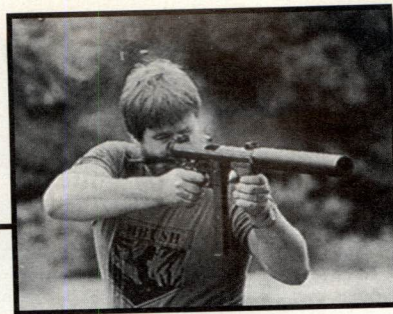
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Raffica

by Dan Shea



"War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things. The decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feeling which thinks that nothing is worth war is much worse. The person who has nothing for which he is willing to fight, nothing which is more important than his own personal safety, is a miserable creature and has no chance of being free unless made and kept so by the exertions of better men than himself."

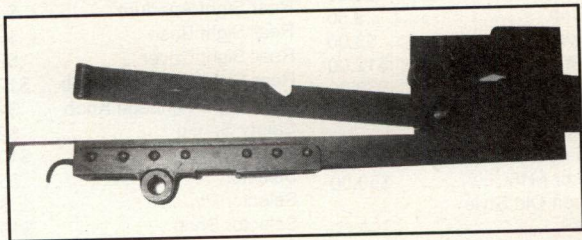
—John Stewart Mills

Recently I have had quite a few letters and calls regarding some of the 1919A4 parts sets that have been on the market. There is some confusion about the long flat piece of sheet steel in the set.

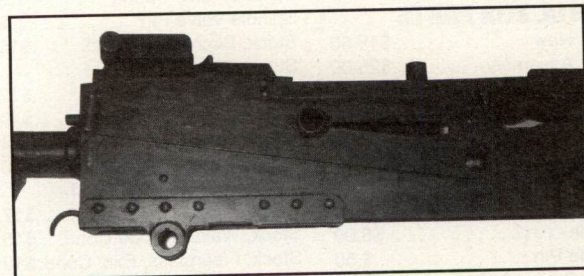
The U.S. Marine Corps ordered some of their 1919A4's with this piece mounted on the right side plate, as in the photo. It is intended as a mechanical safety when the bolt is to the rear. It works quite well, and a number of the 1919A4's that were in South America had this feature. These have been recently imported, thus the strange flat bar showing up in the kits.

Questions:

EXCELLENT MAGAZINE! JUST wish I would have known about it sooner! I enjoy shooting my heavy-bar-



Sheet steel piece in 1919A4 parts set.



Piece mounted on right side plate.

reled M16 from a bipod as sort of a poor man's LMG. I believe that this activity would be more fun if I could reduce the rate of fire by 150 rpm or so, and if I could rig up the gun to fire from an open bolt like the M231 port firing weapon.

Do you know of anything I could buy to reduce the rate of fire? Also, what parts of the gun do I need to replace to fire from an open bolt, and where could I get them? Any pros and cons on the open bolt thing?

Ray J.

Starting me out with a tall order, huh? You realize that millions of dollars, twenty five years, and some of the best engineering minds in the world have worked on this project? Well, I'll take a small stab at explaining it, even though there really isn't a lot you can do with conventional methods of slowing the rate of fire. I recently looked at a rate controller that is patented in a number of ways, and I cannot discuss it until the inventor officially releases it. Until that time, let's discuss the standard methods: increasing the weight (mass) of the bolt carrier, and changing the strength of the recoil spring. Generally speaking: more mass, slower travel in recoil, weaker spring, slower return. That is VERY general, and you can actually end up with the reverse happening! Obviously, there are danger points when changing

these values. A bolt that is way too heavy may only cause annoying short strokes, but a spring being too weak may be hazardous to the operator's health, as well as speeding up the rate of fire. If you really want to slow it down, make the buffer tube another foot longer (hang it over your shoulder), allow a channel for the bolt key, and let the recoil "run out" on the spring. This will slow your cyclic rate considerably, and probably smooth the operation out in the process. Amateur machinists can have a lot of trouble and actually structurally weaken the bolt carrier if they mess around with it too much—adding powdered lead in cavities, etc. Make sure you know what your capabilities are before you start.... There have been a lot of designers that fought this battle before you. When Gene Stoner designed his lower receiver, he didn't leave a lot of space to work in. Mechanical rate reducers don't have a lot of room to work in.

Open bolt is another story—just as frustrating for you. The main reason to go open bolt on this firearm is because of the "cook-off" point, which is after about 180 rounds full auto. That is six, thirty-round magazines in full auto, back to back. Cooking off is not your only problem from torturing your rifle like this. Other damage may occur. The cook-off is what happens when the residual heat in the barrel (the part around the chamber) transfers into the cartridge case that is seated in battery. This ignites the propellant without the operator controlling the function. "Darn rifle went off by itself, Sarge, I don't know why." Open-bolt fire removes that problem, because you don't strip a round from the mag and put it into the chamber until you WANT to fire it.

Unfortunately, it creates other problems, specially in the M16 series rifles. If you read your "Stoner Chronicles"

diligently (MGN January, February, March and May 1996), then you know that Gene Stoner's design was innovative partly because of his locking-up system: the bolt directly to the barrel extension, that allowed the aluminum in the receiver. His receiver didn't have to be quite as strong as standard rifles needed to be. Once you go to an open bolt, you need to design a system that removes the "bolt bounce," and ensures that the lugs are fully locked into the barrel extension before the firing pin strikes the primer. The timing here is critical. Take a look at the M16 disintegration on page 16 in this issue of MGN to get an idea of what "firing out of battery" looks like. Your timing must be precise, and you not only need to design some sort of a hold-open sear for the bolt, but since this is a free floating firing pin weapon, you need to hold the hammer back until there is a definite lock up in battery. It is all very complex, and the interrelation between these issues is not for the novice.

Page 361 of "The Black Rifle" by R. Blake Stevens and Edward C. Ezell shows the M231 FPW open-bolt system

for this M16 based weapon. I would say it's possible to lightly change the rate of fire, but if you want to go open bolt, you might be better off purchasing one of the original Colt manufactured open-bolt LMG's, or a 231 Firing Port Weapon. That kind of defeats the money saving aspect here, though... maybe you should trade the '16 for a 1919 Browning if you really want to "stand" on it. I honestly think it's a safer alternative for recreational shooting. M16's were never meant to be used like a belt-fed.

PER YOUR QUERY IN MAY MGN about the MAC with the custom finish... I was in the MAC plant on several visits in 1970/71/72. Don Thomas and Mitchell WerBell were congenial hosts. In touring the facilities I saw a couple of "test" finishes on MACs as well as some custom jobs for some of Mitch's friends and as sales samples (gifts) for Mitch's friends in other nations. I photographed at least two of the silver/grey finish MACs.

My suggestion for you and/or for your reader from Germany is to contact Don Thomas in Doraville, Georgia. Don was on the MAC scene from day one, is a

close friend of Gordon Ingram, was a close friend of Mitch WerBell and was the official MAC historian. He is also writing a book about the experience of MAC.


Happy days to you and remember to have evil thoughts toward the Clinton Junta.

J. David Truby

Longtime people in the Raffician world will remember the name J. David Truby as the prolific author of many books on exotic firearms. Always a pleasure to hear from him. I have spoken with Don numerous times and am anxiously awaiting his book on the MAC's. Consider this passed on to the Rafficians, who are thinking karmic negatives towards the Klintonns even as we sit here contemplating our loss of Rights.

HOW ABOUT DOING AN ARTICLE on surplus military products? It takes a lot of powder to keep ammo loaded for full-auto fun, and those surplus powders come at a very attractive price, as low as \$4 per pound. Cannon and 50 BMG powders are even less if you shop around.

The problem is that there is very lit-




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tle data for these powders. In the latest *Shotgun News*, I found the following powders for sale: WC844, WC846, WC852, WC680, WC820, PSA, Spl Ball, M9. All are listed for use in one or more of the following uses—223, .308, .30-06, 7.62x39, or 30 M1.

Any help you could provide on picking a powder and load data would be most appreciated.

J. C.

I am going to "cop out" on this one. All you RKT's out there that do reloading, how about sending in your pet loads for military powders—by caliber and specific bullet please....

I'VE JUST SUBSCRIBED TO *MGN* today, but have had access to several old issues and I must say this is a fine magazine. As a collector of semi's, I still enjoy reading about the real toys. Unfortunately, I travel with the job more often than I desire and haven't been able to settle down in one place long enough to attempt to get a license. Such is the life of a sailor.

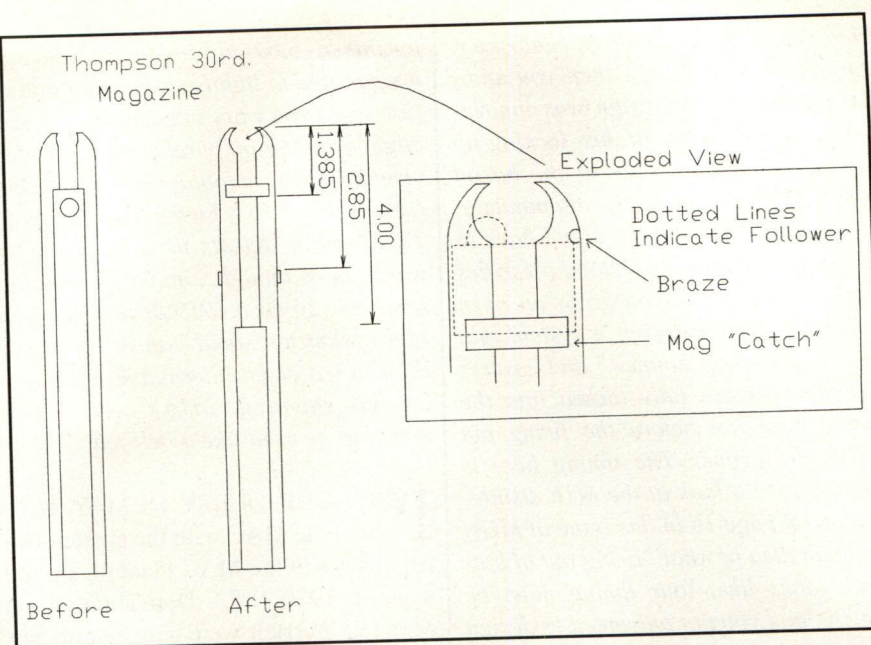
Quick questions here: Can someone tell me if a MAS-38 in 9 mm para ever existed? Was there a select fire, or semi version made? Were they made during the occupation of France and if so what are the possible markings? In one of my trips overseas, I had a chance to briefly examine a MAS-38, with no markings, and a lever above the trigger on the right side. I was told this was a selector switch. The calibre seemed to be the original 7.65 French long, but I'm not sure.

Finally, does anyone have a "parts kit" for a Yugoslav M70 in 7.62x39?

Thanks for a great source of information and for any help with these queries.

AAR

I do not know about the parts kit you are looking for, but I can try to help on the MAS-38. This odd looking submachine gun is typically in the 7.65 French Long cartridge (.32 Fr Long), a very difficult cartridge to locate today. MAS stands for "Manufacture d'armes de Saint-Etienne, and was made in France starting in 1938, which is its proper name by the way "Model 1938," and was produced all through the 1940's. To my knowledge, it was never made in any caliber other than the 7.65 Long. Many have been converted by American Class 2's, primarily to 9 mm parabellum, but I



Line drawing of Thompson mag before and after.

have seen .380 and .32 ACP versions. I kind of liked the .32 ACP version, even if it was expensive to shoot. In Southeast Asia, the French brought many of these SMG's with them. After the French left in 1954 (hoof-foot and high-tailed) the Viet Minh took them and converted them to 7.62 pistol which seemed to be available from some Soviet sources...oddly enough. The MAS-38 has an odd look to it; the bolt is canted down from the line of the barrel. It looks bent.

The MAS 1938 shoots smoothly, and most writers have stated that a 9 mm parabellum version would have enjoyed more success. I found it to be a little out of control in 9 mm, but I did not have a lot of time to shoot the gun. Personally, I am considering changing mine to .32 ACP and adding a muzzle suppressor. The MAS 1938 is on the Curio and Relics list for those who live in restricted states, and it does have a rich history and interesting profile.

ISEE YOU PUBLISHED MY QUESTION about the Ingram M6 magazines in the May issue of *MGN*. By the time I received the May issue, I had constructed a prototype mag. I thought I would write you and give you the scoop.

I had been talking with Skot Ingram (Skotz Ordnance Services) about trying to find some magazines for the M6, and we had not been able to locate any at a reasonable price. Skot has done several transfers for me, and we are always talking about different ways to improve "the

wheel." Skot had told me on several occasions that a Thompson mag would probably work. I decided to purchase a few—ten—and play around with them. I had borrowed an M6 mag from Skot and took all the dimensions from it and began my fabrication of the prototype. After completing the construction a few weeks later, Skot called me and told me my M6 had arrived. I quickly set up a time with Skot to go to Austin, Texas, to check the fit of the mag in the gun. We had to make very few modifications to it and within an hour or so we had a working mag. We took the gun out back of Skot's shop and field tested it. It worked flawlessly!

I would like to share the procedure with all the readers (*Rafficarians*). I have also included a line drawing to help with the explanation.

First, you need to make the magazine fit. Remove some of the back rail or "rib" if you will, to make room for the LARGE mag release on the M6. Remove the spring retainer at the bottom of the mag and remove the spring and follower. Measure four inches down from the top of the feed lips and scribe a mark. This is your cut mark. Cut down through the rib with a dremel tool (or other suitable cutting tool—NOT A HACKSAW). Make the cut all the way to the "body" of the mag and remove all the rib material so that you are flush with the body of the mag.

Now you need to make a mag "catch." Fabricate a piece of metal

1/16" thick by 3/4" long by 1/4" wide. Braze this to the back of the mag with the bottom of this piece being at the 1.385" dimension in the drawing.

The reason I say braze is mainly because I've tried to Heli-arc this material to the VERY thin 1/32" material that the mag is constructed of and found that Tig- or Heli-arc welding, even at 20 amps DC is just too hot and you stand a chance of blowing a hole through the mag. This will cause you problems with getting the follower to travel smoothly inside the mag. Some of you out there may be able to use some of the high-tech computer controlled wire guns and be able to do the job nicely. I have already had the enjoyment of filing the distorted area inside the mag from using the Heli-arc rig so I prefer brazing the assembly. You will probably be dealing with dissimilar metals and brazing is probably your best choice.

The mag stops, on either side of the mag, are done in the same way as your mag "catch." Refer to the drawing for your dimensions.

Next, you will need to remove the "tab" at the back of the mag follower

you removed from the mag earlier. If you don't it won't clear the mag "catch" you just installed. You will also need to remove some metal from the back of the feed lips (see drawing) and the gap at the top of the feed lips to accommodate the bolt of the gun as it strips a round from the mag. You will also need to build up an area inside the feed lips (see exploded view). Feed some brazing rod onto the inside of the mag to the RIGHT FRONT of the follower (side opposite the "bump" on the follower), this will be used as a "stop" for the follower to keep it from reaching the top of the mag. This will keep the follower clear of the bolt as the bolt travels forward to strip the last round from the mag.. If you do not do this, the bolt will hit the follower after stripping the last round from the mag and you will have created a "hold open on last round" device, which is neat but is not good for the bolt face or the follower.

Take your time, be patient, don't get rough and distort the shape of the mag when making your cut though the rib, and you'll have a functioning magazine for the M6.

I have also developed a 57-round "stack mag" using two Thompson mags butt welded together and a "Grease Gun" mag spring which also functions flawlessly. You could also use part of the second Thompson spring left over from the assembly if you didn't want to "SPRING" for the Grease Gun mag spring [joke].

Thanks for the opportunity to share this procedure with you and all the readers.

Anyone having questions can E-mail me at MarkleK@aol.com.

K. M.

Bravo, bravo. Don't you think you need to send me one to try out (hint)? Actually, I have a hard time recommending the dremel tool surgery. If there is a milling machine available it should be used for removing that part of the rib. Altogether it sounds like a good process, and I am sure that the proud owners of Gordon Ingram's first MAC design will appreciate this.

Questions to:

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Mystery Photo

by Dan Shea

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*M*ystery Photo is a regular MGN feature. Each month we present a photograph of an interesting part or accessory—we promise not to put ridiculous screws or nuts in here. Each will be something of interest to the Class 3 community. You can send in your answers to Mystery Photo, P.O. Box 459, Lake Hamilton, AR 71951 or fax them to (501) 525-7519, or E-mail them to MGNews@aol.com. We will accept interesting photos from the readers, as long as they are accompanied with a full description of the parts in the photo. Those of you who answer correctly will be awarded the "Order of the RKI," a certificate that proclaims you to be a "Reasonably Knowledgeable Individual." This certificate is suitable for framing and will make a nice conversation piece on the wall next to your other accolades and honors. Besides, it gives you bragging rights!

Dan: We had some very precise responses from the readers out there. No need for me to prattle on about the M73 Browning series guns. These gentlemen are all authorized to add "RKI" to the rest of the accolades following their names.

Michael M. Oates: You don't have to be an "RKI" to identify the June Mystery Photos. Any "DAT" (Dumb Ass Tanker) could tell you that photo A is a barrel for an M73A1/M219 co-axial machine gun and photo B is the barrel extension assembly to same.

Det Jaussaud: The June 1996 Mystery Photos are interesting in that the weapon is U.S. and not that old. Photo A is a

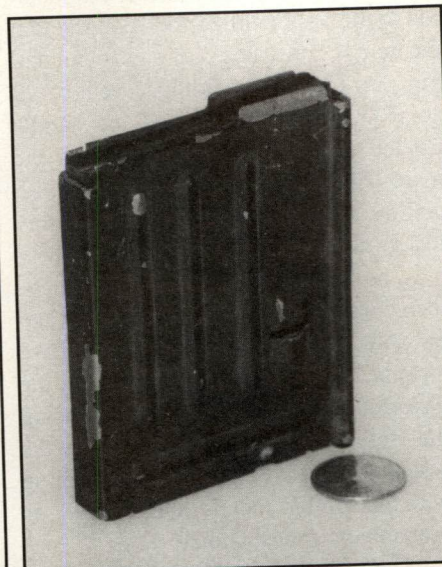


Photo Jim Bonis: August 1996 Mystery Photo.

barrel, cal. 7.62 federal stock number 1005-00-972-0196 that could be used on any of three machine guns: M73, M73A1, or M219.

Photo B is the barrel extension for the M73. The A1 and M219 used a different one.

Terrence L. Rohrer: The June '96 Mystery Photos are Photo A: U.S. M73 7.62 coaxial MG barrel and Photo B: Barrel extension for same.

This was an easy one for me, having been a tanker in RVN (Alpha Troop 1/1 Cav., '68-'69). (RVN stands for "Republic of Vietnam" —Dan.) The M73 replaced the M37 as the turret-mounted MG (co-axial to the main gun) on armored vehicles: M48, M60, Sheridans and V-100 armored cars. I once saw an engineer jeep with one mounted on a pedestal with homemade spade grips. The M73's main claim to fame was its quick-change barrel and

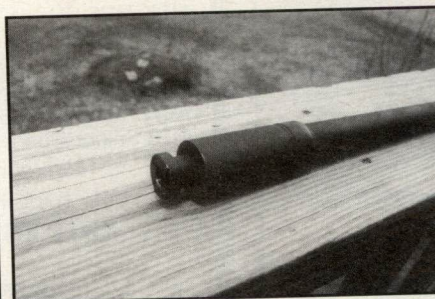


Photo: Dan Shea June 1996 Mystery Photo A.

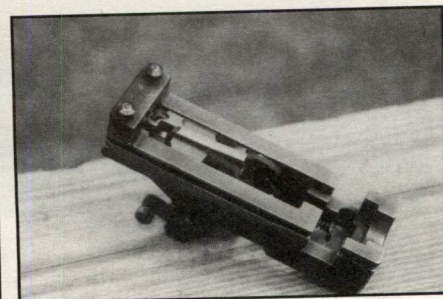


Photo: Dan Shea June 1996 Mystery Photo B.

ability to be fed from either side. Suffered from reliability problems, not well liked by anyone familiar with the Browning M37, superseded by the M240 (FN MAG).

B. Sutton Coffman: The June 1996 Mystery Photos are from the U.S. M73, M73A1, and M219 family of co-axially fired machine guns that were mostly used in Armored vehicles.

They could be triggered manually or remote fired using a solenoid. The solenoid was very tricky to keep adjusted within its + - .003" tolerances (to work properly).

Mystery Photo A is the stellite-lined .308 barrel for an M73, 73A1, 219 MG.

Mystery Photo B shows the barrel extension/action block with the bolt (and side-mounted hammer) in the "cocked" position. As the bolt rams forward, it pushes the cartridge out of the belt into the chamber. When the bolt reached its forward-most travel into battery, the hammer (on the inside, left side) was tripped, hitting the firing pin and firing the cartridge.

The biggest plus to this weapon was an extremely compact receiver assembly with the additional benefit of being able to convert from right-hand to left-hand feed without major parts changes.

My understanding is that this gun system has been made obsolete by the adoption of the FN MAG-58 in a solenoid fire configuration.

CWO John M. Miller: In answer to your Mystery Photo "A" in the June MGN. This is a barrel for the M73, M73A1, 219 series of tank machine guns. Mystery Photo "B" is the barrel extension assembly with lever, carrier, and rammers installed but without the sideways-moving breech block.

As an old ordnance man, we played with trying to get this series of junk to work, mostly to no avail. The gun was known as the "civil service machine gun"; it won't work and you can't fire it. The progression of modifications from the M73 to the M73A1 to the M219 (M73x3=219) didn't help the functions a bit—still wouldn't work! I hope this places me in line for the much coveted RKI Award (or fur lined pot).

Honorable Mentions:

Steve Fleischman, RKI
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M16 Detonation!

by Dan Shea

Morten Karlsen came up to me at the North Country Shoot last year (1995), and offered his camcorder for me to review an incident he had just observed. In the viewfinder, I got to watch as one of the nightmares of the Class 3 world unfolded—the self-destruction of a transferable M16.

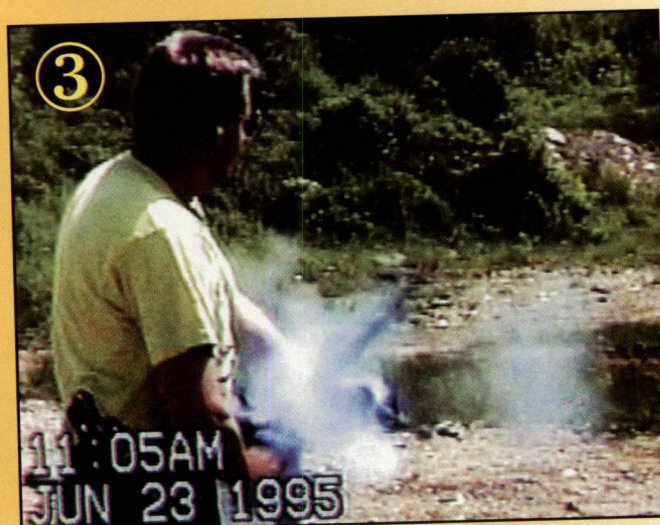
There are several theories that surround an incident like this. Without examining the M16 (actually, the PARTS of the M16), it's hard to say what the cause was. Many people assume that this is a result of too much powder in the case—the opposite is many times true. With too little powder, one of two courses of events may occur. One, a bullet is launched into the barrel, just far enough so that the next round is chambered to battery. When that next round is fired, you have a blocked barrel. Two, a short charge of powder moves from deflagration (fast burning) to something more resembling a detonation because of too much expansion space before it has time to move the projectile into the

barrel. An interior ballisticsian could provide a much clearer review after examining the firearm. Generally speaking, these incidents would show the locking lugs sheared off of the bolt head, and the blocked barrel scenario would probably show a “ring” or “bell” in the barrel at the point where the projectile encountered the obstruction in the barrel. My money is on a “case detonation” from a short charge of powder.... Typically on the M16/AR-15 series, the bolt will have been driven backwards into the carrier, peeling the carrier like a banana, and splitting the upper receiver in half, if not exploding the upper as in these photos.

Firing out of battery would be indicated if the lugs on the bolt head were intact.

Mort told me that he was most impressed by the swift reaction of the North Country Shoot staff, and thank God no one was hurt.

MGN



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Photograph 1919A4 courtesy of Hayes Otoupalik and Bruce Canfield.

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by M. Gelbart



Based on the Belgian 7.62 mm FN MAG, the GPMG L7 is almost identical to its parent weapon. As in the case of most of the best weapons, the FN MAG and GPMG L7 are rugged and reliable, both are well engineered and of a deceptively simple design. The FN MAG is one of the most widely used weapons in current service and remains an important influence on the battlefield. In British service since the 1960's, the GPMG L7 still remains in use, both in pintle mounts on vehicles and also as a tripod mounted, sustained fire weapon carried by infantry units. The GPMG L7 used to be the main bipod mounted, light support weapon for British infantry, but has now been demoted to a sustained fire role. As will be seen, this may have been premature.

THE BEAST IN MORE DETAIL

Although in effect a license built copy of the FN MAG, the GPMG L7's parts are not interchangeable with the Belgian gun. The appearance and dimensions of the Belgian and British guns are very similar and both function in the same manner. The guns are gas-operated and air-cooled; they fire 7.62 mm rounds which are loaded via disintegrating link belts. The gun fires from an open bolt. The breech is positively locked before firing—this enhances safety. The gun is fully automatic and when bipod mounted can offer effective fire to a range of 800 m. When mounted on an ingenious spring-buffered tripod for the sustained fire role (of which more later), the GPMG L7 can fire accurately out to a range of 1800 m. It is too difficult to follow the impact strikes of tracer rounds with the required degree of precision much beyond that distance.

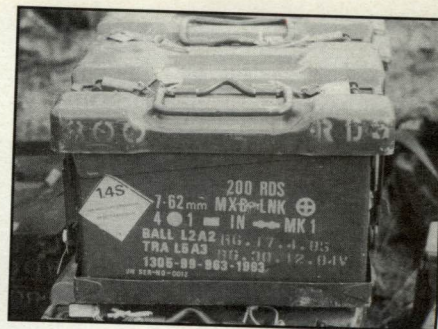
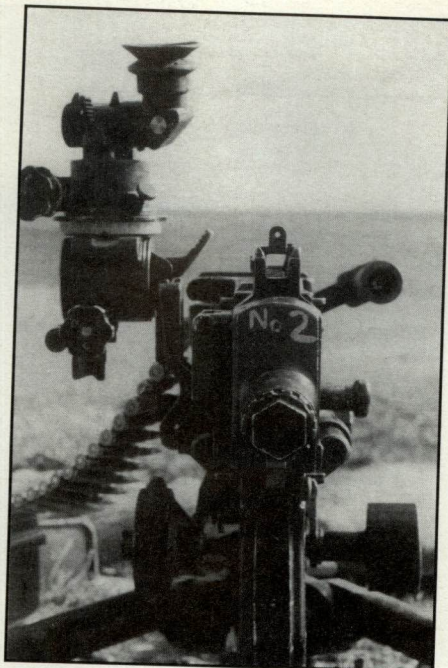
The weapon has a gas regulator which can be adjusted so that the weapon can fire from 750 to 1000 rounds a minute. Muzzle velocity is 838 meters a second. The GPMG L7 has a well designed flash suppressor to avoid detection by the enemy. A skilled gunner when firing in the light support role, will fire an initial burst of two to four rounds to mark fall of shot. Thereafter, his crew will continue firing at an average rate of 25 rounds a minute. If rapid fire is called for, the gunner will keep to a rate of 100 rounds a minute to maximize accuracy and minimize ammunition expenditure.

The British army issues ammunition for the GPMG in 200-round belts and more occasionally in 30-round maga-

zines or 50-round box magazines. Usually if on the move, the ammunition is broken up into 50-round links and distributed around the section. If the machine gunners are firing from a prepared position, particularly in a sustained fire support role, then the rounds are left in their metal carrying containers. The initial version of the GPMG L7 was actually the L7A1. A later variant, the L7A2, differs in having double feed pawls and the provision of a mount to attach a 50-round box. These are the only models used

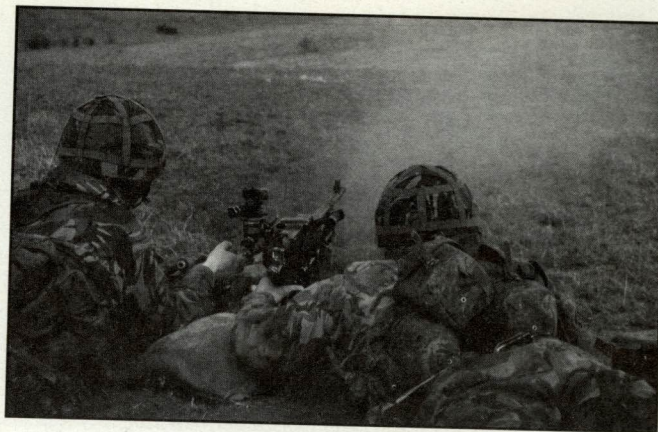
by infantry units. There are other variants in service which are modified to be fired from armored vehicles, soft-skinned transports or helicopters.

In general, at least in the hands of a skilled crew, the L7 GPMG is relatively

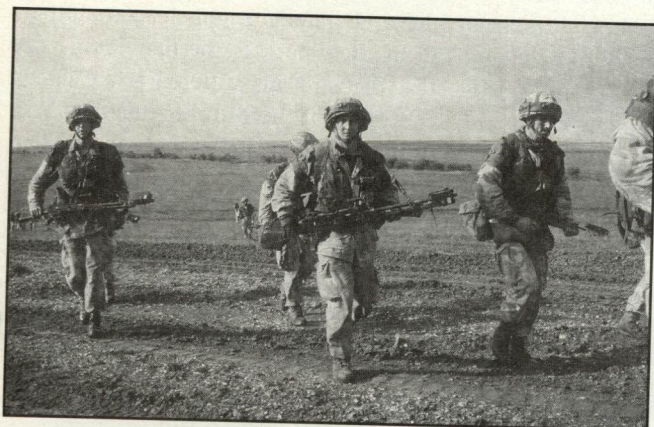


Above: Ammunition box: 200 rounds of linked 7.62 mm ammunition.

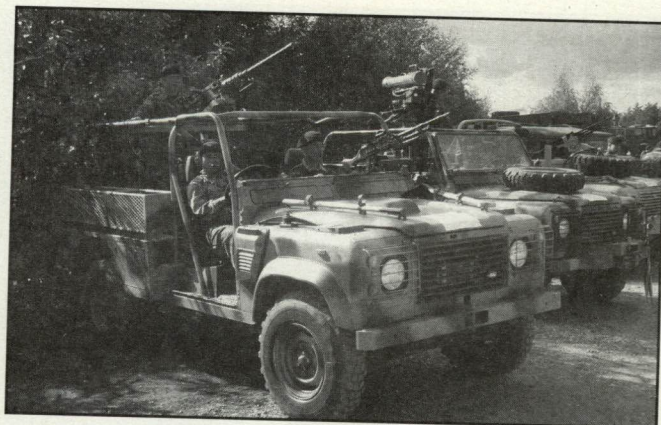
Left: C2 Trilux sight in close-up from the rear. Note the scale for adjusting traverse.



Gun firing, view from the rear. Note the prominent C2 Trilux sight mounted on the gun's left.



RGJ gunners at the end of a successful ambush. Note the laser weapon simulators used for training purposes fitted to the end of the weapons.



Machine guns fitted to a Land Rover manned by The Brigade of Gurkhas. This time a GPMG L7 mounted at the front and a .50 caliber Browning M2HB machine gun to the rear.

easy to strip, clean and reassemble. The quick-change barrel can be replaced without having to unload. The carrying handle allows the barrel to be removed without burning hands or resorting to asbestos gloves. There is a heavy-barreled variant of the gun known as the L19A1, intended to cut down on the number of barrel changes. This is not on general issue. Crews find that the most time consuming and trying activity is to clear the carbon deposits from the guns' working parts. Fortunately, each gun comes equipped with a comprehensive cleaning kit.

When fired in the light support role, the L7 is equipped with a bipod. When employed as a sustained fire weapon, the wooden butt is removed, and the gun is mounted on a buffered tripod mounting. The mounting allows full traverse and 600-miles elevation. The tripod can be locked into a low or high position depending on the tactical setting. Once the



GPMG L7 with C2 Trilux sight and spent rounds, photographed from behind.

first round has been fired, there is very little recoil to affect the gun. A state of equilibrium is reached between the natural recoil of the weapon and a counter pressure exerted by the tripod's spring-loaded buffers. The tripod is used in conjunction with the C2 Trilux sight. This right angled sight incorporates coarse and fine scales. These allow the gun to be locked onto an accurate bearing. As a newcomer to the L7, I found it disconcerting having to use the C2 Trilux. It seems much more natural to aim down the iron sights, with their blade foresight and rearsight aperture. However, in the hands of a competent gunner—which I am not—the C2 Trilux allows excellent, unrelenting accuracy. With care, the gun can be set

to fire at night or in limited visibility with a high degree of precision.

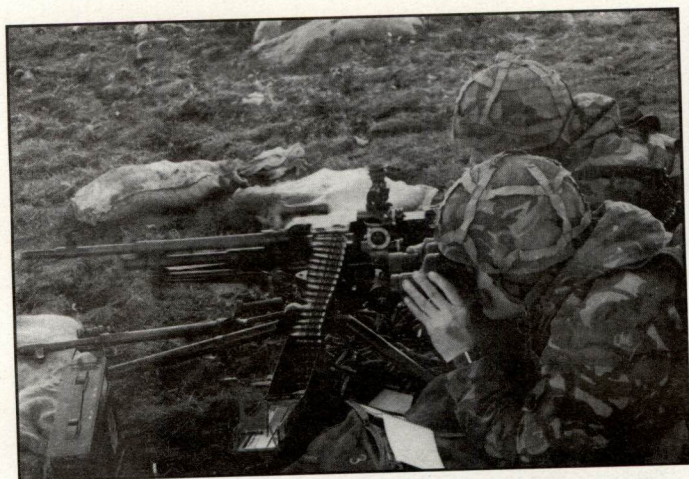
THE ROYAL GREEN JACKETS LET RIP

I was recently lucky enough to attend a number of live fire exercises conducted by the Machine Gun Platoon of the 4th Battalion the Royal Green Jackets. This British formation is a Territorial Unit, similar in concept to the U.S. National Guard. Equipment, training and expertise is comparable to the best of Britain's Regular Army. The Royal Green Jackets are a Light Infantry Regiment; they are not mechanized. The only vehicles they have on hand are four-wheel drive Land Rovers, and the heaviest weapons they are equipped with are the GPMG L7 and 81 mm mortar. Any weapon that the soldiers of the Royal Green Jackets take into battle has to be portable enough to be carried on the backs of the men who are going to fire them. Britain's Light Infantry Regiments date back to the humiliating defeat British arms suffered at the hands of Colonial rebels in the American War of Independence. After that salutary lesson, the Brits made sure that at least a portion of their infantry forces would be able to fight light and think smart. **Light Infantry must be able to think like assassins and stalk like poachers.** The Royal Green Jackets are full of the type of soldier who is capable of sneaking around heavily disguised as a bush. **The GPMG L7 is their artillery.**

The backbone of Light Infantry units are their Machine Gun Platoons.



The author proving it is possible to miss a barn door at 50 yards even with a GPMG L7!



Rock and Roll Inc. loosen up, note the vibration apparent on the gun.

Reassembly of a Field Stripped GPMG L7

Right: Field stripped GPMG L7, view from the side. Note the barrel is a blank training one, and the trigger group has not been disassembled.



Field stripped GPMG L7, view from above.



Soldier checks that the number on the body corresponds with that of the breech block and then inserts the breech block and piston into the gun's body.



The return spring is replaced.



The butt is slid into place.



The butt is locked into place.



Barrel is lifted by its carry handle and slid back into place.

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The Machine Gun Platoon I accompanied had recently won top award for an individual machine gun crew in an army wide competition, whilst the platoon as a whole came in a commendable second. Each Machine Gun Platoon has 12 GPMG L7s at hand. I was able to observe the formidable firepower that this represents at close hand as each crew let rip with 4,000 rounds each! I was not the only interested observer. A visiting squadron of the SAS were on the firing range and were appreciative of the Royal Green Jackets well-honed skills. Under the watchful tuition of the Royal Green Jackets' Corporals, the SAS were allowed to fire off several hundred rounds from the L7s.

On a separate exercise using TESEX laser simulation equipment (similar to the MILES system used at Fort Irwin by the U.S. Army), I observed a further reminder of the tactical effectiveness of machine guns when handled skillfully. I was able to watch the Machine Gun Platoon, beefed up with light anti-tank weapons, successfully engage a much larger mechanized infantry force. The mechanized infantry came roaring over undulating scrub land mounted on Warrior Infantry fighting vehicles. The machine gun platoon had set an ambush on a reverse slope. As the armored vehicles rumbled past the well-hidden Royal Green Jackets, they were hit by light anti-tank weapons. As the survivors of the attack debussed, they were hit again by dug-in GPMG L7 crews. The machine gun crews had cleverly interlocked their fields of fire to manufacture a lethal ambush. The exercise was a noisy and impressive reminder of the power of GPMGs in numbers and of Light Infantry in general.

CONCLUSION

The current craze is to replace 7.62 mm MGs as the basic support weapon of an infantry squad with lighter, and perhaps less effective, light machine guns of 5.56 mm caliber. Despite this, it can be argued that there remains a case for a heavier caliber squad support



Ambush position. GPMG crew and gun from the front. Note that the tripod is in the high position, also the laser weapon simulator fitted to the front of the gun for training purposes.

weapon. The author fully understands the logistic advantages of having a lighter more manageable support weapon than the 10.9 kg GPMG L7. The author appreciates the benefits of having a support weapon of the same caliber as issue rifles. The author, with reluctance, even accepts the logic of abandoning the 7.62 mm caliber for automatic rifles, although he remains to be convinced that 5.56 mm is the optimum replacement. However, the author also believes that there remains a role for the GPMG L7 as an infantry support weapon. It is not a question of nostalgia. A squad support weapon really needs a superior range and punch over the issue rifle. That the GPMG L7 has in spades. At least in the U.S., the M249 5.56 mm MG squad support weapon is based on the excellent FN Minimi design. The British equivalent, the 5.56 mm light support weapon L86A1, is adapted from the controversial SA80 automatic rifle. (Many users of the SA80 regard it as an indifferent weapon, the only worthwhile feature of which is its superb SUSAT optical sight.) It is noticeable that whenever British infantry have been in conflict in recent years, the L7 series has played a more prominent role than the army top brass had expected. During the Gulf War, as if by magic, large quantities of moth-balled GPMG L7s disappeared from Quartermasters' stores.

Soldiers at the sharp end binned their fragile 5.56 mm support weapons and replaced them with sturdier and more effective L7s. Long in the tooth and supposedly obsolescent, the GPMG L7 is proving remarkably difficult to replace.

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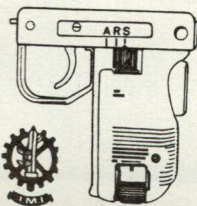
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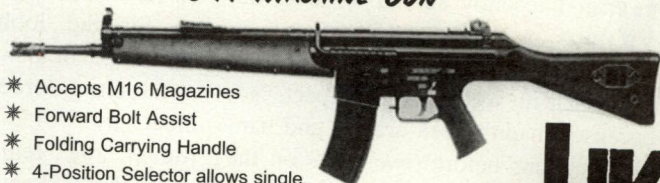


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OMNI'S "Live Fire Submachine Gun Class"

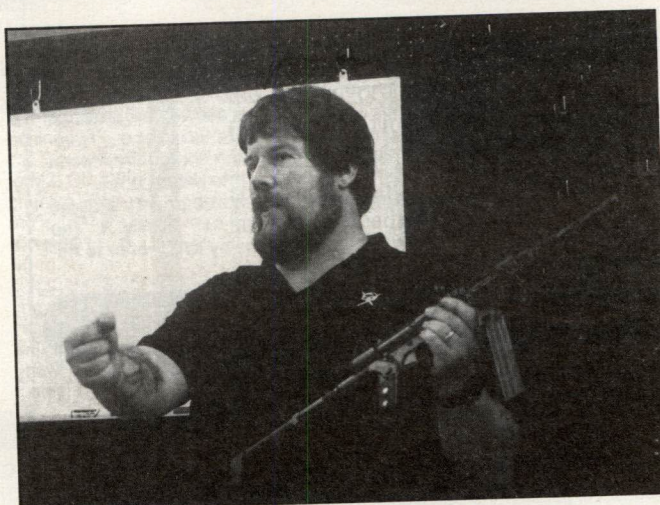


Something for Everyone!

by MIKE SHUFFIELD

When I recently agreed to cover the story on Omni Distribution's new "Live Fire Submachine Gun Class," I really had no idea what to expect. Not because I hadn't been around and handled subguns before (two years on the *MGN* staff and a lifetime of interest in firearms has helped put me a little above the novice category), but because this class was not specific to any particular weapon. Most firearms classes cover a specific type of weapon such as H&K or Beretta and their uses. The Omni class would be teaching information on submachine guns in general. I thought "that's a lot to cover in just one day" as I drove my somewhat skeptical self to West Memphis, Arkansas where the three, one-day classes were to be held.

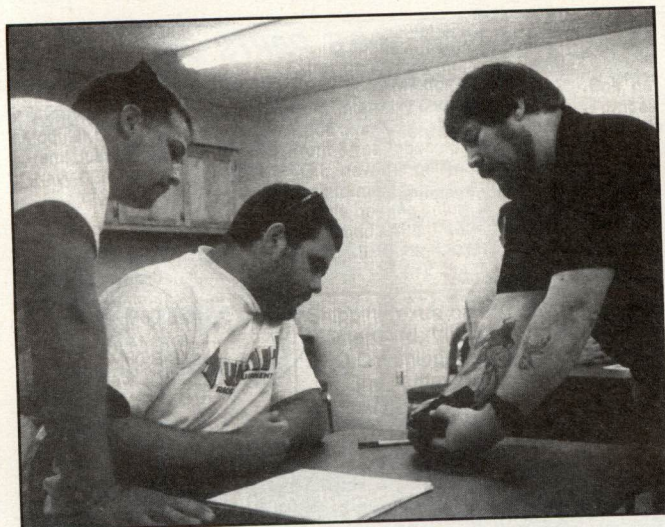
I arrived at the West Memphis Ramada Inn at about 7:30 a.m. and headed for the lobby where participants in the class were to meet by 7:45. I joined the registrants that had gathered, and within a few minutes we were greeted by Ed Pasley of Omni Distribution. He told us we would be leaving shortly for the classroom which is located on Omni's shooting range, about a fifteen minute drive from the motel. As we waited, the soon-to-be students engaged in a little casual conversation



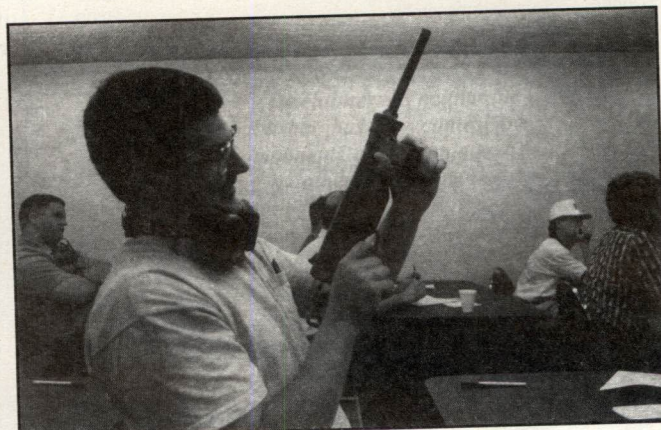
MGN's Technical Editor, Dan Shea, discusses the historical aspects of subguns as he introduces this Universal to the class.

about the class and another class hosted by Omni, the explosives class, which is held more frequently. Many of the subgun class participants had taken the explosives class previously.

A little past eight and we were headed for the range. We drove past acres upon acres of rice and soybean fields,



Brent Cox and Mike Schaffer learn details of the HK lower.



Bobby Weatherly has fun examining the M3A1 Greasegun.

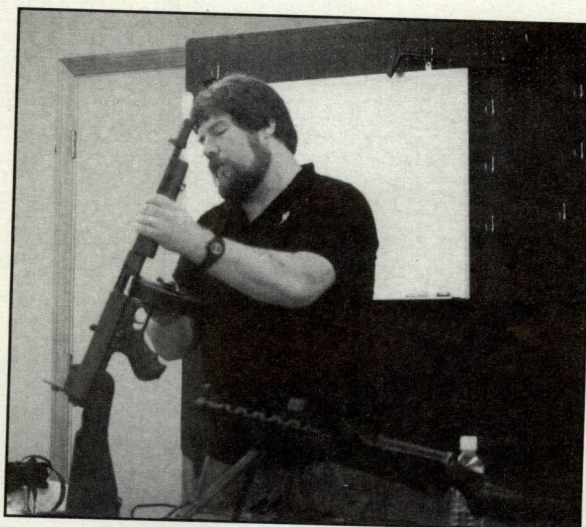
and when we arrived at our destination, we were surrounded by farms. The range itself was a sandy, desert-like area, which had been dug-in several feet lower than the surrounding area to keep stray bullets from reaching any unwanted destinations. Silhouette targets, mock buildings, and a few members of the New Orleans Police Department engaged in a training exercise made it obvious that this range was also used for tactical training.

The classroom was located in a newly constructed building, which had been built to replace the trailer that had been used previously. Once inside, it was plain to see that there would be no lack of equipment for use as visual aids. The entire front end of the room looked like a miniature gun show, featuring nothing but the rarest and finest submachine guns. Two long tables and a perf-board display wall were covered with H&K's, Thompsons, MAC's, a German MP40, the ultra-rare Czech ZK 383 (one of only three in the U.S.), as well as the Stetchkin machine pistol, also a rare jewel. In all, nearly forty different subguns were present for examination and later for a hands-on live fire learning experience.

As soon as everyone had assembled, Marc Morris, co-owner of Omni Distribution stepped forward and introduced himself, took a quick role call, and then handed out release forms for each individual to read and sign before the class began. When the forms had been completed and collected, more paperwork was passed out which consisted of a short rundown of technical information on each firearm present for the class, literature for the Heckler & Koch line of weaponry, and a five page compilation of information concerning machine guns and NFA weapons in general, for use during the class and to take home for future reference. With this task complete, some other quick introductions were in order. First came Bill Nixon, the other half of the Omni partnership, followed by range officers Lloyd Cash, a paramedic on the Alaska Pipeline project, and Jer-

ry Webb of the Memphis, Tennessee Police Department. Finally, we were introduced to our instructor for the day who was none other than *MGN's* Technical Editor, Dan Shea.

Class began with Dan giving a short background of his own history with firearms and his involvement with NFA weaponry. He went on to explain the purpose of the class and the schedule that had been laid out for our activities. The course would be conducted in a very relaxed and casual manner. Students were first asked whether they would prefer the class to focus more toward the historic subguns or the modern weapons. When Dan asked for a show of hands from those interested in the Thompson SMGs, you would have thought he had asked something more like "Who wants some free gold?" A very positive response to say the least, most of these guys were into nostalgia. With this in mind, our instructor soon had us all captivated by the unique history and development of the submachine gun and its intended uses in warfare and law enforcement. It was interesting to learn that the first submachine gun was the Villar Perosa M15, developed in Italy in 1915.



Instructor Dan Shea delights the class with discussion on the Thompson submachine gun. Note the Czech ZK 383 on table.

Discussion of the historic aspect of subguns eventually led to questions and answers about ammunition, magazines, field stripping and maintenance, controllability and bullet placement, target acquisition and even suppressors (or silencers if you will). The topic of suppressors led to some very good discussion of the design, purpose and effec-

WANTED!

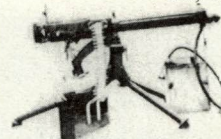
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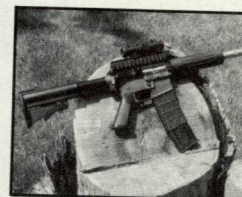
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After being instructed by Dan on the loading, charging, and firing of the M16 9 mm SMG, this student let 'er rip.

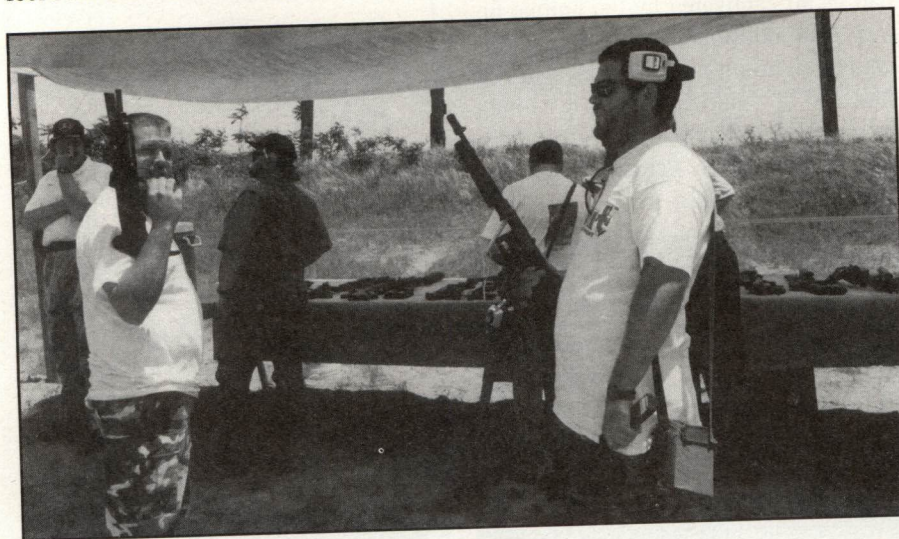
tiveness of this type of weapons accessory and in a round-about way led us into the legal do's and don'ts regarding these and other Title II items.

Once on the subject of legal matters, a distinct air of true professionalism emerged from Dan. His ability to answer any of these type questions with virtually no hesitation made everyone feel confident that not only were we get-

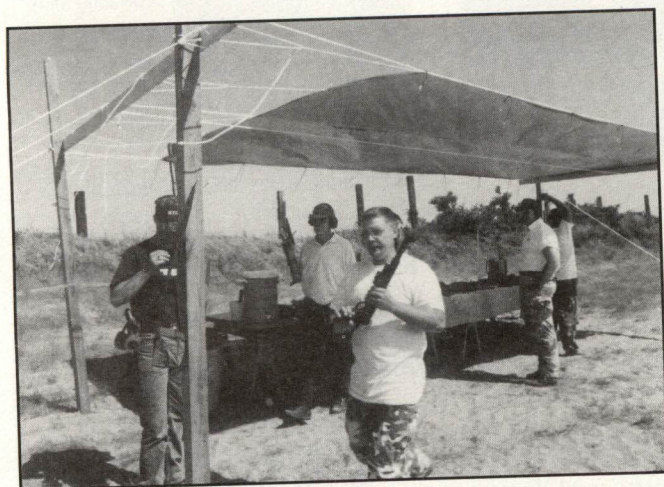
ting the right information, but getting it from a most reliable source with years of experience in the business. Matters of transfers, legal conversions, suppressor and stock attachments, forms to file, and agencies to contact for information about any of these procedures were all covered in a detailed Q&A style conversation that answered most of the basic questions the newcomer to full-auto

might ask as well as some more technical paperwork problems a dealer or owner might run into occasionally. As we talked about the rules and regulations regarding Title II firearms, the inevitable subject of politics and law was brought up. Even though it was obvious that each participant had his own opinion about the legislative developments of the past few years, there was no "crying over spilled milk" to take up valuable time with our learning experience. Instead, the discussion covered politics historically and its effects on market prices, manufacture and availability, and also some speculation on future directions some new legislation might take.

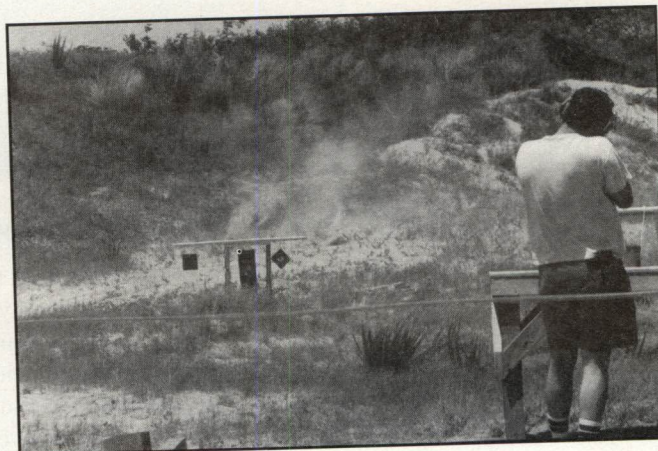
Having covered the legal ins and outs of machine gun ownership, we moved up to the modern subguns. Starting with the H&K MP5 and its various configurations, Dan showed the students the differences between a converted registered sear gun and a factory original, something that makes all the difference to collectors when buying or selling these particular weapons. From there, we went onward for a little MAC



Students Brent and Mike anxiously await their turn on the line.



Brent Cox makes his way up to the firing line.



As each person became more comfortable and proficient with full-auto fire, magazine after magazine was emptied on the metal targets set up a few yards downrange.

lore and also discussed the Uzi and some of its history. Finally, in fulfillment of the results of the poll taken earlier, Dan came back to the Thompson submachine gun, covering more history, field stripping and maintenance, types of magazines, military and civilian use as well as differences in the 1928 and M1A1 guns and numerous other pertinent facts as well as some trivial oddities of the Thompson.

Then, it was time to choose the subguns that we would most like to shoot. The class participants were allowed to examine each firearm and place the ones they most wanted to shoot on a separate table so that the guns could be gathered and taken out to the range. With this task completed, we took a break for lunch.

After lunch, the time everyone had anxiously been awaiting had finally arrived. We were briefed on safety procedures and how the order of the shooting session would be carried out so as to allow each individual a chance to fire as many of the weapons as he chose. We then gathered the boxes of assorted 9 mm and .45 ACP ammunition (250 rounds in all) that had been handed out to each person during an earlier break and left the cool, air conditioned environment of the classroom for a short walk to the range. At the range the guns that we had chosen to use were laid out on a table beneath an awning that had been put up to create some protection from the sun. Another quick safety speech and a double check to make sure everyone had ear and eye protection, and we began loading mags.

With the range officers in position and keeping close watch for any potential safety hazards, the shooting began. Two individuals at a time were allowed to step up to the firing line where Dan personally instructed each in the loading, charging and firing of the weapons they had chosen to fire. Smiles from everyone, including Dan and the range officers, were constant throughout the afternoon as magazine after magazine was emptied on the metal targets set up a few yards downrange. The clanging of bullets striking steel became more frequent as each person became more comfortable and proficient with full-auto fire. I finally took a little time out from shooting pictures to shoot some guns, the first of which being, what else but



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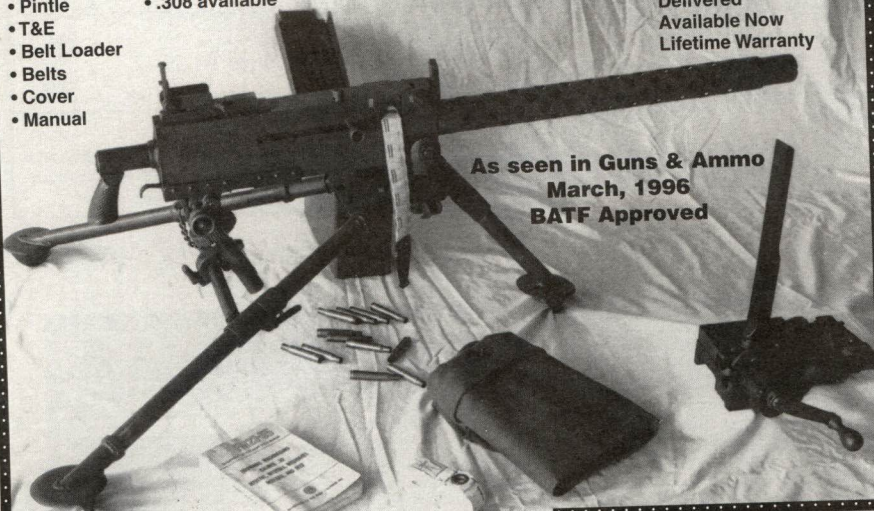
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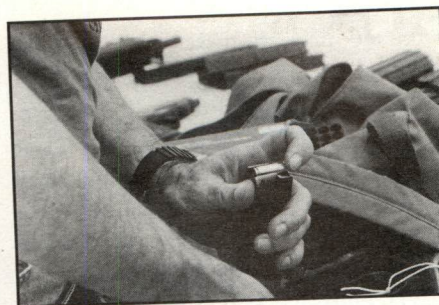
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the 1928 Thompson. I stepped up to the firing line and Dan quickly showed me what to do, and then I let 'er rip. This was one fine subgun. When the gun was empty Dan smiled and asked how I liked the Thompson. He genuinely seemed to be having as much fun as the guys who were doing the shooting.

After a couple of hours, we took a break for a short "cooling off" period that would have even made Sarah Brady proud. Well, maybe not. Back in the air conditioned comfort of the classroom, more ammo had been brought in for sale at a reasonable price for those who wished to continue blasting away in the afternoon heat. Dan answered a few more questions and casually traded some subgun stories with a couple of the students while everyone enjoyed the cool air. A few minutes later and we're back on the range, shooting to our hearts content.

When I first took an interest in full-auto firearms, I was fortunate enough to have a friend who was reasonably knowledgeable on the subject and could help me cut through the red tape and get into the fun while staying out of trouble. Unfortunately, not everyone has this luxury available to them. That is why this subgun class is not only an enjoyable learning experience, but an important one too for the interested newcomer as well as those already involved in the hobby.

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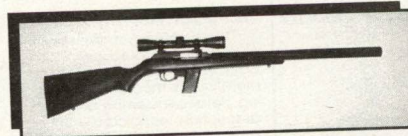
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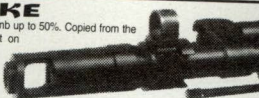
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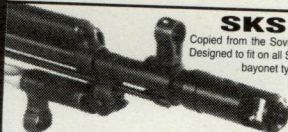
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7.62x54r LIGHT BALL AM-0510-C320	German Military Arsenals	1980s	Steel	Steel Core FMJ	20rds	320rds Plastic Sleeve	20 lbs	No	No	\$44.50 (\$1.14/rd)	5.75	9.00	12.00	(85)
30.06 Steel Core G.I. BLACK TIP AM-0485-C250	F.N. Belgium	1960s	Brass	Steel Core FMJ	250rds	250rds .30 Cal Can	20 lbs	YES	No	\$87.50 (\$1.35/rd)	5.75	9.00	12.00	(FN 67)
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CAST, PLATED, OR JACKETED?

Bullet Choices for Reloading Your Subgun

by SETH R. NADEL

Those of us who work for a living while trying to feed our submachine guns, eventually come to the realization that reloading is the only way to maximize our trigger time. Previous articles in *MGN* have discussed some of the issues in this area, but the selection of what type of bullet to use has a new variable.

Traditionally, cast lead bullets are the reloaders choice in pistol calibers. They have the virtues of being cheap, readily available in quantity, and easy to load. Cast bullets are also available in a bewildering



A setup for fun: MP5, a muzzle can, and plenty of plated reloads.

variety of shapes and weights. They do have the downside of the potential for leading your barrel and the smoke from the lubricant.

Leading is the result of either soft lead, improper lubricant, or excessive velocity. It appears as dark streaks in your bore and destroys accuracy. It is avoided by choosing hard cast bullets from a reputable maker, and trying a small quantity first. Better to clean your barrel once than get stuck with 1,000 bullets that make your favorite stuttergun a smoothbore.

The rule of thumb is just that—if your thumbnail cannot easily mark the bullet, it is hard. A reputable caster will use quality lube on the bullet, which may appear as a red, blue, white or black line all the way around the bullet.

Leading can be removed in several ways. I favor two: Brushing the bore with a dry bore brush, or shooting jacketed rounds. The dry brush breaks up the leading, so a patch damp with cleaner gets it all with one or two passes. If you put a multi-purpose chemical, like Break Free or Tri Flow on the brush, it is less effective in removing the lead as these lubricate the brush over the leading.

There are those who object to the idea of shooting jacketed bullets in a leaded barrel to clean out the lead. In truth, if I had a rare subgun, I probably would not do this. But my guns are shooters, and 10 or twenty jacketed bullets clear a lot of lead from the bore. I still clean the guns later, but it is a lot easier.

Any type of muzzle compensator needs extra attention with lead bullets. As they pass down the barrel, a small amount of the lead is melted by the hot powder gases and builds up in the compensator. The jacketed bullets will not clear all of the lead from all of the ports, and some gentle persuasion with a small screwdriver and a hammer may be called for. The Cutts compensator on my Thompson has four slots in the top, each wider than the next. About 100 rounds produce visible leading, and 300 will close the rear port. The careful application of a small knife and light tapping with a hammer on the knife clears all of the ports in minutes. Jacketed or plated rounds will clear all but the first port with one 30-round magazine.

The unavoidable side effect of cast bullets is the smoke of the melting lube. In pistols, the rate of fire and limited number of shots fired from a magazine usually provides ample time for the smoke to dissipate. But on a still, humid day, with even a few bursts at a single target, the smoke from a subgun will be a problem for the full-auto fan. Indoor ranges demonstrate the magnitude of the problem, as even those who meet OHSA standards do not move enough air to clear the smoke. A reduced light stage in an indoor match means after the first burst you cannot see your target—heck, sometimes you cannot see your front sight!

The new kids on the block, so to speak, are the plated bullets. These are cast lead cores, with a plating of copper. They are, in effect, cast bullets with a pure copper lubricant. With properly plated bullets, no lead touches the bore, thus there can be no leading. And as the copper does not melt at the temperatures we reach in full autos, the only smoke is the tiny amount from the burning powder. There is little or no buildup in the bores, and absolutely nothing in the compensators, so cleanup is a snap. A few quick passes with the dry brush, a patch coated with a solvent or lubricant, and on to more enjoyable things.

So why not shoot plated rounds all of the time? For the same reason we got into reloading in the first place—cost. Where I live, in Arizona, 1,000 hard cast 230 grain .45 bullets cost about \$40. The same number of plated bullets cost \$73. I save them for matches or special shoots. Jacketed bullets are \$80 plus shipping, out of my reach for all but special purposes.

In order to give you the best information possible, Bullet Meister Bullets (P.O. Box 63232, Phoenix, Arizona 85082-3232) provided some of their outstand-

ing plated bullets for a firing test. These are the finest in plated bullets, and the only way to tell them from jacketed bullets are the very slight imperfections on the surface, visible only on a very close examination. They weigh out uniformly, a sure sign of quality manufacture. Their "Full Metal Kased" bullets are available in 16 different models, including four weights in 9 mm (115, 122, 124, and 147 for you subsonic lovers) and three types of .45 (200 g SWC, 200 g RN, and 230 g RN). They also provided some of their fine cast bullets for comparison purposes. Having loaded and fired thousands of both types, I know you cannot do better.

I first compared the 230 grain .45 bullets, over 5.1 grains of Winchester 231 powder. The plated rounds averaged 909 rounds per minute, while the lead rounds ran 855 rpm through my AO Thompson. Over the chronograph screens, plated bullets ran 884 fps vs 939 fps for the plain lead rounds.



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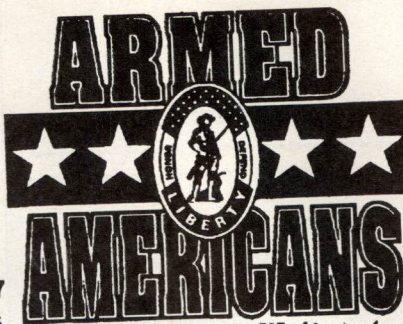
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In 9 mm, I used 3.6 grains of 231, and fired the rounds in my Hard Times Armory MP5. Lead 125 grainers ran 1069 fps, against 1016 feet per second for the plated rounds of the same weight. The velocities may have differed, but the PACT Mark III called 843 rpm vs 853 for the plated and lead rounds respectively.

This means that the lead bullets go marginally faster, but in the blowback gun, the rate of fire is higher with the plated bullets. It appears the harder plated bullets take more energy to engrave the rifling, producing higher pressures (and rate of fire), but lower velocities. When fired at steel targets, the plating stays on the bullet, which spreads the same as a lead-only bullet. You do not get particles of the jacket spinning back at you, the splatter common with jacketed rounds.

I also load the 147g plated bullets for sub-sonic loads through my suppressor. There is no lead to build up inside the can, and they are cheaper than jacketed goods. It does add something to a match when the sound of the bullets hitting steel targets is louder than the sound of the shots.

Only you can decide if the tradeoff of higher price for plated bullets is worth it. Cleanup is a snap, and if you are getting serious about competition, the lack of lube smoke is quite a bonus. But for just plain blasting, or practice, lead bullets may be a better deal. The best bet? Buy some and try them out. You just may switch to plated over lead or jacketed.

Disclaimer: As neither the writer nor the publisher has any control over equipment, components and techniques used in reloading by others, nor over the design and mechanical condition of firearms in which such reloads may be fired, they cannot and do not assume any liability, either expressed or implied, for damages, injuries or deaths caused by, or alleged to have been caused by the use of load data quoted here. Any use of such data is clearly and specifically at the risk and discretion of the reloader using the data and/or of the shooter(s) firing such reloads.

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Procedures for operating and handling.

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There will be background information on each firearm with a disassembly and trouble shooting. Then a question and answer period.

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Time spent will be divided between classroom and live fire.

Ammunition:

Cost of class includes 250 rounds of ammunition. Additional ammunition will be available for purchase.

**For more information on the
"Live Fire Submachine Gun Class,"
scheduled for November 1996,
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20 Years of SOF

The 1995 Soldier of Fortune Convention

Text and photos by Dan Shea

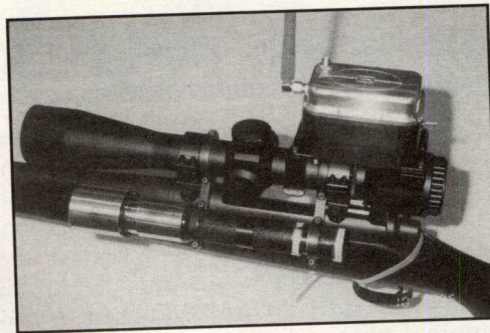
The 16th Annual Soldier of Fortune Convention also marked another interesting anniversary—20 years of SOF magazine. They have weathered some storms, and fought media antagonism, but what else would you expect from the “Journal of Professional Adventurers” as their by-line used to proclaim. I have been a fan of the mag for as long as it’s been in print, and as a result, have been supplied by good intelligence on world activities and new weaponry. It is no wonder that the SOF Convention in Las Vegas is viewed as a Mecca for the weaponry crowd.

You can talk to some of the general public, then turn around and be speaking with an OSS operative from WWII, a soldier on leave from a war zone, or top military training personnel. Current manufacturers of exotic weaponry and tactical goods are out in force. If it’s state of the art, it’s probably on a table at this show.

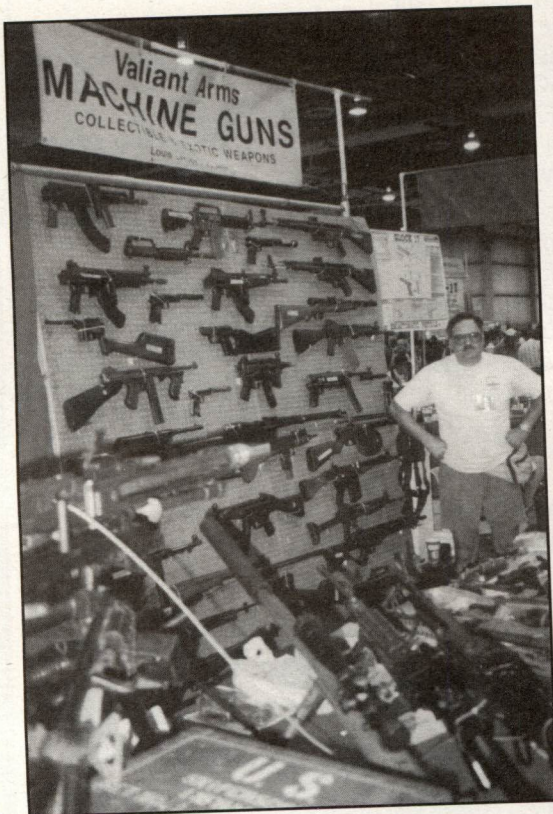
Las Vegas is the perennial site of the convention, and this exciting town offers round-the-clock activities. If you have never been to Vegas, it might be an interesting idea to show up a couple of days early—try the casinos and shows, or travel up into the desert to take in some breathtaking views. When the convention starts, most of your days and evenings will be filled with exciting events.

The five-day convention is broken into five basic parts: the participatory events, the seminars, the gun show, the Awards Banquet, and the “Firepower Demo.”

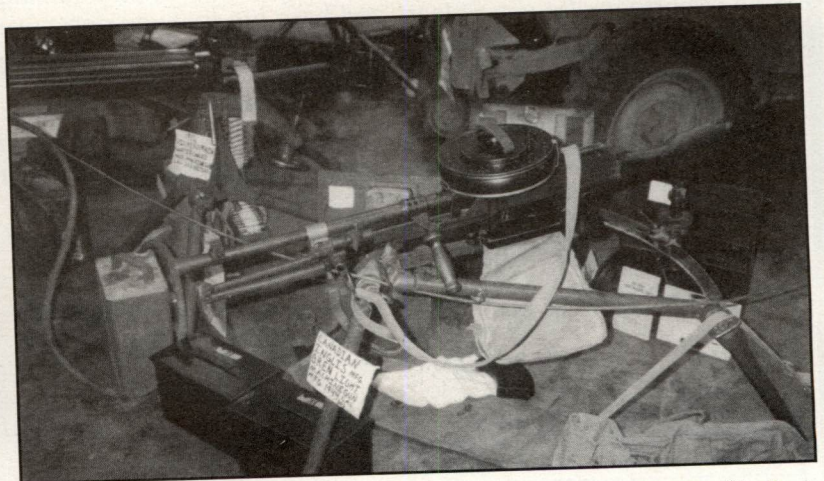
Participatory events are things that you, the conventioneer, can get involved in. Probably the most famous is the “World Championship Three Gun Match” wherein competitors get to show their talent with a pistol, shotgun, and submachine gun. Winners



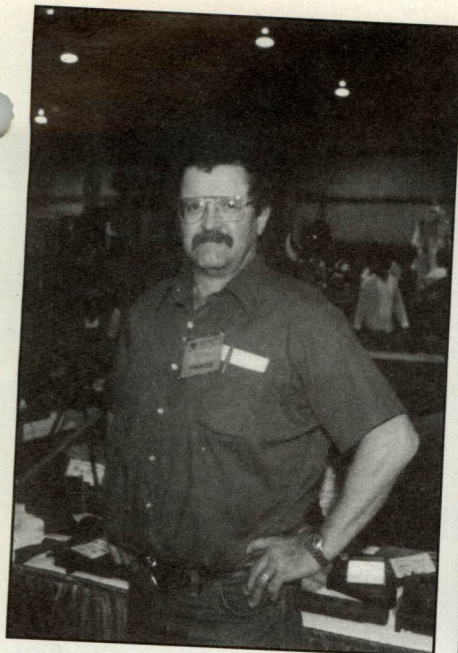
Cast Glance video riflescope. This little unit mounts right to the scope and is sold as a unit. It transmits what is in the rifleman’s center 1/4 screen, allowing the rest of the team to see what he sees. You can also record events as they happen—no more having some back-area lawyer second guess you—but you better not screw up either.... (Cast Glance Optical consultants: A. Neal Stephenson (805) 644-3884.)



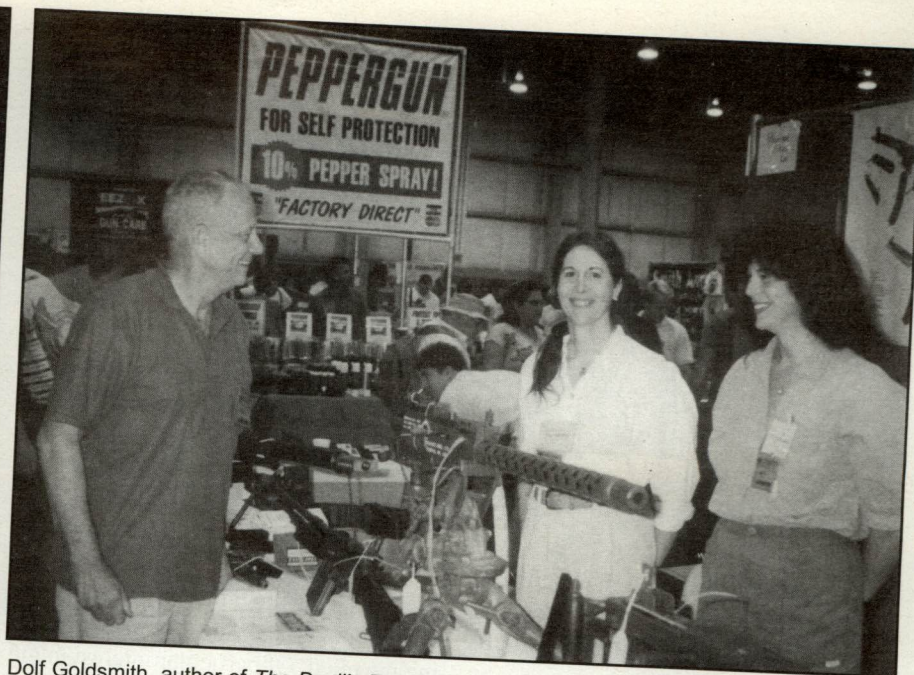
Lou Caruso of Valiant Arms had a definite “Best of” for his submachine gun and assault rifle wall. RKI’s will note the VP-70M machine pistol, as well as two extremely interesting pieces in the upper left of his display.



Canadian Inglis Bren with 100-round drum. This display was excellent, with all primary pieces accessorized.



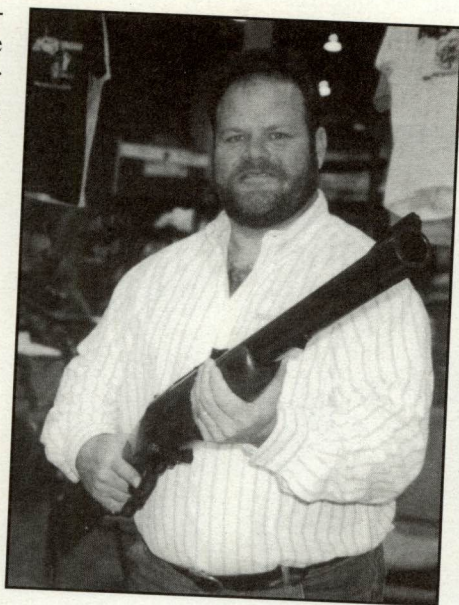
Type 10 manufacturer Kent Lomont strikes a pose for the camera. Kent and his wife Kathy were fairly restrained until it was time to go out to the firing line at the demo....



Dolf Goldsmith, author of *The Devil's Paintbrush* and *The Grand Old Lady of No Man's Land* examines the semi-automatic creations of Valkyrie Arms—Kay Metsker on the left and Valerie Johnson, gunsmith, on the right. Dolf is working on his Browning 1919 series book, and the semi-auto 1919A4 caught his eye.

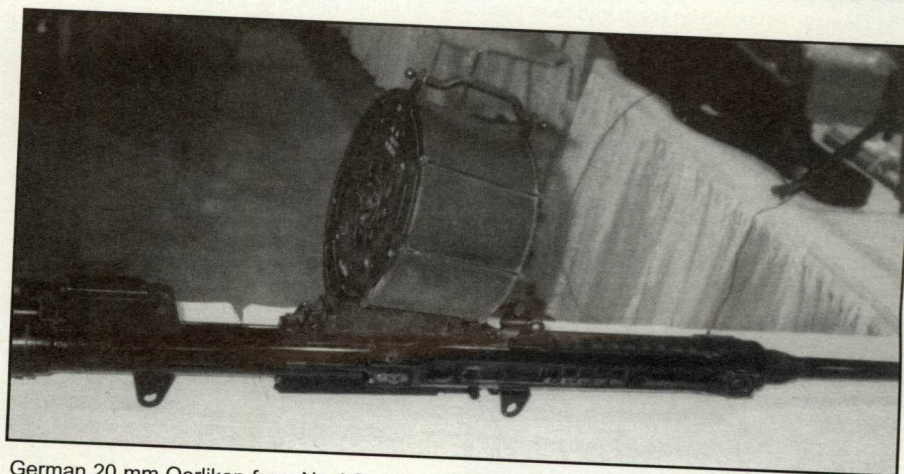
are not always military or law enforcement personnel. If you think you are the best, here's your chance.... The other INFAMOUS event is the Pugil Stick Competition. For nonveterans and the uninitiated, this is where two not necessarily male contestants stand on a plank suspended over a pool and try to knock each other off of the plank using poles that have pads on the ends. You may "pry" your opponent off, or simply beat them senseless until they fall in the water and are dragged, wet and humiliated, into the waiting crowd to be plied with malt beverages until wounded pride is healed. Skill with the pugil sticks is a big plus, but bravado seems to count just as much with the crowd. Your faithful correspondent managed to avoid this humiliation by resisting all goads and catcalls casting aspersions on his sacred honor, and with an air of superior indifference, not entering the contest....

There were several types of seminars: classroom instruction and "hands-on." Of special interest to the reader of *MGN* would be the H&K MP5 submachine gun basics course. This was an indoor nonfiring familiarization course with good solid training hints. Other classes included a "Combat Kukri Clinic," knife fighting and street survival, pistol tactics, NRA Firearms Instructor Certification, and general physical conditioning. James Pate, journalist famed



Left: John Ross, author of *Unintended Consequences* and current Congressional candidate, demonstrates what the business end of a two-bore rifle looks like.

Below: From John Ross's table. Left to right: four-bore cartridge, .50 caliber Browning machine gun cartridge, and the fabled two-bore cartridge.



German 20 mm Oerlikon from Neal Smith's table.

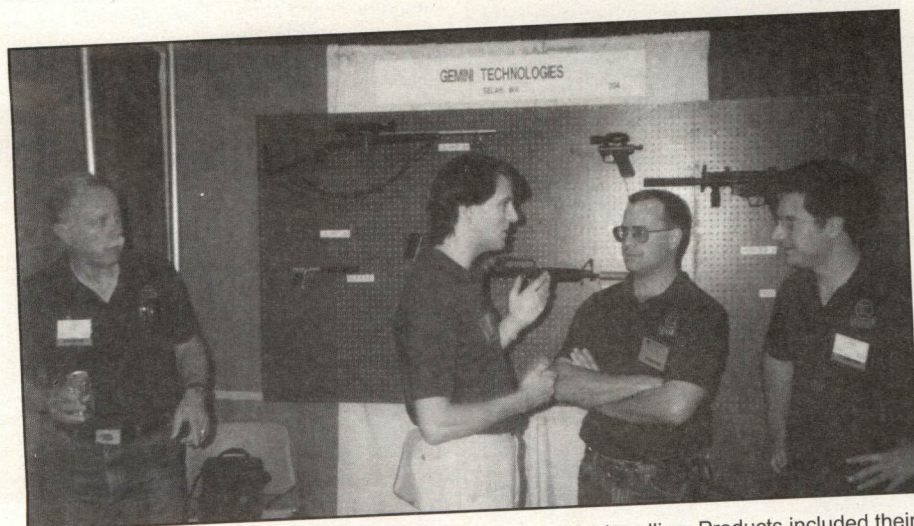


Scott Bennet from CFI at his display. This was the best display of sniper grade and assault weapons at the show.

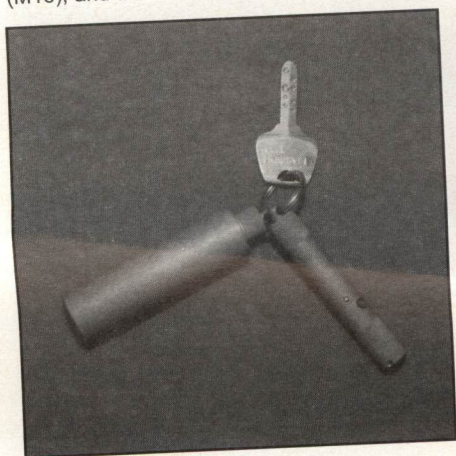
for his work in the Waco massacre and the Ruby Ridge murder, gave a seminar updating participants in the latest intelligence.

The gun show opened to the public on Friday morning, then was open all day Saturday and Sunday. The front of the hall held manufacturer's booths, the center section was a standard gun show format with 8-foot tables and lots of in-

teresting items for sale, and the rear was a wide-open area for static and vehicle displays. Predictably, this conventioneer spent many hours scouring the tables for odd parts, accessories and unusual weaponry. Many bargains were found, negotiated, bartered or outright bought, and the trip appeared fruitful for that reason alone. Many of the larger Class 3 dealers from the West coast area were there, as well as Kent Lomont, and Neal Smith. Parts dealers abounded. At the manufacturers booths, the latest items were being unveiled. Of particular interest to me at this show were the new suppressor offerings from Blaylock Gun Works and Gemini Technologies. Jonathan Ciener had his suppressor display, and his full line of .22 kits there, including one for the 93R machine pistol.



The Gemini Technologies team had their products set up for handling. Products included their full-dress accurized Ruger 22, their new 2-lug press on suppressor base for the M4 carbine (M16), and the MP5 series flash hider—installs with a "push and twist."



Glock 26 with the new "Aurora" suppressor by Gemini. Yes, it works...

Left: Model LDE .22 caliber pen gun with matching 3" long suppressor.

"Firepower Demo"

Soldier of Fortune's Technical Editor, Peter G. Kokalis, emceed the yearly live fire out in the desert. His running commentary and caustic humor seemed to be exactly what the crowd expected. After introducing Maxim Historian and author Dolf Goldsmith as "The World's Oldest Living Machine Gunner shooting some type of unreliable Japanese machine gun," I was prepared for fireworks. They never materialized because Dolf either has such a "good sport" attitude, or he didn't hear the taunt.... plus the fact that it took a while to get that Jap gun working.

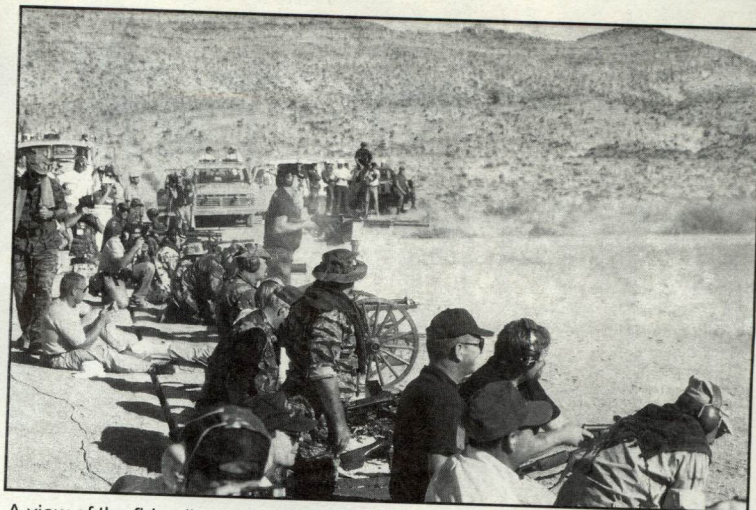
Safety is obviously the focus of the tightly controlled firing line. The core group of shooters is comprised of the "Arizona Emma Gees," a group of machine gun enthusiasts who shoot together frequently. Additional shooters were various dignitaries and assorted gun people who were asked to man various belt feds. SOF has a standing rule that the machine guns must be bipod or tripod mounted. I was sorely tempted to make an adapter for my 93R machine pistol and mount it on an M-3 tripod, but common sense and lack of time caused me to select a 9 mm ZK-383 submachine gun with a three-lug adapter mounting one of Doc Dater's MK-9K suppressors. Since the ZK has an integral bipod, Rangemaster Peter G. allowed the gun. After the manufacturer's demos, the line is layed out for the firepower portion. Peter starts at one end of the line and announces "who" is shooting "what" machine gun, and each machine gunner fires a burst to demonstrate. When that is done, one of the most impressive sights in the United States commences—the entire line opens up in a mad minute of mayhem, firing on exploding gas bomb targets. The blast and flash rolling back over the top of the firing line is intense, and this grand finale is a real crowd pleaser. One note: dress for the heat in the desert. This occurs mid-day and lasts for several hours.

Saturday night "Awards Banquet"

The line quickly stretched around the corner of the lobby, out of my sight—hundreds of Conventioners coming into the Awards Banquet. Next to me was a Vietnam Vet in a wheelchair, and a farmer from Missouri with



Making smoke at SOF's Firepower Demonstration. Photo by Robert Walchli.



A view of the firing line at the SOF Firepower Demo. Note MGN's Technical Editor, Dan Shea, and Class 3 gunsmith Stan Andrews in foreground. Photo by Robert Walchli.

his wife—he turned out to be a WWII veteran and an MGN fan. The long wait in line yielded many fruitful and interesting conversations. I was continually impressed by the quality of the people that were in attendance. The liberal (dare I say fanatical) press was outside trying to get in. One long-haired, bearded young photographer whom I had a passing acquaintance with from covering other events BEGGED me to get him in. Remembering what his opinions were, and who he was going to cover this event for, all I could say was “So sorry—no ticket, no get in—comprendez?” We really don’t need any extra negatives coming out of the inner sanctum of the “community.”

G. Gordon Liddy, the keynote speaker, gave a rousing speech, then walked out front and boldly took questions from the audience. His answers portrayed a much more rational thought process than is represented in the general press Liddy gets. I was not surprised, but I did start rethinking that reporter in the lobby. Perhaps I should have helped him in, so that he would have understood how clear Liddy’s thoughts were, and how honorable his motives appear....(Naw, he would have misquoted and misrepresented everything Liddy said, so let him cool his heels.)

Colonel Luis Mariano Turcios from El Salvador presented medals to the SOF Salvador Team, in recognition of their contributions and efforts in the fight against the communist insurgents in that war-torn country. SOF has a long history of being involved in training exercises there, and the good Colonel, who is the retired commander of the Parachute Battalion, made sure that every-

one in the banquet

hall understood how important that contribution had been.

Overall, this is an experience I try not to miss. The learning opportunities are tremendous, the camaraderie is great, the bargain hunting grounds are pretty damn good. Besides, how many other places are there where you can confess to liking a certain machine gun and hear intelligent discussion about it from other knowledgeable users and enthusiasts, as opposed to the blank stares of those who have only seen a machine gun in the latest Handgun Control disinformation campaign.

The 1996 17th Annual Soldier of Fortune Convention/Expo will be held September 18-22, 1996, at the Sands Convention Center in Las Vegas, Nevada, with the Fighting Firearms Convention and Consumer/Trade Exposition being held on September 20-22. Late breaking news has the Sands Casino and Hotel being torn down as we go to press, so call ahead for hotel space. The Convention Center is a separate building, and the Exposition will still be held there.

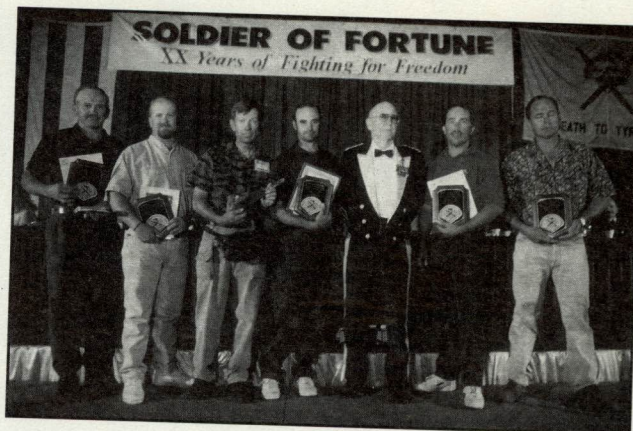
The cost is \$200 to be a convention-er, which includes the banquet and any of the seminars that you choose to attend.

Registration information: SOF '96 Convention Registration, PO Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306. To charge by phone (Visa and MC only), call 1(800) 800-7630, fax (303) 444-5617.

MGN



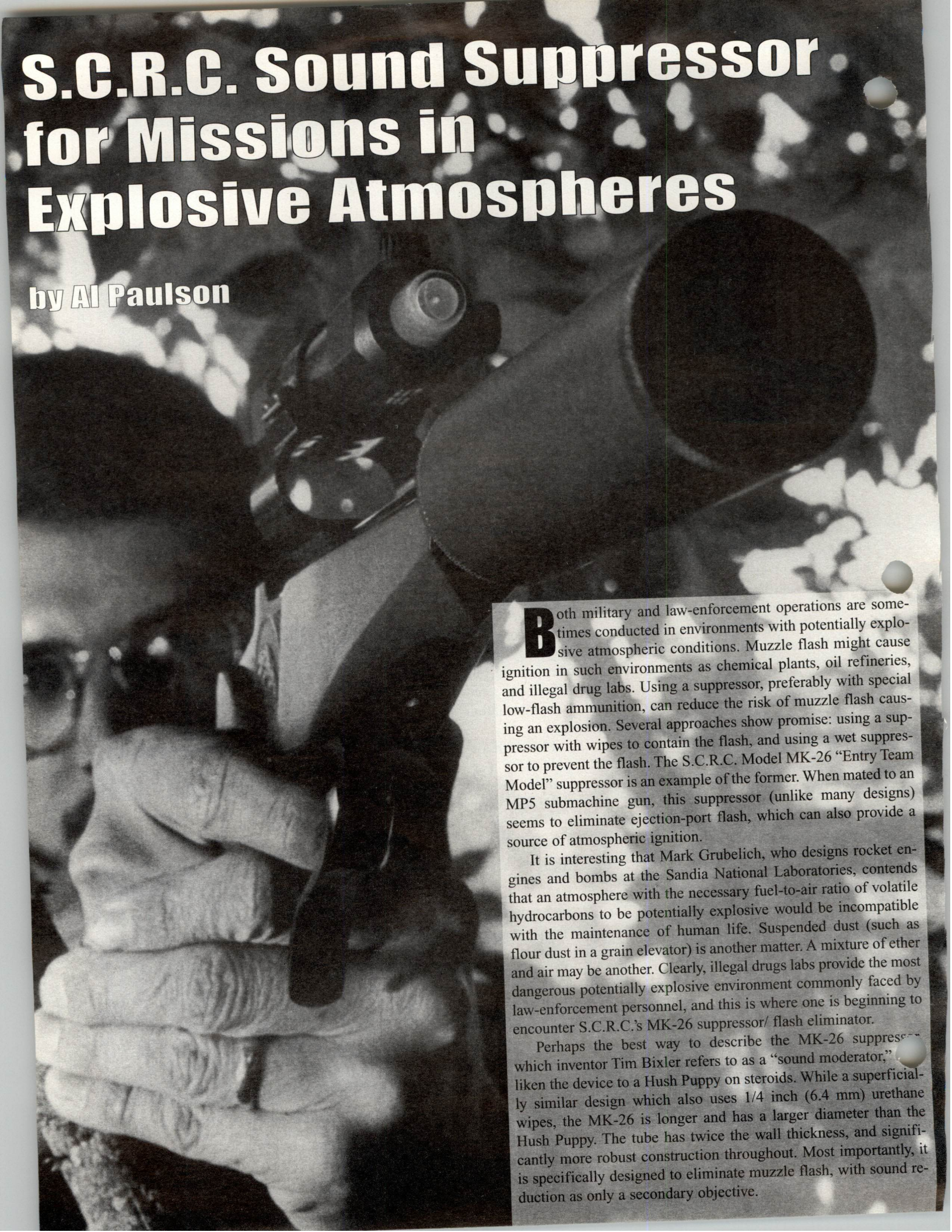
The podium at the Awards Banquet. Note in the center: G. Gordon Liddy, the featured speaker.



The top five overall shooters. From left to right: 2nd place, Jerry Miculek; 3rd place, Jim Wall; Match Director, Michael Horne; 1st place, Jim Clark, Jr.; Editor of SOF, R.K. Brown; 4th place, Bruce Piatt; 5th place, Tim Knutson. Photo by Robert Walchli.

S.C.R.C. Sound Suppressor for Missions in Explosive Atmospheres

by Al Paulson



Both military and law-enforcement operations are sometimes conducted in environments with potentially explosive atmospheric conditions. Muzzle flash might cause ignition in such environments as chemical plants, oil refineries, and illegal drug labs. Using a suppressor, preferably with special low-flash ammunition, can reduce the risk of muzzle flash causing an explosion. Several approaches show promise: using a suppressor with wipes to contain the flash, and using a wet suppressor to prevent the flash. The S.C.R.C. Model MK-26 "Entry Team Model" suppressor is an example of the former. When mated to an MP5 submachine gun, this suppressor (unlike many designs) seems to eliminate ejection-port flash, which can also provide a source of atmospheric ignition.

It is interesting that Mark Grubelich, who designs rocket engines and bombs at the Sandia National Laboratories, contends that an atmosphere with the necessary fuel-to-air ratio of volatile hydrocarbons to be potentially explosive would be incompatible with the maintenance of human life. Suspended dust (such as flour dust in a grain elevator) is another matter. A mixture of ether and air may be another. Clearly, illegal drugs labs provide the most dangerous potentially explosive environment commonly faced by law-enforcement personnel, and this is where one is beginning to encounter S.C.R.C.'s MK-26 suppressor/ flash eliminator.

Perhaps the best way to describe the MK-26 suppressor, which inventor Tim Bixler refers to as a "sound moderator," is to liken the device to a Hush Puppy on steroids. While a superficially similar design which also uses 1/4 inch (6.4 mm) urethane wipes, the MK-26 is longer and has a larger diameter than the Hush Puppy. The tube has twice the wall thickness, and significantly more robust construction throughout. Most importantly, it is specifically designed to eliminate muzzle flash, with sound reduction as only a secondary objective.

The MK-26 suppressor includes the industry standard three-lug, quick-couple mount for the H&K MP5. Since this design uses wipes, it should not be used for full auto fire. The suppressor tube is engraved, "SEMI-AUTO ONLY" in large block letters as a

reminder. It is also important to note that the suppressor must not be used with either hollowpoints or truncated cone FMJ ammunition, since these bullets interact adversely with the wipes.

An interesting aside is that Bixler has always referred to these cans as "moderators" rather than silencers from the very beginning of their development. He even registered them with BATF as moderators, so the Form 3s also referred to these devices as moderators rather than silencers. BATF has recently changed its policy regarding this device, however, so now all official paperwork refers to the MK-26 as a si-

lencer. Nevertheless, Bixler continues to use an "M" prefix to the serial numbers of all devices like the MK-26 which he views as moderators and an "S" prefix on all devices he views as silencers, regardless of BATF's

confidential proprietary sound testing for a number of suppressor manufacturers who don't have their own sound-test

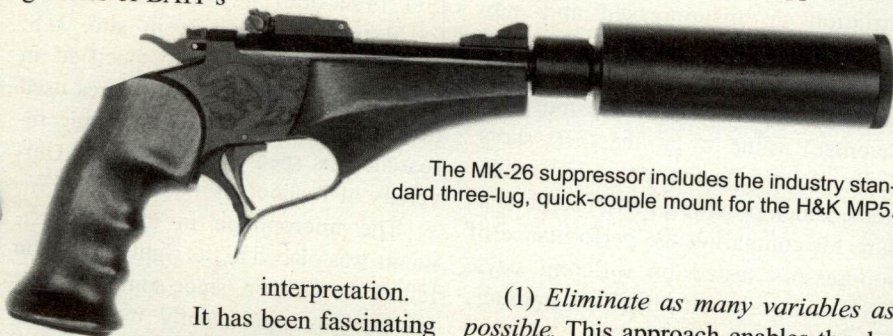
Perhaps the best way to describe the S.C.R.C. MK-26 suppressor is to liken the device to a Hush Puppy on steroids.

equipment. A variety of designs eliminated muzzle flash. But it also proved challenging to simultaneously eliminate ejection port flash as well as reduce the intensity of the muzzle blast far enough below the pain threshold to preserve operator hearing. Some of the designs along the way used wipes. Others did not. Some remarkably subtle ideas added considerably to the design, and a surprising number of promising ideas did not pan out when the suppressor was fitted to an MP5. The most effective suppressor on a locked breech test weapon might produce the most ejection port flash on an MP5, for example.

Table 1. Comparison of dimensions and weight of S.C.R.C. MK-26 suppressor/flash eliminator with AWC HP-9 Hush Puppy suppressor.

Measurement	S.C.R.C. MK-26	AWC HP-9 ^a
Length of tube	5.0 in (12.8 cm)	4.5 in (11.5 cm)
Length over all	6.4 in (16.3 cm)	5.4 in (13.6 cm)
Diameter	1.75 in (4.5 cm)	1.50 in (3.8 cm)
Tube thickness	0.13 in (3.3 mm)	0.065 in (1.7 mm)
Number wipes	three	four
Wipe thickness	0.25 in (6.4 mm)	0.25 in (6.4 mm)
Weight	11.0 ounces (312 grams)	8.0 ounces (230 grams)
Mount	3-lug, quick-couple	9/16x18 TPI

^athe HP-9 is a clone of a Knight's Armament design



The MK-26 suppressor includes the industry standard three-lug, quick-couple mount for the H&K MP5.

interpretation. It has been fascinating to watch the evolution of this product, since I conduct

Clearly, the choice of a test fixture (i.e., firearm) when evaluating the performance of a suppressor is an important part of the performance equation. There are two fundamental approaches.

(1) *Eliminate as many variables as possible.* This approach enables the designer to concentrate on the intrinsic performance of the suppressor design.

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One of the test guns used during the development of the MK-26 suppressor was a Thompson Contender single-shot pistol fitted with an S.C.R.C. three-lug barrel.



Field stripped Thompson Contender showing details of S.C.R.C. three-lug barrel.

In this case, we used a Thompson Contender single-shot pistol fitted with an S.C.R.C. three-lug barrel. Chambered in 9 x 19 mm, the barrel measures 6.75 inches (17.2 cm) long and weighs 15.6 ounces (441 grams) with iron sights. The overall length of the pistol fitted with the S.C.R.C. barrel was 11.2 inches (28.2 cm), while system weight without a suppressor was 40.8 ounces (1.16 kg). Trigger pull on the test weapon was 52 ounces (1.47 kg). This system provided the purest test of the MK-26's ability to eliminate muzzle flash, since its locked breech forces all of the combustion gases through the suppressor, rather than allowing some to escape through the ejection port. Using this pistol also eliminates any variability in the sound data due to noise from the ejection port or placement of the microphone to the right or left of the ejection port.

I should note that Tim Bixler had a very small number of 9 x 19 mm match barrels for the Thompson Contender available for sale at the time of this writing. The factory had not made 9 x 19 mm barrels for some time. Several of Bixler's barrels featured threading for a suppressor. Several featured the H&K compatible three-lug design. These barrels were a lot of trouble to make. So when these are gone, Bixler has no intention of making any more. The barrels may seem a bit spendy, but they are actually priced quite fairly considering the amount of labor that went into them.

(2) *Measure actual system performance.* What happens on a test jig may be quite different from what happens on another type of firearm. Variables such

as operating mechanism, chamber dimensions, rifling design, barrel length and other factors will all influence what happens. Since the original agency request that stimulated the design of the MK-26 suppressor stipulated that the moderator/flash eliminator was to be used on the H&K MP5 in hazardous atmospheric conditions, it is imperative that the suppressor be evaluated on this specific weapon.

Since the two approaches provide complementary information, both the Thompson Contender pistol with three-lug barrel and the H&K MP5 were used as test weapons throughout the development of the MK-26. The following discussion focuses on data obtained while testing the final design.

Testing Procedures

To facilitate comparing these data with previously published numbers, unsuppressed weapons are always tested on each day of research as a control or benchmark, since temperature and other environmental variables affect the burning characteristics of gunpowder. These variables can cause some day-to-day variation in unsuppressed and suppressed sound signatures. The data of suppressed and unsuppressed sound signatures in Table 2 represent the mean (average) value of at least 10 shots. Table 3 provides the net sound reductions, which provide a more useful measure for comparing the performance of suppressors tested on different days. G&L 147 grain subsonic FMJ ammunition was used for the testing.

Sound signatures were measured using a Brüel and Kjaer Type 2209 Im-

pulse Precision Sound Pressure Meter (set on A weighting and peak hold) with a B&K Type 4136 1/4-inch condenser microphone, which is a pressure-type microphone. This is one of the few sound meters that has a fast enough rise time to accurately record very brief sound impulses such as gunshots. The microphone was placed 1.00 meter away from the front of the suppressor or muzzle, at a 90 degree angle from the bullet flight path. The pressure microphone was pointed straight up toward the sky so that the plane of the diaphragm intersected the suppressor or muzzle. (A free field microphone such as the B&K 4135 is oriented 0 degrees to the sound source, so it points directly at the suppressor or muzzle. A random incidence microphone such as the Larson-Davis 2530-1133 is oriented 80 degrees to the sound source.) The meter was calibrated just before and just after the tests with a B&K 4230 calibrator. No instrument drift was observed.

These procedures, including the use of A weighting, generally follow NATO testing procedures specified in Document AC/243(Panel 8/RSG.6)D/9, the ISO 1994 draft international standard for testing of silencers in situ, U.S. Army testing procedures specified in MIL-STD-1474C, and procedures used by the Finnish army and academic researchers as specified by Tampere University of Technology Publication 117.

The microphone in these experiments was placed to the right rather than left of the weapon, since some suppressor designs significantly increase the back pressure of combustion gases, with the result that the ejection port noise can

exceed the muzzle signature. Extensive testing suggests that unsuppressed sound signatures and the suppressed signatures of manually operated weapons remain unaffected by right- or left-hand mike placement, while the signatures of suppressed self-loading weapons (other than top-ejecting or bottom-ejecting models) will commonly run 0.5 to 2 decibels louder with right-hand mike placement. A few suppressor designs will, however, produce signatures that are up to 7 decibels louder. Therefore, right-hand microphone orientation provides a *worst-case* measure or *net system performance*, while left-hand mike orientation provides a *best-case* measure of suppressor performance. Whether a suppressor is used for tactical requirements, to reduce the risk of hearing damage during training, or for sporting purposes, right-hand mike placement provides a more conservative measure of suppressor performance.

Performance

The MK-26 suppressor produced a sound signature of 130 decibels when mounted on the MP5. Tim Bixler may have originally dubbed the MK-26 a sound moderator rather than a silencer, but this level of performance actually beats many silencers in the marketplace.

It is interesting that the MK-26 delivers 5 dB better performance (in terms of net sound reduction) on a locked breech weapon—the Thompson Contender pistol. This suggests that ejection port noise on an MP5 is a significant component of the overall sound signature when the weapon is fitted with a MK-26 suppressor. This phenomenon also demonstrates quite dramatically that a lot of combustion gas is being vented out of the ejection port because of the wipes in this suppressor. Unless low-flash ammunition is used with this system, these hot gases have the potential for igniting an explosive atmosphere.

The fact that the MK-26 suppressor provides 5 dB better net sound reduction with a closed breech weapon should not be surprising, since it is a well-known phenomenon that suppressors using wipes generate considerably more back pressure than wipeless designs. In spite of that increased back pressure, repeated test firing at night demonstrated no flash

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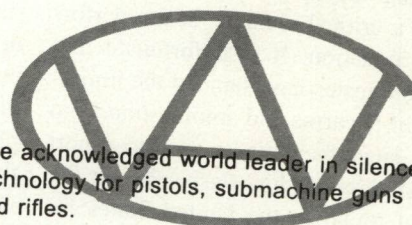
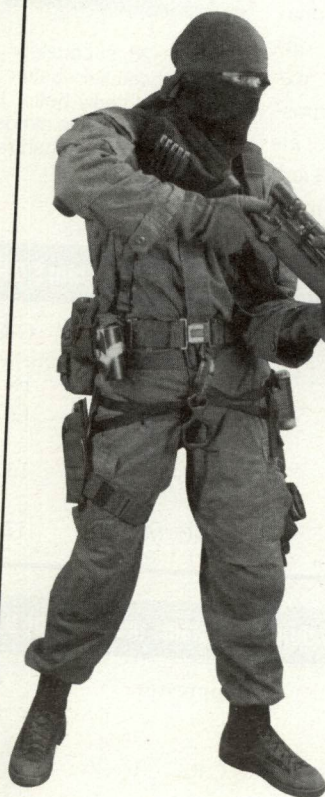
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when using G&L 147 grain subsonic ammunition. Some ejection port flash did appear when using Winchester 147 grain subsonic fodder, however.

Since the Winchester FMJ features a blunt (truncated cone) bullet, it also rapidly chews up the wipes. Furthermore, Winchester subsonic ammo is transonic in the MP5, so a ballistic crack (sonic boom) can be experienced under common atmospheric conditions. Taken together, this represents a triple whammy; Winchester subsonic FMJ ammunition should not be used with the MK-26 suppressor.

Conclusions

When used with proper ammunition, the S.C.R.C. MK-26 suppressor appears to eliminate both muzzle flash and ejection-port flash from the H&K MP5. Furthermore, the MK-26 reduces the weapon's sound signature far below the pain threshold and far below the level necessary to preserve operator hearing, even when shooting in a confined space. Depending on such variables as ambient (environmental) noise and observer alertness, the MK-26 may also be quiet enough to hide the fact that a shot has been fired.

Using the optimum FMJ ammunition is a critical element in the performance equation. It is unfortunate that the Clintonistas have banned the importation of firearms and ammunition from China, since the Chinese used to export a very interesting low-flash subsonic 9 x 19 mm round to the United States for law-enforcement sales. I'm not aware of a low-flash subsonic round suitable for the MP5 which is readily available in the U.S. marketplace at this time. Here's another example of how mindless, feel-good legislation not only fails to lower crime but also undermines the ability of the law-enforcement and military communities to perform their missions as safely and effectively as possible.

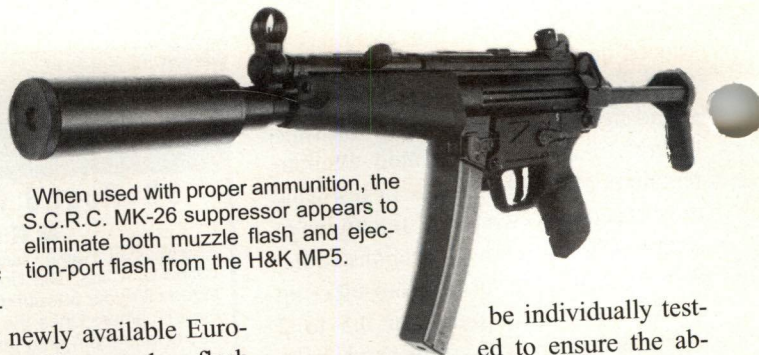
Nevertheless, careful selection of commercially produced ammunition based upon test firing at night should provide the opera-

tor with a significantly reduced risk of ignition when operating in a potentially explosive atmosphere with the MK-26 suppressor.

Some of the newly available European powders may offer some low-flash alternatives if adapted to custom-loaded fodder. But there is no low-flash powder with anti-flash additives in the U.S. marketplace as far as I know.

A safer route is to use the MK-26 suppressor with a manually operated, locked-breech weapon so that ejection-port flash is no longer a potential issue. A pump-operated carbine such as the Action Arms Timber Wolf firing heavy .38 Special FMJ rounds might have possibilities as a suitable closed-breech entry weapon when fitted with the MK-26 suppressor.

There are several additional options in the world marketplace. Arms Tech Inc. (of Phoenix, Arizona) manufactures a matched artificial-environment (i.e., wet) suppressor and low-flash ammunition specifically designed to minimize the risk of detonation when operating in explosive atmospheres, although each weapon must



When used with proper ammunition, the S.C.R.C. MK-26 suppressor appears to eliminate both muzzle flash and ejection-port flash from the H&K MP5.

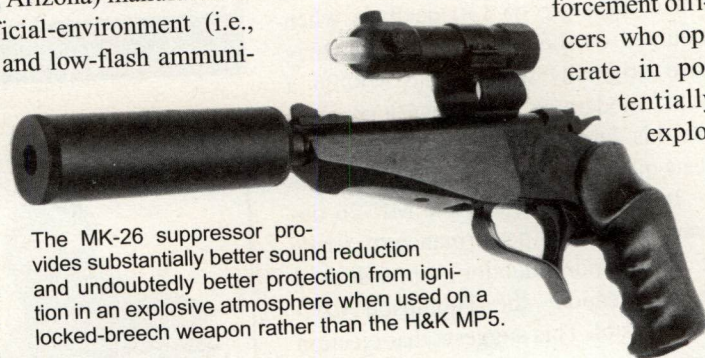
be individually tested to ensure the absence of ejection-port

flash even with this system. The Russians use captive-piston ammunition, which contains the by-products of ignition within the cartridge case, in special silenced weapons that provide the safest solution to this operational requirement.

Arms Tech has also developed a captive-piston round for use in potentially explosive atmospheres. Called the 6 mm Hazmat, this round and weapons for it are available for sale to government clients only within the United States.

That said, the technology which is most likely to be encountered in the hands of American law-en-

forcement officers who operate in potentially explosive



The MK-26 suppressor provides substantially better sound reduction and undoubtedly better protection from ignition in an explosive atmosphere when used on a locked-breech weapon rather than the H&K MP5.

Table 2. Sound signatures in decibels of 9 mm S.C.R.C. MK-26 suppressor/flash eliminator.

Gun	Suppressor	G&L 147 gr FMJ	Temperature, °F (°C)
H&K MP5	None	156	96(36)
H&K MP5	S.C.R.C. MK-26	130	96(36)
Thompson Contender (S.C.R.C. 3-lug barrel)	None	157	96(36)
Thompson Contender (S.C.R.C. 3-lug barrel)	S.C.R.C. MK-26	126	96(36)

Table 3. Net sound reductions in decibels produced by 9 mm S.C.R.C. MK-26 suppressor/flash eliminator.

Gun	Suppressor	G&L 147 gr subsonic FMJ	Temperature, °F (°C)
H&K MP5	S.C.R.C. MK-26	26	96(36)
Thompson Contender (S.C.R.C. 3-lug barrel)	S.C.R.C. MK-26	31	96(36)

sive atmospheres seems to be the S.C.R.C. MK-26 suppressor.

Part of the logic is that conventional ammunition with a heavy bullet may deliver better terminal ballistics than a captive-piston round because of better projectile velocity and a larger permanent wound cavity. Part of the decision comes from the considerable cost and red tape involved with captive-piston ammunition in the United States, where each individual captive-piston round is considered a silencer, and is therefore subject to the same bureaucratic controls as any Title 2 device. Operating in potentially explosive atmospheres with any technology entails nightmarish variables and imponderables related to potential ignition sources (including weapons in the hands of one's opponents), so I can't imagine that the manufacturer of any technology would actually guarantee that their product will prevent an explosion during a tactical operation.

Particularly since the MK-26 is not employed with captive-piston ammunition, operators themselves must participate in the evaluation process prior to undertaking a mission in a potentially explosive atmosphere. In every case, operators must conduct their own testing to satisfy themselves that they have assembled a combination of weapon, ammunition and suppressor that eliminates both muzzle and ejection port flash. Testing of each individual weapon system assembled for such missions is imperative.

A number of professional operators in the States have concluded that the MK-26 improves their odds for survival when they go in harm's way. S.C.R.C. restricts the sale of the MK-26 suppressor to government clients in the United States.

Since the S.C.R.C. MK-26 suppressor is a tactical tool for the armed professional, it seems appropriate to conclude with some very sound tactical advice from Clint Smith, the director and head trainer at Thunder Ranch. "Don't forget," he admonishes, "incoming fire has the right of way."

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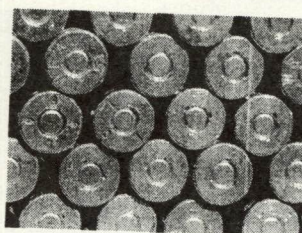
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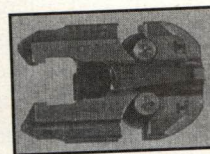
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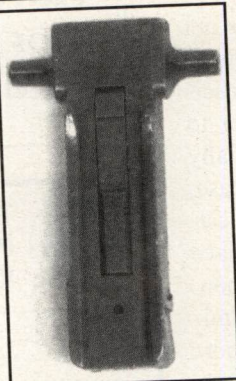


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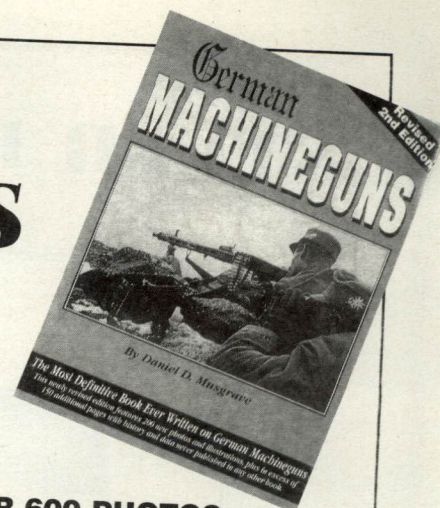
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This book covers the introduction and development of machineguns in Germany from 1899 to the rearmament period after World War II. A distinct effort has been made to explain the historical continuity of the various weapons produced by government and commercial facilities. Some data is provided on accessories. In addition to a certain amount of technical description of each model, interesting background information is given on companies and individuals who were involved in the machinegun program. The text can be understood by anyone with a basic knowledge of automatic firearms.

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From top: SSG-P11, with 26-inch barrel; SSG-P11 K, with 20-inch barrel; SSG-P1V, with 16-inch barrel and muzzle shroud.

All three of these rifles have a heavy 1 3/8-inch-diameter receiver, a six-lug, rear-locking bolt, a detachable, fire-shot rotary magazine, an extremely rigid synthetic stock, and a heavy, hammer-forged barrel, which is chambered in the 7.62 x 51 mm NATO (.308) round. By and large, they are identical in most respects, except for barrel length and dedication. Similar as they are, however, each has its own personality and function.

In May of 1996, I called Ken Johnson, of GSI. GSI currently imports and handles products from Steyr, Hensoldt Wetzler, Mauser, Merkel and Bock. Ken is primarily responsible for handling law enforcement demonstrations and sales. I arranged for Ken to bring a pick-up load of cased goodies to our private 400-yard testing range.

This particular article will deal only with Steyr's P series of rifles. The letter P stands for police. In the Austrian/Germanic language, SSG stands for Steyr Scharfschützen Gewehr, apparently in reference to Hiram Berdan's Civil War snipers, called Sharpshooters because they were outfitted with rifles made by Christian Sharps. Scharfschützen means Sharpshooter. Gewehr means rifle. These three rifles are all essentially heavy-duty military/police sniper rifles with hammer-forged barrels. At last

count, there were fifty-eight countries using the SSG-P series of rifles, in either the military or enforcement sectors. I am told that Austria has upwards of eight thousand snipers in its military service, and that all of them use the SSG rifle.

As an evaluator of sniper rifles, I am interested primarily in two things.

1. What is the power level of the rifle and caliber in question?
2. If said rifle is pulled from its rack in a department armory and brought to a scene, will it deliver its first shot precisely to the point of impact?

Groups are only an indication of accuracy. A hole in the precise center of the mark on the first try is an indication of RELIABILITY. Some rifles shoot wonderfully tight groups when they get warmed up, and while that's very nice, it isn't what spells the difference between life and death for a hostage. The very

first shot is the all-important one. A rifle may sit in its rack for weeks or even years. When it is called upon to deliver its single shot, things had better be right. Weekly practice is helpful in this, but the real keys are uniform ammunition, equipment which is tight and stable, and a cleaning regimen that leaves the bore in the perfect condition for that all-important first shot. For my money that means a mildly dirty, unoiled bore, but others have worked out different cleaning procedures which have worked for them.

The first thing I do in the evaluation of a rifle is to carefully fire a single shot at a small target. If it is a military sniper rifle, that target will be from 400 to 800 yards away. While our private range leaves the last stand 400 yards away from the bench, we can move to the rear and get well over 1,000 yards, if need

Precision Shooting by Mark White

be. If the rifle in question is for law enforcement use, we'll come into about 100 yards for that single shot. If a demonstrator is bringing his rifle, I'll have him squeeze the trigger, unless he would prefer that someone else perform that task. The PII delivered its first shot within 3/4" of the exact center of the mark at 100 yards. The PII K was right on the mark with its first round. The PIV delivered its first shot, without a suppressor, within 2 inches of the mark. Since this rifle was specifically set up to take a suppressor, we subsequently mounted Tim Bixler's SCRC MK4 suppressor to the rifle. This put the impact where it should have been and tightened up groups considerably.

The very next thing I'll do is chronograph a few shots to get an idea of what the velocity is. While some police departments allow a variety of calibers and loadings, most have standardized on the .308. Most law enforcement and military agencies use the Sierra 168 grain Match King bullet. The most respected is that particular bullet in the Federal Gold Medal Match loading. In years to come we may eventually see a slight increase in bullet weight, with a more streamlined nose. As more and more organizations discover the benefits of molycoated bullets, we may see that become standardized as well. Molycoating allows a slight increase in velocity, but its biggest benefits are consistency and a reduction in metal fouling. This allows quite a number of shots to be fired without a need for cleaning a rifle's bore.

In the MGN article related to the history of sniping in America, I mentioned that few rifles routinely produce velocities exceeding 3,000 feet per second ('/sec). Velocities for the 7.62 x 51 mm NATO (.308) round are variously listed as 2,822 '/sec in Austria, 2,790 '/sec in Belgium, 2,550 to 2,625 '/sec in Germany, 2,560 '/sec in Israel, 2,460 '/sec in Switzerland, 2,750 '/sec in the UK, and from 2,550 to 2,805 '/sec in the U.S. We used only the Federal Gold Medal Match loading in our testing, which again uses the 168 grain Match King bullet. The ambient air temperature was about 80 degrees fahrenheit. My chronograph read 2,738 '/sec out of the PII with its 26-inch barrel. When the PII

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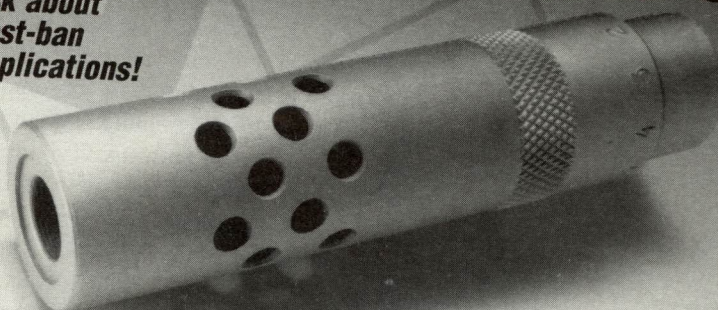
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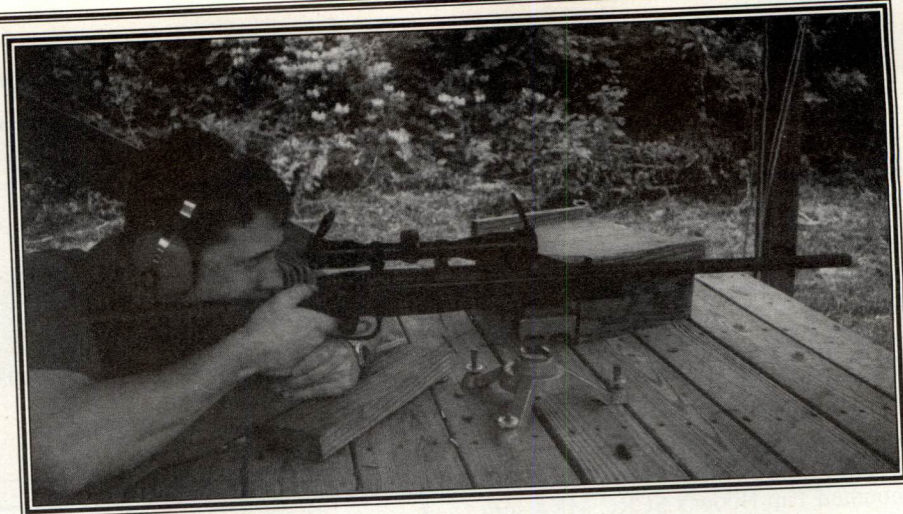
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K with its 20-inch barrel was tested, we found that we had lost only 85 'sec, with a velocity of 2,653 'sec, 10 feet from the muzzle. With regard to the PII K, the K stands for kurtz or short in German. The word kurtz is obviously the root for words like cut, curt, curtailed, curtsy, cursory, etc.

I found the PII K, with its shorter barrel, a much handier weapon. I have found that moderately short barrels are typically more accurate than longer barrels. The efficient .308 cartridge quickly runs out of gas near 20 inches, so the shorter barrel length is not a liability. I was not surprised when Ken later mentioned that the PII K was his favorite of the three rifles. Ken later fired three rapid shots through the PII K at a 1 1/4 inch square placed at 300 yards. The first two rounds went into the same hole, while the third struck 1/2 inch higher, opening the group to 7/8 inch. This particular rifle is fitted with a Hensoldt 10 x 42 scope with a 500 meter ZF500 ballistic insert in the elevation turret. Ken simply turned the knob in the BDC (bullet drop compensator) to 3 and put his first two rounds into that 1 1/4 inch square. It should be mentioned that Hensoldt also makes a ZF800 BDC insert, allowing accurate ranging up to 800 meters. The difference between yards and meters is a non-issue up to about 200 yards, after which it becomes a matter of serious consideration. As our military attempts to comply with the rest of our NATO forces, we will be using meters more than yards. This is not a passing thing, as our federal and state highways are also going over to meters. Many crime and vehicle accident scenes are now being drawn out in meters. Some snipers are unhappy with meters, but that measure will eventually dominate the science. I believe that Hensoldt did the right thing by calibrating their BDC in meters.

Next, we fired the SSG-PIV Urban Sniper, which has a barrel a touch over 16 inches in length. While the barrel is only 16-inches long, its muzzle is covered with a threaded shroud which acts as a flash suppressor, making the total package both longer and heavier than the PII K. The PIV is a special purpose weapon. The muzzle shroud/flash sup-



Ken Johnson with PII on bench.

pressor can be removed, and a suppressor may be installed in its place. More on this later. The PIV discharged its projectile at 2,512 'sec, for a significant 226 'sec loss in velocity. I can easily live with the 85 'sec loss that the PII K produces with its 20-inch barrel, especially with its inclination towards extreme accuracy. I have a harder time swallowing the 226 'sec loss that the 16-inch barrel on the PIV produces. The PIV's primary advantage is that its barrel is set up to take a suppressor. I have in the past cut 26 inch, .308 barrels to 20 inches prior to mounting a suppressor, and I feel that this, or a 21-inch barrel, is a reasonable compromise. I will not normally cut a barrel down to 16 inches unless it is to be used primarily with subsonic ammunition. While the other barrels are rifled with a turn in 12 inches, the PIV is rifled with a 1-in-10-inch twist. The faster twist is desirable to provide greater stability to subsonic (below about 1,050 'sec) bullets, when they are used in conjunction with a suppressor. Some manufacturers rifle barrels with a 1-in-8-inch twist, in order to stabilize 220 and 240 grain, .30 caliber bullets.

Before we leave the subject of barrels, it should be mentioned that all are rifled by one of three methods. Cut rifling uses a fairly inexpensive machine to cut just a tiny amount of material from the bottom of one groove at a time. It is a labor intensive process. It can take up to three hours to rifle a reamed bore. Cut rifled barrels tend to contain the least amount of residual stress. They also tend to be the most uniform, and the most accurate.

Button rifling machines are moderately expensive and do their work quickly. A reamed bore can be button rifled in less than 10 seconds. The process usually leaves a great deal of stress in the bore. If one turns a section of barrel to a smaller outside diameter (OD), some of that stress will be relieved—making the bore open up in its diameter. Taking 1/8 of an inch off the OD may open up the bore by as much as .0025 inch, depending upon the stress and the diameter. Since barrels are usually turned smaller near the muzzle, this will leave a button rifled bore larger at the worst possible place.

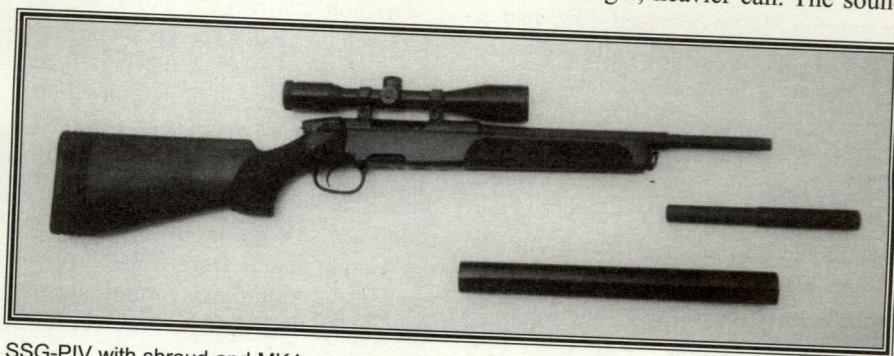
Hammer forging machines typically cost in the neighborhood of one million dollars. They may be programmed to hammer a section of thick wall tubing over a tungsten carbide mandrel with the impression of the rifling in its surface. A ductile tube with a 5/8 inch inside diameter may be hammered over a .308 mandrel, producing a barrel complete with rifling, chamber and exterior profile, in less than three minutes. A tremendous amount of stress is built into such a barrel. A number of professional law enforcement snipers I know tell me that a hammer-forged barrel will often throw its first shot of the day into an area different from the rest of the group. They have not theorized why this may be so; they have simply mentioned it as something that turns up all too often. Barrels which are button rifled or hammer forged will display their greatest accuracy when the muzzle area is from 1/8 to 1/4 inch LARGER in outside diameter than the rest of the barrel.

While it is very poor practice to generalize from just three individual examples, I noticed that the PII, with its 26-inch barrel, appeared to have a slightly smaller muzzle diameter than the PII K, with the 20-inch barrel. From what I saw and experienced, the PII would typically group an inch at 100 yards. The PII K will reliably group 1/4" to 3/8" at that same range. The PIV had its muzzle turned to 5/8 inch. I fired several shots with it, and feel that it will group from 2 to 3 inches at 100 yards, without its MK 4 suppressor. With the suppressor I easily put 3 shots into less than an inch at 100 yards. Plinking with the suppressed PIV, Ken and I were able to hit head-sized rocks at 360 yards from a standing rest. We shot without ear protection and were quite comfortable doing so using Federal Match loads. Because this suppressor captures most of the propellant gas, recoil and muzzle rise are considerably reduced. The MK 4 suppressor adds considerably to the utility and accuracy of this rifle. I probably would not order this rifle without ordering the suppressor to go with it.

With individual load adjustment, it is possible to enhance accuracy by tailoring the cartridge to the individual vibrations of each barrel. Unfortunately, those who must shoot only the standard Federal Match load must work in the other direction and tailor their barrel and its vibrations to the cartridge. If what I saw with the three rifles is any indication of a trend, I would put my money on the PII K, with its 20-inch barrel, as the best of the three rifles. Not only was it accurate in shooting groups, it fired the closest to the mark on its first shots of the day at 100 yards, in two separate sessions. It may be an individual varia-

tion, but I suspect that the accuracy has more to do with barrel vibration and Federal's Match load.

Where the PIV shines is when it is fitted with a suppressor. I have shot and witnessed literally hundreds of suppressed rifles being fired. The PIV was mated with a very heavy 1 5/8 by 15 1/2 inch suppressor made by Tim Bixler of SCRC. When I spoke with Tim about the can, he mentioned that it was originally designed by Phil Dater, of GEMTECH. I have fired .308 rounds through GEMTECH's can, and while it was effective, it wasn't as quiet as SCRC's longer, heavier can. The sound



SSG-PIV with shroud and MK4 suppressor.



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of the muzzle report was primarily a hissing noise, as the gas was slowly released. The sound of the bullet was like a bedsheet tearing. This rifle, with this can, was the quietest .308 I have ever fired.

One of my requirements for a police sniper rifle is that I be able to see each shot strike through the scope. Since none of the P series rifles was equipped with a muzzle stabilizer, this was not possible. With great effort, I could manage to hold the firearm down and strive to remain on target with the scope. Try as I did, the action of recoil was too strong to allow me to see any shot strike its target. The suppressed PIV had a much lighter recoil, and it allowed me to see the target being struck much of the time.

If Steyr is looking for suggestions for ways to improve their product, I would recommend that they leave the muzzle end of the 20-inch barrel at its full or larger diameter. Having done that, I would recommend that the enlarged portion of the muzzle incorporate a simple chamber with a stabilizing vent directed towards the 1 o'clock position for a right-handed shooter. The size of the vent would be determined by trial and error, using the standard Federal .308 load. If threads are used for this muzzle stabilizer, I would recommend that they reduce the muzzle diameter as little as possible.

As mentioned previously, the three bolt actions were virtually identical. The bolt has a large, blackened aluminum knob screwed onto a tang, which is the operating handle. A bit of goo (like green Loctite) on the threads of this tang would not be a bad idea, as the knob is easily loosened. The extra leverage afforded by this large knob eased functioning, making an already slick bolt action even easier to operate.

The PIV has its barrel screwed into its action in the customary way. The PI (not discussed in this article), PII and the PII K all have their barrels held in by friction. If this sounds less than effective, let me assure you that this time-honored system works quite well. The generously large receiver has a socket some 2 1/4 inches in length. The shank of the barrel is several thousandths larg-

er in diameter than the hole in the receiver. The receiver is heated, enlarging the hole in the socket somewhat. When all is ready, the barrel is quickly forced into the socket in the receiver. In seconds, the two parts equalize in temperature, leaving the receiver stretched tightly over the barrel. This provides a very secure bond. It will take a hydraulic press and about seven tons of force to remove such a barrel. The axial alignment and resistance to vibration are excellent in such a system. Head spacing can be perfectly set during assembly with this system, easing a problem which can often be difficult.

The bolt has two gas ports, six rear locking lugs, and a recessed bolt face. The rearward force on the bolt, using 55,000 psi as a working pressure on the cartridge, and about a 1/2 inch diameter cartridge head, would be about 11,000 pounds, assuming no friction on the cartridge walls. Both the locking lugs and the friction attachment of the barrel are rated for a strain many times beyond that figure. The massive receiver has a closed front and a rear bridge, lending great rigidity to the scope mounting surface. Dovetail grooves are machined into the receiver. Steyr makes both the mount and the rings that hold the scope in place. The mount is quickly detachable, and I am told that removing and replacing does not affect zero. While I removed and replaced the scope a few times, I did not shoot at a target to verify. The mounting system is very simple, and appears rugged, being made of hardened steel components.

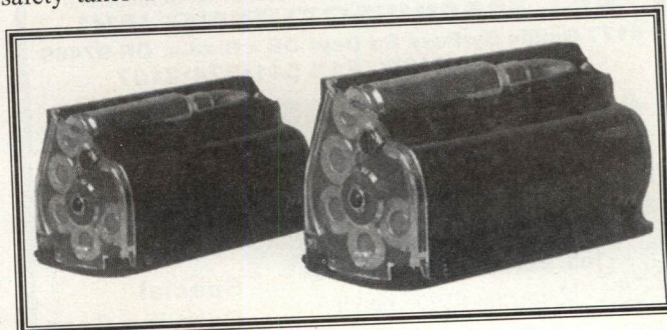
The safety catch is a very large, ribbed affair that is easily felt in the dark. A pin projects from the rear of the bolt. It provides both a visual and tactile indication of whether the striker is cocked or not. The safety takes a fair amount of force to engage, with less force required to disengage. The motion is rearward to engage and forward to disengage, which is fairly universal, logical, and easily understood. The movement is posi-

tive, yet noiseless, which is as it should be.

The famous Steyr rotary magazine is very easy to insert and remove. The magazine holds five rounds and affords protection to each round. Feeding from the magazine was flawless and very smooth. Feeding individual rounds took a conscious effort, as simply throwing one into the port would cause a jam, as the tip of a bullet would strike the flat face of the rear shank of the barrel. The rear of the barrel does not contain a beveled feed cone. The tip of each cartridge had to be inserted partly into the chamber before the bolt could be worked. A magazine insert is available for those who want to hand-feed each round. Feeding is so smooth that I do not feel that accuracy would be harmed by feeding from the magazine.

The triggers of all three guns were military type, two stage, fairly crisp, and appeared to be set to break around 3 pounds. I have found the most accurate trigger to be the two-stage, military type, set for about 2 1/2 pounds. This takes a lot of skill to set up, but the results are exceptional. One takes up almost all of the pressure until the second stage is felt. At that point the aim is readjusted slightly, and the last ounce of pressure is added to send the shot on its way. Steyr triggers are fully adjustable.

Set triggers are available for the P series of rifles. While set triggers may enhance bench rest performance, they are a liability nightmare. No litigation specialist would ever recommend a set trigger for an enforcement rifle unless he was working for the other side. I would not recommend a set trigger on an enforcement rifle. Nor would I recommend one on a military rifle, which may have to function after being immersed in sand or mud.



The 5-round detachable rotary magazine.

SPECIFICATIONS

- SSG-PII** Weight 9.4 lbs., bare and empty; 11 pounds with Hensoldt scope and full magazine. Barrel length 26 inches, 4 groove, 1- in 12-inch RH twist. LOA 44-1/2 inches.
- SSG-PII K** Weight 8.7 lbs., bare and empty; 10.5 pounds with scope and full magazine. Barrel length 20 inches, 4 groove, 1-in-12-inch twist. LOA 38.5 inches.
- SSG-PIV** Weight 8.4 lbs., bare and empty; 9.75 pounds with scope and flash hider; and 13.35 pounds with suppressor. Barrel length 16.2 inches; twist rate 1 in 10 inches. LOA 40-1/4 inches with flash hider; 46 inches with suppressor.

The triggers on these rifles were quite adequate. With a bit of polish and practice one could get used to them, and do good, accurate work. The triggers on my two untuned factory Remington 700s are better, but I believe that a touch of lubricant and some TLC from an expert could result in a superb stock Steyr trigger.

The stock is a very hard, tough, ABS Cicolac, reinforced plastic. It is unusually rigid. I can usually hold the grip area with one hand, and twist the forearm with the other, watching the movement between the free floated barrel and the forearm tip. I noted an unusually small amount of movement when I did that to the P series stocks. Some snipers feel that the Steyr stock is still too flexible, but I personally do not feel that this is so.

The rear of the stock has a number of stacked buttplate spacers, some of which can be removed for an optimal length of pull. The actual buttplate is of a hard, moderately slick rubber. Although I am 6-feet tall, I prefer a stock pull at 12-1/2 inches. This is a bit shorter than most, and is the minimum amount that this stock can be set to. The maximum length of pull is 14 inches. One forgets that web gear, pack straps, and body armor may be used, all of which will increase the stock pull considerably. I found the butt of these stocks too hard, and not grippy enough. My personal preference is for a massively large, soft contact area, as that is the most accurate for me. Many of the shots from these rifles will be directed from prone, a position capable of causing pain to the shooter. Any discomfort caused in shooting will translate into a loss of ultimate accuracy.

The ergonomics and function of the three stocks was adequate, with their weight and rigidity lending an indication of accuracy and reliability. The

front of the forearm contains a 1-inch sling swivel. The left side of the butt contains a groove and a metal bar to hold the rear of a carrying sling. This European system allows one to carry the rifle without having the bolt dig into one's back. Most Americans like wider slings. Padded slings are available with a wide pad in the shoulder area, but narrow ends that will fit these narrow attachment points. I happen to like a two inch wide cotton sling, as the fabric doesn't crawl off one's shoulder like nylon does. In the future Steyr might want to think about using wider attachment points.

Each stock was fitted with a long groove or rail beneath its forearm, to which various accessories could be clamped. A Harris bipod was fitted to one stock. GSI also imports Parker-Hale's bipod, which is extremely rugged, more expensive, and considerably heavier.

The fixed, 10-power Hensoldt scope has a mildot reticle to aid in range estimation. The folks at GSI sent a sample of the Federal .308 ammo to Hensoldt (a subsidiary of Zeiss), and the company programmed the turret inset to work precisely with Federal's ammunition in Steyr's rifle. Ken's first two shots into the 1-1/4 inch box at 300 yards with the PII K, and our later firing session at 360 yards, tell me that the system is fairly accurate and effective. Now that we have an accurate laser rangefinder in Bushnell's \$250, Lytespeed 400, fair accuracy should be feasible at ranges up to 800 meters. Wind may still be a problem, but trajectory at reasonable ranges is greatly simplified. The mildot reticle is an object of considerable worth. It takes weeks to learn how to use one properly, but the results are definitely worth the effort.

The knobs on the turrets are set to zero after the rifle is sighted in. The

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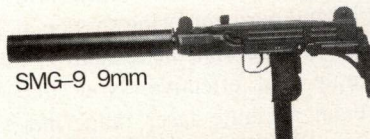
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windage knobs allows adjustment up to 35 inches left and right. The elevation knob will allow movement up to 6 feet, at 100 meters.

The clicks on the knobs were rated for 1/4 inch at 100 yards. They were positive and solid, with enough sound available to let the user know exactly what was happening. A sniper will use his elevation and windage knobs often. A positive movement and a return to absolute zero are very important.

The optics and reticle in the Hensoldt scope are excellent. This is a top dollar scope, and it should be tough, fog free and reliable. The crosshairs are VERY broad, but they transition into thin beaded lines near the center of the field, allowing precise placement at longer distances. It is possible to buy rifle, mount and scope together as a package, or piecemeal.

The finish on the stock is smooth, utilitarian and attractive. The finish on the metalwork is parkerized. This tough, porous surface takes and holds oil very well, while attracting little attention.

In conclusion, I must say that I am favorably impressed with Steyr's P series of rifles. They are well thought out, very well made, tough, high quality weapons. I am most pleased with the PII K, with its 20-inch barrel. It handled very well and showed itself to be a very accurate rifle. The PIV Urban Sniper is a good host weapon for a suppressed system. I think highly of the PIV, but would recommend it only if it was mated to SCRC's MK 4 suppressor. If one is using an unsuppressed rifle, he will be better served with the PII K. It is handier, probably more accurate, and shoots bullets with greater velocity.

Ken Johnson, GSI

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Institutional PERJURY by James H. Jeffries, III

On October 18, 1995, Thomas A. Busey, then chief of the National Firearms Act Branch of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms made a videotaped training presentation to BATF Headquarters personnel during a roll call training session. "Roll call training" is weekly or periodic in-house training for BATF officials — a routine show-and-tell whereby bureaucrats learn about each other's duties and function: Busey's National Firearms Act Branch administers the National Firearms Act of 1934, the taxation and regulatory scheme governing machine guns, silencers, short-barreled rifles and shotguns, destructive devices, etc. In his capacity of NFA Branch Chief, Busey was the official custodian of the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record mandated by 26 U. S. C. § 5841.

Busey's presentation was anything but normal, routine or customary. In describing the NFR&TR, Busey made the startling revelation that officials under his supervision routinely perjure themselves when testifying in court about the accuracy of the NFR&TR.

Every prosecution and forfeiture action brought by the United States and involving an allegedly unregistered NFA firearm requires testimony under oath by a duly-authorized custodian of the NFR&TR. That after a diligent search of the official records of which he /she is custodian, no record of the registration of the firearm in question was found (or was found but showed a different registrant than the person being prosecuted). An alternative method of proving the same facts is by admission into evidence of a certified copy under official Treasury Department seal of a similar written declaration by the custodian. This is a critical element of the government's proof and, according to Busey, occurred 880 times in 1995 alone (presumably Fiscal Year 1995).

Busey began his roll call presentation by acknowledging that "our first and main responsibility is to make accurate entries and to maintain accuracy of the NFR&TR...." Moments later Busey makes the astonishing statement that "when we testify in court, we testify that

the data base is 100 percent accurate. That's what we testify to, and we will always testify to that. As you probably well know, that may not be 100 percent true."

Busey then goes on for several minutes describing the types of errors which creep into the NFR&TR and then repeats his damning admission: "So the information on the 728, 000 weapons that are in the data base has to be 100 percent accurate. Like I told you before, we testify in court and, of course, our certifications testify to that, too, when we're not physically there to testify, that we are 100 percent accurate."

How bad was the error rate in the NFR&TR? Busey again: "When I first came in a year ago, our error rate was between 49 and 50 percent, so you can imagine what the accuracy of the NFR&TR could be, if your error rate's 49 to 50 percent."

Does anyone recall the phrase, "Hey, close enough for government work?"

Consider this matter in its starkest terms: a senior BATF official lecturing other senior officials at BATF national headquarters in Washington, D.C., declares openly and without apparent embarrassment or hesitation that BATF officers testifying under oath in federal (and state) courts have routinely perjured themselves about the accuracy of official government records in order to send gun-owning citizens to prison and/or deprive them of their property. Just who is the criminal in these cases?

All this was too brazen for even some BATF officials to stomach. Acting on tips from several BATF officials (there are honest men and women in government, even in BATF), I promptly filed a Freedom of Information Act demand precisely describing the Busey tape. The first reaction was predictable. After reviewing the incriminating tape, BATF officials discussed whether they could get away with destroying it. Wiser heads prevailed; obviously any outsider who knew of the tape probably would learn of its destruction — and I would have. Or perhaps all the official shredders were on loan to the White House.

After much to and fro with a dismayed Department of Justice, a transcript of the Busey tape was sent to me in February 1996. The Department of Justice was dismayed because the Busey tape was clearly Brady material. Every defense lawyer knows that under the Supreme Court's 1963 decision in *Brady v. Maryland*, 373 U.S. 83, the government is required in all criminal prosecutions to provide the defense, in advance of trial, with any evidence tending to show the defendant's innocence. Failure to do so can result in dismissal of an indictment, reversal of a conviction, or other sanctions. Willful failure to produce Brady material can constitute contempt of court, professional misconduct, or even a crime.

The Busey tape was clearly exculpatory and clearly implicated every National Firearms Act prosecution and forfeiture in living memory. Worse yet, Busey was only the tip of the iceberg. When the fog had cleared, Justice learned that the NFR&TR inaccuracy problem had been the subject of internal BATF discussion since at least 1979. BATF's files were replete with minutes of meetings, statistical studies, memoranda, correspondence, etc., admiring the problem. The only thing missing was any attempt to correct the problem, or to reveal it to anyone outside the agency.

Justice has now commenced the painful chore of advising every NFA defendant in the country of the situation. It did this with a recent mass mailing by United States Attorneys to defense lawyers and defendants of relevant BATF documents, including the Busey transcript.

The direct consequences of this institutional perjury are just now beginning to occur. In Newport News, VA, on May 21, 1996, United States District Judge John A. MacKenzie, after reviewing the Busey transcript, promptly dismissed five counts of an indictment charging John D. LeaSure with possession of machine guns not registered to him. LeaSure, a Class 2 NFA manufacturer, had received BATF transfer approval for the five guns, but then decided to void the transfers and keep the

guns, as he was legally permitted to do. He promptly faxed the voided Form 3s to NFA Branch.

BATF subsequently raided LeaSure and charged him with illegally possessing the five NFA firearms which, according to the NFR&TR, were registered to someone else. The government ignored the fact that on the date LeaSure said he voided the transfers, there was a 21-minute call on his toll records from his fax number to NFA Branch's fax number at a time when he could have had no idea he would one day be prosecuted for continuing to possess the guns. Rather, the prosecution produced NFA Branch firearms specialist Gary Schaible to testify as custodian of the NFR&TR that the government's official records did not show any voided transfers and therefore LeaSure was in illegal possession of the guns.

In essence Schaible was testifying that "we can't find an official record and therefore the defendant is guilty." What we now know is that Schaible should have testified that "We can't find half our records even when we know they're there" and "therefore, we're not sure if

anyone is guilty."

The government's case was not aided when Schaible was forced to admit on cross examination that two NFA branch examiners were recently transferred because they had been caught shredding NFA registration documents in order to avoid having to work on them. Note that they were "transferred," not disciplined, not fired, not prosecuted, not destroyed in place. Transferred. Just who is the criminal in these cases?

It is too early to predict how many new trials, appeals and habeas corpus actions will result from this affair. Also of importance is the number of convicted felons presently suffering legal disabilities from flawed firearms convictions and what effect the Busey disclosures will have on their situation.

The indirect consequences of BATF's conduct will not be so readily apparent but sure potentially devastating. All across the country Assistant United States Attorneys, United States District Judges, and other federal and local law enforcement official are going to learn what most defense lawyers and gun dealers have known for years and

what the aftermath of Waco and Ruby Ridge starkly illustrated: BATF Officers and agents lie, dissemble and cover up on an institutionalized basis. These are not aberrations; they are an institutional ethic, an organizational way of life. Just who is the criminal in these cases?

Lawyers and defendants in NFA cases who have not received the "Busey" package from the United States Attorney should be making prompt demands — both for the package and /or an explanation of why it was not timely produced. I am acting as an informal clearinghouse for these matters. Those lawyers or dealers with questions or problems, or with new information involving the Busey phenomenon, or its continuing aftermath, are invited to contact me at (910) 282-6024.

[The author is a retired U.S. Department of Justice lawyer and a retired colonel in the Marine Corps Reserve practicing firearms law in Greensboro, NC. He is a 1959 graduate of the University of Kentucky and a 1962 graduate of the UK College of Law, where he was Note Editor of the Kentucky Law Journal. He is a life member of the NRA and holds BATF in minimum high regard.]

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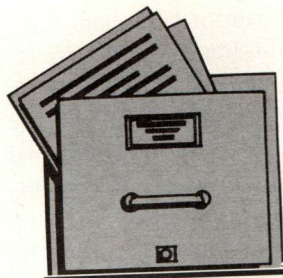
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The Forms

by Dan Shea

If you are new to MGN, you should note that "The Forms" is devoted to answering the reader's questions regarding National Firearms Act regulations, ATF regulations and procedures in general, and an occasional foray into Constitutional arguments. Lately, we have been covering a lot of news, and this month I would like to catch up on some correspondence from the readers. If you have any questions or input on the above subjects, or want to fill us in on the laws in your country, write us at PO Box 459, Lake Hamilton, AR 71951 or fax (501) 525-7519 or E-mail to MGN at MGNews@aol.com.

Questions:

AS A TYPE 01 FFL, FULL-TIME pistolsmith, what is required for me to repair/customize a customer's machine gun? I have heard that with proper approval I may temporarily be in possession of a customer's machine gun, but cannot remove it from my licensed premises. This could make test firing quite an event!

Also, please address the possession questions, pertaining to shipping of machine guns by means of common carrier, such as UPS.

Chuck R.

You can receive machine guns and other NFA firearms in for repair provided that the firearms are legal in your state. Your customer may either bring them physically to your licensed premises and stay there while you do the work (if he is an individual and he crosses state lines, he needs to get a Form 5320.20 approved prior to going), or he can transfer them to you on a Form 5 (for repair). The Form 5 is filed in duplicate with original signatures, front only. No law enforcement certification, transfer tax, fingerprints or photographs are

necessary. In the upper right corner where it asks for the reason, check the "Other" space, and type in "for repair" next to it. You should also include a letter explaining the type of repair involved. There have been abuses of this: people transferring guns for "brokering," or just to let their buddy "have a machine gun." These are pretty serious violations if you get caught, and the firearm should be returned in a timely manner—also by filing a Form 5 with NFA Branch ATF and putting "return from repair" in the "Other" space.

When you have possession of the firearm, properly booked in on your repair book, you can take it out to other places for testing related to the repair. If you are taking it to shows or recreational shoots, you may have a problem.

Shipping machine guns and other Title 2 firearms is done in the same manner as shipping regular firearms. If you are using UPS, make sure that the carrier is aware that you are a licensee, and that you are shipping firearms as a course of affairs. We always insure full value, and make sure that a signature is required. You should not put anything on the outside of the box that a firearm is inside, and have fulfilled your obligation of notifying the carrier if they know you have an FFL and they are notified in writing that firearms are being shipped. You do not need to do this each time you ship. FedEx works well also.

Stay away from the Postal Service. There is a method of doing it, but it is so risky as to be prohibitive...not because of breaking the law, but because of their internal policies causing a major freak-out if the carton opens and exposes a firearm.

AFTER MY FIRST YEAR WITH MGN, I'm happy to renew for

three more. I currently have three NFAs, and I look forward to each issue.

Some questions for your next issue: What is the legality of owning both a semi-auto AR-15 and NFA M16? Can an auto-sear be legally possessed? Can a semi-auto 7.62 AR-15 upper be mated to a .223 M16 lower to fire full-auto legally?

Bob S.

You can own spare parts for your M16, including the auto-sear, BUT NOT A DROP-IN CONVERSION SEAR. Only the original sear can be owned. Make sure that you don't have any of your M16 internals in the AR-15, and it would be smart to keep them with the M16. You can own an original auto sear even if you don't own an M16. It is not considered a conversion unit because of the involved work to install it. The M16 hammer, disconnect, bolt carrier, trigger, and selector may not be owned with a semi-auto AR-15 in your possession, unless they are spare parts for your registered M16. This can get very confusing...keep your spares in a separate place. Read further in this month's column for caliber additions.

IKNOW ORDINARY PEOPLE IN California can't get Title 2 guns but what about the Hollywood crowd? Was there ever a time in California when machine guns were legal for the average person? Was there an amnesty period? When? How does someone in California get Class 3 weapons? besides being in the movie business? Thanks for the great magazine and keep up the great work from the Peoples Republic of California.

Alberto R.

There are registered machine guns in private hands in California, left over from the 1968 Amnesty. The ATF is pre-

cluded by law from informing the California authorities of the location of these firearms. It was an "Amnesty," after all, and the status of these firearms is protected tax information that the Federal government cannot disclose. This does not mean that an individual in California who has the legally registered machine gun is not going to be prosecuted by the State if he is caught—he will be. Movie companies may possess them, as well as the few licensed California Law Enforcement dealers. There is a LOT to owning a machine gun in California.

You either have to change your laws, or move out.

IF A FRAME IS DEFINED AS A skeletal support used as a basis in an object being constructed, I am confused by the following rulings and thought an RKI, like yourself, may be able to shed some light.

1. The BATF has recently ruled that you can "rebuild" a preban magazine by using a replacement magazine body, obtained from the manufacturer. It was suggested that you keep the crushed, or otherwise damaged body to prove the repair. This would suggest that that magazine "frame" is a replacement part.

2. I believe that both firearms manufacturers and the BATF view a Title 1 firearm frame as a replacement part.

3. The BATF has ruled that a Title 2 firearm receiver is NOT a replacement part and a new frame may not be built if the receiver cannot be repaired. This ruling would appear to not follow the logic of 1 and 2, above.

How can a controlled item (1994 Crime Bill), as in the case of number 1, be viewed differently than a controlled item (1934 NFA), as in the case of number 3? In addition, how can a receiver be viewed as a replacement part for Title 1 firearms and not for Title 2 firearms? It would be easy enough to provide evidence that only one Title 2 frame exists, by retaining the crushed or cut up frame.

OK, I give up, how can that be? Seriously, it doesn't make any sense at all. Unless you take legal proceedings and prosecutions into account.... There are people who make fairly bizarre sounding rulings due to the desire to limit the amount of available machine guns through entropy; "If the receiver is

damaged, that can't be replaced" when as you point out, all other pertinent rulings indicate that it should be. As a matter of fact, before 1986 we were allowed to make new receivers to replace a destroyed receiver! It is simply another mechanism to get rid of some machine guns. I believe there was a prosecution of an American citizen for making a new receiver to replace a destroyed one, but I cannot remember the case. (Call out to the RKI's—anyone knows which one, fax me please.) Many times the odd rulings are stubbornly held to so that a conviction is not undermined.

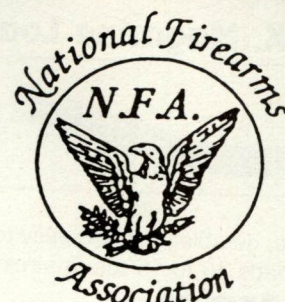
Replacing a destroyed Title 2 registered receiver is the equivalent of replacing a destroyed Title 1 receiver, is the equivalent of replacing a destroyed Large Capacity Feeding Device body.... My opinion matches yours precisely, but unfortunately I don't make the rules.

WELL DAN, NOW YOU'VE GOT me in a real panic.

Your recent "Forms" articles regarding the error gap in ATF record keeping has raised a potential quagmire for me. As a direct heir, my Dad's WWII trophies would pass to me with the completion of the usual paperwork we are all familiar with. The scary part is that we can't find the original amnesty document or any copies. Most family members remember running across the thing in old family paperwork and can describe the handwritten half-page with some degree of accuracy, but the darn thing has flat vanished. The obvious worst-case scenario being that ATF has lost their copy or any record thereof, also.

How do we gently probe this issue without placing ourselves or a rich legacy at risk? Please feel free to pass this on to ATF with the understanding that we are, for the moment, anonymously nervous. Thanks.

It is not my intention to make anyone "nervous." It is my intention to get the ATF to straighten out the National Firearms Act Registry. There is too much danger here to American citizens as long as this Registry is not 100 percent accurate. Your problem is common. I have spoken with NFA about this type of situation numerous times, and they will be happy to do a search of their records for you. Call (202) 927-8330,



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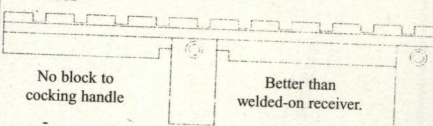
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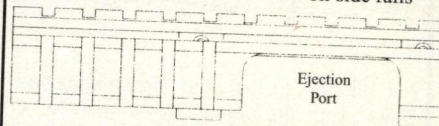
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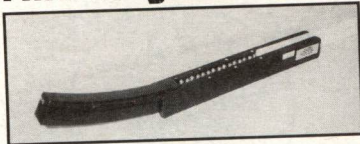
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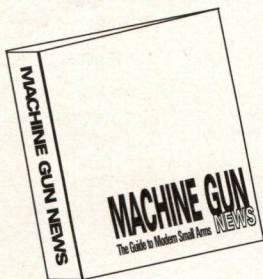
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and ask for a specialist. Now for the warning: if they do not have a record, they are going to expect you to turn in the firearms. I would suggest that you search *VERY* thoroughly for that registration form before you call in. You might want to wait just a little bit and see how the ATF is going to handle the legal ramifications of straightening out the Registry; they are going to have to do something. Whatever that turns out to be remains to be seen. I suspect there will be a letter sent out to all registered Amnesty, Letter, Form 1, Form 4, and Form 5 owners to see what kind of response that elicits. This is just my speculation, but in that case the estate would get a letter. Hopefully the ATF is not going to just let this sit.

RE: ATF RULING 95-3: IF I POSSESS a brass Webley & Scott flare pistol, together with a reducer for 12 gauge "bird bomb" or signaling rounds or even confetti rounds, am I in possession of a destructive device? I can only imagine that BATF (or local law enforcement) would look at the intent of the combination. If the adapter was made of hardwood, plastic, brass or some other material which clearly could not safely contain the pressure of an antipersonnel load, would the material used for the adapter demonstrate my intent not to use the flare pistol with the adapter as an antipersonnel weapon? I do own a shotgun and usually do own at least a few 12 gauge shot/slug rounds.

Is there any consistent logic the BATF applies to determine what can/cannot fire an antipersonnel round? ...assuming, of course, that I have not committed a grave faux pas by using the words "logic" and "BATF" in the same sentence.

Dirk J.

Well, whether you can fire a 12 gauge round from the adapter is going to be the issue, not whether you can *SAFELY* fire it. I would say that if you can chamber the round and touch it off, you are going to be in violation. As to whether you are creating a "smooth-bored pistol" Any Other Weapon, or a Destructive Device with a greater than 1/2" bore diameter in a "nonsporting arm" is going to be one for Technology Branch ATF and the prosecuting attorney.... I wouldn't risk this possession charge.

If I convert my registered AC556 to .30 cal. (7.62 X 39), what sort of bureaucratic snarl(s), if any, am I getting into? My transfer paper indicates .22 caliber. Does BATF require notification for caliber changes?

Assuming I will have to notify the BATF of the change, is it possible to, rather than designate the gun as .30 cal., designate it as "any caliber" or, better yet, have the caliber designation deleted from the registry entirely? I would like to be free to convert the gun back and forth between these two, or possibly other, as yet unforeseen, calibers without all the BATF BS.

If this shapes up to be a doable project, I intend to cannibalize a semi-auto Mini-30 for parts to use with the AC receiver/trigger-group. Will I require any particular blessing from BATF to combine the two...to have parts of the AC laying around together with Mini-30 parts? Will I need to convince them that I am able to accomplish the work without paying large sums of money to gain status with them as a manufacturer? Currently I am just a mechanically inclined transfer tax payer and would like to stay that way.

I also wholeheartedly welcome any of your general comments/criticism on the feasibility of the select-fire "Mini-30" I envision.

Thanks for a GREAT publication, and thanks for responding to your readers who responded to the survey you did a year or two ago. I requested more articles/photos/illustrations pertaining to detailed operation of any/all MGs and got every bit of what I asked for! Thanks again!

D. J.

Glad you like what you are getting from us at MGN, Dirk, we are trying hard. There is a veritable herd of writers combing the four corners of the earth for good articles to bring back to our readers. Regarding your questions here; simply send a copy of your Form 4 with the additional calibers on it, a note in section 4h that you are adding calibers. Include a letter saying that you want the Registry noted for the additional calibers.

You can't have "no" or "all" calibers on a firearm. You could have "not applicable" on a receiver only, or a conversion device such as a registered sear, but a firing weapon requires the

caliber notation. Why not list .22, .30, and whatever other generic calibers you want.

The physical work is not something I am prepared to get into here. If you do not alter the Mini-30 receiver, or make any type of part that could go into the Mini-30 and convert it to full auto, parts are not going to present a legal problem for you. You have registered receiver AC-556. Make sure you are not making "conversion parts." You shouldn't need to.

This caliber conversion is perfectly legal for you to do without any further licensing. See the next letter for more information.

I believe this may be of interest to other shooters. I wrote to you some time ago concerning the necessity and legality of amending ATF forms for caliber conversions. I have two firearms with multiple caliber conversions. One is a registered .223 sear which is not married to one receiver. In addition to the additional upper receivers in different calibers, I also have a .22 conversion kit. I also had John Norrell build a suppressed 9 mm DEA gun in the hope of utilizing this same sear. I also have a MAC-10 in .45 with a 9 mm and a .22 conversion.

According to Washington BATF Supervisor Sylvia Alexander, both firearms had to have the forms amended to be legal with a caliber conversion, even the registered receiver M10.

I submitted the proper paperwork and requested by fax, mail, and phone, multiple times over a two year period, receiving an excuse and a promise to have it taken care of with each communication. Finally, I contacted Lisa at the Indianapolis ATF who rocked enough boats in Washington to get the job done. (At least I received a call from Washington saying it was now in the computer, but no written confirmation yet.)

Special thanks to Lisa, and special warning to all machine gunners who have "other" calibers than that listed on their form.

Dr. Dave

Caliber changes and additions are not the priority at NFA Branch, as far as I can tell. We are told we have to do it, so we do, but your story is typical. I think that sending a certified letter with



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the information on it, return receipt requested, would be sufficient. Keep copies of whatever you send in, and keep that all with your forms. At least YOUR records are demonstratively in order!

I LIVE IN NEW YORK AND I have a relative in another country who is in the police force. He asked if I can get him all the necessary information on legally exporting a full-auto pistol from the United States. Is this possible and can I help him in any way doing this through a licensed dealer?

SCAR10

This is somewhat beyond the scope of a "licensed dealer." Exporting a machine pistol is going to require a "licensed exporter." I really need more specifics on this, such as "what country is it going to," and "what is the make and model of the machine pistol."

Let's take a generic export to a friendly country that allows the police department to import machine pistols. The PD obtains an import permit to their country, providing the appropriate documentation for them to possess it. The licensed exporter (perhaps "registered exporter" is a more precise term) files a Form DSP-5 with the U.S. Department of State, applying to export the machine pistol. The DSP-5 should have the foreign import documentation with it, or it will not be approved. In this case, of an existing machine pistol that is listed on the NFA Registry, a Form 3 should be filed to transfer it out of the Registry—this Form 3 should be accompanied by a copy of the approved DSP-5. When all approvals are obtained, then shipping can be done. Special declarations and multiple copies of all forms should accompany the shipment.

WELL DAN, THIS IS THE LETTER I hoped never to have to write, at least not for a long time. As you and your readers will have seen in the media, we have, in Australia, witnessed another mentally unbalanced person using semi-auto military style rifles, stolen from a man he murdered with a knife, assaulting the small tourist village of Port Arthur. All Australians were, of course, outraged by this sense-

lessness. But yet again, innocent law-abiding registered firearms owners are being judged and found guilty without trial. Guilty by implication it would seem! Less than one week after the tragedy, our Prime Minister (President) made a statement effectively banning ALL SEMIAUTOMATIC RIFLES, not just center-fire but .22 RIMFIRE AND SEMIAUTO SHOTGUNS AND PUMP-ACTION SHOTGUNS. We cannot sell them; we cannot export them, we must hand all these types into the police (for destruction) and receive an unyet disclosed compensation for which the government will impose an unyet disclosed tax to pay for! I shoot I.P.S.C. with an Eagle Arms flat top H-BAR AR-15 worth about AUS \$5000, plus custom shotguns, plus a rare Armalite AR-10—total value \$12,000. I don't think I'll see that sort of money from our government. We are fighting this politically and morally. I just felt your readers and you would like to know. All the best in rock & roll.

Neil Izzard
Australia

I trust that this letter gets the attention of the American shooters reading this.... Neil has sent numerous comments to MGN over the years, and I personally hate to see him going through this. Without getting on the soapbox, when you see a chance to get active and elect pro-Second Amendment candidates...give it your best shot. We are facing the same group of fanatical anti-firearms people in the United States, and as a matter of fact, all the countries of the Earth.... They get together for "conferences" all over Havana, Moscow, and Europe most recently. Let's work and vote to keep them from getting power, friends, and pray for our brothers and sisters in Australia...

Questions to:

Dan Shea, C/O MGN
PO Box 459
Hot Springs, AR 71951

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**Stateside
September
1942**

U.S. Army soldiers man a Browning M1917A1 .30 cal. heavy machine gun in an obviously posed photo in the early days of America's involvement in WWII. Note the live rounds on the ejection side of the gun—probably done for the photographer. Caption information says "Orig. neg. rec'd from Sig. O., Hqs, 1st Service Command. Boston, Mass., Nov. 1942." Credit: U.S. Army Signal Corps/National Archives. Copyright © 1996 ROBERT BRUCE PHOTOGRAPHY. *Note: Robert regrets that he cannot handle individual requests for photographs. However, publishers and documentary film makers, etc., are encouraged to contact him for information on use of archive images. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope and details on intended use to **ROBERT BRUCE PHOTO, P.O. Box 482 MGN, SANDSTON, VA 23150.***

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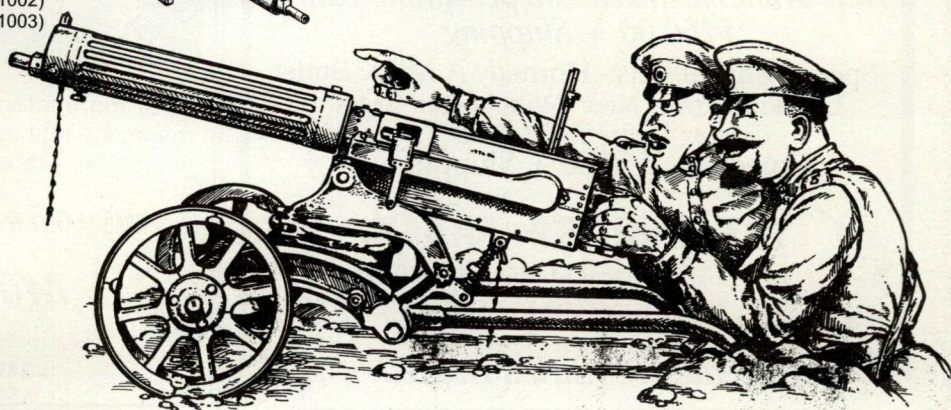
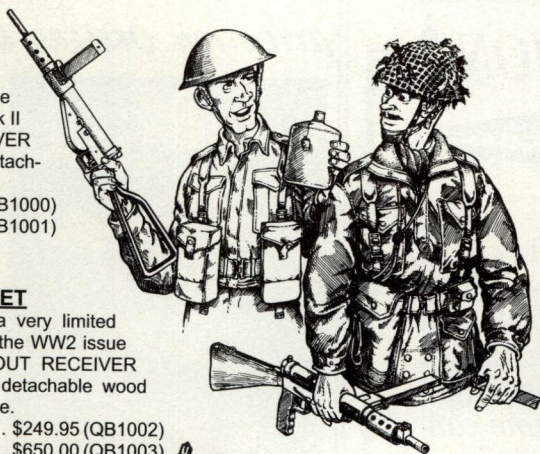
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110

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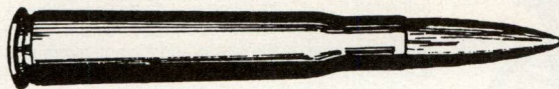
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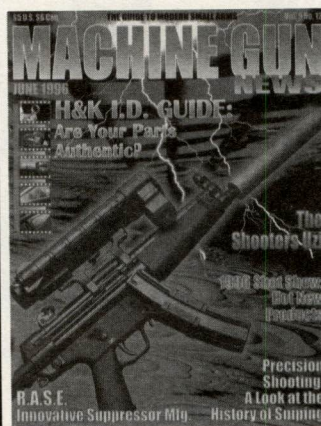


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Autographed copies of my book Project 64, The MP5 Submachine Gun Story, for \$44.95 + \$4. s&h. Send check or money order to Frank W. James, P.O. Box 91, Wolcott, Indiana 47995. Please print the addressee's name. (xsep)

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