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6.5 CARTRIDGE ROUNDUP

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Re-Imagined Classic

KIMBER KDS9c

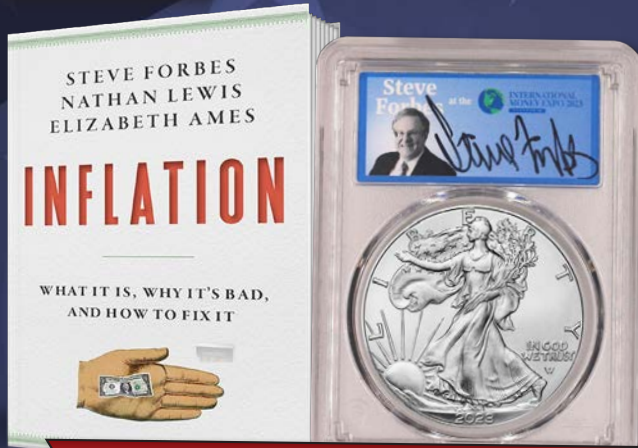


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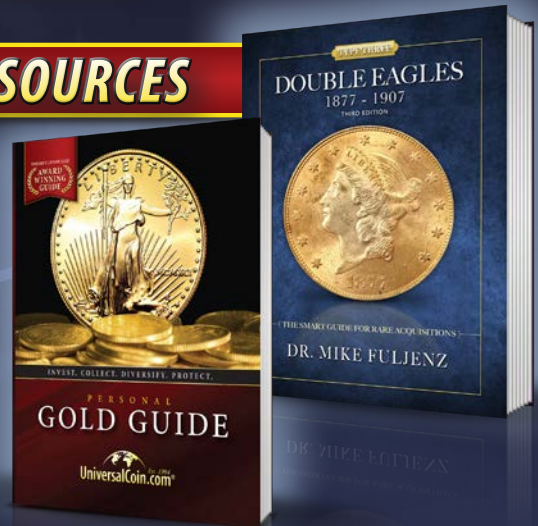
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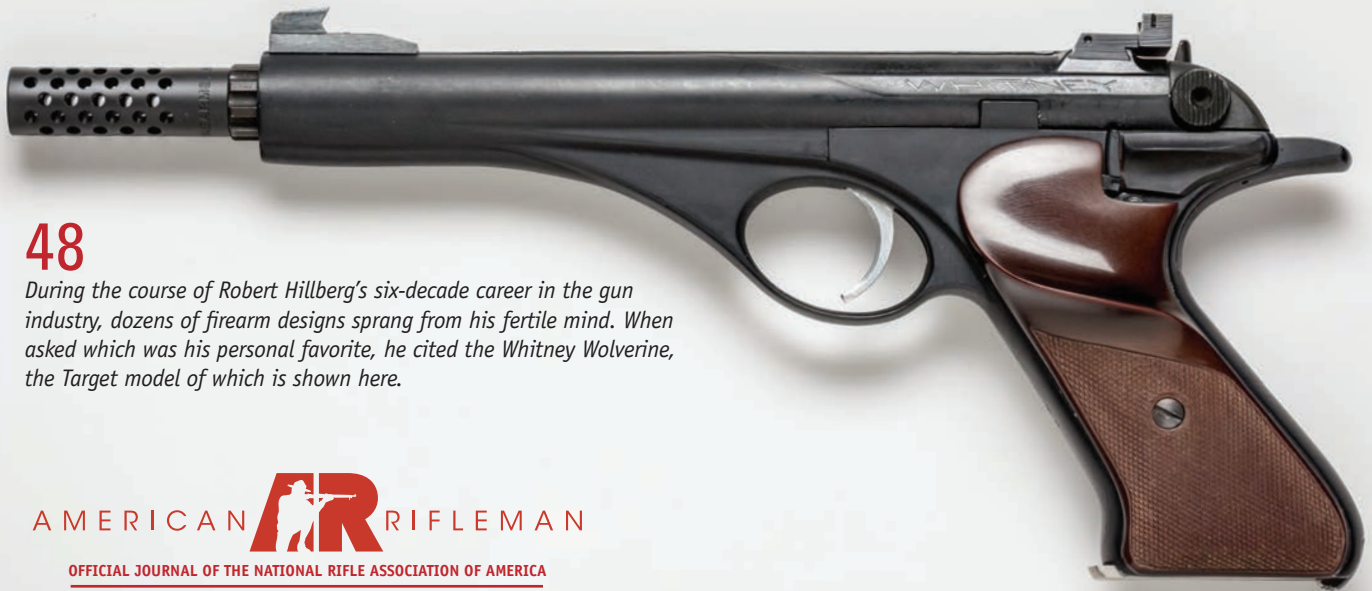
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During the course of Robert Hillberg's six-decade career in the gun industry, dozens of firearm designs sprang from his fertile mind. When asked which was his personal favorite, he cited the Whitney Wolverine, the Target model of which is shown here.

AMERICAN  RIFLEMAN

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

138th Year of Publication

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FEBRUARY 2024
VOLUME 172,
No. 2

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

Wayne R. LaPierre,
Executive Vice
President



features

Gun Rights And Gun Ownership Are Part Of Mainstream American Culture 18

Randy Kozuch For decades, a core component of the firearm prohibitionists’ strategy has been their attempt to stigmatize guns and gun ownership to push both out of mainstream American culture.

Re-Imagined Classic: The Kimber KDS9c 32

Justin Dyal One of the biggest names in defensive pistols downsizes the M1911 format into a true carry-size, optics-ready platform boasting 15 rounds of 9 mm Luger.

A Worthy MATE: Franchi’s Momentum All-Terrain Elite. 38

Matt Robertson One of a new breed of practical rifle—albeit with a few features not commonly seen—this latest example pushes an already familiar line to the front of the class.

Quick Hits On 10 Six-Five Cartridges 42

Aaron Carter With so many 6.5 mm cartridges from which to choose, deciding on the one that’s right for you can be a challenge—so here’s an overview to help sort them out.

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Don Findley A brilliant young designer from middle America lands in Gun Valley with a unique idea—and changes the firearm industry in the process.



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THE COVER: The Kimber KDS9c brings a host of upgrades to the basic M1911 concept, including an optics-ready slide and a double-stack magazine for today’s highly effective 9 mm Luger loads—like the 135-grain Federal Premium Hydra-Shok Deep rounds shown here—while also dispensing with the grip safety.

Design by David Labrozzi; Photo by Forrest MacCormack

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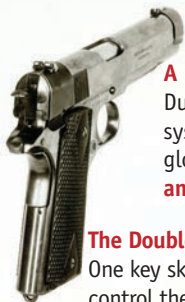


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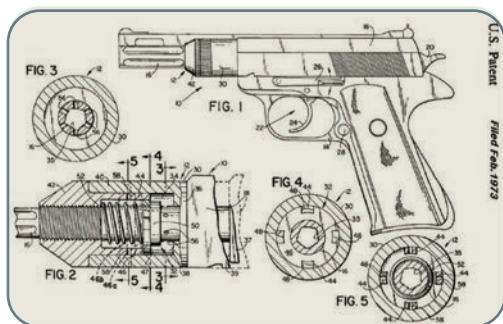
THE RIFLEMAN REPORT

As all of us who experience this “mortal coil” eventually learn, the days seem more fleeting with each passing year. For those of us who make a living observing and reporting about the firearm industry, they eventually result in a somewhat disorganized pile of memories about companies, products and the people who create them. Some become icons that engrave themselves onto our minds, becoming representative of a brand—even an entire product category.

For example, the name Kimber is synonymous with attractive, well-crafted firearms that often raise the bar within a particular market niche. And when it comes to feature-rich M1911-style handguns with cutting-edge aesthetic treatments, the company appears never to rest on its laurels. In “Re-Imagined Classic: The Kimber KDS9c” (p. 32), Field Editor Justin Dyal not only comments on the gun’s external and internal characteristics, he puts it through its paces as only a professional trainer could. What we learn is that not only is the M1911 platform still alive and well, especially in its most recent double-stack incarnations, but that Kimber has no intention of giving up its position of leadership in that realm anytime soon.

I had encountered examples of the new Franchi Momentum All-Terrain Elite bolt-action rifle at industry trade shows and at events sponsored by the company and, because of its unique feature set, I simply couldn’t get the MATE out of my mind. Still, scheduling prevented me from taking one to the range; so, I did the next-best thing and enlisted the aid of a trusted contributor, Matt Robertson, to wring out the gun for us. I think his review, “A Worthy MATE: Franchi’s Momentum All-Terrain Elite” (p. 38), confirms what I suspected about the new platform from the first time I saw it: It is a capable example of a new breed of general-purpose rifle—a subject I plan to write more about in the coming months.

With the establishment of Hornady’s 6.5 mm Creedmoor as possibly the most successful sporting cartridge launched



within the past 15 years, there has been renewed interest in that particular metric bore diameter. So, we thought we would round up and highlight some of the other 6.5s to remind ourselves that the caliber has been a factor in militaries and in hunting fields for quite some time. Field Editor Aaron Carter, a dedicated hunter and handloader and a knowledgeable student of rifle cartridges, provides some helpful observations about the history and practicality of no less than 10 such chamberings in “Quick Hits On 10 Six-Five Cartridges” (p. 42).

Many shooters familiar with the famous names attached to their firearms know little of the people who actually designed them. One such man, a true influencer, was Robert Hillberg. While I was already familiar with some of Hillberg’s work, I was nonetheless surprised to learn just how many pieces of firearm technology, and entire guns, he was instrumental in designing. Noted Ruger chronicler and *American Rifleman* contributor Don Findley gets the credit for gathering a raft of images and newspaper clippings on his subject from which the story “Remembering Gun Designer Robert Lee Hillberg” (p. 48) is drawn and seasons them with notes and sketches from the man himself.

Each of this month’s features illustrate that there are creative minds at work at firearm, ammunition and accessory companies pushing the boundaries of mechanics, ballistics and aesthetics so that every American citizen can fully enjoy the benefits of our precious Second Amendment. It is something we are reminded of every time we plan a monthly issue of *American Rifleman* magazine. In fact, it is the reason for our fascination with firearms—something we hope to never outlive.

—BRIAN C. SHEETZ, EDITOR IN CHIEF

Hillberg patent for the Wildey pistol, 1973



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The owner of a store named Cash4Gold in Mesquite, Texas, was in the back of his shop on Nov. 2, 2023, when two men entered, both with their hoods up and one wearing a mask. The store owner saw one of the men draw a gun and point it at him, but he quickly drew his own gun and fired at the assailants while moving to concealment. Security video shows them exchanging shots until the two would-be robbers flee the store. The armed citizen told reporters he had faced several attempted robberies before and has always managed to deter the aggressors: “Part luck, part awareness, part prep. It all adds up.” (fox4news.com, Dallas, Texas, 11/7/23)


On Nov. 1, 2023, two men reportedly entered a liquor store in Chicago, Ill., around 10:30 p.m., pointed guns at the cashier and demanded money from the register. It seems the cashier did not comply quickly enough for the assailants because a struggle ensued and one of them struck him on the head with a glass bottle, seriously injuring him. Nonetheless, the cashier was able to pull out a gun and fire at his attackers, who then fled. Police were still seeking the suspects at the time of the reporting. (cwbchicago.com, Chicago, Ill., 11/7/23)

Two men in Shelby, N.C., got into a public argument on Nov. 7, 2023, and then went their separate ways. However, one of the men reportedly returned with a gun and shot the other man in the face and shoulder. A woman witnessed the attack, drew her own firearm and shot the assailant five times in defense of the victim. At the time of the report, the assailant was in critical condition, the victim was hospitalized with non-life-threatening injuries and no charges were expected against the armed defender. (shelbystar.com, Shelby, N.C., 11/7/23)

On Nov. 28, 2023, in Memphis, Tenn., three men entered a Dollar General store and held it up at gunpoint. A bystander witnessing the alleged assailants threatening the people in the store drew their own gun and fired at the suspects, killing one. Police quickly arrested another suspect, but the third got away. A nearby business owner who was not involved in the incident confirmed the area has suffered from crime, claiming her business had already been broken into twice in the three months it had been open. (fox13memphis.com, Memphis, Tenn., 11/28/23)

Around 5 a.m. on Dec. 2, 2023, three men allegedly broke into a home in Granada Hills, Calif. One of them pointed a gun at the homeowner inside, who responded by firing his own gun at them, killing one and likely injuring at least one other (as indicated by a blood trail), thus defending himself, his grandmother and his child, who were in the home at the time of the intrusion. The two suspects who fled left without getting back into the black BMW sedan they’d arrived in. (foxla.com, Los Angeles, Calif., 12/2/24)

On the morning of Nov. 5, 2023, a property owner in Brazos County, Texas, was forced to defend himself against an armed trespasser. The suspect allegedly first fired gunshots onto the property, then trespassed onto it and, with a gun in each hand, advanced on the property owner. As he advanced, the suspect allegedly threatened to shoot the homeowner and claimed he had shot his mother, which never happened. The property owner shot the suspect in self-defense. The man was rushed to the hospital and charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. The arrest report noted the suspect was behaving erratically and may have been under the influence of drugs. (kbtv.com, Bryan, Texas, 11/23/23)

Two men wearing hooded sweatshirts, masks and surgical gloves entered a Philadelphia, Pa., pizza shop around 8:30 p.m. on Nov. 4, 2023. One of the men fired a handgun into the ceiling and then began to move to where an employee was standing behind the counter. The employee was a concealed carrier, however, and responded by firing at the assailant, killing him; the other suspect fled. No other injuries were reported. (inquirer.com, Philadelphia, Pa., 11/5/23) 



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By Wayne LaPierre
Executive Vice President

This Year Will Decide If American Freedom Lives

Like never before in our lifetimes, our personal safety, security and American freedom itself is at risk in the months ahead. This danger isn't hidden. You don't need to search for it in some vague anti-gun legislative agenda that has yet to materialize or in a deceptive campaign platform designed to mislead the American people and conceal evil intentions.

Right now, the enormous peril facing America is easy to see.

The radical fringe of our country—led by President Joe Biden and his allies in Congress—is feverishly working to destroy the very foundations of our nation.

The great heritage of freedom that you and I have worked so hard, and so successfully, to preserve is under assault unlike anything we've ever witnessed. To put it plainly, there are powerful forces at every level of government, and in the media, academia and beyond, that don't want America to be a nation where individual rights and fundamental freedoms are sacred and upheld by the highest offices and the laws of the land.

They dispel the fact that our basic human rights and liberties, enshrined in the Constitution, come from God and not our political class.

And so, in their warped vision for America, speech is to be curbed, banned and regulated at the whims of politicians whose only goal is to muzzle any viewpoint that runs counter to theirs.

In their warped vision, violent criminals are to be afforded more rights than law-abiding Americans—and you and I should be forced to give up our guns, to surrender our right to self-defense, all in the midst of a historic, politically driven crime wave.

In their warped vision, our justice system—a beacon of freedom and fairness, and a model that is envied the world over—should not be a shield of protection for all citizens, regardless of race, class, creed or political beliefs, but rather a weapon to be wielded like a sword by the ruling elite and used to strike down political opponents, institutions and anyone who dares to speak truth to power.

In their warped vision, America is a borderless nation—because they know that a nation without borders is no nation at all. Every God-given right, every law, every justice and every freedom becomes disposable in a scenario where you can't even define what it means to be an American citizen.

This is their vision—not to nip around the edges of our freedom—but to outright

demolish the foundation of our beloved United States of America and bring her to her knees.

And, once again, like so many times before, the men and women of the National Rifle Association are fighting at the tip of the spear to stop this warped vision from becoming a cold and permanent reality.

Right now, we're fighting to stop a horrific piece of anti-gun legislation that would empower the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives to ban the manufacture, sale and use of semi-automatic firearms. This unconstitutional monstrosity would ban the AR-15, ban standard-capacity magazines and make federal bureaucrats the arbiters of our Second Amendment rights.

**THE RADICAL FRINGE OF
OUR COUNTRY IS FEVERISHLY
WORKING TO DESTROY THE VERY
FOUNDATIONS OF OUR NATION.**

This summer, we are fighting the most-important First Amendment case in more than 60 years in the U.S. Supreme Court. As I detailed in last month's column, this single case will decide whether freedom of speech, as you and I know it, continues to exist in our nation.

And today, tomorrow, and every day this year leading up to Nov. 5, it will be up to us to inspire, educate and motivate millions of like-minded American patriots, amplify their voices, and turn them out to vote in the most consequential election for our sacred freedom in history.

Millions of men and women across America are discovering a newfound appreciation for the most natural, sacred and essential freedom known to mankind: the right to defend ourselves and our loved ones. The right to simply survive. The right to go to sleep every night, and wake up every day, free from the crippling sense of vulnerability that comes with the inability to safeguard our own lives.

More than ever, you and I must reach them and lead them.

As an NRA member, you are one of the most-impactful and integral forces in America, giving life to our freedom and defending the sacred foundations upon which that freedom rests. And I know that if you fight with the same courage and passion that you've demonstrated so many times throughout history, we can save American freedom this year and preserve it for years to come!

Wayne LaPierre



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Now, THIS is a Knife!

This 16" full tang stainless steel blade is not for the faint of heart —now **ONLY \$99!**

In the blockbuster film, when a strapping Australian crocodile hunter and a lovely American journalist were getting robbed at knife point by a couple of young thugs in New York, the tough Aussie pulls out his dagger and says "That's not a knife, THIS is a knife!" Of course, the thugs scattered and he continued on to win the reporter's heart.

Our Aussie friend would approve of our rendition of his "knife." Forged of high grade 420 surgical stainless steel, this knife is an impressive 16" from pommel to point. And, the blade is full tang, meaning it runs the entirety of the knife, even though part of it is under wraps in the natural bone and wood handle.

Secured in a tooled leather sheath, this is one impressive knife, with an equally impressive price.

This fusion of substance and style can garner a high price tag out in the marketplace. In fact, we found full tang, stainless steel blades with bone handles in excess of \$2,000. Well, that won't cut it around here. We have mastered the hunt for the best deal, and in turn pass the spoils on to our customers.

But we don't stop there. While supplies last, we'll include a pair of \$99, 8x21 power compact binoculars, and a genuine leather sheath **FREE** when you purchase the *Down Under Bowie Knife*.

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

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How NRA Fights For Your Rights In Court—And How You Can Help

As an attorney in my professional life, and as NRA's president in my volunteer life, I'm often asked by members about the ongoing legal fight for your right to keep and bear arms.

While the landscape of this battlefield is changing almost daily, I'm pleased to report that the Second Amendment is increasingly prevailing in our nation's courts—thanks in large measure to the many freedom-respecting federal judges appointed by President Donald Trump. The vast majority of those advances have been the direct result of our 2022 victory in the landmark *Bruen* case before the U.S. Supreme Court.

For example, a common strategy of state governors and legislators seeking to ignore the *Bruen* decision has been to bar the carry of firearms on "private property" without express advance permission. This— together with widespread gun bans on public property—effectively nullifies the right to carry in those states.

So, NRA-ILA filed lawsuits—in Maryland, where a federal court enjoined the state from enforcing key parts of the ban; and in New Jersey and New York, where courts issued injunctions barring those laws from taking effect. In fact, every district court that has looked at those prohibitions allowing no carrying on private property without an invitation has concluded that they're unconstitutional. That's good news.

After California banned any advertisement or communication regarding firearms that "reasonably appears to be attractive to minors," NRA-ILA sued the state, and a federal panel agreed with us that the state "cannot straitjacket the First Amendment" in such a way.

After Florida banned the sale or transfer of firearms to anyone under the age of 21, and courts upheld the ban, NRA-ILA petitioned the entire Eleventh Circuit to rehear the case—and our request was granted. In December, a federal judge in West Virginia rejected the federal ban on retail sales of handguns to anyone under age 21, and his decision cited *Bruen* throughout its 40 pages. Bans on firearm possession by young adults were certainly not part of the Second Amendment's text, history or tradition at the time of the founding, so it's hard to see how such bans could pass the *Bruen* test.

NRA-ILA is also engaged in ongoing legal battles against a semi-automatic-gun ban in Washington State; against a "permit to purchase" scheme in Oregon

that amounts to a blanket ban because the state lacks sufficient infrastructure to process permit applications; against New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham's blatantly unconstitutional ban on carrying firearms on public lands statewide; and against bans on semi-auto firearms and standard-capacity magazines in Delaware and Illinois.

At the federal level, we're also fighting the ATF's unauthorized attempts to re-write existing laws and thereby ban many private firearm transfers, re-define many firearms parts as "firearms" and re-classify stabilizing brace-equipped pistols as "short-barreled rifles" subject to a \$200 tax under the National Firearms Act. All these actions contradict existing laws and prior ATF policies, making them arbitrary, capricious—and unlawful.

We're also fighting to protect your lead ammunition. Last September, in federal court, we won an 11-year court battle to protect hunting with lead ammunition on Kaibab National Forest in Arizona—our fourth victory on that issue over the past 12 years.

Now, I wish I could tell you that all these victories are permanent and the fight is over. But, in many cases, these are just successful skirmishes in a much longer war. Many of the states that have tried to make an end-run around the Supreme Court's *Bruen* decision—and had their new laws blocked by injunctions—are now appealing to ever-higher courts.

That means many of these legal fights are likely to go on for years. In that sense, they're likely to be just as costly, and just as crucial to our future freedoms, as the landmark legislative victories we've won over the decades, such as the Firearm Owners Protection Act of 1986 or the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act of 2005. Both of those battles took NRA more than a decade to win.

So much of this fight requires us to play defense more than offense—to defend our hard-won victories in Congress and in the Supreme Court. That's why this legal fight is so important. And it's why your vote in every election is so crucial: Because you choose the leaders—who appoint and confirm the judges—who decide whether our God-given right to defend ourselves and our families survives or is gavelled into oblivion. That decision is yours alone.

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By Randy Kozuch
Executive Director,
NRA-ILA

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The Most-Tyrannical Ban Yet

Gun control is not an effort to regulate firearms to promote public safety. Instead, it is a long-term project to disarm Americans and eliminate the right to self-defense. That has never been more blatant or undeniable than it is now. Even as the U.S. Supreme Court has underscored the Second Amendment's import and scope, firearm prohibitionists have defiantly launched their most-vindictive schemes to suppress gun ownership. There is no better example of this than the deceptively named GOSAFE Act of 2023, spearheaded by Sens. Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.) and Angus King, an independent from Maine who generally votes with Democrats. The bill is nothing short of an attempt to ban modern firearms.

Everytown for Gun Safety (billionaire Michael Bloomberg's gun-ban organization) praised the bill's sponsors for "introducing innovative legislation that would regulate assault weapons and high-capacity magazines." Here, the adjective "innovative" is both telling and—for gun-control proponents—fatal. It's telling, because this isn't the usual "assault weapons" ban promoted since the 1980s. It's fatal, because the Supreme Court clarified in 2022 that a longstanding and widely accepted historical pedigree is necessary for a gun-control law to survive Second Amendment scrutiny. This bill has no precedent in American law.

Before examining GOSAFE's particulars, it's worth re-emphasizing how unhinged gun controllers' obsession with "assault weapons" is in the first place. However they define that term, all gun-control advocates currently agree that the quintessential "assault weapon" is now considered to be the AR-15—although when the intentionally malleable term was invented, anti-gun extremists more often used semi-automatic versions of the AK-47 as the "assault weapon" bogeyman. They now characterize the AR-15 as a menacing "weapon of war" that they claim is intentionally marketed to angry, unstable individuals. They insist it is the "weapon of choice" for mass mayhem, with "no place in civilized society."

In fact, the AR-15 is not just one of America's most-popular firearms, it is arguably one of its most-popular consumer products, period. Even the anti-gun *Washington Post* acknowledged, "1 in 20 U.S. adults owns at least one AR-15." That same *Post* article admitted that roughly 20 million AR-15-pattern guns are already in circulation in the United States.

Yet this overwhelming popularity has not translated into an epidemic of AR-15-related crime. Rifles of any sort are the guns most infrequently used in homicides, according to FBI statistics. Those statistics show knives and even hands and feet are involved in more murders, year after year.

It is indisputable that the vast majority of people who own AR-15s and other supposed "assault weapons" use them responsibly and for legitimate purposes. This was also underscored by the *Post* report, which commissioned a poll that found "[s]elf-defense was the most popular reason for owning an AR-15." Calling them an "assault weapon" is not just inaccurate, it is the opposite of their true character as a gun Americans overwhelmingly choose for defense against unlawful assaults. The Supreme Court has made clear, moreover, that such defensive purposes are at the core of the Second Amendment's protection.

Prior attempts to ban "assault weapons" have focused on semi-automatic long guns with detachable magazines and one or more alleged "military-style" features, such as pistol grips, flash suppressors or adjustable stocks. The "innovative" approach taken by the GOSAFE Act, by contrast, is simply to ban "gas-operated semi-automatic firearms" as a class, subject to various (sometimes unintelligible) exceptions. The bill also bans magazines with a capacity of 11 rounds or greater, as well as any part or accessory that could transform a non-banned gun into a banned gun or that "materially increases" a gun's "rate of fire."

Because it is impossible to determine the bill's scope or meaning on its face, it would empower the government (ATF, specifically) to determine not only what guns the bill bans retrospectively, but also what "semi-automatic" firearms could be marketed to "civilians" in the first place. The U.S. government has never claimed such sweeping authority over the private firearms market. But the bill goes even further, allowing gun-control activists to file lawsuits to have even government-approved firearms banned by court decree.

Illustrating the bill's true priorities, it would additionally allow federal grants that currently fund law-enforcement agencies with crime-fighting efforts to be repurposed into bribing Americans to surrender newly banned guns to the government.

In short, the GOSAFE Act would empower the government, gun-control activists and politically minded judges to determine what sort of repeating firearms could be made, imported, sold and possessed in America, and to imprison anyone who ran afoul of their dictates. That may be an "innovative" gun-control approach, but it serves the same old purpose: banning firearms and punishing otherwise law-abiding people for having them.

Popular CoQ10 Pills Leave Millions Suffering

Could this newly-discovered brain fuel solve America's worsening memory crisis?

PALM BEACH, FLORIDA — Millions of Americans take the supplement known as CoQ10. It's the coenzyme that supercharges the "energy factories" in your cells known as *mitochondria*. But there's a serious flaw that's leaving millions unsatisfied.

As you age, your mitochondria break down and fail to produce energy. In a revealing study, a team of researchers showed that 95 percent of the mitochondria in a 90-year-old man were damaged, compared to almost no damage in the mitochondria of a 5-year-old.

Taking CoQ10 alone is not enough to solve this problem. Because as powerful as CoQ10 is, there's one critical thing it fails to do: it can't create new mitochondria to replace the ones you lost.

And that's bad news for Americans all over the country. The loss of cellular energy is a problem for the memory concerns people face as they get older.

"We had no way of replacing lost mitochondria until a recent discovery changed everything," says Dr. Al Sears, founder and medical director of the Sears Institute for Anti-Aging Medicine in Palm Beach, Florida. "Researchers discovered the only nutrient known to modern science that has the power to trigger the growth of new mitochondria."

Why Taking CoQ10 is Not Enough

Dr. Sears explains, "This new discovery is so powerful, it can multiply your mitochondria by 55 percent in just a few weeks. That's the equivalent of restoring decades of lost brain power."

This exciting nutrient — called PQQ (*pyrroloquinoline quinone*) — is the driving force behind a revolution in aging. When paired with CoQ10, this dynamic duo has the power to reverse the age-related memory losses you may have thought were beyond your control.

Dr. Sears pioneered a new formula — called **Ultra Accel II** — that combines both CoQ10 and PQQ to support maximum cellular energy and the normal growth of new mitochondria. **Ultra Accel II** is the first of its kind to address both problems and is already creating huge demand.

Over 47 million doses have been shipped to men and women across the country and sales continue to climb for this much sought-after brain fuel. In fact, demand has been so overwhelming that inventories repeatedly sell out. But a closer look at **Ultra Accel II** reveals there are good reasons why sales are booming.

Science Confirms the Many Benefits of PQQ

The medical journal *Biochemical Pharmacology* reports that PQQ is up to 5,000 times more efficient in sustaining energy production than common antioxidants. With the ability to keep every cell in your body operating at full strength, **Ultra Accel II** delivers more than just added brain power and a faster memory.

People feel more energetic, more alert, and don't need naps in the afternoon. The boost in cellular energy generates more power to your heart, lungs, muscles, and more.

"With the PQQ in Ultra Accel, I have energy I never thought possible at my age," says Colleen R., one of Dr. Sears's patients. "I'm in my 70s but feel 40 again. I think clearly, move with real energy and sleep like a baby."

The response has been overwhelmingly positive, and Dr. Sears receives countless emails from his patients and readers. "My patients tell me they feel better than they have in years. This is ideal for people who are feeling old and run down, or for those who feel more forgetful. It surprises many that you can add healthy and productive years to your life simply by taking **Ultra Accel II** every day."

You may have seen Dr. Sears on television or read one of his 12 best-selling books. Or you may have seen him speak at the 2016 WPBF 25 Health and Wellness Festival in South Florida, featuring Dr. Oz and special guest Suzanne Somers. Thousands of people attended Dr. Sears's lecture on anti-aging breakthroughs and waited in line for hours during his book signing at the event.

Will Ultra Accel II Multiply Your Energy?

Ultra Accel II is turning everything we thought we knew about youthful energy on its head. Especially for people over age 50. In less than 30 seconds every morning, you can harness the power of this breakthrough discovery to restore peak energy and your "spark for life."

So, if you've noticed less energy as you've gotten older, and you want an easy way to reclaim your youthful edge, this new opportunity will feel like blessed relief.

The secret is the "energy multiplying" molecule that activates a dormant gene in your body that declines with age, which then instructs your cells to pump out fresh energy from the inside-out. This growth of new "energy factories" in your



MEMORY-BUILDING SENSATION: Top doctors are now recommending new Ultra Accel II because it restores decades of lost brain power without a doctor's visit.

cells is called mitochondrial biogenesis.

Instead of falling victim to that afternoon slump, you enjoy sharp-as-a-tack focus, memory, and concentration from sunup to sundown. And you get more done in a day than most do in a week. Regardless of how exhausting the world is now.

Dr. Sears reports, "The most rewarding aspect of practicing medicine is watching my patients get the joy back in their lives. **Ultra Accel II** sends a wake-up call to every cell in their bodies... And they actually feel young again."

And his patients agree. "I noticed a difference within a few days," says Jerry from Ft. Pierce, Florida. "My endurance has almost doubled, and I feel it mentally, too. There's a clarity and sense of well-being in my life that I've never experienced before."

How To Get Ultra Accel II

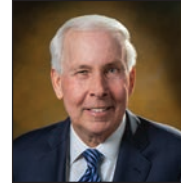
This is the official nationwide release of **Ultra Accel II** in the United States. And so, the company is offering a special discount supply to anyone who calls during the official launch.

An Order Hotline has been set up for local readers to call. This gives everyone an equal chance to try **Ultra Accel II**. And your order is backed up by a no-hassle, 90-day money back guarantee. No questions asked.

Starting at 7:00 AM today, the discount offer will be available for a limited time only. All you have to do is call TOLL FREE 1-800-961-8961 right now and use promo code **ARUA124** to secure your own supply.

Important: Due to **Ultra Accel II** recent media exposure, phone lines are often busy. If you call and do not immediately get through, please be patient and call back.

By Randy Kozuch
Executive Director,
NRA-ILA



Gun Rights And Gun Ownership Are Part Of Mainstream American Culture

For decades, a core component of the firearm prohibitionists' strategy has been their attempt to stigmatize guns and gun ownership to push both out of mainstream American culture.

Sometimes this effort has been made explicit. In 1994, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Center for Injury Prevention Director Mark Rosenberg told *The Washington Post*, "We need to revolutionize the way we look at guns, like what we did with cigarettes... dirty, deadly—and banned." In 2013, Moms Demand Action founder Shannon Watts penned an opinion piece likening her war on gun rights to the campaign against drunk driving—arguing that "same type of cultural shift must happen with guns."

Often the tactics are recognizable, but a little less on the nose. Gun-control advocates and their media allies characterize any person or group that stands in the way of their agenda as "radical" or "extremist." Gun-control groups and anti-gun researchers push dubious narratives about declining gun ownership.

It's not for a lack of trying, but the survey data is clear that the gun-control crowd's campaign to vilify guns and otherize gun owners isn't working.

From Nov. 10-13, polling firms commissioned by NBC News asked a sample of registered voters "Do you, or does anyone in your household, own a gun of any kind?" The majority of respondents, 52%, affirmed that they or someone in their household owns a firearm.

The finding is more significant considering the number of times NBC News has polled Americans on this topic. NBC News has periodically asked this question at least 17 times since 1999. November's 52% figure is the highest household gun ownership rate in the history of the NBC News poll.

Moreover, the overall trend in recent years shows American gun ownership is resilient and growing. In 1999, 44% of respondents reported living in a gun-owning household. In the seven times NBC News has asked the question since 2016, not once did the survey register a household gun ownership number below 44%. Micah Roberts of Public Opinion Strategies, who helped conduct the poll, told NBC

News, "In the last ten years, we've grown [10 points] in gun ownership. That's a very stunning number."

Announcing the results of their survey, on Nov. 21, NBC News ran an article titled, "Poll: Gun ownership reaches record high with American electorate." As encouraging as that headline and the topline survey data are for gun owners, some of the crosstab data is just as interesting.

The piece explained that the observed widespread gun ownership crosses the political divide. Forty-five percent of independents reported that they or someone in their household owns a firearm, while 41% of Democrats confirmed the same. America's burgeoning firearm-owning households are also diverse. The NBC piece reported that 41% of black respondents reported living in a gun-owning household, which is "a 17-point increase among that group in just four years." Earlier survey data from an academic at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health found that from January 2019 through April 2021, about half of those who became new gun owners were women.

Further, the research shows that the encouraging NBC News gun-ownership numbers could be a severe undercount.

Gun owners have good reason to guard their privacy. Gun-ownership data could prove valuable to criminals. In an era when politicians regularly call for gun confiscation, gun owners are justly concerned with protecting their rights and property from government overreach. Owners who interact with anti-gun individuals or institutions may fear political reprisal.

In 2015, polling firm Zogby Analytics asked likely voters, "If a national pollster asked you if you owned a firearm, would you determine to tell him or her the truth or would you feel it was none of their business?" A significant 36% of those asked responded that gun ownership is none of a pollster's business.

Drilling deeper into this question, in June, researchers from Rutgers University published an article titled "Predicting potential underreporting of firearm ownership in a nationally representative sample" in the journal *Social Psychiatry and*



NRA

- KEYS**
- PHONE**
- WALLET**
- GUN**

Leave Home Without

Psychiatric Epidemiology. To try to get a better estimate of the gun-ownership rate, the academics used data obtained from known gun owners to construct profiles of likely gun owners.

The group's results suggested that there could be between 18 to 86% more gun owners than is often measured. The top end of the estimate suggested an over 60% gun-ownership rate.

Moreover, a large percentage of those who say they don't own a firearm at present are open to owning a firearm in the future. A Pew Research Center poll conducted June 5-11, 2023, found that, when they asked non-gun owners about "whether they could see themselves owning a gun in the future," about half responded that they could.

Back in the 1990s, President Bill Clinton dressed up as a duck hunter to try to curry favor with gun owners. NRA responded with a campaign explaining, "If Bill Clinton thinks hunting ducks will give him a pro-gun image, he's daffy," and "Mr. Clinton, the Second Amendment is not about duck hunting." Polling shows that the former president's tactic would be wildly out of step with today's electorate.

In 2009, CNN asked Americans whether the Second Amendment "was intended to give individual Americans the right to keep and bear arms for their own defense," or if it "was only intended to preserve the existence of citizen-militias." Seventy-seven percent of those polled responded that the Second Amendment preserves the individual right to bear arms for self-defense.

Further, a supermajority of Americans agree that the Second Amendment protects the right to bear arms outside the home for self-defense.

On June 23, 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court decided the NRA-backed case *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen*. At issue was the modern version of New York's 111-year-old Sullivan Act, which left it up to government discretion whether a law-abiding person would be permitted to legally carry a firearm outside the home for self-defense. This left most law-abiding citizens unable to carry unless they demonstrated a "special need for self-protection distinguishable from that of the general community" to the government's satisfaction. The Supreme Court's decision found the discretionary nature of the permit system

to be unconstitutional, making clear that the Second Amendment protects all law-abiding citizens' right-to-carry.

Concerning *Bruen*, a Marquette University Law School poll conducted Nov. 2-7, 2023, asked registered voters the following, "In 2022, the Supreme Court ruled that, subject to some restrictions, the Second Amendment protects an individual's right to carry a handgun for self-defense outside the home. How much do you favor or oppose this decision?"

Over two thirds of respondents, 67%, stated that they favored the Supreme Court's pro-Second Amendment ruling.

This reality stands in stark contrast to gun-control advocates' hysterical ravings following the decision. Billionaire Michael Bloomberg's Everytown for Gun Safety claimed, "Today's ruling is ... out of touch with the overwhelming majority of Americans..." Giffords lamented, "This extreme ruling by the Supreme Court's conservative supermajority... [is] thwarting the will of the people..." Brady, formerly the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence and Handgun Control, Inc., wailed "The majority opinion has demonstrated that they do not care about what the majority of Americans want and support."

In a press release, then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) whined that the *Bruen* decision was the result of a "supermajority of the Supreme Court" that she described as "radical." In a similar screed, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) accused the "extremist" Supreme Court of issuing a decision "far out-of-the-mainstream."

As the Marquette poll shows, it's Pelosi, Schumer and their gun-control comrades who are radical, while the Supreme Court's mainstream decision was in line with a supermajority of the American electorate. However, some might question the need for a poll to explain the obvious. At the time of the *Bruen* decision, shall-issue right-to-carry was already the law in 42 states.

Americans' legal understanding of the Second Amendment matches up with the practical realities of defensive gun use.

A 2021 survey conducted by Georgetown University Political Economist William English determined that "guns are used defensively by

firearms owners in approximately 1.67 million incidents per year."

This finding was in line with earlier surveys conducted by Florida State University Criminology Professor Gary Kleck and the CDC. Kleck's examination of the 1993 National Self-Defense Survey found that "each year in the U.S. there are about 2.2 to 2.5 million [defensive gun uses] of all types by civilians against humans." Upon examining the CDC's defensive gun use survey data, taken from 1996 to 1998, Kleck determined that the results indicated that there are likely more than a million defensive gun uses per year.

It should come as no surprise, then, that a Harvard Center for American Political Studies poll conducted last Nov. 15-16 found that voters view firearms as essential for self-defense. Specifically, the pollsters asked, "Do you think you need to have a gun today in case you are attacked by criminals, or do you think owning a gun is unnecessary?" Sixty-three percent of respondents answered that a gun is necessary.

As with household gun ownership, the answers didn't fit the neat partisan categories politicians and the press seek to perpetuate. An overwhelming majority of Republicans stated that firearms are necessary in case of criminal attack. However, majorities of Independents and Democrats also shared this view.

These findings fit with polling on the reasons people own firearms. A June 5-11, 2023, survey by the Pew Research Center found that 91% of gun owners cited "protection" as a reason they own a firearm, with 72% stating it is a "major reason" they own a gun. "Protection" was far and away the number one reason for owning a firearm, outpacing other legitimate options such as hunting, sport shooting and collecting.

With more than half of voter households owning firearms, a supermajority of voters supporting the Supreme Court's pro-Second Amendment jurisprudence, and more than 60% of voters viewing firearms as essential for self-defense, gun owners can feel confident that their culture and views are well within the mainstream. As for any Second Amendment-denying firearm prohibitionists concerned with policing the bounds of mainstream discourse, they would do well to look in the mirror. 🗡️

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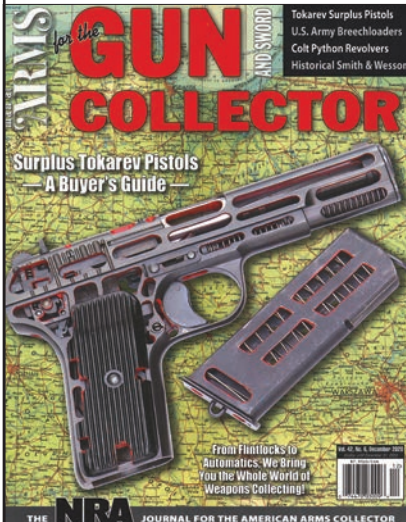
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READERS WRITE

Gun Talk Technology, Machine Gun Genealogy

I found George Kontis' article "Guns Can Talk ... And Knight's Armament Co. Understands Them" (November 2023, p. 48) interesting. The technology seems similar to that built into aircraft and other vehicles and machinery. However, it seems that the author has mixed up some armament history. He says that the BAR was replaced by the M240 in the 1960s. The M60 machine gun replaced the BAR in the 1960s and the M60 was replaced by the M240 in the late 1970s. It leaves me wondering about which firearms the experimental data pertains to.

—HEBER R. NORCKAUER, JR.

AUTHOR KONTIS PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING RESPONSE:

FN Herstal Belgium produced the BAR after World War II and later designed a very similar arm, the MAG-58 for the 7.62 NATO cartridge. As the article correctly indicated, the MAG-58 was fielded by countries around the world in the 1960s—just not in the U.S.

In the 1970s, a tank-gun variant of the MAG-58 was designated as the M240 when it was adopted by the United States following an international competition. The M60 was fielded in the 1960s as the U.S. ground machine gun as the reader correctly observes.

The M240 and BAR both use a tilting block to lock the breech and have almost identical operating groups. It was the locking actions from these two machine guns that were compared in the Knight's study and sources for the graphs presented in the article. While the M240 does have a more complex feeder and includes numerous stampings, the technology Knight's developed was able to isolate and pinpoint vibrations from the two operating groups which did show the surprising variation in the lock-up characteristics of the two guns. The M60 uses a different operating mechanism than the BAR/M240 and was not part of the Knight's study. The accompanying photo shows an M240 (upside down) next to its operating group and the very similar operating group of a BAR.

By the way, it would be hard for me to confuse my history on the M240's 1970s fielding since I was the chief engineer at FN at the time and oversaw the engineering effort to produce the gun in the United States.

—THE EDS.



Photo by George Kontis



A Unique Trapdoor Sporter

Thanks for the article by Bruce Canfield "150 Years Of The 'Trapdoor Springfield'" (November 2023, p. 52) and the associated material posted at americanrifleman.org. After the early Allen Conversion Model of 1868 and 1870 were issued, officers requested custom-built sporting models. The employees at Springfield Armory would work on these requests on their own time. Besides case coloring, the parts would be engraved and sporting rifle sights added.

Eventually, the armory decided to standardize on the Model of 1875. Details of this rifle appear in Chapter 3 of *Trapdoor Springfield* by M.D. "Bud" Waite and B.D Ernst. I was so interested in this highly collectable model that I decided to create one of my own out of original parts (shown here). It took six years of collecting the best possible original parts to have them re-blued, case colored and engraved. The only new part on the rifle, aside from the custom stock, is the spring on the ladder sight, which is an exact custom-machined piece. I documented the whole process in the American Single Shot Rifle Ass'n organ *Single Shot Rifle Journal* (Sept.-Oct. 2006) under the title "Springfield Sporting Rifle."

—RUSS FRIEND

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

NRA member photo

A Time of Porpoise

A memorable beach moment: You're basking in the warm sun, toes in the sand, letting the gentle turn of the foam-capped waves lull you into a state of complete relaxation. As your eyes scan the endless horizon of blue on blue, you're rewarded with a pod of dolphins making their way across the sea.

There's no denying their signature shape as they leap from the water. If you don't see anything else extraordinary the rest of day, you can take solace knowing you've witnessed one of nature's most playful and human-like creatures in their natural habitat.

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C Products Defense DuraMag

Detachable box magazines are the norm for today's semi-automatic firearms, and with that fact comes another critically important observation: Your rifle is only as reliable as the magazine feeding it. Fortunately, there are a number of dependable manufacturers, and one of them is C Products Defense, maker of the improved AR-15 DuraMag. In a world proliferated by polymer, DuraMag has elected to stay with metal-bodied magazines, and for the company, that construction is critical. For one, the aluminum is durable in extreme conditions, since the material remains stable whether hot or cold.

Beyond the surface, an important element of DuraMags is the "Post & Hole" construction that improves upon earlier weaknesses. Rather than relying solely on the strength of the spot-welds, two halves of a magazine body are first mechanically locked together, and that construction is reinforced by welds rather than being intrinsically reliant on them. For added durability, DuraMags are also available with stainless-steel

magazine bodies, as the steel lends itself to stronger welds, increased rigidity and less propensity for potential damage to the magazine's feed lips. The magazines feature specially designed anti-tilt followers that prevent binding and are available in caliber-specific variants to ensure reliable feeding.

For the aluminum magazines, the material's composition is unaffected by color changes, too, enabling DuraMag to offer a wide range of anodized colors. Currently, eight different finishes are available, and these colors aren't just for looks, either. Differently colored magazines can be useful to indicate specific loads at a glance, and brighter colors can be used when training in outdoor environments, like thick underbrush, ensuring that users can easily recover dropped mags, if needed. The magazines are available in numerous chamberings and capacities. Price: \$17.20 to \$31.50, depending on color, capacity and cartridge. *Contact: C Products Defense; (941) 727-0009; dura-mag.com.*

—EVAN BRUNE, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Editor's Choice

In Country: My Memories Of Vietnam And After

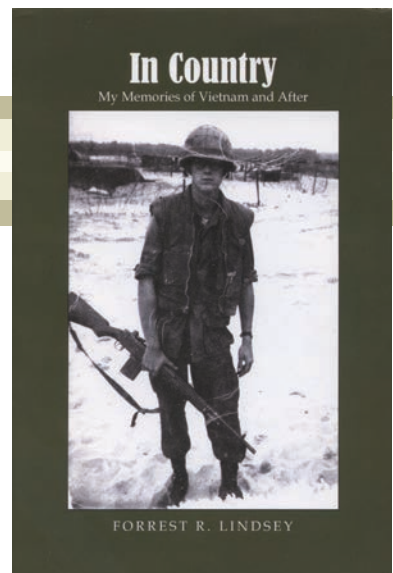
I met author Forrest R. Lindsey at a gun show where he graciously provided a signed copy of this remarkable account of his experiences as a young man enlisting in the Marine Corps a year after high school in 1965. After witnessing the vagaries of war and eventually being wounded during combat operations in Vietnam, Lindsey struggled through a lengthy recovery process to regain the ability to walk. Eventually, his latent interest in the engineering and deployment of military arms led to his return to the Corps as an artillery officer in 1973.

During his 27-year career, Lindsey served in a variety of positions, eventually commanding the 5th Battalion, 11th Marines in 1993-'94 at Camp Pendleton, Calif. Afterward, he went to work at the U.S.M.C. Warfighting Laboratory in Quantico, Va., as a

senior engineer and program manager, where he developed the XM-326 120 mm Automated Mortar System known as Dragon Fire.

Conveyed in a casual prose style and also through numerous in-country color and black-and-white photographs provided by the author and fellow Marines, Lindsey's story weaves together personal experiences and broader observations about the Vietnam War that make it both captivating and informative for the layman and arms enthusiast alike. An appendix of Marine Corps weapons, vehicles and equipment provides first-hand insights into how such materiel was actually employed, along with commentary as to its effectiveness.

In all, this rather short (183-page) work serves as an insightful glimpse into a chapter in American history



that involved one of the most misunderstood events of the past century. It is my hope that it causes every reader to reflect on the debt we owe such men as Lindsey and the many service personnel from all branches of the U.S. military who didn't return from southeast Asia those many years ago. Price: \$39. Contact: *Dorrance Publishing Co.*; (800) 788-7654; dorrancepublishing.com.

—BRIAN C. SHEETZ, EDITOR IN CHIEF

KelTec R50 Defender & P50 Rifle Kit

Building on its initial P50 design (September 2021, p. 66), available only in a pistol format at launch, KelTec introduced a rifle-length version early in 2023, complete with a 16" barrel and a wire folding stock. Now, an ultra-compact variant combining features from each offering is available as an NFA-regulated short-barreled rifle (SBR), and KelTec offers a kit for P50 owners looking to convert their pistols into SBRs. The factory-offered model comes with the same folding wire stock as found on the original R50, but a 9.6" barrel is installed, the same length as found on KelTec's initial P50. With the stock folded, the design collapses to an overall length of just 16.4".

The P50 Rifle Kit consists of a dedicated lower assembly with an attached stock. With ATF approval, P50 owners can add their gun's upper receiver to this dedicated lower to create a short-barreled rifle. Price: \$815 (R50 Defender); \$250 (P50 Rifle Kit). Contact: *KelTec Industries*; (321) 631-0068; keltecweapons.com.



Kopfjäger K800 Carbon Fiber Tripod With Reaper Grip

Whether you're a youth hunter's mentor or are training to run the Precision Rifle Series, a lightweight carbon-fiber tripod is a must-have tool, and Kopfjäger has a durable, dependable option in the 3-lb., 14-oz. K800 tripod with Reaper Grip. The included Reaper tripod head offers smooth pan and tilt functions—up to 21 degrees up and 87 degrees down—and the Reaper Grip supports firearms weighing as much as 20 lbs. and measuring 1.5"- to 3"-wide. With its three-position leg locks, users can run the K800 on uneven ground, and the four-section legs allow the tripod to telescope from 19" to 64". The K800 comes with a camera thread adapter, padded feet, a reversible center column, a bag hook and a carrying case. Price: \$690.

Contact: *Kopfjäger*; (817) 587-6149; kjrests.com.

Samson B.A. Sling Point Gas Block Cap For Mini-14 & Mini Thirty

Expanding the line of accessories that complements its factory-style folding stocks for Ruger Mini-14 and Mini Thirty rifles, Samson Mfg. now offers a gas block cap with a built-in sling point. The cap is available in plain-finish 303 stainless steel or black-oxide 4140 chrome-moly steel and to fit 2007-or-earlier rifles with factory straight-pencil 0.562"-diameter barrels (serial

number prefixes 181 through 199) and 2008-and-later guns with factory flanged 0.625"-diameter barrels (508 or higher prefix). Simply remove the gas block screws and re-assemble using the new cap to attach a sling using conventional QD swivels or, with Samson's optional Swivel Stud QD Adapter, push-button styles. Price: \$65.

Contact: Samson Mfg.; (888) 665-4370; samson-mfg.com.



Hera CQR Buttstock Gen. 2



Hera's first-generation CQR stock made waves a few years back upon its introduction to the American market due to its distinctive lines and compact form factor. Now the company is doubling down on the concept by offering the CQR Buttstock Gen. 2 for fixed-stock AR-15s, a design that is lighter, more ergonomic and even more radical-looking than its predecessor. Compatible with standard A2 rifle buffer tubes, the Gen. 2 incorporates both a shoulder stock and a pistol grip into the design to create a skeletonized thumbhole opening, and a number of sling-mounting

options are molded into its reinforced-polymer body. The second-gen CQR is available in black, OD green (shown) and tan, and state-compliant versions are also offered. Price: \$129. Contact: Hera Industries; (801) 878-4880; hera-usa.com.

Decibullz Percussive Shooting Filters

Decibullz Custom Molded Earplugs offer the pinnacle in inexpensive hearing-protection ergonomics, as, using only hot water, they can be custom-molded by the user at home to conform perfectly to the unique contours of his or her own ears. The company's unpowered Percussive Shooting Filters offer that same form-fitting protection while adding more functionality by also incorporating a set of percussive filters into the design that allow sound waves of less than 110 dBs to pass through unimpeded while reducing any noises

above that threshold to a safe level.

Though difficult to quantify the effectiveness of hearing protection, a set of plugs with percussive filters was taken to the range alongside a set of Decibullz's entry-level plugs, and the ability to distinctly hear regular-volume speech was substantially improved through the former, while its gunfire-mitigation capabilities were also better, although not quite as significantly. Price: \$75. Contact: Decibullz LLC; decibullz.com.



Elite Survival Systems Military Shoulder Holster

Evoking the M3 and M7 leather military holsters of the World War II era, the Elite Survival Systems Military Shoulder Holster greatly improves on those designs through the use of modern materials and hardware. Developed to be worn bandoleer-style across the chest, it features multi-layer, water-shedding ballistic nylon construction and quick-detach, adjustable over-shoulder and belt straps. The lightweight, low-profile design results in comfortable, stable carry and keeps the gun snug to the user's body, making it ideal for use when operating vehicles or hiking through dense cover. Three sizes are available, in both right- or left-hand versions, to fit: Colt M1911s and Browning Hi Powers (HN45B), 4" revolvers and larger semi-automatics (HN45BR) or 6" revolvers and long-barreled semi-automatics (HN45BL). Price: \$53. Contact: Elite Survival Systems; (866) 340-2778; elitesurvival.com.

Browning Backcountry Rifle Cover

Weighing in at a mere 5.29 ozs., the Backcountry Rifle Cover from Browning is a versatile must-have for any hunter hoping to protect a long gun from the elements. The cover fully encloses most rifles measuring 46.75" or less, and when not in use, can be easily stowed in a range bag or pack. It is made of a tough, waterproof, 600-denier material at the barrel and stock caps and waterproof stretch fabric at its



midsection. The cover's open underside, complete with an elastic drawcord for a snug fit, allows for quick access to the gun. The design accommodates bipods and can be employed while slung over the shoulder to keep rain and debris off valuable optics and rifles. Price: \$32.

Contact: Browning; (800) 333-3288; browning.com.

Viktos Range Trainer Jersey

A great choice for a long day spent on an outdoor range, the Range Trainer Jersey from Viktos is constructed of a breathable blend of cotton and Coolmax polyester fabric that wicks away moisture, while its long sleeves protect your arms from extended hours spent in the sun. Reinforced shoulder overlays provide padding for prolonged use of a slung longarm, and the shirt's fabric has undergone an antimicrobial Silvadur treatment that absorbs odors before they can become noticeable. The Range Trainer Jersey is available in three colors: black with MultiCam camouflage shoulder overlays and entirely in Range Green or Dark Navy. Price: \$60. Contact: Viktos; (800) 597-7179; viktos.com.



XS Sights R3D 2.0 Tritium Night Sights

A complete re-design of the well-loved, made-in-Texas R3D sight configuration has resulted in version 2.0 with a brighter, stronger and easier-to-install product from XS Sights. Comprised of a nitride-finished, square-notch rear and post front, the two pistol sights combine to help improve speed and accuracy in any lighting condition, thanks to its proprietary photoluminescent material. The dual-illuminated, large front dot—available in green or orange—features high-contrast tritium, in conjunction with PVC rings, that create an easy-to-see, 0.145"-wide Glow Dot. Two rear tritium dots oppose the serrated, square-notch rear to help orient the Glow Dot front for quick acquisition. A tactical cocking ledge is also included on the leading edge of the rear unit. Available to fit Canik, FN, Glock, SIG Sauer, Smith & Wesson, Springfield, Taurus, Tisas and Walther pistols. Price: \$132 (standard height); \$143 (suppressor height). Contact: XS Sight Systems Inc.; (888) 744-4880; xssights.com.



Creedmoor Sports Huggie Rifle Forend Support Bag

Designed as a lightweight support for positional shooting, the Huggie bag from Creedmoor Sports is perfect for shooting off props that don't provide enough space for a bipod. The bag is constructed from 600-denier Cordura fabric, which resists abrasion and tears, and the Spex Lite fill means that this wide, sturdy bag weighs less than a pound. Two elastic hook-and-loop bands enable the bag to be secured to a rifle, and a rubber pad inside the rest allows shooters to load the bag, gaining extra stability. It measures 7.5"x11"x11", and the ears of the fore-end support measure approximately 2". Bags are available in black or coyote colors. Price: \$80. Contact: Creedmoor Shooting Sports; (800) 273-3366; creedmoorsports.com.



ROAM Adventure Co. 55L Rugged Case

The ROAM 55L Rugged Case provides adventure-bound firearm enthusiasts with a premium heavy-duty storage option. Made of durable low-density polyethylene and available in four different colors—black, desert tan, OD green and slate—the capacious 55-liter interior, measuring 25.2"x14.4"x14.1", is protected by lockable steel latches and a watertight seal to prevent the ingress of dust and moisture, as well as to impede unwanted access. Tie-down channels, interlocking spines, grab points and a bottle opener are molded-in, and flexible extended handles are included. The unit weighs just over 18 lbs., empty, and contains a lid-lift gas strut to assist opening and to prevent warping. A Lid Organizer is available (\$109) for additional internal storage. Price: \$249. Contact: Roam Adventure Company; (512) 380-1960; roamadventureco.com.

Montana Knife Co. Marshall Bushcraft

Named for the mountainous, 1.5-million-acre Bob Marshall Wilderness—teeming with grizzly bears, wolves, elk, moose, cougars and goats—the Marshall Bushcraft Knife, made in nearby Frenchtown, Mont., measures 12 $\frac{5}{8}$ " overall with a 7" blade of 52100 carbon steel that is Parkerized to protect it from the great outdoors. Ergonomically pleasing G10 scales are held to the full-tang handle with machine screws and cleverly inlet at the butt



so an included lanyard can pass through the blade beneath their surface. The 1 $\frac{5}{8}$ "-wide, 0.170"-thick Bowie-style blade features a steep, flat grind and pronounced choil that keep overall weight to 9.8-ozs., allowing the knife to serve in chores ranging from wood processing and shelter building to food prep, game dressing and self-defense. A high-quality, multi-configurable Kydex sheath is included. Price: \$350. Contact: Montana Knife Co.; montanaknifecompany.com.





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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Out-Of-Print Sources

Q I have noticed that your writers of vintage firearms often refer to rare or obsolete catalogs in their articles. Not all of us have access to such a vast, and I assume, expensive, library of reference books. Is there an affordable way to obtain information as well as out-of-print catalogs on vintage guns such as Winchester, Colt, Marlin, L.C. Smith, etc.?

A I can empathize with your frustration. After all, part of the allure of owning vintage firearms is knowing their history, what they cost when new and what special-order options were available. Much of this information can be found in older catalogs that were contemporary with the guns. But, as you noted, the original catalogs have become expensive and hard-to-find, and many are very collectable. There are some readily obtainable resources, however, for information on older firearms, including:

The NRA National Firearms Museum in Fairfax, Va., has more than 2,500 firearms on display. By logging on to its website (nramuseum.org) and clicking on "Guns," you can find information on individual firearms spanning the centuries.

Another great source is the online *Blue Book Of Gun Values* (bluebookofgunvalues.com), which lists practically every conceivable firearm by manufacturer, model and



Photo by Rick Hacker

variation. A printed version of the *Blue Book Of Gun Values*, available for \$60 at bluebookofgunvalues.com/shop, contains the same information but also provides approximate values. An updated edition is printed annually, and I often refer to it.

If you're seeking detailed information on specific firearms, Mowbray Publishing (gunandwordcollector.com) has a wide selection of books on topics ranging from antique guns to modern battlefield firearms.

And, finally, if you want actual reprints of older gun catalogs, there is no better source than Cornell Publications (cornellpubs.com), a mail-order repository of more than 6,000 firearms catalogs, books and manuals spanning the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. Their reprints are available for a fraction of the cost of the originals.

—RICK HACKER, FIELD EDITOR

Boattail Bullets And Barrel Erosion

Q In the recent spate of "long-range" boattail bullets presented to the market, I've observed the boattail's degree of departure from the bullet's cylindrical axis varies substantially from one design to another. One factor I am concerned about is the deleterious effect of throat and bore erosion that may be accelerated by the use of boattails.

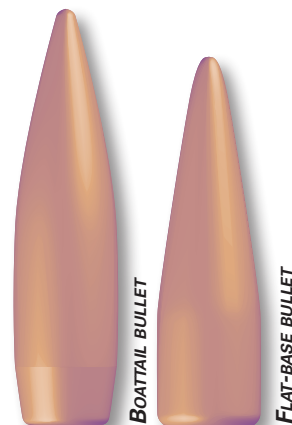
A All things considered, utilizing boattail bullets will result in throat erosion at a faster rate than with flat-base bullets. The best explanation I have found was offered by Dave Corbin, "Since gas pressure acts normal to all surfaces (at 90 degrees), the compressive force of chamber and barrel pressure tends to compress the boattail section of the jacketed bullet inward, peeling it away from the bore and allowing gas to channel its way into the rifling grooves, causing gas cutting of the rifling edges and the edges of the rifling imposed on the bullet. Micro droplets of melted jacket material can be observed on most boattail bullet jackets along the rifling edges, especially toward the rear of the bullet shank, some large enough to see without a magnifying aid. The flat-base bullet tends to compress in length so that the shank is expanded into the rifling, for a superior seal."

What does this mean to the shooter? It depends on the

discipline's intended goals. If your shooting does not extend beyond 200 yards, then you will likely not achieve the best accuracy with boattail bullets. Competitive benchrest shooters tend to use flat-base bullets. If true long-range shooting is your goal, then boattail bullets are your only means of getting there, as their ballistic coefficients give the necessary edge. If erosion becomes an issue, replace the barrel.

If the pursuit is hunting, then it is unlikely that using a boattail bullet will offer any advantage at what are considered typical sporting ranges. However, considering the relatively few shots fired in the life of a hunting rifle, any reduction in barrel life due to the use of boattail bullets would be moot. It is more difficult to produce an accurate boattail bullet, and some sources are better at it than others. Any variation in the angle of the tapered shank or dimensional location of origin will have a deleterious effect. The angle is determined in the engineering, based on too many variables to consider here.

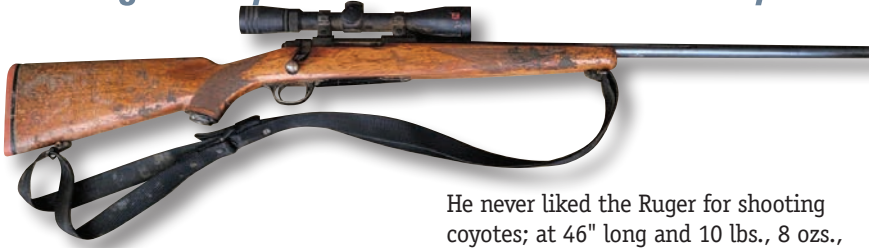
—JOHN W. TREAKLE, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR



"Questions & Answers" is compiled by staff, Field and Contributing Editors from the inquiries about guns, ammunition and their use received by *American Rifleman*. Direct answers to technical and historical questions are provided only to NRA members. Submit letters to: Dope Bag, NRA Publications, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030-9400 or to: americanrifleman@nrahq.org. Include your membership number or current copy of an NRA magazine mailing label or membership card and a self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope. Please limit each letter to one specific question. Technical or historical questions cannot be answered by telephone, and even approximate values on guns or other equipment cannot be provided. Please allow 6 to 8 weeks for replies.

FAVORITE FIREARMS

The Big, Heavy Gun That Shoots Little-Bitty Bullets Really, Really Fast



For more than 150 years, my family and my ancestors have been fighting a war with coyotes that kill our sheep and calves. We've used everything available: traps, poison, rifles and even airplanes. The rifles have been ever-present, and many types have been employed.

In 1975, my dad ordered a Ruger Model 77 in .220 Swift with a bull barrel to replace the Remington Model 700 in .30-06 Sprg. that he had been using.

He never liked the Ruger for shooting coyotes; at 46" long and 10 lbs., 8 ozs., it was too big to be easily gotten out of the cab of a pickup and too heavy to be easily shot offhand. Still, he loved "the big, heavy gun that shoots little-bitty bullets really, really fast."

We ranch in open country, so almost all shots are more than 100 yards. We carried our rifles on our horses, pickups and now ATVs, and we shoot coyotes when the opportunities present themselves in the course of our work. The .220 Swift shoots very flat out to 300 yards, and

with a muzzle velocity of more than 4,000 f.p.s., it gets there very quickly with a hell of a punch. Sighted in at 200 yards, and coupled with the extreme speed, it allows me to make snap shots without having to do any doping on drop or much lead on a running coyote. Put the crosshairs on the coyote and I have a good chance of killing it.

I've lost count of how many varmints the Ruger has taken over the years, and there have been many occasions when I killed a coyote in the act of killing one of our sheep. That is why our sheep and I love that gun. Dad passed away last winter, but I'll keep carrying his .220 Swift, and it will be taking varmints for many years to come.

—MIKE ROBIE

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

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Re-Imagined Classic The Kimber KDS9c

One of the biggest names in defensive pistols shrinks the M1911 concept into a true carry-size, optics-ready platform boasting 15 rounds of 9 mm Luger—and ergonomics to envy.

BY JUSTIN DYAL, Field Editor



Kimber, known for its M1911-style pistols among its catalog of arms, is today one of the country's prominent handgun manufacturers. But it wasn't always that way. The then-riflemaker made a bold move in the mid-1990s to bring to market a factory M1911 pistol with many of the features that, before then, had been exclusively a custom proposition for shooters. One of the hot trends in the past few years has been the M1911's expansion into the custom market of single-action, carry-size guns in 9 mm Luger featuring double-stack magazines—so-called 2011-style guns—such as the Wilson Combat X9 series and others from boutique makers. So, Kimber has once again answered market demand by bringing custom quality to main street with its new KDS9c—a carry-size, “2011” with a 15-round magazine.

The KDS9c combines M1911 functionality, controls and styling with a top end that bears similar lockup, extraction and optics compatibility with many popular, contemporary 9 mm striker-fired compacts. It is a welcome addition to the market, attempting to combine the traditional upsides of the M1911 platform with features well-established and familiar to shooters on recent designs.

The first “nice” carry gun I splurged on was a Kimber Elite Carry Officer from the company's custom shop around 1999. In Colt parlance, it combined a bushingless Commander-length barrel with a lightweight Officer-size grip frame that was a perfect M1911 alternative similar in size to the Glock 19/23s that were quickly sweeping the concealed-carry market. I carried that little Kimber for seven years or so as what today we would call my everyday carry, or EDC, gun. Full-power .45 ACP loads were a bit rowdy in that little pistol, and I often wished for something that retained the shootability and joyfully slim and comfortable profile of that M1911 with the capacity of the popular SIG P229s and Glock 19s of that era. The KDS9c is in many ways the expression of my handgunner's daydreams from that time.

Kimber's little double-stack is immediately M1911-like in appearance, but it boasts a list of features that distinguish it from the original Browning design. Starting at the muzzle, the KDS9c has a visually striking, deep-cut crown that extends the 20-degree cut all the way out to the edge of its fluted, cone-shaped barrel. The barrel lacks the twin locking lugs found on traditional M1911-style pistols and instead locks on the forward edge of the ejection port as most other contemporary pistols do. The flat-wire recoil spring assembly, guide rod and plug are a melding of the M1911 style and the approach popularized by the Glock line of pistols. The barrel is locked into the frame via the slide stop pin traversing through a traditional M1911 barrel link.

The Kimber has a beefy external extractor in place of the tensioned, internal hook found on the M1911. Makers have tried for years, often unsuccessfully, to adapt external

extractors as found on nearly every other pistol design to the M1911; Kimber was able to design the external extractor into the KDS9c from the beginning.

This pistol's frame has a prominent and well-shaped beavertail, as one would expect to see to protect the hand from the hammer; however, the pistol does away with the grip safety. The part has seams and joints much as its cousins with grip safeties do, simply to allow access to the trigger and internal lockwork for assembly. Grip safeties are a point of contention for many, but I am happy to see Kimber allow the new compact to function as a cocked-and-locked single-action with a thumb safety and no grip safety—just as the Browning Hi Power, CZ 75 and variants of the H&K USP, Beretta 92 and SIG P226 have for many years.

The Kimber's magazine body is sized specifically to the 9 mm Luger cartridge, in contrast to many popular 2011-style pistols, which employ a rather huge magazine designed to house a double column of large .45 ACP cartridges that is then adapted down to 9 mm. Using a 9 mm Luger-specific body gave Kimber the surest chance for reliability as well as latitude in shaping a small, comfortable grip frame.

Most of the popular pistols on the market use magazines that are each traceable to one of just a few highly proven designs, with minor changes in follower, magazine catch location, tube length and baseplate distinguishing them. The KDS9c magazine body and taper looked quite familiar to me, so I grabbed a surplus Beretta M9 (92FS) magazine and filed a new notch to match the magazine catch location—sure enough, the Kimber ran smoothly with the adapted M9 magazine.

The KDS9c has a catching visual profile. It is at once reminiscent of a traditional M1911 and modern on the verge of futuristic. Everyone, both shooters and non-gun-folk alike, who saw the Kimber in the months I was working with it commented unprompted how attractive they thought it looked. It is one of those pistols that looks even better in person than a still image conveys. The pistol's triangular-profiled slide contributes to its appearance, as do the serrations that carry onto the slide's top in a 90-degree angle to create a chevron effect. I found the



The author's personal Kimber Elite Carry Officer, a single-stack .45 ACP M1911 (bottom) served to whet his appetite for a more capacious, softer-shooting platform such as the 2011-style KDS9c (top).

KIMBER KDS9c

serrations to be nicely functional as well as aesthetically pleasing. The swept nose of the slide creates a unique angle that is also carried onto the forward edge of the dustcover and repeated at the front of the trigger guard.

The frontstrap has a unique, non-snagging geometric serration that plays across the G10 stock panels and onto the mainspring housing. Sometimes sharp checkering on carry pistols can snag or abrade some shirt materials or suit linings, but the serrations here are shallow and unlikely to offend. I found them to offer little traction in use, and the attractive silver KimPro finish has a slightly slick feel to it, which added to the pistol wanting to shift under recoil. I added stair-tread tape to key spots on the front- and backstraps on my second range session to anchor the pistol and would be inclined to leave them there if it were mine.

The controls on the pistol mimic a well-set-up M1911, although they appear to be KDS9c-specific parts. I really liked the shape and effectiveness of the slide stop, magazine catch and, particularly, the thumb safety. The safety snicked on and off with the ideal amount of resistance, and its shape was at once effective, low-profile and comfortable. It is single-sided for right-hand use, and market reception may determine if bilateral units are available downstream.

The frame is almost identical in height to an Officer's M1911, a Glock 19 or similar. The double-stack magazine, recurve at the bottom of the frontstrap and "roundbutt"-style treatment to the backstrap give the pistol a unique feel. The controls and trigger suggest M1911, but the frame feels more to me like the old Beretta 80-series compacts, which have always been regarded as great-feeling little pistols.

Overall, the finish was nicely executed with one machining imperfection where the trigger guard undercut met the frontstrap. Even though there are attractive flat/square areas meeting curves and rounds, there were no sharp edges, corners or "hot spots" anywhere on the pistol.

The slide-to-frame fit was excellent, about as close as one can get in a production pistol without hand-lapping the rails. The bushingless cone barrel had very slight play

at the front and considerable play both vertically and horizontally at the ejection port. I had to remind myself that the new Kimber locks differently than a conventional M1911, so the traditional thumb check on the barrel hood may not compare as apples-to-apples. On several newer designs, the manufacturers have seemed to err on the side of looser tolerances to favor maximal reliability at launch, and it appears Kimber may have done so here.

The Kimber is optics-ready, with a cover plate secured by two screws from the slide's bottom much as with the SIG M17/M18. A Shield footprint adapter is available as an accessory item from Kimber to mount a red-dot optic. I was looking forward to mounting the popular Holosun EPS, as well as the Bushnell RXC 200, to the pistol to evaluate how the KDS9c performed with those optics, but Kimber was unable to provide a plate during the review process.

For many shooters, the whole point of a pistol like the KDS9c is to get the storied M1911 trigger break matched up to a double-stack. Kimber specs the trigger pull weight at between 3 lbs., 8 ozs., and 4 lbs., 8 ozs., and the test pistol started right at 4 lbs. and wore-in to a superb, 3-lb., 11-oz., break. There is a small amount of unweighted pretravel, a tactile wall and a smooth break—which feels like a crisp ledge but is actually breaking over a short movement with no overtravel. The trigger is significantly better than many of the 2011-style widebody pistols I've handled and will draw approving nods from experienced single-action shooters. If this were to be a dedicated carry pistol for me, I would like to see the weight closer to the 4-lb., 8-oz., side of the spec range.

The compact fit nicely into a wide variety of 5" M1911 holsters I tried. Some Commander-specific holsters would not fit (or might require remolding/modification) due to the unique dustcover shape. The Kimber also worked well in some concealment holsters intended for slimline Glock 48s or Springfield Hellcat RDPs. Oftentimes, a new pistol design can be frustrating due to limited holster selection, but many shooters probably already have several favorites



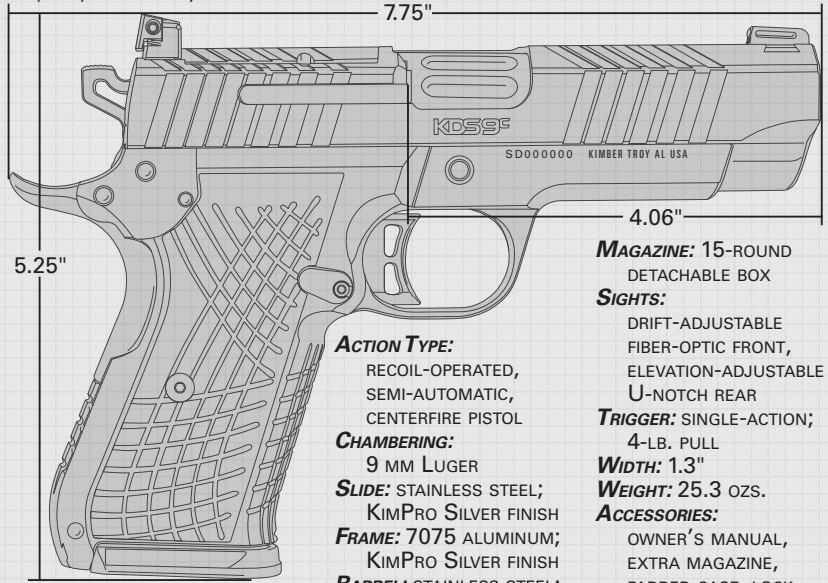
Photo by author

Features abound on the KDS9c's exterior and interior, including: fine and coarse serrations on the top of the slide along with a dovetailed, fiber-optic front sight (below) and an elevation-adjustable rear sight (inset). Note the extensive barrel machining and grip-enhancing treatments to the front- and backstraps.



KIMBER KDS9c (STAINLESS)

MANUFACTURER: Kimber Mfg. Inc. (Dept. AR), 200 Industrial Blvd., Troy, AL 36081; (888) 243-4522; [KIMBERAMERICA.COM](http://kimberamerica.com)



ACTION TYPE:

RECOIL-OPERATED,
SEMI-AUTOMATIC,
CENTERFIRE PISTOL

CHAMBERING:

9 MM LUGER

SLIDE: STAINLESS STEEL;
KIMPRO SILVER FINISH

FRAME: 7075 ALUMINUM;
KIMPRO SILVER FINISH

BARREL: STAINLESS STEEL;
1:10" LH TWIST

MAGAZINE: 15-ROUND
DETACHABLE BOX

SIGHTS:

DRIFT-ADJUSTABLE
FIBER-OPTIC FRONT,
ELEVATION-ADJUSTABLE
U-NOTCH REAR

TRIGGER: SINGLE-ACTION;
4-LB. PULL

WIDTH: 1.3"
WEIGHT: 25.3 OZS.

ACCESSORIES:

OWNER'S MANUAL,
EXTRA MAGAZINE,
PADDED CASE, LOCK

MSRP: \$1,499

The KDS9c features a host of thoughtful details such as a recessed barrel crown (l.) and a flared magazine well (above) that makes changing out the 15-round 9 mm Luger units both smoother and faster.



in their holster box that will work with the KDS9c.

I fired a little more than 650 rounds through the Kimber over the space of a couple of months. There was one fluke stoppage when firing the pistol for groups from the rest. The slide caught one round mid-cartridge rather than stripping it from the magazine, but it seemed to be an anomaly from the otherwise smooth cycling throughout. I lubed the pistol early with Gunfighter Gun Oil and did not clean it or add any lubrication throughout the rest of firing. Where I habitually like to re-lube an M1911 in about 250- to 300-round intervals and give a casual wipe down to remove carbon accumulation every

500 rounds or as needed, the KDS9c seems to be purring along fine well past that. My sense is that it will shrug off indifferent cleaning and lubrication much more easily than some of its pure M1911 cousins. Extraction/ejection was brisk and positive; the external extractor and extended ejector seemed to launch empties consistently and farther from my firing point than my 9 mm M1911s do.

Many shooters appreciate hammer-fired pistols, whether single-action or DA/SA, for their perceived "softness" in recoil relative to striker-fired pistols of similar weight. Recoil on the Kimber was not at all unpleasant but was also somewhat sharper than I expected, with the slide seeming to cycle at a velocity and manner much more like a compact, striker-fired semi-automatic than the dampened-type effect of the mild-mannered 9 mm M1911.

Wanting to have a better sense of what I thought I

The KDS9c's fluted barrel locks up with the slide's ejection port and is belled at the muzzle to fit directly to the slide without a bushing. Still present, though, is the swinging link of the original M1911 design.

SHOOTING RESULTS (25 YARDS)

9 MM LUGER CARTRIDGE	VELOCITY (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
BLACK HILLS 124-GRAIN JHP	1,106 Avg. 11 Sd	337	1.59	4.40	2.75
FEDERAL AE 147-GRAIN FMJ	993 Avg. 6 Sd	322	1.70	4.12	3.09
HORNADY CD 135-GRAIN FL	975 Avg. 10 Sd	285	1.90	4.81	3.19
AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD					3.01

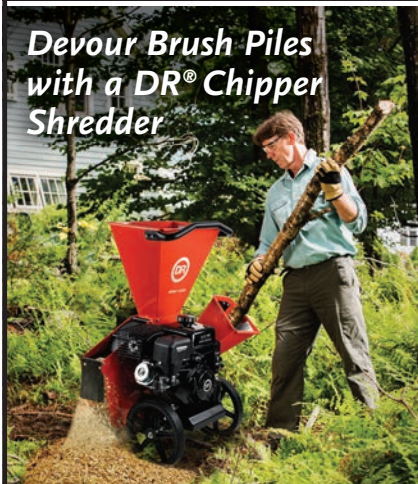
NOTES: MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 SHOTS OVER A COMPETITION ELECTRONICS CHRONOGRAPH AT 10 FEET. ACCURACY RESULTS FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 25 YARDS FROM A BAG REST. TEMPERATURE: 84° F. HUMIDITY: 68%. ABBREVIATIONS: AE (AMERICAN EAGLE), CD (CRITICAL DUTY), FL (FLEXLOCK), FMJ (FULL METAL JACKET), JHP (JACKETED HOLLOW POINT), SD (STANDARD DEVIATION).

was feeling, I grabbed the KDS9c, a Wilson EDC X9 and a Dan Wesson TCP. I backed off to about 22 yards from a 12"x21" steel target and launched several magazines each of 124-grain Blazer in pairs just to get a sense of comparative muzzle rise and feel of the recoil. There was a noticeable difference between the Kimber and the Wilson and another difference between those two and the similarly sized/weighted TCP, which is a noticeably mild-shooting pistol. The Kimber carries most similarly to my Glock 48 slimline, so I shot the two of them side by side, and the KDS9c shot a notch or two softer.



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KIMBER KDS9c

I found the Kimber to be an able partner in a wide variety of challenging practical drills and tests. The KDS9c cleaned the popular and challenging low-round-count vintage Bakersfield Police qualification. Running some of Federal's coated Syntech flat-point training rounds, the KDS9c maxed out the Double & 1 drill with pairs on a bullseye target from 2.5 out to 20 yards and then put in a Master level score on the IDPA 5x5 classification course.

Since I was training up for an NRA Action Pistol competition, I shot the Kimber against the falling plates out to 20 yards, drawing from concealment to attempt to hit each of six 8" plates in seven seconds (15 yards) or eight seconds at 20 yards. That sounds easy until the shot timer beeps, but the excellent trigger and fiber-optic front sight on the Kimber let me ring six for six with some time to spare more than once, and the occasional plate I left standing was no fault of the pistol. This is an excellent test for a demanding level of accuracy from a capable carry pistol.

I was curious what the Kimber would handle like if the aftermarket were to offer slimline stock panels to boost concealment or fit smaller hands even better, so I removed the issue panels and shot it bare. The stock panels give the pistol a pleasant oval cross section that is quite comfortable, but I hope that Kimber or a maker like LOK Grips provides an option for super thin, flat panels as well. I carried and shot the KDS9c with the panels removed and found the more square feel gave me excellent purchase while making the already-slim pistol even smaller.

There is a lot to like in the new Kimber. Holding it side by side with my old custom-shop .45 ACP Elite Carry Officer, it is a pistol of nearly the same compact size and weight in a reliable 15-shot format ready to accept an optic. I am excited to see aspects of the venerable M1911 carried forward with thoughtful updates and changes. For fans of single-action semi-automatic pistols, these are truly great times. 

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HANDLOADS

A 10 mm Auto Loaded For Bear

The fear of a bear attack has likely sold more 10 mm Auto handguns than all firearm advertising combined. The 10 mm does deliver some impressive ballistics for a cartridge chambered in semi-automatic handguns. It fairly well mirrors the .357 Mag., and its recoil is much milder than stout .44 Mag. loads, making it useful for fast follow-up shots.

Most handgun cartridges, like the 10 mm, either develop enough velocity for a bullet to expand and produce a shallow wound or penetrate and create deep trauma—but not both. Penetration is recommended for bears, and flat-point, “hard-cast” bullets provide that by transferring shock while also cutting deeply. Bullets cast from linotype certainly are hard, but they may fail to obturate in the bore, which causes leading at the start of the rifling and poor accuracy, and the bullets may shatter upon hitting bones. On the other hand, a too-soft alloy may not withstand pressures developed by some loads and leave lead streaks the length of a bore.

Bullets cast of old-style wheel weights, which consist of roughly 4 percent antimony—and my addition of 2 percent tin to the melt to help cast fully formed bullets—are perfect for the 10 mm. The bore of my Springfield Omega 10 mm was shiny as a new dime after shooting 40-some wheel-weight bullets cast from an RCBS 40-180-SWC mold. They are hard enough that they will not expand, yet pliable enough to remain intact after hitting bones. Paired with 8.8 grains of Longshot propellant, they clocked 1,266 f.p.s., and the velocity increased to 1,312 f.p.s. with 9.0 grains. Standard deviation of velocity was 11 f.p.s. for the recipe load over 10 shots.

Recoil was remarkably mild, partly due to the Springfield’s ported barrel, however, the muzzle blast was severe. That may be a good thing, however, as it’s said that loud noise helps deter bears. Pulling the sights back down onto a target at 15 yards was quick, and firing eight rounds required only about five seconds.

—JOHN HAVILAND, FIELD EDITOR



RECIPE

BULLET: RCBS 187-GRAIN
40-180-SWC
PROPELLANT: LONGSHOT
CHARGE: 9.0 GRAINS
PRIMER: FEDERAL GM150M
CASE: SIG SAUER
CASE TRIM-TO LENGTH: 0.987"
CARTRIDGE OVERALL LENGTH: 1.50"
VELOCITY @ 10' (F.P.S.): 1,312*
MUZZLE ENERGY (FT.-LBS.): 715
ACCURACY: 2.49"***
USES: BEAR PROTECTION
NOTES: LOADS FIRED FROM A
6"-BARRELED SPRINGFIELD OMEGA
* AVERAGE OF 10 SHOTS.
** AVERAGE OF FIVE, FIVE-SHOT
GROUPS AT 25 YARDS.
TEMPERATURE: 67° F

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A WORTHY MATE FRANCHI'S MOMENTUM



What comes to mind when you hear the term “practical rifle?”

It’s a moniker that I’m sure everyone has a different definition for, depending on what their view of “practical” means. For me, and a growing segment of the shooting world, a practical rifle describes the sport utility vehicle of guns; it’s rugged and capable of almost any task you throw at it. You could use it for backpacking, a hunting companion, as a range plinker or the vaunted “truck gun” that you pull out for those “just-in-case” scenarios.

Randy Cain of Cumberland Tactics teaches an entire three-day course on the so-called practical rifle, so I asked him for his perspective on the topic. Cain views it as an evolution of the famed scout rifle Jeff Cooper advocated. Randy would know, too, as he used to be a rangemaster and staff instructor at Gunsite Academy. He describes the practical rifle as a lightweight, fast-handling bolt-action equipped with iron sights or a low-power variable optic (LPVO). The rifle fires a full-power cartridge suitable for hunting game up to 400 yards and

is reliable enough to serve in a defensive role.

Cain prefers a scope mounted over the receiver in a traditional format rather than the forward-mounted style of the scout rifle. From his experience, the forward-mounted scope came with too many compromises, particularly in low light. Desires to feed from the top unobstructed aside, modern optics solved many of the issues that led to a preference for long-eye-relief scopes in the 1980s, so why not embrace them?

To date, there aren’t many factory offerings within the practical-rifle niche. A handful from big companies such as Ruger, Savage and Mossberg are out there; perhaps lesser known are entries from Howa and Tikka. Each one addresses the niche in some way, but all with a different flavor.

With that, let’s take a look at the Franchi Momentum All-Terrain Elite (MATE) rifle, which the Italian manufacturer purpose-built to compete in the practical-rifle niche. Franchi was kind enough to provide a copy of the rifle chambered in .308 Winchester for review.

One of a new breed of practical rifle—albeit with a few features not commonly encountered—this latest example pushes an already familiar line to the front of the class.

BY MATT ROBERTSON

M ALL-TERRAIN ELITE



ABOUT FRANCHI

Franchi, pronounced fraan-kee, began as a family business in Brescia, Italy, back in 1868. The Beretta group acquired the company in 1994 and brought it under the Benelli umbrella. Franchi is most known for its shotguns—in particular, the iconic SPAS-12 model appeared in many action movies and video games through the 1980s to the early 2000s. It was 1993's "Jurassic Park" where the SPAS-12 first caught my attention as game warden Muldoon's shotgun of choice.

Franchi launched the Momentum series in 2018 to compete in the affordable hunting-rifle market. It was the company's first bolt-action centerfire rifle, and the engineers had done their homework on the American market. Out of the gate, it sported a hammer-forged barrel, a three-lug bolt with a 60-degree throw and a chromed-and-fluted bolt body. It came in a selection of the top hunting cartridges, too.

In 2022, Franchi released a new edition dubbed the Momentum Elite. This update included a Cerakoted barreled action, improved stock with a flatter fore-end and

camouflage from the factory and proprietary detachable magazines. For SHOT Show 2023, Franchi unveiled the Momentum All-Terrain Elite. Building on the previous year's Momentum Elite, the All-Terrain moniker elicits a more rugged attitude.

THE MOMENTUM ALL-TERRAIN ELITE

Unlike the other offerings in the Momentum lineup, the All-Terrain Elite comes in only two chamberings: .223 Rem. and .308 Win. Both are common and have suitable loadings for both defensive and hunting purposes.

Regardless of the cartridge choice, the barrel comes in at a shorter 18" long relative to the 22" and 24" options found elsewhere in the lineup. The barrel for the .308 Win. example I tested measures 0.71" thick from forward of the chamber to the muzzle, putting it in light-medium weight territory. It has a 1:11" right-hand twist, making it suitable for most common loadings. Both the action and barrel come Cerakoted in Midnight Bronze. A radial brake, also Cerakoted, adorns the threaded muzzle from the factory.

FRANCHI MOMENTUM ALL-TERRAIN ELITE

The bolt is the same chromed-and-fluted three-lug arrangement found in other Momentum rifles. The cast handle, also Cerakoted, is unobtrusive. I was unsure if this low-profile design would slow me down during cycling, but that concern proved unfounded during testing. Like others in the series, the MATE uses a push-feed system, plunger ejector and sliding-plate extractor.

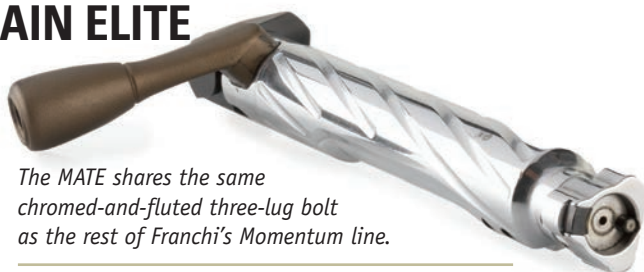
Some of the most interesting changes for this model are in the stock. A TrueTimber STRATA camo pattern covers the polymer stock, save for the recoil pad and palm swell area. The unit maintains the aluminum bedding block arrangement found in previous models, which contributes to consistency and accuracy. For this edition, Franchi made the move to a polymer detachable bottom metal (DBM) system accepting Accuracy International Chassis System (AICS)-pattern magazines; the included 10-round Magpul AICS magazine fits well with little play. The DBM system appears similar to an M5 format, meaning that it does not sit flush with the bottom of the stock but instead extends 0.6" below the stock to help protect the magazine.

An ambidextrous paddle release sits at the rear of the magazine well, in front of the trigger guard; pressing forward on the paddle from either side releases the magazine. I found that this requires a firm push against a spongy spring to actuate, and it's somewhat difficult to detect exactly when the magazine is free. The magazine does not drop on its own, so removing it requires a combination of both pressing the release and manually stripping the magazine.

The trigger itself is the same Relia Trigger found in other models. Its pull weight is adjustable between 2 and 4 lbs., though Franchi states that adjustment should only be made by a qualified gunsmith or Franchi USA. My sample model averaged a pull of 2 lbs., 6 ozs., for 10 pulls with a Timney trigger gauge. I found the trigger to be adequate, relatively clean with little take-up and short travel overall.

The stock itself maintains the stippled texture along the front, sides and grip areas. The stippling is a light-to-medium texture and not rough on the hands at all. The excellent ergonomics of the previous models are all here; that includes a small textured recess at the rear of the buttstock for the non-shooting hand to tuck into when shooting off a pack. The fore-end is also widened, with a flat bottom ideal for resting on bags or barriers.

In a welcome change, the MATE introduces six quick-detach sling swivel sockets—two each on the left, bottom and right sides of the stock at the front and rear. This provides great flexibility to carry the rifle using common



The MATE shares the same chromed-and-fluted three-lug bolt as the rest of Franchi's Momentum line.

two-point tactical slings and replaces the molded-in eyelets found on previous models. Franchi also added two M-Lok slots each on the bottom, left and right of the fore-end. The bottom slots are most useful for adding a bipod or other accessory, while the slots on the left or right make it convenient to attach a weapon light or laser designator. This is similar to the Mossberg MVP Patrol model, but the M-Lok makes for a lower-profile design than a segment of 1913 rail protruding from the side.

At the rear of the stock, both the cheekpiece and recoil pad are swappable for different comb heights and lengths of pull, respectively. This helps the shooter configure the rifle for the best possible ergonomics depending on the optic selection and body geometry.

In another change, Franchi included an 8.5" (21-slot) 1913 Picatinny rail along the top of the receiver. This allows the shooter to place a conventional-eye-relief scope in the traditional rearward position or use scopes with longer eye relief in a more forward-mounted position. The rail is long enough to accommodate combinations of optics such as red-dots with magnifiers, scopes with clip-on night vision or thermal optics.

Lastly, in true practical-rifle fashion, the All-Terrain Elite comes with iron sights. The front sight sits atop the barrel, behind the muzzle brake, while the rear sight is incorporated into the Picatinny rail. When flipped up, the sights provide a peep configuration for accuracy's sake. When stowed in the down position, they function like notched three-dot pistol sights for maximum speed. "Clever girl," indeed. Of course, the sights are not functional when using a magnified optic—but it's nice to have options.

SETTING UP A PRACTICAL RIFLE

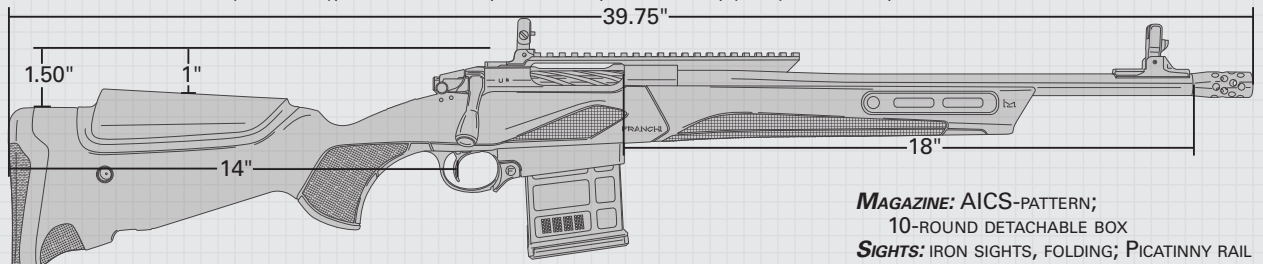
While Cain would say that such a rifle would be best served with an LPVO in the 1-4X, 1-6X or even 1-8X range (and this rifle would be well-suited for such optics), I wanted to go a different direction. My vision of a do-all rifle includes not only defensive use at close-to-medium distance, but also target shooting, some competition or observation.

Features on the MATE include a radial muzzle brake, dual-function folding sights and an 8.5" Picatinny optics rail.



FRANCHI MOMENTUM ALL-TERRAIN ELITE

IMPORTER: FRANCHI USA (DEPT. AR), 901 EIGHTH ST., POCOMOKE, MD 21851; (800) 264-4962; FRANCHIUSA.COM



ACTION TYPE: BOLT-ACTION, CENTERFIRE, REPEATING RIFLE
CHAMBERING: .308 WIN.
RECEIVER: STEEL

STOCK: INJECTION-MOLDED POLYMER WITH ALUMINUM BEDDING BLOCK
BARREL: COLD-HAMMER-FORGED CHROME-MOLY STEEL; FOUR-GROOVE, 1:11" RH-TWIST; 5/8X24TPI MUZZLE

MAGAZINE: AICS-PATTERN; 10-ROUND DETACHABLE BOX
SIGHTS: IRON SIGHTS, FOLDING; PICATINNY RAIL
TRIGGER: SINGLE-STAGE, ADJUSTABLE; 2-LB., 6-OZ. PULL
WEIGHT: 7 LBS., 1 OZ.
ACCESSORIES: OWNER'S MANUAL, LOCK
MSRP: \$1,449

I've always been a fan of the medium-power variable optic (MPVO) segment, and so opted for a Primary Arms GLX 3-18X 44 mm.

This particular scope is purpose-built for "tactical" and competitive use on rifles following a designated-marksman or special-purpose format. It's a 34 mm body design with 180 minutes of angle (m.o.a.) travel. It seemed fitting for an SUV of rifles, save for its 29.6-oz. weight, which makes it less suited to hunting.

Something I found during setup was that the extra-long scope rail and rear iron sight posed a mounting issue. On paper, my 1.1" scope rings should be fine for a scope with a 44 mm objective. However, 1.1" proved to be a hair too low; the bell of the objective end touched the scope rail at the front, and the ocular housing at the rear made contact with the rear iron sight "bump" where the rear notch sights sat. I addressed the issue with a set of 1.26" rings. Were I using a scope with a smaller objective end, say 32 mm or less, it might not have been an issue at the front end, but there would still be a concern about the ocular bell touching the rear iron sight unless you positioned the scope just so, which might not be ideal for eye relief.

A practical rifle deserves a practical sling, so rather than a traditional shooter sling, I opted for an adjustable two-point tactical sling I use for my defensive rifles. The Blue Force Gear VCAS has been a loyal companion with training and competition for more than a decade.

With more of a background in the tactical and competitive side of things than hunting, my first impulse was to try out the MATE through a series of dry-fire drills designed for carbines. Think of your common up drills, ladder drills and positional shooting. After verifying the rifle was clear, I posted a target on the opposite wall of my office and practiced quickly obtaining a sight picture and squeezing the trigger from various positions.

The .308 Win.-chambered Momentum All-Terrain Elite ships with one 10-round, AICS-pattern Magpul PMAG.



SHOOTING RESULTS (100 YARDS)

.308 WIN. CARTRIDGE	VELOCITY (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
FEDERAL PREMIUM 175-GRAIN TA	2,493 AVG. 21 Sd	2,415	1.04	1.59	1.33
HORNADY OUTFITTER 150-GRAIN CX	2,623 AVG. 12 Sd	2,291	2.50	2.84	2.61
NOSLER 150-GRAIN BT	2,710 AVG. 33 Sd	2,446	1.05	2.00	1.45
AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD					1.80

NOTES: MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 SHOTS OVER A MAGNETOSPEED SPORTER AT THE MUZZLE. ACCURACY RESULTS FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 100 YARDS FROM A CALDWELL HYDROSLED REST. TEMPERATURE: 63° F HUMIDITY: 24%. ABBREVIATIONS: BT (BALLISTIC TIP), CX (COPPER ALLOY EXPANDING), Sd (STANDARD DEVIATION), TA (TERMINAL ASCENT).

Both the rifle's cheekpiece and recoil pad are swappable for different comb heights and lengths of pull, respectively, allowing for optimized ergonomics.

The 40" rifle weighs 7 lbs., 1 oz., empty and without an optic. With the scope, it came in at 9 lbs., 6 ozs., which is about on par with defensive carbines and lighter than similarly equipped battle rifles. Of course, weight could be shaved with a lighter optic, but that's a matter of personal preference and intended use.

I found the rifle to handle well during all of the drills. The balance point sits about 0.5" in front of the magazine well and provides a lively feel in the hand. Given the full-size scope and required mounting height, I would have benefited from a taller cheekpiece, but one was not included in my sample to try.

During cycling, I found that the bolt handle has more of a sharp "bump" to it rather than a smooth rotation. I attribute this to the short throw and steep cocking ramp. I didn't quite know what to make of it at first, but after several sessions of practice, I think it gives a positive tactical indication for where you are in the bolt cycle.

ON THE RANGE

I brought the rifle out to Peacemaker National Training Center in Gerrardstown, W.Va., for live-fire testing. The facility has myriad ranges and bays for performing almost any kind of shooting you'd like. I also brought along a Caldwell Hydrosled,

continued on p. 63

6.5-300 WEATHERBY MAGNUM

6.5x55 MM SWEDISH

26 NOSLER

With so many 6.5 mm cartridges from which to choose, deciding on the one that's right for you can be a challenge—so here's a quick guide to help sort them out.

BY AARON CARTER, Field Editor

6.5 MM PRC

.264 WINCHESTER MAGNUM

6.5 MM GRENDEL



QUICK HITS ON 10 SIX-FIVE CARTRIDGES

Long the caliber of choice abroad, the once-lowly 6.5 mm (0.264") has made significant inroads in the United States in a relatively short period of time—especially during the last two decades. Need proof? MidwayUSA currently lists 86 loads for the 6.5 mm Creedmoor, which is more than for the .270 Win., .300 Win. Mag. and several other stalwarts. Meanwhile, even less dominant cartridges like the .260 Rem. and 6.5x55 mm Swedish each have 21 and 19 choices, respectively. A wide variety of loads is a sure sign of market demand for a cartridge, and companies seldom diversify those with limited interest—if they load them at all.

Moreover, whereas the default chambering for most riflemen used to be the ubiquitous .308 Win., the stately .30-'06 Sprg. or the far-reaching .300 Win. Mag., among others, such is no longer the case. Just watch gun store shelves; consumers now reach for the 6.5 mm Creedmoor, 6.5 mm PRC and others with increasingly regularity. So, what's changed?

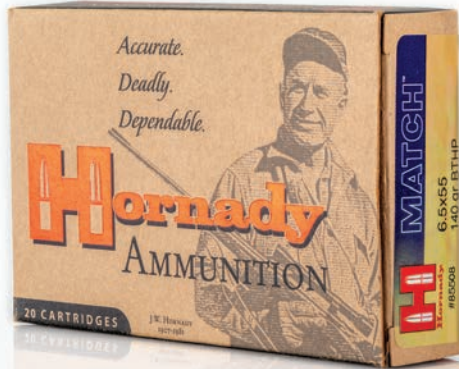
The average American shooter/hunter finally understood what competitive shooters already knew—that the long, svelte and weighty 6.5 mm bullets, which boast especially high ballistic coefficients (BCs), generate considerably better external ballistics than do most other calibers. Said projectiles are exactly what's needed for engaging long- and extreme-range targets and hunting where longer-than-normal shots are the norm.

Further benefitting hunters is their sectional density (SD). According to the *NRA Firearms Sourcebook*, sectional density is "the ratio of bullet weight to the square of its diameter." In layman's terms, just know that the higher a bullet's SD, the better it will penetrate—if a quality, controlled-expansion type is used, of course. As a group, 0.264" bullets exhibit very high SDs. As an example, a 140-grain, 6.5 mm bullet has an SD of 0.287, whereas that same weight in 0.277"- and 0.284"-calibers results in 0.261 and 0.248, respectively.

It's often said that "the proof is in the pudding." Well, I've witnessed Hornady 120-grain Gilding Metal eXpanding (GMX) bullets from a 6.5 mm Creedmoor zip through kudu, impala, black wildebeest, fallow deer and other species at distances well beyond 300 yards, so the caliber's billing as a deep penetrator is accurate.

Given the abovementioned qualities of 0.264"-diameter bullets, it makes sense that many of the newest chamberings to reach the market employ them, but there are a host of established 6.5 mm chamberings, too. Navigating the six-five crowd can be a challenge. So what follows is a quick guide to 10 of the best known that should help.

QUICK HITS ON 10 SIX-FIVE CARTRIDGES



6.5x55 mm Swedish

The 6.5x55 “Swede” has serious staying power. Developed as a military cartridge more than a century ago, the long-action chambering continues to thrive in Europe due to its accuracy and game-stopping ability. Stateside, it’s decidedly less popular. A lack of modern, non-military firearms in the Scandinavian cartridge certainly hasn’t helped its acceptance among Americans, and the few that are available carry a premium.

On paper, the Swede’s external ballistics may seem unimpressive at first; with a 46,000-c.u.p. maximum average pressure (MAP), the cartridge is frequently loaded with 140-grain bullets in the 2,500-2,650 f.p.s. range. Keep in mind, though, that this nearly replicates the velocities attained by the popular 6.5 mm Creedmoor and .260 Rem. with like-weight projectiles. Switching to 120-grain bullets will add a couple hundred feet per second.

As mentioned elsewhere, those aerodynamic 6.5 mm bullets penetrate deeply. It’s little wonder why they’re commonly utilized—even nowadays—for game up to and including moose. As a testament to its phenomenal accuracy, Lapua manufactures 6.5x55 mm Swede component brass and competition-specific ammunition.

6.5x54 mm Mannlicher-Schoenauer

The 6.5x54 mm Mannlicher-Schoenauer (M-S) was adopted by the Greek army at the turn of the previous century, and was later employed in limited use by the Austro-Hungarian army. The split-bridge, bolt-action M-S rifle, which featured a then-revolutionary rotary-style magazine, was accurate and reliable, owing to its quality construction. A number of the M-S rifles have made it to the United States, which necessitates the cartridge’s inclusion in this list.

Using the original 160-grain bullets, the 6.5 mm M-S established an enviable reputation for downing the world’s toughest game, including elephant. Reportedly, Walter Dalrymple Maitland Bell (a.k.a. W.D.M. “Karamojo” Bell) felled a noteworthy portion of his record pachyderm harvest using it.

Today, the cartridge hangs on by a thread in the United States. In fact, I was only able to locate loads from Prvi Partizan and Buffalo Arms Co., which used 156- and 160-grain round-nose (RN), lead-core bullets, respectively. Whereas the 156-grain bullet hits 2,395 f.p.s., the 160-grain projectile trudges along at only 1,900 f.p.s. The latter utilized Norma brass, which can be purchased as a component. If you handload, which you should if you have a M-S rifle, then you have access to an abundance of 6.5 mm bullets, including Hornady’s perfectly matched 160-grain RN InterLock.

6.5x52 mm Italian

Yet another cartridge from the Mediterranean region, the 6.5x52 mm Italian (a.k.a. 6.5 mm Carcano) was adopted as the official Italian military chambering in 1891. Housed in the bolt-action Model 91 Mannlicher-Carcano rifle, during the post-World War II period, large numbers of these value-priced rifles hit American shores. Although these were Mannlicher inspired, intricacies affect their performance.

Concerning external ballistics, the 6.5 mm Carcano is similar to the 6.5x54 mm M-S; this is unsurprising as, according to *Cartridges Of The World, 13th Ed.*, “Reloadable cases can be made very easily from 6.5x54 Mannlicher cases.” Problem is, the latter are difficult to find, too. Fortunately, 6.5x52 mm Italian cases can be had from Prvi Partizan and



Norma, and loaded ammunition is made by the former. There's a 123-grain SP loaded to 2,690 f.p.s., while the 139-grain FMJBT hits 2,525 f.p.s. Reloading will give you additional options, but there's a caveat.

According to the *Hornady Handbook Of Cartridge Reloading, 10th Ed.*, "Carcano rifles were built with a 0.257" bore and 0.268" grooves. The rifles are, by virtue of this, not generally accurate with conventional 0.264" 6.5 mm bullets." That's very limiting, but Hornady does offer a 160-grain, 0.267"-diameter RN bullet specifically for Carcano rifles.

.260 Remington

During its introduction, this cartridge was envisioned—and marketed—foremost for hunting, and thus the early rifles have twist rates that are poorly suited for stabilizing modern, high-BC bullets. Contemporary riflemakers have since remedied Big Green's oversight. Now it's slowly gaining in popularity due to its near-equivalent performance with the 6.5 mm Creedmoor—with one added advantage.

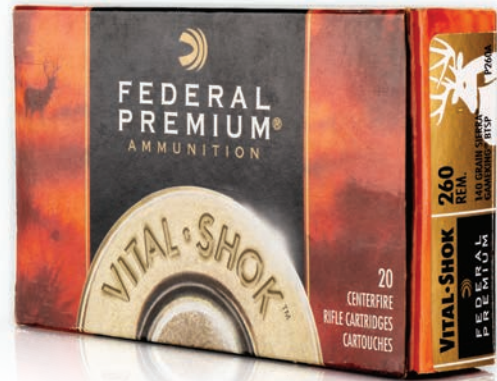
But, let's start with the drawbacks. With a maximum cartridge overall length (C.O.L.) of 2.800" and a 2.035" case length, heavy 6.5 mm bullets must be seated deeply (when compared to the Creedmoor), thereby reducing usable propellant space. The cartridge also retains the modest, 20-degree shoulder angle of its parent, the .308 Win. Its case capacity is around 47 to 50 grains of water—similar to that of the 6.5 mm Creedmoor but slightly less than that of the 6.5x55 mm Swede.

Component cases are fewer in number than its Creedmoor counterpart, but the big names—Lapua, Norma, Nosler, Hornady and others—are there. You can also fashion .260 Rem. brass from .308 Win. family members in a pinch, too. That's the true advantage of the .260. The number of manufacturers producing loaded match and hunting ammunition continues to increase, though "mom-and-pop shops" might not carry it. Best of all, nearly any gun chambered for the .308 Win.—including AR-10-types—can be adapted to fit the .260, though custom, precision bolt guns are where you find it most often nowadays. Not as many production options are currently available.

6.5 mm Creedmoor

The 6.5 mm Creedmoor has changed many American minds about the virtues (and needs) of the .264 caliber. Developed by Hornady as an efficient, low-recoil, across-the-course match and hunting cartridge, it is at home in NRA High Power and Precision Rifle Series (PRS) competitions as it is pursuing a majority of the world's huntable species. Since it was developed from the ground up as a competition cartridge, it has many built-in features that make it especially efficient and accurate.

For starters, with a C.O.L. of 2.825" and a maximum case length of 1.920", long, high-BC bullets need not intrude excessively into the space for propellant, and there's more room to adjust the bullet to fit differing throat lengths and yet still fit in the magazine. Rifles chambered for the cartridge have at least a 1:8" twist, so they'll stabilize the heaviest 6.5 mm bullets. Furthermore, the cartridge has the desirable blend of a 30-degree shoulder and a longer-than-caliber neck. Although it debuted with large rifle primer pockets, Lapua now offers component brass with small rifle primer pockets. When it comes to diversity in ammunition, the Creedmoor has no equal among 6.5 mm cartridges. There's an array of ammunition, and rifle, options for every pursuit.



QUICK HITS ON 10 SIX-FIVE CARTRIDGES



6.5 mm Grendel

The only AR-15-compatible cartridge in this listing, the Grendel nonetheless generates respectable ballistics (for its diminutive size) and phenomenal accuracy. That's due to an ingenious design and unparalleled pedigree. Based on the renowned PPC family of competition cartridges, the Grendel exemplifies the preferred short, fat body for maximum efficiency. It has the requisite 30-degree shoulder, a 1.520" maximum case length, minimum taper and a 0.438"-diameter head. Being restricted to a 2.260" C.O.L. leaves just 0.74" for bullet projection, but since the cartridge is at its best with bullets weighing 130 grains or less, that's no handicap.

While not as myriad as the previous two chamberings, 6.5 mm Grendel brass is available from the well-known makers, and a pound of powder goes a long way in the petite, extra-efficient cartridge. As for factory ammunition, MidwayUSA lists 17 loads.

When coupled with the right bullet and setup, the 6.5 mm Grendel is equally at home pursuing feral hogs, deer and antelope as punching paper at distances out to 600 yards or so—especially in a well-tuned AR, where a full magazine is a blessing, or in one of the few bolt-actions chambered for it. For the budding hunter, there are few better options.

.264 Winchester Magnum

Formed by necking down the .458 Win. Mag., and introduced in 1958, the .264 Win. Mag. was envisioned as a long-range hunting cartridge—a goal it handily achieved. But all was not sunshine and unicorns. Loaded to a maximum C.O.L. of 3.340", the cartridge requires a long action. It has a belted case, which many shooters detest, and when combined with a 64,000-p.s.i. MAP, certainly affects its useful life. That's a problem, as few companies make component brass. The news isn't much better for loaded ammunition, either; in fact, I identified only six options at MidwayUSA. They're also pricey and only feature hunting bullets.

So, why would you own a rifle in .264 Win. Mag.? Speed. Bullets weighing 140 grains can top 3,000 f.p.s. with near-max handloads and at least one factory loading. Of course, this assumes the .264 in question has a sufficient twist rate to stabilize heavy, high-BC bullets—which not all factory rifles from yesteryear have. Twenty-six-inch barrels are required to realize this cartridge's full ballistic potential.

Also keep in mind that the .264 Win. Mag.'s velocities come at a cost, and that's barrel life. Like other high-intensity cartridges, if you shoot often, reduced barrel life can be expected.



6.5 mm PRC

A higher velocity at the muzzle results in a flatter trajectory, less wind deflection and greater on-target energy. It also helps ensure reliable bullet upset when impacting game. It was for these reasons that Hornady created the magnum 6.5 mm Precision Rifle Cartridge (PRC) to complement its mild-mannered 6.5 mm Creedmoor.

Like the Creedmoor, a requirement of the beltless, short-action 6.5 mm PRC was that it had to keep most of the bullet outside of the case to preserve propellant space, which was maximized by minimal body taper. With a 2.030" case length and 2.955" C.O.L., there's 0.925" for bullet protrusion, which is important for today's long, aerodynamic projectiles. Hornady retained the familiar 30-degree shoulder angle of



its predecessor. It's designed from the ground up for top-tier accuracy, and it delivers. In fact, I've yet to see an inaccurate 6.5 mm PRC rifle.

As for ammunition, there is sufficient variety in loads; I quickly identified nine "premium" options. Trouble is, it's quite costly. Fortunately, Hornady, Nosler and now Lapua manufacture 6.5 mm PRC component brass. In all honesty, if you need the level of performance that the 6.5 mm PRC delivers, then you need to take the time to reload for it. Do so, and you'll see what 6.5 mm cartridges are truly capable of.

26 Nosler

The 26 Nosler was a successful attempt to maximize the ballistics of a non-belted—think longer case life and better headspace off the shoulder—6.5 mm cartridge that would still fit within a long action. To do so, it features a 2.590" case with very minimal taper, measuring 0.534" at the rim and 0.528" at the junction of the body and shoulder, and a 35-degree shoulder. Like the other modern 6.5 mm cartridges in this listing, the 26 Nosler permits much of the bullet to reside outside of the case; here it's 0.75". That preserves much of the case's 93-grain capacity (of water), which facilitates high velocities, such as 3,400 f.p.s. with a 129-grain AccuBond Long Range.

Reloading for the 26 Nosler isn't onerous—and it's necessary unless you're well-heeled—but it's a costly one to feed. Cases are available from Nosler, Norma and Hornady, and run more or less around \$3 apiece, and a pound of propellant goes fast when top loads approach 100 grains each. Further, I found that, although it offers five options, only Nosler is loading ammunition for the cartridge, so reloading is mandatory to increase for diversity. Expect to pay around \$5 per round.

6.5-300 Weatherby Magnum

Weatherby demanded the highest velocity possible with a 6.5 mm bullet when creating the 6.5-300 Wby. Mag. Mission accomplished. Using the .300 Wby. Mag. case as the parent, this potent cartridge achieves ultra-high speeds, but requires a magnum action to handle it. Like its parent, the maximum C.O.L. is 3.600". Concerning velocities, with a 130-grain Scirocco II and 156-grain Berger Elite Hunter, it achieves 3,476 f.p.s. and 3,050 f.p.s., respectively—impressive! The latter has a G1 BC of 0.679 and only drops 23.3" at 500 yards with a 300-yard zero, where it still has 1,964 ft.-lbs. of energy remaining.

Weatherby loads economical and premium loads featuring controlled-expansion bullets. I'd recommend the latter for anything other than punching paper, due to the high impact velocities. Ammunition costs about \$5 each, so lengthy range sessions will be expensive. The verdict is out on barrel life, though for hunting, it'd last a lifetime.

Like its parent, the 6.5-300 Wby. Mag. features a belted case, and case life is generally short with such. Currently, only Weatherby (i.e. Norma) makes brass for this cartridge, and it's a little more than \$2 each. The cartridge retains the double-radius shoulder of its predecessors, and maximum bullet projection is around 0.775".

The Wrap

There's no doubt that the 6.5 mm-diameter projectiles possess an enviable set of ballistic characteristics, and more are sure to come. But with those surveyed here, the competitor or hunter has an excellent slate from which to choose. Hopefully this rundown helped to make that choice a little easier. 🦋



REMEMBERING GUN DESIGNER

A brilliant young designer from middle America lands in Gun Valley with a unique idea—and changes the firearm industry in the process.

BY DON FINDLEY

Robert



Twenty-year-old U.S. Navy Reservist Bob Hillberg conducts gunnery practice with a Lewis machine gun in 1937.

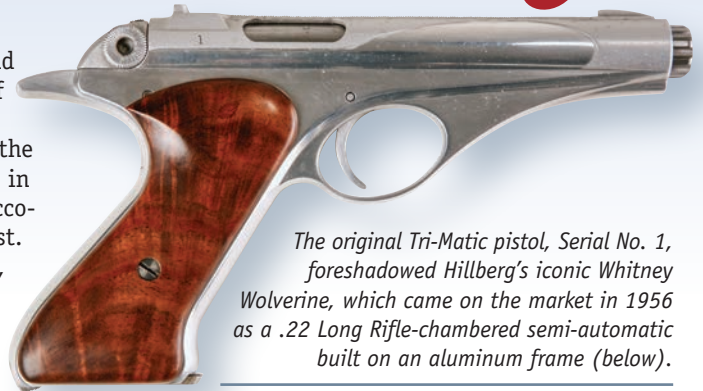
Lee Hillberg

Unless you work in the firearm industry and are actually involved in the production of guns, you've probably never heard of the late Robert L. Hillberg. But he was not only one of the many men who designed and tested guns—working in the background and leaving others to receive the accolades for their achievements—he was one of the best.

Robert Lee Hillberg was born in Anamosa, Iowa, on Aug. 27, 1917. Growing up, he had a natural motivation toward everything mechanical and was particularly fascinated by the design of firearms. After several years of studying and collecting all types of firearms, he designed a .38-cal. machine gun. Then, while serving as a reserve member of Squadron VN11RD-9, at the U. S. Naval Air Base, Wold-Chamberlain Field in 1937, Hillberg built a working prototype. The following year, he went to Colt's Patent Firearms in Hartford, Conn., in the hopes of selling the design. He demonstrated the prototype, but the famed company ultimately decided it was not interested in Hillberg's gun—but it was interested in him. Colt extended a job offer, and Hillberg eventually worked there in various roles, including engineering, assembly, inspection and manufacturing. In fact, while at Colt, Hillberg designed a short version of the company's Single Action Army revolver along with a 7/8-scale, .22 Long Rifle-chambered version of the Colt Frontier, which the company went on to produce years later.

After two years at Colt, Hillberg saw more opportunities to advance his career in the airline industry. He accepted a better-paying job with Pratt & Whitney Aircraft. While there, he began development of an aircraft cannon. He later accepted a job with the Ordnance Division of Bell Aircraft and, after several years at Bell, he moved on to Republic Aviation. It was there that he became the F-92 armament unit leader and engaged in the "Secret Room" as an armament consultant for advanced fighter aircraft. However, despite the fact that the money and opportunities in the aircraft industry were great, Hillberg's heart remained in firearm design.

In 1951, he was hired by High Standard Mfg. Co. as head of research and development. He designed the T-152 tank machine gun, a .22-cal. semi-automatic sporting rifle and one of the earliest commercial, semi-automatic,

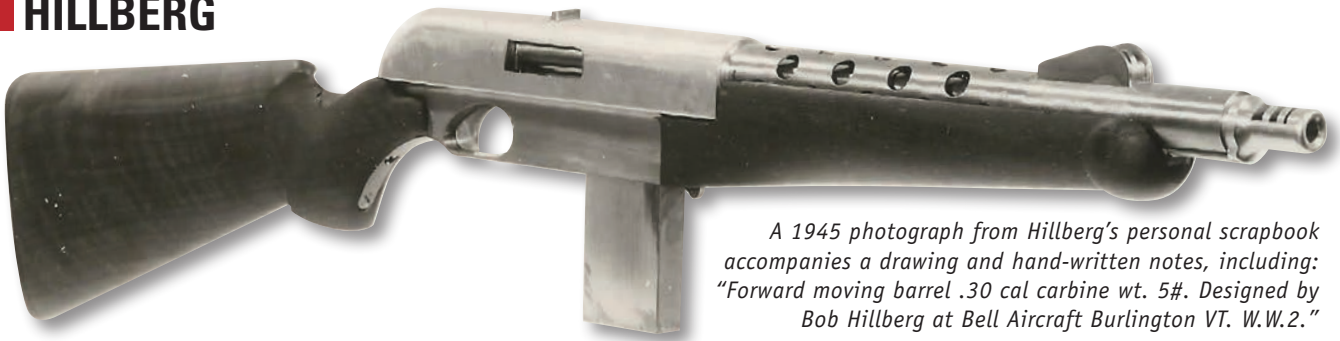


The original Tri-Matic pistol, Serial No. 1, foreshadowed Hillberg's iconic Whitney Wolverine, which came on the market in 1956 as a .22 Long Rifle-chambered semi-automatic built on an aluminum frame (below).

gas-operated shotguns: the Model 60. High Standard had a model shop for fabricating designs into working prototypes, and most of the modelmakers worked in the civilian/commercial end of the business yet also handled the model fabrication for military test projects. The answer to this problem was to contract the military jobs out. The Bellmore Johnson Tool Co. had produced parts for a recent military machine gun project, which Hillberg ran. Bellmore Johnson, located in Hamden, Conn., was also a source for specialty tools for the firearm industry, and it employed the best modelmakers in the business. It was also a leading producer of experimental-model firearms for various manufacturers including Winchester, Marlin, Mossberg, Colt and High Standard.

Even with his busy work schedule at High Standard, Hillberg found time for a personal project—a pistol





A 1945 photograph from Hillberg's personal scrapbook accompanies a drawing and hand-written notes, including: "Forward moving barrel .30 cal carbine wt. 5#. Designed by Bob Hillberg at Bell Aircraft Burlington VT. W.W.2."

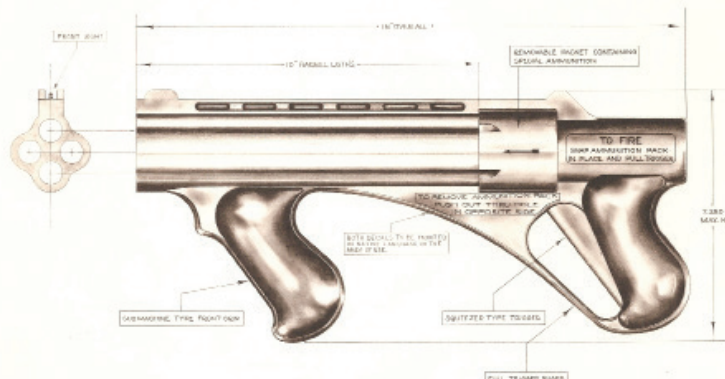
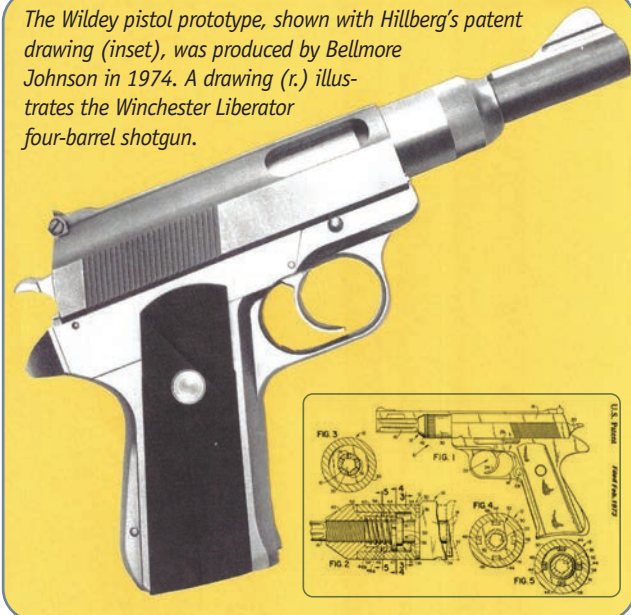
with one main frame, capable of firing three different chamberings: the Tri-Matic. Hillberg's design had a streamlined, space-age profile that eventually morphed into what later became one of the most iconic pistols of all time. He presented his drawings and production ideas to High Standard's management, but the company already had a line of top-selling .22 pistols, and management was not receptive to Hillberg's proposal. So, Hillberg showed his drawings to Howard Johnson, one of the owners of Bellmore Johnson, who was impressed and convinced Hillberg to resign from High Standard and come to work for the company. Hillberg agreed, relocating to Bellmore Johnson as chief engineer and moving into a small office in Cheshire, Conn. Along with other members of Bellmore Johnson, Hillberg formed Whitney Firearms, Inc. with the goal to produce and market the .22-cal. pistol of his own design: the Whitney Wolverine. The venture was short-lived, with only 10,000 of the pistols being produced before Whitney Firearms, Inc. went into bankruptcy in 1957.

From 1957 to 1980, Hillberg remained as Bellmore Johnson's chief engineer, with the company's customers including about every major firearm company in the United States—along with several confidential firearm contracts associated with the military. His designs while at Bellmore Johnson ranged from handguns to shotguns, both combat and sporting, and rifles. In this capacity, Hillberg also conducted business as a gun consultant and designer for the firearm industry. A listing of the customers he served reads

like a who's who of the industry: Browning Arms; Colt; High Standard; Winchester; Marlin Firearms; O.F. Mossberg & Sons; Remington Arms; Savage Arms; Ithaca Gun Co.; and the Springfield Armory. Hillberg is also credited with a raft of commercial and military firearm designs, including:

- T-152 tank machine gun (Tank Arsenal, Springfield Armory)
- 9 mm Luger submachine gun
- .223 Rem. M1 carbine (CIA)
- .22 Long Rifle conversion for M16 rifle
- 12-ga. police riot pump shotgun
- Four-barrel military & police riot shotgun
- Eight-barrel military & police combination tear gas riot shotgun
- .38-cal. pocket-size revolver (Colt)
- Four-shot tear gas & .22-cal. pocket pistol (Colt)
- .22-cal. family line sporting pistol (Colt)
- Low-cost plinking pistol (High Standard)
- Single-shot .22 Western-style revolver (Savage)
- Single-shot simulated Winchester 94 boys rifle (Ithaca)
- Single-shot shotgun (Ithaca)
- Single-shot shotgun (Savage)
- Low-cost semi-automatic shotgun (Savage)
- .357 Mag./ .22-cal. revolver (Browning)
- Over-under high-power rifle (Browning)
- Pump-action shotgun (Browning Model BPS)
- .357 Mag./ .22-cal. revolver (Winchester)
- Cattle stun gun (Winchester)
- .45-70 Gov't lever-action rifle (Marlin)
- Sharps high-power rifle (Colt)
- 12-ga. semi-automatic shotgun (Marlin)
- Compact off-duty police handgun, .357-cal. four-barrel (COP, Inc.)
- Ring airfoil missile launcher (Government)
- .22-cal. semi-automatic pistol (Whitney)
- Folding shotgun stock (Remington)
- .45-cal. semi-automatic pistol (Wildey)

The Wildey pistol prototype, shown with Hillberg's patent drawing (inset), was produced by Bellmore Johnson in 1974. A drawing (r.) illustrates the Winchester Liberator four-barrel shotgun.



He is also the listed patent holder for more than 40 U.S. firearm innovations, including the following: (most of the dates listed are for the time the patent was issued—some were applied for much earlier)

- 176516 – Pistol – 1956
- 2842885 – Firing pin with plastic sleeve (High Standard) – 1958
- 2845001 – Manual charger – 1958
- 2909101 – Gas operated firearm with gas piston surrounding a tubular magazine (High Standard) – 1959
- 3621596 – Firearm with falling breech block – 1959
- 3060810 – Sear mechanism disconnected by breech block motion – 1962
- 263413 – Handgun (COP Inc.) – 1974
- 3260009 – Multi-barrel firearm with rotatable and reciprocable hammer (Olin Mathieson Corp.) – 1966
- 3546417 – Shotgun barrel construction (Bellmore Johnson Tool Co.) – 1970
- 3621596 – Firearm with falling breech block (Colt) – 1971
- 3651594 – Shotgun barrel construction – 1972
- 3798819 – Folding gun stock – 1974
- 3810326 – Construction for revolver (Browning) – 1974
- 3988849 – Handgun signal launcher – 1976
- 4141164 – Magazine isolator for pump shotgun (Browning) – 1979
- 4221066 – Firearm grip assembly (Wildey) – filed 1974
- 4208947 – Firearm hammer block safety mechanism (Wildey) – filed 1974
- 4291481 – Firearm magazine safety mechanism (Wildey) – filed 1974
- 262567 – Rifle design – 1982
- 4400900 – Multi-barrel handgun firing mechanism – 1983
- 4416078 – Handgun strut assembly – 1983
- 4424638 – Handgun – 1984

Hillberg's designs were wide-ranging and included those intended for sales to law-enforcement agencies, such as the eight-barreled Colt Defender Mark I 20-ga. shotgun (top, r.). Others were for off-duty officers, such as the COP four-barrel, .357 Mag. pistol designed circa 1982 (below). And then there were sporting arms such as the lever-actuated, single-shot Ithaca SuperSingle shotgun (r.).



After retiring from Bellmore Johnson, Hillberg continued to serve as a firearm expert witness, for both plaintiffs and defendants. His expertise pertained to anything connected to firearms, with a special interest in cases that involved the testing and safety of firearm designs. (To read a letter sent by Hillberg to *The American Rifleman* in 1966, visit: americanrifleman.org/hillberg). He was also a retired deputy sheriff and a member of several police organizations, including: the New England Ass'n of Chiefs of Police; the Intl. Ass'n of Chiefs of Police; the American Law Enforcement Officers Ass'n; the New Haven County Sheriffs Ass'n; the National Sheriffs Ass'n; and the Connecticut Chiefs of Police Ass'n (firearms committee).

Robert Lee Hillberg died Aug. 12, 2012, at 94. He was predeceased by his wife, Jeanette, and is survived by his son, Lee. His career had spanned from before World War II into the 21st century and continues to influence the firearm industry to this day. When asked what design accomplishment he was most proud of, he was quick to answer: "The Whitney Wolverine." 🦁





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Saturday, February 10	9:00am - 7:00pm
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MAC 9 DS



Located in Knoxville, Tenn., the new Military Armament Corp. (MAC) was launched at the Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade (SHOT) Show in 2023 and boasted a sizable list of initial offerings, such as semi-automatic shotguns (MAC 1014, MAC 2 and MAC F12) in various configurations and the feature-filled MAC 1911 JSOC. Unwilling to rest on its laurels, though, MAC has further diversified its M1911 line with the subject of this review, the 9 DS.

Many supposed drawbacks of the M1911 design are addressed with the Turkish-made MAC 9 DS. Foremost is magazine capacity; chambered in 9 mm Luger and utilizing double-stack magazines, hence its designation, the modernized take on John M. Browning's vaunted M1911 holds 18 rounds (17+1). Two 17-round magazines accompany the handgun.

To accommodate the staggered-column, Check-Mate-manufactured magazines, the 9 DS's polymer grip module incorporates the stocks, blending near-seamlessly with the carbon-steel frame. The 9 DS has an oversize magazine well to hasten reloads. Thanks to generous beveling of all sides, magazines glide home quickly and effortlessly, while cutouts grant unimpeded access should a magazine fail to fully release. The squarish trigger guard, which has a small swath of molded-in checkering, is part of the grip module. Similarly, there is integral checkering on the frontstrap and backstrap, as well as curvy lines sculpted on the sides, to aid purchase. Fans of the M1911 will find the fire controls to be familiar. The magazine-release button is situated rearward of

the trigger, with the slide stop located directly above. The safety levers are the only bilateral controls on the 9 DS, and behind them is a beavertail grip safety.

As for the skeletonized aluminum trigger, the pre-production 9 DS we evaluated exhibited characteristics of a two-stage design; the final version, however, will have a single-stage trigger. On the sample 9 DS, the trigger pull was exceptionally smooth and broke at an average pull weight of 3 lbs., 13 ozs. Take-up and reset were both quite short.

Noting the trend of handgunners equipping their pistols with a red-dot sight, the carbon-steel slide of the 9 DS is cut to accept the provided RMR-footprint plate; three additional plate options will be available for purchase. This plate is secured via two screws and also has a dovetailed, flat-faced, notch-rear sight, allowing the co-witnessing of the optic with the "irons." For those who prefer iron sights, a rounded plate

is provided with a dovetailed, dehorned, angled rear sight with a notch flanked by white dots. The front sight on our test gun was a ramp with a single white dot, although production guns will instead have a fiber-optic pipe. Serrations at the front and rear of the slide on both sides aid its manipulation. The frame, which includes a four-slot accessory rail integrated into the dustcover, is treated with a QPQ Tenifer finish, as is the slide.

Disassembling the bushingless pistol grants access to a guide rod with a single recoil spring, as well as the cold-hammer-forged 4140 steel barrel. Flaring to 0.695" near the muzzle, the heavy, 4.30"-long barrel has an integral feed ramp and ends with a target-type crown. The extractor and fixed ejector were absolutely reliable during testing. The firing pin is made from titanium.

It must be stated that the sample sent to us for evaluation was a prototype and had been thoroughly used. In fact, the barrel's finish was worn noticeably in places, the breechface displayed significant brass residue and the magazine well exhibited signs of the ammunition holders slamming home repeatedly. The exact round count was unknown, but suffice it to say, it was likely considerable.

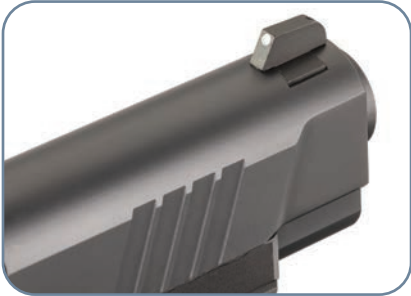
We accuracy tested the +P-rated pistol at 25 yards from a simple Browning sandbag rest. Resisting the inclination to add an optic, we decided to evaluate it using the



Despite relatively conventional design, the optics-ready MAC 9 DS features: a combination polymer/steel frame; a magazine well funnel; a coned, bushingless barrel and a full-length guide rod.



Widely spaced slide serrations are at the rear (above) and front (below) of the slide. Steel sights are dovetailed in place (production guns will have a fiber-optic front), with the rear attaching to the optic-cut filler plate.



open sights. As for the 9 mm Luger ammunition used to test accuracy, we selected three “premium” loads, including a +P variant: Federal Personal Defense Punch 124-grain JHPs; Hornady Critical Duty 124-grain FlexLock +Ps; and Nosler Assured Stopping Power 115-grain JHPs. A mixture of remnant factory ammunition from previous tests, as well as handloads featuring 115- and 124-grain FMJ bullets, were added when function testing and plinking.

During accuracy testing, the stand-out proved to be Federal’s Punch; the average for five consecutive, five-shot groups measured a notable 1.94" and the smallest group was 1.50". Frankly, all groups were sufficiently sized for stopping a threat, punching cardboard (for score) or toppling distant steel, though they did impact slightly to the right and a hint low. Only one failure to feed was encountered, using the Nosler ASP. We attributed it to the magazine, and it couldn’t be replicated.



MAC 9 DS

IMPORTER: MILITARY ARMAMENT CORP. (DEPT. AR), 114 SHERLAKE LANE, SUITE 18, KNOXVILLE, TN 37922; (865) 604-6894; MILARMAMENTCORP.COM

MANUFACTURER: TISAS (TURKEY)
ACTION TYPE: RECOIL-OPERATED, SEMI-AUTOMATIC, CENTERFIRE PISTOL
CHAMBERING: 9 MM LUGER
SLIDE: CARBON STEEL; QPQ TENIFER FINISH
FRAME: STEEL AND POLYMER
BARREL: 4140 STEEL; SIX-GROOVE, 1:10" RH-TWIST RIFLING

MAGAZINE: 17-ROUND DETACHABLE BOX
SIGHTS: DRIFT-ADJUSTABLE; FIBER-OPTIC FRONT, TWO-DOT NOTCH REAR
TRIGGER: SINGLE-ACTION; 3-LB., 13-OZ. PULL
WIDTH: 1.25" (GRIP), 1.63" (MAGAZINE WELL)
WEIGHT: 36 OZS.
ACCESSORIES: OWNER'S MANUAL, SOFT CASE, EXTRA MAGAZINE, OPTIC PLATE (RMR FOOTPRINT), SIGHT TOOL, CLEANING KIT
MSRP: \$1,149

SHOOTING RESULTS (25 YARDS)


9 MM LUGER CARTRIDGE	VELOCITY (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
FEDERAL PD PUNCH 124-GRAIN JHP	1,101 Avg. 6 Sd	334	1.50	2.33	1.94
HORNADY CD 124-GRAIN FL +P	1,112 Avg. 7 Sd	340	1.95	2.88	2.47
NOSLER ASP 115-GRAIN JHP	1,115 Avg. 11 Sd	317	1.35	2.81	2.13
AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD					2.18

NOTES: MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 SHOTS OVER A PROCHRONO LTD CHRONOGRAPH AT 10 FEET. ACCURACY RESULTS FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 25 YARDS FROM A BROWNING SANDBAG REST. TEMPERATURE: 57° F. HUMIDITY: 63%. ABBREVIATIONS: ASP (ASSURED STOPPING POWER), CD (CRITICAL DUTY), FL (FLEXLOCK), JHP (JACKETED HOLLOW POINT), PD (PERSONAL DEFENSE), Sd (STANDARD DEVIATION).

With accuracy testing completed, we then randomly loaded the gun’s magazines with the remaining 9 mm ammunition, and—regardless of order—the MAC 9 DS ran the loads without issue. The short trigger reset was helpful in performing quick follow-ups during rapid-fire drills. Additionally, we found the one-piece, hand-filling grip to be particularly comfortable, and even less-seasoned shooters who held the 9 DS appreciated it. Everyone prized the texturing applied to enhance

purchase, and it made controlling the pistol a breeze. It’s a fun gun to shoot.

Lastly, although the enlarged magazine well increases the gun’s dimensions, thereby complicating transport (i.e. holstering to an extent), this drawback is more than offset by the additional speed afforded during magazine changes. Rapid insertion of a magazine was as foolproof as is possible.

Fans of Browning’s renowned M1911 design looking for enhanced capacity in an optics-ready, soft-shooting pistol will find it in the MAC 9 DS, all at a price that’s hard to beat. 

A provided optic plate allows RMR-footprint micro red-dots to be quickly mounted atop the MAC 9 DS, and an integrated rear sight allows the optic to co-witness with the irons.



GForce LVR410

With a long and storied history in the United States, lever-action carbines continue to be favorites among modern American shooting sports enthusiasts for use as brush guns, deer-hunting rifles and, occasionally, for home defense. Chambered in centerfire and rimfire cartridges, these classic long guns are available from various importers and American manufacturers. In recent years, we've seen the rise of a previously uncommon type of lever-action, namely, models chambered to fire 2.5" .410-bore shotgun shells. This evaluation takes a closer look at the 24"-barreled LVR410, which is being imported by GForce Arms, Inc. of Reno, Nev.

The LVR410 shotgun's action, design cues and general layout are unmistakably inspired by the iconic Winchester 1894, a configuration that is highly revered by lever-action rifle fans. GForce procures these guns from the Turkish manufacturer Radikal Arms. Turkey is among the largest exporters of shotguns in the world, as Turkish long guns tend to have lower price tags that can make these feature-rich models even more attractive to fans of the platform.

This shotgun is built around an open-top aluminum receiver with distinctively modern,

curving lines on the left and right sides. In this case, the receiver, steel lever loop and aluminum fore-end band are treated with a matte-silver Cerakote finish; this contrasts nicely with the matte black of the other metallic appointments, which sport non-reflective blued or blacked finishes. The right side of the receiver has been beveled around the loading gate to ease the loading and unloading of shells.

The shotgun ships with a rifle-type sight system installed. The white-dot, square-notch rear sight is fully adjustable for elevation and windage, while the front sight blade features a HIVIZ red fiber-optic pipe. A round-profile barrel is available in either 20" or 24" lengths. Our test sample was an example of the latter, with the interior of the muzzle threaded to accept removable Beretta/Benelli Mobil-style choke tubes. Three are provided: full (0.398"); modified (0.402"); and cylinder (0.409"). All testing was conducted with the full choke installed.

A second aluminum barrel band, located just behind the front sight, is matte black to match the blued-steel barrel and the aluminum tubular magazine. The magazine of the 24" model holds eight rounds of ammunition, plus one in the chamber. A threaded cap allows the magazine

to be removed easily for cleaning. The interior of the cap has a threaded port that supports a removable 17.5"-long steel plug that limits the magazine capacity to two rounds to comply with regional hunting regulations. The uncheckered fore-end is made from a handsome piece of Turkish walnut and exhibits a clean, tight fit to the receiver and barrel.

Like other 1894-type lever guns, the exposed hammer must be cocked either manually or by cycling the action in order to fire. The standard-profile lever loop houses a smooth-face steel bow trigger. It exhibited a short 1/2" take-up before breaking cleanly at 2 lbs., 15 ozs., of pressure. The trigger then traveled another 1/4" after the break.

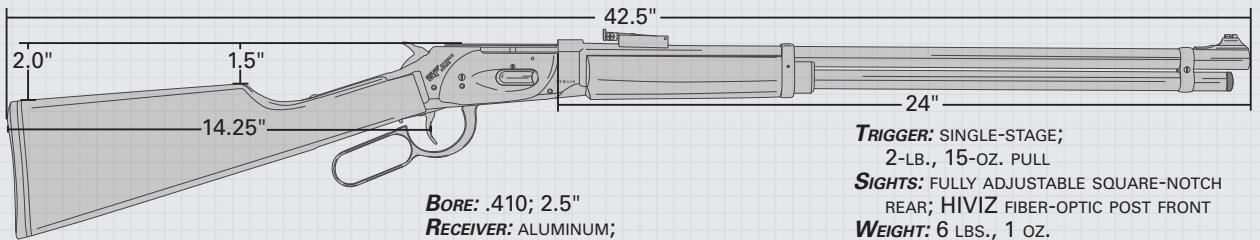
The LVR410's safeties include a rebounding hammer and a lever safety that protrudes from the lower tang. After the hammer falls forward to ignite the chambered cartridge, it automatically springs back away from the firing pin approximately 0.25" where it locks into place. This prevents the hammer from coming into contact with the firing pin if the hammer is bumped or the shotgun is dropped. The visible portion of the lever safety is a small stud located about an inch behind the trigger. Much like the grip safety of an M1911 pistol, the stud must be fully engaged by pressing the lever loop firmly against the shoulder stock with the shooting hand in order for the gun to fire.

The Turkish walnut shoulder stock



The GForce LVR410 comes with three flush-fitting Beretta/Benelli Mobil-style choke tubes: full, modified and cylinder. The endcap of the shotgun's tubular magazine can be easily removed, allowing the included shell-limiter (above, inset) to be installed/uninstalled as required by local hunting regulations.

IMPORTER: GFORCE ARMS, INC. (DEPT. AR), 5355 CAPITAL COURT, RENO, NV 89502; (833) 343-6723; GFORCEARMS.COM



MANUFACTURER: RADIKAL ARMS (TURKEY)
ACTION TYPE: LEVER-ACTION, CENTERFIRE, REPEATING SHOTGUN

BORE: .410; 2.5"
RECEIVER: ALUMINUM; SILVER CERAKOTE FINISH
STOCK: TURKISH WALNUT
BARREL: CARBON STEEL
MAGAZINE: TUBULAR; EIGHT-ROUND

TRIGGER: SINGLE-STAGE; 2-LB., 15-OZ. PULL
SIGHTS: FULLY ADJUSTABLE SQUARE-NOTCH REAR; HIVIZ FIBER-OPTIC POST FRONT
WEIGHT: 6 LBS., 1 OZ.
ACCESSORIES: OWNER'S MANUAL, THREE CHOKE TUBES (FULL, MOD., CYL.), CHOKE TUBE CASE AND WRENCH
MSRP: \$699



The LVR410 features a very rifle-like set of fully adjustable sights, pairing a square-notch rear (above, l.) with a HIVIZ fiber-optic front (above). A protruding safety stud (l.) must be engaged by pressing the lever fully against the stock in order to fire.

has a classic straight-grip profile and a 14.25" length of pull. It's capped with a polymer plate that supports a thin, textured, soft-rubber buttpad. The shotgun evaluated here weighed in at 6 lbs., 1 oz., and exhibited proper fit and finish throughout.

It's worth noting that not all .410-bore shotshells are created equal. American-made cartridges from the major manufacturers—including Federal, Remington and Winchester—tend to have consistent external dimensions that contribute to more reliable feeding. But imported shotshells in this class often exhibit minute differences in shape, which may or may not be a good fit for a particular gun. The shells used for informal and formal testing with this shotgun were produced by American makers—all of them fed, fired and ejected properly without any issues.

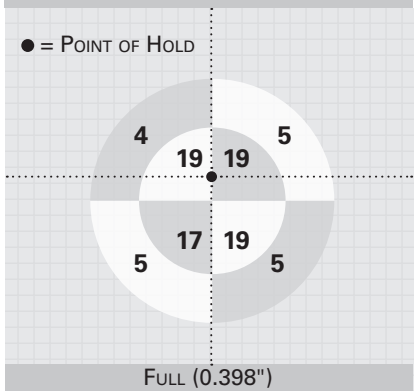
The manufacturer is clear on two points regarding factory-fresh LVR410 shotguns. First, it recommends the gun be broken down, thoroughly cleaned and checked before its first trip to the

range. This is good advice for any brand-new firearm to ensure there is not grit or metal shavings in the action left over from the manufacturing process. Secondly, this lever-action will require a break-in period in order to smooth out the action and feeding.

Based on this information, it was not a surprise when the LVR410 was a bit stiff to begin with. But within the first 25 rounds, it was already showing signs of settling into its routine; by the end of the evaluation, it was swinging along nicely. Getting a feel for working with the lever safety will take a bit of practice. It's by no means a difficult feature to master, but it is something to note for those who are new to the platform. Using the sights as configured from the factory resulted in the shot patterns landing 5.5" below the point of aim on

SHOOTING RESULTS (25 YARDS)

FEDERAL HI-BRASS GAME SHOK
 .410 BORE, 2½", 1/2 oz., No. 6
 AVERAGE PELLET COUNT: 103
 LISTED VELOCITY: 1,200 F.P.S.
 AVERAGE OF 10 PATTERNS



21" INNER CIRCLE:	74	(72%)
30" OUTER RING:	19	(18%)
TOTAL HITS:	93	(90%)

average. Adjusting the rear sight after formal testing at 25 yards centered the patterns on target.

Smooth-bore lever guns chambered for .410-bore shells are lean, lightweight and useful for a score of sporting and hunting applications. They are especially handy for those who already use lever guns for other outdoor endeavors. The GForce Arms LVR410 exemplifies the enjoyable shooting and utility this class of shotgun has to offer and does so at an affordable price.

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

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



LATEST LEGISLATIVE NEWS FROM INSIDE THE NRA INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

New York State Rifle & Pistol Association president Tom King talks with a reporter about Second Amendment rights and concealed gun carry license.

NRA-ILA

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Americans Support *Bruen* Decision

When the U.S. Supreme Court released its 2022 decision in the landmark *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen* case, anti-gun organizations had a collective conniption fit. The responses from the various entities that make up the gun-ban movement were eerily similar—especially as it relates to claims that the decision was not supported by the public.

Everytown, the organization funded by anti-gun billionaire Michael Bloomberg, proclaimed, “Today’s ruling is ... out of touch with the overwhelming majority of Americans”

Giffords lamented, “This extreme ruling by the Supreme Court’s conservative supermajority ... [is] thwarting the will of the people”

Brady came out with, “The majority opinion has demonstrated that they do not care about what the majority of Americans want and support.”

And to emphasize how in lockstep these groups are when it comes to the *Bruen* ruling,

they issued a joint statement that alleged, “... the Court has proven how out of step it is with the American people.”

The obvious narrative these groups wanted to promote was that Supreme Court rulings should give more weight to opinion polls than the Constitution—a notion without any merit. In fact, the Court has a long history of handing down rulings that, at the time, were likely unpopular with majorities of Americans. But are these groups even right about how the public views *Bruen*?

A poll conducted by Marquette Law School sought to determine how the American public feels about the job the Supreme Court is doing. Of many questions asked, one was whether people favored or opposed the decision handed down in *Bruen*, and the result was 67% favored the ruling, while only 33% opposed it.

So much for the Court being “out of touch with the overwhelming majority of Americans” or “thwarting the will of the people.”

NRA-ILA Files *Amicus* Brief In Hawaii Carry Case

Last November, NRA-ILA filed an *amicus curiae* (or friend-of-the-court) brief in support of a challenge to Hawaii’s new “sensitive places” law, which makes it illegal to carry firearms throughout most of the state.

In the *Bruen* decision, the U.S. Supreme Court clarified that the Second Amendment protects the right to carry a firearm for self-defense outside the home and that states cannot implement discretionary carry-permit schemes that require applicants to show

“proper cause” to obtain a permit. In response, states like Hawaii have enacted sweeping “sensitive places” laws.

“Essentially, Hawaii replaced a regime under which no one could obtain a license to carry a firearm with a regime under which there is almost nowhere a person can legally carry,” the brief states. “It amounts to the same thing: an almost complete evisceration of the fundamental right to carry a firearm outside the home for self-defense.”

"This goes much further than the historical record allows and flagrantly disregards the Supreme Court's holdings," the brief continues.

NRA-ILA has backed lawsuits challenging these laws in other states, where we have obtained injunctions preventing the laws from taking effect. This brief seeks to continue those successes in the aloha state.

The case is captioned *Wolford v. Lopez*.


Maryland Gun License Ruled Unconstitutional

Also last November, a three-judge panel of the United States Court of Appeals ruled that Maryland's Handgun Qualification License (HQL) requirement is unconstitutional under the Second Amendment.

Before one can exercise their Second Amendment right to own a handgun, they must first get an HQL. Obtaining an HQL requires taking a four-hour class with classroom and live-fire components (costing several hundred dollars), undergoing a background check that includes submitting a complete set of fingerprints (paid for by the individual) and then waiting up to 30 days for processing the application. If approved, the individual must still undergo an additional background check and another seven-business-day waiting period when acquiring a handgun, and then a NICS check must be completed when the firearm is transferred.

NRA challenged this law back in 2016. The case was originally dismissed, and then reinstated by the Fourth Circuit. Despite the Fourth Circuit's reinstatement of the case, the trial court still upheld the HQL requirement on remand. NRA appealed again, and the court unequivocally held that the law is unconstitutional: "The challenged law restricts the ability of law-abiding adult citizens to possess handguns, and the state has not presented a historical analogue that justifies its restriction; indeed, it has seemingly admitted that it couldn't find one."

"This is a significant ruling for the Second Amendment and every American who cherishes our constitutional freedoms," said NRA-ILA Executive Director Randy Kozuch. "The Fourth Circuit Court's decision to overturn Maryland's restrictive gun license law sends a clear message: Law-abiding Marylanders' fundamental right to self-defense must not be infringed. This victory is a tribute to the relentless spirit of NRA members, whose staunch advocacy and support are the backbone of our success."

The case is *Maryland Shall Issue v. Moore*. 

Dylan Scott is NRA Country

Photo courtesy of Dylan Scott



Curb Records recording artist Dylan Scott is a powerful vocalist with a deep, unmistakable drawl, an old-soul songwriter with a young spirit and a family man with a tender heart. The ACM-nominated, multi-Platinum singer has notched three number-one singles ("My Girl," "Nobody," and "New Truck"), as well as the top-five hit "Hooked." Following his first career nomination for Best New Country Artist at the all-genre iHeartRadio Music Awards and a coveted spot among Country Radio Seminar's New Faces of Country Music, his Platinum-certified ode to his wife, "Nobody," earned him a 2021 CMT Music Award for Breakthrough Video of the Year. Alongside Jason Crabb, Scott won his first GMA Dove Award in 2023 for the song, "Good Morning Mercy." "Livin' My Best Life," the latest album from Scott, features the current RIAA Certified Platinum Top 5 radio single, "Can't Have Mine (Find You A Girl)." NRA Country's Lisa Supernauth recently got a chance to find out more about this in-demand artist.

LS: We saw you cover "Granddaddy's Gun," tell us a little bit about why that song is so special to you.

DS: I chose to cover this song because, before my grandad passed away, he gave me a gun. It's something I'll always cherish.

LS: Do you have a favorite hunting story you would like to share?

DS: Man, where do I start? Between the awesome trips I've taken with buddies, to taking my son for the first time ... One I'll never forget was the first deer I killed; I was with my dad in my grandad's deer stand.

LS: What was the first firearm you remember having? Do you still have it?

DS: A 20-gauge pump shotgun, and I do still have it. I plan on passing it down to my son.

LS: What does Freedom mean to you?

DS: Freedom is getting to go out in the woods and enjoy God's creation or walking on stage and getting to play country music across America. We wouldn't have that freedom without all the men and women who fight for our country, and our first responders.

LS: What was the inspiration for your latest number-one hit, "Can't Have Mine"?

DS: Oh, definitely my wife. We've been together since we were 15. So, all my love songs come easy. Especially when I live that life every day.

LS: If you could choose one person who has influenced you the most, who would that be?

DS: My dad. He lived in Nashville and pursued a country-music career. In the end, it was me that made his dream come true. So, I thank my dad for my love of country music and of the outdoors.

NRA Country is a lifestyle and a bond between the country music community and hard-working Americans everywhere. It's powered by pride, freedom, love of country, respect for the military and the responsibilities of protecting the great American life. For more information, visit nracountry.com, follow on Twitter @NRACountry, and NRA_Country on Instagram.

NRA Online Regional Report

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LAW ENFORCEMENT

le.nra.org

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



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friendsofnra.org

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



GUN SHOWS

gunshows.nra.org

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

To become an NRA Recruiter, contact NRA Recruiting Programs at recruiter@nrahq.org.



TRAINING

refuse.nra.org | nrainstructors.org

The NRA's Refuse to Be a Victim® program provides information on crime prevention and personal safety. To learn more about the program, visit refuse.nra.org. The most up-to-date seminar and instructor training schedule is available on the Internet by visiting nrainstructors.org, or online training is available at nraonlinetraining.org.

Questions? Email to refuse@nrahq.org or by calling (800) 861-1166.



AREA SHOOTS

ssusa.org/coming-events

For more information, please contact the NRA Competitive Shooting Division at comphelp@nrahq.org.



STATE ASSOCIATIONS

stateassociations.nra.org

Joining NRA-affiliated state associations supports NRA's mission in your state. See clubs.nra.org for more information.

Member Information & Benefits

NRA.ORG

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

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MEDIA RELATIONS (703) 267-1595

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

NRA DALLAS '24 ANNUAL MEETINGS & EXHIBITS

MAY 16-19, 2024

For hotel accommodations at the NRA Annual Meetings, visit nraam.org.



2024 Great American Outdoor Show

My name is Andrew. I look forward to serving the Association as the interim executive director of General Operations. For 23 years, I have worked for the NRA and NRA-ILA assisting with a wide range of corporate initiatives, messaging and crisis communications programs, and events at the local, regional and national levels.

My first opportunity to meet with many of you will be at the 2024 NRA Great American Outdoor Show, which returns to the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex and Expo Center in Harrisburg, Pa., February 3-11. Each year at GAOS, we celebrate the hunting, fishing and outdoor traditions treasured by millions of Americans and their families. There is no other show in the world of this size and scope.

Since taking over the world's largest outdoor show more than a decade ago, GAOS has become one of the NRA's best-loved events. More than 200,000 people made the trip to Dauphin County for GAOS in 2023—the exhibit halls were packed with families and friends celebrating our shared values and way of life. At GAOS, attendees can interact with industry insiders and like-minded individuals, along with checking out the numerous products on display.



greatamericanoutdoorshow.org

Exhibitors at GAOS demonstrate products that drive the way we enjoy the outdoors. Last year, more than 1,000 exhibitors covered 650,000 square-feet to present the latest and greatest in outdoor products, gear and technologies, along with providing the opportunity for attendees to book once-in-a-lifetime hunts and fishing trips in America and abroad. As a dedicated consumer show, GAOS is a great place for companies to connect with their core audiences and vice versa.

GAOS is a destination event for the whole family. It's the only place where in one day you can compete for bragging rights at the 3D Bowhunter Challenge and then observe canine acrobatics in action at the Dock Dogs big-air pool. Youngsters can head to the Kid's Trout Pond for some angling action and visit the Eddie Eagle Kid's Zone for crafts, games and face

painting. This year's schedule includes seminars and demonstrations for hunting, fishing, trapping, self-defense tactics and wild-game cooking. Plus, no visit to GAOS is complete without buying a ticket for a chance to win a firearm at the famous NRA Wall of Guns.

The second weekend of the show includes several marquee events. Join us on Thursday, Feb. 8, at the Friends of NRA Banquet for a chance to win exclusive guns, gear, décor and collectibles—all while ensuring the future of American freedom and the right to bear arms. New to the GAOS schedule this year is the NRA-ILA Leadership Forum, to be held on Friday, Feb. 9. At this forum, we will hear from elected officials and political candidates about what is at stake in the 2024 elections for hunting, fishing and outdoor recreational activities. And you won't want to miss an unforgettable night of music on Saturday, Feb. 10, at the 9th Annual NRA Country Concert headlined by Hershey, Pa., native and country superstar Warren Zeiders.

Act fast and buy your tickets today for the 2024 Great American Outdoor Show. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$9 for children, with two-day passes discounted to \$26. Admission is free with the purchase of an NRA membership. Learn more at greatamericanoutdoorshow.org.



Photo by NRA



Friends Of NRA 2024 Gun Of The Year: Henry Matched Set

Henry Repeating Arms has joined with Friends of NRA to create a limited-edition Gun of the Year set, a limited run only available at 2024 Friends of NRA events.

That's right—the 2024 Friends of NRA Gun of the Year is actually two guns, an exclusive matched set of .357 Mag./ .38 Spl. goodness. After all, the Big Boy Revolver from Henry Repeating Arms is the perfect companion to ride alongside the world-famous Big Boy Brass Rifle.

The exclusive Big Boy Revolver "Friends of NRA Gun of the Year" edition borrows design cues from its long-gun brethren with highly polished blued steel throughout the medium-sized frame and that iconic Henry brass wrapping through the trigger guard, around the grip and up the backstrap. It is a traditional double-action revolver with a fixed rear notch sight, a four-inch barrel and a handy quick-release switch to remove the cylinder for cleaning. At about 34 ounces, these revolvers carry easily yet shoot softly with a smooth pull and hammer drop in double action and a crisp break in single action. Exclusive to this matched set, the grip stocks are black-stained hardwood, with "Friends of NRA Gun of the Year" etched in hand-painted gold relief. For an additional touch of color and contrast, the rear of the cylinder features a thin

gold band—another Friends of NRA edition exclusive.

And what better rifle to pair with this revolver than the Big Boy Brass rifle chambered for the same cartridges? The rifle features genuine American walnut furniture, a 20-inch blued steel octagon barrel, and a polished hardened brass receiver drilled and tapped for an optics base. A side loading gate aids in keeping the 10-round magazine topped off, and a removable inner magazine tube makes unloading safe and quick. Its sights are fully adjustable with a semi-buckhorn in the rear and a brass bead up front. This legendary piece of Americana is finished with a "Friends of NRA Gun of the Year" engraving prominently displayed on the buttstock.

"It is hard to impress a guy who has been around firearms for over four decades," said Anthony Imperato, founder and CEO of Henry Repeating Arms. "However, the first time I saw this Henry Friends of NRA two-gun set come off our final assembly line, all I could say was 'wow, wow, wow!' And it's the very first time we have paired a Henry revolver with one of our lever-actions. A magnificent addition to a firearms collection!

Most importantly, Henry will continue to support the Friends of NRA's dedicated efforts to secure the Second Amendment, promote our shooting sports traditions and advocate for firearms safety."

"I want to thank Anthony Imperato and his committed staff for all the support they provide to The NRA Foundation," stated Tyler Schropp, executive director of The NRA Foundation. "Henry's reputation for engaging and enthusiastic support carries over into its 27-year relationship with Friends of NRA and The NRA Foundation. We are grateful to continue to partner with Henry and thrive on the impact they have on our fundraising."

Like every Henry, the Friends of NRA 2024 matched set is proudly made in America, or not made at all. 🇺🇸



The perfect pair: the limited-edition Friends of NRA Henry Big Boy Side Gate rifle and Henry Big Boy Revolvers are both chambered in .357 Mag./ .38 Spl. and are both built with Henry's unmistakable premium materials and American craftsmanship.

Photos by Peter Fountain

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

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

FRANCHI

continued from p. 41

MagnetoSpeed Sporter and three loads of .308 Win. ammunition: Federal's 175-grain Terminal Ascent, Hornady's 150-grain Outfitter CX and Nosler's 150-grain Ballistic Tip.

I began testing at the southeast-facing 100-yard range with the standard velocity and accuracy-testing protocols: including 10 shots from each loading over the chronograph to provide velocity numbers. For accuracy, I fired five, five-shot groups with each load. The temperature was a steady 63° Fahrenheit, with 24 percent relative humidity and a southerly 5 m.p.h. breeze.

The best and most consistent performer was the Federal Terminal Ascent, which produced the tightest groups of the day. The worst performing was the Hornady Outfitter, which did not perform any better than 2.5". From time to time, you hear of a particular rifle and load not getting along, and this was one of those circumstances.

Formal testing completed, I fired the Momentum All-Terrain rifle on steel out to 300 yards with some of the remaining ammunition. It reliably rang steel gongs without any fuss. All through testing of about 200 rounds, I observed no malfunctions in feeding or ejecting of any kind.

I had concerns that the radial muzzle brake would produce excess blast out of an 18" barrel, but it turned out to be quite reasonable. The brake helped soften the recoil of the .308 Win., to boot. I would prefer a muzzle brake that did not have ports along the bottom, but the fact that the brake is easily replaced with any .30-cal. option threaded 5/8x24 TPI is a bonus.

FINAL THOUGHTS

I'm glad to see Franchi continuing development of the Momentum rifle line and bringing out new variations. Moreover, the move to the practical-rifle format is interesting. The company has brought a compelling product to the table that competes well against more established models for large brands. The Momentum All-Terrain Elite offers enough well-thought-out features at a reasonable price point that there's a great chance that Franchi has a hit on its hands for those willing to venture off the beaten path. 



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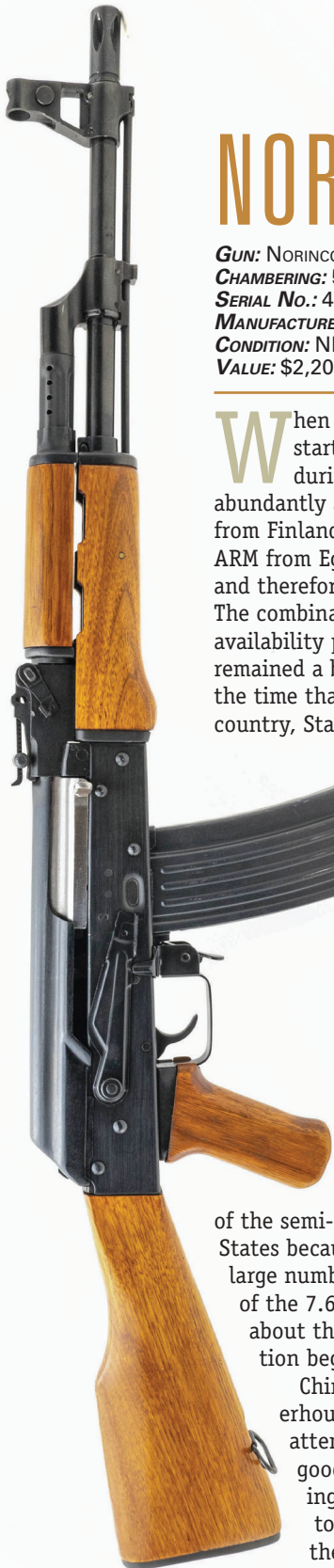
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NORINCO 84S

GUN: NORINCO 84S
CHAMBERING: 5.56 NATO
SERIAL No.: 407051
MANUFACTURED: 1988
CONDITION: NRA EXCELLENT (MODERN GUN STANDARDS)
VALUE: \$2,200



When semi-automatic Kalashnikov-type rifles started coming into the United States during the 1970s, 7.62x39 mm was not an abundantly available cartridge. The Valmet M62/S from Finland came first, followed by the Maadi ARM from Egypt, but both guns were expensive and therefore out of reach for the average shooter. The combination of high cost and the ammunition availability problem meant that the Kalashnikov remained a bit of a niche item. But right at about the time that Maadi ARMs started coming into the country, State Arms Factory 366 in the People's

Republic of China began producing a semi-automatic version of the Type 56 Kalashnikov known as the 56S. Basically just a Chinese copy of the Soviet AKM, the 56S features a stamped sheet-metal receiver, 16.4" chrome-lined barrel, high-polish blued finish and wood furniture. The industrial conglomerate China North Industries Corp., better known as Norinco, exported the 56S to the U.S. market at a price point so low that it could be retailed for half the cost of either the Valmet or the Maadi. This fundamentally transformed the popularity

of the semi-automatic Kalashnikov in the United States because, suddenly, a model was available in large numbers, and it was affordable. Availability of the 7.62x39 mm cartridge began changing at about the same time as Chinese-made ammunition began entering the U.S. market as well.

China was not exactly an economic powerhouse back then, and the country was attempting to change that with a little good, old-fashioned capitalism. By branching out and expanding into markets heretofore untouched by Chinese industry, the PRC was attempting to gain strength

in the global economy. Accordingly, it sought to develop products that could be sold into the lucrative U.S. market, and Norinco eventually played a role in that initiative. Although its 56S was successful, the company recognized that it could reach even more customers in the U.S. if it offered a version of the gun in 5.56 NATO, a cartridge that was abundantly available there.

To that end, the engineering team at Factory 366 came up with a design that received the designation Norinco 84S. For the most part, the gun presents the same general appearance as the 56S because it has the same overall length and is built around a stamped sheet-steel receiver. In addition to that, the 84S uses the same hooded front sight base, the same 45-degree gas block, the same fire-control components, the same wood furniture and the same high-polish blued finish. Like the 56S, it is equipped with a chrome-lined 16.4" barrel and uses the rotating bolt and long-stroke gas piston that made the Kalashnikov design famous.

There is, however, a major visible difference that is the result of the change to the 5.56 NATO cartridge: the proprietary 30-round magazine's noticeably less curvaceous profile. In addition to that, the 84S incorporates a spring-actuated firing pin and a birdcage-type flash suppressor, neither of which are features of the 56S design. Norinco exported a standard model of the 84S equipped with a fixed wood stock, as well as sub-variants equipped with under-folding and side-folding stocks, designated 84S-1 and 84S-2, respectively, and black Bakelite furniture with the designation 84S-3. The 1989 import ban forced Norinco to make some big changes to the rifle, but the desirable pre-ban examples were imported for one year and one year only—1988—and they were all imported by China Sports Intl. in Los Angeles. These rifles are still out there to remind us of a time when Beijing's ambition to become economically powerful led it to create a Kalashnikov tailor-made for the American market.

—MARTIN K.A. MORGAN, FIELD EDITOR

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

Scientific Discovery Stuns Doctors

Biblical Bush Relieves Joint Discomfort in as Little as 5 Days

Legendary “special herb” gives new life to old joints without clobbering you. So safe you can take it every day without worry.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 54 million Americans are suffering from joint discomfort.

This epidemic rise in aching joints has led to a search for alternative treatments—as many sufferers want relief without the harmful side effects of conventional “solutions.”

Leading the way from nature’s pharmacy is the new “King of Oils” that pioneering Florida MD and anti-aging specialist Dr. Al Sears calls “the most significant breakthrough I’ve ever found for easing joint discomfort.”

Biblical scholars treasured this “holy oil.” Ancient healers valued it more than gold for its medicinal properties. Marco Polo prized it as he blazed the Silk Road. And Ayurvedic practitioners, to this day, rely on it for healing and detoxification.

Yet what really caught Dr. Sears’ attention is how modern medical findings now prove this “King of Oils” can powerfully...

Deactivate 400 Agony-Causing Genes

If you want genuine, long-lasting relief for joint discomfort, you must address inflammation. Too much inflammation will wreak havoc on joints, break down cartilage and cause unending discomfort. This is why so many natural joint relief solutions try to stop one of the main inflammatory genes called COX-2.

But the truth is, there are hundreds of agony-causing genes like COX-2, 5-LOX, iNOS, TNK, Interleukin 1,6,8 and many more—and stopping just one of them won’t give you all the relief you need.

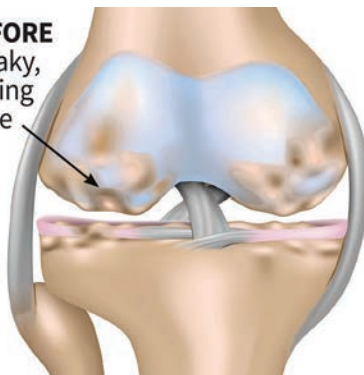
Doctors and scientists now confirm the “King of Oils”—Indian Frankincense—deactivates not one but 400 agony-causing genes. It does so by shutting down the inflammation command center called Nuclear Factor Kappa Beta.

NK-Kappa B is like a switch that can turn 400 inflammatory genes “on” or “off.” A study in Journal of Food Lipids reports that Indian Frankincense powerfully deactivates NF-Kappa B. This journal adds that Indian Frankincense is “so powerful it shuts down the pathway triggering aching joints.”

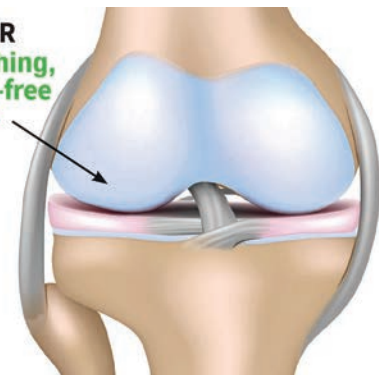
Relief That’s 10 Times Faster... and in Just 5 Days

Many joint sufferers prefer natural solutions but say they work too slowly. Take the best-seller glucosamine. Good as it is,

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Creaky,
aching
knee



AFTER
Soothing,
ache-free
knee



The active ingredient in Mobilify soothes aching joints in as little as 5 days

the National Institutes of Health reports that glucosamine takes as long as eight weeks to work.

Yet in a study published in the International Journal of Medical Sciences, 60 patients with stiff knees took 100 mg of Indian Frankincense or a placebo daily for 30 days. Remarkably, Indian Frankincense “significantly improved joint function and relieved discomfort in as early as five days.” That’s relief that is 10 times faster than glucosamine.

78% Better Relief Than the Most Popular Joint Solution

In another study, people suffering from discomfort took a formula containing Indian Frankincense and another natural substance or a popular man-made joint solution every day for 12 weeks.

The results? Stunning! At the end of the study, 64% of those taking the Indian Frankincense formula saw their joint discomfort go from moderate or severe to mild or no discomfort. Only 28% of those taking the placebo got the relief they wanted. So Indian Frankincense delivered relief at a 78% better clip than the popular man-made formula.

In addition, in a randomized, double blind, placebo controlled study, patients suffering from knee discomfort took Indian Frankincense or a placebo daily for eight weeks. Then the groups switched and got the opposite intervention. Every one of the patients taking Indian Frankincense got relief. That’s a 100% success rate—numbers unseen by typical solutions.

In addition, BMJ (formerly the British Medical Journal) reports that Indian Frankincense is safe for joint relief — so safe and

natural you can take it every day.

Because of clinically proven results like this, Dr. Sears has made Indian Frankincense the centerpiece of a new natural joint relief formula called **Mobilify**.

Great Results for Knees, Hips, Shoulders and Joints

Joni D. says, “**Mobilify** really helps with soreness, stiffness and mild temporary pain. The day after taking it, I was completely back to normal—so fast.” Shirley M. adds, “Two weeks after taking **Mobilify**, I had no knee discomfort and could go up and down the staircase.” Larry M. says, “After a week and a half of taking **Mobilify**, the discomfort, stiffness and minor aches went away... it’s almost like being reborn.” And avid golfer Dennis H. says, “I can attest to **Mobilify** easing discomfort to enable me to pursue my golfing days. Definitely one pill that works for me out of the many I have tried.”

How to Get Mobilify

To secure the hot, new **Mobilify** formula, buyers should contact the Sears Health Hotline at **1-800-329-8454** TODAY. “It’s not available in retail stores yet,” says Dr. Sears. “The Hotline allows us to ship directly to the customer.” Dr. Sears feels so strongly about **Mobilify**, all orders are backed by a 100% money-back guarantee. “Just send me back the bottle and any unused product within 90 days from purchase date, and I’ll send you all your money back.”

Use Promo Code **ARMB124** when you call to secure your supply of **Mobilify**. Lines are frequently busy and due to heightened demand, supplies are limited. To secure your supply today, call **1-800-329-8454**.

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