

# PRIVATE MILITARY CONTRACTOR

INTERNATIONAL

## GLOCK 19X

ALL HYPE OR A  
POCKET ROCKET?

## TACTICAL INNOVATION

Giena Tactics Gear,  
New Yet Fully Formed!

## NAUKA!

Getting to Grips with  
a Unique Fighting Style

## ALL QUIET?

Torrent Suppressors  
keep the noise down

## SKILLS & DRILLS

After Action: What Happens Next?

## ON TARGET

Big Glass: the Vortex  
Razor HD Gen II

## KNIVES & TOOLS

A Perfect Push-Blade from Adkins

## PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Medical Skills and Gear for the Range and Deployment

## BLADE SHOW 2018 SPECIAL REPORT

The Very Latest from the Knife and Tool World!

**PMCI**



JUNE 2018

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Thank you for downloading this Edition of PMCI, the FREE digital publication dedicated to PMC Operatives. PMCI is written by individuals with first-hand knowledge and experience of the subject they write about - and all of whom have an intimate understanding of what the role entails and the day to day challenges faced by those working in this industry.

PMCI will provide a platform to review and discuss the things to matter to all of us, such personal equipment, training, employment and lifestyle management - and these are also our core fundamentals. We hope you enjoy this Edition of PMCI and if you have any feedback or comments, or would like to contribute to future issues, please let us know by email to: editor@pmcimagazine.com

PMCI



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BLADE SHOW 2018

Shows are the lifeblood of the magazine writers trade, and at PMCI we're constantly on the move in an effort to keep you fully updated with new trends! This time Trampas along with new contributor Clint, takes us to the home of all things sharp and shiny, and brings us his picks from some stunning edged creations at Blade Show 2018!

Not long ago I was in my office and happened to glance up at my calendar to discover I was only two weeks out from the world's largest knife event of the year, Blade Show! Ask any gun collector what their first love was before they were old enough to purchase their own firearms and most will immediately say knives. Born in the late 70's and raised through the 80s, books, television and movies were filled with action heroes, all carrying their own special style blade.

Who can forget the classic Rambo knife, the Highlander's katana or the quote, "That's not a knife...THIS is a knife!" as Crocodile Dundee unsheathes a giant Australian Bowie style blade? Even today, our big screen heroes such as The Expendables or our real life military warriors such as Special Forces, SEALs, Marines, and the Gurkhas, all carry a signature knife. The Blade Show is an annual trade show which is a mix of industry meetings and a celebration of fine edged tools enjoyed throughout the world!

The Blade Show, presented by Blade Magazine is held annually in Atlanta, Georgia at the Cobb Convention Center. This year as fate would have it, the show fell on the weekend of June 1st through the 3rd, that Saturday would be my youngest daughter's 2nd birthday.

Trampas (short one) and Clint at Blade Show 2018



Since my wife, Candace was also an industry writer as well as a state leader for the national organization, The Well Armed Woman, we decided to pack up the whole family for a weekend of blades and local area fun. Our very own PMCI staff writer, Clint Steele also loaded up and headed from our hometown destined for Atlanta.

Eager to see old friends and make new ones, we all made the 6.5 hour drive from Jacksonville, FL ready for a great time!

### Five Tips for Attending Blade Show

Unlike other gun or knife industry events such as SHOT SHOW in Las Vegas, NV, the BLADE SHOW is open to the public. With all the excitement, celebrities and amazing blades on display, there are a few things you should know before attending for the first time to make your trip more enjoyable. Having attended several of these events over the years, I offer 5 key items of advice based on personal experience and from friends who exhibit at the show.

**Tickets and Travel** – As I mentioned earlier in this article, the BLADE Show is the largest industry event of the year for knife manufacturers. The closer the year draws to the big event, the more expensive and harder accommodations become near the event. Those who are flying in for the event need to look at booking flights 90 days in advance for the best pricing. As for the show, tickets can be purchased at the door but traditionally cheaper when purchased online and picked up at Will Call.

**Game Plan** – In addition to the show floor, BLADE offers great seminars, tutorials, exhibitions and meet-n-greet events. If you plan on taking full advantage of all the show has to offer, check out the BLADE SHOW website and schedules prior to the show and form a plan of attack for your visit.

**Proper Equipment** – Shoes! There is a good amount of floor space in total at the show. Have good walking shoes for the event in order to feel up to after show activities. Band-Aids, you will no doubt be handling extremely sharp live blades, expect someone to get nicked slightly.



**Show Etiquette** – If this is your first trip to BLADE, watch how more experienced visitors inspect tables and ASK PERMISSION to handle any blades on display. The knives may be on the table for the world to see, but proper etiquette is to ask before touching.

Stupid remarks such as asking if the blades on the table are "Free Samples" is neither funny nor welcome by vendors during the biggest weekend of the year for them. Aside from the vendors, you will more than likely spot several celebrities from television, movies, sports and industry circles. Most welcome visitors to approach them but always show respect and make sure it is at an opportune time for them such as a sponsoring booth or specified photo spot.

**Positive Attitude** – Of the 5 items of advice, I consider this the most important. Regardless of what you know about blades, there is always more to learn. Mankind has been unlocking the secrets



FEATURE: BLADE SHOW 2018



of steel for thousands of years, I hardly think you have all the knowledge there is to gain so don't approach the vendors acting like it. Custom bladesmiths are passionate about their creations, as rightly they should be. Stay humble and most will be very happy to discuss their process and vision for steel.

### What to Expect on the Show Floor

As the team hit the show floor Saturday morning, the line was almost out the door for those looking to purchase tickets.

Thankfully, media passes sent us through the front doors immediately into the main convention room. The scene appeared as first time attendee, Clint Steele described, as a cross between a gun show, Comic Con and a state fair pavilion! As a Blade Show veteran, I can say this is an honest observation.

The entire show was made up of rows of 8 foot folding tables featuring everything from dragon scenes and fantasy swords to military contract blade displays and artistic displays. If a product has an edge on it, you can be assured that no matter your taste, Blade Show has a vendor and knife for you.

The main layout of the show basically entails four main sections with a separate smaller room down the hall featuring material suppliers and small retailers. Making up these four main show floor sections are first, the large manufacturers such as Emerson Knives, Case, Spyderco, etc. circling around the show floor backed up to the main walls as well as the first few isles on the left side of the room. These are considered your "heavy weights" who have been attending for years and lead the industry in innovation and sales.

The next section moving right of the large manufacturers are large retailers such as RussianKnives.com, Knife Kits and Smokey Mountain Knife Works. These are the companies that make their money selling the blades from top designers, production manufacturers and at times even your top small company blade makers. Usually this is





where you can find larger quantities and a wider range of pricing and quality. With dealing direct with designers and manufacturers, this isn't typically a section focused on a lot of media but swamped by general public attendees.

As the show floor moves to the center of the room, the subject matter moves more to the blade artist who make only make a dozen knives a year for knife guild and show judging purposes. These feature everything from wildly fantasy based blades to beautiful hunting themed knives made from repurposed steel and exotic horn or antler materials. As a true fan of the "art of steel", I really enjoy this section although sadly these artists may never become widely known.

Finally, the section to the right side of the floor is perhaps my favorite. This is filled with your favorite Forged in Fire contestants, weekend bladesmiths and some of the most talented up and coming blade makers you will ever find. The blades found here consist of everything from stock material removal style creations to true manipulators of the steel who spend hours forging, working billets and quenching glowing materials into live, hard use every day blades.

### Working the Floor

Moving through crowd, Clint and I came across our good friend, Wes Adkins of Adkins Wood and Knife. For this to have been his first exhibition at Blade Show, you would never know it as the table was a very professional display of a wide range of beautiful custom blades. After catching up for a bit, we moved through the larger product blade displays where we came across Mark Carey and Curtis Lovito of Spartan Blades. These two gentlemen are true American warriors with rich military backgrounds that led to producing amazing combat blades used by operators around the world. (Sneak preview: The Spartan Blades fixed blade, the Hybris is currently in the review process for the next issue)

Equally as fun, we came across everyone's favorite Emerson Knives representative and fellow Floridian, Kane Tierney. Our conversation covered all the great new blades on the market



this year from master blade designer, Ernie Emerson. Robust constructed prototype folders were featured on display as well as a sneak peek at a pair of neck knives already on the way for release. With a company like Emerson, its hard to go wrong with any knife you pick up in their booth!

While navigating sloth-paced onlookers blindly wandering the show floor, I came across blade guru and martial arts expert, Doug Marcaida. Having known Doug for a few years now, I



can honestly say one would be hard pressed to find a more gracious and genuine person in the industry. I was able to get a first hand look at a very interested new blade collaboration from Marcaida and a Russian company by the name of Basko, disturbed by [www.RussianBlades.com](http://www.RussianBlades.com). These unique blades feature a straight edge and concaved spine. More to come at a future date on the details of this project.

The rest of the day was more of the same with meetings from top custom makers like Rustic Knives, Case, Battle Horse and Bastinelli Knives. A major crowd pleaser for the show was the Knife Kits booth. For knife fans and makers alike, [www.knifekits.com](http://www.knifekits.com) is a major source for parts and products in the industry. Throughout the weekend, this company held giveaways that had attendees swarming the booth to sign up for the next series of prizes offered.

Before calling it a day, I was able to catch up with survival expert, Dave Canterbury at the Pathfinder Knife Shop booth. For those who aren't familiar with Dave, he spent two years starring on the reality TV survival show, Dual Survivor as well as authored several best-selling bushcraft books. Most of these books, I have in my own personal collection and highly



recommend if you are into the bushcraft scene. Having worked together on a review of his axe collaboration with Hults Bruk, I was eager to check out his new projects including a wide range of knives. I could not have scripted a better way to wrap up a full day on the show room floor with Clint, Candace and the family.





### Blade Show 2018 Award Winners

Since the event is put on by Blade Magazine, several awards are handed out each year to those who go beyond the norm to produce truly unique and outstanding products in various categories. Below are some of the top winners for this year.

- Best Fixed and Best in Show: Anders Hogstrom
- Best Sword: Matthew Parkinson
- Best Damascus: Jimmy Chin
- Best New Maker: Ed Cope
- Best Art Knife: Jean Louis Regent
- Best Knife Collaboration: Ben Breda & Ben Seward
- Best Folder: Gusatvo Cecchini
- Best Utility Hunter: Haley Desrosiers
- Most Innovative Design: Corrado Miro
- Best Fighter: Josh Fisher
- Best Handle Design: Steve Rapp
- Best Bowie: Jean Louis Regel
- Best of the Rest: Thomas Ward
- Best Miniature: Toshiaki Michinaka
- Best Tactical Folder: Svarn II by Cultrotech

### Blade Show Wrap Up

As the weekend drew to a close, the family and I made the trek down I-75 back home to Florida that Sunday afternoon with my notebook full of contact information for companies looking to work together in the near future. Overall, it was a good trip. I was able to enjoy some quality family time and see some good friends. The show itself has grown a good bit, but more importantly, attendance for the show has exploded.

For the past 3 years, television shows like "Forged in Fire" have brought skilled part-time and full-time blade makers into people's home to give them an in depth look at the widely different personalities and skills in the industry. One episode turns an unknown bladesmith into an overnight celebrity with their work in high demand. With so many of these smiths having been exhibitors at Blade Show over the years, the fans of these shows have managed to come out in droves and break attendance records. I applaud the success finding these blade makers but could do without the fan boys! This detracts from a lot of the true blade connoisseurs and professional end users.

Moving forward, expect for Clint and I to bring you a more in depth look at various new products for 2018 including a few show award winning blades. As a matter of fact, several products had already arrived just prior to leaving for the show.

Rest assured, these projects are already in the works to appear in the coming months. If you are a blade enthusiast or would like an opportunity to meet the people behind your favorite daily carry blade, I encourage you to make the trip to Atlanta and experience all the fun and festivities yourself. For now, enjoy this issue of PMCI Magazine and stay tuned for much more this summer!





## HARD TO KILL

PMCI are proud to be joined in this issue by another experienced contractor who is still active on "The Circuit", and has written us this article as he prepares himself for another deployment. We hope that you'll enjoy the viewpoint of "Callsign Lunchbox" as much as we did here in the office!

*"Of the gladdest moments in human life, methinks is the departure upon a distant journey to unknown lands. Shaking off with one mighty effort the fetters of habit, the leaden weight of Routine, the cloak of many Cares and the Slavery of Home, man feels once happier. The blood flows with the fast circulation of childhood.... afresh dawns the morn of life..."*

Sir Richard Francis Burton  
Journal Entry (2 December 1856)

**W**e all know that Private Military Contractors (PMCs) are prepared to do great harm or stand in harm's way on behalf of their Client and Team Members, but have we taken a moment to ask and explore what makes them efficient actors in the face of the pressures of uncertainty? What gives them their edge?

Let us take some time and set out to discover what makes the PMC a hard target for bad actors and connect the dots for a deeper understanding of these brave men and women.





Most would point to the PMC's standing successes as a dividend of good training, equipment, and rehearsal. To be sure, this is integral to their protective alchemy, but only partly so. The demands placed on the PMC by the tempo of high risk operational environments and fatiguing survival pressures encourages those

will always be the central problem to the men and women in the field and to combat those two devils of hazard takes a Confederacy of talent, attitude and aptitude that enables timely independent actions.



in the profession to be realistic and engaged thinkers as well as shooters.

In order to bring the necessary controls to bear and form clarity out of chaos, it takes more than numbers, materiel, and planned mission sets. It takes skilled hands, an alert mind, and moving feet ready for violence.

The asymmetry of sudden violence and unplanned events

**Skilled hands.** To have skilled hands, you must make informed judgements about your team's capabilities and limitations, your own personal readiness, and when operational- you pour your observations on rolling events into the necessary contexts and snapshots to solve problems with your cunning and your crew's supporting talents. You filter out the ambiguous and act on the concrete.

**An Alert Mind.** The prospects of combat and the constant tempo of operations takes its toll all too often. Toughness is not just measured in the physical prowess to endure, but also in the PMC's ability to remain focused on the mission's ground-level objectives and filter out the confusion and malaise commonly encountered by anyone who has set foot in the field.

An alert mind knows intimately that danger is increased by distraction. We all find out in our own way that there is nothing that focuses our efforts quite like sitting at the edges of uncertainty and suffering. Many of our greatest lessons are sculpted from the pains and processes we endure as well as the stressors we encounter on the roads we tread to accomplish our objectives.

An alert mind always knows it has a choice: drift and die, or clear a path for motivation to take root and get the job done. An alert mind yolks discipline to it's benefit and combines it with the sharp blade of reason to harvest any situation or event. An alert mind analyzes and seeks gaps in an enemy's actions and plans to exploit. The PMC is intimate with human weakness and is quick to take any offered up advantages to sustain the Client's mission and achieve the necessary.

An alert mind is your spear and your wheelhouse, and that



mind only maintains sharpness, working order and drive through an uncommon well of willingness. At its heart, this component is central to making the PMC one of the hardest of targets in any battlespace. PMCs simply will not give up.

When we are down in it, there is only one choice...Make Moves. The PMC establishes and maintains relative superiority by assessing each situation flexibly to achieve overmatch above any and all adversaries.

**Ready Feet.** The PMC has an ample basket of skills and sub-routines to pull from in any crisis event. Every action taken is tailored to the desired outcome. Combat is dynamic and no place to dwell with flat feet and an idling engine. Movement is life, and the feet and mind act in concert to create the necessary action scripts to sustain relative superiority via the tools of tactical overmatch. The PMC embraces being smart, fast, lethal, and precise.

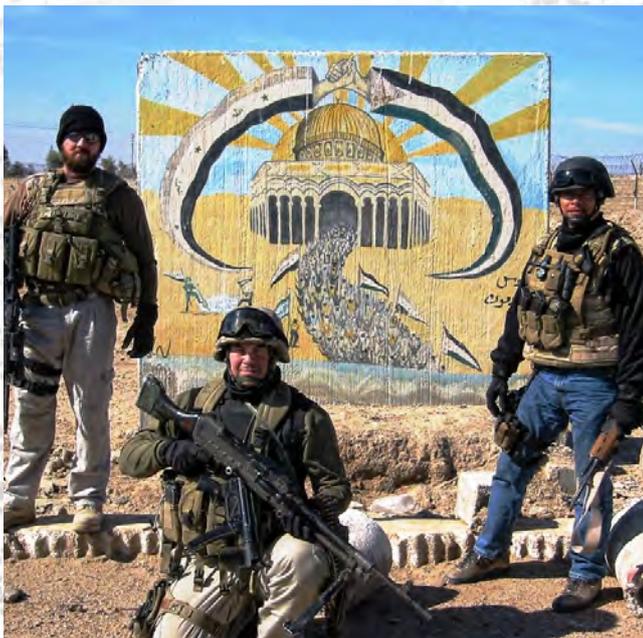
The PMC is always looking to seize the moment and exploit any opportunity that places decisive advantage over his or her enemy squarely in his or her court. This usually means less talk and more doing. The PMC uses the principles of speed, economy of force, maneuver, surprise and simplicity to full use and turns them into a capable art to dominate and overcome any friction they encounter.

This takes a deliberate mind and body working as a single unit not caught up in reaction, but one that remains completely keyed into taking advantage of unfolding events and influencing them appropriately.

One might liken the PMC and his team members to a wolf pack who moves and operates knowing its prey and enemy intimately while observing its own strengths and weaknesses in careful regard to terrain and situation.



**Adaptation.** A final word concerning the 'Hard to Kill' PMC would be remiss if the spirit of adventure was not mentioned. The PMC often lives, dwells, and sustains life in some of the



most hostile and ungovernable areas found in the world... and loves it.

Where else would one find the fellowship, camaraderie, and action to keep the spirit upright? Nonpermissive environments give the PMC opportunity level in adaptation and to keep in touch with the ground level truths of life itself. To risk, to go without, to give to others when it hurts, this is where living is. The PMC thrives because he accepts adaptation as a primary source for strength and sees patterns and expectations for what they are - routines to exploit.

So, akin to Sir Richard Francis Burton quoted at the entry of this piece of prose, the PMC is hard to kill because of his strong connection to living each moment fully, in the flow with both appreciation and excitement for the possibilities each new day and fulfillment of duties brings. This may not be readily apparent, but with a little introspection, you will see it.

So, if your intention is to be hard to kill, be the example for others. Hone your skills, forge your character, keep your mind open and alert, and above all- keep moving.

**Lunchbox**



**FEATURE: HARD TO KILL, HERE'S WHY**



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## “SHOT/SPLASH”

**A**s always when another issue of PMCI starts to take shape I’m hard on the back of my contributors to produce the best articles and reviews that they possibly can, and I’m often reminded of the old artillery mantra of “Shot/Splash”.

For each and every issue we try to cram in as much as we can and without blowing smoke the guys invariably deliver. I call “Shot” when I send out the “brief” (if I can call it so as it’s a LOT more relaxed than that; I work with professionals!) and the guys all respond with their individual calls of “Splash” as they get to work creating their next informative copy and heading out to get supporting photography. I’m also reminded of the phrase “Chinese Parliament” as PMCI is truly a collaboration of like-minded individuals who have chosen to come together to create something unique and unusual; in a world where most folk seem to be scared to speak up I seem to have assembled a group that have the bravery to not only open their mouths, but are able to back this up with belief, honour and integrity.

And we must be doing something right, as issue by issue we are joined by further like-minded individuals who wish to add their voices to what was once just a couple of “beardy guys” venting off about guns, gear, and the tactical/contracting community! This

issue we have a couple of great pieces from callsign “Lunchbox” ( I cannot call him “TFNG”!) who is still very much active on the circuit, along with Clint Steele who brings a wealth of experience in just about every way you can imagine to the party.

It’s not just those that work with PMCI though, as our reader numbers continue to grow at an amazing rate. Once upon a time I was thoroughly disinterested in “analytics” as long as we were creating something real, right and honest, but as our reader numbers have grown and grown even I find myself asking about these; if I give you an idea that our last issue is now at over 51,000 views across the platforms we publish on, and the numbers on the issues prior to that continue to rise and rise, I think you’ll understand why I’m starting to take notice!

So it’s now time for PMCI and the ever-growing contributor team to “Fire for Effect”, and I sincerely hope that we’ll remain right on target for those of you who have been with us from the very beginning!

Wherever you may be people, switch on, train hard, stay vigilant and keep safe.



## CLAW GEAR RAIDER PANT AND OPERATOR SHIRT

For many, Clawgear will be a name that they've heard, but most to date have not had access to the products themselves. This however is changing; as with any brand that truly grows based upon the standard of what they produce, the quality of their service, and the testimonials of the users more and more of us are turning to Clawgear for clothing and accessories. Bill now looks at a couple of their latest models in depth.

When I first approached the team at Claw Gear a few years ago about testing some of their gear the first thing that they asked me was "have you used our clothing?" I responded that whilst personally I had not at that time I knew people whose opinions I trust that had, and it was upon this recommendation that I thought we ought to be talking to one another given my background in technical clothing and fabrics. Their reaction, over the course of numerous emails, was to discuss the merits of technical clothing systems with me, and once I'd outlined what I needed they had total confidence to send me some products to test and evaluate; this process continues as a "two-way street" to this day.

The very latest garments to come my way show that whilst Clawgear continue to innovate, they don't necessarily throw out what are great existing designs, but instead improve on them! Whilst not a "new" garment the Raider Mk.IV Mission Pant has been designed to be a simple and lightweight assault pant, featuring extremely useful extras and the greatest possible comfort for today's picky users. It features an improved waist adjustment system with elastic components for better comfort and absorption of body movements. The pocket concept has been optimised; cargo pockets have been extended with an additional compartment which is accessible from outside and holds a 30rd magazine for rapid access.

Intricate modifications have been made to the knee area which is now equipped with handy inward knee height adjustment. The modular knee pad compartment allows the use of a wide range of different knee pad inserts from different brands. The Raider Mk.IV Pant's durability and body fit makes this it suitable for all professional users and every day use as well. The belt area is optimised for rigger and safety belts as well as for braces. Front Pockets allow fast and easy access also with gloves, and generous Cargo Pockets provide a lot of space for your equipment and also include an extra zip-pocket. The inside knee area is equipped with Coolmax fabric to provide optimum sweat absorption; 'YKK' zippers and 'Coats' sewing threads have also been used, and all main seams are triple stitched for extra durability.



New up to join the Raider Pant though is the Operator Combat Shirt which has been developed for use with input from a European Special Forces unit. Clawgear implemented the latest professional thinking and combined that with the latest fabric developments and textile engineering knowledge. The final garment has been extensively field tested, further improved and subsequently issued to the unit. The feedback was so impressive that Clawgear decided to add this combat shirt to their regular product line as well.



The shirt is an uncompromisingly combat-specific garment designed specifically to be worn under body armour. Its anatomic fit provides great comfort and avoids pressure points. The sleeves and sleeve pockets are of a completely new design and feature articulated ergonomic areas for even better comfort and mobility. Reinforced elbow areas can be equipped with removable elbow pads (available separately). The high zip collar is designed to be worn in different ways for your comfort and to prevent intrusion of dust and debris. The shoulder area is seamless to avoid pressure points when wearing a backpack, plate carrier or chest rig.

I've now had the pleasure to put both garments to the test and I have to say that I am extremely impressed with both. Even on the hottest day of the year in the UK (to date) the combination of clever ergonomic design and cutting-edge fabrics kept me comfortable whilst standing up to the rigors of demanding terrain; at one point I needed to slide some 50m down a scree slope, and the seat of the pants still looked like brand new!

Both the Raider Pant and Operator Shirt are available in Multicam or a range of plain colours, so they will fit pretty much anywhere you choose to use them too. Clawgear will never be the cheapest option on the block, but as they say, you get what you pay for and in this case that's an awful lot of comfort, performance and durability!

For more information on the superb range of gear from Clawgear please do visit [www.clawgear.com](http://www.clawgear.com)



**GEAR ON TEST**

## HURRICANE HYBRID CHEST RIG FROM DIRECT ACTION

Looking to keep your personal gear stowed tight and ready? Kelly gets to grips with a great new rig from the experienced Polish team at Direct Action and likes what she finds.. a lot!

The Hurricane Hybrid chest rig from Direct Action is a low profile, adjustable rig made from laser-cut laminated, 500D Cordura made to endure tough environments. It has a softshell interior construction that makes it a comfortable rig to wear for extended periods of time. The harness is well constructed and feels sturdy even when the rig is loaded up and it has a reinforced drag handle in case sh\*t hits the fan.

Not only is it comfortable and well-constructed in general but it is also full to brim with essential pouches including integrated, adjustable mag pouches with Paracord retention that adjust to fit: 8 (!) AR, 4 AK, or even 4 SR magazines. It also features a number of fixed external pouches for other mission essentials including 2 adjustable pouches, a sealed zipper pouch and a Velcro flap pouch for when you need to access items quickly.

The Hurricane also has 9 PALS slots on the sides of the rig which are perfect for radio, medical, utility pockets and horizontal PALS slots under the ammo pouches for items such as tourniquets, pistol mag pouches and 40mm pouches so you aren't just limited to the pouches on the chest rig! For comms, the fixed pouches are a great size for most radio personal radio models and the rig has comms/ antenna routing to keep everything tidy and to prevent wires getting caught.

Is it easy to adjust to fit? The harness is completely adjustable via the straps and to keep the excess material tidy it has Velcro wraparound straps. It has a split front, zipper design as well so you don't need to adjust it every time you remove it which is really handy. After adjusting, I found it fitted well given my smaller frame (it fits my not-so-small-frame nicely too – Bill) and was comfortable to wear even when loaded up with mags and radios.

My only gripe was that the laser cut material was quite rough and did rub my inner arms when I was only wearing a t-shirt in a very hot weather environment. I didn't have this issue wearing a combat shirt and I suspect it was because it was brand new, out of the packet. I would expect the material to soften over time and this to subside.

The Hurricane comes in a fair few different camouflage options including: Adaptive Green, Black, Coyote Brown, Crye MultiCam, Pencott Badlands, Pencott Greenzone and Urban Grey so there is a camo option for every environment and AO . How much does it retail for? £239 which is around UK£210 at the current exchange rate.

For more information on the Hurricane and more great gear from Direct Action simply visit <http://directactiongear.com>



**GEAR ON TEST**

## FIRST TACTICAL LIGHTWEIGHT PATROL GLOVE

If you need a simple, well-priced glove that's both lightweight and dextrous, and absolutely ideal for all "duties" then Bill thinks he may have found just what you're looking for!

Recently I found myself heading to a range session where the order of the day was to be not exactly "covert", but certainly low key, and digging through my glove draw (yes, I have a glove draw!) I discovered that my old black lightweight gloves were well overdue for retirement, so I quickly scurried online to look for a replacement!

If you're a regular reader of PMCI then you'll know that we've been working closely with First Tactical on both sides of "The Big Pond" and it's been our great pleasure to have seen the brand gain more traction in the "tactical world" with some great designs, and what have turned out to be absolutely top-notch, reliable and durable products.

Looking at their tight but well-defined glove line there was a model that immediately grabbed my attention, the Lightweight Patrol Glove, which seemed to offer all the qualities I was looking for, with a few more thrown in; ordering these, given the attractive pricing, was an absolute "no brainer"!

What I discovered when they arrived with me was a pair of tactical gloves that allow you to act with maximum speed and precision. The Lightweight Patrol Glove combines extreme tactility with long-term durability; expert design serves well without slowing you down, and you'll never have to worry about a slip of the grip or cumbersome fit with these awesome little gloves. Whatever the task at hand (if you'll pardon the pun!), this glove will perform with excellence.

The Lightweight Patrol Gloves benefit from First Tactical's precision fit. Lightweight snag-proof stretch woven materials allow for a precise fit and professional appearance. The TOUCHTAC finger construction offers revolutionary fingertip engineering that gives you a better fit for even greater efficiency and performance, with a seamless wrap-around index finger design that is touchscreen friendly and more sensitive than ever before. Maintenance is also simplicity itself as the gloves have a washable goatskin palm; when dirty and grimy from extended training or field use, simply throw them in the wash, air dry, and wear again!

First Tactical has done a fabulous job with these gloves; although I initially found the closure a little bulky for such "low key" gloves I did find the cutaway for my wristwatch a great idea; I usually wear quite a sizeable dive or compass-watch and the gloves accommodated this with ease, and caused no irritation by pushing back the watch strap. After many range sessions there is virtually no sign of wear; the use of goat skin mixed with the stretch woven fabric is a winner as I can just toss them in the wash with my other



gear and they come out looking like new; like other users I've had to throw away gloves after coming out of the wash, but not so with the Lightweight Patrol Gloves.

The gloves come in sizes S-XXL and at present are just available in plain black; I'm a pretty standard large in most gloves, and the First Tactical sizing for me is absolutely spot-on. After using the gloves on a regular basis, and after several washes the finger length is still perfect, and there's no "baginess" appeared in the palm or thumb/forefinger area. Priced at just UK£24.95 these are a super glove and come with my thorough recommendation!

For more information you can check out the glove models on the First Tactical website, but my thanks go to [www.military1st.co.uk](http://www.military1st.co.uk) for providing mine.

GEAR ON TEST

## FIX IT STICKS

**Ever had that moment on the range where your trusted multi-tool doesn't quite "cut it"? Trampas looks at solution that's right for every shooter!**

Last summer, I was teaching a private handgun lesson at my local range when a screw fell out of the slide mounted optic. By a small miracle, the tiny screw was found, but I then ran into an issue of how to re-insert and tighten it back down. After consulting my handy dandy Gerber Multi-tool, I was at a loss for a Torx driver to fit the screw. I then raided the range's gunsmith's tool bins with negative results as well (sad isn't it?). Needless to say, the range session with that particular handgun was then over.

When I arrived home, I started thinking about all the tools that would be handy when teaching on both indoor and outdoor ranges covering handgun, rifle and shotgun basics. A plastic hammer, small wrenches, bits, and of course sockets, must have those! The items quickly added up. By the time I listed everything outside of a multi-tool, it seemed I would be carrying around quite a large assortment of individual specialized tools that would not be practical to constantly transport and keep track of.

Not long after the tool issue arose at the range, I came across a Facebook posting for a company named Fix It Sticks, which produces a compact bicycle tool that offered several drivers needed to keep a cyclists rolling on long trips without sacrificing space and weight. This tool basically consisted of two small steel rods which affix into a T-handle for a magnetic, interchangeable driver that fits in the palm of your hand. When I clicked onto [www.fixitsticks.com](http://www.fixitsticks.com) link, I was delighted to see this company had just began offering a firearm version of their product. I immediately emailed the company to express my interest in their product and proposed an opportunity to review their handy little tools personally. The folks at Fix It Sticks were excited to work together and quickly sent out a sample for me to test and evaluate.

The next week, my package from Fix It Sticks arrived promptly in the mail. While I appreciate good equipment, I have never been considered a "gear head" by any means.

As I began to go through the compact Molle compatible tool pouch, I must say, what I discovered first hand was pretty cool. Just like the original tool built for bicycles, this tool offered multiple bits in a compact carrying case. Most importantly, this kit differs from the bike version with the driver itself. Unlike most small multi-bit drivers, this one had a built-in torque limiter to prevent over tightening and possibly stripping out screws, bolts and threads. The kit offers various torque limiting drivers calibrated in 15, 25, 45, 49, 65 or 70 in.-lbs. Along with the drivers, a wide selection of heat treated bits are offered depending on if you purchase the standard or the deluxe kit such as the one sent for review. My particular sample included 2.5, 3,



4, and 5mm hex bits; T-10, T-15, T-20, T-25 and T-30 Torx bits; 1/20", 1/16", 1/8", 3/32", 5/32", 5/64" hex bits; and a #5 straight blade as well.

The carrying case included elastic loops to separate and organize the various components easily and neatly.

I have found this kit carries comfortably on a battle belt, chest rig or even in a small side pouch on my range bag.

For long periods of time in the field, ounces quickly add up to pounds, so a compact kit offering a tool box full of specialized tools can be invaluable. The range of uses are limitless for users from all walks of life from the hunter, military, law enforcement, private contractor, firearms instructor or even weekend shooter.

In the past year, I have used the Fix It Sticks tool for installing rifle scopes, scope mounts, pistol mounted red dots and even a new stroller for my daughters. This tool allows for a firm grip and control over the driver while limiting the risk of stripping out the screws. The all steel construction makes for a rock solid tool the user can feel comfortable bearing down on to get those pesky Loctite secured bolts free while the magnetic sockets will make sure your mission specific bits don't fall out and get lost.

The fast assembly and clearly marked bits help make quick work of most every day chores. The Fix It Sticks quickly earned a place in my range bag from instructing classes as well as my "go to" tools while in the field shooting photos and videos for our magazine reviews.

Retailing between US\$100-\$165, this kit clearly offers quality built tools, well worth the price tag. Most importantly, the Fix It Sticks are a compact enough not be left behind due to being too big and bulky. This fact plays heavily in its functionality and monetary value. Since receiving this product, I found I regularly used this tool kit several times a week on the range and in my office.

In the future, I plan on purchasing more kits in the future for friends and family who avidly enjoy shooting sports.

Needless to say, I highly recommend Fix It Sticks tool kits and suggest getting one for your range bag or training kit today.

## PINE TREE MRE

I'm sure that many will have heard the famous saying in regards to the basics of preparation for any operation that you must factor in "Bullets, Beans and Bandages". It stands for the proposition that your initial steps in preparation must include food/water, firearms/training and medical supplies/first aid know-how. Bill investigates the latest "beans" to hit the market from Pine Tree...

In my former professional life as an outdoor instructor and practitioner one of the major considerations I had to take into account for any group I took into remote areas was that of what they ate and drank. Any of you that know me personally will also know that whilst I'm not a heavy chap, I am quite a big one, so food and drink rank pretty high on my list before I undertake any outdoor expedition; I don't like being hungry!

When you're out in the sticks putting in full days of activity, you want food that will nourish you, strengthen you, revitalise you and possibly even taste really good. When pondering how much or little to carry err on the side of taking a little more than you think you need. A reasonable goal is 2,500 to 4,500 calories per person per day depending on your size, weight and exertion level. On the other hand, you need to not overdo it, and a common blunder is to pack too much food, forcing you to lug unwanted bulk and weight.

In the past military "Meals Ready to Eat" have left much to be desired, although the newer versions are somewhat more palatable! Pine Tree MRE packs contain all the daily calories and nutrition you may need for a 24 Hour period and actually taste pretty darn fine too! For one PT MRE main course you will also need just a few millimetres of water to warm it up in 12-15 minutes to enjoy a hot meal in places where it is not usually suitable to cook with a gas stove; more on that shortly....

Weighing in at 500-800g for the entire pack (dependant on the type) the Pine Tree MRE packs are priced at UK£9.99 (one meal) and UK£15.99 (two meals) and contain a full days rations. There are numerous "main course options" such Chicken Tikka Masala with Chickpeas, Meatball Pasta in Tomato sauce, Beef Steak & Vegetable Stew, Lamb Casserole, Beef Chilli Con Carne, and Chicken and Mushroom Pasta in Creamy sauce, but a sample £15.99 pack will contain:

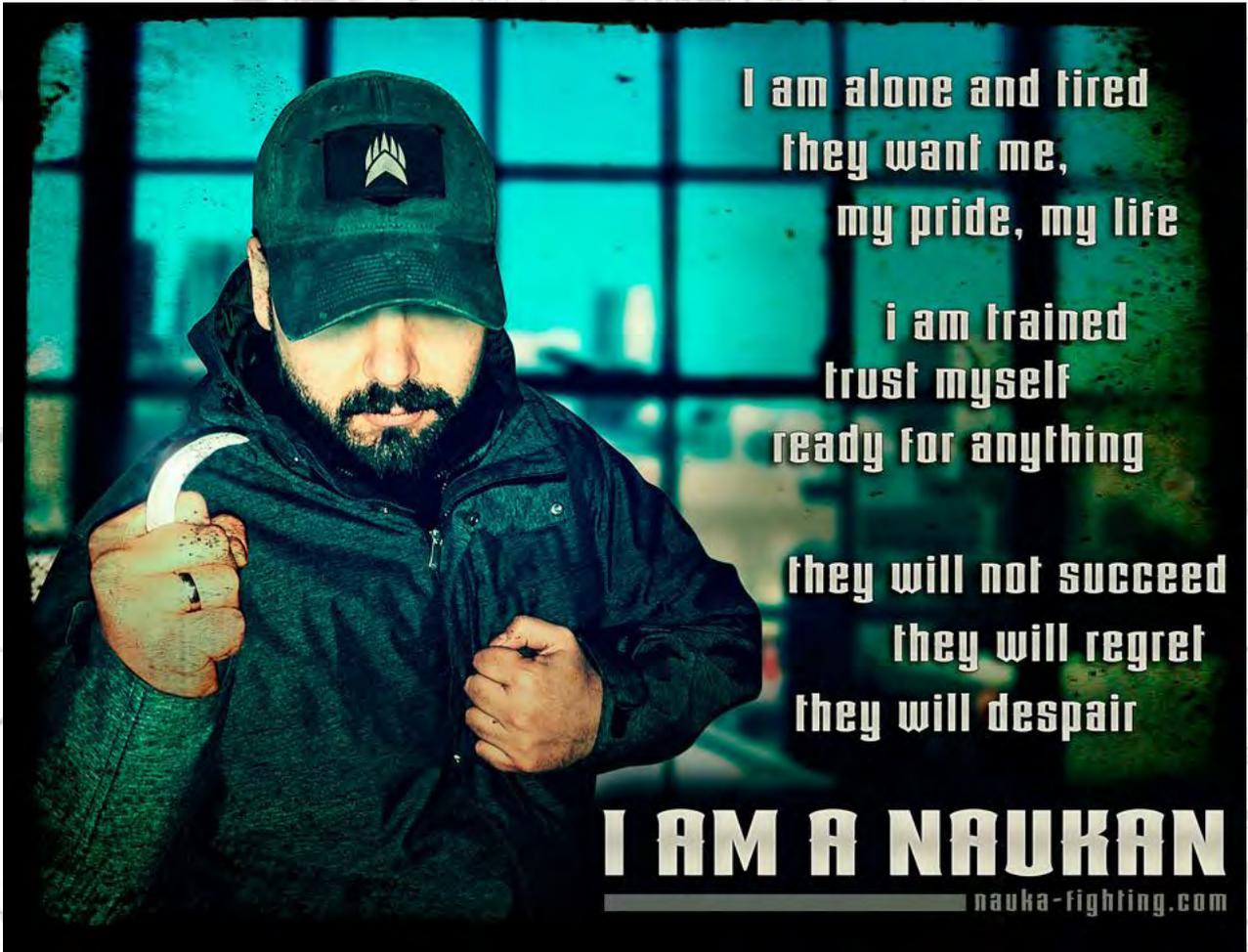
- Two large main courses pouches
- Dry tissue
- Two FRH heater
- Coffee sachets
- Light breakfast (Biscuits and jam)
- Tea bag
- Chocolate bar
- Salt and pepper sachets
- Water purification tablets
- Sugar
- Matches
- Chewing gum or sweets
- Wet wipe



All the packs come with full instructions, and the "FRH Heater" included is an awesome addition; the flameless ration heater, or FRH, is a water-activated exothermic chemical heater included with Meals, Ready-to-Eat (MREs), used to heat the food. US military specifications for the heater require that it be capable of raising the temperature of an 8-ounce (226.8 g) meal by 100 °F (56 °C) in twelve minutes, and that it has no visible flame. The ration heater contains finely powdered magnesium metal, alloyed with a small amount of iron, and table salt. To activate the reaction, a small amount of water is added, and the boiling point of water is quickly reached as the reaction proceeds; full instructions for use are again given in each Pine Tree MRE.

For more information on Pine Tree MREs please visit <http://ptmre.com>. If you'd prefer classic US MREs or military rations from other countries then drop them a line as they'll be able to help you out with those too!

GEAR ON TEST



**US-based PMCI Contributor Craig Reynolds has always lived with the mentality that it was better to burn out than fade away and yet, “fading away” is how he find himself only 4 years after his retirement from Fire Rescue, so he decided to darn well do something about it!**

I spent my early adult life “trying my hand” at the military and law enforcement before finally deciding to become a firefighter/paramedic. Although retired, I didn’t see myself out of action, so in 2015 I wanted to find that “spark” to fuel the fire inside of me again. What I found was a business called Trident Fitness, LLC, ran by a former Navy SEAL named Rich Graham. This company was advertising an event it was hosting called Nauka Fighting.

As I did a bit of research on the Nauka Fighting style, I discovered the two-day class was being taught by two Serbian brothers, Delon and Daniel Stojanovic visiting the US from Germany where they now reside. The origins of Nauka come from the need for survival in the streets of the Balkans. Since 1910 the ancestors of the Stojanovic brothers are passing down the style from father to sons.

Due to restrictions banning civilians from practicing fighting styles, the family’s art went unnamed for years. Referred to only by the code name “nasha nauka”, meaning “our science”, it was not until the fighting style was handed down to the latest generation that it was officially named Nauka Fighting. The combination of learning more about this eastern European fighting and being hosted by a former Navy SEAL had me excited to get started.

As I arrived at a location known as the Compound, I was greeted by Rich, the Stojanovic brothers and fellow students taking the class. After a brief introduction by everyone, the class started with a bit more in depth history about Nauka and the symbolism in its bear paw logo. As stated, Nauka was passed down from generation to generation with it slowly being refined by each who learned. Nauka skills and techniques have been added



to match the threats of each era. Two world wars and a communist reign further sharpened the sword of Nauka.

Even early on, the fighting style worked so well, the family was being hired by other people for protection.

This tradition continues even today by teaching top level contractors, VIP protection agencies, military and law enforcement around the world, as Delon's evolution of the style renewed it for today's needs.

### **Calmness, Strength, and Natural Weapons!**

The adopted symbol of Nauka is the bear paw. The pad of the Nauka bear paw represents unity, calmness, strength while each of the claws represent your natural weapons extending from your core, the legs, arms and head. Since this is a family fighting style, you are then considered a Naukan, part of the Nauka Clan once you have been accepted to join. As with any family, respect and loyalty are the highest priority extended to all members. Nauka Fighting believes you always look for a way out of a conflict, but like a bear, if there is no other way out, your opponent will be devastated or as Delon says "he will be very sad".

As class began, I realized there were no mats. This was clarified by explaining that in a street fight, there are no mats, so you must learn to fall without being hurt. If you can't learn to take a fall in training, it will be shocking to you when you hit the pavement during a fight. Many of the Nauka classes take place outside, in a field, backyard, warehouse or anywhere with lots of room you can find to train. You must learn to fight and fall in all environments Delon explained.



Nauka Fighting is primarily based on the theory that you have no defense, that my defense is offensive in nature.

If an attacker gets within my circle as Delon says, "he has to regret it and if he does not, he has to find himself in a real nightmare". The strategy is to start beginners out with a framework of basic strikes and kicks that can be used exactly the same whether you are barehanded, holding a knife, gun or some other improvised weapon. By doing this you remove from your mind to many options, which would slow your response being wrapped up in the decision-making process. This has been proven over and over again through Hick's Law, which states, the time it takes for a person to react is greatly affected by the number of options they have to choose from. Nauka simplifies your skills to what works, therefore, giving you a simple strategy to almost every situation you may encounter.

Nauka comes from a culture of knights whose weapons were swords, axes, spears and shields. With this cultural history, it was natural for the offensive attack to be a stab, hack, cut or break. Your arms, legs, and head become your weapons and whether you are armed or barehanded, you use the same fighting style in a simple, yet effective combination. I learned and experienced applying these deadly skills to the key location of your opponent's body is devastating. We all experienced how painful the techniques were applied. It became clear you can seriously injure or kill with the skills we learned in class. When you reach that point of no way out but to fight, it is all about disabling your attacker. In the more advanced portion of the class, I learned holds, pressure points, and takedowns all seamlessly flowing with my previously learned offensive skills.

### **Day By Day!**

The first day was spent on just Nauka basics of hand-to-hand fighting skills. The second day took these basics and integrated them into knife fighting. These seminars are long days, but they seem to fly by quickly due to is so much information being covered and so many skills to be learned. Never once did I wish the class would be over soon nor did I wish for it to end. Both days incorporated showing students 7 or 8 videos of real-life situations. We trained all day on how to handle each of those situations with the Nauka skills learned to end the conflict quickly.

At the end of both days, we each drew a number out of a hat representing one of those situations.



With whichever scenario you drew, you would have to suit up with gloves and headgear, then fight through that scenario until you landed the disabling blow to your attacker and ended the threat.

After the first seminar, I went home having made some new friends and along with quite a few bruises, bumps and scrapes. By far, the Nauka class was the best self-defense class I had ever taken. My confidence in taking care of my family and myself had gone through the roof. I had no doubts this system was ironclad and functional. In my professional career, I work in some pretty rough areas of Jacksonville, Florida. Shortly after the first class, I was approached on two different occasions. The first time that I was approached it was by a single individual and in the second case, two individuals. I was well aware of their common schemes and prepared myself to thwart their plans. I am sure it was the visible confidence I had displayed from class that prevented these individuals from pursuing their plans as no further incident unfolded. In my mind, I was ready to destroy them if needed and I know they sensed it. Sometimes, the best thing about a tool you have confidence in, is it giving you the self-discipline to not have to use it. I continued to stay in contact with Rich and Delon and could not wait for the next class.



## Learning, Evaluating and Re-inventing!

Earlier this year, I was invited back to further learn the Nauka Fighting Style. By now, Rich Graham had become a Nauka Fighting Coach (in Slavic: Nastavnik) and his company was under the title of Full Spectrum Warrior ( <https://www.fullspectrumwarrior.us> ). Since the last class, Delon Stojanovic was now teaching and training not only civilians but also, government agencies, security, law enforcement and military personnel full-time. Now with a Nauka Fighting Academy found at <http://www.nauka-fighting.com>, the two companies have teamed up with even more training opportunities across the board.

During the time since the last class, I kept in close contact with Rich and Delon and have been made to truly feel as part of their Nauka Clan. I was excited to return in February to attend a second Nauka Fighting/Full Spectrum Warrior Seminar. The event this time around was held at the new Full Spectrum Warrior Training facility in central Florida. In my personal opinion, this was an awesome place that you have to see it for yourself to fully appreciate. I was able to camp on the property during the class by a beautiful lake, which is the middle of the 800-meter rifle range. The facility offers a designated K-9 training area, a 360-degree shooting range, a Nauka Fighting gym and much more.

This second Nauka class was focused on the fighting style incorporating what Delon called "Gun Fencing" for the first day and Active Shooter Training on the second. This was great for me because it was a refresher on the Nauka style and more. Working off of the basics learned from the first Nauka class, Rich and Delon added some more advanced components such as fencing with weapons. Basically, students were taught how to use a handgun or rifle as a tool during a conflict and fight with it once the ammo ran out or it became disabled. The the second day of the class combined everything I learned and effectively applied it to an active shooter scenario. I also trained on armed and unarmed aggression against an active shooter. This class focused on so many different drills and aspects of the topic from escape and evade to even engaging the hostile. This class really helped take Nauka out of the perspective of just a hand-to-hand art and into a true style of survival all around with any tool at hand. Like the first class, it went by all too fast.

Overall, I can see taking many of the other classes at this facility involving Nauka as well as standard tactical training from Full Spectrum Warrior. Now that Rich is an official Nauka

Coach, this means more classes will be available between Delon's visits from the main academy in Germany.

Nauka recently developed a new program called the "Nauka Fighting Outpost" for friends and family to train together outside of official classes, in a private study group. Via the Nauka Academy in Germany and the future US expansion, Delon and Rich will be available to further advance the members through the classes that will be offered. There are also plans for online classes, skills and refresher videos available soon.

In the following weeks after returning home from class there was another active shooter in which took the lives of many innocent people at a school in Florida. Classes like Nauka can be worth their weight in gold if you find yourself in one of these real-life scenarios. The proper time to train and prepare is before incidents like these happen. Rich and Delon put a lot of time and thought into their proven techniques. I would not hesitate to send anyone I know to one of their classes to learn how to fight. The thing that is the most impressive is the fact they are always training and learning, evaluating and re-inventing newer and better ways to accomplish the art of defending your family and yourself. I have been around many different styles of fighting throughout my life and Nauka is the most straight to the point with no fluff or unnecessary movement. Rich's creation of the Full Spectrum Warrior (FSW) way of life is no joke as well. When I left this and the previous two-day event, I knew beyond a shadow of a doubt what I learned works. I would advise anyone, especially military and law enforcement to get one of these classes under their belt and add a very effective tool to your tool box. In a professional sense, Nauka will help you with doing the job, too. You can evolve your skills in personal or third-party protection, prisoner handling, breaching or just as a martial workout for recreation.

Special Thanks to Rich Graham and Delon Stojanovic for making a tremendously positive effect on my personal protection capabilities and accepting me as both a Naukan Clan member and a FSW student.





## GIENA TACTICS

**At PMCI we're always scouring the market for new and innovative clothing and equipment and shows are a great place to meet new companies and check out what they have to bring to market. At IWA earlier this year Bill got a chance to speak to the team from Russian manufacturer Giena Tactics and came away impressed with what he saw.**

**A**lthough we must all keep a weather eye on what the politicians are up to as it has a very real impact on our world, when it comes right down to it I'm sure that you'll be in agreement with me when I say that I don't rightly care WHERE good equipment originates as long as it's well made and does the job!

In my earlier years, when "7.62mm" was king I'd have no problem swapping gear with colleagues from "across the pond" as some of their gear was WAY better than what was available at home; in terms of both tactical and outdoor performance gear the US market was usually at the forefront of new design and technology (just look at how Gore-Tex has come to dominate the marketplace!), and certain bits of American kit were much sought after.

Not so much with "Eastern Bloc" gear though as quality was perceived as poor and let's face it, getting hold of it was pretty much a 100% "no, no" until relatively recently. I remember looking at pictures of Russian conscripts during the "Cold War" days and thinking "bloody hell, poor guys" as although their kit appeared workmanlike it also looked like it wouldn't survive a firefight, let alone a war!

How things change though! Fast forward to the present day and the quality and innovation in design coming from Eastern Europe is right up there with the best of them! I do follow Konstantin Lazarev online for his excellent images and coverage of Russian units and what strikes me is their adoption of pretty much the same gear that we use ourselves; check out the images and you'll see CRYE, OpsCore, WAS, and many other "western" brands in use, along with Multicam and other camouflage patterns developed in the USA and the UK (or copies thereof!).

What I have come to love most though is this wider adoption of cutting-edge kit has led to new companies forming throughout Eastern Europe, and indeed Russia itself, and I find myself turning more and more regularly to these manufacturers. If I look at my own kit that I'd wear for training days it now incorporates nylon gear from Poland and Croatia, along with clothing and gear from Slovenia, and damn good kit it is too!

At IWA 2017 I finally had chance to speak directly to Sergey from Giena Tactics who I'd been "speaking" to online for some time prior; Giena Tactics, based in Novosibirsk, are a private company specialising in modern tactical uniforms, equipment and performance clothing. In development and manufacture they focus on quality, comfort and functionality.





All products that they develop are created in line with specialist users and are tested in the most hostile conditions, and let's face it, Russia certainly has some harsh environments to choose from! The garments and equipment that are finally created meet the highest standards demanded by Giena Tactics.

Giena Tactics now offer a wide range of products for professional and private use including combat shirts and tactical pants, field uniforms, parkas, caps and boonies, equipment for snipers, along with military style urban pants and jackets. They now ship their products worldwide and are they are worn daily by users both professional and civilian.

### GETTING PERSONAL!

So much the same as many manufacturers out there then you might think! I always like to get "up close" and personal with any brand though, no matter how large or small they may be. If someone is producing "good gear for the good guys" like Giena Tactics then in my mind it's certainly worth spending a little time with them to get "under their skin", and my post-IWA message exchanges with Sergey have proved to me that those of us "on the ground" are all of the same mind; demanding, direct, not suffering fools gladly, but at the same time open to solid information, and ready to crack a joke with those we respect and like!

I asked Sergey to tell me more about who Giena Tactics are and where they have come from, and he told me;

"In the beginning these were not easy days, but they were awesome days and we got great results! Or better to say now we're

a long way from the beginning, but we're still in the beginning of opening (our brand to) the world! Or crazy days and hard work if you prefer, but it's worth each day!

Anyway! Giena Tactics started much earlier than our official establishment in 2014, in terms of ideas, in looking at different products on the market, in tests, in research... Our official start was in a garage, yes, like many startup companies in the IT industry! Giena Tactics started with an agreement and a handshake between two old friends who are now partners. We decided to try and implement all of our ideas by ourselves.

Giena began with the design and development of Boonie Hats and a small production team of just three people. In the following four years we did a lot, proved to ourselves that we could do what we dreamed of doing, and now we're going to move faster. IWA 2018 was a big step for our company and showed interest from different countries and areas.

Today Giena Tactics products are available worldwide and are used daily in the military and Law Enforcement areas, as well as IPSC, hunting, performance sports, and even for casual wear! Now we have 50 partners worldwide, about 100 reliable and comfortable products, excellent quality and we're sure of a great future!"

### DESIGNED TO PERFORM

Well they certainly say that from a seed a mighty tree can grow, and from what I saw at IWA this tree is now producing some mighty tasty fruit! As Sergey told me Giena Tactics now have a



really solid and comprehensive range of clothing and equipment available, and their designs appear to be constantly dated to incorporate new ideas and new, interesting directions.

In addition to some solid uniform Shirts and Pants they offer some great Combat Shirts, currently five models, for year-round use comprising of the Defender, Type 1 and Type 2, the Raptor, and the newly introduced Blizzard “Demi-Season” model. Tactical pants of different design and technical complexity comprise the Raptor and Raptor Summer, along with the GC Mod 2 and the GC Mod 2 Summer.

As well as a number of “urban tactical” pants and fleece jacket models, Giena also offer an update on a “Russian Classic” in the form of their “Gorka” Pants and Parka, as well as a more advanced Field Combat Parka for use in inclement conditions.

Add to that a good range of accessories such as Boonie hats of different design, caps, hats, scarves and helmet covers and they’ve definitely got it all going on! All the clothing and accessories are available in multiple colours and camouflage patterns which range from Multicam to some absolutely classic Russian patterns like Pogranichnik, EMR1 and even Partizan (which is actually a personal favourite of mine!).

In addition to these excellent tactical and uniform designs Giena Tactics also produce something that’s just a bit special in the form of their VIPERHOODS, the Scorpion, Skeleton, and Spider, as well as various sniper accessories and their Alligator Sniper Platform. In essence the VIPERHOODS are made for snipers!

The Scorpion for instance is designed to simply add increased area for mounting disguise elements. It allows you to combine grass, 3d elements and other natural and non-natural elements for a complete solution. The hood is well ventilated to avoid

overheating, as this part has less fabric and allows air to circulate freely. The hood can also be easily formed to any shape and can be used with a helmet, and it offers a wide angle of vision while the hood is on. The VIPERHOODS can be integrated with chest and back platforms for ease of use.

With some really unique touches, and indeed some absolutely unique designs, Giena Tactics are for me now fulfilling the lofty goals that they set for themselves back in 2014! Like any manufacturer it takes time to take your dreams to fruition, but they’ve sensibly taken that time to get things right before releasing all their great products fully to market. What we’re seeing from Giena now is a fully-fledged line of specialist uniforms, tactical gear, and equipment that can offer you a full body, year-round solution.

I’ve spoken to Sergey at some length about their Raptor Combat Shirt and Tactical Pants, and as I write test samples are making their way inexorably across Europe for PMCI testing, and I’ll bring you a detailed look at these in our “Gear on Test” section next issue. For now I’ll conclude by saying a big “ÐÐÐÐÐÐÐÐ” to Sergey for taking so much of his valuable time to speak with me, and rest assured I’ll keep you up to date with new developments from the great folk at Giena Tactics in the future!

For more information and to view the entire Giena Tactics range please take a look at <http://gienatactics.ru>





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## TORRENT SUPPRESSORS

To say the firearms industry has seen a steady increase with suppressor sales in the last decade would be a huge understatement. In what has always been a niche' market, suppressors have begun to gain a wider acceptance in the shooting world, and Trampas recently met some of the new innovators, Torrent Suppressors.

**T**here's a big move right now in helping educate buyers and law makers in what suppressors can realistically do and what they can't, regardless of what Hollywood movies would have you believe (besides, they're just cool to shoot with, right?) During this time, industry heavyweights have ruled manufacturing and sales. Thanks to these recent increased sales and technology, smaller companies have been able to come onto the scene and offer more innovative thinking, breaking from the "old guard" ways of designing suppressors. One company making big waves early is Torrent Suppressors in Texas.

As a former SWAT operator, now firearms instructor and magazine writer heading up the Swanson Media Group and now as Deputy Editor USA for PMCI, I have been privy to a wide range of suppressor designs from some of the largest names in the industry for almost 20 years in which I use on a weekly basis with reviews and professional training. When industry "mover and shaker", Clover Lawson called my office and said, "Hey Trampas, I got a new suppressor company I want you to review," I couldn't say no to her. As Clover was explaining their growing pains as a start up company, she went into depth as to what the designers have come up with for their suppressors. I was very impressed with what I heard, as I tend to be with all the major projects Clover has delivered in the past. I couldn't

wait to have a review sample sent for testing. A few short weeks later, I received a call from my local FFL holder, Henry Mimms with Second Amendment Guns and Range in Yulee, FL to let me know a .30 cal suppressor had just arrived with my name on it.





## FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Once I arrived at the shop and started the paperwork, I opened the Torrent Suppressor box and gave the product a once over.

My first impressions were simple. I liked the appearance, compactness and lightweight of the design. This suppressor was Torrent's T3 model made from Stainless Steel with an optional Titanium construction. Being a .30 cal suppressor, it was rated for anything in the field of 7.62 / .308 / 6.8 SPC / .300 BLK / 6.5 Creedmoor.

For immediate testing, I brought along my 9" barreled SBR AR-15 chambered in .300 Blackout with some of my favorite 208 grain loads from the new Hornady Black series.

### Specs

- Caliber rating: 7.62/.30 CAL
- Thread Pitch: 5/8 x 24
- Length: 6.2"
- Diameter: 1.45"
- Weight: 9. oz titanium, or 16.5 oz stainless steel (FA rated)
- Decibel Rating: 121.2 dB (.300 BLK Subsonic)
- Manufacturer: Tactical Arms of Texas
- Material: titanium, or 17-4 SS
- Color: Black/FDE/Raw

## INITIAL RANGE TIME

Considering the paperwork was recently mailed off to the ATF, personal visits to the range in which the suppressor will legally reside until the tax stamp returns will be how the first few months of testing will subsequently go. As I screwed the T3 suppressor onto my rifle, I noticed how well balanced the added weight made it feel. Being a short barrel rifle, I am used to the 9" barreled .300 Blackout or BLK having all its weight overloaded up against my chest. With only adding roughly 5" of its overall 6.25" length to the barrel, the rifle remained still very compact. Maneuvering around the range, I noticed the better balance was easier to move from target to target and around corners.

So, it looked good and handled well, so how did it shoot? As it turned out, this would be the best part. Having already had the Vortex Strike Eagle 1-8x24 scope zeroed at 100 yards, I held roughly a 1" high as I normally would at 25 yards to hit the

bullseye. I was curious as to what the suppressed "shift" would be as I have seen using other suppressors on this rifle. Depending on load, I have seen suppressors cause rounds to strike as much as 4" left or right and just as much distance lower of zero. Given the fact I was shooting at a ¼ of the zeroed distance, I was expected to see anywhere from an .75" to an inch at least.

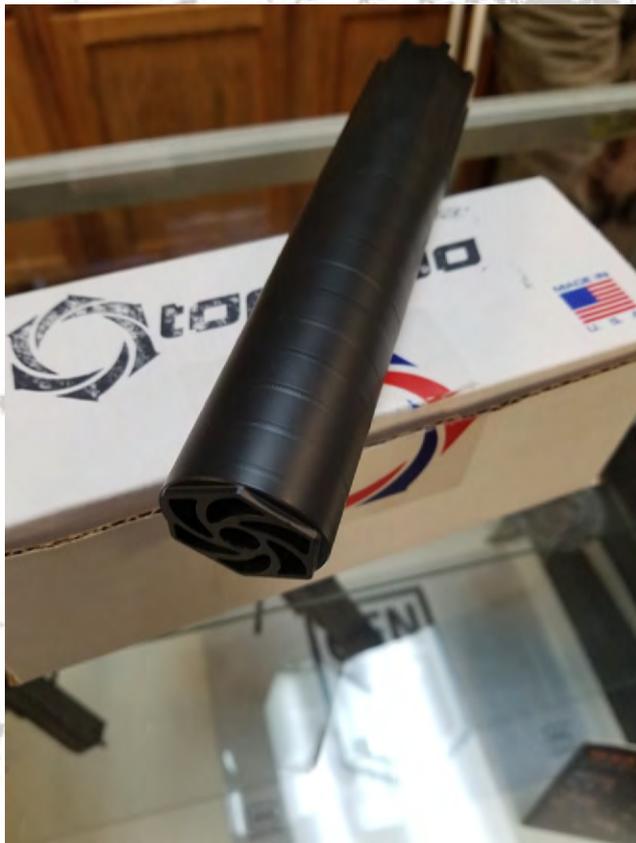
Once the first shot broke, I couldn't help but think, "Wow, this thing is quiet!". Despite wearing electronic ear protection due to range rules, the shot report was low enough to not trigger the noise blocking protection. When actively blocking sound, the "ears" allow for sound such as people speaking to be heard at a normal level and engages an electronic block to high decibel noises.

As I pulled the trigger the second time, I could clearly hear the couple in the lane beside me talking about how their gun "kicked" when one of them shot it. Through the shot breaking, I never lost volume of hearing the couple next to me talk. The only interruption was the noise of a rifle's bolt working back and forth and a mild bang at the normal level of a living room television.

After the third shot, I had to pull my target in and double check what I was seeing through the scope. With getting caught up on how quiet the suppressor made the rifle, I didn't focus on where my hits scored on the target, just held over the bullseye and pressed the trigger without true follow up. To my surprise, one shot was at the bottom of the 1" bullseye and the other two made one large hole through the center!

After resetting the target, I took the suppressor off and shot 3 additional shots. This time, shots 1 and 3 were touching at the top of the bullseye and shot 2 was center of the target. I was amazed at the lack of noticeable shift at 25 yards. The accuracy was right on with most of my previously recorded shots from last month's unsuppressed testing found in our AAC review but with much less shift in suppressed results. I made several notes and photographed both targets for my DOPE book.

Reattaching the suppressor, I loaded up 5 rounds into my new Magpul .300 BLK specific PMAGS and sent them downrange during a slow fire string. As I watched through the scope and listened to the bolt cycle with a muffled report, I could see the top of the bullseye form a hole growing larger with each shot. I couldn't help but smile while one of the range workers walked



over to admire the shot group. I loaded up another 5 rounds and put another group down range a bit faster resulting in a 1" group at the 1 o' clock of the bullseye.

To finish up my first range testing, I ran a target featuring two targets side by side out to 15 yards. I ran two shots to each target freehand quickly back and forth. The rifle handled impressively with minimum sound and great accuracy. This was just a teaser to being able to get on the range and work on shooting drills around barriers and varying distances.

**WRAP UP (FOR NOW)**

Once the suppressor paperwork comes back from the ATF and I can get the suppressor out of paperwork "jail", I intend on doing longer distance shooting with the .300 BLK as well as push the distances suppressed with my recent 6.5 Creedmoor build out to around 1000 yards or beyond. I am eager to see if there is a noticeable shift as distances multiple and if so, to what effect compared to the "big name" suppressor companies I have worked with in the past.

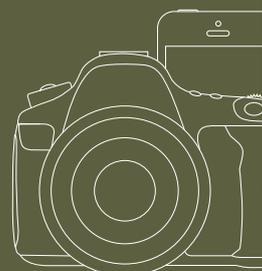
Overall, I was very impressed with the T3 .30 caliber suppressor from this new company, Torrent Suppressors. While the company is new to the market, the great minds behind it have been around behind the scenes for years gaining the knowledge and technology to ensure success moving forward in 2018. To find out more about Torrent Suppressors, go to [www.torrentsuppressors.com](http://www.torrentsuppressors.com) and check out their growing line up of suppressors from .17 / .22 to 7.62 thus far with new products dropping soon!



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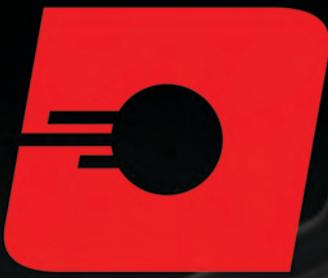
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## GLOCK 19X REVIEW

Whether you love it or hate it, there is no doubt by now, Glock's new 9mm model 19X has been one of the most talked about firearms not only from this company but any company in the market. Announced just weeks before the industry's largest event of the year, the SHOT SHOW in Las Vegas, the Glock 19X was available to a limited number of industry insiders during Industry Day at the Range just 24 hours before the show floors opened. For those who haven't heard about this new version of Glocks most popular 9mm model 19, Trampas and new PMCI Contributor Clint Steele bring an overview.

If you read our SHOT SHOW report not long ago, you may remember us mentioning the release of the G19X, a civilian version of their submission to the US Army's Modular Handgun System trials. Apart from the missing manual safety requested by the Army, the G19X is true to the company's original hybrid design of bridging the Glock models 17 and 19 for a variety of benefits. I ended that segment with a "more to come" tag as a writer's sample was already sitting in the gun safe waiting for range time.

Regularly for the past 4 years, I have carried a standard model 19 concealed with a custom inside the waist band holster from the "King of Kydex" John Phillips at Survivor Creek Tactical. When teaching as a NRA Instructor on the range, I often use a Glock model 17 with another John Phillips creation on my battle belt. Honestly, the thought of mixing the two models never occurred to me, nor did a need for it. For a fresh perspective, I decided to team up with fellow reviewer, Clint Steele, who I knew also carried a model 19 daily and volunteered to do the same with the new 19X. Since then, Clint and I have spent quality time on and off the range with the G19X and now, its time to report on what we discovered.





# FIREARMS: GLOCK 19X

## FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Let's start like Detective Joe Friday, "Just the facts".

Fact: The model 17 frame of the 19X offers the full grip of Glock's original designs in which the company was based upon with 17 round magazines.

Fact: The 19X comes direct from the factory with not only a 17-round magazine for concealed carry, but two additional magazines with +2 extensions to hold 19 rounds for added firepower when reloading.

Fact: The 19X comes from Glock with factory installed night sights rather than the horrible tradition white outlined "U" shaped rear sight and white dot front sight.

Fact: Located on the bottom of the frame is a removable lanyard loop for tactical operators who prefer to tether their pistols to their gear for jumps or just retention purposes in crowded non-permissive environments.

Fact: Unlike most of the Gen 5 series of pistols, the 19X does not have a flared magazine well but does include the ambidextrous slide stop "U" shaped one-piece lever.

Aside from the hard, undeniable facts, let's discuss a few items that have been both praised and criticized in recent reviews. First, the new Glock Marksman Barrel (GMB) which may or may not actually increase accuracy in a pistol that is universally known as a great combat shooting performer proven in some of the harshest environments on the planet.

Next, the colour. It's brown. Glock calls it Coyote. The U.S. Army calls it Mission Brown and they love to paint everything within eye sight that colour. While this is the first factory produced Glock in a colour other than Black, it would not be the first choice in



colours for commercial sales when the hot colour for the tactical crowd is currently Grey. The new nPVD slide coating has already started to prove itself to be just as tough or even tougher than the traditional Tenifer finish with the other Black Gen 5 pistols.

Despite what the Glock 19X looked like or what changes were made from previous models, the real question everyone wanted to know was how did this hybrid or "crossover" Glock perform?

This is where the table top reviews end and 1800GunsAndAmmo.com comes through for you each week! As I prepared for range testing, I honestly did not know what to expect given the full grip and shorter barrel of the 19X. Would the extra grip area give me more control? Would the shorter barrel be less accurate? Does it function with as many brands of ammo just as well as my personal Glocks? The answers would be discovered in "The Swamp" training grounds with the help of Clint and our guest shooter and good friend, John Ammons of UW Gear.



**Glock 19X Specs**

- Calibre: 9x19 mm
- Height: 5.47"
- Width: 1.3"
- Barrel: 4.02"
- Trigger Pull: 5.5 lbs.
- Capacity: 17 & 19 Rounds
- MSRP: US\$749

**RANGE TIME**

On the first trip to the range, the 19X was ready to impress. The full-size grip was a bit of an overkill for my relatively smaller hands compared with Clint and John both being around 6 ft tall. As each one of us took turns shooting, there was a constant flowing dialogue of compliments for the pistol. Needless to say, there were smiles all around just to be out shooting with good friends on a beautiful day, but to be doing so with a good firearm makes it even better.

While shooting, the pistol felt just as good as my every day carry (EDC) Gen 4 model 19. The night sights were easy to line up on target with quick follow up shots. The standard 5.5lb Glock trigger offered no surprises in the all too familiar consistent trigger pull. This resulted in great accuracy right out of the box for all test shooters. Prior to shooting the 19X, I had read a statement at SHOT SHOW advertising the 19X as having an Enhanced Trigger with modified trigger and pin for a crisper shot break. If you are familiar with the new Gen 5 series from Glock, this is just a fancy way of saying it is configured the same constant pressure trigger as the rest of the series.

Transitioning from a Gen 4 to Gen 5 series including 19X, the trigger break is the same with the only difference being the constant pre-travel trigger tension of the Gen 5 before the shot break compared to the slack of older model triggers.



The two things I liked most about the G19X were the 19 round magazines and the standard model 19 length barrel. As I mentioned previously, the 19X ships with a 17 round capacity magazine for a flush fit to aid with concealability and two 19 round magazines for once the cover is blown and it's time to do the "man dance". When carrying the full-sized model 17 on my belt in a standard holster or attempting to carry it inside the waist band, the extra length of the barrel tends to dig into my hip if the holster angles even in the slightest. With a mid-ride holster which places the grip at the perfect draw height for me, the G19 barrel length is perfect for clearing my hip bone and giving me all day comfort.

With owning several Glocks with and without finger grooves, I regularly switch back and forth and adapt without giving them too much thought. Full disclosure: I hate the

grooves for the basic fact that everyone has different sized hands. Being forced to place your fingers into a potentially unnatural spacing just doesn't make sense to me. Through many discussions with fellow shooters, I am not alone in this thought. Below, Clint mentions the same in his thoughts from the range on the G19X.

*"From a duty type holster the Glock 19X gives me the full grip space of the Glock 17. This full grip allows me to acquire a firm, steady high purchase on the grip of the firearm quicker and more securely than I can on the traditional Glock 19. When firing the standard model G19 there is a tendency for the grip to shift in my hand. I blame this shifting on the totally unnecessary finger grooves that Glock put on the Gen3/4 guns. Why do I blame the finger grooves? That's simple, I don't have them on my Glock 26 in which I do not have that issue when shooting. Since the G19x does not have the finger grooves, I do not have that issue on it as well."* – **Clint Steele**

After several more trips to the range, including a firearms qualification day for Clint's job the 19X continued to earn good marks in all categories. On one specific test day, I loaded up a variety of ammunition we often use in testing pistols for our reviews. As a firearms instructor, I have often heard complaints on the range about one brand of ammo or another causing shooters issues. Upon further investigation, it's usually an aftermarket modification to the gun or shooter era more so than it being the ammo used. Never have I had a Glock shooter regularly have issue with any particular type of ammo that caused the same issue in my personal guns. Below is a list of the ammo used.

- Winchester 115 grain Full Metal Jacket (White Box)
- Winchester PDX1 Defender 147 grain Jacketed Hollow Point
- Winchester Kinetic HE 115 grain Jacketed Hollow Point
- Hornady Critical Defense 115 grain Jacketed Hollow Point
- Hornady Critical Duty 135 grain FlexLock
- Remington UMC 115 grain Full Metal Jacket
- Remington Golden Saber 147 grain Full Metal Jacket
- Federal Hydra Shok 124 grain Full Metal Jacket
- Federal Hi Shok 115 grain Jacketed Hollow Point
- Fancy Brass Company 115 Full Metal Jacket

On and off camera, I mixed rounds from all the brands listed above into a single magazine and ran shot a string of fire through the G19X to test its reliability. Over and over, the pistol chewed through the odd mixture of name brands, hollow points and full metal jacket rounds flawlessly with a felt difference in recoil as each cycled through due to the different pressures each were loaded to. If the pistol were to jam, this would have been the time for it to happen with these random mixtures cycling through it over and over.

The accuracy between loads would be a topic for another time all together, but overall, the mixed groups still easily gave me a 1.5" group at 7 yards.

In the end, the best compliment given to the model 19X was, "It handled like a Glock and shot like a Glock." Not to say the 19X isn't anything special, simply, it isn't anything below the high standard set by the company and their full line of proven products. It shot just as well as both the G17 and G19 models we had on hand, handled well getting onto target and gave the shooter a better felt balance with the bulk of its weight directly over your hand rather than distributed as forward as the G17.

Clint's time dedicated to carrying the 19X between range trips as his "go to" CCW would play heavily into his final thoughts.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

To wrap up this review, I wanted to include Clint's take on everyday life with the G19X on and off the range.

*"I've carried Glocks for over a decade as both a licensed concealed carrier and as a security professional. It's important to me that when I strap on a firearm it's going to work when and if I need it. With a Glock, I am confident it is going to work. The Glock 19x is a perfect duty sized firearm, but not so perfect concealed carry weapon. For many, the standard model Glock 19 has been the right solution for both. That is not what the 19x was designed for. It is a purpose-built duty firearm meant for the U.S. Army's Modular Handgun System trials as stated in the introduction of this article. The Glock 19x was built to meet the parameters set forth by the U.S. Army, NOT the concealed carriers of America.*

*I've carried the Glock 19X concealed several times in the last month. For me, it conceals best in the Appendix Inside the Waist Band (AIWB) position. Being a left-handed shooter, that would be at about the 11 o'clock position. Primarily using the excellent Raven Concealment Vanguard 2, I've found the Glock 19X can be successfully carried concealed provided you dress around the gun. Is it comfortable? Not really, but concealed carry is more about having a firearm when you need one than about being comfortable to begin with."* – **Clint Steele**

With my own experiences with the 19X, I enjoyed spending time shooting it as I do any of Glock's products. To compare this new pistol to the G17 and G19 is similar to the fact I like peanut butter, I like jelly and I like the two mixed together in a sandwich. There are a lot more uses for peanut butter as well as jelly but a limited amount of options with the two mixed. The same can be said for Glock's new "crossover". The 19X offers a lot of the benefits of both its parent models but still offers the slight drawbacks of each as well. If you like the short barrel of the model 19 and have large hands for which the larger model 17 grip fits you better, this gun is for you.

Personally, I have a G19 for easily carrying concealed that fits my hand perfectly and a G17 for open carry on the range teaching and training that handles great but a bit too large to be concealed for me without specifically dressing around it in heavier clothing. The 19X doesn't fit my specific needs as well as it does someone like Clint. I believe outside of being a specific military requested build, this can better be looked at as Glock now offering the "Big man's G19" for those who could never fully enjoy the original model's compact size and benefits. For that, I will say, "Well done Glock". Innovation is how any company grows. In this case, trying to land military contracts and now marketing to civilians was clearly goal #1 and then #2. I am confident this isn't the last of new ideas and changes we will see coming from Glock in the near future.

We hope this review has answered a few questions you may have had about the Glock 19X and urges you to discover more about Glock firearms. To find out which Glock may be right for you, check out the full line Glock products available on the market at [www.US.Glock.com](http://www.US.Glock.com).





## **VORTEX OPTICS: RAZOR HD GEN II RIFLE SCOPE**

Perhaps the fastest growing name in the optics industry within recent years has got to be that of Vortex Optics. Everywhere you look in magazines and on TV, top names in shooting sports and tactical training are running products from this relative new comer to the upper ranks of the optics world. This issue, Trampas takes a look at the top tier of the Vortex Optics line up, the monster sized Razor HD Gen II scope configured in 4.5-27x56 FFP variable power scope.

**A** key to Vortex's success has been the wide range of high quality products geared towards everyone from the beginner to the expert shooter, all at very affordable pricing compared to their direct competition. Hunters, plinkers and tactical shooters alike have been migrating to Vortex Optics due to their new and innovative red dots, scopes and equipment.

Nowhere does Vortex shine more than in its long range scopes. When clarity, optimized image sharpness and brightness from edge to edge as well as high level of light transmission are an absolute must, Vortex delivers time and time again.

### **FIRST LOOK**

After much anticipation following the "green light" from Shamus Terry at Vortex Optics in regards to our test sample being in route, the Razor HD Gen II arrived at my front door along with a second box containing a set of Vortex branded scope rings. As I opened the boxes up for initial inspection,

both scope and rings were finished in the Razor series signature Stealth Shadow anodizing which is a dark bronze hue. Along with the scope, the box also included a screw on scope shade, owner's manual, 123CR battery for the illuminated reticle and small Allen wrench for loosening windage and elevation knobs, and adjusting zero.

When removing the Razor HD scope from its box, its sheer size and weight are the first things I noticed. With its massive 56mm objective lens and total overall one piece 34mm tube length measuring 14.4 inches; the Razor weighed in at 48.5 ounces. While this may not immediately register to most people as "heavy" when reading this, it is however, considerably more than your average Walmart scope. The Razor HD Gen II scope was purposely built like a tank to withstand much more than its competition. With that being said, the Razor is by no means too heavy to be functional. When taken into account the category of scope in which the Razor series scopes fit into, this is roughly the average weight of any of its competitors in the upper spectrum.

Featuring a 6x zoom, the Razor offers a range starting from 4.5 power magnification up to a very up close and personal 27 power. The scope also features a glass etched EBR-2C MOA reticle on the First Focal Plane (FFP) which allows hold over consistency throughout magnification spectrum. The low profile L-TEC turrets were specifically built for long range, precision shooting with integrated locking mechanisms for preventing accidental elevation adjustments. This particular model offered 1/4 MOA adjustments with each click. An easily noticeable rotation indicator extends from the left side as the turret completes each full rotation.

Removing the center cap on the elevation and windage turrets allow for a fast and easy way to set your turrets to zero. The left side knob offers a dual role in being split into an inner knob and outer knob in one. The inner knob allows for traditional parallax adjustment from 32 yards to infinity while the outer knob on the turret is for adjusting the brightness level of the crystal clear reticle and locking it into place.

An early "plus" for me when inspecting the scope was the parallax focus turret being the same size as the elevation and windage turrets. This serves three main purposes; first it is easier to adjust parallax wearing gloves. Secondly, the large size offers enough space for the illumination knob to feature an off position between each brightness setting. Lastly but just as important, the same size turrets for all three sides offer symmetry to ease my semi-OCD brain.

## SPECS

- Magnification: 4.5-27
- Objective Lens Diameter: 56 mm
- Eye Relief: 3.7 inches
- Field of View: 25.3-4.4 feet/100 yards
- Tube Size: 34 mm
- Turret Style: L-Tec
- Adjustment Graduation: 1/4 MOA
- Travel per Rotation: 25 MOA
- Max Elevation Adjustment: 113.5 MOA
- Max Windage Adjustment: 48 MOA
- Parallax Setting: 32 yards to infinity
- Length: 14.4 inches
- Weight: 48.5 ounces

## RAZOR RANGE TIME

To start things off with a "Bang", I decided to mount the Razor onto my Armalite bolt action AR-50 chambered in the ground shaking 660 grain .50 BMG round. Using the 1.45 inch "High" Vortex rings sent along with the scope, mounting the scope was fairly quick and offered a rock solid platform. After quickly bore sighting the Razor with a laser bore tool, it only took 4 shots to zero the rifle. Once this was accomplished, my next objective was to see how the scope would hold up under the extreme vibration of the .50 calibre recoil.

I fired three test shots to establish my group at the predetermined distance of 200 yards. I then moved to the next target and started what is called a "Box Drill". This drill consisted of shooting 1 shot on target, then dialing up 4 clicks, firing another round, dialing right 4 clicks and firing a third round, down 4 clicks, firing a fourth time, and finally, 4 clicks to the left and firing my last shot. After this brief "Box Drill", I had the result I was looking for, a next, clean square consisting of four very large holes roughly 2 inches apart. While this wasn't my ideal rifle for precision shooting, it did give me a great deal of confidence in the scopes ability to hold together on smaller caliber rifles such as .300 Mag and .308 Win.

After shooting enough to be convinced the Vortex Razor would hold up and reliably track under extreme circumstances, I removed it from the AR50 and mounted it on my custom built Devil Dog Arms SR25 pattern AR-10 chambered in .308 Win. Having had a wide range of data on hand from the DDA rifle using other Vortex scopes such as the Viper 6-24x50, this would be the perfect rifle to test the new Razor. Again using the "High" mount Vortex scope rings, bore sighting took about 20 mins to dial in before it was time to pack for the next day's range time.

Upon arrival at our closed testing range affectionately known as "The Swamp", I set up the first test target at 100 yards along with the range camera system from Target Vision. This long range system transmits real time views of the target to cell phone, computer or tablet and tracks each shot. I have found this invaluable tool has saved over 50% of my range down time and brought even more organization to recording data. No longer does the shooter have to rely on field sketches of targets or





keep up with photographs kept in a file. With the Target Vision system, every shot can be logged, compared, printed off or storage in digital DOPE log.

Once set up, I fired 3 shots to establish an initial group on target using Federal Match 168 grain BTHP ammunition.

According to the information displayed on screen, my half inch grouping was approximately 2 inches high and 1.5 inches to the right. A quick adjustment to my turrets and my next three shots found their way into the center of the bullseye within a half inch MOA. Once I had my zero established, I locked my turrets down and removed the center cap on the elevation and windage turrets. Using the provided Allen wrench and a small flat head screw driver, I loosened the three screws securing each turret and rotated the hold overs to zero before tightening everything back down. After doing this, I was able to adjust to which ever distance I wished and turn back to zero for my 100 yard setting.

After a quick pull through of the barrel using a .308 sized Bore Snake cleaning rope, my next objective was to test my new zero via another "box drill". The results of this test with the DDA rifle resulted in a beautiful four shot square. I then moved out to 200 yards to work on multiple target engagements using 3 inch targets. Moving left to right, the scope was extremely clear from edge to edge without any "tunneling" when moving through the lower magnifications. The fast focus eye piece offered easy adjustment to dial in to my eye relief. If I could find a negative comment about a great scope, it would be about how stiff the zoom ring was to adjust. As with most stiff rings, the zoom ring did loosen up a bit after multiple trips to the range for further testing, but definitely not a concern in regards to being inadvertently knocked out of place.

Live fire testing maxed out at 300 yards without turret adjustments but instead the classic hold over method. The hash marks on the EBR-2C MOA reticle were easy to see and thin enough not to block the view of smaller targets at long range.



Holding two hash marks under the crosshairs, I took aim at a six inch steel target down range and pressed the trigger. As the recoil pushed back into my shoulder, the ringing of the steel made its way up range as I saw the target rock back through the scope when the round made impact. Switching to an identical target located to the range of the first, I transitioned to the next and fired again with another solid hit. Both hits on target clearly struck center mass. The crispness of the scope's view of the target while shooting in high heat and humidity allowed me to have a good look at the vapor trails of each shot.

While I maxed out at a relatively short distance in the overall scheme of things, I did glass "no shoot" targets at 700, 800 and 950 yards very clearly. Watching moving objects, the scope tracked well without any noticeable distortion. As time goes on, further testing is already planned using the Razor HD Gen II scope and DDA .308 combination. Over a rigorous two month testing period in extreme heat, the Razor proved itself to be one of the best values in the optics market today.

### FINAL THOUGHTS

As a former Law Enforcement SWAT sniper and current Firearms Instructor for the private sector, I have been shooting high end, long range scopes for over 20 years including Vortex products.

In my opinion, Vortex Optics has hit a home run with the new Gen II Razor HD 4.5-27x50 scope. Shooting with the Razor was one of the most impressive testing periods I have done in a long time. The key what makes this scope so great is in how simple and effective it is. The turrets were large and easy to use, the objective was large and allowed more than enough light for very low light shooting and the bullet proof construction help up to all the abuse and heavy recoil subjected

to it. Throughout the two month testing period through heavy humidity, rain and hot weather, the scope proved itself to be fog and water proof just as advertised.

Retailing at US\$3300.00 MSRP, the Razor can be found realistically in most gun shops for around US\$2500.00. Having a scope of this quality break the under US\$3000.00 barrier is a major accomplishment and great value to the consumer. I do however wish Vortex included flip open scope caps in high end packages such as the Razor series instead of having to match up to an odd size objective bell. At the end of the day, the Razor covers the three "must haves" in a long range scope, accuracy, durability and repeatability. Combined with the best price of any scope in its class and the unlimited, unconditional warranty, the Gen II HD series scopes from Vortex are worth checking out for yourself on a range near you.





## ADKINS WOOD AND KNIFE PUSH DAGGER

In this day and age of firearms awareness, more responsible gun owners are realizing there is a viable need for professional training and force options. The firearms industry is filled with firearm accessories such as lights, lasers, triggers and high priced drop-in barrels. Options such less-than-lethal rounds, tasers, stun guns and pepper spray seem to be everywhere you turn from a gun show table or website. One tool as old as human-kind itself is often overlooked as a viable defensive open, the blade.

Often carried for utility purposes, the knife has the widest range of uses than any other tool we often have available. Knives are carried by far more people than firearms daily but proper training and understanding of purpose-built blades are rarely achieved. As a current Firearms Instructor, my main passion these days is educating those who choose to be part of the solution, not the problem. These good guys and gals with a gun are prepared to step up protect the innocent. The need for training and solid, reliable tools to protect themselves, their families and others either as professionals or civilians is paramount.

Last year, I had the privilege of training with close friend and knife fighting instructor, Rodrigo Muller. Through working together, Rodrigo helped brush some of the rust off from my hiatus from regularly training with tools other than a firearm since my retirement. I chose to follow up this extensive endeavor with regularly training with Nauka student and fellow contributor, Craig Reynolds soon after I had the honour of being accepted into the Nauka clan by its founders. Given my life-long training and study in hand-to-hand and CQB combat, I was tired of using poorly



designed and inferior constructed blades such as small Gerber or Cold Steel options. I decided to have a custom defensive blade made for daily carry and training. One that I knew could be relied on to protect my life and the lives of my family.

For this project, I reached out to good friend and "Viking Madman", Wes Adkins of Adkins Wood and Knife ([www.adkinswoodandknife.com](http://www.adkinswoodandknife.com)). Located in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Wes has made a good name for his company in the blade industry during the past few years by just flat out killin' it on production and innovation. I was fan of Wes's work long before I became friends with the devoted family man and hard-working craftsman. One look at the unique designs and quality within the wide range of noted projects from Adkins Wood and Knife will tell you why Wes is on track to be a well-known big name within the industry very soon.

A few emails back and forth describing roughly what I had in mind yet still leaving room for his expert input lead to Wes's simple and straight forward response, "No problem brother, I got you covered". A few weeks later, what I received in the mail as the finished product was nothing short of beautiful and deadly! Wes hand built a stunning custom push dagger with wood grips. This stout, robust blade was everything I could have hoped for in a "Get off me" blade.

The double-edged leaf-shaped push dagger was custom built from CTS-B75P steel and narrowed down to a rich Wenge wood grip with a Honey Locust liner solidly secured with copper pins. Fit and finish of the wood to metal were spot-on and really added to the overall appearance of the knife. Shiny and polished like a brand-new Mac Truck on the showroom floor, but one look clearly told you it was built for hard use.

Accompanying the knife were two sheaths. One was a well-crafted open top brown leather sheath and the other, a carbon fiber patterned Kydex sheath. The leather sheath was beautifully finished with a thick leather tunnel belt loop. I enjoyed wearing this knife and sheath combo along with a custom-made cowboy action rig for an article I recently wrote featuring the guns and tools of the Old West. Hands down, that was some of the most fun I have ever had as a professional writer. The Kydex sheath on the other hand, offered a bit more retention and flat-to-the-body carry with a more modern look using a single Kydex belt loop attachment. This sheath

offered a very thin profile and barely noticeable when wearing inside the waistband.

Straight out of the shipping box, this push dagger's edges sliced through corners of a phone book and then severed pieces of paper into strips with the flick of a wrist. The fit between my fingers was perfect in between my index and middle finger for complete control of the blade. As I learned to move comfortably with this razor-sharp push dagger, I could really feel great balance and design Wes put into his creation.

I chose to carry the push dagger daily on my weak side opposite of my Glock 19 9mm handgun. During my law enforcement career, I have had the misfortune of having to wrestle on the ground with suspects several times with my life on the line. One of the fears of these types of encounters is losing possession of your firearm. Too many people carry all their force options on the strong side near their firearm. This offers little to no ability to defend yourself with the opposite side other than empty hand strikes or kicks if feasible.

Through my past training, the option of having the ability to cut an attacker off your strong side and protect your firearm is priceless.

Needless to say, this can very well mean the difference in life or death.

The advantage of a tool such as the Adkins push dagger is having a dual edged fixed blade that doesn't need to be unfolded before use. This lends itself to being quick to deploy and easy to use from any angle. Because the handle is perpendicular and not in line with the blade, it fits closer to the body despite blade length and offers a balanced cutting force on the strike and reverse strike.

A rarely mentioned advantage is that its design offers one hell of a presentation for stabbing directly into a threat when in the guard position of a mounted attacker.

Equally as advantageous in the push dagger's design is how it is gripped. The knife requires it to be held in a balled fist and used in the same manner as a natural punching motion. This lends itself nicely to not only different martial arts disciplines but also more instinctive striking. Because of this "second nature" feel of the knife, it offers perhaps its most valuable of advantages, retention.

By being intertwined between the fingers and grasped in a clinched fist, it is extremely hard to disarm.



# KNIVES: AWK PUSH DAGGER



The Adkins push dagger is superior to lesser constructed production knives in both the high-quality steel used and its overall weight.

I have always hated a knife, regardless of design, that was too light to give me the feeling of having a real tool in my hand. The solid heft of the Adkins push dagger lends to amazing momentum when striking and confidence in retaining structural integrity when driving it through a piece of plywood to simulate ribs and cartilage.

I was also very pleased with how well the push dagger handled comfortably with and without operator gloves. Ultimately, my only regret with this blade was not having one like it back when I was a Deputy Sheriff.

### FINAL THOUGHTS

Recently at this year's industry only SHOT SHOW, I had the privilege of spending a week with Wes Adkins as a guest member of our team. During the week's adventures, I learned a lot about the man and his passion for his blades. Wes's knowledge of steel, grinds and eye for symmetry and beauty was nothing short of amazing.

Our discussions about the industry, his blades and what goes into each creation was just as impressive to say the least. All too often a week of non-stop industry action set in Las Vegas often leaves even the closest of friends ready to be at each

other's throats but this wasn't the case. Fortunately, the level of professionalism and straight talk between he and I, left me with even more respect for Wes as a blade maker, friend and businessman alike. I share this because if you are looking for a reason to put faith in a product, you must first understand the people who make them.

Retailing for around US\$325 with a Kydex sheath and the upgraded leather option for \$25 more, this is a great value in the world of custom blades considering the time and materials put into this project. If you are in the market for a top-quality blade to fit your sporting or daily needs, I highly suggest considering a custom design from Adkin's Wood and Knife. If you're like me and a fan of a well-made blade regardless of whether it's a hunting, tactical or cooking knife, you won't want to miss out on the daily project updates Wes is well known for posting on his Instagram account @adkinswoodandknife and on Facebook at Adkins Wood and Knife. I highly suggest following Wes's company and discover a blade project right for you.

[www.adkinswoodandknife.com](http://www.adkinswoodandknife.com)  
[www.facebook.com/AdkinsWoodandKnife/](https://www.facebook.com/AdkinsWoodandKnife/)  
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BLADE SHOW

1981



## RANGE MEDICAL

We take to the range prepared for an opportunity to exercise, grow and develop our skills and understanding of marksmanship, gun-handling and even sometimes steal away a chance to test our skill sets in contest with others, but we often do this against a background of unconscious incompetence of the dangers that can surface while we have a good time. Our new man “Lunchbox” takes a cold-hard look at how you can prepare for those “SHTF” moments...

**W**e don't know what we don't know until it is often too late and a mishap occurs and the discharge of a firearm leads to injury. Are you prepared to manage a friend or family member with a gunshot wound? Are you prepared to provide self-aid? Do you carry the necessary medical skills and equipment to do such?

If you have not taken the time to prepare for the worse in a controlled environment, what makes you think you are prepared for that moment of truth on the street when violence erupts and you have only half prepared? Take a sobering moment, even two, and examine the need to marry your skill at arms with the equally important life-saving skills and understanding of practical first aid and the use of medical devices designed for gunshot wounds.

Never lose track that while firearms use constitutes a good time, it is also a serious one never to be lost track of. When the golden rules of the range are not enough to ensure safety your medical skills and supplies must be ready to take up the difference.

### Here's where to start:

1. Have a plan. Know where the nearest hospital and medical facilities are situated in relation to your range and be prepared to call for EMS services and render aid until they arrive. Make sure all members of your party know the range address so they all can call for help and assist.
2. Plan for the worst case scenario. If you are shooting at a location unaddressed, plan for such. Be ready to provide transport in the most dire of cases. Game out what is possible and think ahead.
3. Have at the ready all the supplies you might need to manage ballistic wounds. At a minimum, here is a starting list of supplies to have organized and at ready access each time you find yourself at the range:
  - a. Tourniquet(s)
  - b. Compression Bandages
  - c. Gauze for Wound Management
  - d. Needle to Treat Tension Pneumothorax
  - e. Occlusive Dressings
  - f. CPR Mask
  - g. Gloves

All the above listed items should be married to the necessary training to use them. If you have not considered even a basic first aid course, then, just imagine how catastrophic it may be to deal with an unintended gunshot wound. Seek greater training and develop your skill sets beyond the firearm to other safety/rescue devices as well.

Firearms training and the carriage of weapons must be seen in component with medical skills and supplies and never as separate from each other.

## ARE YOU PREPARING FOR THE UNTHINKABLE?

What if a friend or family member is wounded at the range, on the street, or in your home setting? What would you do? If you are involved with firearms professionally, as a sport, or even as a past time hobby- medical emergencies are a reality you cannot ignore.

The lion's share of my medical training and encounters with emergency medical issues have been derived from my experience in semi-permissive environments such as Iraq and Afghanistan where managing a wound or medical complication was not as easy as a 911 Call and a speedy response from local medical technicians.

The conditions I encountered were remote and austere. If my teammates were injured, it could be hours before reaching a facility that could provide a higher level of care. What this taught me was the gravity and necessity of being able to provide immediate care on the scene to sustain someone with life threatening injuries and work your way to improving the odds of saving a life and preventing deaths.

It takes a shift in mindset to recognize that it may be 'YOU' managing the scene of a horrible accident or wound not someone else. What do you do when that time comes and help is not a phone call away, but it is up to you to provide immediate care and take action? Or even worse, what do you do to help yourself when injured?

I am not a Doctor, I never have wanted to be a Doctor, you are probably not a Doctor, but that should not stop us from seeking the training that will assist with care at the point of injury when one's own life or another's is on the line. Often, the first step to being prepared is giving your own self permission to seek the needed training and tools needed to do the job of care. So, give yourself permission, and go out there, find the necessary resources, train and commit to having a plan that consists of more than just dialing 911. The self-aid or buddy-aid you provide may just make the difference for yourself or another. Emergencies are emergencies, but if we do nothing in advance to plan for or manage the potential occurrence of a medical need at the range or otherwise they become catastrophic quick.

When speaking of gunshot wounds in particular, we are looking to address the mechanisms of injury consistent with penetrating wounds.

Statistics concerning the causes of death concurrent with Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) are a relative to the study of the subject at hand here:

The leading causes of combat death are:

- Extremity Hemorrhage
- Tension Pneumothorax
- Airway Obstruction

Extremity Hemorrhage: Penetrating wounds to the limbs are very serious injuries to sustain. Major nerves and blood vessels are carried through both the legs and the arms. It is essential that any range deployed medical kit have both tourniquets and compression wound dressings. Excellent tourniquet choices can be found in both the CATT and SOF-T tourniquet models; other choices like the RATS AND TK-4 abound.

As well, anyone who carries a firearm should carry a tourniquet on and off the range and be prepared to save their own life or that of another.

**Tension Pneumothorax:** If someone is unfortunate enough to sustain a wound to the chest, carrying a decompression needle is crucial to render effective assistance. A chest wound is especially dangerous because the rising and falling of the lungs lends itself to air movement that when a perforation of the chest area occurs, air can get trapped in the area between the chest and lungs. If the air cannot be removed via decompression, it will crush the lungs and making breathing difficult or impossible. To Combat this, companies like North American Rescue Products sell a decompression needle for just such emergencies. 14 Gauge x 3.5" needles or even 10 Gauge ones will be sufficient for application of needle thoracostomy.

It is also wise to carry a set (at least 2) of occlusive dressings to manage chest wounds and will create the necessary barriers over the wound(s), but not trap air in the body cavity. To learn the necessary protocols to manage and perform needle thoracostomy or apply an occlusive dressing, seek out the essentials of medical training from sources like Dark Angel Medical or Lone Star Medics.

**Airway Obstruction:** Injuries sustained on the range can also lead to airway obstructions and related issues. Make sure to keep in your kit everything needed for CPR and airway maintenance. You can easily carry a set of plastic nasopharyngeal tubes to assist in maintaining a clear air path as well.

So, if you are ready, equipped with the essential tools, and trained to a confident standard you are thinking in advance. And when the worst fears, God forbid, are realized on the range or otherwise, you, your medical supplies, training and preparation may just be the difference between life and death.

For further Resources and information mentioned in this article, see:

- <https://www.narescue.com>
- <https://www.chinookmed.com>
- <http://darkangelmedical.com>
- <http://lonestarmedics.com/tactical-medicine-conf/>
- <http://www.redcross.org>
- <https://www.naemt.org/education/naemt-tccc>
- <http://www.511tactical.com>



# PMCI BOOK REVIEW

## EXPEDITIONARY POLICE ADVISING AND MILITARIZATION: BUILDING SECURITY IN A FRACTURED WORLD

This original edited volume draws upon the latest work of a global cast of scholars and practitioners in several fields to examine the history, evolution and lessons of previous expeditionary police advising missions.

Since the end of the Cold War, there has been an explosion of efforts to build modern police forces in other lands via dispatching police advisory missions. There is much to be learned from these recent efforts, but there are equally valuable lessons to be gathered by examining the breadth of a practice that, surprisingly to most, dates to the end of the 19th century. Whilst this book in itself is a useful tool in understanding a compelling aspect of "police forces" in a war situation to me it's the depth and breadth of knowledge of the subject on the part of the authors that really makes it worth your time.

Donald Stoker PhD is Professor of Strategy and Policy for the US Naval War College's Monterey Program at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. The author or editor of seven books, his most recent work, "Carl von Clausewitz: His Life and Work" (Oxford University Press, 2014), is on the British Army's professional reading list. His "The Grand Design: Strategy and the U.S. Civil War, 1861-1865" (Oxford University Press, 2010) won the prestigious Fletcher Pratt Award for 'Best Non-Fiction Civil War Book' of 2010, and was a 'Main Selection' of the History Book Club; it is commonly used as a text in graduate seminars and strategic studies courses.

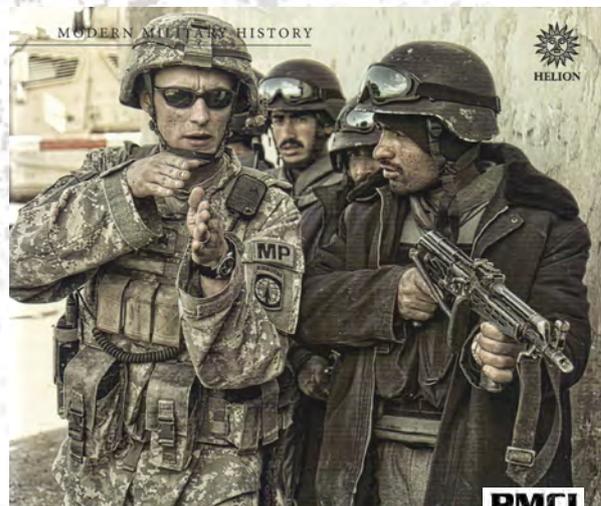
His other works include a co-edited volume on strategy in the American Revolutionary War and he has edited or co-edited books on military advising, conscription and the arms trade. He has written for numerous magazines, such as MHQ (Military History Quarterly), North & South and Naval History. In 2016, he was a Fellow of the Changing Character of War Programme at the University of Oxford's Pembroke College. He is currently writing a book on limited war and also co-editing several books on advising, as well as other topics.

Edward B. Westermann is a professor of history at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. A former USAF pilot, he was a Professor of Comparative Military Theory at the School of Advanced Air and Space Studies at Maxwell A.F.B. in Alabama and a Professor of Military Strategy at the U.S. Air Force Academy. He teaches courses on European History, the Holocaust, and War and Society.



He has been a Fulbright Fellow, a German Academic Exchange Service Fellow, and a Fellow at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum. He is the author of numerous publications including "Hitler's Police Battalions: Enforcing Racial War in the East" and "Flak: German Anti-Aircraft Defenses, 1914-1945". His latest book, "Hitler's Ostkrieg and the Indian Wars: Comparing Conquest and Genocide", was published in 2016.

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- **Publisher: Helion and Company (15 April 2018)**
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- **ISBN-10: 1911512862**
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Expeditionary Police  
Advising and Militarization  
Building Security in a Fractured World



Edited by Donald Stoker & Edward B. Westermann

BOOK REVIEW



# MARITIME SECURITY OPERATIVE

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## AFTER ACTION ASSESSMENT

We all hope that we never need to get into a gun fight but if we do, and let's face it that's going to happen at some point in the professional Contractor's line of work, then we need to be properly prepared for the forthcoming event. This time Andy takes us into the often-overlooked art of the After Action Assessment.

We train in all manner of ways for our duty, mostly on the range, but there are other ways in which you can prepare for contact. We train in the basics of "gun-fu" from the beginning, NSP's, SOP's, fundamentals and principles of marksmanship to name but a few. With this standard set of knowledge and training under our belt we move on to the more complex training drills.

It is impossible to train for every eventuality that may come our way. There are too many "what ifs". We can only train to a certain degree as to what our main role will be, such as Urban, CP, Maritime, etc. Being part of a respected team working for a reputable company will be a lot easier than strolling in on a contract you know little about or unprepared for. It happens.

As I walk onto any tactical training range it warms my heart to see my fellow brothers and sisters working hard on their drills. Blood, sweat and tears mixed with the cordite and dust, some drilling the basic drills, others working on personal goals. Teams practicing squad or section details, with others learning new skills which they will face on deployment with their new contract. Either way preparing for duty is more than just mindset and drills. It's about mastering the right skills for the high risk environment you are going to find yourself in.

There is one skill that I feel is overlooked and maybe misunderstood, that I see a lot of on the tactical, and sometimes even in competition, and that's the After Action Assessment.

When the shooting is done and the adversary is down and out, what happens next? Was the encounter a shoot and scoot, or do you have to stay behind and mop up the mess as it were?

After Action Assessment is exactly what is suggests., Assessment of the situation after the action has ceased.



How you do this is entirely up to you, and as always the situation dictates the necessity and the process in which you perform the action. This can be a short and quick action or it can be a lengthy process. No matter what process you are faced with there are several points that must be addressed. These points will enable you to fully understand the mechanics and process that make up the After Action Assessment. They must be performed in order of sequence so that you will never be caught out by surprise if the adversary is not out of the fight or if there is a follow up attack from a third party.

1) Has the attack stopped?

When an attack has been stopped it is usually via one three methods.

Immediate and direct incapacitation via the cranial-ocular cavity, interference with the lower brain or cerebellum. It's literally like switching off the lights. This method is an advanced skill and requires precise fundamental marksmanship focus. If the target is moving and a head shot is exercised then you must keep eyes on your adversary from a safe distance to make sure there is no movement and you are satisfied that they are out of the fight completely

Centre mass shots to the vital organs (thoracic cavity). This is an effective method but it may take time for the desired result to happen as the blood pressure slowly drops to an incapacitating level. During this time your adversary may still remain very active. Keep your attention focused on the immediate danger until it has stopped, and they are no longer able to fight if they are still active. It is at this point that clear verbal communication and commands are required.

Psychological defeat; this is when the adversary simply gives up the fight. This is a very unreliable method. Once hurt some people lose the will to carry on the fight. It could also be that the attacker has run out of ammunition. However, this doesn't necessarily mean that they won't cease an opportunity to restart the attack should an opportunity arise to their benefit. Direct verbal communication and commands along with dominant positioning is required when this situation arises. You must have total focus on the adversary to assure that the fight does not restart. Just because the attacker has ceased to fight and appear to have given up doesn't mean you have won the day.

2) Are there any more threats of attack?

During sudden violent encounters, a body's reaction to stress, also known as "adrenaline stress" or the "fight-or-flight response" will often occur. Your heart rate will increase, you will experience tunnel vision (resulting in the loss of peripheral vision), which will result in you experiencing a circular tunnel-like field of vision and auditory exclusion. Many survivors interviewed after a violent attack have often made comments like "All I saw was the gun or knife in the attackers hand".

It is also common knowledge for criminals to strike in numbers; this stacks the odds in the attackers favour, reducing our chance of survival. Because we encounter tunnel vision and the chance of being attacked by more than one person, it is important that you conduct a full scan of the immediate environment after the attack has stopped. This will help us to break tunnel vision and identify any follow up attacks. It's important to note that we live in a 3D world and attacks don't just manifest on a horizontal plane. We need to scan on a vertical plane as well, as we may be in an environment that presents us with upper floors, stairs,

windows, balconies etc. Most of people just scan in a 360 degree arc around them, but it's advisable to scan 400 degree around you. 360 degrees horizontal and at least 20 degrees up and 20 degrees down. Use position SUL, a safety position, to keep the area safe when scanning 360 degrees.

The process of scanning is not rocket science, so don't make it such. All you are doing is looking to see if there is someone else willing to carry on the fight, identifying them and carrying on the fight. Don't just scan, SEARCH for a follow up attack.

3) Do I need to move?

When we train, we tend to train in a controlled environment such as a square range. Movement and direction are usually easy to perform due to the flat open surface. This will not always be the case when we are faced with a violent encounter in unfamiliar territory. You may very well not have trained for such attacks on such terrain other than a flat surface with no obstacles or obstructions in your way.

If you have used cover and or concealment before, during or after a violent attack you must take stock of your position and assess your options when the fight has stopped. If you move from your cover/concealment you could compromise your position if there is more than one attacker. However there may be better options if you do decide to relocate. If at all possible you should move from the position you were last seen at by your adversary.

If you condition yourself to move in one direction (i.e. laterally) every time you perform an After Action Assessment, you are most likely to do the same when faced with a real attack. You should strive to randomise your movement when you practice during training sessions. This will accustom you to move in multiple directions should you be prevented from moving into an obstructed position.

4) What condition is my firearm in?

I have always been told, during training scenarios, that I should count how many shots I have fired. In reality I don't think I ever have. During a gun fight the enormous amount of stress and confusion can lead you to think of much more important things, mainly your survival by stopping the attack.

As those that intend to harm others usually operate in numbers, it is important that you know the operating condition of your firearm. Again this isn't rocket science. A quick look and check is all it takes to identify the weapons condition. Reloads and stoppage drills are part of your basic skills. I've seen too many shooters on the firing line with their weapon in a malfunction or emergency reload state once they have done a quick 360 scan. A full status check of your firearms condition is a vital part of the After Action Assessment.

5) Am I OK?

Terrorists and enemy combatants are not usually as skilled in the art of "gun-fu" as someone that trains to use their weapon as a tool to protect others. This usually results in them targeting their victims around centre mass. This is the easiest target area to place shots due to the natural instinct to aim for the centre of a target. Once the shooting has stopped you will need to do a physical Self Assessment.

You may not immediately realise that you have been shot and injured due to the body's adrenaline response. A quick visual inspection will not be enough to confirm a hit as lighting conditions, kit (vest, pouches etc) and the colour of your clothing may mask the point of impact and any traces of blood. It's quite



easy to miss the signs of a gunshot wound especially due to the high stress levels involved.

If all is OK with your firearm, position yourself in a ready to reengage stance. Taking your support hand off the weapon, use the palm of the hand to conduct a quick brush check of the upper body, then down. It's important that you keep your eyes and focus on the area of immediate threat incase circumstances change. If you are in a low light environment, (attackers usually prefer to operate at night), rub your fingers together to feel for a slick wetness. If there is sufficient light, bring the palm of the hand up to the face for a second for a quick visual inspection. A point to note is that in low light environments, your eyes will not be able to identify colours easily and will tend to see in shades of black, white and grey.

6) Can I call for help?

If you have answered all the above questions and all is well, then it's time to call for backup, or depending on the circumstances you may wish to just leave the immediate area. Communication can come in several forms such as verbal commands to colleagues, principals and bystanders or electronic communication to call for backup or authorities.

You will also need to make sure that the fight really is over, and you can relax to a point that you can at least lower or put your weapon away if you can guarantee it's safe to do so. Due to the amount of adrenaline still surging through the body you will need to take a few deep breaths and try to lower the heart rate before using any electronic communication device (voice procedures still count).

If you are working alone or covertly, you may need

to call the local authorities. Make sure you make it clear to them that you are involved in the incident and make sure they know you are armed and describe exactly what you are wearing. This will avoid a lot of confusion and potential problems when the Law Enforcement Officers turn up. You will also need to ask them for instructions and follow them to the letter.

**CONCLUSION**

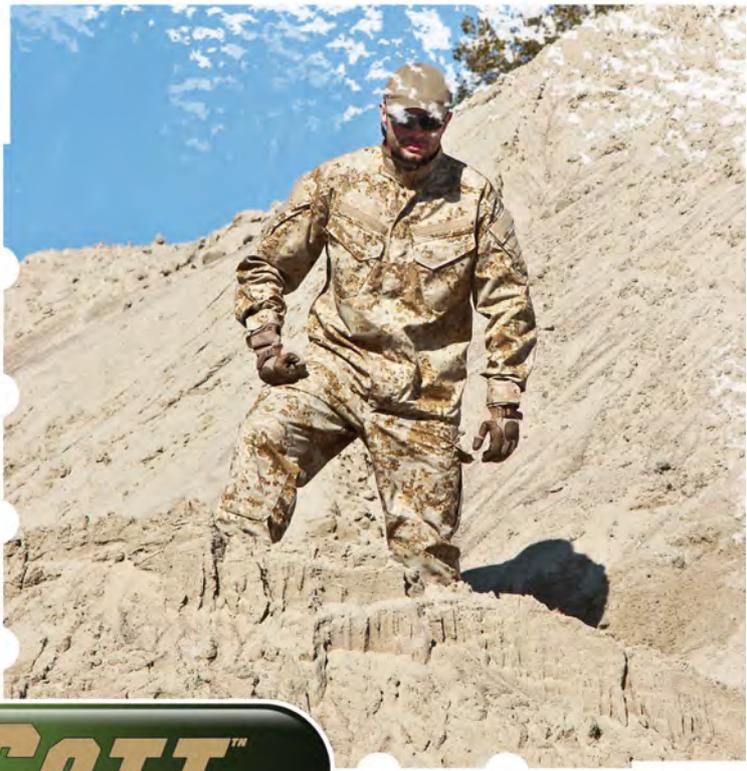
Anyone can do a quick scan of their surroundings during a tactical drill, or more importantly after a live encounter. But following the guidelines above will ensure that you do a thorough assessment of your immediate area of concern.

The After Action Assessment can be done under any conditions due to simplicity and effectiveness. How far and thorough you are with the drill is up to you, but just keep in mind it's designed to give you a confirmation of the immediate threat level so you can determine whether to carry on the fight or secure and contain the area.

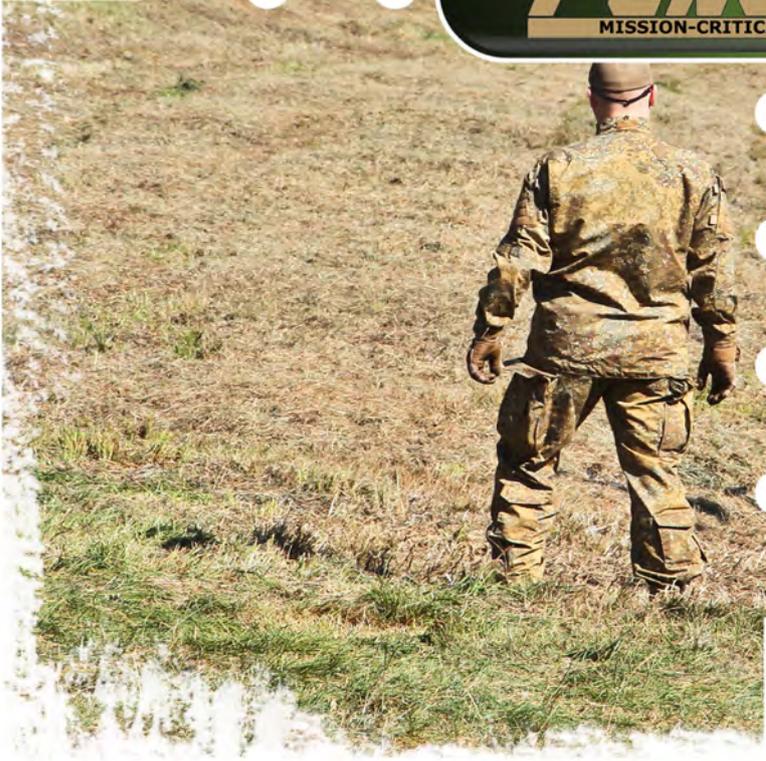
If you decide to incorporate the After Action Assessment in your tactical drills, then do so in its entirety. Don't just fall for the "quick scan and weapon away drill". In a live fire fight you will only perform to your training standards. Do you have high standards or are you happy with second best?

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