



# MEMBERS UPDATE

May, 2018

**4 Incredible Bear Attack Survival Stories**

**The Very Best Handgun Training Method: Part 1**

**100 Years of the Modern Sniper**

**What an "Assault Weapons Ban" Could Mean for You**



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## **Bear Attack Survival Stories**

As the saying goes, sometimes you eat the bear and sometimes the bear eats you. Other times however, like the folks in these stories, you just wanted to hike through a National Park without becoming dinner for a hungry grizzly.



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## **The Best Handgun Training**

What if we told you the very best form of handgun training doesn't involve trips to the range? It doesn't even require an actual firearm. If you're a little skeptical, that's okay. We'll go in-depth to explain why this training style is so powerful.



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## **100 Years of the Modern Sniper**

Sniper tactics weren't invented in the 20th Century, but the World Wars certainly solidified the sniper's role in modern warfare. The tools they used back in the trenches of the First World War were different than today's, but the principles were the same.



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## **Assault Weapons Ban Revisited**

Unlikely as it may be, some fairly prominent groups are working to reinstate an Assault Weapons Ban similar to the 1994 version. We'll take a look into what this legislation might look like and, more importantly, how this might affect your self-defense plan.





**NATIONAL PARKS  
SURVIVAL  
PART THREE:  
4  
UNBELIEVABLE  
BEAR ATTACK  
SURVIVAL  
STORIES**

*Photo by Dinkum/Wikipedia*

What would you do if you came face-to-face with an angry bear? This is something that folks who live near many wilderness areas have to consider on a regular basis, and with good reason. Although there are numerous ways you can help diffuse the situation, the reality is that a bear could still attack you.

On the plus side, getting attacked by one of these monstrously large creatures doesn't have to kill you. In fact, there are numerous survival stories about bear attacks, and several of them happened in a U.S. National Park. Therefore, this is the perfect way to continue our series about National Parks survival.

Unlike the first two entries in this series, the survivors listed below didn't get lost in a National Park. They did get on the wrong side of a bear, though, which can be even worse.



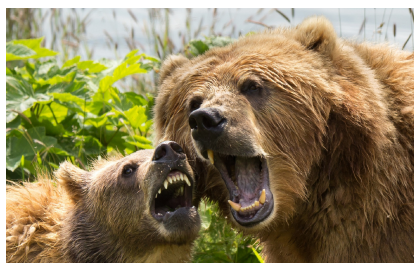
**1. GLACIER NATIONAL PARK:  
FATHER AND DAUGHTER ARE  
MAULED BY BEAR**



Frequent hikers Johan and Jenna Otter thought they were taking all of the right precautions during their 11-mile hike in Glacier National Park. The man and his 18-year-old daughter were accomplished hikers, and this trek was part of their celebration for Jenna's high school graduation.

The two chose a trail that was popular, and they purposefully set out after 7 a.m. because they knew they'd be hiking through grizzly country. Johan had bear spray in his backpack. They had food and water, and other people knew what route they planned to take. Jenna kept her father on track with their time table, and they were speaking loudly enough to warn off any bears.

Unfortunately, none of this worked. Instead, at approximately 9 a.m., they quite literally stumbled into their worst nightmare. Jenna spotted the grizzly first, along with another major issue: they'd found a mama grizzly with two cubs. There's a reason the phrase 'mama bear' is used to describe people who will fiercely protect their children, and Jenna and Johan were about to be on the receiving end of this brutality.



As soon as the bear spotted them, she started to charge. Johan bravely put himself between

the bear and his daughter. He was bitten almost instantly, and then the bear pushed him to the ground and started throwing him around with her mouth. He knew what he was supposed to do in order to survive – get into the fetal position – but it was impossible to do so. Instead, he made a lunge for freedom, ripped free of the grizzly's jaws, and then rolled 20 feet down a steep, rock covered embankment. This unconventional move caused a few scrapes and bruises, but was otherwise successful.

Unfortunately, this also left Jenna as the bear's new target. She tried to use the bear spray, but failed to release the safety lever. The shock of seeing a pissed off bear barreling straight at her caused her to faint, which in turn sent her tumbling 50 feet. Falling on her back woke her up; it also broke her back.

Johan believed the bear was gone and it was safe to call to his daughter. Doing this only gave away his position, though, and the mama bear soon jumped down the embankment and started mauling him again. It began by picking him up by his backpack. From there, Johan tried as hard as possible to curl into a fetal position, but this was no easy task.



Johan later learned he spent this entire attack screaming. He wasn't really aware of it at the time, but he did have one primary goal: to keep the bear from attacking his daughter, who he knew didn't have the protection of a backpack.

After a few minutes of being bitten and shook, Johan couldn't take it anymore. He jumped free again and fell, hard, another 30 feet. He fell on his back, and the bear jumped down on top of him. They were now face-to-face. The bear's next move was its deadliest. Johan's head was taken into the bear's mouth, and she not only removed the skin from the top of his head but she also cracked down hard on his skull.

Johan knew he was about to die, so he broke free for the third time and fell 20 more feet. The bear leapt down again, but it believed Johan when he played dead. After a few minutes, the bear was gone, and he could breathe easily again.

Of course, that ease was broken when his daughter's screams ripped through the air. She curled into the fetal position and played dead while the bear bit her face and shoulder. When Jenna didn't react to these attacks, the bear wandered off and finally left the injured duo alone.

They were no longer the bear's target, but they were both too injured to go for help. Even though it was risky, their only hope was to call for help. After 45 minutes, two hikers came within earshot. One of them took off running in pursuit of help and eventually came across a park ranger.

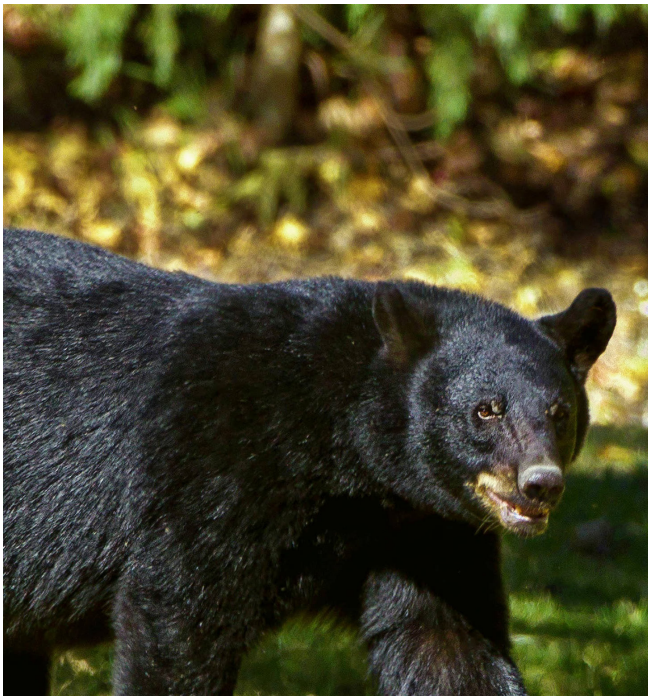
Jenna and Johan had a long, gruesome recovery process filled with surgeries and hospital time. But they both made it, and neither appears to be worse for the wear. Aside from a few scars, that is. Johan



wrote a book about their experience, and he now makes appearances as a motivational speaker.

So, you see, it's possible to set off with the right knowledge and intentions, and yet still run into a lot of trouble. The major thing that these two could have done differently would have been to ensure they both had easy access to bear spray and that they both knew how to use it.

Another thing to keep in mind if you find yourself in a similar situation is that yelling to your companion might bring the bear back into the equation. It's best to wait at least a few minutes so that the animal has the opportunity to leave the area.



## **2. BLACK BEAR ATTACKS SLEEPING TEEN NEAR YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK**

Bear attacks usually happen because a person has accidentally – or, in some stupid cases, purposefully – entered the bear's territory and been deemed a threat. There aren't many cases of bears attacking a human without any provocation, especially if you consider simply being unlucky enough to stumble upon one to be enough to count as provoking them.

With this being the case, people living near  
**4** Yellowstone National Park were stunned when a

19-year-old man named Dylan was unceremoniously ripped free of his sleeping bag. Dylan, a camp counselor, was sleeping by the lake with four campers when the black bear launched its uncharacteristic and terrifying attack.

Dylan woke up to a hard, crunching sound. That's when he realized the sound was coming from his own head. The bear had bitten into his scalp and was dragging him out of his sleeping bag and across the campsite. By the time the young man woke up and found a way to defend himself, the bear had dragged him approximately 12 feet.

Fortunately for Dylan, one of his primary roles as a camp counselor was to teach young campers how to defend themselves from wildlife. That training came in handy because he was able to identify his attacker as a black bear and then took the appropriate action to not only get free but to also chase the bear away.

For those needing a refresher, black bears are the only type of bear that respond best if you fight back. All other bears, especially grizzlies, will try to kill you if you fight back. Due to this knowledge, Dylan and the four campers made loud noises and lunged toward the bear in an attempt to scare it off. Their efforts worked, and the bear soon ran away.

Dylan later told the local media that he still wasn't afraid of bears or of sleeping outside. He went on to state that people "just have to be aware and respect the animals."

There were many theories behind the black bear's unusual behavior. The most gruesome is that the bear was dragging Dylan away from the campsite because he was the biggest person there, and therefore was deemed the most threatening. If this is true, it's likely the bear's end goal was to go back into the campsite and attack the younger campers. Alternatively, the bear may have thought he was the juiciest snack but didn't want to risk being interrupted by the other campers.

Otherwise, if all the bear wanted was to attack Dylan, it could have easily done so without needing to drag the teen several feet away. The harsh and unusual nature of this attack caused park rangers to seek out the bear in an attempt to euthanize it. If



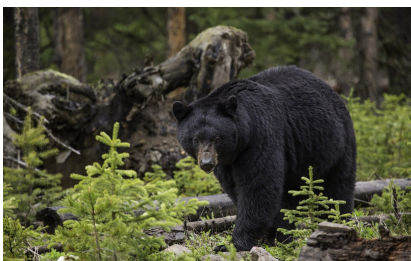
they ever caught the bear and carried out the death penalty, they didn't report it to the media.



### **3. 50-YEAR-OLD WALKS AWAY FROM BEAR ATTACK AT GLACIER NATIONAL PARK**

We don't have a ton of details about this one, but anytime someone meets up with a bear and walks away, it's still worth talking about. In 2011, an unnamed 50-year-old hiker entered Glacier National Park with the intention of enjoying the trek between the Many Glacier to Piegan Pass. He was alone, which we all know from survival stories is often enough on its own to be a recipe for disaster.

The man wasn't able to conclusively identify what type of bear attacked him, but whichever breed it was, it sampled his foot, leg, and arm by biting each of them. Next, it shook the man viciously. He doesn't know why, but the bear then dropped him to the ground and walked away.



Although understandably shaken and hurt by the incident, the man was still able to pick himself up and hike until he

found a park ranger. The ranger called for medical assistance, and the hiker was then hospitalized for his wounds.

We've had a couple of stories from Glacier National Park already, but park officials have stated that they typically experience no more than one bear attack within the park per year. The 50-year-old badass in this story who took several bear bites and kept on walking was able to make a full recovery.



### **4. COUPLE SURVIVES BEAR ATTACK NEAR YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK THANKS TO BEAR SPRAY**

On July 2, 2011, Julie and Kevin Beyer headed toward Sulphur Mountain, on the edge of Yellowstone National Park. The couple were frequent Yellowstone hikers, and they knew the risks involved in visiting bear country. Therefore, they each had a can of bear spray, and they'd even practiced grabbing and using their cans in their backyard. Very smart, and as you'll soon see, this forethought saved their lives.

Another precaution the duo took was to always walk 10 yards apart and to keep a close eye on their surroundings. They looked for any signs of bear activity, including paw prints and scat. They also noted the wind direction at all times. This is a couple



that's after our hearts; after all, we constantly remind people to be as safe as possible, and that's exactly what the Beyers did.

Around noon, they looked for a spot to stop and eat lunch. Their chosen stopping point sat near a grouping of trees, which gave them some much-needed shade. Unfortunately, as Kevin stooped beneath a low-hanging branch, they were startled by the cracking of timber. By the time Kevin stood up and turned around, a female grizzly bear was charging him.

The bear ran over logs and looked at Kevin with "pure bad intentions." He later said he could tell she "meant business." His first response was to drop the hiking poles in his hands and take two backward steps. Next, he shouted, "Bear! Hey Bear!"

All the while, Julie stood 10 yards away, unable to do anything to stop the event unfolding in front of her. She began screaming, and cold, hard realization sank in: her husband was as good as dead.

As the bear charged, Kevin saw something that made matters even worse; she had cubs with her. This greatly increased the odds that the bear's attack would be deadly, and he knew it. During all of this, he somehow managed to pull his bear spray loose and undo the safety, although he has no recollection of doing either thing.

This is a huge testament to the importance of practicing something over and over again. Muscle memory clearly took over, and Kevin became more capable of defending himself as a result.

Suddenly, the bear stopped. She had been bluffing the entire time. Kevin began to relax, but a few seconds later, he stiffened again as he saw one of the cubs climb up next to its mother. Mama bear mentality instantly kicked in, and the huge grizzly bolted in his direction once again.

A quick spray from the bear spray can did nothing. Kevin adjusted for the wind factor and the height distance, and he sprayed the entire can all at once. The bear kept charging, and his wife prepared herself to see her husband die.

Just as the situation seemed to be at its bleakest, the bear spray hit the grizzly in the face. Her eyes widened, and her mouth opened up. Despite having a monumental amount of momentum built up, the grizzly instantly reared up, which caused it to twist to the side and fall down. She got back up immediately and ran in the opposite direction, leaving Kevin and Julie shaken but physically unharmed.

As the realization sunk in that the bear attack was over, Julie put down her arm. She'd been aiming with her bear spray, prepared to shoot the entire can toward the bear if it moved into her direction.



As the last story demonstrated, having bear spray easily accessible that you know how to use is one of the best forms of protection available while hiking near bears.

The Beyers may have prevented a huge tragedy by spacing their hiking out by 10 yards. A Yellowstone park ranger actually critiqued this move, but it's clearly worth considering as long as you can still see and hear your hiking partner.

Another thing worth considering is whether or not you want to hike in areas that are known to have a high bear population. Yellowstone National Park and Glacier National Park are both beautiful, but they also come with an increased risk of a bear attack.

Of course, people can be attacked by a bear anywhere in their natural habitat, but you will reduce your risk if you steer clear of areas where they're known to congregate with their cubs.

Remember: if it's a grizzly and you've exhausted your bear spray option, your best bet is to play dead. With a black bear, though, you need to fight back if you want to survive. Also, never leave food out because this will attract bears to your campsite. And as we now know, some unprovoked bears will drag a human away from their campsite with the intention of killing them.





### **FROM OUR "FRONTIER SURVIVAL" SERIES...**

If you've seen *The Revenant*, starring Leonardo DiCaprio, then you're somewhat familiar with the Hugh Glass story. According to legend, Glass was attacked by a grizzly bear while guiding a group of fur-trappers along the Missouri River. He managed to kill the bear, but not before suffering extensive injuries that probably would have killed most men.

After taking stock, his party moved on, leaving two men to guard Glass' body until he passed away. These men reportedly dug a hole to bury him in, but then they ended up covering him with the hide of the grizzly that had attacked him. Convinced he was dead, the two men rejoined the fur-trappers and reported that Glass had died.

Rumors of his death were greatly exaggerated though... Glass awoke to find himself abandoned

and without any weapons or supplies. He also had a broken leg, back cuts that went so deep they exposed his ribs and festering wounds. Determined to survive, he set his own broken bone, laid down on a wooded log covered with maggots so that they'd eat his infected flesh and then covered himself in the grizzly's hide.

Next, Glass began crawling for help. He knew that the next American settlement, Fort Kiowa, was 200 miles away, but this didn't stop him. Eventually, Glass made it to the Cheyenne River, fueled only by berries, roots and the strong desire to live. Building a crude raft, he allowed the river to take him the rest of the way to Fort Kiowa, where he arrived six weeks after being abandoned.





## The **BEST** Way to Practice Handgun Shooting

Sometimes, the most direct route to solving problems is to simply stop fighting an uphill battle and take a detour. When you take a step back, you can get a wider view and break down your goal into its most basic parts. In essence, you need to make the game as simple as possible.

Imagine a baseball player who's having a tough time at the plate. What's the best way to really improve his batting average? Should he just keep racking up strikeouts under the pressure of the crowd, or spend more time at batting practice?

As popular as shooting sports have become in recent years, it's no surprise that the number of shooters struggling with stubborn issues has skyrocketed. There are as many competing schools of thought out there as there are shooters at the range. And some of the ranges we've been to lately had a wait of an hour or more...

There are, however, still a few things that virtually all high-level marksmen agree on. The first one is this: Waiting in line sucks.

For most of us, going to the range requires a significant effort all by itself. But arriving to find out that there's a waiting list? Man, that's just a downright bummer, especially if you're short on time and have a new toy or tactic that you're itching to try out.



The second is that, in order to truly break through to the next level, shooters must spend a seriously impractical amount of time with a gun in their hand.

We all need that critical number of reps drawing from our holster, practicing sight alignment, and pulling the trigger to move to the next rung of the ladder. The fact is even a very dedicated shooter would have a tough time putting in the range time required while also holding down a job and/or having a healthy family life.

### **Training vs. Pretending to Train**



While it might sound tempting, we don't recommend you quit your job to spend more time at the gun range. Nor do we recommend that you neglect your loved ones. The answer is an activity that makes some hobby shooters roll their eyes: Dry Fire Training.



What these folks don't know, however, is that this attitude is holding them back, both in terms of proficiency and enjoyment – **because they've never even tried it.**

For these folks, dry weapons training seems esoteric and nerdy. Perhaps they see it as busy work completely unrelated to their objective, like in *The Karate Kid* when Mr. Miyagi instructed Daniel-san to “paint the fence.”

If we were recommending some type of “Yoga for Shooters,” we could understand the pushback. We're not sure why gun nuts believe they won't enjoy firearms training without live rounds. Well, first-person shooter arcade games are fun, even though there are no live rounds.

If they think it's boring, they're in for a pleasant surprise. And if they think that drawing, sighting, or firing a training pistol is not going to apply directly to their shooting, well they really just aren't thinking this through.



For the most part, the thing keeping most shooters from taking this important step is actually fear. We don't mean the gripping kind that keeps you up at night, but the fear that causes procrastination.

Fear that they won't enjoy it. Fear that they'll fall out of love with shooting. Fear that they'll discover their technique has massive flaws.

If we're being brutally honest, most shooters never train to improve. They pretend to train, by doing the same thing they usually do while simply “trying harder.” This makes it almost impossible to assess their specific weaknesses and strengths.

The worst part is that they're depriving themselves of a very low hanging fruit, when it comes to their hobby. Dry weapons training is the easiest way to rack up practice and to work on techniques no range would ever let you get away with.

## Why it Works

First off, let's take a quick look into the theory behind dry firing or dry weapons training, and why in so many cases it's actually more effective than live weapons training.

The term dry fire is derived from the term “dry run,” which has its origins in firefighting, believe it or not. Particularly in the 19th Century, firefighters trained via simulation. To sharpen their skills, firefighters responded to a fake fire emergency exactly as they would a real one, just without the water.



The comparison holds up remarkably well in several ways. Did firefighters really need extensive training on how to spray water on a burning structure? Not exactly. The real area of need was in improving response times, gaining experience with the equipment, the loading and unloading procedure, etc. Many of the same things apply with shooting handguns.

When it comes to firearms, our “water” is of course our ammo. Dry fire exercises allow us to fine tune all of the necessary components of shooting a handgun – drawing, holding, sight alignment, stance, and even getting the feel of your handgun's trigger -- without the recoil. In fact, this is actually what makes it superior.

## Not Just Cheaper, Better



Credit: BarrelBlok

Sure, lots of people say that ammo is expensive. Eh, maybe it is; but can you really put a price on fun? Handgun ammo, particularly practice ammo, is not all that expensive. The problem isn't that practice ammo is expensive, it's that it's actually not ideal for practicing.



There, we said it. Try not to fall over in your chair. Instead, take a deep breath and rest assured that we absolutely love the sound, the smell, and the fun of blasting through live ammo as much as any other red-blooded gun nut.

When it comes to practicing your technique, however, live ammo is really the final exam stage. It applies almost exclusively to a couple of elements like follow-up shots and recoil management, but it has almost nothing to do with the rest of your shooting mechanics. In fact, it actually makes it harder to identify some shooting mistakes.

If nothing else, using live ammo slows down your training significantly. But there's a mental component here that's a little harder to pin down. Ask yourself this: As you practice your draw with a brand-new holster, would you want the gun to be loaded? How about when you're practicing a close-quarters scenario that involves a palm strike and quick draw? How about as you practice your front sight focus in the garage?

The fact is, it's far better to be free from the stress of live fire as you tune up your mechanics. It's certainly much easier to repeat the exact movements you want to work on, saving you time. Not to mention, any mistakes you make during a dry weapons training are certainly more forgiving than a negligent discharge.

## Your Dry Fire Training Facility



In fact, we very emphatically recommend that you store all live ammo in a completely separate place from your practice space to avoid even the remote possibility that your dry fire training becomes live fire training. Frankly, it's that important.

Plus, it can be very liberating to drill, practice, and improvise without the caution necessary around live ammo or even real firearms. We'll expand on this concept later in this series. At this point, our

primary goal is to illustrate just how important absolute safety is to creating a productive dry fire training mindset.

Think of it like this: The better you can focus on your training and remove any hesitation and anxiety you have about drawing and trigger pull, the faster you'll progress.

One thing all great instructors believe in is deliberate training. Setting yourself up for success is a huge part of that deliberate training mindset. And creating a great space in which to train, i.e. your Dry Fire Facility (or shed or garage) is a major component of setting yourself up for success.

Let's take a quick look at a few of the features of an ideal "training facility." First off, your training space should be entirely free from ammunition, loaded magazines, or even any firearms that aren't part of your immediate training.

Obviously, safety is paramount here.

From an effectiveness standpoint, however, these elements interfere with the safety of your training space which in turn creates hesitation, confusion, and the need for redundant safety checks throughout your drills.



Next, be sure to clear out plenty of room to complete the type of drills you intend to work on. For example, if you intend to practice holding on target as you walk through a space, you'll need a decent runway. Be realistic about the amount of space you need too; it's usually more than you think.

Next, let's talk targets. While it may not be completely realistic, we find it's best to choose a relatively static position for the targets you use in your training. You'll be drawing on these, holding your sights, and practicing trigger control. So, for example you may not feel right about pointing a weapon, even completely unloaded, in the direction of a family member's bedroom. Pick the general direction you feel best about and save yourself the distractions later.

On the topic of distractions, it's important you arrange your practice space to help you focus as intently as possible. Mental discipline is key if you want to make real strides. One way to set yourself up for success is to remove as many distractions as you possibly can.

While you might like to watch TV while you use the elliptical machine at the gym, a muted TV is a huge distraction in this type of training. Getting the most out of your brief training time should be a goal. If your training facility has thin walls, i.e. you can easily hear what others in your house are doing, then you might consider drowning it out with music, a box fan, or another source of ambient noise.

Many expert shooters meditate and/or visualize what they're trying to achieve or simulate before they begin. Another very helpful exercise is to write down a plan for how you will train. All of this requires remaining focused, so it's well worth taking a few steps to ensure your space is free from distractions.

### Plan Your Dry Training



Most people never do this, yet it's perhaps the most effective training tool: Create a training plan. Yes, it might seem tedious or boring, but it's actually neither one; it takes a minute or

less if you're doing it correctly. Perhaps it's best to illustrate why it's so important first.

For example, let's say you want to improve your draw from your concealed carry holster. You want to get both smoother and faster. Many shooters would simply go to the range and add holster draw to their typical regimen. They'll draw, shoot through a magazine, and re-holster. They may even wonder why their draw isn't improving.

Well, how many magazines did they shoot? That's roughly one draw per magazine, i.e. not significant from a training perspective. In fact, as part of the draw-shoot-holster sequence, it's much harder to isolate the individual parts for improvement.

A much better plan for improving your draw, as you might expect, is to focus on drawing your weapon in isolation. As you do this, you will realize that there are individual steps that make up your drawing motion, such as:

- Moving your hand to your holster to get the ideal grip
- Your gun coming out of the holster
- Bringing the gun up to your support hand
- Presenting it forward toward the target

Thus, your training plan could consist of 10 focused reps of each step. Then put the four steps together for 10 draws, noting which part of the sequence gave you the most difficulty. Then, do some additional work on that specific step.

It doesn't take long to plan, or even to train this way. Even a session of less than 10 minutes can make a significant difference if it's well planned.

### Does it Really Work?

Sure, this works fine when it comes to working on your draw, but what about problems like accuracy, finching, etc.? Don't you need live fire for that?

The fact is, if you create an effective plan for your trigger pull, grip, and sight picture, dry fire training is once again superior to live fire. Again, let's look at a specific example.

Say you want to overcome finching, also known as anticipating the recoil. This can be a very tricky habit to overcome, particularly because it can creep up on you. Typically, shooters believe they recently developed a finch, when the truth is that it's only become more noticeable to them. Usually, it manifests itself as a slight dip of the muzzle.

What's happened is that somewhere in your trigger pull sequence, you have accidentally adopted a "finching" movement. Nowadays, instructors often refer to these sequences in scientific terms, calling them neural pathways. In quite literal terms, this refers to the actual sequence of neurons in your brain that connect to guide you through repetitive actions.



Whether it's riding a bike, tying your shoes, or drawing your CCW, your brain forms a neural pathway that dictates the combo of specific movements that make up that action. You'll also hear this referred to as "muscle memory." Whatever you prefer to call it, this is an amazing thing our brains do to allow us to perform complex motor functions without hardly thinking about it.



This process is so powerful and automatic that it's constantly forming and reinforcing habits, both good and bad. As you can imagine, this can work for you as well as against you (as it does with flinching). The good news is that this issue is relatively simple to fix with dry

fire training. It does take some time and deliberate practice, of course.

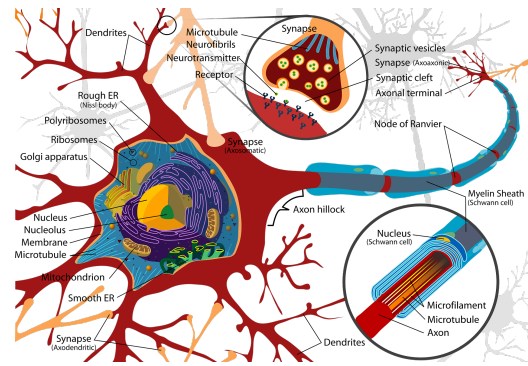
Your goal is to create a new "neural pathway" for your trigger pull that does not include the flinch. And the most effective method for creating this new pathway is simple repetition using the proper trigger pull technique.

The fastest and most effective way to practice this technique is, of course, dry weapons training. You need plenty of reps using your best grip, sight picture, and trigger pull technique. That's how you can finally get rid of that flinch.

What's more, you can take this as an opportunity to break down your trigger pull to its basic elements and make improvements wherever possible. For example, do you tend to hook the trigger in the bend of your index finger, rather than centering it on your finger pad? What about your breath control? Grip technique?

### Fun with Brain Chemistry

As you've probably noticed, we place a lot of emphasis on intentionally rewiring our brains in order to improve our shooting skills. The reason dry firing is so powerful lies mainly in the fact that you can practice very intently without the noisy disruptions and/or distractions present in a live fire setting. Basically, it's more signal and less noise; ideal for a training.



Another key takeaway here is that our brains are extremely effective when it comes to creating neural pathways, i.e. habits. Thus, if you began shooting without solid fundamentals (like most of us), then you adopted a set of unintentional shooting habits. And let's just say, it's highly unusual that any shooter accidentally adopts the ideal grip, sight picture, or trigger pull techniques.

It's time to retrain your brain to make use of all the things you've learned since you began shooting a handgun, even if that was several decades ago. If you haven't taken time to edit your technique, you'll probably be blown away at all the things you can improve upon in a very short time.

Again, we reference those stubborn mistakes like anticipating the shot, which are extremely difficult to overcome at the range. While, yes, it's a case of mind over matter, you can't necessary overpower these bad habits. Rather than simple subtraction, you must replace the bad habits with good ones.

The good news is there are lots of awesome products on the market to help make dry fire training more effective and more fun. These range from accessories that work with your actual firearm to weighted, blow-back laser pistols.

In next month's article, we'll introduce you to a few of our favorite dry fire gadgets perfect for making massive strides from the comfort of your Dry Fire Training Facility and/or tool shed.

More importantly, these training tools will help keep the process way more fun. And let's face it; if it's not fun, we as humans are not likely to stick with it. There's an awful lot competing for our attention these days. That's why we believe it's absolutely worth getting a few extra tools to make your dry fire training more fun and engaging than watching TV.

# The 100 Year History of The Modern Sniper and His Most Trusted Technology





If you were to wander through the towns around the Somme river in France, Passchendaele in Belgium, or Gallipoli in Turkey, you would undoubtedly find relics of the First World War.

And if you listen closely you can hear the battle unfold around you. Much of the action might have sounded like this around the sniper pits, “Damn! Missed... right six inches!”

What you would have heard is the coordination between the feared sniper and his trusted spotter. One man was the eyes of the gun, the other its muscle for squeezing off laser accurate rounds in complete chaos.



Rifle rounds like these from a Lee-Enfield sniper rifle would certainly be found in the trenches. In a conflict dominated by artillery, the most feared and respected soldier on the field was the sniper.

When it came to snipers, the difference between living and not was spotting your enemy before he spotted you. In fact, the snipers heavily depended on their spotters and the ingenious, albeit strange looking scopes they used.

Pictured nearby is a British soldier fighting the Turks at Cape Helles. The father of modern spotting scopes was nothing more than a simple adaptation from a submarine periscope. Literally, in the beginning this was a matter of adapting submarine technology and mounting it on a rifle, otherwise known as the “periscope rifle.”

These adaptations not only allowed spotters to

them to see enemies several hundreds of yards away over No Man’s Land.

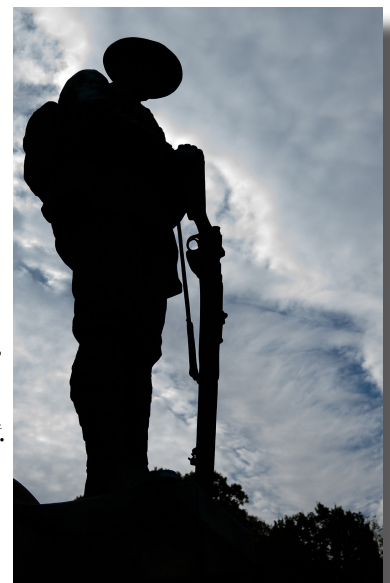


When a sniper struck, the effects were devastating. A machine gun could mow down lines of soldiers, but you could see that coming. Battle plans could change by one well-placed shot from a powerful rifle.

Indeed, snipers were so feared that they were rarely taken prisoner. In 2004, William Lake (107 years old at the time) who was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1917 related what happened after a sniper killed a friend of his:

Pvt. William Lake encountered a German sniper in the Meuse-Argonne Campaign, 1918

*“They didn’t take him prisoner, not a sniper, no. He was up in a tree when they found him, and they let him have it. And he fell out of the tree, dead. And that’s all there was to it.”*



Snipers could hit targets sometimes up to a mile away because of the advances in spotting techniques and spotting scope technology.



Over time, improvements were made that even allowed a sniper like this Australian sniper to mount a spotting scope on his rifle. Today, our military still uses this technology to take out enemies.

Finally, after 100 years, spotting scope technology has been perfected for your enjoyment. Whether you love taking down a gorgeous 10-point buck or testing your skill hitting targets, a spotting scope will absolutely ensure you find your shots with confidence.

## How Civilians Are Using the Modern Spotting Scope

Fortunately, we don't have to spot a sniper unless we're engaging enemies in a paintball war. However, the spotting scope can actually protect you from nasty surprises when you hunt.

It's not uncommon to hear of a hunter who thinks he made the perfect shot finding the deer raging against him instead, un-shot and with horns ready to strike.

The spotting scope allows you eagle eye like vision over hundreds of yards to see whether you did indeed hit your mark. Not to mention it saves you the time and effort of walking back and forth between shots.

However, just like the battlefields we talked about earlier, the spotting scope ensures you don't give away your position or scent to a buck. This gives you a massive advantage of having those vintage moments where you're posing for that trophy picture.



Now, if you enjoy good old-fashioned long-range sniping, you can enjoy the same exact benefits. Of course, you aren't worried about giving away your position.

However, you can fire off round after round and know immediately where your shot hit with the 15x-40x zoom you'll get with a modern spotting scope. In fact, it's much like having a "Hubble Telescope" for your gun.

Because you're a part of the National Self Reliance Association, we want to give you the opportunity to own the same technology that changed warfare forever.

Right now, we're offering our Ranger Spotting Scope at a generous discount. Normally you'd pay well over \$200 for a spotting scope that is as tough as an assault tank, waterproof, and gives you crystal clear, eagle-eye vision for hundreds of yards.

There's almost no way you couldn't start hitting more targets with more regularity. Ordering is incredibly simple; you can call us at 1-800-370-8660 or visit the Ranger Spotting Scope page at: [mycrisisgear.com/ranger](http://mycrisisgear.com/ranger)

It's taken 100 years to perfect this technology. Now it's yours to harness for unheard of shooting accuracy.

**Get Your Ranger Here:**  
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Photo by Defense.gov

## SHOULD I FEAR AN ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

Assault weapons, and guns in general, have been in the news way more frequently than we'd like during the past few months. Of course, the reason for this is clear; there have been several recent incidents involving unhinged individuals using these weapons to kill and injure large amounts of people.

But will their actions impact the rights of all American gun owners in the future? We sure hope not! Most of us would never point any of our weapons in the same direction as a human unless we were forced to defend ourselves.

Therefore, it's frustrating as hell to hear negative news pieces that paint with the usual, uninformed broad brush. In some ways, it even feels like the media is trying to lump all gun owners into one category: bad guys.

It's as misinformed as it is unfair. For example, even in situations where criminals obtained their assault weapons legally, there was usually a protocol failure on the government background check that enabled these societal outliers to complete their purchase. This isn't our fault, and we don't want to be scapegoats for it.

Now, there's a lot of debate even within the gun community about assault weapons and the NRA. We're not here to waste time preaching to the choir.

What we do want to do is examine recent legislative bluster regarding gun legislation. Is it likely to lead to any law changes? And if it did, how would this potentially hurt and help gun owners in the long run?

## ODDS OF AN ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN MOVING FORWARD



Photo by  
Tony Faiola, Flickr

According to reports, President Trump has been on again, off again in regards to whether or not he's willing to support stricter gun control laws. Of course, his support or opposition would depend on exactly what types of restrictions were being proposed.

Ultimately, though, President Trump's opinion on assault weapons doesn't matter nearly as much as you might think. That's because support for a new assault weapons ban has gained zero support from Republican lawmakers. And if a bill can't make it through the House and Senate, President Trump will never need to decide whether or not to sign it.

As of this writing, the latest attempts at putting so-called gun reform legislation through the House and Senate have ended quickly and without a single Republican co-signer. Simply put, if the Republicans don't put their support behind one of

a major ideological shift regarding guns within the Republican party seem astronomical at this point.

## WHICH LAWS MIGHT ACTUALLY CHANGE

Based on what we've seen so far, we don't anticipate an assault weapons ban being signed into law. But there are a few proposals that may gain enough support at a state or federal level to actually become law. The things you should keep the closest eye on are:

- 1. BUMP STOCKS** – It's extremely likely that the usage of bump stocks will soon become illegal. Any legal change to our gun rights is controversial, but this particular item seems to be causing the least concern in the gun community. And really, if outlawing bump stocks kept all of our other gun rights in place, it might be a concession worth making.
- 2. HIGH-CAPACITY MAGAZINES** – These are already illegal in nine states, and Washington is currently in the process of trying to move forward with a ban. The states that have already banned these items in at least some circumstances are: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, and Virginia. Of these states, Virginia has the fewest restrictions in place.
- 3. UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS** – Surveys show that 93 percent of all U.S. gun owners support the implementation of a stricter, universal background check which must be run when someone wants to purchase a gun of any type, from any source. Therefore, if we're going to have to make a concession or two to retain our right to own "assault" rifles, then supporting a stronger background check process may be in our best interests.
- 4. FIREARM STORAGE** – In Massachusetts, all guns must be stored within a locked device whenever they're not being used. There is some support brewing for making this or similar laws spread nationwide. There are also some supporters for trigger locks.



Proper storage of your gun is always important, but having to unlock a case and/or a trigger when someone breaks into your home could be very problematic. That's why we recommend using a biometric fingerprint gun safe instead.

**5. MANDATORY WAITING PERIOD** – It's common to enforce a three-day waiting period for handgun purchases, but this isn't always the case for assault weapons. There are also some exceptions to the waiting period that can currently be utilized to get a gun much more quickly. If proposed legislation gains any traction, though, you may soon have to wait three days to purchase any type of gun from any source.

**6. NEW AGE RESTRICTIONS** – If you're 18 or older, you can purchase a rifle or shotgun (as long as you don't go to a retailer such as Dick's or Wal-Mart that is enforcing their own sales restrictions, that is). However, you have to be at least 21 to purchase a handgun. Legislation that could be passed in the near future would change these laws so that only people 21 and older could legally purchase any type of gun.

## HOW WOULD AN ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN HELP GUN OWNERS



*Credit:*  
Josh Lopez, Flickr

We know, we know; how in the world would any gun owner benefit from an assault weapons ban, right? Well, do you see the nearby image with the people protesting assault rifles? This level of divisiveness is

not helping law-abiding gun owners retain a long list of other important rights.

Instead, gun owners of all kinds are getting dragged through the mud, which is enabling the media to paint us all as monsters who care more about our guns than the lives of children. Here's how the script would be altered if assault weapons were no longer available.

PLEASE NOTE – We're in no way endorsing the idea of an assault weapons ban. We simply want to look at what little silver lining would be attached to such a ban in the very unlikely event a ban is ever passed. In other words, this is the overly optimistic way of looking at this entire mess.

### 1. THE MEDIA WOULD LOSE A BIG

**TALKING POINT** - Are you as sick of the media picking on gun owners as we are? If assault weapons were no longer available, the media wouldn't be able to spend a ridiculous amount of time talking about them. This would also get extremists, who quite frankly make us all look bad, out of the news cycle.

### 2. GUN MASSACRES WOULD LIKELY DECREASE

– Look, we know that bad guys don't tend to follow the law, which means some people would still get their hands on an assault weapon and use it to kill massive amounts of people. We also know that gun violence overall didn't change much the last time assault weapons were banned in the U.S.

But did you know that the number of fatalities caused by gun massacres (incidents with six or more people shot) changed dramatically during that ban? The decade before the previous ban (1994-2004) went into place, there were 155 people killed during massacres. The decade after the ban was dropped, there were 302 deaths during massacres. But during the decade when assault weapons were outlawed, the fatalities dropped to 89 people.

### 3. OTHER PROPOSED GUN LAW CHANGES WOULD PROBABLY BE SET ASIDE FOR A WHILE

- Aside from reducing human casualties, there's a political advantage for all of us here. If assault weapons are removed from the equation, there are virtually guaranteed to be fewer

deadly gun massacres carried out by sick individuals. This would reduce public pressure on politicians, thereby making other so-called gun reform laws much less likely to move forward any time soon.

## HOW WOULD AN ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN HURT GUN OWNERS



Photo by  
A19998/Wikipedia

The best-case scenario is that we don't end up having to look at the silver lining at all. After all, even those of you who would support an assault weapons ban have to admit that it's not a good feeling to let the government reduce our constitutionally guaranteed gun rights. So, what are the biggest dark sides to a potential ban?

### 1. IT WOULD BE A SLIPPERY SLOPE –

As we pointed out above, getting rid of assault weapons would likely slake the thirst of gun opponents. But for how long? Eventually, banning assault weapons would lead to further discussions about banning other types of guns, and that's something that none of us can support.

### 2. IT WOULD SET US ALL UP TO LOSE OTHER FREEDOMS –

Whenever a freedom of any type is stripped away, it creates a ripple effect that can impact us in hundreds of other ways. This is especially true if the majority of U.S. citizens don't speak out against the legal change. This sends the very bad message to lawmakers that we're willing to roll on to our backs and allow them to take away our freedom, one law change at a time.

**3. IT WOULD REDUCE YOUR ABILITY TO PROTECT YOUR FAMILY –** Most of us prefer to have a handgun or a trusty shotgun on hand for a home invasion. But we also all know that pointing an assault weapon in an intruder's face is a lot more intimidating. In fact, this intimidation factor is likely to lead to the encounter ending without a single bullet being fired. On the other hand, a simple handgun does not have this type of power.

**4. IT WOULD REDUCE YOUR CHOICES AT THE GUN RANGE –** Shooting an assault weapon is just flat out fun. But most of us confine this shooting to responsible settings such as an outside gun range. Losing the ability to do this would make gun ownership less viable for some people. After all, if you're going to make a big enough investment to purchase a gun, you're going to want to enjoy shooting it, right?

### 5. IT WOULD HURT THE ECONOMY –

Assault weapons and their associated components are a big income maker for the gun industry. Which, in turn, helps boost the entire U.S. economy. While it's true that some people would boost their quantity of handguns and shotguns in response to an assault weapons ban, there are many others who wouldn't spend the money otherwise earmarked for their assault weapons on anything else in the industry.

## SHOULD YOU BE WORRIED ENOUGH TO STOCK UP

It's hard to say exactly what any type of law change or ban would like. For example, a ban could be enacted moving forward or it could become retroactive – in which case, the government would literally be coming for your guns. But that seems like the least likely option, at least in the current political climate.

If bump stocks are something you enjoy using, now might be the time to consider stocking up. The same goes for high-capacity magazines.

Be aware that a retroactive ban could make your investments worthless, though.

We don't want to fearmonger, and the votes don't



seem to be there in most states – or at a federal level - for any of these bans to go into effect in the near future. However, a couple more school shootings could easily change that.

If laws are put into effect in the future, they're most likely to be enacted in a "going forward" fashion. There would also likely be voluntary gun buy backs. But finding the manpower and money to enact a total, nationwide, retroactive ban isn't likely to be near the top of any politician's wish list because it's such an unrealistic goal to achieve.

I mean, seriously; if they said we all had to turn in our assault weapons, how many people do you know who would listen? And if there's one thing we know for sure about the U.S. government, it's that it doesn't exactly operate efficiently enough to take on such a massive collection and enforcement program.

If you're still worried, though? The gun industry would certainly benefit from an influx of sales right now, and this would help send a message to lawmakers that the average U.S. citizen won't stand idly by while they discuss taking away our gun rights.

## 1994 ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN CRITERIA: AT A GLANCE...

The 1994-2004 legislation laid out an arbitrary patchwork of criteria, attempting to target 18 specific models of firearms and several military style features at the same time. Among these were several AR-15 and AK-47 variants, as well as several other semiautomatic rifles, shotguns, and handguns.

The 1994 legislation defined a "semiautomatic assault weapon" using the following criteria:

Semiautomatic rifles that accept detachable magazines and had 2 or more of the following features:

- Folding or telescoping stock
- Pistol grip

- Bayonet mount
- Flash suppressor (or a threaded barrel designed for one)
- Grenade launcher (duh)

Semiautomatic pistols fell under the ban if they accepted detachable magazines and had 2 or more of the following:

- Magazine that attaches outside the pistol grip
- Threaded barrel that accepts barrel extender, flash suppressor, handgrip, or suppressor (silencers)
- Barrel shroud safety that prevents operator burns
- Unloaded weight of 50 ounces or greater
- Semiautomatic version of a fully automatic firearm

Shotguns with 2 or more of the following features:

- Folding or telescoping stock
- Pistol grip
- Detachable magazine





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