

ANNUAL 2020



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INTRODUCING THE
GLOCK 44
OUR FIRST .22 LR CALIBER PISTOL



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COMPLIMENTARY ISSUE FROM GLOCK

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THE MAKING OF THE NEXT LEGEND

Introducing the
New GLOCK 44
.22 LR Caliber Pistol

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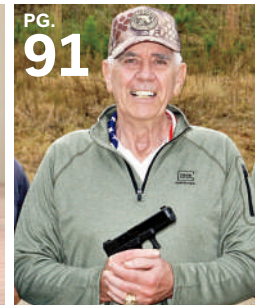
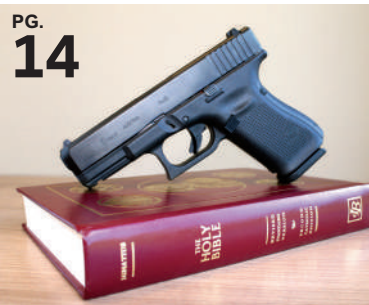
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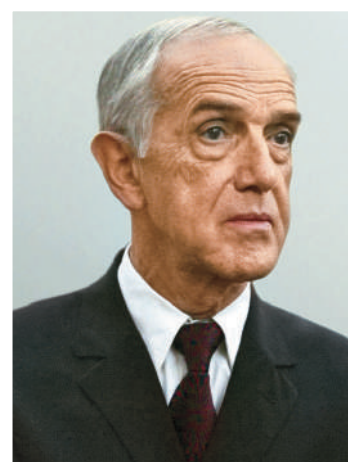
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Eggenberger Photo

ANNUAL MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER

It gives me great pleasure to welcome readers to another edition of the *GLOCK Annual* magazine. This year's issue represents Volume 30 of our *Annual*. Thirty is a big number, one we are very proud of. It speaks to the heritage of GLOCK Perfection we have built pistol by pistol, year by year.

That heritage, and our commitment to carrying it forward, is exemplified by our newest pistol, the GLOCK 44. The G44 is our first .22 LR pistol and sets a new standard for small-caliber shooting. Some of you may wonder why it took us so long to bring a .22-caliber pistol to market. The answer is rooted in our commitment to setting the standards in engineering and performance. We worked tirelessly and for a long time to ensure that what we delivered to you was a pistol we could be proud of: the only .22-caliber pistol on the market that performs like a GLOCK. You can read about the G44 in this issue, but if you really want to get a sense of how this pistol embodies our commitment to providing you with the best pistols on the market, I encourage you to go to a range and try it out.

Inside this year's edition of the *GLOCK Annual* you will find articles detailing how GLOCK supports law enforcement and military agencies in the United States and around the world. When agencies want to outfit their men and women with the best firearms, they turn to us and we work with them to meet what are often very specific needs. In this issue, you will learn how we continue to support agencies in such diverse places as Singapore, Brazil, northern California, and the Everglades.

I am also very pleased to inform you that, in 2019, GLOCK was selected to provide pistols to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). The decision to select GLOCK came at the end of a long and rigorous evaluation process that included direct input from over 16,000 CBP law enforcement personnel. That agency's decision is a testament to our promise to deliver the best pistols on the market.

In this issue, you will find information about the GLOCK Sport Shooting Foundation (GSSF) and the schedule of matches planned for 2020. We encourage you to register for a match near you and put your shooting skills to the test—and I can't think of a better way to put your new G44 to use.

The *GLOCK Annual* is one way we say "thank you" to you, our customers and our fans. I truly believe we have the most passionate, loyal supporters in the industry. I want to thank each of you for your support of our company and our pistols. You put your faith and your trust in our products every day, and we are grateful for that. Our commitment is to reward that faith and trust by continuing, day in and day out, to make the best pistols on the market.

I hope you enjoy the magazine.

Gaston Glock,
Founder



REAL RIMFIRE: ANNOUNCING THE GLOCK 44

MANY HAVE TRIED TO TURN A GLOCK CENTERFIRE PISTOL INTO A RIMFIRE. BUT ONLY GLOCK COULD CREATE ONE FROM THE GROUND UP—AND DO IT RIGHT.

■ ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY PETE MANNING

Photo Courtesy GLOCK



One of the most satisfying yet often overlooked segments of the shooting world is a firearm chambered in .22 Long Rifle. With rimfire ammunition prices having returned to reasonable levels, shooters can embark on a solid day's worth of trigger time without breaking the bank. Even better, light recoil, soft report, and the round's inherently lightweight firearm platforms all combine to make the rimfire range experience enjoyable. As such, the new GLOCK 44 pistol chambered in .22 LR—a first for the iconic firearms manufacturer—is sure to be an instant classic.

GLOCK ANNUAL 2020 7



Photo Courtesy of GLOCK



“The lack of heft is noticeable. Still, the feel is distinctly GLOCK. If you were part of a “blind taste test” while shooting the new G44, you’d be hard pressed to actually identify the model of GLOCK, save for its light recoil.”

OVERVIEW

Before we get into the details, let’s touch on why a GLOCK rimfire pistol is a bellwether event for the firearms industry. By taking more than 30 years of experience in manufacturing combat, defensive, and competition pistols, GLOCK has wrapped a proven, rock-solid platform around an inexpensive and light-recoiling cartridge that can service several disciplines. All the features you know and love from the fifth generation (Gen5) pistols are present in the GLOCK 44. The trigger pull is identical to a standard GLOCK pistol. The same SAFE-ACTION® features that require no manual safety, the same form factor, the same manual of arms—all of these attributes combine to bring a deeply familiar experience to a brand-new caliber for GLOCK pistols. And for those who own a GLOCK 19, your holster, weapon lights, and other accessories are all interchangeable with the svelte G44 pistol.

Like the rest of the GLOCK Gen4 and Gen5 lineup, the G44 ships with a spare magazine, a set of interchangeable backstraps, and a field-cleaning kit, all packed into a signature GLOCK carrying case.

DESIGN AND ENGINEERING

Firearm manufacturers have always been challenged by the development of rimfire pistols. While the classic tilting-barrel, locking-breech action invented by John Moses Browning still dominates the centerfire handgun market, the lower power levels of the .22 LR cartridge requires only a simple blowback action. In the past, some companies have been forced to alter semiautomatic handgun designs so that just part of the slide or a bolt cycles the action, opposed to a full slide cycle seen on most centerfire handguns. This means that developing rimfire pistols with the same look and feel as their centerfire counterparts was nearly impossible.

One of the most revolutionary aspects of the new G44 is the use of a hybrid steel-and-polymer slide designed to provide strength while being capable of cycling rimfire ammunition. Steel slide rails are perfectly embedded into a polymer main slide that is almost indistinguishable from a standard GLOCK slide. It is this confluence of materials that makes the GLOCK 44 pistol an industry-changing moment for sport, target, tactical, and competitive shooters. The effect is perfect—an ultralight GLOCK slide capable of cycling rimfire rounds.

Coming in at nearly half the weight of the G19, the G44 tops the scales at only 12.6 ounces without a magazine. The lack of heft is noticeable, and it allows for younger and smaller-statured shooters, especially those with smaller hands, to easily point and hold the new pistol on target without fatigue. Still, the feel is distinctly GLOCK. If you were part of a “blind taste test” while shooting the new G44, you’d be hard pressed to actually identify the model of GLOCK, save for its light recoil.

Aside from its reduced weight, the G44 is nearly indistinguishable from its full-powered GLOCK counterparts. The GLOCK SAFE-ACTION® trigger pull, interchangeable backstraps, standard (and replaceable) polymer dot-and-“U”-notch sights, the magazine and magazine release, its grip without finger grooves, all are identical to the now classic G19. Shooters will feel right at home behind this rimfire “wunderkind.”

Building reliable rimfire magazines for semiautomatic firearms is mired in complexity for even the most experienced designers and engineers. GLOCK had the additional challenge of manufacturing magazines that not only perform but also mirror the size and shape of the G19 centerfire model. In accomplishing that feat, GLOCK designed the G44 magazines with a load-assist slider, allowing the user to fill 10 rounds in less than 30 seconds.



G44 SPECIFICATIONS CALIBER: 22 Lr.

ACTION/SYSTEM	Action: SAFE-ACTION® (constant double-action mode)
LENGTH	7.28 in. / 185 mm
HEIGHT	5.04 in. / 128 mm
WIDTH	1.26 in. / 32 mm
SIGHT RADIUS (POLYMER)	6.02 in. / 153 mm
BARREL LENGTH	4.02 in. / 102 mm
BARREL RIFLING	Hexagonal profile with right-hand twist
LENGTH OF TWIST	15.98 in. / 406 mm
MAG. CAPACITY (STD. RDS)	10
WEIGHT INCL. MAGAZINE	14.74 oz. / 418 g
WEIGHT LOADED	15.94 oz. / 452 g
TRIGGER PULL	5.8 lbs. / ~26 N
TRIGGER TRAVEL	~0.49 in. / 12.5 mm
MSRP	\$430.00



A hybrid steel-polymer slide was developed for the G44 to provide reliable cycling with the .22 LR round.

RANGE TIME

The identical form factor of the G44's magazine means that reloading drills are just as they are with every other GLOCK. Magazines drop effortlessly when the Gen5 magazine release is pressed. The flared magazine well aids in lightning-quick reloads. And the feel of the baseplate, body, and overall form are all, without question, GLOCK.

Semiautomatic .22 LR pistols have historically suffered from reliability issues. Without the use of a smooth copper jacket afforded to centerfire rounds, rimfire bullets can be a sore spot for some firearms. But building on its time-honored tradition of reliability, GLOCK designed the G44 magazine, feed ramp, and chamber to function with everything from match-grade ammunition to inexpensive plinking rounds.

Drawing from a holster, acquiring proper sight alignment, pulling the trigger, and accurately hitting the target with the new G44 are all quintessential GLOCK. Whether you are a competitive shooter or someone training for self-defense, this rimfire pistol will fit into your practice routine seamlessly. Even those shooters who have never considered owning a .22 LR pistol will be convinced that this is a gun worthy of space in the safe after handling the new G44.

THREADED BARRELS AND SUPPRESSORS

Of course, the only thing better than a rimfire pistol is a suppressed rimfire pistol. Listening to the requests of suppressor owners around the world, GLOCK made sure that the adaptor is standard 1/2x28 thread pitch were available on the first day of the G44's release to the public.

Using standard-velocity ammunition, shooters can combine the G44 with their favorite suppressor model to quietly and reliably focus on target shooting or fundamentals—and depending on the combination of suppressor and ammo, it's entirely possible that hearing protection can be eliminated, thus allowing for better communication between students and trainers or normal conversations between friends at the range.



Photo Courtesy of GLOCK

Except for the minimal recoil, users will notice almost no difference in the feel of the G44 compared to other GLOCK models.

RIMFIRE PERFECTION

For years, GLOCK aficionados have clamored for a rimfire pistol direct from the firearms manufacturer. It was an authentic GLOCK chambered in .22 LR they wanted.

To answer that call, GLOCK engineers went with a "ground-up" approach that focused on a barrel, slide, and magazine that were purpose-built for the rimfire task at hand, rather than focusing on partial solutions like a conversion kit. It is this investment in time, energy, and resources to make sure this pistol was designed correctly that has conveyed to it the same perfection realized in all of GLOCK's handguns.

The result is stunning. Designed to be easy to use and function flawlessly while being accurate and light, this is a rimfire suitable for a variety of disciplines. With such a combination of features and feel, it is no stretch at all to say that the GLOCK 44 rimfire pistol is destined to be an instant classic. ☉



GLOCK's NEW G45 MOS 9X19: OPTICALLY ENHANCED

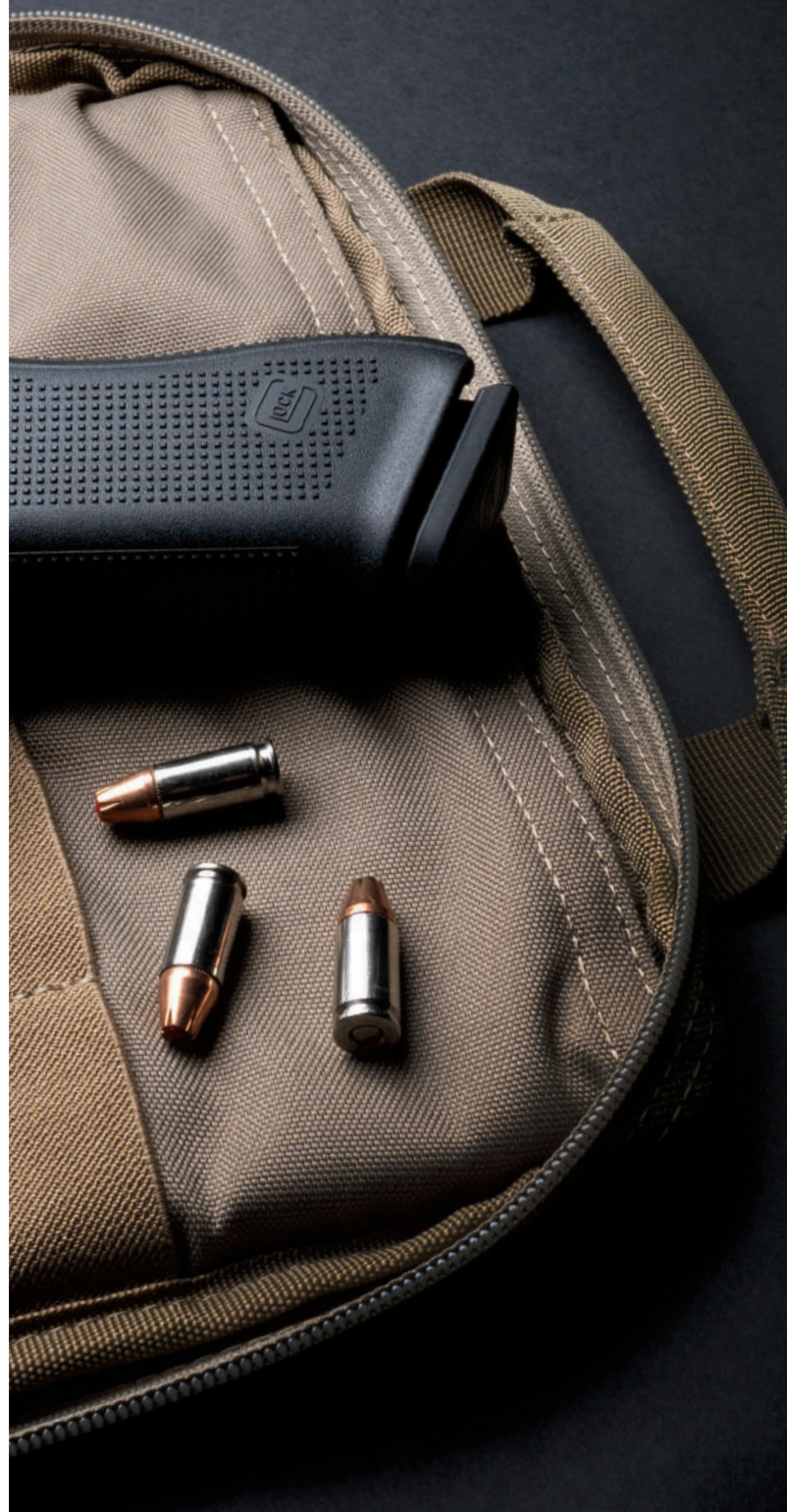
**GLOCK'S 9X19 "CROSSOVER" COMBINES THE BEST OF
PREVIOUS GENERATIONS WITH NEW GEN5 FEATURES TO TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF TODAY'S MODERN 9X19 AMMUNITION.**

■ ARTICLE BY CHRIS EDWARDS ■ PHOTOS COURTESY OF GLOCK





Concealed-carry practitioners who appreciate the many micro red-dot optics offered on the market today will find that GLOCK's new G45 MOS accommodates nearly all of them.



One of the most recent members to join the GLOCK lineup of pistols was the GLOCK 45 MOS (Modular Optics System) in 9X19 and released in the summer of 2019. The G45 MOS is a Gen5 GLOCK with the pedigree of all the GLOCK pistols before it. The GLOCK SAFE-ACTION® fire-control system in the revolutionary Gen5 format provides a consistent and smooth trigger action that has been trusted for decades. Indeed, users report that the Gen5 triggers generally perform and feel better than previous iterations. A “dot” connector is standard, but like all GLOCKS before it, the G45 MOS trigger pull can be altered via different combinations of connectors and/or trigger springs. The singular double-action pull provides both experienced and new operators a trigger that is safe yet fast to operate in emergency situations.

This next evolution of fire-control design was exhaustively tested and proven over many months and millions of rounds. In fact, the G45 MOS can be characterized as the best of two other major GLOCK developments: the GLOCK “M” guns for U.S. federal law enforcement, and the 19X designed around military specifications.

GLOCK continues the tradition of applying a super-hard and highly rust-resistant finish with this new pistol, one that is visually subtle yet attractive. This nDLC finish is present on the major metal components such as the slide and barrel. The barrel itself has a refreshed name and enhanced design: the GLOCK Marksman Barrel (GMB). Still hammer-forged, internal dimensions have been adjusted for a tighter fit, and a precision target crown provides accuracy previously unknown on production pistols. With select ammunition, groups hovering around three inches at 50 yards have been recorded in testing—and this accuracy milestone was achieved with flawless functioning over *thousands* of rounds. Suffice it to say that this level of accuracy and reliability is unequaled.

With the improved terminal performance of modern 9X19 projectiles, the operator of a new G45 MOS has plenty of rounds on tap that are easier to shoot and perform as well as or better than larger calibers. Two standard 17-round magazines with GLOCK's new, highly visible orange followers are included with the G45 MOS, and a plus-2 baseplate can be fitted to these mags to bring capacity to 19 rounds. The new GLOCK 24-round tactical magazines also fit and function in the G45 MOS, as do the 31- and 33-round magazines originally developed for the GLOCK 18.

The G45 MOS includes other Gen5 design improvements. First is a slightly flared mag well fitted around the entire bottom of the grip. It boasts a low profile, the flaring definitely eases magazine insertion, and there is no cutout present. Second, the gripping surface has cubical molded checkering around its 360 degrees to guard against slippage (or loss) no matter the environmental conditions. A lanyard-attachment aperture at the rear of the frame provides additional security in extreme environments if desired. An often-overlooked feature, the ability to attach a securing cord can be the difference between having a lifesaving tool or losing one.

“The new flared mag well boasts a low profile. It definitely eases magazine insertion, and there is no cutout as is present on other mag wells.”



Two standard 17-round magazines are included with each new G45 MOS. Plus-2 baseplates can be added to bring capacity to 19.

The magazine catch is reversible, as in the previous Gen4 models, but the ambidextrous slide-stop lever is new and unique to the Gen5s. Extended versions of both the magazine catch and slide-stop lever are available, something gloved operators find beneficial. An accessory rail, present since the third generation GLOCKS, is also molded into the G45 MOS frame in the familiar Picatinny configuration (i.e., MIL-STD-1913 or STANAG 2324 rail). With the increasing popularity of weapon-mounted lights, sometimes combined with visible and/or infrared lasers, for military, law enforcement, and concealed carry use, this feature has been specified in nearly every new development.

Externally, the careful observer will note that the reinforcing locking block pin of previous generations is no longer present on the G45 MOS. Instead, there is a steel trigger pin and a polymer trigger mechanism housing pin at the rear of the pistol. With improved internal dimensions and a slightly larger dual recoil-spring assembly, the old locking block pin is no longer necessary.

The GLOCK Multiple Backstrap System (MBS) is included with each pistol and includes a mounting tool, larger additional



The new flared magazine well enhances reloading efforts, yet its low profile means holster carry is still comfortable.

trigger mechanism housing pin, and two different-sized backstraps. The medium-sized unit increases the girth of the frame by about two millimeters, while the large size adds another two millimeters to that. Put another way, the medium backstrap will have the grip of this new pistol approach the feel found in the earlier GLOCK generations (one through three), and the larger backstrap will be reminiscent of the larger GLOCK frames, such as the GLOCK 21 in .45 AUTO. However, there is a subtle increase in the contact point at the juncture of the trigger guard and frame, which lends itself to the achievement of a higher grip on the G45 MOS.

This brings us to the overall profile of the new G45 MOS. It is, essentially, a compact-sized slide (think GLOCK 19) on a frame for which the grip area has the dimensions of a full-size GLOCK



17. The frame does have a shorter dust cover forward of the trigger guard to accommodate the recoil-spring assembly. This assembly is identical to the one utilized in Gen5 GLOCK 19s. From a user standpoint, the compact slide tends to be more comfortable nestled in a holster when seated. This is especially appreciated by law enforcement officers, as they spend a good deal of their professional lives seated in vehicles. The full-size grip frame, on the other hand, gives a bit more control when shooting, as well as faster and more secure weapon manipulations. These manipulations are also enhanced via the forward serrations machined into the slide.

Drawing the G45 MOS will be much like drawing a G17, though perhaps marginally quicker as the shorter slide clears the holster sooner. Operators comment that loading and reloading are distinctly improved over earlier generations, with almost no chance of those with larger hands suffering a “pinch” while working with the magazine and mag well.

The G45 MOS will accept iron sights available for GLOCK pistols, but its real advantage is seen in the ability to directly mount optic sights on the pistol's slide; the iron-sight mounting locations remain for the inclusion of back-up sights, something highly recommended if the G45 is used for personal defense. A cover plate is included if the operator chooses not to mount an electronic sight. For those who do wish to mount one of today's

micro red dot sights, remove the cover plate and install one of the several mounting plates included to accommodate the sights from a variety of manufacturers. The sight is then secured to the precision-machined plate for a near-seamless interface. All that's left to do from there is zero the optic on the range.

During familiarization and training with a red-dot sight, the advantages of the G45 MOS are clearly seen. No longer will an operator have to force visual focus to the front sight, and the natural reflex of looking at the perceived threat will not have to be overcome. Instead, as the threat is observed, the optic is placed between the eyes and target, and the dot indicates the point of impact. Essentially, the one unnatural step in shooting—front sight focus—is eliminated. Not only does this make target acquisition faster, the operator's situational awareness is often improved as they are able to shoot with both eyes open. These sights also provide instant visual feedback of motion and trigger manipulation, additional benefits that are hard to realize with iron sights.

The new GLOCK 45 MOS is destined to be a hit with law enforcement, recreational target shooters, and competitive handgunners alike. Get to the front of the line and order one from your favorite retailer now!

For more information on the new GLOCK 45 MOS, visit us.glock.com. ●

GLOCK'S MODULAR OPTICS SYSTEM:

SOLVING THE UNIVERSAL MOUNT PROBLEM

■ ARTICLE BY CHRIS EDWARDS

The use of electro-optic sights, or “red dots” as they are commonly referred to, is now mainstream in the world of handguns. Awkwardly mounted on handgun frames in their original iterations for action-shooting competitions, dot sights have shrunk over time.

Today they have been miniaturized to the point that they're able to be mounted on a pistol's slide.

One of the challenges firearms manufacturers face with modern red dots is that the various sights have an individual pattern of attachment, i.e., there's no universal mount that accommodates the various sight brands. GLOCK engineers solved this problem—indeed, GLOCK was an early pioneer in this field—with its Multiple Optic System, or GLOCK MOS.

The GLOCK MOS is a set of detachable optics mounting plates, each plate able to secure a particular manufacturer's sight. The system was introduced with GLOCK Gen4 pistols and is continued on the Gen5 GLOCKS.

GLOCK's system found immediate application in the current and largest American federal law enforcement pistol procurement contract, which dictated that service pistols be optics-ready. After extensive testing, and thanks to the ingenuity of the MOS, GLOCK will be the next service pistol for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency. Additionally, there is a surge of interest in the consumer market, not only for competition use, but for personal defense as well.

The benefits of red dots with the GLOCK MOS system are well known and should be explored by operators of all stripes.

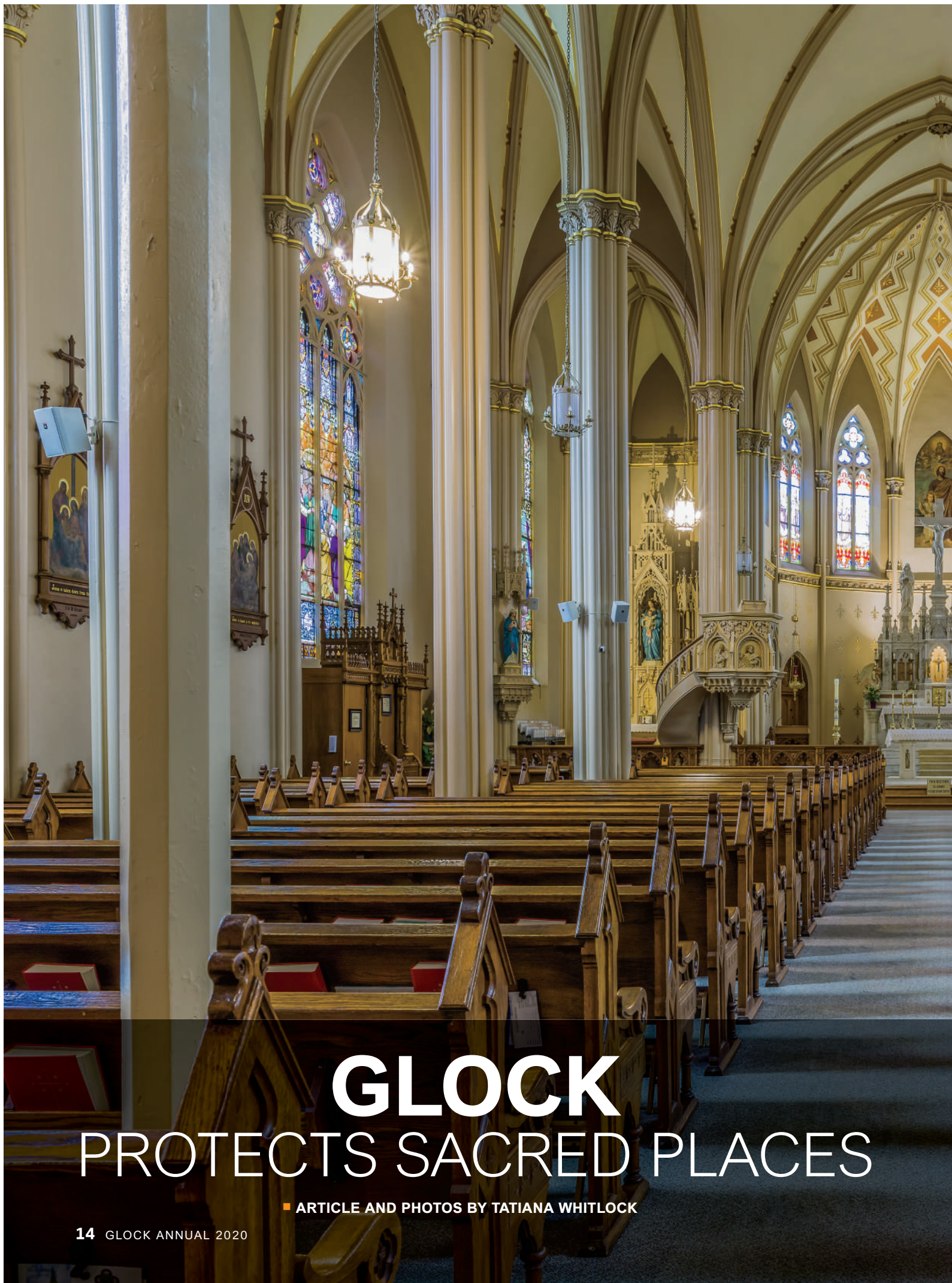


Frank Steiger Photo

Better accuracy after instruction and training is a given, and the GLOCK MOS is ready right now to exploit the advantages provided by today's many electro-optics sights. The following are some of the manufacturers whose sights are compatible with GLOCK MOS:

- Aimpoint (aimpoint.com)
- Burris (burrisoptics.com)
- Holosun (holosun.com)
- Leupold & Stevens (leupold.com)
- Shield Sights (shieldpsd.com)
- Trijicon (trijicon.com)
- Vortex Optics (vortexoptics.com)

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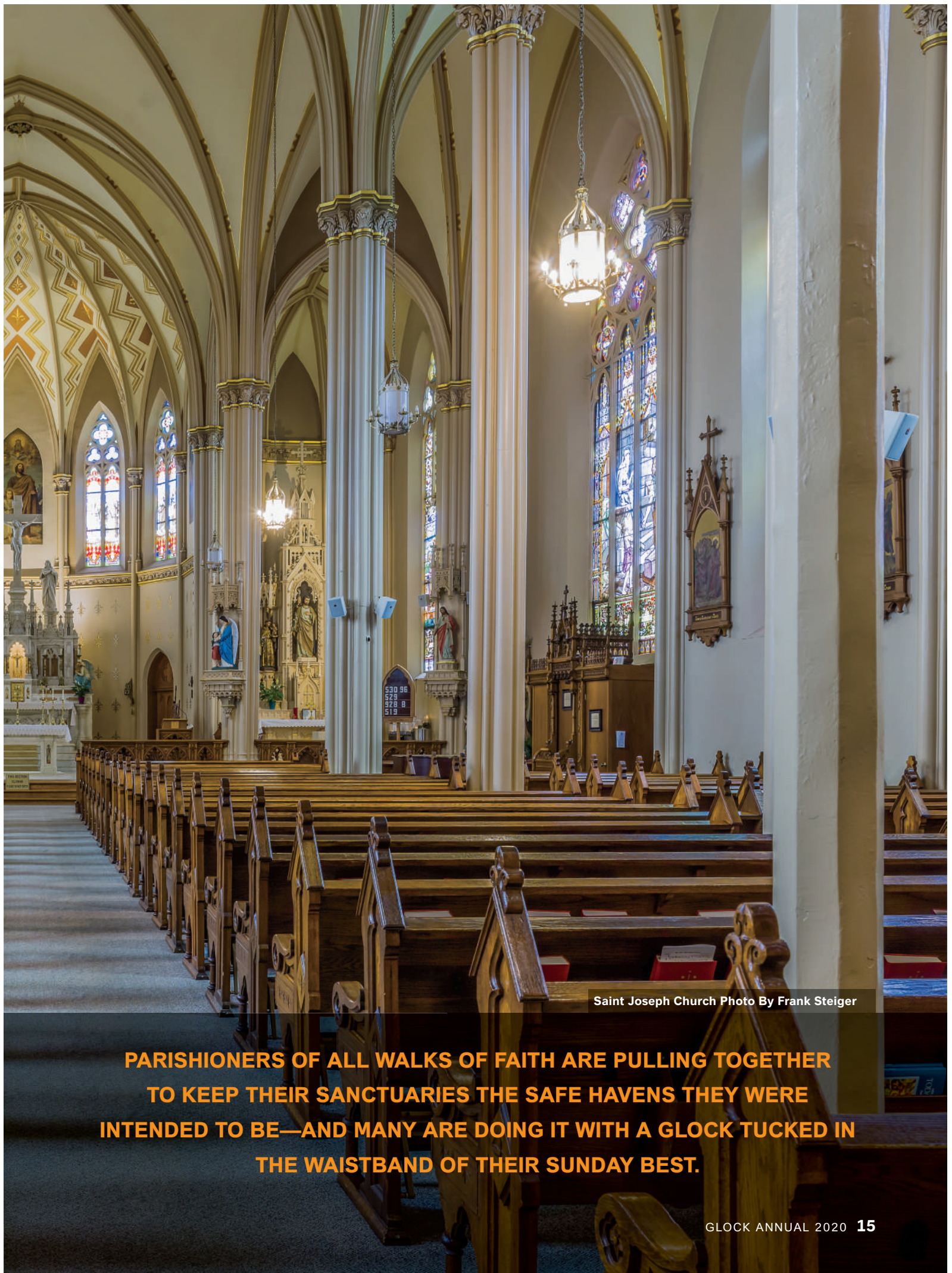
GLOCK

PROTECTS SACRED PLACES

■ ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY TATIANA WHITLOCK

14 GLOCK ANNUAL 2020

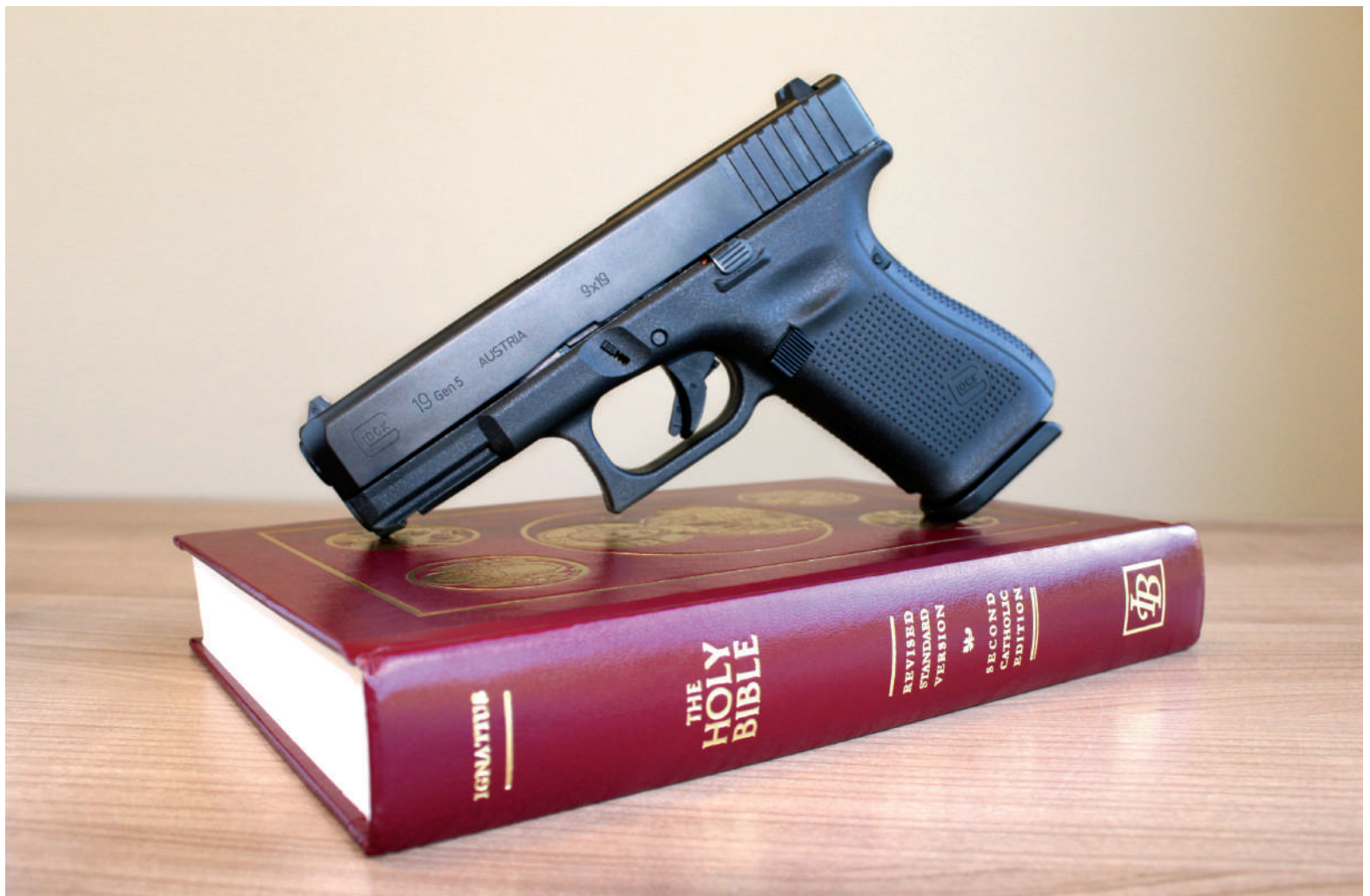




Saint Joseph Church Photo By Frank Steiger

**PARISHIONERS OF ALL WALKS OF FAITH ARE PULLING TOGETHER
TO KEEP THEIR SANCTUARIES THE SAFE HAVENS THEY WERE
INTENDED TO BE—AND MANY ARE DOING IT WITH A GLOCK TUCKED IN
THE WAISTBAND OF THEIR SUNDAY BEST.**





A distinguished gentleman in a navy-blue suit emphatically drops a two-inch-thick manila file folder bursting with email printouts onto my instructor's podium. "This is why we're here," the rabbi tells me with calm authority. "These are the death threats we have received in the past two weeks."

The eight men and women in attendance for the evening's private group lesson at Ann Arbor Arms in Ann Arbor, Michigan, represented their community's newly formed security team. Each dressed as they would to attend services, and all were carrying concealed. The rabbi turned to address his team, "We all have our permits. Now we need to learn how to keep each other safe. We need to know how to be protectors should evil come through our door."

With backs to the doors and attention focused on the service, parishioners lower their guard in a faith-filled environment, making them easy targets. According to widely cited security expert Carl Chinn, more than 1,740 attacks have occurred at various places of worship in the United States. These incidents, including high-profile mass shootings, have spurred many churches, synagogues, and mosques to form security ministries to help keep worshippers safe. Faith-based institutions are also turning to training companies for comprehensive security plans, and worshippers are carrying concealed to protect themselves, their families, and their places of worship.

Due to the highly publicized nature of acts of violence against communities and individuals of faith nationwide, having a self-defense plan for places of worship is no longer an option—it is a necessity. Indeed, while acts of violence are intended to break communities apart, they are, in this instance, bringing them together as responsibly armed and trained citizens. Congregations are taking action to implement

"We need to know how to be protectors should evil come through our door."

strategies to make themselves hard targets, and with firearms being critical to many of these plans, church members across the country can now be seen training in tandem to support their security teams by carrying concealed.

CONGREGATIONAL SOLUTIONS

Congregations typically rely on local law enforcement to assist with traffic control before and after services, but the high costs of professional security for the buildings and congregants during services is often prohibitive. A partial solution can be gleaned from the fact that nearly all states across the country allow concealed carry in places of worship; such properties are treated the same as any other private property in 41 states. (Mississippi went one step further when, in 2016, it passed the Church Protection Act, which shields armed attendees from civil litigation when certain and specific criteria are in place.) With concealed carry so widely available, many states now allow churches to organize formal security teams of volunteers.

These teams are usually members of the local community, and they may or may not have law enforcement or military backgrounds. Most are simply responsibly-armed citizens who, together, seek professional training and consultation from security professionals to develop personal skill sets and formulate safety plans.

The challenge for each faith-based community open to and welcoming new attendees is to maintain a safe environment against people determined to cause harm. But predictable and

“I rely on my GLOCK for peace of mind. My church is *not* a gun-free zone, and, hopefully, that is a strong deterrent against an attack.”

routine services leave service-goers vulnerable, and so many security teams find themselves managing both known and unknown threats.

Dallas Drake, a criminologist with the Center for Homicide Research, notes racism or religious beliefs motivate only 6 to 9 percent of faith-based violent incidents. Ninety-one percent of criminals act because of anger towards a family member or intimate partner. These statistics are in line with Carl Chinn’s research, which shows that only 6 percent of violence occurring at houses of worship stems from religious bias.

Threats known and unknown are just one of the difficulties places of worship face today, when seeking to protect their congregants. What must also be taken into consideration is that each community’s culture is unique, each building has its architectural challenges, and there’s an ever-changing flow of participants coming through the doors. Taken together, it’s easy to see that security ministries have their work cut out for them.

“My GLOCK 43X lets me focus on the worship service knowing that I can quickly respond to any crisis in the sanctuary,” says Michael Sullivan of Plano, Texas. Sullivan has a concealed carry license and joined his church’s security ministry. The security ministry’s leader assigns team members to different worship services, along with other volunteers to be stationed in watchful and advantageous positions throughout the building. Some of these volunteers stand at entrances



A member of the Alabama church group trains to support her security team.

to subtly screen people entering the building. The team has received training on body language indicators, non-dispute resolution, and the use of force. “I rely on my GLOCK for peace of mind,” says Sullivan. “My church is *not* a gun-free zone and, hopefully, that is a strong deterrent against an attack.”

The Christian parishioners of Huntsville, Alabama, designed their own training and security strategies in an effort to meet their community’s particular needs. These congregants regularly train together, have instituted annual performance qualifications, and standardized their team’s defensive gear.

“Each of us carries a GLOCK 19, spare magazines, and a pocket medical kit at services,” says Team Leader Zach H. When asked why the team all carry identical equipment, he

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replied, “Should anything happen, we can all swap or share gear, saving us time. And time saves lives.”

The security team considers its members’ firearms a last resort against an extreme act of violence. Members working as church greeters closely observe body language for indicators of something about to go awry. De-escalation is also a focus.

SEEKING HELP FROM ABOVE—AND FROM THE TRAINING CENTER DOWN THE ROAD

Firearms instructors have seen a rise in demand for training classes by members of faith-based organizations. Congregations and individuals are reaching out to ask questions about the safe use of firearms and how to participate in an effective security program at their houses of worship. Yehuda Remer of Dallas, Texas, says, “The first step of gun ownership is education, and I wanted to give members of my community the opportunity to meet with knowledgeable firearms instructors.”

In the wake of the Pittsburgh synagogue attack, Remer invited Robyn Sandoval, Executive Director of the women’s group A Girl & A Gun, to host an informational session for Orthodox Jews in the greater Dallas area. Two-dozen families participated in a Q&A on gun safety and were provided resources on where to find live-fire training. “It can be scary for families to accept that there are evil people who want to hurt others,” says Sandoval. “Educating new gun owners includes providing facts on the safe use and storage of firearms, while dispelling misinformation that may have been learned through movies and other media.”

Several training companies have found a profitable niche in providing specialized security packages to faith-based organizations. Larger congregations can hire professionals to develop a comprehensive program that addresses surveillance, response, and communications tactics, while smaller congregations can purchase plug-and-play policies and procedures to help them design and manage a security program of their own creation, usually at a significant savings over the cost of utilizing a consulting firm and a personalized assessment.

Strategos International is one of those companies and agrees that education is needed. According to the company’s website, “Knowledge is power to resist and prevail against a violent intruder.” Strategos offers a two-day church security training program nationwide, and it’s attracting attention. Media outlets in Jacksonville, Florida, even utilized the headline “Church Leaders in Florida Putting Down Bibles for GLOCKs in Active-Shooter Training” to highlight the trend and demonstrate how communities are pulling together to keep congregants safe in their places of worship.

Government agencies are also involved in conversations about how to safeguard houses of worship. FEMA has resources available on its website for church security programs, including the “Guide for Developing High-Quality Emergency Operations Plans for Houses of Worship.” The FBI offers training events free

of charge that cover active-shooter response and strategies for designing, implementing, assessing, and maintaining a security plan. Speaking as part of a panel of experts at a training event in 2018, McGregor W. Scott, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of California, stated, “Any time an individual decides to attack those gathered in the peaceful exercise of their religion, the congregants are the true first responders.”

Training as an organized team is just one way in which communities are rallying to take responsibility for their personal protection. The wives, sisters, and daughters of a Huntsville, Alabama, church joined me for a one-day “Basic Handgun for Self Defense” class at Bullet & Barrel, an NSSF Five-Star range. Of the 14 participants, one older lady expressed how her lifelong fear of firearms now conflicted with her resolve not to be victimized. As she expressed her dedication to overcoming that fear through structured training, there were nods of agreement from everyone in the room. “I’m more afraid of something happening to us at church than I am of the gun,” she admitted.

“Any time an individual attacks those gathered in the peaceful exercise of their religion, the congregants are the true first responders.”

Ranging in age from 11 years old to those in their late 70s this enthusiastic group of women regularly trains together in CPR, “Stop the Bleed,” and self-defense clinics. Establishing a knowledge base and first-responder skill set means their level of readiness as a community is elevated, and training together is seen by these women as important to that readiness. On the range that day, mothers and daughters shot side by side. When I asked one mom why she’d gotten involved in this kind of training, her reply was a powerful one: “No matter how scared I may be, I know if I’m called upon, I need to be a warrior for God.” ☺



A multi-generational group of family and fellow parishioners participates in formal firearms self-defense courses at Bullet & Barrel Indoor Range in Huntsville, Alabama.



The GLOCK 48 (top) and GLOCK 43X (bottom) were introduced to the market at the same time. Both sport front and rear slide serrations for easy manipulation.

GLOCK SLIMLINES: PERFECTION IN THE FORM OF CONCEALED CARRY

IMPROVEMENTS IN THE 9X19 HAVE SEEN ITS RETURN AS THE GO-TO ROUND
FOR SELF-DEFENSE PRACTITIONERS—AND GLOCK MADE THE PERFECT
PISTOLS TO GO WITH IT.

■ ARTICLE BY JAMES J. REEVES II ■ PHOTOS COURTESY OF GLOCK

Surely, when an engineer at GLOCK suggested creating the Slimline series of pistols, someone asked, “Why?”

“Why?” as in “Why ever would GLOCK introduce a single-stack handgun?” GLOCK is one of the most popular military and law enforcement handguns of all time, and single-stack handguns are going to appeal almost exclusively to civilians, not government check-writers. Even ignoring the potentially limited fiscal aspects, it’s in that same civilian market that the concept of a single-stack handgun was once frowned upon, if not openly criticized. When

reliable double-stack service pistols caught on, only boutique manufacturers and 1911 brands were turning out ultra-compact, single-stack 9X19s. The format defies all internet-commando logic: Why reduce capacity by half just to save a few ounces of weight and a couple tenths of an inch in width?

In the seven years I’ve been writing for The Firearm Blog, I’ve heard this question countless times. From blog users to YouTube commenters and seasoned industry professionals, all ask, “Why?”

To know the “why,” one must look at the “how.” How did we get to the GLOCK 43X and GLOCK 48 10-round single-stack frame?

GLOCK ANNUAL 2020 **19**





The GLOCK 48 9X19 boasts a 10-round single-stack frame and is destined to be a hit with both law enforcement and concealed-carry practitioners.

It's an understatement to say that GLOCK altered the pistol landscape when it introduced the GLOCK 17 in 1982. The G17 does a lot of things well, but concealment is not one of them; the venerable pistol is properly characterized as a duty-size handgun.

Thus, the next logical step was the GLOCK 19. This concealable "compact" became the jack-of-all-trades standard in 1988, and it retains that title to this day. Small enough to carry under your clothes but large enough to be controllable and accurate, the G19 sacrifices only two rounds of total capacity versus the G17.

Six years later, in 1994, GLOCK brought us the GLOCK 26. The G26 established a new standard for the subcompact double-stack pistol, holding 10 rounds in its flush-fit magazine. Weighing in at just over 19 ounces, and only 4.17 inches tall with the mag inserted, the G26 became a favorite concealed-carry subcompact.

GLOCK kept things simple as its models evolved. The barrel and the grip of the GLOCK 17 were reduced to make the G19, and the G19 was then downsized to make the G26. That means abundant parts interchangeability between these models, and as long as the magazine is long enough to seat, each gun will accept the others' magazines. But these benefits came with one significant drawback: The GLOCK 17, 19, and 26 are all the same width.

In 1999, GLOCK introduced the first Slimline GLOCK: the G36. The G36 is a single-stack .45 AUTO with a six-round capacity. Even though the G36's 1.18-inch-thick body was a mere .08-inch thinner than that of the GLOCK 17, 19, and 26, I remember the first time I carried the G36, thinking, *This is different.*

The slightly thinner G36 holds a curious appeal. I assume it may have been introduced to attract crossover from 1911 carriers who wanted a slim gun in a striker-fired format and with the benefit of GLOCK's reliability. But the G36 couldn't

showcase the true potential of just how svelte a GLOCK could be because of the physical limitations of the near-half-inch .45 AUTO round it was chambered in—and the next Slimline GLOCK would not be introduced for a decade and a half.

Sometime after the GLOCK 36 was introduced, 9X19 saw a resurgence in popularity. The infamous "Miami Shootout" on April 11, 1986 had shaken the country's faith in the 9X19 as a manstopper and ultimately led to the FBI's dropping the 9X19 in favor of the .40 AUTO. Twenty-eight years later, the Bureau pulled a complete 180 when, in 2014, it completed a report supporting re-adoption of the 9X19 cartridge. One of the bombshell conclusions from the report: "Handgun stopping power is simply a myth."

Other findings from the report praise the technological advancement of 9X19 that have occurred over the past few decades:

Contemporary projectiles (since 2007) have dramatically increased the terminal effectiveness of many premium line law enforcement projectiles. ... Given contemporary bullet construction, LEO's can field 9mm Lugers with all of the terminal performance potential of any other law enforcement pistol caliber with none of the disadvantages present with the "larger" calibers.

And with that, the 9X19 mounted a stunning comeback. A tipping point had been reached, and the large manufacturers all introduced single-stack 9X19 offerings within relatively close temporal proximity of the other. GLOCK introduced a single-stack 9X19, arriving to the party in 2015 with the GLOCK 43.

Many of us wanted a slimmer 9X19, but we also insisted on GLOCK reliability and that familiar manual of arms. Even though GLOCK took its time bringing the G43 to market, new and old GLOCK fans had waited: the GLOCK 43 sold an astounding one-million units in its first year of production.



The G43 is a quarter-inch thinner than the G19 and weighs a scant 16 ounces without a magazine inserted. This is a gun that was smaller and lighter than most five-shot .38-caliber revolvers, but with more capacity, more power, and much faster reloads.

There were a few G19 purists who failed to welcome the new G43, asking, of course, “Why?” Why save a mere five ounces of weight and just a quarter-inch of width to compromise 60 percent of the gun’s magazine capacity? On top of that, the GLOCK 43 has a smaller grip not suited for many larger shooters unwilling to surrender grip purchase for concealability.

GLOCK again listened—and delivered. The GLOCK 43X and GLOCK 48 were introduced simultaneously in 2019. In my opinion, the G43X and G48 are, perhaps, GLOCK’s greatest debut since the G19.

The G43X and G48 retain the G43’s single-stack design and slim slide, but increased capacity to 10 rounds and lengthened the grip. The G43X is more than five ounces lighter than the G19 and .16-inch thinner.

The G48 is essentially the same pistol as the G43X. It adds two ounces of weight and features a longer barrel; the G48 has a 4.17-inch barrel, which is marginally longer than the G19’s 4-inch barrel. This met consumer demand for increased performance, employing a greater sight radius and producing increased velocity. The G48 to some seems counterintuitive as a carry gun, because a longer barrel would ostensibly make the gun larger. But the G48 is slightly larger than the G43X in length alone, and seasoned concealed carriers know it’s the grip dimension that makes a pistol more difficult to conceal, not its barrel length. Accordingly, the only drawback to the G48 for the concealed-carry market is the additional two ounces of weight over the G43X, but that’s in exchange for increased shooting performance.

The G43X and G48 are, two-dimensionally (length and height), similar to the G19, but that “mere” .16-inch-slimmer frame feels *miles* apart. The G43X and G48 also added front slide serrations for easier manipulation, a beavertail for recoil management, a reversible magazine catch, and the match-grade GLOCK Marksman Barrel. There are no compromises in terms of shooting performance—these new Slimlines shoot.

Even after all this, there are still people asking “Why?” Why reduce capacity and step down from the G19 to the G43X or G48? Rent a G43X or G48 at the range and you’ll likely find you shoot it better than what you’re used to. Carry it for a day. Feel how much more comfortable it can be to have almost two-tenths of an inch and over a quarter-pound of weight eliminated. In other words, to understand “Why?” you have to physically pick one up. ☉



A Slimline single-stack can be a much more comfortable carry for law enforcement professionals who spend much of their day seated in a vehicle. But the G43X and G48 also offer viable backup options, such as in an ankle rig as shown here.



The ultra-slim and compact design of the G43X makes for easy carry in all sorts of holsters, including purse holsters.



A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF A GLOCK 19X

WHAT STARTED AS A TEST-AND-EVALUATION GUN FOR JOURNALISTIC
PURPOSES TURNED INTO A LOVE AFFAIR.

■ ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER EGER

In late 2017, I got my hands on an early GLOCK 19X to test and evaluate, and liked it so much, I bought it at the end of the test. Now, well over a year later, I can't put it down, and I look back on the decision to buy it as one of the best in my personal firearms journey.

GLOCK'S FIRST CROSSOVER

Unveiled in early 2018, the G19X combined the best features of two of GLOCK's most popular platforms by blending the frame of the full-sized GLOCK 17 with the compact barrel and slide of the GLOCK 19 to form the new G19X. It was dubbed a "Crossover" design by the renowned pistol maker. Developed originally as a contender for a major military solicitation, the new design was mature, efficient, and stood atop four decades of the company's innovative history.

Sporting a Coyote color—the first such use by GLOCK—on both the polymer frame and nPVD-finished slide, the 9X19

G19X shipped standard with a flush-fit, 17-round magazine and two 17+2 extended mags, all sporting black followers. The gun has several Gen5 enhancements, such as the extremely accurate GLOCK Marksman Barrel (GMB), with its polygonal rifling and an improved crown, a flat grip front (sans finger grooves), dehorned nose profile, and ambidextrous slide stop levers. The G19X also includes a removeable lanyard loop on the frame heel, a feature not commonly seen on a commercial GLOCK.

JUST UTTER RELIABILITY

Outfitted with GLOCK Night Sights, I dutifully hit the range with the G19X over a three-month period, alternating training and daily carry while the G19X stacked up a steady round count. Varying ammunition between assorted commercial FMJ target and JHP defense loads, in no time the Coyote Crossover had passed 500 rounds without a malfunction or notable



issue—and this was with a bone-stock gun right from the box with no lubrication added. The 1,000-round mark came and went with no issues, and I passed 1,500 as I waited in vain for the first double-feed, failure to eject, or failure to extract that I could document. At the 2,000-round point, the gun's basic T&E period had passed with nothing dramatic to report. Just utter reliability. The first extensive cleaning, strip down, and inspection of the pistol after this process found only slight wear, and my list of parts needing to be repaired or replaced was blank.

As a regular gun reviewer, I can be candid with the fact that this is not always the case with other firearms given the same treatment.

With that, it came time to either return the G19X to Smyrna or pay to keep it and add it to the collection. The choice was a total no-brainer, and as it turns out, I was in good company. GLOCK reported that just six months after the G19X was released to the market, more than 100,000 had been sold.

PREPPED

Replacing my previous regular everyday carry, the G19X became my go-to firearm when moving about the world. Over the past year it has been by my side, carried concealed in an inside-the-waistband holster, on most days. While I have carried full-sized models such as the GLOCK 17 and GLOCK 22 off and on for the past several years, as well as the more subcompact models such as the standard G19, the G19X proved a nice balance between the two. I find it significantly more comfortable to carry than the larger guns, while providing a more ample grip and slightly increased magazine capacity over the subcompacts. This has translated into the brown-hued pistol riding shotgun, so to speak, on everything from such pedestrian outings as a trip to my small-town grocer to potentially more hazardous affairs like visits to large urban areas with high crime rates. In either type of journey, knowing the reliable G19X was there if needed—a serious defensive handgun originally designed for combat with a long and iconic lineage behind it—gave no small measure of comfort.

I am generally not a fan of open carry for my own reasons, but I have carried the G19X in such fashion while in the woods looking for deer sheds last spring and while bowhunting the winter before. As with my more typical carry, I was glad to have it and drew solace from the fact that it had proven itself dependable in evaluation. That means a lot when you are a few miles into the thick brush, far away from the nearest trailhead, and come across bear sign.

GLOCK's Crossover likewise tagged along on several kayaking and camping trips during the summer, where it often got soaked in unannounced briny, brackish and freshwater dunks. Upon cleaning and inspection afterward, the pistol proved virtually impermeable to these baths.

As a responsible gun owner, I have a collection of firearms not in immediate use secured behind (often several) closed doors with their ammunition stored separately. With the G19X in regular daily carry use, though, it has become my default for home defense. Coupled with a powerful tactical flashlight and a ready reload, it is never too far away to be retrieved should the occasion arrive. The pair of 17+2 capacity magazines, which give me 39 rounds at the ready, provide piece of mind.

REGULAR PRACTICE

To keep my skillset fresh, and because I find it a relaxing, and at times invigorating, hobby, I tend to hit my local shooting range two or three times a month. While I alternate many of the firearms in my personal collection across these range visits,

“Living a year with a GLOCK 19X has left me with no regrets. In any situation, this is one handgun that sets the bar for others to follow.”

the G19X, by nature of its use as an EDC, is always there and, therefore, gets a regular workout. This consists of at least two to three boxes of factory 9X19 loads fired each trip.

Starting at the 3-yard line and working my way back, I prefer a mix of target silhouettes. When past the 25-yard line, steel plates of various sizes come into play. I have audibly confirmed hits on torso-sized plates out to 100 yards with the gun, using factory sights and no optics. This I do with both my regular carry holster, drawing from concealment, and with an OWB duty holster I use for matches and training classes.

In this fashion, since ending the initial T&E period on the G19X, I have chalked up at least another 3,000 rounds through the gun (and that's a conservative estimate), which means this gun is past the 5,000 tally. Failures and jams recorded? Zip. Okay, one. But I attributed that one incident more to a dirty magazine—one that became stuffed with wet Mississippi red clay during an emergency reload drill and reused without cleaning—than to the gun itself.

By the way, when safely unloaded and charged with snap caps, my G19X also logs a significant amount of time each month in dryfire practice, key to helping to keep those perishable muscle memory skills tuned while trimming seconds and extra movement from my draw stroke and presentation. All of that wears and tears on the gun, not as much as live fire, of course, but wear all the same, but there's nothing about this gun that shows it's having a hard life.

ONE TERRIFIC TEACHING TOOL

I've been a certified firearms instructor for the past decade, and while these days I attend more classes than I conduct, I am still on the state police list of approved concealed carry instructors. Therefore, from time to time I respond to requests from local organizations, such as veterans, community, and church groups, to conduct free classes for their members.

As such gatherings invariably contain a mix of students whose skills and knowledge of firearms varies from absolute novice to distinguished expert, I like to bring along various gun platforms to talk about and to ensure attendees get a wide range of experience to fill their day and keep their interest. The G19X then steps in as an instruction tool and often finds a warm welcome with those who have never fired one—or any pistol for that matter.

With a few minutes of guidance and an easy field stripping to explain its internal workings and how to immediately correct the elusive jam, even neophytes can soon chew out the center of a target with the GLOCK. The Gen5 gun's interchangeable grip frame system allows the pistol to be rapidly adjusted in the field to fit a broad scope of user hands. This produces a memorable range experience, ideal for first-time shooters, and you can see in their faces and hear in their conversations at the end of the day that they have a new and healthy addiction to polymer pistols that rhyme with “block.”

In all, it could be said that living a year with a GLOCK 19X has left me with no regrets. In fact, you could say in many ways it has illustrated the deeper meaning of the words “GLOCK Perfection.” Either way, and in any situation, this is one handgun that sets the bar for others to follow. ☺



JOURNEY TO THE WORLDS

A BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK AS TEAM GLOCK PREPARES FOR THE 2020 IPSC HANDGUN WORLD SHOOT IN THAILAND.

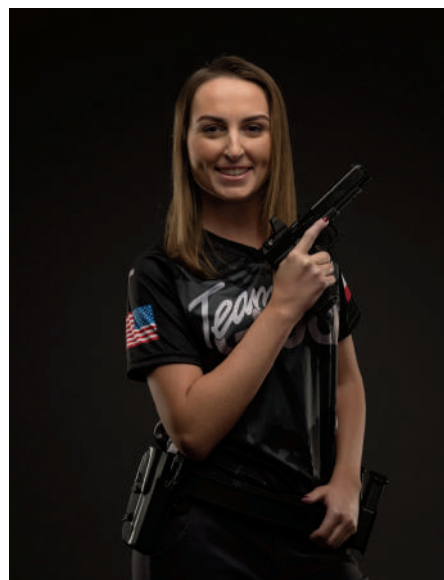
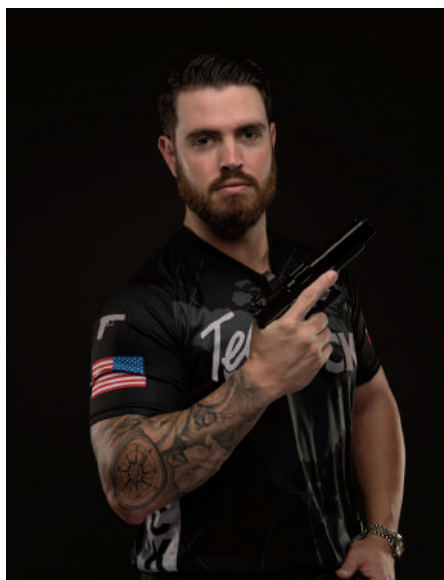
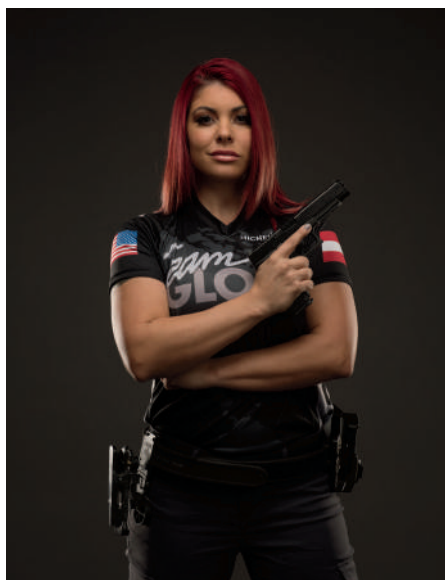
■ **ARTICLE BY BRAD FITZPATRICK**

Every three years, the International Practical Shooting Confederation (IPSC) hosts the Handgun World Shoot. It's the equivalent of the Olympics for pistol shooters, taking dedication, skill, and countless hours of preparation to compete successfully on the world's largest handgun-competition stage.

The three members of Team GLOCK are aiming for IPSC gold at the next World Shoot. There's Shane Coley, GLOCK's Team Captain and a former member of the U.S. Army's Action Shooting Team. Team member Michelle Viscusi, a member of the Army National Guard, appeared on season four of the hit television series *Top Shot*. Ashley Rheuark started shooting at the age of 10 and quickly rose through the ranks to become one of America's top female shooters.

The members of Team GLOCK have amassed an impressive collection of wins over the last several years. Most recently, in 2018, Shane earned the Steel Challenge High Overall Production Champion while Ashley captured the Steel Challenge Ladies National Championship. Shane also captured the 2018 IPSC Nationals Standard Championship and 2017 USPSA Limited National Championships, while Ashley claimed the 2017 USPSA Production National Championship High Lady and 2018 IPSC Nationals Standard Championship High Lady. And that's just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the numerous area championship that all three members of Team GLOCK have amassed.

But the road to the IPSC World Championship is a difficult one, even for experienced shooters.



Photos Courtesy of GLOCK

The 2020 World Shoot, which will be held in Thailand in the fall, gathers the best handgun shooters in the world for a single competition comprising dozens of courses of fire. Qualifying for the event is, as you'd imagine, difficult, and even the most seasoned shooters must perform at a consistently high level if they want to succeed at the Worlds. That preparation is about more than just pulling the trigger. From diets and mindset exercises to dedicated fitness regimes, the members of Team GLOCK focus on every aspect of competition with one goal in mind: Domination at the 2020 World Shoot.

WHAT IT TAKES TO WIN

There are thousands of good shooters in the country, but it takes a special athlete with a competitive mind and extraordinary discipline to compete at the highest level and consistently stand on top of the podium at major IPSC and USPSA competitions. Coley, Viscusi, and Rheuark are those athletes.

Of course, equipment plays a major role in the success of any shooter, and the members of Team GLOCK are fortunate to have premium firearms with which to compete. But what other aspects play a role in becoming an elite shooter? How do world-class shooting athletes like the members of Team GLOCK put themselves in a position to win?

"I train all year for these matches, but in the two months prior to each of these events, I intensify my training schedule and my home rituals," says Rheuark. "The first thing I do is amplify my practice sessions. They become longer and more complex. I incorporate speed drills and more difficult target arrays in order to be prepared for anything these matches may have."

Viscusi says that staying focused and maintaining a strict shooting schedule is paramount to shooting at the highest level. "I make sure I'm getting to the range and training consistently," she says. "This is a *big* step for me. I know what it takes to be the best, but at times I let my emotions get in the way. I wake up and say, 'It's too early, I'm too tired, what if I just go another day?' This is where I ask myself, 'How bad do you want it? Get up and go practice!' Consistency is everything for me. Don't make excuses and just get it done."

Coley says there are several aspects to becoming an elite shooter and maintaining a competitive edge on the road to the Worlds, but he summed up one of the keys to becoming a world champion succinctly: Long hours on the range, Coley says, are critical to establishing yourself as one of the top shooters in the world.

The need to train with your firearm in the months leading up to a major shoot seems axiomatic, but what fans of Team GLOCK may not appreciate are the complex training regimens these athletes follow. Coley, Viscusi, and Rheuark all discussed the need for physical training, proper nutrition, and increased mental focus as part of their quest for a world title.

"I am a very small person, so most of the year I focus on building muscle," says Rheuark. "But prior to the national events, I cut down my gym time to focus on the shooting. I still go to the gym regularly leading up to the match, but I decrease the intensity of my workouts and focus on exercises that are good for flexibility." Rheuark says she's also very careful about her diet and tries to limit processed food and



Team GLOCK Captain Shane Coley after his 2019 U.S. Steel Challenge Production Division win. He says getting to this level requires a dedication to long hours on the range. Photo by Andre M. Dall'au



Photo by John Phelan



Photo by Andre M. Dall'au



Photo by Andre M. Dall'au

carbohydrates, and she avoids dining out, instead taking healthy lunches and snacks with her to the range.

Viscusi also spends much of her week working out in preparation for major matches and says that physical conditioning is key to staying competitive, especially in major matches that take place over several days.

"One of the first steps in preparing for a match as big as the World Shoot is physical fitness," Viscusi says. "I've started going to the gym four to five days a week and incorporating more cardio and conditioning into my workouts. This, so

far, has helped me immensely with being quicker in my movements out on the range. I also don't tire out as quickly as I did before I started this training." Viscusi says that shooters who have never competed in high-level competitions, some of which can last as long as six days, often underestimate how physically taxing that type of event can be.

Regarding his preparation for the USPSA Nationals (USPSA is the United States Practical Shooters Association, the American arm of IPSC), Coley says, "I spend all year preparing for this match, from physical fitness and nutrition to long hours on the range." He says that intense training will only increase as the 2020 Worlds draw nearer, explaining, "We will be challenged in so many different ways, and we will push our physical fitness and nutrition to new levels so that we are mentally ready to handle the stress and physical exertion of World Shoot."

Along with their nutrition, exercise regimens, and added range time, the members of Team GLOCK will focus on mental preparation as the World Shoot approaches. It's easy to appreciate how shooting and physical health play a role in winning major shooting events, but as with any major athletic competition, mental preparation can make the difference between delivering the performance of a lifetime and folding beneath the strain.

Rheuark reads books on mindset written by other professional athletes and works to remain focused on her goals while practicing and competing. Coley emphasizes the mental challenge of shooting against other world-class shooters and maintaining proper focus no matter the stage, the event, or the



competition, while Viscusi says that overcoming difficulties and setbacks is critical to succeeding at the highest level.

"I give myself a really hard time and kick myself down if I don't perform the way I should," Viscusi says. "I find myself comparing my shooting to others, when all I need to do is stay positive and shoot for my personal bests and not worry about what others are doing. While I train and shoot area matches or national matches, I tell myself to start focusing on the process and not so much the end game."

THE JOURNEY BEGINS

2019 started well for Team GLOCK, with several major victories early in the year. In February, Rheuark captured first place at the Florida Open Championship. Less than a month later, Coley brought home a win at the Alabama Sectional Championship. Rheuark returned to Florida in April to compete in the USPSA Multi-Gun Nationals, successfully defending her title as National Ladies Champion in the Tactical Division with her GLOCK 34. The following month, Coley used that same pistol to win the Production Division at the U.S. Steel Nationals in Covington, Georgia. Viscusi didn't compete early in the season as she welcomed her daughter Madelyn in February, but she returned to competition in May.

"You need three qualifiers to earn a slot for the IPSC World Shoot," explains Rheuark. "The U.S. gives you four matches to qualify for the three you need, two USPSA Nationals and two IPSC Nationals. Collectively, these are the four most important matches Team GLOCK shoots. In 2019, I needed two more qualifiers to get a slot in Production Optics, and since only two matches were available to shoot that division, the pressure was on to perform and have good scores at those events."

Production Optics is a new division in IPSC, Rheuark says, and is under review until the next IPSC General Assembly. That will be in December of 2020, so for now the Production Optics

Division will be operated on a trial basis, including for those shooters who wish to compete in that division at the World Shoot in Thailand.

"I am excited to compete for the first time in this new division at a World Shoot!" Rheuark says.

The USPSA and IPSC Nationals bring together the top U.S. competitive shooters, all of whom are vying for a limited number of slots on the U.S. World Team. Fortunately, the time and effort that Team GLOCK put in preparing for these grueling matches in 2019 paid off, and after several early-season victories, the three continued to add more wins to their résumés on the path to the Worlds.

"With 2019 being the final year for the qualifier matches for the 2020 IPSC World Shoot, everyone has been training harder than ever," says Coley. "The year started off with the 2019 IPSC Nationals in Frostproof, Florida, which was the third of the four qualifiers. This match falls under the same rules as ISPC, so it is generally a very good test for how well shooters are prepared for World Shoot."

Coley says that the IPSC Nationals is always a very challenging match, and he noted that this year's competition was no exception, describing it as one of the toughest matches the team has shot all year long. But he also said that this year's IPSC Nationals are good preparation for what they will encounter in Thailand.

"The IPSC National Championship is always a very challenging match. It offers long shots, tight positions, and strong- and weak-hand shooting, along with very technical stages. It's very similar to what one would see during a world championship," says Coley. All three members of Team GLOCK performed well in Florida, and both Rheuark and Viscusi captured titles.

"Michelle and Ashley both shot incredibly throughout this qualifier, and both won High Lady in their respective divisions,



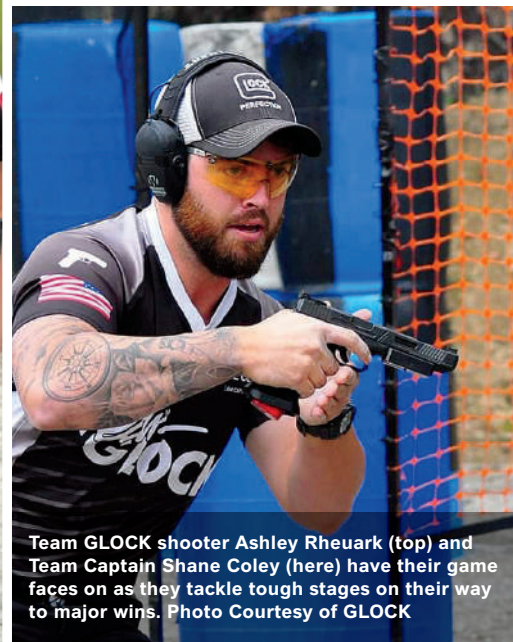
Photo by John Phelan



Team GLOCK members Michelle Viscusi (left) and Ashley Rheuark (right) get warm congratulations from Team Captain Shane Coley after their Division High Lady wins at the 2019 IPSC National Championships. Photo Courtesy of GLOCK



Photo by Andre M. Dall'au



Team GLOCK shooter Ashley Rheuark (top) and Team Captain Shane Coley (here) have their game faces on as they tackle tough stages on their way to major wins. Photo Courtesy of GLOCK

Standard for Michelle and Production Optics for Ashley, making them the 2019 IPSC Lady National Champions,” Coley explains.

The final qualifying event before the Worlds was the USPSA HI-CAP National Championship. This match was very different than the IPSC Nationas, says Rheuark. “My training has been specific for each of these Nationals,” says Rheuark. “In preparation for IPSC Nationals, my practice was very technical and focused a lot on accuracy. For the USPSA Nationals, I was able to work on speed and cutting down my times. All these skills will be utilized next year.”

Rheuark’s first- and second-place finishes at the IPSC and USPSA HI-CAP Nationals, respectively, have put her in a good position to shoot at the Worlds next year, and she says those performances boosted her confidence.

Despite coming back from having a baby in February 2019, Michelle Viscusi has also paved the way to the Worlds with strong finishes at both the IPSC and USPSA National championships. Coley performed impressively at the USPSA HI-CAP Nationals as well, finishing fourth in the Limited class and securing a spot on the IPSC World team.

“Since I am competing in the Standard division for the IPSC World Shoot, Limited division in USPSA is my equivalent division,” says Coley, who said he felt great going into the match and performed at a higher level than ever before.

“I had a few ups and downs. I took some chances and not everything worked in my favor, but overall, I secured my spot on the U.S. National Team for the IPSC Handgun World

Shoot 2020. I was a few points behind another competitor, Nils Jonasson, for Team Captain, but made the team nonetheless.”

LOOKING TOWARD THAILAND

With the 2020 IPSC World Championship set to be held in Pattaya, Thailand in November, there’s less than a year of prep time left before the members of Team GLOCK set out to claim the most coveted title in handgun shooting.

“I know Team GLOCK is excited for another chance to compete at a World Shoot,” says Rheuark. “We are looking forward to representing GLOCK on an international level and performing at our absolute best!”

Viscusi is also looking ahead to 2020 and plans to maintain her strict training regime in preparation for the event. “There’s a lot of hard work that goes into preparing for a World Shoot,” she says. “For me, I have a lot of work to get back to where I was. I had taken a lot of time off to have a baby and now I’m just coming back.”

Coley is also preparing to make the most of his time in Thailand, following his strict workout routine, refining his elite shooting skills even more, and preparing to do his part to bring the World Champion title to Team GLOCK. And Coley, like the other members of the team, hopes that GLOCK fans all over the world will follow along as they represent the world’s premier pistol brand at the highest level.

“Preparing for the 2020 World Shoot will be strenuous. It will take all year, and we hope that everyone follows us along on this journey.” ☉



MICHELLE VISCUSI: A CHAMPION ON AND OFF THE RANGE

THIS VALUED MEMBER OF TEAM GLOCK BALANCES HOURS OF PRACTICE TIME AND TRAVEL TO MATCHES AROUND THE WORLD WITH HER BUSY FAMILY OF FIVE—AND SHE WOULDN'T HAVE IT ANY OTHER WAY.

■ ARTICLE BY ROBYN SANDOVAL ■ PHOTOS COURTESY OF MICHELLE VISCUSI

For as long as she can remember, GLOCK Pro Shooter Michelle Viscusi has been inspired by her family. Her father introduced her to shooting when she was a teenager. Michelle remembered that day fondly, saying, “I just went for fun and tried out a bunch of different pistols.” She had been an avid gymnast throughout her childhood, but that outing with her father had a profound effect on her.

Michelle's early career choices centered on her desire to follow in her father's footsteps in law enforcement, and she studied criminal justice at Chandler-Gilbert College and Arizona State University. When she was 19, she joined the Army National Guard; it was her military training that really sparked her love of shooting. She returned home from basic training and bought her very first rifle, and shortly thereafter, she purchased a GLOCK 19.

While working as a Military Police Officer alongside Border Patrol, Michelle jumped at the opportunity to be on Season 4 of the History Channel's hit series *Top Shot*. During the filming of the show, she met many professional competitors and others who were involved in the firearms industry. This broadened her knowledge of the shooting sports and opened her eyes to opportunities within the industry. Michelle was just 22 in 2012, when she met then-captain of Team GLOCK, K.C. Eusebio, who arranged for a tryout. In 2013, she was offered a spot on the team, and she has been competing nationally and internationally ever since.

A lot has changed for Michelle over the past six years, but her love of family has remained the same. Now a wife and mother, she has to balance family and career—but by coming back and winning the 2019 IPSC Ladies National Title in her first major match after her most recent pregnancy, Michelle proved she's a champion on and off the range!

“One of my greatest challenges has been taking the time off to have my children, and then coming back to compete at the level I need to be at,” said Michelle. That means consistent training, which can be difficult with three young daughters, aged six, five, and six months, but Michelle acknowledged, “If I want to be the best, then I need to put in the hard work.”

Michelle's training schedule includes range time on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, with matches on the

weekends. Her husband is a Commercial Sales Manager for GLOCK, so they work around each other's travel schedules, though sometimes Michelle has to flip-flop her days and call in a babysitter so she can train at night. She also incorporates a fitness routine as part of her daily schedule. She said, “I always feel better when I work out and my energy level goes up. When I can make the gym a routine in my life, I always feel better physically and mentally.”

During her pregnancies, Michelle live-fire practiced up until 26 weeks, and so she was able to compete during those early months. She then continued to train throughout the pregnancy, laughing as she told me, “I would do some dry-fire and reloading practice until my belt didn't fit anymore!”

The timing of her first pregnancy worked well, since it was towards the end of the competitive season, and she was able to return to competing at the beginning of the next season. With her second pregnancy, however, the 2019 IPSC Nationals was only her second match after coming back from maternity leave. Michelle had less than three months to train, but she was up to the challenge. She said, “I had done as much training as I possibly could to prepare for those Nationals, and actually felt confident while I was out there.” Confident indeed: Michelle took her first National Ladies title at that match.

Michelle now has her sights on the 2020 IPSC Handgun World Shoot XIX, which will take place in Pattaya, Thailand. Technology helps her stay close to her daughters when she's traveling. When she was at the 2019 Nationals in Florida, too far away from her home in Arizona for her family to go with her, she said, “I Facetimed about 10 times a day to keep them in the loop.”

Michelle loved traveling to Montana, because of its beautiful scenery, although she also enjoyed Alaska and hopes to visit Hawaii someday. Shooting in Italy has been her favorite European match so far.

When asked about her biggest accomplishment, Michelle said that the 2019 IPSC Ladies National Title was a great joy, but added, “Honestly, everything I do with GLOCK feels like an accomplishment. I am proud to be a part of such a great company for as long as I have been. I have it all, because I have an amazing husband who supports me 100 percent and the best children I could ever ask for. Everything else is a huge bonus.”

GLOCK ANNUAL 2020 29



Five generations of the GLOCK 17, a Gen1 to the far left, Gen5 to the far right. Changes both external and internal have been subtle, but all have resulted in significant improvements in durability, handleability, and performance over the decades.

GENERATIONS OF GLOCKS: PURSUING PERFECTION

THE STORY OF GLOCK, THOUGH FAR FROM FINISHED,
BRINGS TO LIGHT THE GENIUS BEHIND EVERY CHANGE—AND LEAVES
ALL YEARNING FOR THE NEXT CHAPTER.

■ ARTICLE BY CHRIS EDWARDS ■ PHOTO COURTESY OF GLOCK

In the second decade of the 21st century, it's hard to escape the worldwide presence of GLOCK pistols. Whether in the hands or holsters of law enforcement officers around the planet or wielded by citizens protecting themselves and their charges, GLOCK has many models and generations in service. Let's take a look back—and forward.

BEGINNING THE BREED: GEN1

In the early 1980s, the Austrian Ministry of Defense requested interested parties submit service pistol samples for testing. The winner of the Austrian trials would be adopted as the military's handgun. Initially, it was thought a large corporation would secure the order, but the examples submitted failed embarrassingly. Enter Gaston Glock, who had no extensive experience with firearms. He set out with a clean sheet of paper—no preconceived notions, no burden of history to bog him down. After just a few prototypes, examples of what would become known as the GLOCK 17 were offered and passed the military's rigorous testing with ease.

It's instructive to list the primary elements of the first model and the initial generation of handguns that followed it:

- Injection-molded polymer frame;
- GLOCK Safe-Action® trigger (classified at American importation as “double-action-only”);
- Cold hammer-forged barrel (9X19 initially);

- Major metal components (slide and barrel) finished externally with the Tenifer process;
- Simple field-stripping process via the slide lock;
- Standard magazine capacity of 17 rounds

GLOCK's expertise with high-pressure, precision polymer molding brought the main component of the handgun, the frame, into modern times. The Gen1 GLOCKS were streamlined, without sharp or rough edges. Their surface texture became known as the “pebble” finish. External controls were few and low-profile, including a flat slide stop lever, polymer magazine catch, and the trigger with its integral safety. The very first examples had a non-captured recoil spring on a polymer guide rod. Upon field-stripping, a Gen1's internal parts will be seen with a dark, blue/black finish.

There is only one other model considered a Gen1, the GLOCK 17L with a 6-inch barrel and “Longslide,” as well as a lighter trigger pull. There were a few prototypes of the compact GLOCK 19 with the Gen1 frame texture, but these were never offered for sale.

THE MARKET SHIFTS: GEN2

G17 Gen1s were well received by the U.S. law enforcement market, with notable sales to the police departments of St. Paul and Miami. But user feedback resulted in a decision to manufacture a new mold that would incorporate raised “checkering” on the frame's front and backstraps. GLOCK notes



this change occurred in 1989. Additional upgrades in the following two years were made to internal parts, and the recoil spring assembly changed from a non-captive to the now-familiar captive design, resulting in easier reassembly.

With these changes, new models and new calibers were introduced. In the early 1990s, American manufacturers developed the .40 AUTO cartridge. Visionary that he was, Gaston Glock realized the significance of the cartridge and developed new pistols around it. First was the GLOCK 22, followed quickly by the compact GLOCK 23. The FBI adopted the GLOCK .40 AUTO pistols after extensive competitive testing.

Another significant departure from the original design was the introduction of fully metal-lined magazines, resulting in magazines dropping free of the frame when the magazine catch was depressed. The original produced for the Austrian military had little metal at all—it was intended to be disposable.

ADDING VERSATILITY: GEN3

As GLOCK continued to produce “21st-century” pistols at the end of the 20th century, a number of events effected additional changes. The U.S. “crime bill” put certain restrictions on firearms, including magazine-capacity limitations. GLOCK responded with the subcompact GLOCK 26 9X19 and GLOCK 27 .40 AUTO.

Finger grooves on the grip heralded the next significant change, and as tactical shooters began to request attachment points for lights and lasers, GLOCK supplied them.

With the Gen3s came the introduction of GLOCK’s first Slimline pistol, the single-stack GLOCK 36 in .45 AUTO. Other subtle improvements and variations appeared: the loaded-chamber indicator extractor; a new commercially-available frame color in Olive Drab; and a new rougher frame texture, appropriately dubbed the Rough Textured Frame 2 (RTF2). New processes were also adopted, including nitration of the slide and barrel.

A CORE CHANGE: GEN4

An argument can be made that changing specifications over time results in product development and improvement. This phenomenon is seen in the development of the Gen4 GLOCKS.

While at first glance cosmetically similar to the earlier Gen3s, internal improvements are apparent. Many of these changes were the result of the last request by federal law enforcement for a new pistol in .40 AUTO.

The first notable change is the introduction, across all frame sizes, of a dual recoil spring assembly, introduced to improve longevity and function. Gen4 prototypes were exhaustively tested with full-power .40 AUTO ammunition and weapon-mounted lights. Though several well-regarded lights failed to hold up, the GLOCKS kept shooting. Gen4 frames took on a refreshed design with a new, 360-degree textured surface that provided better control, and interchangeable backstraps were added that accommodated different hand sizes.

Perhaps the most influential change that occurred with the Gen4s was the introduction of the GLOCK Modular Optic System (MOS). This allowed quick mounting of a range of popular optics, a sensible change much appreciated by operators who had been forced to mill their slides for a particular brand or model of red-dot or reflex sight. It is further evidence that GLOCK remains at the forefront of development.

GLOCK’s Gen4s quickly set a new standard for law enforcement pistols. In short order, two more backstraps with beavertail extensions were developed and included with each pistol. A larger, reversible mag catch came next, rounding out a bevy of upgrades and improvements that accompanied a continued upward trend of the company’s success.

TWO PROJECTS MERGE: GEN5

In the second decade of the 21st century, GLOCK engineers focused on two of the largest projects ever addressed by the company. Militaries around the world were seeking new sidearms, and the U.S. FBI issued specifications for a new 9X19 service pistol. On the consumer side, a social phenomenon was sweeping across America at the same time: mass legalization and codification of concealed weapon permits. As GLOCK addressed both the military and federal law enforcement requirements, a new level of handgun excellence was realized.

First came the GLOCK 42, a small, locked-breech Slimline pistol in .380 AUTO. Its tremendous success was followed by the GLOCK 43, a new Slimline 9X19. And, after meticulous and extensive testing, the pistols that became the GLOCK Gen5s were adopted by the FBI. The GLOCK 19X was a variant of military submissions. These pistols included the following improvements: comparing to earlier generations.

- The GLOCK Marksman Barrel (GMB), combining enhanced interior dimensions and a target crown that dramatically improved accuracy and reliability. Groups under 3 inches at 50 yards were seen, and the Bureau had duty ammunition shooting under 1 inch at 25 yards! The average number of rounds fired between stoppages was well over 10,000, a statistic never before realized in federal tests;
- A new surface finish, known as nDLC, for the barrel and slide. This finish enhanced function as well as appearance;
- A new frame without finger grooves, but adopting a military-specification (1913) accessory rail;
- A completely flared mag well in the most recently produced Gen5s (2019).
- An upgraded fire-control system yielding a vastly improved trigger pull. Shooters have commented specifically on the quality and consistency when comparing to earlier generations;
- A high-visibility magazine follower for instant status verification;
- An ambidextrous slide stop lever, reversible magazine catch, and multiple interchangeable backstraps included

In addition to all the engineering advances, GLOCK brings the MOS to the Gen5s, so an optic of choice can be mounted. This is a big advantage over the optic-mounting options for other handguns. It also brought to fruition the new GLOCK 45 and GLOCK 45 MOS.

New Gen5 engineering appears in the latest GLOCKS of the Slimline family, the G43X and G48. Initial offerings had a silver nPVD finish on the slide, while later versions were offered in black nDLC. These 10-round magazine-capacity GLOCKS bring perfection to concealed carry.

One way of looking at this list of improvements and new models is that consumers have in a Gen5 a technologically-advanced GLOCK compared to those of previous generations. The documented improvements in accuracy and reliability alone make a Gen5 eligible for one’s collection and use.

What comes next? Only Gaston Glock and his engineers know, but I can tell you the story of GLOCK isn’t over yet. As sure as the sun comes up, GLOCK will continue to innovate and amaze. And for all of us who have loved our GLOCK pistols through the generations, that makes one thing clear: The next chapter will only be better. ☺



■ ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY DR. JOEL T. NADLER

“Why did I wait so long to start doing this?!”

I have heard this rhetorical question repeatedly. Initially, it came from people recommending that I start shooting competitively. After my first competition, I asked myself the same thing. Today, I hear it from almost every new shooter who attends the various shooting events and competitions I coordinate.

Let this near-universal response to shooting at a competition for the first time be your guide: The overwhelming advice almost anyone gives is to start competing sooner rather than later. Once you do, you will regret having not started sooner.

IT'S NOT JUST A GAME

Although I have been shooting, training, and instructing with handguns for decades, I was not originally interested in competition. If I'm honest, this was likely due to two concerns: That the rules were restrictive and overly complex; and, due to those complex rules, competition was not relevant to defensive use or training. Basically, I saw competition as a game with little application to real-life defensive use of a firearm.

I can now see that these concerns were misconceptions.

Similar to many complex games, rules can be long and not easily understood. However, rules are written to cover all sorts of situations, to ensure consistency across events, and to ensure a safe shooting environment. For example, in the case of GLOCK Sport Shooting Foundation (GSSF), the indoor league has 14 pages of rules. Fourteen! That covers a lot of ground, but don't let that stop you from exploring GSSF. The core rule set, courses of fire, and what a new competitor needs to know can be described in a couple of paragraphs.

What about my second assumption, that there were, potentially, conflicts between the skill sets utilized in defensive training (i.e., supervised classes, simulations) and those used in competition? I've come to realize that it's best to think of defensive skills as being on a spectrum. That spectrum likely begins with dry-fire practice without the pressure of a timer, followed by casual practice at a range and basic defensive classes. Then, on to competition, advanced time-stressed defensive shooting classes and simulations and, finally, what may be a situation in which actual defensive use is called for.

When it comes to self-defense, the closer our training is to that far end of the spectrum the better. Clearly, competition

is within the spectrum. Still, some will ask, “Is competitive shooting a *replacement* for advanced defensive training?” No. Some will also ask, “Does competition provide a method of training on skills transferable to other situations?” I would suggest the answer is yes.

Just as dry-fire and simulations add value to a defensive skillset, so does competitive shooting. Once a shooter adds competition to their shooting repertoire, they seem much more likely to continue being active in the sport of their choice. In other words, they shoot more—and that goes a long way toward negating the absence of value in a gun not carried and training never taken.

In the end, both of my initial reasons for declining to compete were, in my opinion, inaccurate. It proved to be very easy to start competing, and though not a replacement for other methods of defensive training, I found I was shooting more often and utilizing similar skills. In short, why hadn't I started doing this a long time ago?

NEED A PLACE TO START? TRY A GSSF MATCH

What type of competition should you enter? The easiest answer is the one that you will go to. That often means the match closest to where you live. Check your local range to see if they have any house leagues or shooting matches and, if so, make it a point to attend the next shoot. Remember that any firearms competition will be more welcoming and less intimidating than you likely imagine. Take the plunge and let those more experienced help you acclimate. Let the folks running the match know you are competing for the first time, and feel free to ask questions.

I'd encourage you, in particular, to see if there are GSSF events in your area. GSSF is great for new competitors, as these matches have been specifically designed to be less intimidating for novices. For instance, you'll shoot from the “low-ready” position, so there's no drawing from a holster. Nor is there foot movement or shooting from or around cover as you'll find in competitions such as IPSC, IDPA, and 3-Gun. You will need little in the way of gear, so forget the notion that you need to invest a lot of money to begin shooting competitively. Best of all, while GSSF matches are welcoming to new competitors, more experienced shooters will still find the courses of fire to be challenging.

There are two options when it comes to participating in GSSF matches: indoor leagues and outdoor matches.

GSSF OUTDOOR: FUN IN THE SUN

Outdoor competitions, generally taking place over a weekend, include three separate courses of fire against steel and paper targets set at varying ranges. They use time for score, with time penalties for misses. Outdoor matches have more firearm categories than the GSSF Indoor League, with categories based on firearm frame size and caliber, and there are also divisions based on skill, occupation, and demographics. You can find an annually-updated listing of the year's outdoor matches at gssfonline.com/match-info.cfm. While there, click on the "Registration" tab and sign up for an event you want to attend. You can also register the day of the event, but registering online beforehand is faster.

On the day of the match, once you've been given the match registration materials, you will sign in for your shooting order at each of the three courses of fire for each gun or category you are shooting. Don't be shy about asking any of the volunteers for clarifications. Once signed up for the three courses, you'll shoot each to obtain a single score incorporating the three runs. You'll repeat this for any additional GLOCKS you've chosen to compete with, obtaining that consolidated score for each pistol.

The three courses of fire at a GSSF outdoor match include "Five to GLOCK," "GLOCK M," and "GLOCK the Plates." Depending on the range facility, target distance and placement may vary, but the three courses of fire will generally follow these guidelines:

- **Five to GLOCK**—This stage consists of three 10-round runs shooting two rounds each at five paper targets set up at ranges varying from 5 to 25 yards. You will need three magazines to shoot this stage.
- **GLOCK M**—This stage will generally use four paper targets and a single steel target set at ranges varying from 7 to 15 yards. As with "Five to GLOCK," there will be three strings of fire with two rounds on each paper target and a single round to drop the steel target. Additional rounds may be used to ensure the steel target falls. You will need three magazines to shoot this stage.
- **GLOCK the Plates**—This final stage consists of four strings of fire on a rack of six, 8-inch steel plates set 11 yards from the shooter. The shooter can take up to 11 shots to drop all six plates. You will need four magazines to shoot this stage.

As I've said, you won't need much gear for any GSSF match, but there are some preparations you'll want to make. You'll want your magazines loaded ahead of time to a maximum of 11 rounds for standard frames, seven rounds for pistols in the Pocket or Major Sub categories. You'll need to remember that there are penalties for extra hits on paper targets, so feel free to ask for advice, for instance, should you load to 10 and eliminate the chance of an extra hit, or load the full 11 in case you have a miss. You can reload between each course of fire, so while 10 loaded magazines in your gear bag would be ideal, four magazines per gun will suffice to complete the match.

GSSF INDOOR: GOING THE DISTANCE

In addition to the outdoor GSSF competitions, GSSF Indoor leagues provide a super-easy way to get started in competitive shooting. With these matches, you'll fire a total of 50 rounds across five, 10-round, 15-second "heats" at paper

targets set at varying ranges. The indoor matches have fewer gun categories for participation than outdoor matches, another factor that makes getting involved easier. For gear, you will be expected to have your GLOCK, magazines, 50 rounds of ammo, and eye and ear protection. That's it!

Indoor GSSF shoots are conducted as a league, with three matches taking place over a period of time, most commonly a week or month. You will need to attend two of the three scheduled matches to be considered for placement in the final scoring (best two matches) and for a chance at winning a free gun.

Though it may vary slightly from range to range, when it is time to shoot, the range safety officers (RSOs) will usually bring you out to the range and have you "stage" your first gun in a bay. This means your firearm will be removed from your shooting bag and placed on the bench unloaded, action open, and with the muzzle pointed downrange. You will also place your loaded magazines and extra rounds you might need for reloading on the bench. You'll then step back from the bench.

When the RSO is ready to have you start the course of fire, he or she will state, "Shooters, approach the bench." After you have done so, they will say, "Shooters, load and make ready." That is your command to load a magazine in your GLOCK, rack the slide to chamber a round, get into your stance on the firing line, and set your grip with the gun pointed downrange in some form of low-ready (i.e., your sights will not yet be on target). Next, you will hear, "Shooters, are you ready?" You will nod accordingly if so, and then you'll hear, "Shooters, stand by."

You are now waiting for an audible electronic signal at this point (or a verbal "Shoot" command). Once you hear that, you will have a set time and number of rounds to fire (generally 10 rounds in 15 seconds, five rounds if shooting in the Pocket category). Another tone or a verbal "Cease fire" command ends that heat.

Your gun's slide should be locked back at this point. If not, keep the gun pointed downrange and signal to the RSO. They will have you drop your magazine, rack the slide to empty the chamber, and lock the slide back. If your slide is locked back as it should be, you'll remove the empty magazine, then place the gun down on the bench with action open before stepping back. The range staff will then move the targets out to the next distance. The sequence repeats until competitors have shot at five distances. Target distances for indoor GSSF leagues can vary but are generally between three and 25 yards. If you are unsure about distances or the course of fire, always ask for clarification.

Indoor GSSF leagues utilize the NRA D1 target with the center ring counting as 10 points per hit and counting as an "X" for ties. The second ring is 10 points (but no X), third ring eight points, and the remainder of the target field earns five points. The grey border and misses earn zero points. Your final score is based on hits within the allotted time of each heat, and with 50 rounds for the entire match, the max score is 500 for stock and unlimited categories. The Pocket category fires just five shots at each distance, still in 15 seconds, and has a max score of 250. After the five distances have been completed and the RSOs have collected your targets, you will be asked by the RSOs to either stage your next gun if you're shooting multiple GLOCKS or to pack up your gear.

Regardless the type of competitions offered at your local ranges, stop making excuses and start competing sooner rather than later. Yes, right now, look up your local ranges, find a competition and sign up—you won't for a minute be sorry you made that choice. 🎯

The author would like to thank Jim Gaff for his assistance and inspiration in the writing of this article.



Blake Miguez is photographed here in 2018 as he won first place in the 2018 Gunny Challenge. Blake trains hard, and clearly it pays off.

PRACTICE SMARTER, NOT HARDER

A FOCUS ON SKILLS WELL EXECUTED, RATHER THAN THOUSANDS OF ROUNDS SENT DOWNRANGE, IS THE KEY TO PERFECTING MARKSMANSHIP AND SUCCEEDING AT GSSF MATCHES.

■ ARTICLE BY CHRIS EDWARDS ■ PHOTOS BY ANDRE M. DALL'AU

In succeeding at any endeavor, a sensible and highly recommended task to undertake would be to practice the anticipated activity. Becoming a skilled marksman is no exception to this, and that means time spent punching holes in targets. GLOCK Sport Shooting Foundation (GSSF) matches are a great way to do just that, and they provide great entertainment at the same time. To get the most out of these shoots, you'll need to focus on three things: mental preparation, fundamental practice through dry-firing, and perfecting basic firing drills.

THE MENTAL GAME

A cursory review of sports psychology theory reveals that positive thinking or visualization is important to success for the task at hand. When it comes to shooting, many top competitors will visualize how they'll complete their run through a stage or shooting a particular string of fire—which target will they address first, when should they perform a reload, etc. GSSF matches, being simplistic in design, require a less engineered approach. In other words, keep it as simple as possible.

Before the match, in a quiet place, run the entire match day through your head. See yourself arriving at the match, safely retrieving your equipment and ammunition, and running through the courses of fire. If you are new to the game, come a bit early and watch how others run the stages. Then, as it's your turn on the line and before the start signal, think through a "good" run—and do this regardless of your skill level. When I'm shooting GSSF matches, I work to clear my mind of distractions by focusing on just two basics: a clear front sight superimposed on the target and smooth trigger manipulation.

TEACH THE MIND, TEACH THE BODY

Dry-firing is the safe manipulation of a firearm without live ammunition present. To do this kind of practice successfully,

safety is of paramount importance. Triple check that you have no ammunition in your gun or in your practice area, and even then, be sure that you're aiming your empty firearm at a safe backstop.

Some competitors will create elaborate setups of miniature targets for their dry-fire practice sessions, and if you are so inclined, that's perfectly acceptable. Or you can tape a piece of printer paper with a hand-drawn bull's-eye on it to the wall of your choice. As far as the actual dry-firing goes, one does not have to have hours-long sessions. Truly, a few minutes of practicing good habits can yield results. Pick a spot on a safe surface and practice bringing up your (empty) GLOCK from a ready position to see that the sights are properly aligned on the place you'd want to hit. Now manipulate the trigger without disturbing your sight picture. Repeat perhaps 10 times, maybe two or three times a week. The benefits will be readily apparent.

LIVE CONFIRMATION

Dry-firing is a great and cheap way to practice, but you still need live-fire work. Again, for shooting GSSF matches, keep it simple and look to reinforce good skills at first. Place a paper target at 5 yards initially, then shoot one or two rounds. When those rounds reliably go where you want them, add distance. Remember, in GSSF, accuracy is important—just as it is with so many things in life. Practice smarter, not harder, and you'll find success. ☉





Happy competitors with awards and prizes at the completion of their GSSF Indoor League Series. Photo Courtesy of Bill Briggman

GLOCK SPORT SHOOTING FOUNDATION'S INDOOR LEAGUE SERIES

FOR SHOOTERS AND RANGES ALIKE, GETTING INVOLVED IN GLOCK'S COMPETITIVE SERIES IS BOTH EASY AND TERRIFIC FUN.

■ ARTICLE BY STEPHANIE PADGETT

The GLOCK Sport Shooting Foundation (GSSF) Indoor League was designed to introduce new shooters to the shooting sports in a safe, fun, and family-oriented manner. The GSSF Indoor League gives members of all skill levels more opportunities to shoot than outdoor matches, and currently has more than 200 shooting series per year taking place all across the United States.

GETTING STARTED: JOIN GSSF

To shoot in the GSSF Indoor League you must first become a GSSF member. The easiest way to join is to go to gssfonline.com, click on the "Register" tab at the top of the page, then follow the link to join. You can also print out the registration form and fax it to (770) 437-4719, email it to gssf@glock.us, or mail it to:

GSSF
6000 Highlands Parkway
Smyrna, GA 30082

Have the urge to grab your GLOCK and head to tomorrow's match? Not a problem, because you can even join GSSF at the host range the day of the match.

When you join GSSF, you'll receive a membership packet that includes a small pistol bag, a welcome letter, your membership card, and other promotional fan items. If you join GSSF for two years or longer (or if you renew your membership) you will also

"For ranges, one of the biggest benefits to joining the GSSF Range Program is that the range can purchase a minimum of five GLOCKS per year to use as rental guns."

GLOCK ANNUAL 2020 35

“Competitors joining or renewing their GSSF membership for two years or longer receive a coupon good for a discount on one pistol purchase per calendar year of membership.”

receive a coupon good for a discount on one pistol purchase per calendar year of your membership. This allows you to purchase a Blue Label GLOCK from a GLOCK law enforcement dealer. Additional details regarding the GSSF pistol purchase program can be found under the “Hot Topics” tab on the GSSF website.

HOSTING GSSF INDOOR LEAGUE SHOOTS

To host a GSSF Indoor League Series, a firearms range is first required to join the GLOCK Range Program. One of the biggest benefits to ranges joining the GSSF Range Program, in addition to gaining new customers and seeing increased range use, is that the range can purchase a minimum of five GLOCKS per year to use as rental guns. For more information on how to take part in the firearms purchase benefit of the GLOCK Range Program, email gsdinfo@glock.us.

Once your range has joined the GLOCK Range Program and is ready to start holding league matches, the next thing to do is to contact, Stephanie Padgett, at (770) 319-4780 or stephanie.padgett@glock.us to schedule your series. The fee to host a GSSF Indoor League Series is \$500 per series; a series consists of three match dates of the range’s choosing.

In return for the host fee, the host range will receive a GLOCK pistol certificate to give away randomly at the end of their series. They will also receive a GLOCK range kit, which includes six GLOCK hats, three GLOCK field knives, three GLOCK T-shirts, eight plaques or eight travel mugs, one box of NRA-D1 targets, two advertising posters, and all the paperwork needed to run your series. The GSSF Indoor League Match Coordinator will mail all these supplies to the host Range a month before the first match date. GSSF will share the event on its website and Facebook page for increased visibility. Additionally, email notifications will be sent to GSSF shooting members notifying them of the GSSF Indoor League Series in their area.

SHOOTERS READY

The host range will need to provide the manpower to run its GSSF Indoor League Series. This usually takes three to four people. The range will need someone to help with the intake paperwork (collect the fees and handle the completed membership and liability waiver forms) and hand out score sheets and targets, someone to run the match (a Range Safety Officer running the firing line and timer), and someone to record the scores. The host range can dedicate as many lanes as it would like when hosting its GSSF Indoor Series. It is up to the host range to decide the dates and times of the series, and the host ranges generally charge \$10 to \$20 per entry. That money goes back to the host range.

After each match is completed, the host range will mail all the membership and liability waiver forms, along with any payments collected for new or renewed GSSF memberships, to the GSSF Indoor League Match Coordinator at:

**GSSF, Attn: Stephanie Padgett
PO BOX 1254
Smyrna, GA 30081**



Meghan Lowery, Range Safety Officer, preps competitors on the line ready to shoot a string. Photo Courtesy of Dr. Joel T. Nadler



GSSF competitors find great camaraderie when they gather, just like family. Photo Courtesy of Dr. Joel T. Nadler

At the end of the Indoor League Series, the host range sends the final score sheet back for posting to the GSSF website at gssfonline.com/IndoorLeague/ViewtheWinners under the links “View the Winners” and “Perfect Shooters.”

GSSF INDOOR DIVISIONS

There are three divisions for the GSSF Indoor League Series: Stock, Unlimited, and Pocket GLOCK. Each competitor can shoot each division as many times as they would like but only the first gun that they shoot will count for scoring in each division. Each additional gun competed with does have the benefit of giving them an extra entry for the GLOCK pistol raffle at the end of the series. The complete list of the GSSF Indoor League Series rules is available at gssfonline.com/IndoorLeague tab under the “What is a GSSF League?” link, as well as at the bottom of the homepage under “GSSF Current Rules.”

Competitors are eligible to shoot a Perfect 500 in Stock division as long as it is on a course of fire that allows a perfect score, or they can shoot a Perfect 250 using a Pocket GLOCK (GLOCK 42 or GLOCK 43). A “500” or “250” embroidered jacket patch will be awarded to those who shoot a perfect score with an eligible GLOCK, and their name will be listed on the GSSF website as a Perfect Shooter and printed in the GLOCK Report.

At GLOCK, we are proud to promote the GLOCK Sport Shooting Foundation, and we encourage all members to shoot in a GSSF Indoor League Series regardless their skill level. We are certain that you will have a great time and be excited to come back for more.

For more information on how your range can host a GSSF Indoor League Series, visit gssfonline.com/indoor-league-how.cfm. For more information on joining GSSF and registering to compete in GSSF Indoor League matches, visit gssfonline.com/registration.cfm. ☺

2020 GSSF MATCH SCHEDULE

*Subject to change

DATE	MATCH NAME	HOST CLUB	WEBSITE	RANGE ADDRESS/CONTACT
JAN 4-5	Homestead GLOCK Challenge IV	Homestead Training Center	shootatc.com	11700 SW 304 St., Homestead, FL 33033; ricklunds@gmail.com
JAN 11-12	The East Ascension GSSF Challenge IV	East Ascension Practical Shooters	eapsclub.org	9134 S. St. Landry Dr., Gonzales, LA 70737; keith_lemoine@yahoo.com
JAN 25-26	Smokin' GLOCK Southwest Regional III	The Smokin' Gun Range	www.thesmokingunclub.com	970 E. Peppermill Palms Blvd., Littlefield, AZ 86432; thesmokingunclub@gmail.com
FEB 1-2	Volusia County GSSF Match III	Volusia County Gun & Hunt Club	volusiacountygunclub.com	4846 E. SR 44, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168; mrgklf@gmail.com
FEB 8-9	Charleston GLOCK Challenge X	Palmetto Gun Club	palmettogunclub.org	761 Summers Dr., Ridgeville, SC 29472; h8spvmt@gmail.com
FEB 22-23	Northern Florida Regional Classic VII	Talon Range	talontraininggroup.com	550 Commerce Blvd Midway, FL 32343; charlie@talontraining.com
FEB 29-MAR 1	Benton Gun Club GSSF Challenge V	Benton Gun Club	bentongunclub.org	5522 Mt. Olive Cutoff Road Bauxite, AR 72011; howard81@sbcglobal.net
MARCH 7-8	The Ouachita Regional Challenge X	Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Public Range	.opso.net/public-range/	W. Sanitary Landfill Rd., West Monroe, LA 71292; bacleopso@hotmail.com
MAR 13-15	River Bend Ballistic Challenge XIII	River Bend Gun Club	rbgc.org	234-240 River Bend Gun Club Rd., Dawsonville, GA 30534; roadkill751@yahoo.com
MAR 14-15	Northern California GLOCK Challenge XII	Yolo Sportsmans Association	Yolosportsmens.org	24001-25799 Aviation Ave., Davis, CA 95616; roncyn94@jps.net
MAR 21-22	Delaware State GSSF Challenge V	Bridgeville Rifle & Pistol Club	bville-rifle-pistol.org	10409 Rifle Range Rd., Bridgeville, DE 19933; rj7257866@gmail.com
MAR 28-29	Sweet Home Alabama GLOCK Challenge VIII	Central Alabama Gun Club	centralalabamagunclub.com	34791 County Road 2, Shorter, AL 36075; joe.peel@gmail.com
APRIL 4-5	CTA Ballistic Challenge	California Tactical Academy	ctala.com	6700 Holser Canyon Rd., Piru, CA 93040; laura@ctala.com
APRIL 4-5	Table Rock Challenge XIII	Burke County Narcotics Task Force	N/A	2500 Marsh Trl., Morganton, NC 28655; Alex.Cobb@glock.us
APRIL 18-19	Gem State Classic VI	Nampa Rod & Gun club	nragc.com	7990 Bennet Rd., Nampa, ID 83686; philsauter36@gmail.com
APRIL 25-26	Western Wisconsin GLOCK Classic VI	Holmen Rod & Gun Club	holmenrodandgunclub.com	W7503 County Road T, Holmen, WI 54636; brian.swartling@gmail.com
APRIL 25-26	Lone Star Classic XXVI	Dallas Pistol Club	dallaspistolclub.com	1830 W. Belt Line Rd., Carrollton, TX 75006; chuck.hasley@ambius.com
MAY 2-3	"This is Sparta" Challenge IX	World Shooting Complex	dnr.illinois.gov/recreation/WSRC	1 Main Event Ln., Sparta, IL 62286; bartcarson71@gmail.com
MAY 2-3	Corn Huskers Classic XII	Heartland Public Shooting Park	grand-island.com	6788 W. Husker Hwy., Alda, NE 68810; billst@grand-island.com
MAY 16-17	Northern Lakes Regional Classic XXIX	Oakdale Gun Club	oakdalegunclub.org	10386 10th St. N., Lake Elmo, MN 55042; mdmurphy@frontier.com
MAY 16-17	Music City Shootout X	Music City Tactical Shooters	mctscub.com	30 Elk Ridge Rd., Mt. Pleasant, TN 37055; jmbresson@hotmail.com
MAY 30-31	Rockcastle Classic VIII	Rockcastle Shooting Center	rockcastleshootingcenter.com	585 Park Mammoth Rd., Park City, KY 42160; nobnoble@bellsouth.net
MAY 30-31	Big Sioux Ballistic Challenge IX	Big Sioux Rifle & Pistol Club	sdsportsmens.org	25951 484th Ave., Valley Springs, SD 57068; safearmstraining@gmail.com
JUNE 6-7	GLOCK Fire on the Mountain VI	Daisytown Sportsmen's Club	daisytownsportsmensclub.com	198 Fulmer Rd., Johnstown, PA 15904; mouseclicks@atlanticbb.net
JUNE 6-7	Beaver State Ballistic Challenge XXV	Chehalem Valley Sportsman's Club	cvsc.us	9401 NE Worden Hill Rd., Dundee, OR 97115; chuck@andersontactical.com
JUNE 13-14	Montana GLOCK Classic XV	Western Montana F & G Association	wmfga.org	101-329 Deer Creek Rd., Missoula, MT 59802; sdbair@yahoo.com
JUNE 13-14	Emerald Coast GLOCK Classic	Southern Tactical Range	southerntacticalrange.com	4418 Cooper Ln., Holt, FL 32564; curtispbo@gmail.com
JUNE 20-21	Garden State Regional Classic XXVI	Central Jersey Rifle & Pistol Club	cjrpc.org	161 S. Stump Tavern Rd., Jackson, NJ 08527; MrGlock89@aol.com
JUNE 27-28	ROCK The GLOCK	The Dead Zero Shooting Park	deadzeroshooting.com	1195 TN-111 Spencer, TN 38585; shaun@deadzeroshooting.com
JULY 11-12	Scarborough Fish & Game Annual GSSF Match III	Scarborough Fish & Game Association	scarfg.org	21 Fish & Game Ln., Scarborough, ME 04074; pfm1911@gmail.com
JULY 11-12	Couer D'Alene GLOCK Classic	Fernan Rod & Gun Club	frgc.org	11400 E. Fernan Lake Rd., Couer D'Alene, ID 83814; timmc68@gmail.com
JULY 18-19	Buckeye State Ballistic Challenge XVIII	Ft. Harmar Rifle Club	fortharmer.com	3120 Fifteen Mile Creek Rd., Wingett Run, OH 45789; gunstock@hughes.net
JULY 18-19	The Sunflower State Classic VIII	Trigger Guard	triggerguardonline.com	313 N. Meridian Rd., Wellington, KS 67152; mike@triggerguardonline.com
JULY 25-26	Great Lakes Regional Classic XVI	Livingston Gun Club	livingstongunclub.org	2406-2412 Hunter Rd., Brighton, MI 48114
JULY 25-26	Pacific Coast Challenge XIV	Albany Rifle & Pistol Club	arpc.info	29999 Saddle Butte Rd., Shedd, OR 97377; jimh714@earthlink.net
AUG 1-2	Virginia Ballistic Challenge II	Triangle Sportsmen's Club	triangleonline.org	770 Triangle Rd., Bluefield, VA 24605; rlmartin65@yahoo.com
AUG 1-2	Northwestern Regional Classic XXV	Jefferson County Sportsmen's Assn.	jeffersoncountysportsmen.org	112 Gun Club Rd., Port Townsend, WA 98368; pt9baja@gmail.com
AUG 8-9	Magic City GLOCK Challenge V	Billings Rod & Gun Club	billingsrodandgun.org	2931 Rod & Gun Club Rd., Billings, MT 59106; robert.grayson@icloud.com
AUG 8-9	Rocky Mountain Regional Classic XXVI	Weld County Fish & Wildlife Range	wcfw.org	38980 County Road 51, Eaton, CO 80615; wayneseale@hotmail.com
AUG 15-16	Keystone State Ballistic Challenge XXIV	Topton Fish & Game Association	toptonfga.org	26 Tina Ln., Mertztown, PA 19539; iciletti@gmail.com
AUG 15-16	Eastern Nebraska GLOCK Classic V	Eastern Nebraska Gun Club	engc.us	12700 NE-66 (Hwy. 66), Louisville, NE 68037; cmzeeb@gmail.com
AUG 22-23	Midwest Regional Classic XXVIV	Green Valley Rifle & Pistol Club	gvshoot.com	4350 E. Academy Rd., Hallsville, MO 65255; amanda.jo.brown88@gmail.com
AUG 22-23	Northern California Regional Classic XXVII	Richmond Rod & Gun Club	richmondrodandgun.com	3155 Goodrick Ave., Richmond, CA 94801; rmcknig@ur.com
AUG 29-30	Twin Tiers Regional Classic VI	Pine City Sportsmens Club	pinecitysportsmensclub.com	187 Mountain View Dr., Pine City, NY 14871; alan@rusticwoods.net
AUG 29-30	Belton Blast	Belton Gun Club	beltongunclubinc.wildapricot.org	153 Range Rd., Belton, SC 29627; goodfellowdon@aol.com
SEP 18-20	GLOCK Annual Shoot XXVII- Gunny Challenge XVI	Civilian Marksmanship Program	thecmp.org	4387 Turner Mill Rd., Talladega, AL 35160; jhardy@thecmp.org
SEP 26-27	Badger State Regional Classic XIV	Schultz Resort Rod & Gun Club	schultzgunclub.com	W146 S8025 Schultz Ln., Muskego, WI 53150; garywblum@yahoo.com
OCT 3-4	Showdown at Big Creek IX	Mobile County Sheriff's Office Range	mobileso.com	12251 Tanner Williams Rd., Mobile, AL 36608; dcrobinson@mobileso.com
OCT 10-11	Atomic City GSSF	Los Alamos Sportsmans Club	la-sc.org	Rendija Rd., Los Alamos, NM 87544; das32985@gmail.com
OCT 17-18	Bluegrass Regional Classic XXIII	Bluegrass Sportsmens League	bgsllinc.com	2431-2445 Handys Bend Rd., Wilmore, KY 40390; kygsf@gmail.com
OCT 24-25	Hoosier State Regional Classic XXIII	Atlanta Conservation Club	atlantaconservationclub.com	29595 Leonard Rd., Atlanta, IN 46031; glock17202634@yahoo.com
NOV 7-8	Duel in the Desert XIV	Tucson Rifle Club	tucsonrifleclub.org	18303 W. Tucson-Ajo Hwy., Tucson, AZ 85735; ssdnkld15@aol.com
NOV 7-8	The GLOCK Showdown in Savannah III	17 South Rod & Gun Club	17southrngclub.com	5899 N. Coastal Hwy., Fleming, GA 31309; arpeters82@yahoo.com
NOV 14-15	GLOCK West Coast Challenge V	Calguns Shooting Sports Association	cgssa.org	22100 East Fork Rd., Azusa, CA 91702; facob@rasxon.net
DEC 5-6	"Remember the Alamo" Ballistic Challenge XXV	Blackhawk Shooting Range	blackhawkshootingrange.com	12137-12195 Jarratt Rd., Atascosa, TX 78002; bobby@blackhawkmalinois.com



GLOCK CAREERS A GATEWAY TO SUCCESS

**GLOCK'S PRODUCTS ARE UNRIVALED IN REPUTATION,
BUT IT'S THE PASSION BEHIND THE BRAND THAT ENSURES EVERY
GLOCK OWNER GETS THE MOST OUT OF THEIR HANDGUN.**

■ ARTICLE BY ANDRE M. DALL'AU ■ PHOTOS COURTESY OF GLOCK

Over 30 years ago, Gaston Glock designed and produced the revolutionary GLOCK pistol with its polymer frame and SAFE-ACTION® System that forever changed the international gun industry. He also created a gateway to success not only for shooters, but for the team of people who produce his firearms.

While GLOCK uses a proprietary blend of complex alloys, steel, and polymers, all shaped by state-of-the-art, computer-controlled machines to make the world's best firearm, the most valued element at GLOCK, Inc., is the hundreds of workers who comprise the GLOCK family. Whether they are on the loading dock, in an office, are skilled technicians or machinists on the shop floor, product handlers packing and shipping pistols to waiting customers, instructors at the GLOCK training facility, or sales managers working one-on-one with customers, they are the heart and soul of GLOCK. Let's meet a few:



MEGAN WEST—BEST FRIEND TO RANGES AND RETAILERS

As one of GLOCK's Commercial Sales Managers, Megan West reaches out to commercial customers to ensure they are being provided the highest quality product and the world's best self-defense weapon. Megan travels most days of the week to

dealers, ranges, trade shows, and GLOCK Day events, even dropping by gun shops just to chat. She also handles a number of special events, including Florida's S.W.A.T. Round-Up, and various distributor shows. She noted, "Even though we do not sell dealer-direct, we show and educate people about our products and take orders for the distributors."

As she travels, Megan spends time mapping out stores and ranges to visit. "I make sure that dealers, especially if they are brand new, have my contact information so they have a person to talk to for anything they might need or questions they have."

Megan highlighted a real advantage for retailers: the GLOCK Stocking Dealer Program. "Part of the Stocking Dealer Program," she explained, "is that each dealer receives a promotional package of shirts, hats, and other items, as well as a seat in a GLOCK Armorer's Course for one employee and a listing on the GLOCK Dealer Locator." I asked Megan what is required for a dealer to participate and she answered, "All that is needed is a yearly first-quarter purchase of a minimum of five and a maximum of 20 pistols to qualify."

Megan added that any range open to the public can get a similar deal, so every year they can have new GLOCK pistols as rentals. And there's an added advantage when they get involved in the indoor GLOCK Sport Shooting Foundation (GSSF) league. Megan said, "A great marriage is when indoor ranges also sign up for the GSSF Indoor League where they



The lobby of GLOCK's U.S. headquarters features a beautiful historical representation of the progress and development of GLOCK products.

have to host three GSSF matches to qualify. Those matches bring GSSF shooters from all over into their shops and ranges." Megan noted that the simplicity and consistency of GSSF allows for both new and experienced shooters to participate in competitive pistol shooting, adding, "It is a real gateway to competition. They don't need a holster or extra gear other than what comes in their GLOCK's box, so shooters can tip-toe into competitive shooting!"



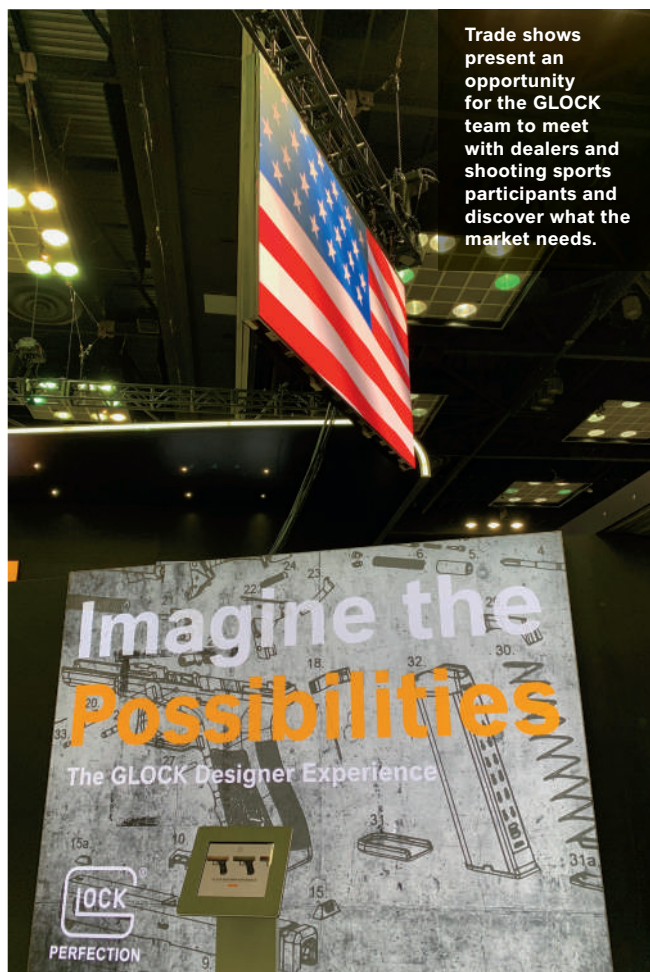
DEON MARTIN—SUPPORTING LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES OF THE SOUTHEAST

To support the law enforcement side of the house, competition shooter Deon Martin tends to the needs of law enforcement agencies in the Southeastern United States. I met up with him at a demonstration he organized for Georgia's Chatham County Sheriff's Office. Deon demonstrated the capabilities and effectiveness of the agency's newly acquired GLOCK 45 pistols. Team GLOCK's Captain Shane Coley and incredible team shooter Ashley Rheuark joined to assist him. The two-day demo provided ample time for Deon, Ashley, and Shane to markedly and demonstratively help the deputies attending the demo improve their skills.

Before joining GLOCK, Deon was a sworn deputy at a Florida agency, then worked overseas in intelligence. Once he returned stateside, he got into competitive shooting, received a sponsorship from GLOCK, racked up a string of wins, including multiple Florida State IDPA Championships, took top honors at the International Police games, including a gold medal in 2008, and was a consistent top-five finisher in many other state and regional competitions. Deon was hired by GLOCK in 2014, and today he serves as the District Manager for Law Enforcement for Georgia and Alabama. He talked to me about his weekly routine.

"I'm on the road three or four nights a week visiting one of over 1,200 agencies or one of my five distributors, attending sheriff's conferences, or doing a special demo event for GLOCK products." Explaining how GLOCK is so well received and valued by his police customers, he told me, "Nobody else in the industry has a service model like we do. Compared to all other companies, we have a much larger group of representatives nationwide dedicated just to taking care of our law enforcement users, especially after the sale. Since GLOCK has such a large portion of the law enforcement market with 65 to 70

"The legendary reliability, accuracy, and ease of maintenance of the GLOCK pistol does all the selling for me and allows me to concentrate on our focus of ensuring great service after the sale."



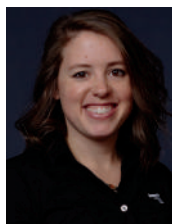
Trade shows present an opportunity for the GLOCK team to meet with dealers and shooting sports participants and discover what the market needs.



Decades of research, continued testing, assembly and production are some of the reasons why GLOCK is the top pistol of choice. GLOCK's dedicated worldwide employees help to continue to provide the quality our customers demand.

percent of the agencies in the Southeast, our large number of representatives serving smaller numbers of customers provides our desired world-class customer service."

Deon explained the real basis for his and GLOCK's success is that "I really don't have to sell the product. The legendary reliability, accuracy, and ease of maintenance of the GLOCK pistol does all the selling for me and allows me to concentrate on our focus of ensuring great service after the sale. No other gun company can provide that as GLOCK does." I asked him how often he gets a chance to visit his office. He just smiled and pointed to his Ford F150 pickup: "That's my office!"



CARLIE WINEGAR—A WORLDWIDE FORCE

Energetic and enthusiastic, Carlie Winegar was a sworn federal wildlife officer before coming to GLOCK. Now she is GLOCK's Export Manager, handling international sales involving contracts, commerce, licensing, and delivery of products worldwide, with those contracts

being some of the largest for the company.

"I wanted to work with a like-minded [law enforcement] company and found that people here feel the same way and do so much to benefit the military and law enforcement. I enjoy working with a company that has its heart in the right place, and we really do support those defenders who carry our pistols. I really believe in our mission." She added the observation that "GLOCK has hundreds of employees, but it actually has the feel of a small company, because I am free to interact with anyone in any other department, making solving problems and handling issues simple and uncomplicated, because everyone really talks to each other. We all are on the same team and know that the success of the mission is what is important."



JOSH ALISE—YOUNG ENTHUSIASM WORKS MAGIC

One of the newest members of the GLOCK family is Josh Alise, who was hired as a Marketing Associate and handles a variety of tasks including dealing with more than a thousand pistol donation certificates a year from organizations and GSSF competitions. Fresh out of college, with

his first day at GLOCK the day after his graduation, Josh has brought with him an eagerness to learn and provide GLOCK with his best efforts. Of coming on-board with GLOCK, he said, "I have loved every minute of it. I have been to places I never have been before and probably would have never had the opportunity to go, and I've gotten to meet and network with some really great people. I wanted to start with a company where there is an



The GLOCK USA facility has grown into several buildings including a separate training facility that also houses the GSSF administration.



Every GLOCK product is packaged by dedicated GLOCK employees who are committed to the company's mission.

"The most valuable and valued element at GLOCK USA is the hundreds of workers who comprise the GLOCK family."

opportunity for growth, and I am thankful to be here."

I asked him how others could join the GLOCK family. Josh replied, "I saw the job posting on social media and submitted my application, so my advice is to look at our GLOCK USA website (<https://us.glock.com/en/glock-careers>) to see what jobs are available, apply, and then follow up. I know it is hard to be persistent, but I kept in touch and I think it helped."

ONE FAMILY BEHIND THE MISSION

Many of the GLOCK employees are law enforcement professionals, veterans, or family members of veterans. Not only can they relate to operators, warriors, and defenders, like everyone at GLOCK, they are committed to the manufacture and delivery of the best, most reliable firearms that can be used with confidence. Whether they are in engineering, testing, manufacturing, assembling, or shipping, every member of the GLOCK family knows that each pistol that leaves the plant represents the potential to save the life of a friend, fellow service member, or sometimes their sons and daughters. As a result, they take their responsibility seriously and know that the quality work they do and the life-saving tools they produce help their communities, the economy, and our country. They support the mission of GLOCK's commitment to reliable quality, service after the sale, and respect for each employee—and that is why, above all else, working for GLOCK is truly a gateway to success. ☉



#IamGLOCK

GLOCK PROFESSIONAL INSTRUCTORS: TRIAL BY FIRE

IF ONE IS GOING TO TALK THE TALK, THEY BETTER WALK THE WALK.



■ ARTICLE BY CHRIS EDWARDS ■ PHOTOS BY FRANK STEIGER

The GLOCK pistol was revolutionary in its design and performance, and Gaston Glock recognized the possibility that there would be some irrational resistance to such a paradigm changer. The way to conquer fear of the unknown is through training and instruction, thus GLOCK's Training Division was created.

From a few personnel in the early years of the company to now more than a dozen instructors, the professionals of GPI have extensive real-world experience. Drawing from city, state, and federal law enforcement, as well as the United States military, GPI instructors teach both the maintenance (Armorer's Courses) and usage of GLOCK pistols.

From the 1980s through the early 2000s, the focus was on "training the trainers." GPI Instructors taught an Instructors Workshop, developed primarily for law enforcement agency instructors. That workshop was often paired with a GLOCK Armorer's Course. In the Instructors Workshop, a balance between speed and accuracy was sought, with stoppage-reduction exercises and emergency procedures part of the curriculum. Students shot an evaluation course of fire at the course's conclusion.

GPI Instructors themselves would periodically seek outside instruction. However, there was no structured program within GLOCK to build and improve its Instructors' skills. Enter Joseph "Willie" Parent, a U.S. Special Operations Marine and highly-ranked competitive shooter. Taking on the position of Director

of GLOCK Professional, Inc., in 2016, one of his goals was to both provide quality instruction to the division's Instructors and test them for shooting mechanics and marksmanship competency. This approach led to the creation of a new GLOCK Operator Course.

During his first year on the job, Parent introduced his Instructors to the Marine Expeditionary Unit Special Operations Capable—aka MEU(SOC)—pistol qualification course, telling them they would qualify while donning a law enforcement security holster and other duty gear. If one is going to talk the talk, Parent observed, one should be able to walk the walk.

As the program progressed, the evaluation and qualification testing known today as the Operator Standards was developed. Seemingly simple at first glance, the Standards test combat shooting skills on multiple targets with multiple strings of fire to evaluate various critical fundamentals.

Two years on, today's GPI Instructors have posted scores that would qualify them in the special operations community and maintain notable numbers on the Operator Standards. Always looking to further their skills, Instructors attending the latest annual GLOCK Instructors training took part in combat pistol and rifle/carbine training that focused on the skills necessary to effectively transition back and forth between those two weapons. It is a pleasure to report all qualified and look forward to more shooting. To be brilliant in the basics of combat weapon-craft is the objective, and GLOCK Instructors decisively achieve that. ☉

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#IamGLOCK

IamGLOCK

GLOCK OWNERS ARE THE HEART OF WHAT GLOCK DOES. WE'D LIKE TO SHARE A FEW OF THEIR STORIES WITH YOU. IF YOU HAVE YOUR OWN STORY, PLEASE SUBMIT IT ALONG WITH PHOTOS TO WWW.US.GLOCK.COM/EN/IAMGLOCK



FALLEN OFFICER'S WIFE PRESENTED WITH RESTORED DUTY WEAPON

Service. It is a calling that all in law enforcement understand. For many, that calling extends beyond active duty with their agencies to the work they do after hours. From off-duty school officers to private security gigs, their service extends well beyond their tour.

Mark McCullers was one of those cops. A Marine Corps veteran, Mark was a military police officer who continued his career as a police officer for Southern Methodist University, while also working in private security. In addition to his commitment to law enforcement, Mark was equally dedicated to his wife, Tiffany, and their blended family of six children ranging in age from 14 to 23.

It was working his private security job that would forever change the course of Mark's life and his family's. On July 5, 2016, strong storms were rolling across Texas as Mark was performing security duties at a construction site, a job he did to set extra money aside to purchase a trampoline for his children. The surge of the storms caused flash-flooding, and sometime around 1:30 a.m., Mark realized the waters were rising quickly and overtaking his vehicle. He called 9-1-1.

It was too late. The swift and strong current swept Mark's car away.

His vehicle was found 13 hours later during a search operation, nearly half a mile from the construction site. Mark's body would not be recovered for six more weeks.

"I met Tiffany in 2018," said Title Chad Prda, a fellow police officer and friend of the McCullers. "She was talking with my wife about the incident and how she was never presented with Mark's

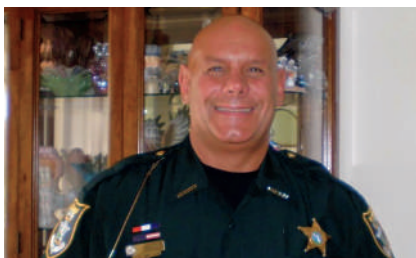
duty weapon. I know what that gesture means to officers and their families, and I knew something had to be done."

Chad made it his mission to recover and restore the weapon for Tiffany. After much research and calling in many favors, he was able to locate and gain possession of the firearm, a GLOCK 17. By then, the two-year anniversary of Mark's death was just two short weeks away.

"I reached out to GLOCK in hopes of obtaining the needed parts to properly restore the weapon," said Chad Lastname. "I was quickly contacted by David Teal, the GLOCK representative for my area. After explaining the situation and sending several pictures of the firearm, David said he'd be at my office the next day with all the needed parts, or, at the very least, he'd ensure the weapon made it to the factory to be quickly repaired."

"Thanks to GLOCK's willingness to help and quick action," said Prda, "I was able to present Tiffany with her husband's duty weapon, two years to the day she lost him. It was a moment none of us will ever forget."

Manufacturers like GLOCK make weapons to help protect the people who protect our citizens and communities. Mark McCullers was one of these special people. As one of the best in the force, with commendations of service for his dedication to his city and SMU, he was the embodiment of passion and dedication. He had immense pride in the badge he wore, but never left the house without telling his wife he loved her. Now, she has his engraved duty weapon as a piece of him to keep with her forever.



THE BEST PISTOL BY FAR

I just want to say the GLOCK 45 9X19 has become my favorite pistol, and I own a lot of GLOCK pistols. (I've been purchasing for myself a few GLOCK pistols nearly every year for my personnel GLOCK collection.) I'm a 33-year career law enforcement officer who carries a GLOCK every day, and it's by far the best pistol I have ever been issued in my career.—Officer James Detkas



BEAR DOWN!

Just wanted to give credit where credit is due. Thank you for making a superior product that is truly reliable. Today, while tracking my friend's moose up in Alaska on Fort Richardson, I was attacked by a 7½-foot Alaskan brown bear. He charged me from 25 feet. By the he'd gotten to 10 feet, I'd engaged by GLOCK 20 10mm with 230-grain bear loads. Thank God the trusty GLOCK pulled through in the clutch—two round and down he went. All my years of training in the Army and your stellar product paid off. Thank you 100-percent.—*Nathan Burns*



CHUCK NORRIS — COMPANY SPOKESMAN

As a company driven by a commitment to perfection, relentless innovation, and disciplined precision, GLOCK has sought a spokesperson who exemplifies the same principles, and in April 2019, it announced legendary world champion martial artist, actor, producer, philanthropist, and entrepreneur Chuck Norris as the company Spokesperson.

"Chuck Norris revolutionized and ushered martial arts into the American mainstream just like GLOCK revolutionized firearms," said Josh Dorsey, Vice President of GLOCK, Inc. "Having him represent the GLOCK brand brings two iconic names together that are mutually committed to perfection and their fan base. We couldn't be more excited about this partnership."

"I'm honored to partner with this world-renowned brand," said Norris. "The values I have built my life and brand on—tough, real, constant, and powerful—are echoed in everything that GLOCK does and creates. Let me put it this way: If I ever decided to go into firearms, there would be no point—I would just be recreating what GLOCK has already built. The only thing that would change is the name."



THE GLOCKS THAT BOND

GLOCK has given me a common bond with my dad, with whom I've historically had very little in common in terms of interests, as well as strengthened the bond I have with my son (who is actually my stepson and in whose life I was not a part of until he was 16). My son is now a police officer in a major American city, and his service weapon is a GLOCK 17. Some of the best days we have together are those we spend on the range emptying our GLOCKS on targets. We live in three different states, but on my last birthday, everyone was in Wisconsin for a visit and we spent time at the range together. GLOCK is a common bond we have, and shooting together and enjoying it is a masculine way of silently saying "I love you."

I love my dad, my son, and my GLOCKS. I use a GLOCK 17 and GLOCK 43, my dad has the GLOCK 19 and GLOCK 42, and my son, of course, has his service GLOCK. Nothing is more consistently reliable than a GLOCK—and my son stakes his life on it.—*William Guilkey*

A DEEP-SIX AND STILL GOING STRONG

I wanted to share that my GLOCK 17 sank in the ocean when I flipped my kayak. It had been submerged there for five months when a fisherman found it and surrendered it to local police department, which then contacted me to pick it up.

Despite all that time in saltwater, the most amazing thing is it still fired! Sure, there was a little rust and corrosion here and there, but all in all it's back to great working condition after a little clean up. I am just really impressed by how tough GLOCKS are—and all the more reason we trust our lives with them.—*Corey Jones, GLOCK Assistant National Sales Manager*





Blue for life: Assistant Range Master and Collier County Sheriff's Office Armorer, Corporal Jim Dillman, looks over his team members. He's been a law enforcement officer for 45 years, 18 of those with the Collier County Sheriff's Office. What he loves most about his career is "Watching a shooter who showed up to the range apprehensive about the training, and left with a renewed sense of confidence." That's dedication. Photo by Frank Steiger

CONFIDENCE ACROSS THE DECADES

WITH FEW GUARANTEES IN LAW ENFORCEMENT, OFFICERS CAN TRUST GLOCK.

■ ARTICLE BY SEAN CURTIS

Relecting on 20 years in law enforcement, I can only marvel at how far things have come. I wasn't working in the 1970s, but the guys from that time were the ones who taught me, the ones who told me how rough it was. Today, I see a lot of that era's challenges repeated, amplified, and driven by forces too complex for this peace officer to understand—and it seems there are fewer things cops can count on now than when I started. But there is one thing in my career that has stood the test of time: GLOCK.

The first gun I purchased as a young reserve deputy was a GLOCK 17 Gen1. I really didn't appreciate what I had at the time—but I would learn. At the academy, my issued firearm was

from a different manufacturer. I struggled with malfunctions and nearly didn't make it through firearms qualification. That left an impression on me. My first seven years on the road I was issued other weapons, but always kept my GLOCK for off-duty.

I learned police are a doughty bunch, responding to life-threatening calls, often to be assaulted by the suspect and the victim. I watched the media hail us some days and criticize us on others. More than anything, though, my education included the lesson, over and over, that I wasn't safe until I got home.

I rose through the ranks, becoming responsible for other deputies. GLOCK was there to see us through S.W.A.T. callouts, no-knock warrants, and armed standoffs. Now, years later, I'm an investigator. I'm also a firearms instructor. Given a choice,

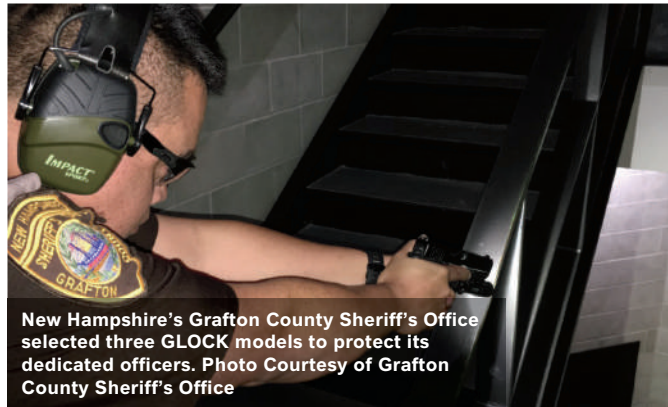




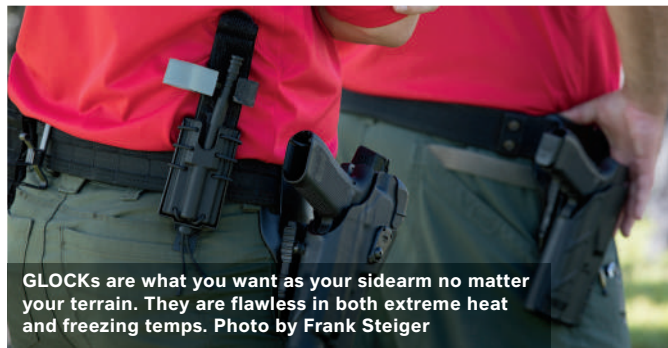
“Cops are some of the toughest skeptics you will ever encounter—it’s an occupational hazard. When we find something that works, we stick with it.”



Florida’s Clearwater P.D. torture-tested many brands and determined GLOCK would protect citizens and officers alike. GLOCKS have been in service for more than 30 years. Photo Courtesy of Clearwater P.D.



New Hampshire’s Grafton County Sheriff’s Office selected three GLOCK models to protect its dedicated officers. Photo Courtesy of Grafton County Sheriff’s Office



GLOCKS are what you want as your sidearm no matter your terrain. They are flawless in both extreme heat and freezing temps. Photo by Frank Steiger



Sergeant Doug Dever is a law enforcement officer with 31 years on the job, including 22 with the Collier County Sheriff’s Office. Photo by Frank Steiger

I carry a GLOCK. I have seen them used for two decades. They are simple, they work reliably, and they are accurate. Plus, over the years they have only gotten better. Cops are some of the toughest skeptics you will ever encounter—it’s an occupational hazard. When we find something that works, we stick with it.

This 2020 Annual has several stories about law enforcement agencies across the United States that trust GLOCK. There are also the tales of GLOCK’s International call to duty. Across the world, roughly 75 percent of police agencies suit up for every shift and holster a GLOCK. There are few guarantees in life, even fewer in law enforcement. With a GLOCK Blue Label Program to soothe our aching pocketbooks and a rock-solid reputation, it’s nice to know GLOCK has our backs. ☺



Corporal Matt Macera of the the Collier County Sheriff’s Office knows nothing other than center-mass shots. Photo by Frank Steiger





Santa Cruz P.D. Deputy Chief Rick Martinez in front of police department headquarters.

SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT CHOOSES THE GLOCK 45

THE OUTSTANDING FEATURES OF GLOCK'S GEN5 PISTOLS—AND A BRAND-NEW MODEL—CATCH THE EYE OF A CALIFORNIA POLICE FORCE LONG ENAMORED WITH GLOCK RELIABILITY.

■ ARTICLE BY LARRY FORD ■ PHOTOS BY SCOTT GARNER

High above the cool surf and warm sand, just 75 miles south of San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge, lies the city of Santa Cruz. Some will know it's near Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, but the city is best known for its historic Beach Boardwalk and one of the world's best seaside amusement parks. The Beach Boardwalk draws thousands of tourists each year to ride the amusement park's vintage rides, which include the 1911 Looft Carousel and the Giant Dipper roller coaster. The city also offers great dining along a historic wharf that stretches into the Monterey Bay. Pacific Avenue offers vintage clothing stores, cafes, and galleries, and the scenic West Cliff Drive reveals stunning views of the shoreline cliffs to wandering motorists. The city also offers higher education, as it is the home to the University of California Santa Cruz.

Protecting this popular seaside city, home to approximately 65,000 residents and the thousands of tourists who stroll its sidewalks and sun themselves on its beaches each year, is the Santa Cruz Police Department. This agency faces numerous community policing challenges while remaining true to its mission statement, which says:

The Santa Cruz Police Department is committed to serving selflessly and compassionately, through collaboration and innovation. We will relentlessly pursue criminals to protect all lives and the property of all within our community. We chose to be transparent and responsive, while striving for excellence.

But despite the agency's goals and the city government's development of a vibrant center for business, recreation and cultural activities, Santa Cruz consistently suffers from property crime and violent crime, ranking it high among the medium and large cities in the state for these problems. Compounding the problem, Santa Cruz also suffers one of the highest homelessness rates in the U.S. A March 2019 article in the *Santa Cruz Sentinel* stated, "According to 'The 2017 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress,' using the area's most up-to-date homeless statistics, the Santa Cruz-Watsonville metro area ranked nationally as having the eighth highest number of homeless persons among small cities/metro areas. The same study had put the county as 10th highest small-city population in 2015." Concerning statistics, for sure.

LOVING THE OLD GLOCK, BUT WANTING SOMETHING NEW?

The city's police department is comprised of 95 officers and staff under the management of Chief Andrew Mills. The department strives to expand its operational capabilities by providing officers with the latest, safest, and most effective equipment. One of the more recent changes to the department's equipment was upgrading from the GLOCK 22 .40 AUTO and GLOCK 17 9X19 service pistols after many years of use.

Deputy Chief Rick Martinez first approached GLOCK at the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) conference in 2018, inquiring about its latest innovations with the Gen5 line of pistols. The firearms training unit, along with its upper management team, was considering a review of the department's GLOCK pistols currently in service. Although the agency was extremely satisfied with the performance and features of its GLOCK 17 and GLOCK 22 Gen4s, it wanted to know more about the Gen5s. Martinez noted that the modular backstraps of the Gen4 GLOCKS allowed a tailored fit to the hands of each officer, and that most officers liked the newer rough-textured frame, known as "RTF4" texture. He also said he liked the dual recoil spring system as it provided a noticeable reduction in felt recoil, and the department's duty pistols were also seeing longer service life because of that recoil spring, resulting in added cost savings to the agency. After his discussion with the GLOCK representatives at IACP, Martinez took this initial review back to the agency, and with that information in hand, the department decided to conduct an extensive test and review of the new GLOCK 45 in 9X19.

NEW GEN5 FEATURES PROVE THEMSELVES IN TESTING

The Santa Cruz P.D. started testing the new G45 with a feasibility study. During that study, Sergeant Scott Garner evaluated the impact the area's environment—salt, water, sand, and fog—and hard daily carry use in mountainous terrain would have on the new GLOCK. He also had to consider new holster options and compare the new AmeriGlo BOLD GLOCK sights.

Adding to Garner's evaluations, the firearms team and upper management leaders would give their attention to the diversity of the department's officers and how they might benefit from the new GLOCK 45. That testing process began with a review of the design changes in the G45 versus the Gen4 G17s and G22s then in use. All the Gen4 features the officers appreciated had carried over to the new Gen5 line of GLOCK pistols, but the Gen5 pistols also offered new features.

Externally, the finger grooves on the front strap of the grip frame have been removed. The front of the slide now has rounded corners to assist in re-holstering, and the mag well opening has been flared for smoother and faster magazine loading. Forward cocking serrations have also been added to the front of the slide, which improves manipulations, and an ambidextrous slide stop lever was added.

Internally, GLOCK's SAFE-ACTION® system remains in its same proven design, but the internal parts that make up the SAFE-ACTION® system have been changed to improve their robustness and longevity. The most notable change is seen in the firing pin safety. It is not only stronger, it also works to create a smoother trigger pull.

With the G45 design review completed, the overwhelming consensus was that its changes from the previous generation would prove beneficial to the longevity and reliability the agency's officers already enjoyed in their current pistols. Now it was time for test-firing.



PHOTO BELOW: Santa Cruz P.D. officers testing their new GLOCK 45s on the range.



The officers of the firearms team conducted head-to-head timed and accuracy testing of the agency's current Gen4 pistols and the new G45. One of the most noticeable improvements was seen in the group size shot with the new G45: This was rightly attributed to the inclusion of the GLOCK Marksman Barrel (GMB). The G45 also proved to be 100-percent reliable with the variety of ammunition tested by the agency.

Next, the agency selected a diverse group of officers to test-fire the new pistol. The overwhelming feedback was a preference for the feel and ergonomics of the G45, even though the balance of the gun was obviously different than their current duty GLOCKS. The G45 pairs a slide the length of a GLOCK 19 slide with a GLOCK 17 frame. Because the G45 is a 9X19, it was easier for the officers testing the new gun to shoot compared to the .40 AUTO G22s riding in many of their holsters. Finally, the reduced learning curve of moving from one GLOCK to another that operates identically was counted as an asset.

The procedures governing the specific firearms requirements and policies for the department are overseen by Deputy Chief Rick Martinez. He and his staff ensure the department's policies meet the highest level of protection for its officers and the community they serve. As a result of the work and testing performed by Martinez, his staff, the firearms team, and the department's many officers, the Santa Cruz P.D. is now authorizing the new G45 9x19 for its officers as a standard sidearm. The decision is in keeping with the city government's mission to enhance the quality of life, safety, and civic pride in the community through responsive, respectful, and efficient public service—and the Santa Cruz P.D. is proud to help lead the way in fulfilling that mission with the new and innovative GLOCK 45 in the hands of its officers. 🟡



Anne Arundel P.D.'s Lieutenant Schultz credited the marked increase in officer performance to the consistent GLOCK trigger, the texture on the grip, and the AmeriGlo BOLD GLOCK sights.

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

CHOOSES GLOCK TO SERVE AND PROTECT

THIS BUSY MARYLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT TRUSTS GLOCKS TO THE MEET THE MANY CHALLENGES OF MODERN LAW ENFORCEMENT HEAD-ON.

ARTICLE BY SEAN CURTIS ■ PHOTOS COURTESY ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Early in 2019, Maryland's Anne Arundel County Police Department decided to make a change in their issued duty weapons. Being a large agency and working under time constraints, the logistics involved were daunting. One of the department's requirements for the upgrade was having a weapons system that included options in sizing without limiting interoperability between officers. The department had used other handgun brands for 20 years, but this time the nod went to GLOCK—and Anne Arundel's officers couldn't be happier.

Anne Arundel County is located in the middle of Maryland, south of Baltimore and just east of Washington, D.C. While only 588 square miles, the county is densely packed with a resident population of around 600,000 citizens and a transient daily population of vacationers and commuters, including many government officials, numbering in the millions. Critical infrastructure in the county, such as the National Security Agency, Chesapeake Bay Bridge, and Baltimore/Washington International Airport, also present myriad challenges for law

enforcement. Calls for service range from the most complex city-based incident you can imagine to something as quaint as loose horses in the road.

The county's police force is closing in on 800 sworn officers who dedicate themselves to protecting citizens and enforcing the laws across four districts laid out in cardinal directions from a centrally-located hub. Specialized support comes from its Criminal Investigations Division, full-time S.W.A.T., Fatal Overdose Unit, Homeland Security, Community Affairs, and Internal Affairs.

"The department had used other handgun brands for 20 years, but this time the nod went to GLOCK—and Anne Arundel's officers couldn't be happier."



“Roughly 750 officers qualified on their new GLOCKS, and out of that number, only one officer—one!—failed to qualify the first time out of the gate with the new firearm.”

EVOLVING TO GLOCK

I spoke with Lieutenant Tim Schultz, Executive Officer of the Training Academy, to learn more about the department's move to GLOCK. He noted that its officers had recently switched from issuing handguns in .40 AUTO to 9X19 thanks to a recent study from the FBI demonstrating the capabilities of the smaller round. That change presented the opportunity to reconsider the handguns behind the caliber. The big challenge: converting the entire department in less than 90 days.

There were other considerations. The agency debated whether to restrict its issue firearm to a single pistol model or allow options. Schultz explained that, in years past, the organization had favored the right gun for the officer over the ability to share magazines. The move to a new handgun brought that discussion to the forefront again.

GLOCK, as you might expect, provided a solution to both sides of the coin, with Anne Arundel County P.D. opting for the GLOCK 17 and GLOCK 19 Gen5s. GLOCK even met a special demand by the Chief, which required one flush-fit magazine for G19s but all other magazines to be the longer G17 version in order to optimize department-wide interoperability. Said Schultz, “GLOCK understood what we were trying to do, and its service was outstanding.”

The choice of model broke down to a 60/40 split, with most officers choosing the G17 Gen5 as their duty weapon. AmeriGlo BOLD sights were provided by GLOCK, a piece of equipment Schultz said was highly recommended based on officer feedback.

THE TRANSITION

Schultz said that when working with GLOCK, the department experienced an extremely fast turnaround. The determination to change handguns was made in January 2019, and by May 5th the transition was complete. Even more impressive? Within 45 days of receiving the new GLOCKS, the academy had issued them and qualified everyone—everyone.

The Lieutenant made some interesting observations as the switch was taking place. He said nearly 750 officers qualified on their new GLOCKS. Out of that number, only one officer—one!—failed to qualify the first time out of the gate with the new firearm. Schultz emphasized that he had witnessed transitions in the past, but to have only one out of 750 not qualify on the first attempt was unheard of. Adding to that, many officers' scores went up as much as 20 percent when GLOCKS were placed in their hands.

Schultz described a few factors that likely contributed to this “marked increase” in performance: the consistent trigger; the AmeriGlo BOLD sights; and the grip. He also noted the transition from .40 AUTO to 9X19 as a factor allowing for more control over recoil.

I asked the Lieutenant how the agency was fixed for armorers. Though a few were on staff, with the new purchase, GLOCK provided Anne Arundel with training for additional armorers. “GLOCK's service has been impeccable,” Schultz said, noting that the department will eventually have around 15 certified armorers on hand.



The department's chief wanted to make sure every officer had magazines that were operable across sidearm models. GLOCK provided two G17 magazines for every firearm, including the G19s.

When I spoke to Lieutenant Schultz about the transition, Anne Arundel's officers had been holstering their new GLOCKS for just 40 days. That's not a long time for most guns, but problems small and large tend to come to light early with hard use by law enforcement. Not with GLOCK. “Mechanically, the gun has performed very well,” Schultz told me. He also explained that the Anne Arundel P.D. conducts a lot of firearms training. Many recruit classes have gone through the academy, and the agency has experienced “no issues whatsoever with the weapons.”

Transitioning an entire 800-officer department to a new sidearm within a few months is an audacious goal, one many firearms manufacturers would have difficulty meeting. With a quality firearm and world-class customer support from a company like GLOCK, however, it can happen seamlessly. ☺



Police agencies must equip a diverse group of officers these days. The Gen5 GLOCKS' interchangeable backstraps allow each officer to customize the grip for a personalized fit.



The Ridgeland Police Department used thousands of rounds of ammunition to not only qualify its officers, but to ensure the highest level of proficiency and comfort with their new GLOCK 45s. Photo courtesy of Sergeant Tim East and the Ridgeland, South Carolina, Police Department

LOW COUNTRY PROTECTORS: SOUTH CAROLINA'S RIDGELAND P.D. GOES GLOCK

**A SMALL-TOWN P.D. THINKS BIG
WHEN IT COMES TO PROTECTING ITS RESIDENTS.**

■ ARTICLE BY ANDRE M. DALL'AU

In the middle of the 19th century, when Carolinians took a train from Charleston to Savannah, they stopped at what was known as Gopher Hill, the highest point between the two cities. As part of General William Sherman's campaign during the Civil War, it was the site of the Battle of Honey Hill, where part of his army was defeated trying to cut the Charleston-to-Savannah railway. The battle actually delayed Sherman's "March to Sea." Later, that "High Point of the Low Country" community was incorporated as the Town of Ridgeland, to be known as the "gateway" to the historic and fertile South Carolina Low Country.

With just over 4,000 residents, Ridgeland boasts small-town charm and a business-friendly environment, as well as one of the most forward-thinking and well-prepared police forces in South Carolina. The Ridgeland Police Department was the first agency to adopt the GLOCK 45 pistol.

Ridgeland P.D. submitted the order within minutes of the G45 being first offered for sale. The reason was simple: The new sidearm, with its compact slide, full-size frame, and all the benefits of a Gen5 model, represented the apex of GLOCK design.

Under the leadership of Chief Richard V. Woods, the Ridgeland Police Department has improved the safety of the

Low Country via a network of cameras that blanket the town, making it virtually impossible to commit a crime in public without detection. As a result, most of the law enforcement issues in the local area are crimes against property, usually related to drugs. Still, Ridgeland has provided its officers thorough training and the best equipment, including the new G45 9X19 pistol, as well as the GLOCK 42 .380 AUTO as a backup and off-duty pistol.

Many consider the G42 was the real genesis of the Gen5 improvements that have made the GLOCK an even better, more reliable and more accurate pistol than previous generations. An inter-departmental memo to Ridgeland P.D.'s Chief, Lieutenant Joseph Ginn, who expended hundreds of rounds in a thorough evaluation of the G42 shooting from various positions, with different grips, and in both slow- and rapid-fire drills, noted that he "was unable to get a malfunction from the weapon, even when I tried by 'limp-wristing' the weapon or by firing the weapon numerous times in rapid succession." Also documented was the accuracy of the GLOCK. "I first attempted to fire slowly. I was able to obtain a 13-shot group at about 1.5 inches at 20 yards. By this time, I had fired over 100 rounds; my hands were not fatigued at all." His strong, empirically-





Corporal Chris Warren is one of the Ridgeland P.D. officers recently issued the GLOCK 45 9X19 pistol. Photo by Author

"The Ridgeland Police Department was the first agency in South Carolina, and maybe the nation, to adopt the GLOCK 45 pistol."

based endorsement came soon after, with Ginn saying, "I am thoroughly impressed with the GLOCK 42 and would have to recommend it to replace ... our issued back-up weapon."

"We really got sold on GLOCK with the G42," Ginn noted. "We first got them for the command staff, to replace our snub-nosed revolvers. We found that it is a whole lot faster [to deliver rounds on target] and the guns were a lot more accurate."

I asked him why his department then swapped to the GLOCK 45 9X19 as its service pistol. He cited improvements built into the Gen5s, including the GLOCK Marksman Barrel (GMB), choice of sights, and crisp trigger, which have increased accuracy. In addition, with the better ballistics of today's 9X19

ammunition, the G45 provides nearly all the effective stopping power of larger pistol calibers.

Capacity was another factor. "One thing we really liked was that our patrol officers, our traffic enforcement officers, instead of carrying 31 rounds now have 52 on their belt," said Ginn. "We are fortunate enough to have officers who know how to shoot, and they appreciate our new G45 pistols."

Ginn continued, "I was with Chief Woods at a local social event recently and the Chief asked one of our guys who was there 'Hey, how you doing? 'How's your gear?' The patrolman, somebody who always speaks his mind, said, 'I want to tell you, when we went to our new [G45s], I didn't think I would like it, but I love it! I can shoot it so much better—it is almost effortless!' I've seen [this patrolman] shoot around 247 or 248 out of a possible 250, so he really does shoot well."

Ginn then passed on a sentiment that was expressed by one of his officers after shooting his newly-issued G45 during the first training session. For a small agency, the Ridgeland P.D. expended more than 3,500 rounds during training, just to get their officers comfortable and competent with their new pistols. As a result, the scores were as high as the officers' enthusiasm, with one saying, "Holy, cow! Why didn't we do this a long time ago?"

Ridgeland P.D. GLOCK Armorer Lieutenant Joseph M. Ginn



Photo by Author

One of several trained GLOCK armorers in the Ridgeland P.D., Lieutenant Joseph Ginn noted, "What I love about the GLOCK is that there is nothing these guys can do to it that can tear it up."

Ginn said that one of the things he learned in the GLOCK armorers' class is how to do a post-maintenance operational check of the firing pin safety. He said, "I finish putting a GLOCK back together, verify

the pistol is safe, chamber is empty, no magazine inserted, and pointed in a safe direction. I depress the set trigger on an empty chamber and listen for the firing pin release, and then shake the pistol and listen that there is no rattle. Then I recock it and shake it again and listen for the faint tic-tic of the firing pin safety inside the frame that tells me it was reassembled properly and that the firing pin safety is operational."

Ginn gave more evidence of the of the purposeful simple design and famed reliability of GLOCK pistols, saying, "Every three years I instruct firearm classes at the police academy and I have seen some real issues with other firearms. But I have never had a breakage or seen any issue or malfunction by a GLOCK."

What really impresses Ginn as an armorer, leader and administrator of the Ridgeland Police Department, is the responsiveness and effectiveness of GLOCK customer service. He said, "If I need something right now, I can make one phone call and whatever I need will be here tomorrow. It has always been that way."



Every Ridgeland P.D. officer must qualify with their back-up G42 pistol. They found the G42 was more accurate, quicker to sight, and held more ammunition than their previous sidearms. Photo courtesy of Sergeant Tim East and the Ridgeland, South Carolina, Police



One of Grafton County Sheriff's Office's new GLOCK 45 duty pistols being used on the range by Deputy Dan Hamilton during state qualification.

GLOCK GETS THE NOD FROM NEW HAMPSHIRE'S GRAFTON COUNTY SHERIFF

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN THIS BUSY NEW ENGLAND REGION HAVE THREE NEW GLOCKS AS THEIR SIDEARMS.

ARTICLE BY ANDRE M. DALL'AU ■ PHOTOS COURTESY GRAFTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Situated on the mostly rural, west-central part of New Hampshire, between the base of the White Mountains and the Connecticut River, the County of Grafton is home to nearly 100,000 residents. Add to that the annual influx of visitors, travelers, and tourists, and the number of people the County Sheriff is responsible for protecting can exceed a half-million per year. Recently the Grafton County Sheriff's office made the decision to issue GLOCK pistols exclusively as the duty weapon for its full-time and reserve deputies.

Grafton County Sheriff's Office has 18 communications specialists who handle dispatching "red light" (EMS and police) calls for 60 agencies both in New Hampshire and across the river in Vermont. The Sheriff's Office also includes an Operations Department with about 25 full- and part-time uniformed deputies, and a Criminal Investigation Division with about a half-dozen personnel who specialize in digital forensic analysis—extraction of evidence from computers and technology—plus 12 sworn deputies for court security operations.

The newly elected Grafton County Sheriff, Jeff Stiegler, who has over 25 years in New Hampshire law enforcement and more than six years as a Police Chief in the neighboring state of Vermont, noted that his new agency had aging service firearms that needed replacement. The choice to go GLOCK was made after talking with his firearms instructors. "I had chosen GLOCK as our issued service weapon in my previous position as Chief of Police, and I had been issued a GLOCK for more than half of my career, so it was the most logical choice," Stiegler stated.

The department chose three models for the transition, the GLOCK 17 Gen5, GLOCK 45, and GLOCK 43X, all chambered in 9X19.

"We had to look at quality, price, and, most importantly, the ability to adequately train our staff to meet established standards and being able to defend ourselves or a third party from serious injury or death. GLOCK clearly stood out from all the rest, and my department firearms instructors were in complete agreement," said Stiegler. "Our deputies can select the G17 or G45 as their duty gun, while my undercover guys use the G43X."

The new GLOCK 45 9X19 pistol is based on the enhancements found in the GLOCK Gen5 series of pistols, including features developed to meet the requirements of a military solicitation. The G45 has a flared magazine well, GLOCK Marksman Barrel (GMB), front serrations on a compact slide, an ambidextrous slide-stop lever, and a full-size frame on which finger grooves have been eliminated. With the full-size G17 also available, uniformed officers can choose the firearm that best fits their needs.

"GLOCK is so far ahead of the curve for training that it lets us know we have adopted a very robust system, not just a firearm."



The Grafton County Sheriff's Office has the responsibility to serve and protect the hundreds of thousands of residents, visitors, and tourists living in and passing through this scenic region of New Hampshire.

The G43X chosen for Grafton County's undercover officers features a slimline single-stack grip frame with the length of the GLOCK 19 that allows for 10-round magazines. The same shorter slide found on the GLOCK 43 has front serrations and a double recoil spring.

"Even though I started with revolvers and have carried a variety of pistols on my hip, I have always been a GLOCK guy," said Stiegler. "It is one of the best weapons going, because it is just so simple. They always work, are extremely reliable, competitively priced, [and backed] with great service."

Stiegler noted that GLOCK's post-sale service was exceptional. "GLOCK runs Armorer's Courses all the time at locations all around here, so my guys can stay proficient. That way they can make sure the guns are in the best working order."

With the benefit of being able to apply the modular backstraps to the G45 and G17, both models are adaptable to each shooter's hands while delivering the increased effectiveness and overall utility of today's 9X19 round. I asked the Sheriff how that helped his department. He replied, "We needed to have uniformity in training, but with different sizes of people and the ability to train to ensure the best shot placement, the GLOCK pistols and 9X19 round made the most sense. The 9X19 is an easier caliber to train with, especially since we get a lot of recruits who have never fired a weapon before."

"To me, shot placement is the key," he added, "[but] the long and the short of it is that you have to be prepared and confident. GLOCK helps to provide that."

Sheriff Stiegler is looking to GLOCK for additional resources his officers can use. "We plan to get the GLOCK Blue Guns [training pistols] for force-on-force training, because there is nothing better. I can't say enough about the usefulness and practicality of that kind of training. It really makes people learn how to not make mistakes, what happens when you do—that you may get hurt—and it really builds confidence."

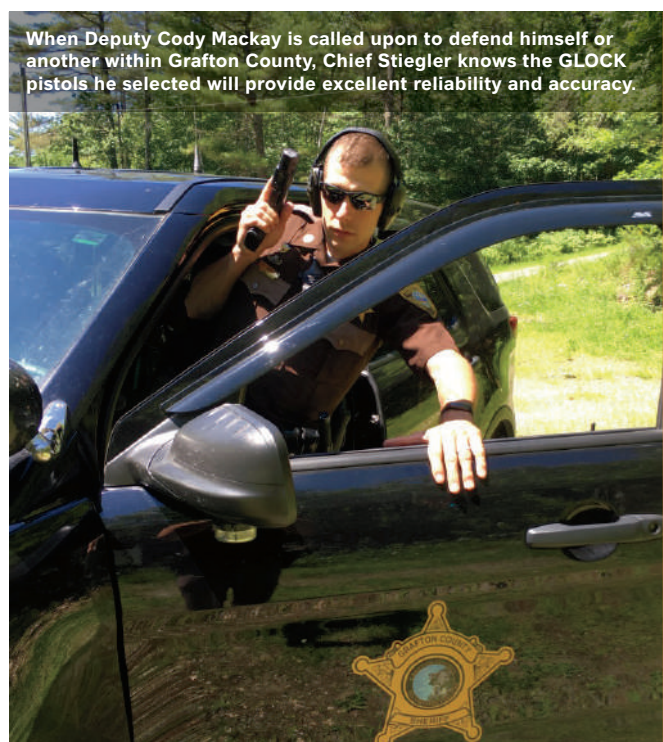
The GLOCK Blue Gun training pistols enable reality-based tactical operations training using pistols identical to carry weapons but capable only of cycling and discharging color-marking or plastic training simmunitions. With the ability

of GLOCK to pair these Blue Guns with training by expert instructors, Stiegler said, "GLOCK is so far ahead of the curve for training that it lets us know we have adopted a very robust system, not just a firearm."

"The quality of GLOCK speaks for itself. When we examined value [we saw that] GLOCK provides a phenomenal product for the cost. In short, GLOCK is way ahead compared to others, and this transition will enable us to meet our operational and training needs for years to come."

"I can't say enough good things about GLOCK," the Sheriff added. "Thank you for providing all of law enforcement with one of the tools we need to keep our communities safe." ☉

When Deputy Cody Mackay is called upon to defend himself or another within Grafton County, Chief Stiegler knows the GLOCK pistols he selected will provide excellent reliability and accuracy.





Officers with varying degrees of experience completed the handgun evaluation. GLOCK was the clear winner.

GLOCK PASSES

CLEARWATER P.D. TORTURE TEST

AFTER STRENUOUS TESTING, GLOCK COMES OUT ON TOP.

■ ARTICLE BY SEAN CURTIS ■ PHOTOS COURTESY CLEARWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT

Detective Rob Beruvides was in the midst of assisting with the conversion of the Clearwater Police Department to GLOCK when I reached out to him in July 2019. I'd heard he and the agency had conducted exhaustive testing before they committed to making the switch, and I wanted to find out what methods they'd used in their testing protocols and how the results were reached.

Beruvides is a veteran officer who has served in many roles over his 25-year career. Throughout his tour, he's held a high respect for GLOCK. The department, over 100 years old, was steeped in tradition and had been served by another manufacturer for more than 25 years. The agency tapped Detective Beruvides, a 25-year veteran officer, to lead a testing and evaluation process that would identify the duty firearm for the Clearwater Police Department.

GOOD READING

Recently, the agency came to a crossroads, one that made it clear its officers needed to make a change to a different sidearm. True to government standards, multiple bids from

different companies were considered. The agency did not want bias in the testing. To avoid doing so, Detective Beruvides submitted a plan for a two-day test encompassing multiple data points that could be measured from the perspectives of nine officers from different assignments and experience levels. Those officers were to test the different bid firearms as a committee. Both .40 AUTO and 9X19 pistols were to be evaluated, and one of the pistols included in the first-round testing was a GLOCK 17 Gen5.

“When cops draw their weapons, it is in defense of their lives or the lives of others. All hyperbole gets thrown to the wind and marketing holds no sway.”





Clearwater P.D. officers raved about the GLOCK 45, many shooting more accurately with it than with previous sidearms.

All nine shooters fired weapons from four manufacturers in both calibers, collecting accuracy data for later analysis as they did so. The last test involved natural firing from multiple distances of 7, 15, and 25 yards while using ball ammo and the officers' chosen duty ammunition. When the dust settled, data was analyzed, and feedback from the officers specific to how they wanted a new firearm to perform on the job considered, the nine had narrowed the field to three guns, all in 9X19 and including the G17 Gen5.

While testing was being conducted, Detective Beruvides came upon an article about the GLOCK 19X, followed by another article on the GLOCK 45. He knew the G45 had been geared toward law enforcement use, and after reading the two articles suggested the agency admit the pistol to the testing process, despite being midway completed. His argument for inclusion was compelling, and a G45 fresh from GLOCK was put through the two tests the others had already undergone. It succeeded in knocking out of contention one of the other pistols in the committee's narrowed-down field—and that's when things got interesting.

THE GAUNTLET

There is little doubt how much impact YouTube has had on the firearms industry. With huge bandwidth and the ability to reach millions of fans, a number of firearm reviewers have garnered impressive followings. One of these is Tim Harmsen of the Military Arms Channel. Harmsen conducts a pretty rough test on guns when he's reviewing them, a test he's dubbed "The Gauntlet." Having viewed Harmsen's testing procedures, Beruvides thought duplicating them would make a great final stage for the department's final field.

To begin this last test, the three finalists were submerged in water. They were then removed from the water and made to fire 10 rounds. Why a water test? Detective Beruvides emphasized

that the city of Clearwater is home to one of the top-rated beaches in the nation, one known for its fine-consistency, sugar-like sand. With a beach, of course, comes water. But the beach itself then became an element in the testing, with Beruvides securing permission to remove some of the sand for their testing purposes, as well as soil from the surrounding area and even mud. They were all put to use in Gauntlet testing to mimic the real-world environments Clearwater P.D. officers and their firearms face.

Detective Beruvides said the results were impressive. None of the tested weapons made it all the way through the Gauntlet without some type of malfunction. However, he said the G17 and the G45 were both quickly manipulated and back into the fight. Not so for the other two manufacturers' weapons which had to be disassembled, and cleaned in order to function again.

THIS AGENCY TRUSTS GLOCK

Detective Beruvides polled the nine shooters after all the testing was completed. There were eight votes for the G45 and one for the G17. A wide array of officers—petite and large, inexperienced and competitive shooters—had, across the board, chosen GLOCK.

Cops are a particular lot. They have expectations about performance. When they draw their weapons, it is in defense of their lives or the lives of others. All hyperbole gets thrown to the wind and marketing holds no sway.

Clearwater P.D. tapped the G45 for its transition. I spoke with the Detective just after he had gotten everyone through their change in sidearm and subsequent qualifications. He said everyone was raving about the GLOCKS, adding that in every course of fire he'd had one or two officers tell him they'd shot much better with the G45. Some even told him, "I was an okay shooter before, but I'm a great shooter now." ☉



Detective Beruvides led the nine-officer panel that torture-tested several handguns for Clearwater P.D.'s transition.





Through various drills at the range, the GLOCK advantage shines through. Not only are GLOCK pistols tough enough to handle environmental extremes, they provide flawless service.



The design of the GLOCK grip was seen as being critical to officers retaining their weapons in Florida's extreme weather conditions.



GLOCK SERVES IN SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

THE DEPUTIES OF COLLIER COUNTY
HAVE A CHOICE OF DUTY WEAPONS—MOST CHOOSE GLOCK.

■ ARTICLE BY SEAN CURTIS ■ PHOTOS BY FRANK STEIGER



Sheriff Kevin Rambosk
Photo Courtesy Collier County
Sheriff's Office

The Collier County Sheriff's Office is a large law enforcement agency in southwest Florida. With nearly 1,000 sworn officers, some might consider the notion of giving employees a choice of their firearm a bit foreign. But despite arguments for uniformity and interchangeability, this agency offers its deputies a choice. Notably, most of them choose GLOCK.

THE AGENCY AND ITS MISSION

I spoke with Sheriff Kevin Rambosk about his office and the particular challenges they face. The Sheriff said one challenge is the sheer size of the county. At 2,305 square miles, it is bigger

than either Delaware or Rhode Island. Roughly half of that area is the Everglades and agricultural land, and he said his agency responds to calls for service in these areas on a regular basis. Conversely, the other half of the county is a large, coastal, urban setting. This means his department has to be diverse in its response capabilities, utilizing air assets and a marine unit that includes swamp buggies, airboats, and more other watercraft.

Rambosk said his office serves roughly 378,000 constituents, with the addition of 100,000 to 130,000 seasonal visitors pushing their in-season population to a half-million. He cited growth as the major reason behind law enforcement response trends in his jurisdiction and reported annual call volume as being just under a half-million per year.

Between the Everglades swamps, flooding, hurricanes, and the ocean and beach environment, it's not unusual for deputies to get wet during shifts. Rambosk, who has been in law enforcement for more than 40 years, has used many different weapons in his career. He said he has never given a second thought to the way the environment might affect GLOCKS.

The Sheriff noted how important it was to allow deputies to choose their sidearm. He said it's one thing if you have a small



“They are extremely reliable and function regardless of the weather.”

team and pick one gun to use, another when your officers get to make that determination. He noted, “The majority have clearly decided they want to use GLOCK.”

Out of 846 deputies and corrections officers, 617 carry GLOCKS. That’s nearly 80 percent. Pretty impressive for a law enforcement agency whose officers make the call on the firearm they choose to keep themselves and the citizens of Collier County safe.

CHOICES AND RESULTS

Sergeant Doug Dever, a 26-year law enforcement veteran and Rangemaster for Collier County, said the agency allows deputies to choose from 14 approved handgun brands. “We thoroughly enjoy and love having GLOCK in our agency,” he said. “They are extremely reliable and function regardless of the weather.” Dever acknowledged the agency’s officers do indeed operate in a variety of harsh environments, adding that GLOCKS are “flawless in operation with our agency,” while emphasizing their often constant exposure to sand and corrosive saltwater. “You want something that’s going to go from your freezing air-conditioned car to 100-percent humidity, 95 degrees—110 degrees with the heat index—and still be able to grip and hold onto your weapon when we put you through our training courses out here.”

When asked how other firearms brands have fared in the moist environment, Dever told me that GLOCK has set a standard other brands are imitating. “In the past, we would see other manufacturers’ weapons develop rust on the magazines, exterior finishes, firing pins, and the back of the striker,” he explained. “None of the GLOCKS the department utilizes have fallen prey to the weather conditions of southwest Florida.” Dever said the office has some long-term employees who are still running Gen1 GLOCKS, originally purchased in the 1980s, that are fully operational.

I asked Dever about armoring or general servicing of the firearms his deputies utilize. He said GLOCK is the only weapon system for which the department stocks spare parts, because the pistols are so easy to work on. It’s easy to break a GLOCK down to its smallest part and clean it. While the agency does not have a hand-in-hand partnership with GLOCK because it does not make bulk purchases, it did arrange to have another Armorer’s Course set up, and Dever reports that customer service has been great. “It was easy as pie to get set up,” he said, referring to the Armorer’s Course.”

Because individual officer purchases make GLOCK the bulk of sidearms in the Sheriff’s Office, I asked Dever if his deputies took advantage of the GLOCK Blue Label Program. He said, “Our guys love the Blue Label Program!” and noted how they worked with major distributors to receive their weapons. The affordability the program offers is yet another incentive for deputies to choose GLOCK.

MAKES AND MODELS

Which GLOCK models do Collier County’s deputies most often choose? Dever referenced the GLOCK 17, GLOCK 19, and GLOCK 34, adding that some of the S.W.A.T. team members were utilizing the GLOCK 17L (long slide) and the GLOCK 41 in .45 AUTO. He indicated a handful are even running MOS models and they love them, saying, “It’s an extremely well-designed weapons system. GLOCK knocked it out of the park”.

Dever described his agency as being somewhat progressive in allowing deputies to choose a micro red dot. “The MOS guns are selling like hotcakes,” he said. The sergeant said the firearms policy was written to include optics as long as the employee passes a five-hour block of additional training. He even offered himself as an example of why the MOS is so important, saying aged eyes have a tougher time picking up the front sight, and the MOS with a red dot optic makes it a whole lot easier. “We’ve been training our guys for years to shoot target-focused, and when you add the optic to it, you see the light bulb go off.” Combining the concept of target shooting with the MOS has been a boon to training. “It results in a huge increase in confidence and ability—and distance. Your weapons system now has short- to medium-range rifle capabilities,” Dever explained.

LASTING IMPRESSION

Running the range where everyone trains and qualifies, Dever sees it all. He noted the GLOCKS are extremely accurate. “The guys using GLOCKS have no problem qualifying or passing the tactical courses we run.” While this is of critical importance, the Sergeant, who is also one of the office’s armorers, said, “The biggest thing is the ease of maintenance and the reliability of the weapons system. They just don’t stop—they’re a workhorse.”

A special thanks to Jim Williams, Chief Investigator for the Collier County Sheriff’s Office. Jim’s been reading the GLOCK Annual for decades, and it’s because of him that this article came to fruition. Thank you for your service and support, Sir.





PRPA Officer and Firearms and Tactics Instructor Edgar Alejandro (above right and right photo) on duty with the late R. Lee Emery, a fellow GLOCK devotee.



PUERTO RICO'S PORTS AUTHORITY POLICE AND THEIR GLOCKS

WHETHER BY FOOT, VEHICLE, OR WATERCRAFT, THIS ISLAND'S GATEWAY OFFICERS TRUST GLOCK TO KEEP THEM AND THEIR CITIZENS SAFE.

■ ARTICLE BY DONALD J. MIHALEK ■ PHOTOS BY OFFICER EDGAR ALEJANDRO

Puerto Rico is a U.S. territory that has been plagued by natural disasters and high crime. Throughout its history, crime has been a constant issue and the law enforcement community has been the territory's only means of resistance.

As a tourist destination, the island has struggled to ensure visitors traveling in and out of its airports and seaports are safe. This challenge led the Puerto Rico Ports Authority (PRPA)—*Autoridad de los Puertos*—a government-owned corporation charged with developing, operating, and overseeing all seaports and airports in Puerto Rico, to create its own police department.

PUERTO RICO PORTS AUTHORITY POLICE

The PRPA Police ranks are comprised of 60 officers who ensure all ports and airports under their management are safe for the thousands of passengers that transit through every day.

The force conducts patrols on foot, via vehicle, and by boat, underscoring the need for a solid weapon that can handle such different environments. Additionally, the department regularly conducts security details for incoming high-threat vessels and aircraft, as well as for travelling VIPs and prisoner transports for those being extradited around the island or to other places.

The importance of this department's work can't be understated, as it keeps cruise ships, planes, and cargo safe, allowing the island's economy to progress. When tragedy occurs, this department is also responsible for ensuring critical aid can get onto the island, and it is the first to address any crisis at one of its ports.

UPGRADING TO THE GLOCK 17 GEN5

The PRPA Police are the first law enforcement or government agency on the island to upgrade to the newest GLOCK Generation 5 pistols, choosing the GLOCK 17 Gen5 in 9X19. This pistol continues the proud tradition of GLOCK being a standard duty weapon for law enforcement agencies around the world, but it's the Gen5 enhancements that sold the PRPA.

The new frame design of the G17 Gen5 eliminates the finger grooves and includes interchangeable backstraps, both of which make it easy for users to customize their grip. The pistol's flared magwell and a cutout at the front of the frame allow for more speed during reloading, important in situations where fractions of a second count. The reversible and enlarged magazine catch also satisfies the need for speed, and the pistol's ambidextrous slide stop lever is appreciated by both left- and right-handed shooters. Finally,

PRPA Officer Edgar Alejandro working with the U.S. Secret Service during a Presidential visit to Puerto Rico.



the new rifling and crown of the GLOCK Marksman Barrel serve to increase accuracy.

According to Port Authority Officer and Firearms and Tactics Instructor Edgar Alejandro, “We consider GLOCK to be not only the best tool, but the right one to get the job done. Our operations are very diverse. We are responsible for maintaining the order in all airports and all the piers, from cruise to cargo ships.”

Alejandro continued, “We have personnel working in several task forces with the U.S. Federal Government and recently decided to upgrade our full inventory to GLOCK 17 Gen5s in 9X19 from our GLOCK 17 Gen3 9X19s. We are the first Puerto Rico state law enforcement department to buy and issue these state-of-the-art and capable G17 Gen5 9X19s to all the officers.”

“For special assignments, we issue GLOCK 19 Gen5 in 9X19 for duty carry and the GLOCK 26 Gen5 9X19 as a backup pistol,” Alejandro continued. “The end result is that every officer has confidence in their firearm, knowing they have the right tool for the job. In our department, GLOCK has proven reliable in all aspects of the job, daily use, and at the range.”

“We have personnel working in several task forces with the U.S. Federal Government and recently decided to upgrade our full inventory to GLOCK 17 Gen5s.”

PATROL-WORTHY IN ALL CONDITIONS

“Our foot patrols, water patrols, and vehicle patrols are 24/7, and we needed the right tool to adapt to any of those environments,” Alejandro explained. “As a firearms and tactics instructor, I also found the G17 Gen5 one of the easiest firearms to train our officers with. The pistol’s basic components work together flawlessly, and every time we pull the trigger it works, which speaks to the pistol’s reliability—a must in law enforcement.”

“Since our officers do maritime patrol and work in saltwater conditions, maintenance and durability are nonnegotiable. GLOCK has proven itself every time and passes with flying colors,” said Alejandro. “I am a law enforcement officer with almost 19 years of experience, and I have always been ready to go on duty with my GLOCK.”

According to Alejandro, “In 2017, Hurricane Maria almost wiped Puerto Rico off the map. Destruction was everywhere. I was part of the contingency plan [for disaster recovery], so it was hard for me to leave my wife and five-year-old son in the house, but I had to do my job. Because of the devastation, I

“As a firearms and tactics instructor, I also found the G17 Gen5 one of the easiest firearms to train our officers with.”

spent almost six days with no communications at all, but the job needed to be done, and it does not wait for you.”

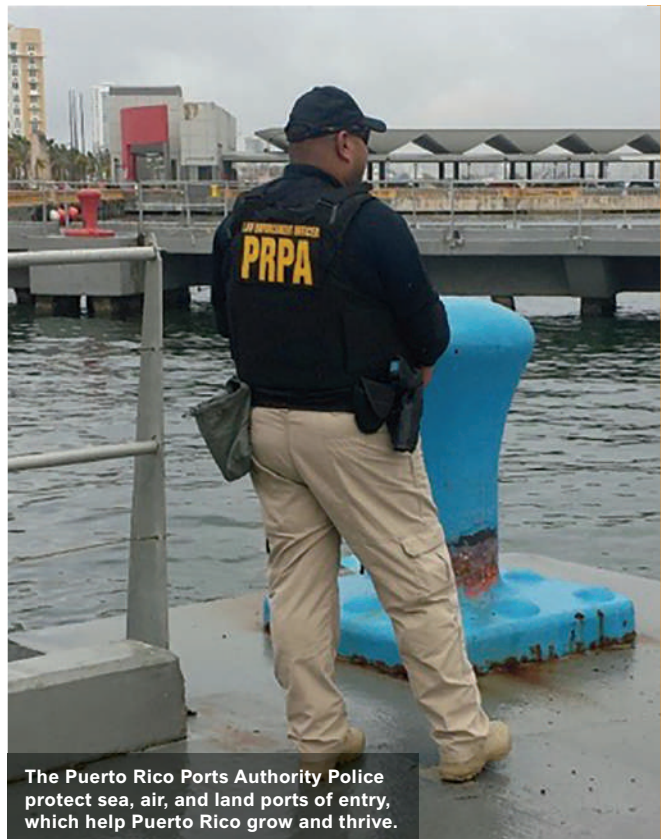
Officer Alejandro was part of the very small team who had to clear every port and pier to make them safe for reopening and to get supplies to the island. There was no electrical power, and accessing many parts of the island was difficult. Despite this, he began helping to clear out potential arrival ports and landing zones so help could arrive.

“I have never cleared so many rooms, negotiated so many doors, and worked without lights for so long,” he said. “I used every piece of training that week, and I carried My Lord and my trusty companion GLOCK. It never failed me.”

Conditions were dire. “We lived in darkness and primitive conditions for a long time. My son was in kindergarten, and on the sixth day I managed to get home and find that my family was still okay. I had to study with my son using a candle and a flashlight for months and worked more than 100 days without a day off,” he explained.

“When I called GLOCK to order some equipment, the customer service agent asked me if we are okay. They ended up sending me some gear for free, which I was surprised and thankful for, but I didn’t expect that. The staff at GLOCK are responsive and helpful, and I can always count on my buddies Joel Hodges, Jamey Brown, Benny Rios, and the rest for help. My most sincere thanks to all.”

And our sincere thanks to you, Officer Alejandro, and the rest of the Puerto Rico law enforcement community for their response and dedication during Hurricane Maria. Well done! 🍷



The Puerto Rico Ports Authority Police protect sea, air, and land ports of entry, which help Puerto Rico grow and thrive.



Officer Breckenridge at the range with his favorite GLOCK. Photo by Warren Breckenridge



After 50,000 rounds through the same GLOCK 19 with no issues, its owner, a law enforcement officer and firearms instructor, says, "I won't shoot anything else unless I have to." Photo by Author

GLOCK 19: 15 YEARS, THREE BADGES, AND STILL GOING STRONG

WITH A CAREER SPANNING A QUARTER-CENTURY,
THIS MISSISSIPPI LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER TRUSTS ONE
HANDGUN BRAND TO PROTECT HIM AND HIS COMMUNITY.

■ ARTICLE BY CHRISTOPHER EGER

With more than 25 years in law enforcement, Warren Breckenridge is only on his second GLOCK 19, which he has carried across several badges and is still going strong.

Breckenridge began his lawman journey as a sheriff's deputy in Pike County, Mississippi, in 1994. After originally using a revolver, he opted to buy a G19 9X19 out of his own pocket and went through the police academy with it. At the time, most of his classmates, who had arrived for training from agencies across the state, had full-sized handguns, and Breckenridge says they derided him on his choice of the more compact GLOCK model. In the end, he said, "Not only did I qualify, I won the tactical firearms board."

After carrying his first G19 for six years as a primary sidearm, his agency purchased GLOCK 17 models for issue. Breckenridge continued to use his compact both as an off-duty gun and as a backup. "I took my G19 and strapped it to my vest under my shirt as my backup. Since the G17 mags worked in it, I had a backup I still had extra mags for."

Upgrading to a G19 Gen3 pistol in 2004, Breckenridge has continued to carry the new GLOCK in his career, going so far to attend GLOCK's Armorer's Course and Instructor Workshop on the platform, one that he stands behind. "I'm sold on GLOCK. I won't shoot anything else unless I have to," he says.

Since getting his second GLOCK, Breckenridge has gone on to work for several years as an instructor for a force-protection contractor to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and used the pistol in training classes from Virginia to Nevada. He also continued to carry it as a reserve officer with the Long Beach and D'Iberville Police Departments when not at work in his day job as a Senior Supervisor with the U.S. Department of the Air Force.

Over the course of that time, his newest GLOCK has passed the 50,000-round mark without hiccups. Other than some springs, the only parts he's changed out were to add a factory extended-magazine release and slide lock lever, out of personal preference.

"GLOCK's been around a long time for a specific reason: You can't tear them up." ☺

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WEST VIRGINIA OFFICER SAVES LIVES WITH GLOCK

WHEN THE CHIPS WERE DOWN, ONE SQUARED-AWAY COP SAVED THE DAY.

■ ARTICLE BY SEAN CURTIS

When officers have to use their weapons to save their own life or the lives of others, a few critical seconds are going to be reviewed, finely scrutinized, and discussed by many people. It is crucial for law enforcement to remember, and civilians to understand that, to some degree, you can almost predict the outcome of a drawn and fired gun based on two factors: how much training that officer has; and the kind of gear they are using.

THERE'S NO SCRIPT FOR THIS

Sergeant Seth Fisher had been working for West Virginia's Ravenswood Police Department for about three years when it happened. He had been promoted through the ranks and was the lead firearms instructor for his agency. Perhaps just as important, he had been a United States Marine for nine years prior to starting with the police department. He had been a combat instructor, heavily trained in CQB, and, in his own words, "spent a lot of time on the range shooting thousands and thousands of pistol and rifle rounds." He said that towards the end of his military service he'd started using the GLOCK 19. "That's where I really started falling in love with it."

One Friday in June 2018, Fisher arrived for shift a little early and started working on a break-in case. He told me he was in plain clothes at the time and carrying his off-duty weapon, a GLOCK 19X. As he worked the break-in, he was flagged down by a man who told the Sergeant a vehicle had passed him on a double-yellow line and it appeared the couple within were fighting. This happens enough in society that cops have a term for it: rolling DV (domestic violence).

Fisher promptly found the car and pulled in behind it. He said the suspect vehicle was on a highway exchange known locally as "the four lanes." Fisher prepared to stop the vehicle, but as he did so, he saw the passenger door opening. Figuring someone was getting ready to run, the officer removed his seatbelt in preparation for a quick stop and possible foot pursuit.

He couldn't have possibly known the passenger had been kidnapped at gunpoint by the driver and at that moment had decided to jump out of the vehicle, which was still moving at some speed. The victim fell to the ground and tumbled. Fisher hit the brakes, stopping short of the victim, then requested EMS and relayed the stop and details to dispatch.

The victim eventually stood up and began to approach Sergeant Fisher's vehicle. Ahead, the suspect vehicle had pulled over and stopped. Focusing on the female passenger coming toward him on foot, Fisher could see the driver in the corner of his eye. That driver, later determined to be the victim's ex-husband, had a gun in his hand.

The scene unfolded quickly, the driver exiting his car and running toward the Sergeant. The armed suspect had covered some 15 to 20 feet when Fisher challenged him: "I'm a police officer. Drop your weapon!"

The order was not effective. The driver said "No!" and raised his pistol to shoot, aiming at his former wife now standing near

Fisher's patrol car. The suspect fumbled with the safety before firing two rounds, one of which struck the officer's passenger side-view mirror.

All of this happened in a flash, and Fisher knew he needed to stop the threat. His G19X drawn and aimed, he focused on the front sight and pressed back on the trigger.

This first round struck the suspect, and as the man started to go down, Sergeant Fisher sent seven more shots, all of which hit the suspect.



POST-INCIDENT ANALYSIS

I asked the Sergeant how much distance was between him and the suspect when he started firing. His answer was one of professional analysis: A post-shoot diagram determined the distance to be 27 yards, or 81 feet.

I asked him about his shooting position. He said he remembers his first three or four rounds were fired from the left of his open driver's door, with the following shots from the side of the A-post as he tucked in for cover.

In the dashcam video, the suspect does not look like he's going to survive. But, Sergeant Fisher's prompt call to EMS, only a few minutes away, proved fortuitous to the seriously wounded suspect. Medics saved his life.

Fisher told me the internal investigation of the shooting is complete and his local prosecutor has cleared him of any wrongdoing. He added that the case had been handled very professionally by the local sheriff's office, noting that the dashcam video had been extremely helpful in clearing him.

"The law enforcement community should rally around heroes like Sergeant Fisher to promote and uplift the work they all do across this nation," said Chief Lance B. Morrison of the Ravenswood P.D.

Of the G19X, Sergeant Fisher said he appreciated the capacity, stating that though he'd put eight rounds downrange, he did not have to reload, and that the gun overall was "reliable, solid."

I said I remembered him telling me his love of GLOCK pistols started in the Marine Corps and asked how he liked the weapon after the incident. He chuckled, the smile on his face evident over the phone, and said, "Even better."

To be clear, there is no celebration after a law enforcement officer finds it necessary to fire upon someone. Rather, it is the sacrosanct intersection of a highly prepared individual, using an incredibly accurate and reliable weapons system, to stop a threat and save lives. The suspect had told his ex-wife she would see him die that day, and he alone is the one who set in motion all the events that followed. Thankfully, someone was trained and equipped to stop the man from completing his plans—and Sergeant Fisher received a letter of commendation from the President of the United States for his actions.

He carries a GLOCK 21 on duty to this day. ●



GLOCK SELECTED TO SERVE U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

THE MEN AND WOMEN KEEPING AMERICA'S BORDERS SAFE COMMIT TO GLOCK.

■ ARTICLE BY SEAN CURTIS ■ PHOTOS COURTESY OF GLOCK

In April 2019, GLOCK, Inc., announced that it had been awarded the contract to provide U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) the newest generation of GLOCK pistols for use as the agency's duty weapons. The task of replacing CBP's previous handguns was a considerable undertaking: The agency employs over 45,000 sworn agents and officers tasked with protecting the nation's borders and more than 330 ports of entry. A rigorous selection process included performance testing conducted by the National Institute of Justice laboratories.

Following suit with other federal organizations, CBP will be completing a transition from .40 AUTO to 9X19 for all of its law enforcement personnel. Additionally, the CBP's new contract with GLOCK has opened the door for the Department of Homeland Security to equip its personnel with GLOCK pistols.

The critical nature of defending America's borders and ports falls to a dedicated group of people who often face dangerous situations in the course of their duties and rely on accurate and reliable firearms to safeguard their lives and the lives of those around them. For them, the CBP selected the latest technology

the world-class firearms manufacturer has to offer. The new handguns selected as mainstays for the agency include the GLOCK 19 Gen5 MOS and the GLOCK 26 Gen5. The agency will also receive the new GLOCK 47, a pistol developed strictly for this contract and not available outside the agreement. The GLOCK 47 combines a full-size slide with the GLOCK 45 full-size frame.

All three models share certain critical features of importance to law enforcement officials. The match-grade GLOCK Marksman Barrel (GMB) offers enhanced accuracy, while the flared mag wells make for faster magazine changes. The CBP selected AmeriGlo BOLD sights to top all three models, and these sights greatly aid with sighting and sight picture acquisition in various lighting conditions.

"This contract provides CBP law enforcement personnel the latest in handgun technology and represents our commitment to providing the highest-quality use-of-force tools and equipment to our law enforcement personnel who defend America's front line every day," said CBP Deputy Commissioner Robert E. Perez.





“The task of replacing CBP’s previous handguns was a considerable undertaking: The agency employs over 45,000 sworn agents and officers who protect more than 330 ports of entry.”



“It is indeed a great honor to serve those who go in harm’s way to protect all Americans and defend our borders every day,” said Josh Dorsey, Vice President of GLOCK, Inc. “The comprehensive and arduous testing and evaluation process demonstrate that GLOCK pistols continue to deliver unmatched performance and value, giving all agents the confidence they need to succeed and survive in any situation.” ☉



GLOCK Professional Director of Training talks to agents about marksmanship principles.



ASIAN EXPANSION: SINGAPORE POLICE ADOPT GLOCK

**AFTER DECADES OF REVOLVERS, THE SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE
TURNS TO A NEW PISTOL HELD IN HIGH REGARD.**

■ ARTICLE BY CHRISTOPHER EGER

Following extensive testing and evaluation, the Singapore Police Force is ditching the revolvers it has used for decades in favor of one of the safest and most modern handguns in the world, the GLOCK SAFE-ACTION® Pistol.

One of the most modern nations in the world and home to nearly six million people, Singapore selected GLOCK from a field of competitors for a tender of more than 6,000 handguns. The review process took nearly two years and saw several pistols tested, but, in the end, the Singapore Police Force chose the GLOCK 19 Gen5 in 9X19, to be supplied through GLOCK's Asia Pacific distributor, W.H. Brennan & Co Pte, Ltd.

"Trials performed by the Singapore Police have been extremely professional," said Gaston Glock, founder, President, and CEO of GLOCK GmbH. "It's also been one of the very few tenders that's not only evaluating technical performance and purchase price, but actual through-life cost. We're honored to supply such a reputable customer."

THE LION CITY

As legend has it, Sumatran Prince Sang Nila Utama, when looking for a new capital for his country in 1299, found a beautiful natural harbor and, while scouting the beaches there, encountered a lion. Thus, he dubbed the location of the new city "Singapura" after the Malay words *singa* for lion and *pura* for city. Today, the country's coat of arms, carried on the rank epaulettes of Singapore Police Force (SPF) officers, includes a fearless standing lion.

The move to GLOCK, after decades of issue revolvers, comes as the country faces a bold new future filled with possible threats. Terror groups and radicalized individuals among both the country's multicultural population and foreigners working in Singapore are continued cause for concern, and the country is host to many high-profile global events that are tempting targets for terror attacks. Day-to-day life on Singapore's streets, too, are fraught with dangers; 2018 saw a 12-percent jump in crimes against persons. Still, as one of the best-trained and effective forces in the world, Singapore's police stand tall when it comes to both reputational respect and capability. In 2018 alone, the agency saw 49,964 compliments and accolades sent in from the public, but just 608 complaints.

FIFTH GENERATION OF PERFECTION

The GLOCK 19 Gen5 pistol, as reportedly adopted by the SPF in its latest tender, is one of the iconic firearms company's most modern developments. Using GLOCK's SAFE-ACTION® system, three internal safeties disengage as the trigger is pulled and automatically reengage when the trigger is released. Other safety features include the orange follower in the magazine, which allows the user to clearly see if there is a round left in the magazine, and a slide-mounted loaded-chamber indicator.

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GLOCK's Gen5 pistols ship with a series of backstrap modules that change the circumference of the grip. They can easily be swapped in the field by pushing out a single pin. This allows users with various size hands to be accommodated. Further, by eliminating the pre-molded finger grooves common on previous GLOCK generations, the Gen5s are suited to a wider range of shooters, regardless their finger size. This is important to the Singapore Police, as today more than 1,800 female officers proudly serve. As for those officers who are left-handed, they'll have the advantage of the Gen5 ambidextrous slide stop lever and reversible magazine catch.

When it comes to real-world tactical considerations, the Gen5 GLOCKS give users an edge in a crisis. Their flared mag well is easier to load in a high-stress situation, the magazines' enlarged floorplate allows users more real estate to grab onto, and the accessory mounting rail allows for the use of weapon-mounted lights and lasers.

Handling is one thing, accuracy another. The extremely accurate GLOCK Marksman Barrel (GMB), with its polygonal rifling and an improved crown, delivers when it counts. Most SPF officers carry only 10 rounds of ammunition for their revolvers. The standard magazine capacity of the G19 stands at 15+1 of 9X19 with a single flush-fit magazine—higher capacity mags allow for up to double that—delivering a serious capacity upgrade.

IN GOOD COMPANY

With so many benefits, it should be little surprise that the Lion City selected GLOCK, a company often seen as the gold standard for handguns used in international police work. Singapore now has much in common with other nations across the Pacific, where GLOCK is widely regarded as one of the benchmark issue handguns for those who protect and defend. In retrospect, Singapore's recent decision to go GLOCK is what you would expect from such an esteemed organization. Bar none, it is the choice of lions. 🦁



GLOCK PAVES THE WAY FOR COMPETITIVE SHOOTING IN THE UKRAINE

**THE BIGGEST FIREARMS RETAILER IN THIS EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRY
KNOWS JUST WHAT IT TAKES TO GET PEOPLE INTERESTED IN COMPETITION
SHOOTING—AND IT HAS EVERYTHING TO DO WITH GLOCK.**

■ ARTICLE BY BRAD FITZPATRICK ■ PHOTOS BY ANZHEY VETER

In 2019, IBIS LLC celebrated 25 years as Ukraine's largest firearms and sporting goods retailer. The company employs more than 600 workers and has 10 retail locations across the country to supply hunters, shooters, and anglers with all the gear and accessories they need. IBIS also publishes the most successful hunting and shooting magazine in Ukraine, manufactures ammunition, and maintains a YouTube channel that keeps viewers up to date on the latest products. IBIS indoor and outdoor ranges offer firearms owners a chance to shoot recreationally or test their skills among the region's finest competitors across a number of firearms disciplines.

IBIS hosts some of the most prestigious shooting competitions in Europe, several of which are the company's primary events for handgun shooters: the IBIS GLOCK Cup; and GLOCK Sport Shooting Foundation (GSSF) series matches. As Ukraine's GLOCK distributor, IBIS began hosting these events in 2016, and by 2017, participation had increased dramatically: The four GLOCK matches held that year drew in more than 400 competitors total, with the largest individual match hosting more than 120 shooters. In 2018, IBIS increased its number of GLOCK events to five and included a steel match, GSSF I and GSSF II, IBIS GLOCK Cup I, and IBIS GLOCK Cup II. The largest of those events saw 110 competitors, with the total number of shooters at 418.

The 2019 IBIS GLOCK competition year was only half over as this article for the *GLOCK Annual 2020* was being prepared, but it's clear that enthusiasm for GLOCK events is strong. Top competitors are flocking to IBIS events from around the region. In April of 2019, 120 shooters attended the GSSF I competition. Ukrainian Master Class shooter Vitaliy Iereshchenko took first place with a combined time of 56.68 seconds across three separate courses of fire. In second was Dennis Rabah with a combined time of 61.10 seconds. On

June 1, 2019, Iereshchenko returned to compete in the IBIS GLOCK Cup against 92 other shooters and, with a combined time of 138.73 seconds, once again took home the top prize, beating second-place finisher Alexander Karpov by a full six seconds.

Moving on to July, Iereshchenko traveled once more to Kyiv (a.k.a. Kiev), hoping to maintain his impressive winning streak at the fourth annual GSSF II match. It was not to be, however, as Guardian Class shooter Sergey Shevchenko edged out the favorite with a combined winning time of 55.71 seconds and just a single penalty on match day. Iereshchenko took home the second-place award with a combined time of 58.19, and Alexander Karpov continued his own successful year with a third-place finish and a combined time of 59.50, which bested the fourth-place finisher by more than four seconds.

As the high attendance numbers—and terrific competitive times—show, IBIS GLOCK events have spurred enthusiasm for competitive shooting in Ukraine, including among women and youth shooters. There are four primary classes of shooters in GLOCK IBIS events: Amateur, Lady, Civilian Guardian, and Civilian Master. Certain events also offer team competitions, and IBIS and GLOCK are working to encourage more young people to compete in these matches.

The combined efforts of GLOCK and IBIS are paying dividends in Ukraine. Top shooters are afforded an opportunity to compete for prizes, and a whole new generation of Ukrainian shooters has been drawn to the shooting sports thanks to these events. For those competing internationally or working to compete at that level, it's quite possible you'll find yourself shooting against a Ukrainian competitor at your next major event—and if you are, be prepared. Not only is it a safe bet these Ukrainian champions have GLOCKS in their holsters, they sure know how to shoot them! ☀



In one team event of Barbados' annual GLOCK Shoot, competitors must race to a table and put together a disassembled GLOCK before shooting the course of fire.

BARBADOS, A SMALL ISLAND WITH A **BIG PASSION**

**THIS BIT OF PARADISE IS HOME TO A COMMUNITY
OF DEDICATED SHOOTING SPORTS COMPETITORS.**

■ ARTICLE BY SEAN CURTIS ■ PHOTOS BY RODNEY GARNES AND FRANCISCO PILGRIM

This past October, a group of shooters gathered together on the month's first weekend to compete in one of the most beautiful settings in the Caribbean—Barbados. This tiny island, some 166 square miles, is home to the Barbados Rifle and Pistol Federation, Inc. It is a bastion for the shooting sports, and one of the jewels in the crown of this island refuge for firearms is the GLOCK Shoot.

I spoke with Charles Belle, the club's Vice President, to learn more about the organization and the GLOCK Shoot. Formed in 1908 as the Barbados Miniature Rifle Club, the Federation is one of three shooting clubs that exist on the island today. At 111 years old, it has helped keep the shooting sports alive in a place most likely to be billed a vacation destination. The club has a 1,500-strong membership, all the more remarkable considering a total island population of around 300,000.

While the organization supports Olympic ISSF, IPSC, and law-enforcement shooting, one of its biggest events is the GLOCK Shoot. I asked Belle how the shoot was set up. He



The first day of the GLOCK Shoot is for individuals, while the second day is all about team competition.





“This tiny island, some 166 square miles, is home to the Barbados Rifle and Pistol Federation, Inc., a bastion for the shooting sports.”

said the number of competitors averaged between 60 and 75, a large enough number to cause the competition to be split into individual and team phases. “To have those numbers consistent every year is a beautiful thing,” he said of the annual match.

On the first day, individual shooters make their way through the various courses. On the second day, team competitors combine the strength of their skills in seeking glory. Belle said many of the teams come from the other shooting clubs and the military, law enforcement, and security companies on the island.

Allowed calibers are .40 AUTO and 9X19 for the men. Women have the additional option of shooting .380 AUTO. The courses are all designed to test a shooter’s speed and accuracy, and while some stages were standard fair, at least one was a surprise to me.

In this most unusual stage, when the target faces the first shooter at the ready, the competitor must run from the 25-meter line to the 10-meter line where there’s a disassembled GLOCK perched upon a table. The

task, as you might now surmise, is to put it together and then proceed through the course of fire. The shooting done, the competitor must then disassemble the GLOCK to its four main components, then “tag in” the next shooter by handing off a magazine to them. This is designed to be run as a relay for teams with three people, and personal strengths can pay off: The first person in the relay shoots with both hands, the second person shoots strong-hand-only, and the final competitor shoots weak-hand-only. If that doesn’t sound like a blast—and a challenge!—I don’t know what does.

Delving a little into the laws in Barbados, I asked Belle about gun ownership on the island. He said residents can purchase guns for use at the gun clubs or for personal protection. He said GLOCK has a strong presence on the island, with most of the military, police, and security companies using them for duty pistols, adding that most law enforcement officers carry the venerable GLOCK 17. He also noted that there’s a GLOCK dealer on the island, saying, “The gun of choice in Barbados is GLOCK for personal protection.”

Belle is extremely appreciative of the support from GLOCK International and the promotional items it provides to the GLOCK Shoot. Every shooter receives a gift bag from GLOCK that has all sorts of goodies inside. Individual shooters get trophies based on how they rank in the final scores, and for the teams there are trophies and medals. Belle says the club also gives out vouchers for dinners and special awards for different categories like oldest shooter, best-dressed shooter, and others to make it more interesting.

Belle told me that in 2020 they’re hoping to take the shoot regional to include other nearby territories, noting that St. Lucia and Trinidad have many GLOCK shooters. Most important, though, having hosted the GLOCK Shoot from 2005-2008 and then again since 2016, Belle said he’s seen that every year the match gets better and better.

Surrounded by such a paradise—and such passionate shooters—how could it not? 🍷



Women are frequent and serious competitors at the Barbados GLOCK Shoot.



Teams from the military, security profession, and other shooting clubs fill the ranks at the Barbados Rifle and Pistol Federation’s GLOCK Shoot.



Many of Canada's law enforcement agencies are following the U.S. trend of transitioning to 9X19 models, such as this G19 Gen4.

GLOCK CONTINUES TO GROW IN CANADA

**LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CONSUMERS ALIKE IN AMERICA'S BORDER
PARTNER TO THE NORTH FLOCK TO GLOCK FOR THEIR HANDGUN NEEDS.**

■ ARTICLE BY JAMES CASSELLS ■ PHOTOS COURTESY OF GLOCK





G19 Gen4s made for Canada's consumer market have a laser-engraved maple leaf on their slides.

GLOCK pistols have been in use in Canada since Gaston GLOCK first introduced his pistol to the U.S., and the popularity of GLOCK in America's northern-border partner has grown steadily since. Canada is a vast country spanning 9,985 million square kilometers (more than 6,200 square miles), but one with a relatively small population for its size of 36 million.

HIGH DEMAND FOR THOSE WITH A BADGE

Last year set a record for law enforcement sales in Canada. It is estimated that more than 80 percent of Canadian law enforcement agencies use GLOCK pistols, and, once adopted, agencies simply don't look back. Why is that? Because GLOCK operations in Canada provide full availability of all parts for complete service and support anywhere in the country. This is critical for law enforcement officers who maintain their pistols for upwards of 20 years or more, but even more important as this country's officers don't carry a backup pistol; they must be able to rely totally on the one GLOCK they carry.

Law enforcement agencies in Canada are fewer but generally tend to be larger than those in the U.S. In fact, four of the 10 largest city agencies in North America are Canadian. Today, many of those agencies that originally adopted the .40 AUTO are, like their compatriots in the U.S., looking to transition their GLOCKS to 9X19 models.

The Abbotsford and Calgary Police Service was one of the first large agencies to spearhead the move to 9X19 when it adopted the GLOCK 17 Gen4. British Columbia's Delta Police and New Westminster Police recently adopted the GLOCK 17 Gen5. The New Westminster Police became the first agency in Canada to purchase G17 Gen5 MOS for its entire agency and believes the addition of optics is the way of the future.

In the Province of Ontario, where there is the largest concentration of police in Canada, Ontario Provincial Police and Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry officers closely followed U.S. FBI testing and adopted the GLOCK 17M and GLOCK 19M. This was a large contract win for GLOCK, with both agencies switching over from competitors' pistols. Several smaller Ontario agencies, including Guelph, Barrie, Shelburne, Port Hope, and Stratford Police Services, are also continuing the 9X19 trend with the adoption of the G17 Gen4 and Gen5 and G45 pistols.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) is Canada's largest police agency. The RCMP adopted the GLOCK 19 Gen4 several years ago for its Air Marshal program after extensive testing. That testing involved the firing of 30,000 rounds in each of five sample pistols.

There are still many agencies in Canada that are more than satisfied with their current GLOCK 22 and GLOCK 22 Gen4 pistols, including the Toronto Police Service. In central Canada, the newly formed Saskatchewan Highway Patrol, in an exception to the 9X19 trend, has been equipped with GLOCK 22 Gen4 pistols, as this area of the country is mandated to use .40 AUTO until the provincial regulation is changed. For all these agencies, the quality maintenance program put in place by GLOCK and GLOCK's great performance ensures their officers continue to see many more years of service from their sidearms.

"It is estimated that more than 80 percent of Canadian law enforcement agencies use GLOCK pistols—and once adopted, agencies simply don't look back."

An interesting fact about Canada: government law enforcement agencies provide their officers with all their equipment, including their pistol. However, agencies are prohibited from trading in or selling their old firearms, which must be destroyed. (They are permitted to give or sell them to another government agency.) It is one of the contributing factors to the commercial market in Canada for GLOCK being as strong as it is and continuing to grow each year—and it speaks to GLOCK's reputation as the brand to which so many turn.

SUPPORTING AN ACTIVE SPORT SHOOTING COMMUNITY

GLOCK set a record for consumer sales in Canada during 2018 as well, and that's in spite of the fact that there is no concealed carry for Canadian citizens; firearm ownership is allowed only for sporting and recreational shooting. Citizens must have a valid firearms license to purchase, and passing a safety class and a thorough background check is required before a person can receive their Possession and Acquisition License (PAL). Once they have their PAL, individuals are checked on the police database every 24 hours to ensure they still meet the legal requirements to hold that license. Canada does not consider this an inconvenience, but rather a safety measure.

Firearms ownership in Canada is not a right but a privilege, and it is something many Canadians have taken great lengths to protect. It is unlikely we will see concealed carry anytime soon in Canada, but firearms and GLOCK pistol sales continue to grow in the sport-shooting community; all indicators are that 2019 will be another record year.

Here's another interesting fact: In Canada, firearms can be purchased over the internet and are shipped directly to the customer's door. Because the status of a person's PAL is checked prior to shipping, there is no need to pick up a firearm at the dealer. Still, many do prefer to work directly with a dealer, and to meet that demand, GLOCK sells its pistols through distributors who in turn sell to dealers all across the country.

Recently, GLOCK has made a strong show of support for its Canadian customers. It has manufactured dedicated models for Canada by increasing the barrel length from 102mm to 106mm on two of its most popular models, the G19 Gen4 and GLOCK 19X. Pistols in Canada are classified as either "Prohibited," when barrels have a length less than 105mm, or "Restricted," when a barrel length is greater than 105mm. Only law enforcement can purchase new "Prohibited" pistols. The new consumer-available G19 Gen4s wear a laser-engraved maple leaf on the slide, and sales of both models are very strong. The most recent show of GLOCK's commitment to its customers in Canada arrived in the GLOCK 48, sporting a new, standard, 106mm barrel. Other new made-for-Canada versions are being considered for 2020.

This level of commitment to a relatively niche market, combined with full GLOCK warranty support and parts availability in Canada, has resulted in a strong and loyal market for GLOCK, Inc., in Canada. And it is one GLOCK looks forward to continue to serve for years to come. ☉



Portuguese Marines, *Fuzileiros* in the native language, are the oldest special unit of the Portuguese Armed Forces. They are part of the Navy and under orders of the Naval Command. Their primary mission is to operate in the country's maritime and riverine environments, though they are often seen operating deeply inland. They are a light infantry elite force, Special Operations-capable, and can be deployed across the full spectrum of amphibious operations.

As with many elite forces around the world, the *Fuzileiros* choose GLOCK pistols when facing a fearsome opponent. In 1996, the *Fuzileiros* bought its first GLOCK 17 pistols and have since continued to equip soldiers with GLOCK 17s and GLOCK 19s. The latest Gen5 models deployed with the *Fuzileiros* to Lithuania in 2018 as part of the NATO Assurance Measures mission. According to the unit command, the choice of GLOCK was based on a series of qualities that meet the high standard requirements of their missions: safety, reliability, high round-capacity magazines, robustness, life cycle management, and ease of operation and maintenance.

Every soldier in the *Fuzileiros* has a handgun, and the unit sees them as a very important part of the soldier's firepower. Though the handgun is mainly a secondary weapon, ready in case of an emergency in which a soldier needs to perform a weapon transition, it can function as a primary weapon in very tight spaces such as those found on ships, in buildings, or even in tunnels and other places that often don't readily or easily accommodate an assault rifle.

HISTORY

The Portuguese Marines date back to 1585 when Portugal's Navy established specific artillery and fusiliers' garrisons for ships sailing to India. The Portuguese *Corpo de Fuzileiros* (Marine Corps) claims its origins to the oldest military force permanently incorporated in Portugal, with its foundation dating to April 18, 1621. Then it bore the designation of *Terço da Armada da Coroa de Portugal*, and it is there the present-day *Fuzileiros* has its origins.

Through the mid-18th century, the *Fuzileiros* fought all over the world, with major successes in struggles against the



THE GLOCKs OF THE PORTUGUESE *FUZILEIROS*

PORTUGAL'S OLDEST SPECIAL FORCES UNIT
TRUSTS GLOCK AS ITS OFFICIAL SIDEARM.

■ ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY BYRAN FERREIRA



“In 1996, the *Fuzileiros* bought its first GLOCK 17 pistols and have since continued to equip its soldier with GLOCK 17s and GLOCK 19s, including the latest Gen5 models, which deployed to Lithuania in 2018 as part of the NATO Assurance Measures mission.”

safety of the Portuguese Royal Family by retreating to Brazil (a Portuguese ultramarine province at the time). The Brazilian *Fuzileiros* were formed after Brazilian independence, and today proudly recognizes its origins in the Portuguese unit with the same name.

From the 19th to the 20th century, the *Fuzileiros* were integrated into Expeditionary Battalions that defended Portuguese ultramarine provinces. In 1961, when Portugal was caught up in a new war effort in Angola, Guinea, and Mozambique against terrorist independence groups, the *Fuzileiros* saw combat in the jungles, rivers, mountains, and savannahs of these ultramarine provinces.

After 14 years of war, the *Fuzileiros* underwent some restructuring, which included adaptations of NATO requirements, of which Portugal is a founding member. Today, the *Corpo de Fuzileiros* is still under Navy Command and performs multiple tasks.

French, Dutch, and Spanish. They even fought alongside Lord Horatio Nelson, the British officer known for his leadership during the Napoleonic Wars and in the Mediterranean. Later, Portugal's King D. João IV had one of its elite units serve as his personal guard.

In 1808, during the invasion of Napoleon's troops in Portugal, elements of the *Fuzileiros* ensured the personal

“GLOCK handguns have served the Portuguese *Fuzileiros* with distinction. The pistol’s polymer frame and anti-corrosion metal treatment are critical protection for a lifetime in the salty environment of their assigned missions.”

MISSION

It is the *Corpo de Fuzileiros* Command’s responsibility to ensure the training and readiness of this force. The *Fuzileiros* are a power-projection unit that comes ashore as a part of the amphibious operational component of the Navy. They can be used as regular infantry, but it is as an elite light infantry unit that all its potential can be best employed. The unit is well known for its high-intensity, amphibious riverine raid capabilities and has a requirement for permanent operational readiness. This is why the *Fuzileiros* are given very specialized and demanding missions, including participation in:

- European amphibious battle group (EUABG) exercises and missions;
- Amphibious, joint, and/or combined exercises or operations comprising national or multinational NATO forces in defense of the allied nations;
- Amphibious exercises or missions in its national territory or within Portuguese interests abroad;
- Humanitarian assistance, protection, and/or evacuation of Portuguese nationals abroad;
- Operations of maintenance, enforcement, or peacebuilding either autonomously or integrating other forces;
- Collaboration with other government branches in the fight against drug trafficking, maritime piracy, counter-terrorism, and organized crime;
- Support of civilian authorities’ tasks, particularly in situations of natural disaster, calamity, or serious accidents;



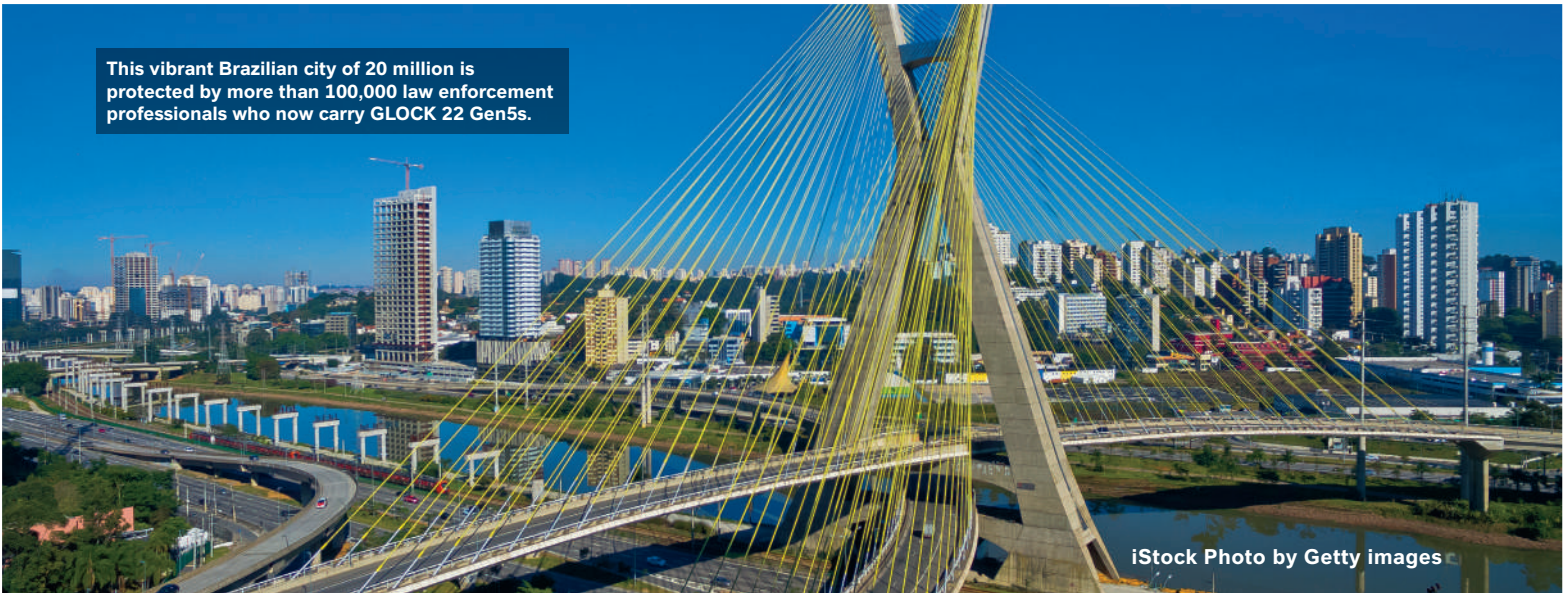

- Collaboration with other Portuguese-speaking countries under military-technical cooperation protocols, as well as the responsibility of providing close cooperation and training to Marine units of other Portuguese-speaking countries (East-Timor, Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, and Mozambique);
- Support of other Portuguese Armed Forces and Security Forces branches.

GLOCK IS CENTRAL TO MODERN FUZILEIROS

GLOCK handguns have served the Portuguese *Fuzileiros* with distinction. The pistol’s polymer frame and anti-corrosion metal treatment are critical protection for a lifetime in the salty environment of their assigned missions.

From the time the *Fuzileiros* adopted these handguns, GLOCK’s toughness has been tested repeatedly. Since 1997, the unit has successfully participated, individually or in joint operations, in Bosnia-Herzegovina, East Timor, the former Republic of Zaire, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, The Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Afghanistan, Somalia, and in several SNMG (Standing NATO Maritime Groups). Since 2018, the *Fuzileiros* have also been very active in the Baltic region, where it is based in Lithuania as part of the NATO Assurance Measures mission in that region. Always ready, the *Fuzileiros* are the Portuguese Warriors that come from the sea—and today, GLOCK goes with them. ☉





This vibrant Brazilian city of 20 million is protected by more than 100,000 law enforcement professionals who now carry GLOCK 22 Gen5s.

iStock Photo by Getty images

SÃO PAULO MILITARY POLICE SELECTS THE GLOCK 22 GEN5

BRAZIL'S LEADING LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY PUT SEVERAL TOP HANDGUNS TO THE TEST AND GLOCK CAME OUT ON TOP.

■ ARTICLE BY BRAD FITZPATRICK

Last year, Brazil's largest state police force, the São Paulo Military Police, set out to select a suitable sidearm. After several rounds of grueling testing, the GLOCK 22 Gen5 was selected as the agency's duty weapon.

The São Paulo Military Police force includes more than 100,000 personnel who serve an area of almost 100,000 square miles within the state of São Paulo. The city of São Paulo itself, known as Grande São Paulo, is home to over 20 million people and ranks as the twelfth largest city in the world. Such a large population, and the inevitable crime that accompanies it, places high demands on the São Paulo Military Police officers, all of whom require superb training, coordination, and equipment.

When the São Paulo Military Police set out to replace its existing sidearms, it developed a rigorous evaluation for firearms submitted for consideration. This evaluation included a reliability test that required firing four test pistols to 10,000 rounds without cleaning or lubrication during the process. The test firearms were also drop-tested from a height of 2 meters (6.6 feet) and six different angles—a total of 64 drops—to simulate being dropped by a horseback-mounted officer and ensure they would not discharge during such an accident. Additionally, the agency tested parts interchangeability and precision of each of the solicited firearms as part of its review.

This was the first time a Brazilian law enforcement agency had conducted an international tender for service pistols that included a hands-on evaluation. The GLOCK 22 Gen5 won the tender, beating competing models from SIG Sauer and Beretta.

"All tests were implemented in a very transparent and public manner, as any interested party could participate in these tests as observers," said GLOCK America's Managing Director Patrick Voller.

Following the successful bid, GLOCK will provide 5,000 GLOCK 22 .40 AUTO pistols to São Paulo's elite CHOQUE, COE, GATE, and ROTA Special Forces officers. The GLOCK

22 is by far the most popular sidearm for law enforcement officers in the United States, and the powerful .40 AUTO round offers plenty of threat-stopping power. Drop-testing has become standard in law enforcement firearm evaluations, and the GLOCK SAFE-ACTION® system, which utilizes three independent passive safeties, helped secure GLOCK the top position during the São Paulo Military Police testing. Consisting of a trigger safety, firing pin safety, and drop safety, the GLOCK SAFE-ACTION system removes any possibility that the gun will discharge when dropped, something that's a real possibility for officers who might find themselves in a close-quarters struggle.

The GLOCK 22's unmatched parts interchangeability also helped it win the São Paulo tender, thanks to precise machining and thoughtful design, while the pistol's interchangeable grip inserts allow the gun to be custom-fit to any officer. Finally, the durable nDLC finish means these guns will hold up well to rough handling, high heat, and moisture, all requirements for a service pistol in tropical climates such as São Paulo.

In its historic, first-ever international tender for service sidearms, the São Paulo Military Police have now, through careful evaluation and extensive testing, verified what U.S. law enforcement officers have known for years: That the GLOCK 22 is an utterly reliable, durable, and safe firearm that's perfectly suited for the rigors of daily duty. Brazil is the largest country in Central and South America and, with a population of 208 million people, it is the fifth most populous country in the world. Following the São Paulo agency's decision to adopt the GLOCK 22 as its duty weapon, it's likely other police departments in the country will examine the data and choose the GLOCK 22 or another GLOCK model as well. GLOCK has always been one of the leading manufacturers of sidearms for military and law enforcement agencies. As the São Paulo tender included one of the most rigorous hands-on evaluations tests performed on firearms for use by law enforcement, the GLOCK 22's contract-winning performance is a clear testament to the firearm's design and manufacturing quality. ☉

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NEW MATCH, TRUSTED GLOCK

**A HOBBY COMPETITOR TAKES ON A MATCH DESIGNED
TO HIGHLIGHT THE SPECIALIZED SKILLS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT.**

■ ARTICLE BY MIKE WHITE

I have been a fan of GLOCK for a long time. I purchased my first GLOCK 22 when I returned from my U.S. Army deployment to Iraq in 2004. Since then, I have purchased my current GLOCK 19, which I utilize as my duty weapon, and a GLOCK 43 for off-duty carry. So, I was happy to see that GLOCK was one of the many generous sponsors of the NRA Tactical Police Competition (TPC) I attended, which took place on March 23, 2019, at the Skip-J Range in Anderson, South Carolina. Before this match, I did have some experience participating in competitive matches, including a GLOCK Sport Shooting Foundation (GSSF) match and many 2-Gun competitions in Arizona, where I used my G22 Gen3. I felt I had a pretty good grasp on what to expect as far as the rules of competing, although no prior competition experience was required to attend the TPC.

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This TPC was my first experience participating in a match of this nature. The match was a lot of fun and a humbling experience. Due to the nature of TPC being law enforcement and military personnel-based, the match was more focused on shot placement and tactics, which the scoring favored, versus being purely time/speed-based. It was a great way to combine training, tactics, and some competitive fun all in one match.

I was placed in a squad of about 12 guys, a mix of guys from other agencies and several from my agency. I found being with competitors of different experience levels to be very beneficial; some of the men from my agency are part of specialized teams, and I wouldn't normally have had the chance to work with them. Although this is an individually-scored match, NRA's TPC was a great chance to learn new tactics and try different strategies suggested by the more experienced guys I was with.





This match consisted of five stages; three pistol-only stages, one rifle-only stage, and one stage using both rifle and shotgun. All stages were designed based on actual law enforcement events, and unlike most matches I'd been to, all but one of the stages were considered "blind" stages. That meant we were not allowed to walk through the stages and assess the course of fire before running them, nor were we permitted to watch anyone else in our squad run the stage until we had already shot it ourselves. We were provided with a stage layout, but, surprisingly, it was much more challenging to plan a run based on that rather than physically walking the stage.

I feel having a blind stage was a good thing from a training standpoint; real-life doesn't give you a walk-through. Although running these stages in this way was challenging, it helped me figure out how I might approach a similar real-life scenario if I ever had to in the line of duty.

The TPC consists of a 3-Gun-type discipline (pistol, rifle, shotgun) using duty-style firearms. The class I competed in was limited to non-modified, factory duty pistols and limited police model long guns with iron sights. Apart from the standard-issued pistol, my agency has a very short list of alternative handguns approved for duty carry. I am lucky enough that my favorite GLOCK 9X19 pistol is on the list, so, naturally, I used my personally-owned, G19 Gen4 that I carry every day as my duty weapon. I love the GLOCK's SAFE-ACTION® system trigger, accuracy, and lighter weight over the duty weapon I used at a different agency.

I qualify with my agency quarterly on the pistol and shotgun and once a year with the M4-platform rifle. I am very familiar with transitioning from pistol to rifle with my previous experience

"My best stage was a pistol-only stage full of various shooting positions and distance shots. This was where my GLOCK shined."

in 2-Gun competitions—but I learned very quickly during one of the TPC stages that my shotgun reloading skills needed work. This stage called for five rounds in the magazine tube, four rounds in the sidesaddle, and five rounds in a "go bag." I had never practiced loading from a go-bag, and it proved to be more difficult than I'd anticipated. This stage showed me areas of my training I could improve on, and it was something valuable I presented to my agency's firearms instructors as a potential training enhancement.

My best stage was a pistol-only stage full of various shooting positions and distance shots. This was where my GLOCK shined. It functioned flawlessly, as usual, especially on the rapid follow-up-shots. Several targets were off-center, 12-inch steel plates at a distance of about 20 to 25 yards, and there was a bank of 6-inch plates at 15 yards. It was at those distances where my G19's accuracy was evident—and appreciated. There is a lot of comfort in knowing I can place accurate and effective shots on target at distance with my GLOCK.

An email was sent prior to the match with instructions, procedures, and information on what to expect, which made the check-in efficient and beginner-friendly. A lunch break at mid-day offered up a great meal from a local BBQ restaurant. The event concluded with an awards ceremony to the top competitors in various classifications. The top points competitors were given a beautiful plaque and first run of the huge prize table, which was packed with a ton of great prizes supplied by a large list of generous supporters, including GLOCK. I can't express my appreciation enough to all the volunteers and companies who supported this match. I believe that GLOCK's support of this match lends credence to the value its firearms provide to the law enforcement and military communities. The entire match, in fact, turned out to be a great experience.

Overall, the NRA's TPC really helped me recognize some deficiencies in my training—and it has driven me to make enhancements to my off-duty training. I feel that competitive training such as this is a career enhancement tool for my personal goals. I will continue to participate in future Tactical Police Competitions, as well as other local matches across various disciplines. I truly believe competitive matches are a great way to add to the shooting proficiency and skills that translate directly to my job. In today's challenging and rapidly changing law enforcement environment, I urge all members of law enforcement and the military to give it a try. It's a fun way to sharpen your skills and break away from static range qualifications. ●





SCHOOL OF GLOCK

BOB JONES UNIVERSITY STUDENTS LEARN SKILLS THEY'LL KEEP FOR LIFE WHILE RACKING UP WINS AT PISTOL COMPETITIONS.

■ ARTICLE BY SCOTT E. MAYER ■ PHOTOS BY BOB JONES UNIVERSITY

At Bob Jones University (BJU) in Greenville, South Carolina, Head Shooting Coach Dan Seibert leads his team of Bruins to regular wins on the pistol shooting range. "It's not a club," Coach Seibert tells me of the six men and two women who make up the team. "You know, there are some schools where the shooting program is more of a club, but we're actually part of the Athletics Department at Bob Jones University."

While many college shooting teams compete in some of the slower moving or stationary events such as air pistol, this university team, which took its first steps in Steel Challenge, shows off its skills at action-packed handgun events, including GLOCK Sport Shooting Foundation (GSSF) matches.

CAREER GOALS

Seibert joined BJU's shooting program as Assistant Coach in 2017. According to him, the team originated with students who were criminal justice majors. They were not looking for a path to the Olympics. Instead, many were getting into fields where they could be staking their lives on their ability to effectively shoot a handgun and wanted an activity in line with their career paths. Today, the team competes within the university's Scholastic Action Shooting Program, which in turn is part of the Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation.

"We wanted to expand the program," says Seibert of how the team started shooting more than the two or three Steel Challenge matches it had been competing in each year. He

told me that team members had indicated they wanted more experience and began looking at what other action pistol events were available. "A lot of the guys were shooting GLOCKS, so one of the head coaches said, 'Hey, why don't we go to a GLOCK match?' and it just kind of took off from there. Our guys really liked it."

Today, most Bruin team members shoot GLOCK pistols year-round. GSSF matches make up the bulk of the events in which the team competes.

"It has become a major portion of our calendar," says Seibert. "Last year, we went to three GLOCK matches in the fall and three in the spring, six total, and that was a lot for us." Overall, the team competed in nine matches last year, and in the Three-Man Team category, Coach Seibert and his Bruins took first place in every GSSF match they attended.

MAKING THE CUT

Seibert takes a proactive attitude toward recruiting new team members and looks beyond just criminal justice majors. Next year, the team will have students who are majoring in everything from business to education, with career plans ranging from healthcare to wildlife management.

The first thing Seibert looks for in a new recruit is someone with a shooting background. He also says that having prior competition experience is a big plus. "Even if they don't have that," he says, "if they came up in a family who did a lot of shooting or hunting, that's a plus too."



“Team members benefit greatly from attending GSSF matches because, in addition to their wins, it lets them get out and network with prominent people in the shooting industry.”

Students with more limited shooting backgrounds can also make the team, as Seibert notes some people just seem to be naturally good shooters. “We’ve had one or two who, at least from what they told us, didn’t have a whole lot of shooting experience. But they were pretty good right out of the gate.” For those students who have no experience but are interested in learning to target shoot, Seibert is exploring the possibility of starting a shooting club separate from the team, providing a suitable atmosphere for meeting that desire.

MAKING THE MOST OF LIMITED PRACTICE TIME

Because of varying class and work schedules, Saturdays are reserved for team practice. This is where the team runs through the three GSSF courses of fire and the four Steel Challenge tracks, preferably twice each practice session.

“If we practice twice a month, and we have a match once a month, that’s three weekends out of four the team will be shooting,” says Seibert, who explains that shooting practice is inherently limited because it isn’t like it is for a basketball player who can tell the coach he wants to stay on the court after practice and work on more free throws. “What we like to do is go out for a couple of hours, run through the courses of fire, and work on trigger control, sight alignment, sight picture—the fundamentals.”

NO HOME-RANGE ADVANTAGE

Coach Seibert pointed out to that the school’s shooting team does not have a “home” match. “We don’t have a place on campus where we can have a shooting match, so it’s difficult for other students to come out and support the team,” he says. Even so, when the school raises awareness of a shooting match, it draws a lot of interest. “If there is a way to bring other students out to our venue and watch, that would be great.”

The college recently partnered with the nearby Belton Gun Club in Anderson, South Carolina, where the team practices and hopes to soon host matches in an effort to build school spirit.

“It’s one of the better ranges,” Seibert says of the gun club. “It has shotgun, pistol, and rifle bays, and they’re in the process of building six new competition pistol bays, so that clues me in that they’re willing to bring in matches.” The arrangement also makes it possible for the Bruins to add shotgun competitions, something Coach Seibert says he wants to do, though it may require separate pistol and shotgun teams.

GSSF’S FIRST UNIVERSITY TEAM

While there is no official relationship between Bob Jones University and GLOCK, Coach Seibert says the folks from GSSF recognize the team when they compete. “We were the



Last year the Bruins’ shooting team was made up of six men and two women with academic paths ranging from criminal justice to education.



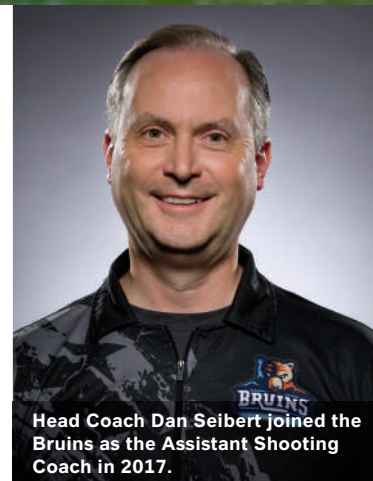
When practicing, Coach Seibert likes for team members to shoot the various courses of fire at least twice.

first university to bring a team to their matches,” he says proudly.

According to Seibert, team members benefit greatly from attending GSSF matches because, in addition to their wins, it lets them get out and network with prominent people in the shooting industry. He also told me that the folks from GLOCK couldn’t be more accommodating, and that GLOCK has on-site armorers to help shooters.

“If I could say something to other schools,” says Seibert, “it would be don’t look at just one kind of match. Don’t be Steel Challenge only. Don’t be air rifle only. Look at some of these other matches and broaden the skill level. Broaden the insight or the desire to get out and be a part of the different kinds of matches. It’s been a lot of fun. It’s been great to develop those kinds of skills.

“For us, it’s been bonding for our team,” he added. “Our students come from all different backgrounds and all different areas of the country, and it’s just a way to bond and to find people of like interest.”



Head Coach Dan Seibert joined the Bruins as the Assistant Shooting Coach in 2017.



A competitor lugs a pair of 40-pound kettlebells during the "spring-drag-carry" event. U.S. Army photo by Markeith Horace, Maneuver Center of Excellence, Fort Benning Public Affairs



GLOCK 17 Gen4s were featured in the 2015 competition. U.S. Army photo by Patrick Albright, Maneuver Center of Excellence, Fort Benning Public Affairs



With a lineage that pre-dates the American Revolution, the bold and daring feats accomplished by the U.S. Army Rangers are world-renowned. "Elite" is often used to describe the bunch, but in these modern, millennial times, that word, sadly, is overused and subsequently cheapened. So, let's shy away from the clichés and instead borrow a line from their creed: "I accept the fact that, as a Ranger, my country expects me to move further, faster, and fight harder than any other soldier." The line sheds much light on the depth of a Ranger's character.

For the past 36 years, somewhat quietly, an annual competition has taken place with the goal of identifying the best two-man Ranger buddy team in the Army. The competitors are mentally prepared to travel more than 60 miles by foot, over 60 hours, to demonstrate their technical and tactical proficiency. In 2019, 54 Ranger buddy teams met at the starting line of the competition. In the end, only one team was crowned Best Ranger.

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A HISTORY LESSON

The first annual David E. Grange, Jr., Best Ranger Competition was held in 1982. Two years before, a gentleman by the name of Richard A. "Dick" Leandri had established the Chairborne Rangers organization; that group of civilian professionals played a critical role in getting the event off the ground. Leandri was devoted to both the Rangers and the competition. In fact, his passion for the event ran so deep that, in 1998, he traveled to the competition against his doctor's advice because he wanted to be close to his Rangers. He passed away at the competition after falling violently ill.

The competition's namesake, General (Ret.) David E. Grange, Jr., is a living legend in the Ranger community. After 41 years of service spanning 20 campaigns and three wars, Grange was among the first to be inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame in 1992, its inaugural year. Today, at age 94, Grange still conducts himself as a true leader in the Ranger community, faithfully attending the event that bears his name.





Elements of the U.S. Army Ranger School appear in the Best Ranger Competition. "Slapping the tab" 35 feet above Victory Pond is a right of passage for everyone who earns it. U.S. Army photo by Patrick Albright, Maneuver Center of Excellence, Fort Benning Public Affairs

BEST RANGER COMPETITION IS "WORLD-CLASS" THANKS TO GLOCK

GLOCK GIVES BACK TO THE ELITE SOLDIERS OF THE U.S. ARMY RANGERS WITH ITS SUPPORT OF ONE OF THE WORLD'S TOUGHEST ENDURANCE COMPETITIONS.

■ ARTICLE BY JEREMIAH MCCARTHY

THE COMPETITION TODAY

The graded events of the competition change each year to ensure competitors come prepared for anything. Buddy team runs, marksmanship, ruck marches, and day/night orienteering are all standard fare, while written exams, knot tests, parachute jumps, and mystery events help keep things fresh.

With the 75th anniversary of D-Day in June 2019, it was only appropriate that the 2019 Best Ranger Competition was held with a World War II theme, for it was on the beaches of Normandy the Rangers earned their motto, "Rangers, Lead the Way!" Each of the 33 events in the 2019 competition was dedicated to a specific World War II battle in which Rangers fought, and World War II-era weapons were used in some of the marksmanship events.

Day one of the 2019 competition began with a simple foot race, but one in which the distance was unknown to the competitors, which made it difficult for the soldiers to pace themselves. They'd eventually run 8 miles before immediately moving onto the next event, an obstacle course, followed by

a weighted litter movement. Then they swam across "Victory Pond," conducted another foot movement to execute an Urban Assault Course, hopped on a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter, and fast-rope into the range complex to shoot five separate marksmanship events.

The field was cut to the top 26 teams at the start of day two, and only 16 of the 54 teams that started the competition would finish on day three. Because there are no planned periods for sleep during the 60-hour competition, competitors catch catnaps when they can.

"Their equipment has to be 'Ranger-proof,' so it's no surprise GLOCK pistols have frequently been featured at the Best Ranger Competition."

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The 3-Gun event is made all the more difficult with helmets, ballistic vests, and 200-pound litter drags between shooting bays. U.S. Army photo by Markeith Horace, Maneuver Center of Excellence, Fort Benning Public Affairs



Spectators watch as a competitor is graded during an Army Combat Fitness Test. U.S. Army photo by Markeith Horace, Maneuver Center of Excellence, Fort Benning Public Affairs

GLOCK IN RANGERS' HANDS

Due to their simplicity and legendary reliability, GLOCK pistols have been selectively fielded to specialized units across the military. That includes the Army's Ranger Regiment. It's critical that our nation's warfighters have faith that their equipment will perform when called upon. For the Rangers, their equipment has to be "Ranger-proof," so it's no surprise that GLOCK pistols have frequently been featured at the Best Ranger Competition, especially during 3-Gun events.

"I'm very confident in the GLOCK," said Sergeant First Class (Ret.) Gerald Nelson of the U.S. Army Rangers. "Never had any trouble with it. I mean, you have to do what you're supposed to do to maintain certain weapons, but to be honest with you, I don't probably take care of my GLOCKS in the way that I should, and I've still never had any problems with them."

Nelson has competed in the Best Ranger Competition four times throughout his career, winning the coveted championship title alongside his teammate, Corbett McCallum, in 2005. "The first year I competed, crossing the finish line and that sense of accomplishment were probably more rewarding than actually winning the competition," he said.

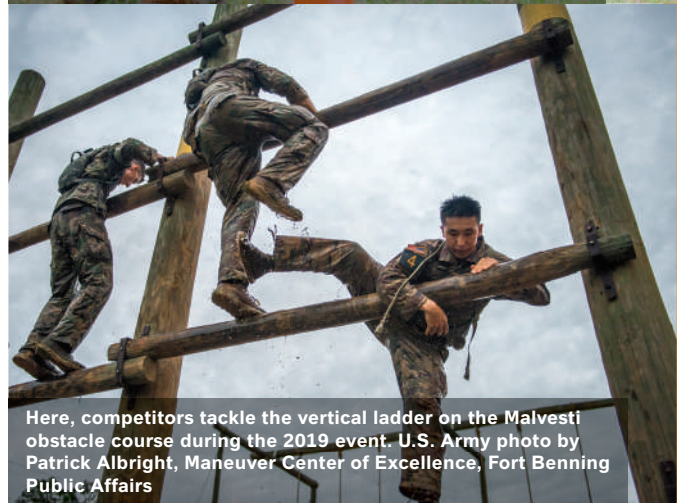
In years when he has not competed, Nelson, who today is the Safety & Occupational HLTH SPEC (Tactical) for the 4th Ranger Training Battalion, has served as a coach for other Ranger teams, four of which went on to win the competition. He's graded events during the competition, and he's also worked with the National Ranger Association to secure donations in support of the competition. Since 2003, GLOCK has been one of those sponsors.

"For people who know about the military, they know we have units that have these little squad competitions, or even division competitions," said Nelson. "What makes the Best Ranger Competition a step above the rest is that I really believe it's one of the top endurance competitions in the world, and definitely in the military.

"GLOCK has been such an amazing supporter," he emphasized. "Without that support, this competition wouldn't be at the level it is. The donors and supporters are what make it a world-class event."

TO THE FINISH LINE

Day three of the 2019 competition found the Rangers at the entrance to the Darby Queen obstacle course, an infamous complex course that runs about a mile long. Each competitor had previously encountered the course as a prospective Ranger student, but that wasn't something one would call an advantage: Hours earlier, while spectators were getting some rest, the competitors had negotiated a night orienteering



Here, competitors tackle the vertical ladder on the Malvesti obstacle course during the 2019 event. U.S. Army photo by Patrick Albright, Maneuver Center of Excellence, Fort Benning Public Affairs

course in the Tennessee Valley Divide. That meant, going into the Darby Queen, competitors had been running continuously for more than 48 hours.

After completing the obstacle course, the teams performed crowd-pleasing feats like screaming down a 90-foot-high zip-line and performing the "log walk" while suspended 35 feet above Victory Pond.

As it does every year, the competition culminated with a final Buddy Run. For 2019, Captain John Bergman and Captain Michael Rose of Team 19 claimed the title of Best Ranger. Both men hail from the 101st Airborne Division and are the first two-man team to win the competition twice in the history of the event.

"To be a Ranger, you must expect more of a challenge from the Army," said Harvey Moore, a previous Best Ranger winner, in a 1998 story published in the *LaGrange, Georgia, Daily News*. "On the other hand, the Army expects more from you."

The same could be said for GLOCK. ☉



2019's winners Captains John Bergman and Michael Rose of the 101st Airborne Division. U.S. Army photo, Maneuver Center of Excellence, Fort Benning





Detective Constables Anisha Parhar and Sandy Avelar, Vancouver PD, Canada, recipients of IAWP's 2019 Community Service Award for their work developing "Her Time," a program educating adolescent girls and young women about the dangers of gang involvement.



Delegates from the Indonesian National Police, hosts of the 58th IAWP Annual Training Conference in 2020, enjoying networking prior to the 'Parade of Nations' on the opening day of the 2019 conference in Anchorage.

GLOCK RECOGNIZES INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN POLICE GAIN GLOCK IN EXCELLENCE AWARD

**THIS HIGHLY REGARDED ORGANIZATION WORKS TO PROTECT
THE RIGHTS AND LIVELIHOODS OF WOMEN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS
AROUND THE WORLD—AND GLOCK IS RIGHT THERE WITH THEM.**

■ ARTICLE BY BRAD FITZGERALD ■ PHOTOS COURTESY OF IAWP 2019 ANCHORAGE

GLOCK is proud to announce its continued support of the International Association of Women Police (IAWP; www.iawp.org), the world's largest organization devoted to supporting female police officers. Founded in Washington, D.C., in 1915, the organization's first president was Alice Stebbins Wells, who worked as a Los Angeles police officer beginning in 1910, making her one of the first female police officers in the country.

Today, IAWP supports women officers around the globe. The organization's mission is "to strengthen, unite, and raise the capacity of women in policing internationally." To accomplish that mission, IAWP embraces diversity and maintains an open and honest relationship with its members, listening to them so that it can effect changes in law enforcement practices and policies that better meet the needs of female officers. The organization also develops resolutions that help improve not only the lives of its members, but of women in general around the world, such as working to eliminate violence against women and preventing and intervening with human trafficking cases.

Membership in IAWP is not limited to female officers. Since 1976, the organization has accepted both male and female law enforcement officers. This has helped to spread IAWP's important message throughout the world's law enforcement communities.

IAWP publishes *Women Police Magazine*. According to the magazine's special centennial issue, "The organization now has members in almost 70 countries, provides an authoritative voice on the issues facing policewomen, and

actively campaigns on the hot topics affecting law enforcement throughout the world, including the scourge of human trafficking and ending the use of sexual violence in conflict."

The challenges and dangers facing police officers are many, and GLOCK is proud to stand behind the world's largest organization of female police officers as it promotes diversity and provides member support. As a supporter, GLOCK was proud to sponsor the Excellence in Performance Award during IAWP's 2019 convention, its 57th annual event, which took place in Anchorage, Alaska. That award went to Investigator Hsin-Ye Tseng, who works for the Criminal Investigative Bureau, Republic of China (Taiwan).

A press release issued by GLOCK and IAWP noted that Investigator Tseng is renowned for her communications skills and her dedication to "providing quality policing service to foreigners visiting Taipei." She is well-regarded as a liaison between her agency and other countries, including the U.K., Australia, Thailand, Singapore, and the U.S. She regularly works with interns at the Police University, and in 2017 she participated in the S.W.A.T. training program delivered by a Rapid Action Unit of the Police Nationale in France, the first female to take that course.

Investigator Tseng is just one of many whom the organization works with and support in the promotion of fairness and justice for both officers and civilians, both of which are critical to moving forward the global effort to improve women's rights. GLOCK is proud to support her and all the other dedicated women of law enforcement around the world. ☉

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YOU HAVE THE RIGHT GLOCK MAKE SURE YOU'RE FEEDING IT THE RIGHT AMMO



Frank Steiger Photo

AMMO FOR YOUR GLOCK IS NOT AS GENERIC AS FUEL FOR YOUR CAR.

■ ARTICLE BY MASSAD AYOOB

The purpose of your GLOCK is to fire ammunition, perhaps in self-defense, but certainly for training and practice—and there's the first line of demarcation when it comes to talking about handguns. Defensive ammunition tends to have an expanding bullet and a premium price, while “range ammo” is more affordable and normally found with a full metal jacket configuration. But there's more to it than that, because if your range time is focused on self-defense skills, you want your practice and training ammo to duplicate as much as possible the recoil and point of aim/point of impact coordinates of what is colloquially called the “duty load.”

Note that “training” and “practice” are not redundant terms in this context. “Training” is preparation for use of the duty ammunition in a potentially life-threatening emergency. “Practice” is repetition of what has been learned in training. The shooter practicing for a match may want to focus on the lightest, least powerful load allowed that gives the most accuracy; the shooter repeating drills to hone defensive skills probably wants more power and won't find much practical difference between two-inch and three-inch groups at 25 yards.

Expect to spend some time on the range sorting out what ammo your particular GLOCK shoots the best. In 9X19, for example, 147-grain subsonic loads will generally have a higher point of impact than faster 124-grain rounds, given the same point of aim. Carefully shooting and comparing is the only way to discover what ammo is most accurate in your specific pistol. ●

“Training” and “practice” are not redundant terms. “Training” is preparation for use of the duty ammunition in a potentially life-threatening emergency. “Practice” is repetition of what has been learned in training.”



Frank Steiger Photo



Team GLOCK Captain Shane Coley.
Photo Courtesy GLOCK

EXPERT ADVICE

Few people know more about GLOCKs and their ammo than master shooter Shane Coley, captain of Team GLOCK. Speaking about the 9X19, the most popular and available semiautomatic pistol round today, he told GLOCK Annual,

“Generally, for personal-defense loads, the popular bullet weight is going to currently be 124- or 147-grain. Both loads, with a reliable jacketed hollowpoint bullet, will give great penetration, expansion, and consistent velocities, while still allowing the shooter to comfortably manage recoil. With defense loads usually having a little more powder, causing a hotter load, the heavier bullet might be the better choice, as it tends to shoot a little softer than the lighter, faster bullet. Try them both out and see which works best for you. I have seen excellent results out



of my GLOCK 19, GLOCK 43, and GLOCK 43X.

When everyday training at the range or having a fun family day of target practice, there are numerous loads that would provide an enjoyable day at the range. A 115-, 124-, 135-, or even a 147-grain 9X19 can all be great loads to

practice with, and in ball ammo—full-metal jacket—all can be found at reasonable prices.

For competition, Team GLOCK is currently shooting a 147-grain jacketed hollowpoint in 9X19. It’s a very soft load for us to shoot, it has proven to be incredibly accurate, and has been very reliable in our competition pistols. Whenever we have to compete with .40 AUTO, we use a 180-grain jacketed hollowpoint that is equally as reliable and accurate as our 9X19 competition setups. ☉

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This is a GLOCK 17 Gen1 in the original "Tupperware" case. GCA members collect rare GLOCKS as well as the more common models. This one is courtesy of the Stanley Ruselowski, Jr., collection.

YOU'RE PART OF THE GLOCK TRIBE, NOW JOIN THE CLUB

GLOCKS ARE LIKE POTATO CHIPS: IT'S HARD TO HAVE JUST ONE.

■ ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY ROBERT SADOWSKI

I didn't use to consider myself a GLOCK collector. Then I looked in my gun safe. It was easy to see, by the number of GLOCK pistols therein, that I was a devout member of the tribe. Still, was I really a collector?

The answer is yes, though maybe I'm not a member in the traditional sense of a firearms collector, one who searches for rare models and preserves them in a safe anticipating an increase in value. I'm more of a GLOCK user. I started off with a GLOCK 17, and from there it snowballed. Or maybe it was more like a frenzied wildfire. Next, I had to have a long-slide in .40 AUTO. Then it was a GLOCK in .45 AUTO—then a second in .45 AUTO. I competed with GLOCKS, so add those match pistols, and I have a frame or two I've modified for custom guns. So, it turns out the entire time I've been a collector and I didn't even know it.

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IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE GLOCK ...

You may not realize you're a collector, too—but if you have more than one GLOCK in your safe, you're a collector. Join the club.

The GLOCK Collectors Association (GCA) was established in 1995 by three friends who really liked and were interested in GLOCK pistols. Yet, at the time, little did they know the

"People don't tend to buy just one 9X19 GLOCK model like the G19. They find a need to own others like the G43, G34, and G26."





You don't need to be a collector to join the GCA. If you own a GLOCK, you are already a collector.



impact GLOCK pistols would have on the firearms industry, law enforcement, military organizations, and civilian shooters. Most collectible guns take at least a century to be considered collectible. GLOCK did it in less than 34 years.

What's so unique about GLOCK's pistols? For one, they are *everywhere*. At last count, GLOCKS are carried by more than 65 percent of U.S. law enforcement. They're also a significant component of pop culture, everyday carry, competitive shooting, and bedroom nightstands. That's the thing. GLOCKS have become a part of our daily lives.

Yet, there is some elusiveness. Try to find a G17 Gen1 or an early GLOCK 19, for instance. These guns—if you are lucky enough to stumble upon one—are usually well worn, since they were used day in and day out by law enforcement beginning in 1986. These pistols hold their value compared to competitor pistols introduced at the same time.

The GCA is unlike the typical firearm collector's club. While it is similar to traditional firearm collector's organizations in that its many members are interested in rare and unique GLOCK pistols, there is much more to it than that. Many GLOCK owners, in fact, don't realize they are, truly, a collector. But concealed carry practitioners, law enforcement, first responders, military professionals, competition shooters, and home defenders don't buy just one 9X19 GLOCK model like the G19; they find a need to own others like the GLOCK 43, GLOCK 34, and GLOCK 26. Sounds like collecting to me.

GLOCK collectors are a diverse crowd. There is the traditional collector, one who strives to have one of everything and hunts down those hard to find models. Another is the GLOCK user who likes the platform and appreciates the consistency between models and calibers. Law enforcement and military who trust their lives with GLOCK pistols to keep them out of or get them through harm's way are another type who tend to own more than one, again, for their remarkable consistency of operation.

Competitive shooters are another type of collector, with IDPA, USPSA, and other shooting organizations having many competitors using GLOCK pistols for the simple facts that they are reliable and accurate. Those of us who chose to conceal carry choose GLOCK for the same reasons. We are all part of the same tribe.

“For the traditional collector, the GCA Matrix is the source for first-run-upon-introduction information on all GLOCK models.”

ENTERING THE MATRIX

Since GLOCK pistols were first imported in the U.S., the GCA has chronicled the evolution of GLOCK pistol designs. It is the keeper of the “Standard Production Matrix” or “Matrix” for short. For the traditional collector, the Matrix is the source for first-run-upon-introduction information on all GLOCK models. It includes pistol models, model generations, dates shipped, first-run serial-number prefixes, and total variations. The Matrix also includes commercial guns and law enforcement-only models. I get geeked out over data like this, but the real reason I joined GCA (and full disclosure here, I'm not only a GCA member, but its secretary/treasurer), was because of the current GCA President, Stanley Ruselowski, Jr. Stanley—I call him “Stash”—is a walking encyclopedia of GLOCK production lore. He is also a collector in the truest sense, with a vast collection of first-run GLOCKS and commemorative models.

As a member of the GCA, you become part of the club of other like-minded GLOCK enthusiasts. The GCA publishes its *GLOCK Collectors Association Journal* annually, a volume packed not only with collectible GLOCK info, but the history and stories behind GLOCK models and other insider information.

If you're a fan of GLOCK—even if you own only one so far—I encourage you to join the GLOCK Collectors Association. More information on the GCA, including how to join, current news, and shopping for publications about GLOCK, can be found at glockcollectorsassociation.org. ●





The author has shot at Tac-Con over the years. From left, a GLOCK 17 Gen3, GLOCK 17 Gen4, GLOCK 26, and GLOCK 19 Gen5.

THE GLOCKS OF TAC-CON

**AT THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE TACTICAL CONFERENCE OFFERED
TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC, GLOCK PISTOLS DOMINATE.**

■ ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY MASSAD AYOOB

For more than 20 years, the RangeMaster Tactical Conference, known to its habitués as “Tac-Con,” has been not only a hub of diverse self-defense training, but the site of a challenging, annual self-defense handgun match. Here’s how RangeMaster itself describes the three-day event:

The Tactical Conference originally began as a major mid-winter indoor pistol match. It started as a major IDPA event in 1998, but within a couple of years, the format was changed to use more realistic, mannequin-type targets and actual carry gear.

It soon became obvious that the attendees were more self-defense oriented than purely competitive shooting oriented. Also, a number of self-defense trainers were in attendance. It occurred to us that if we could have those trainers present blocks of instruction during the match, the attendees who were not busy shooting could be learning useful skills. At the same time, the trainers could showcase their teaching skills to an interested group of potential students. The Tactical Conference was born!

Having been a regular presenter and student at Tac-Con for several years now, this writer has seen all manner of defensive handguns in play. From snub-nose .38s to long-barrel pistols and even guns mounting carry optics, all the major manufacturers are represented in the hands of contestants on the firing line. But one brand seems to dominate: GLOCK.

One reason for this is found in the manifesto posted in the Tac-Con section at the RangeMaster website, taccon.info:

One thing that sets Tac-Con apart from many other national training conferences is that we are 100% focused on defensive contexts for private citizens who carry concealed. We know that competition, sport shooting, and hunting all have tremendous value; but at Tac-Con, our only focus is personal defense. Every training block is built for average people whose primary goal is to avoid danger whenever possible and protect themselves and their families if danger ever finds them. The training is all very practical, designed for modern, real-life contexts (so, no flaming helicopters or



fancy acrobatics). We run hot ranges and expect everyone in attendance to be armed exactly as they would be in their everyday lives.

Much of the reason for GLOCK's dominance here is found in that last line: "We run hot ranges and expect everyone in attendance to be armed exactly as they would be in their everyday lives." With that in mind, it was almost a foregone conclusion that the pistol most popular among America's armed citizens and law enforcement would be the brand that dominated at Tac-Con.

PISTOLS IN ACTION AT TAC-CON

From the long-range tactical handgun course presented by Marty Hayes of Firearms Academy of Seattle (firearmsacademy.com) and the up-close-and-personal shooting course presented by John Murphy of Virginia (fpftraining.com) to the always wait-listed, high-speed accuracy program offered by Gabe White (gabewhitetraining.com), GLOCK handguns tend to be the pistols most often seen in the hands of the attendees. And the reasons are much the same as those that led those students to carry GLOCKS in the first place: Reliability; speed into action; and rapid recovery from recoil thanks to the GLOCK's low bore axis and its grip angle. "On the street" cartridge capacity is a factor here, too. Eighteen rounds in a GLOCK 17 or the 16 in a GLOCK 19 obviously take less time out of shooting for reloading in a fast-paced tactical shooting program. Founder Tom Givens calls this factor "time in the fight," noting that someone reloading their pistol is not fighting back against their attacker.

Givens, who created Tac-Con and presides over it, carries GLOCKS exclusively as primary armament. For many years, his daily carry was a 5.3-inch-barreled GLOCK 35, along with two spare magazines, all loaded with 180-grain .40-caliber Speer Gold Dot. Due to hand-related medical issues, he recently switched to a G17 Gen3 loaded with soft-kicking, 147-grain Federal HST 9X19 jacketed hollowpoints.

A CHALLENGING MATCH

Since Tac-Con grew out of a match, a challenging competition has always been a part of this training-focused event. It was originally called the "Polite Society Match," a name originating in a Robert Heinlein quote and popularized in the gun world by the late Col. Jeff Cooper. That quote read, simply, "An armed society is a polite society."

Today the competition is known as "The Defensive Pistol Match," and its inherent challenge is that the course of fire changes every year—you won't know what it is 'til you get there! You can, however, expect very fast draws, shots from concealment, difficult targets that include 3-D mannequins that have to be knocked down with a "heart" or "brain" hit, and some top-tier competitors.

CHOICE OF CHAMPIONS

At the match, GLOCKS have won more often than any other brand. Says Givens, "Year after year, there are more GLOCKS in the top 10 than any other make."

One man to beat every year is multiple winner Gabe White, who was featured in an earlier issue of this publication as the only man before or since to shoot a perfect score—drawing from concealment!—on the incredibly demanding Bill Rogers Advanced shooting course. He used a nearly all-stock GLOCK 34 to accomplish that feat, though he has recently switched to a G17 Gen5.

GLOCK is popular among the female contestants, too. The G17 is the current choice of Lynn Givens, who has been High Woman at the Tac-Con shoot more often than any other woman. Lynn, who is one of the busy administrators who keep the event going, happens to be Tom's wife, but there is no



Multiple Women's Champ Lynn Givens shows her winning form with her GLOCK 17.



Multiple Women's Champ Gail Pepin shoots a one-handed stage in the 2018 match with her G17 Gen3.



Multiple Tac-Con winner Gabe White shoots his GLOCK 17 Gen5 from behind simulated cover, having drawn from an appendix holster under shirt.

neptotism involved: Lynn always shoots in a squad with the regular competitors, in front of everyone, as we all do. Two others to watch in this category are Gail Pepin, another who has won High Woman more than once and switches between her G34 and a G17 Gen3, and Melody Lauer, who took High Woman with a G19 in 2018.

Another category that draws a crowd of talented GLOCK shooters is Lawman. Over the last three years, each winner was shooting a 9X19 GLOCK. In 2017, Lee Weems won with a G17 Gen2, and I came in second with a stock G19 Gen5. In 2018 it was the reverse, with me taking High Lawman and Lee second, each with the same GLOCKS. In 2019, Wayne Dobbs beat us both for High Lawman (and not for the first time). Wayne was shooting a GLOCK 19.

The 2020 Tactical Conference will be held in Dallas, Texas, Friday, March 27 through Sunday, March 29. Sign up early if you want to get in! I Hope to see you there.

For more information on the 2020 Tactical Conference, visit www.eventbrite.com/e/tactical-conference-2020-dallas-tickets-60665750894. ☉



The honorees and participants on the 2019 Law Enforcement and Veterans Appreciation Day event included seven invited defenders, GLOCK management, trainers, and pro shooters, as well as members and staff from The Young Marines organization.

ATTENDANCE SOARS AT GLOCK ANNUAL SHOOT XXVI

**FAMILIES, LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND MILITARY VETERANS GATHERED
IN RECORD NUMBERS FOR THE 26TH ANNUAL COMPETITION.**

■ ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY ANDRE M. DALL'AU

The GLOCK Annual Shoot at CMP Talladega, Alabama, comprises several events rolled into one action-packed weekend. Not only do record-breaking numbers of men, women, and families enjoy competing on the GLOCK Sport Shooting Foundation (GSSF) stages, GLOCK also hosts a Law Enforcement and Veterans Appreciation Day and invites GLOCK Matchmeisters to engage in a head-to-head match to determine who gets their name engraved on the trophy cup as the winner of the famous "Gunny Challenge."

For the 26th consecutive year, 2019's GLOCK Annual Shoot hosted like-minded, similarly equipped, and equally experienced GSSF sport shooters at one of the most modern and well-run ranges in the country, the Talladega Marksmanship Park. And what a shoot it was, with entry numbers for 2019's event besting 2018's.

GSSF was created in 1991 to offer simple but challenging courses of fire that serve as a gateway into other sport shooting endeavors for its participants. The emphasis in

these competitions is on safety and accuracy, while providing a welcoming atmosphere to all. The record-breaking GLOCK Annual shoot was one of 50 outdoor matches in 2019 that awarded prizes both to the winners and to others in random drawings. (GSSF gave away an average of 22 pistols, more than two-dozen membership extensions, and over \$4,000 in cash prizes and gear per match during 2019.)

DEFENDERS UNITED IN BATTLE AND COMPETITION

One essential component of the Annual Shoot weekend is the low-key but important Law Enforcement and Veteran's Appreciation Day celebration. During the year, GLOCK reaches out to law enforcement and military veterans who not only defended our nation but suffered injury during their service, and hosts them at various events, including the Annual Shoot.

This year, seven defenders took to the range to shoot their GLOCKS in a friendly competition, one in which they were able to share their common experiences while relaxing with

“As the record-breaking numbers prove, the GSSF is introducing more new shooters, especially families and women into active competition with its simple and fun courses of fire.”

comrades with whom they could easily relate. The group's initial small-talk soon turned into full-fledged, good-natured chatter as they supported, ribbed, and cheered on each other while shooting a competitive course of fire. Who won? Nobody asked and nobody cared, as the experience of being around fellow defenders who shared common challenges was what made the day worthwhile.

One of the attendees, Gunnery Sergeant Brian Meyer, had been an experienced Marine EOD tech until an IED in Afghanistan wounded him a month before he was to go home. He said of the IED he had attempted to defuse, “I got the vibe that this was special. It was well made, well emplaced, very impressive, and we never had seen anything like it before. I took off the pressure plate and thought I'd gotten the power supply disconnected—but it went off.”

Meyer lost his right leg, right hand, thumb, and all but two fingers of his left hand in the explosion. That would slow down many, but at the GLOCK Annual Shoot, he not only enjoyed accurately firing the GLOCK pistols but getting to compete with others who had overcome similar issues. He said, “The GLOCK Annual Shoot is great because this is the kind event that produces friendships and relationships with like-minded people forged in similar conditions.”

And about shooting the GLOCKS he added, “I know I could safely handle and shoot the pistol. I was a marksmanship instructor in the Marines, so I knew what to do, but recoil management is a challenge. Unlike other pistols, I had no problem manipulating the GLOCK pistol, so I was really impressed with it. I found it is everything I need, and after today, I am a GLOCK guy!”

REMEMBERING THE GUNNY

Another Marine Gunnery Sergeant, the late R. Lee Erme, started the Gunny Challenge pistol competition more than a decade ago. This unique match sees 20 Matchmeisters—competitors who qualified by their wins at GSSF matches during the year—participate in a special timed course of fire. Each shooter fires 10 rounds from both GLOCK 48 and GLOCK 43X pistols against steel plates and poppers, with the winner being the first to drop their designated popper before their opponent.

Dennis Kirchhoff took top honors this year in a well-fought campaign culminating with a final, breathtaking shoot-off against second-place GSSF Matchmeister Tony Boone. As Boone described it, “I lost it by one shot, one piece of steel.

Second-place Tony Boone (foreground) fell behind by missing just one plate in the final string, a loss of the narrowest margins.



The 2019 Gunny Challenge course of fire was to place shots on the large red steel plate, knock down all the white and three of the blue steel plates, then be the first to knock down your popper before your opponent does.

Winners and smiles abound at the GLOCK Annual Shoot XXVI. The 2019 event had record attendance.



“Invited GLOCK Matchmeisters engage in a head-to-head match to determine who has their name engraved on the trophy cup as the winner of the famous Gunny Challenge.”



After shooting against almost half of the field, Dennis Kirchhoff (foreground) went head-to-head to win against second-place Tony Boone (background).



This year's second-place Gunny Challenge winner, Tony Boone, with his daughter who last year was the first woman to get into the top four.

We were tied up two and two (out of five strings), and it came down to one plate. I missed and he didn't, and Dennis beat me by one shot and a quarter of a second!" Butch Barton came in third, while Bruce Braxton took fourth place and went home with a new GLOCK as his prize. For first place, Kirchhoff was awarded a \$3,000 prize, with \$2,000 for second going to Boone and \$1,000 to Barton for third.

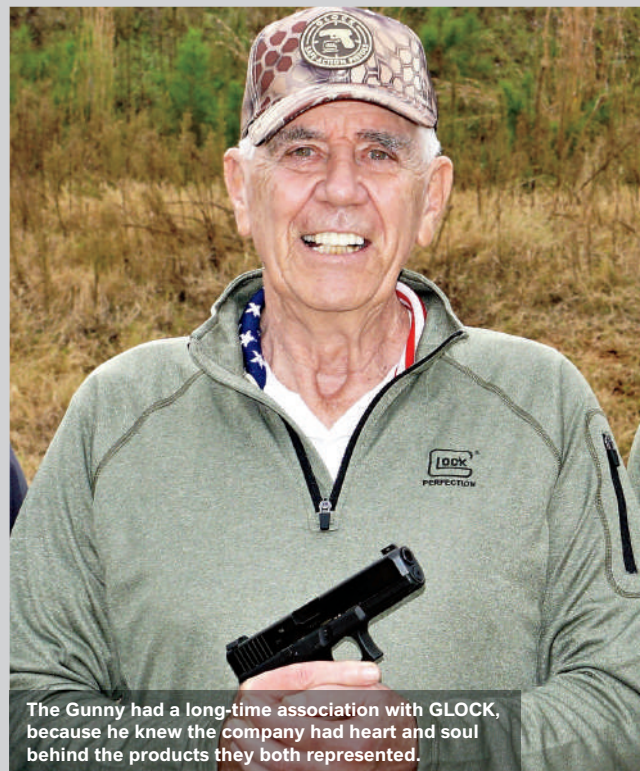
As the record-breaking numbers at the 2019 GLOCK Annual Shoot prove, GSSF is introducing more new people, especially families and women, to active competition. With its simple and fun courses of fire, people new to the shooting sports enjoy that they can show up with a cased GLOCK, ammo, and safety gear, listen to the range officers, and win the very first time. But even seasoned GLOCK shooters enjoy the GSSF. Top shot Kirchhoff said, "I have been in GSSF for 20 years. It is simple for beginners, but at the level that I am, you have to be fast and accurate. It is the perfect test of anyone's handgun skills."

GLOCK ANNUAL SHOOT 2020

For more information and answers to questions about participating in GSSF matches in general or the 2020 Annual Shoot in particular, please visit GSSFonline.com. The 2020 GLOCK Annual Shoot XXVII will once again take place at CMP Talladega, scheduled for September 18 through 20, with the Gunny Challenge XVI on Saturday, September 19. ☺

R. LEE ERMEY

LIVES ON WITH GLOCK'S GUNNY CHALLENGE



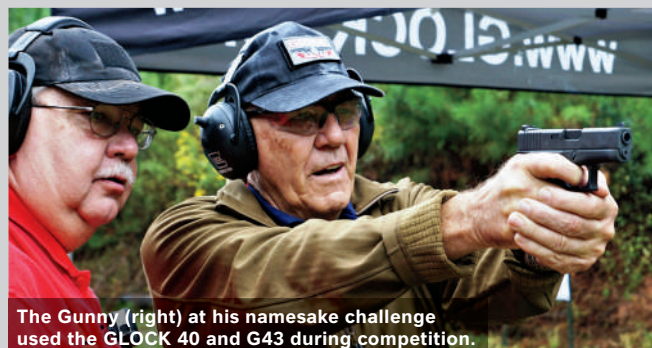
The Gunny had a long-time association with GLOCK, because he knew the company had heart and soul behind the products they both represented.

LEGEND SAYS THAT NO PERSON IS GONE IF PEOPLE STILL SPEAK THEIR NAME. THANKS TO THE ANNUAL GUNNY CHALLENGE, THE MEMORY OF "THE GUNNY" R. LEE ERMEY WILL ALWAYS BE WITH US.

■ ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY ANDRE M. DALL'AU

Now in its fifteenth year, the GLOCK "Gunny Challenge" is a head-to-head matchup of GLOCK "MatchMeisters" that takes place at the GLOCK Annual shoot. This meeting of some of the best competitive shooters in the country shows no sign of waning in popularity. That's partly due to the Annual shoot itself, which has historically drawn more shooters than any other pistol competition in the nation. But it also owes its field of champions and vast audience of spectators to the man for which it's named.

Ermey was discharged from the Marines in 1972 for medical reasons and labored at a variety of jobs before finding his stride playing the iconic Gunnery Sergeant Hartman in the Vietnam era epic *Full Metal Jacket*. His portrayal was so memorable, so powerful, and left such a lasting impression that he not only earned a Golden Globe nomination but a lasting nickname: "The Gunny." Ermey soon became the go-to guy for playing authority figures, menacing tough guys, and military leaders in more than 70 feature movies. Add to that his hundreds of episodes of *Mail Call*, *Lock N' Load with R. Lee Ermey*, and The Outdoor Channel's *GunnyTime* series, and The



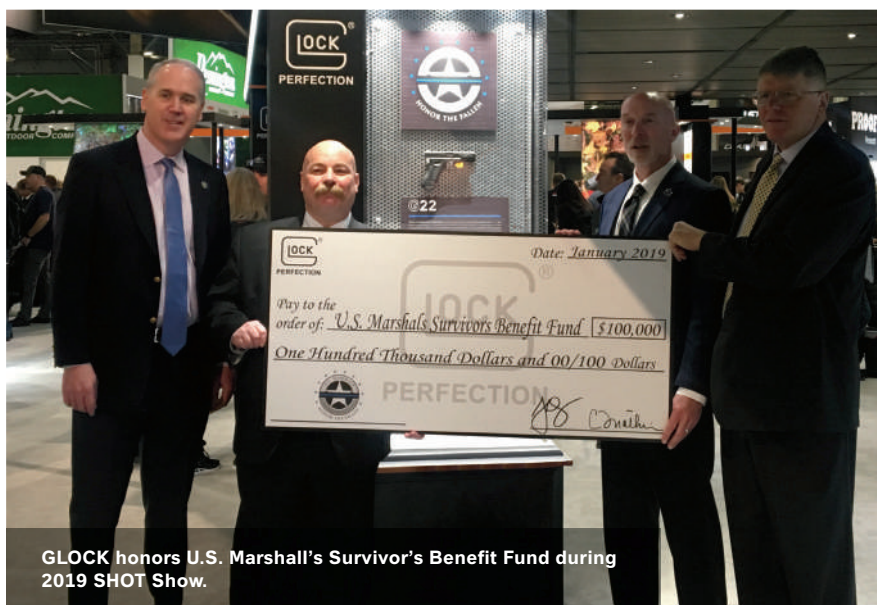
The Gunny (right) at his namesake challenge used the GLOCK 40 and G43 during competition.

Gunny became nothing short of a household name. Although we lost Ermey in 2018, the GLOCK Gunny Challenge carries on his name and his legacy of duty, honor, and country.

Legend says no person is gone if people still speak their name. Thanks to GLOCK's Annual Gunny Challenge, the memory of "The Gunny" R. Lee Ermey will always be with us.

Semper Fi, Gunny. ☉

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GLOCK honors U.S. Marshall's Survivor's Benefit Fund during 2019 SHOT Show.



GLOCK supports DEA Survivors Benefit Fund during 2019 IACP show in Chicago.



GLOCK honors 2019 Concerns of Police Survivors Benefit Fund.



GLOCK Supports NRA Whittington Center during NRA Annual meeting 2019.

GLOCK GIVES BACK

MAKING A DIFFERENCE YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW

■ ARTICLE BY ROBYN SANDOVAL ■ PHOTOS COURTESY OF GLOCK

Each year, GLOCK supports hundreds of events and charitable organizations across the nation at the local, state, and national levels. GLOCK's contributions to these programs demonstrate the company's commitment to making a difference. The "giving back" philosophy has been an enduring initiative of GLOCK, and many organizations throughout the nation benefit each year from GLOCK's donations, sponsorships, and scholarships. Here are some highlights from 2019.

YOUNG MARINES

GLOCK has been a long-time sponsor of the Young Marines (youngmarines.com) program, which received \$50,000 from GLOCK in 2019. The Young Marines is a youth education and service program that teaches children the importance of self-confidence, academic achievement, honoring our veterans, good citizenship, community service, and living a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

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"GLOCK's generosity has helped support the leadership training and development of hundreds of American youths across the country," said Bill Davis, National Executive Director. "GLOCK has been integral in our development of marksmanship programs here recently, expanding our engagement with these young Americans. We sincerely appreciate their support that goes well beyond just the financial piece."

GLOCK funds go to support various activities of the Young Marines. Specifically, funds are used to support the annual leadership academy, the new marksmanship program, and various scholarships for Young Marines to attend summer programs. Members of Team GLOCK and the GLOCK Sport Shooting Foundation have participated in the Young Marines Annual Leadership Academy in Oregon the last two years. Having them come out and spend time with Young Marines while doing some familiarization and marksmanship training has been an outstanding addition to this event.

CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS

Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.; nationalcops.org) has been the recipient of more than \$600,000 from GLOCK over the past 12 years. The organization provides resources to help families of police officers killed in the line of duty rebuild their shattered lives.

"GLOCK is such a strong force in the law-enforcement world, and to be selected as one of its charities of choice is an honor," said Dianne Bernhard, Executive Director of C.O.P.S. "For many years, the donations GLOCK has given to support survivors through C.O.P.S. has truly changed lives. On behalf of over 51,000 survivors nationwide, thank you, GLOCK, for being the definition of how the blue family takes care of their own."

With GLOCK's contributions, C.O.P.S. is able to continue to provide healing programs and events to surviving families and coworkers who have suffered the unimaginable tragedy of a line-of-duty death. One special event, Picnic on the Patio, provides dinner, games, music, and camaraderie, so that survivors can relax and be with each other.

A GIRL & A GUN BACK THE WOMEN IN BLUE

The Back the Women in Blue (BTWB) program, hosted by A Girl & A Gun Women's Shooting League (AG & AG; agirlandagun.org/btwb) provides sponsored training for female law enforcement officers from departments across the country. GLOCK's contributions fund the lodging, range fees, and instruction for participants so that the event is affordable for the officers.

The time is valuable for the officers, who are able to talk with other women about gear, tactics, and marksmanship. The officers share drills from their home departments and learn best practices from other officers. The instructor team helps officers adjust their department-issued gear to better fit their bodies so that they are faster and more accurate. The BTWB curriculum includes formal training on situational concepts that many have not reviewed since the police academy, including observational awareness, pre-contact cue training, stress-response training, advanced handcuffing, defensive tactics, ground fighting, and more. Scenario drills help reinforce learning to further help keep officers safe on the streets.

DEA SURVIVORS BENEFIT FUND

The DEA Survivors Benefit Fund (deasbf.org) has been at trusted partner of GLOCK for more than 10 years. The organization provides memorials, continuing education, and death benefits to the families of DEA employees and Task Force Officers killed in the line of duty. The fund currently finances the college education of nine children, all of whom lost their fathers in the line of duty.

Retired DEA Special Agent and Survivors Benefit Fund Chairman Richard Crock stated, "It makes the work of DEA Agents around the world a little easier knowing that GLOCK has partnered with the DEASBF to ensure their families are cared for should they make the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. The fund would not exist without our partners like GLOCK."

SPECIAL OPERATIONS WARRIOR FOUNDATION

The Special Operations Warrior Foundation (specialops.org) is the recipient of \$100,000 annually from GLOCK. The organization provides college financial assistance to the surviving children of Special Operations personnel who lose

GLOCK honors the Young Marines, an organization established to support those injured in the line of duty. This presentation was at the Invitational held the day before The 2019 Gunny Challenge.



their lives in the line-of-duty, as well as grants to severely combat-wounded and hospitalized Special Operations personnel and their families.

SCHOLASTIC SHOOTING SPORTS FOUNDATION

The Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation (SSSF; sssfonline.com) is just one of several youth programs that GLOCK supports each year. The Foundation facilitates the Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) and Scholastic Action Shooting Program (SASP) in the United States. SCTP and SASP are youth-development programs in which adult coaches and other volunteers use the shooting sports to teach and demonstrate sportsmanship, responsibility, honesty, ethics, integrity, teamwork, and other positive life skills.

NRA ADVENTURE CAMP

The NRA Adventure Camp is another youth program that partners with GLOCK. An outdoor youth camp for boys and girls ages 13 to 17, it is offered in two-week sessions at the NRA Whittington Center in New Mexico, which is itself a recipient of GLOCK's charitable contributions. Campers learn everything from shooting fundamentals to firearm safety, marksmanship, basic wilderness survival skills, and much more.

EXTENDED FAMILY

GLOCK was built on a strong foundation of philanthropy and has contributed millions to nonprofit causes across the country. The company is able to make a difference by contributing to a number of initiatives. These include 3rd Recon Association (3rdrecon.org); Troops Direct (troopsdirect.org); LCpl Skip Wells Foundation (lcplskipwellsfoundation.com); Marine Raider Foundation (marineraiderfoundation.org); Honoring American Veterans Afield (HAVA) (honoredveterans.org); Ohio 4H Shooting Sports (ohio4h.org); Force Recon Association (forcerecon.com); National Fraternal Order of Police (fop.net); and the Officer John Anderson Memorial, among others.

In addition to financial contributions, GLOCK's partnership with a variety of national programs demonstrates its ongoing commitment to making a difference in specific communities, as well as the firearms industry as a whole. The organization is committed to supporting worthwhile organizations that make a difference in the veteran, law enforcement, women, and youth communities. Yesterday, today, and tomorrow, worthwhile causes are grateful that GLOCK gives back. 🍷



The goal of the instructor team at Georgia's Cobb County Safety Village is to teach children how to prevent and avoid contact with a firearm, while learning critical communication skills to alert adults.

GEORGIA'S COBB COUNTY SAFETY VILLAGE

THE PEACH STATE GETS A STATE-OF-THE-ART, FIREARMS SAFETY PUBLIC EDUCATION CENTER—AND IT'S ALL THANKS TO GLOCK.

ARTICLE BY TATIANA WHITLOCK ■ PHOTO COURTESY COBB COUNTY SAFETY VILLAGE

Scenario-based learning is rapidly becoming the most sought-after form of firearms training. Force-on-force courses are filling nationwide as concealed carriers and home defense-minded gun owners pursue safety and problem-solving training in the everyday environments in which they live. Strengthening home-defense skills in a home-like structure, using inert training tools and role-players, is akin to a pilot learning to fly in a mock cockpit utilizing a flight simulator.

This type of immersive, hands-on learning isn't just for adults. It's proven to be an excellent method for teaching fire safety, life-safety skills, and, yes, firearms safety to children. Regarding the latter, GLOCK has partnered with the innovative, learning-by-doing educational facility known as the Cobb County Safety Village in Cobb County, Georgia, to take youth firearms safety education to the next level.

The Cobb County Safety Village Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)3 organization, is an eight-acre miniature town modeled on the landmark architecture of downtown Marietta, Georgia. It includes a fire station and commercial and residential structures. Each building, sidewalk, intersection, and other feature on the property can instantly be transformed into a near-real-life classroom teaching injury prevention and life-saving skills.

Early in 2019, the Cobb County Board of Commissioners accepted a generous \$100,000 donation by GLOCK to build and maintain a dedicated firearms safety training house at the Safety Village. When completed, it will be a 20-foot by 30-foot replica home equipped with a kitchen, living room, and bedroom.

"When children sit in a classroom too long, their attention span and learning retention deteriorate," says Allison Carter, the Village's Director. "Safety skills are best learned and rehearsed by children and adults in an environment that looks and feels familiar."

There are currently 27 Safety Villages across the U.S. and six in Canada, but the Cobb County Safety Village is the first to have a dedicated firearms safety house.

"GLOCK has been a fantastic supporter of our mission at the Safety Village. By funding the GLOCK safety house, we can provide an in-depth gun safety program that will reach thousands of kids every year," says Carter. Construction on the GLOCK safety house began in September 2019 and it is anticipated that it will be ready to receive students in the spring of 2020.

The plan for the GLOCK safety house, when it comes to children, will include utilizing inert (non-firing) training guns on which students will learn about and practice the "Hands up and away! Go tell an adult!" safety communication drill should they find a gun in common household areas. Students will first work with local law enforcement officers, who would model and demonstrate these skills and then role-play "I found a gun" scenarios in a household setting. This kind of scenario-based learning allows kids to learn, rehearse, and troubleshoot firearms safety skills in a controlled and safe environment.

"We are not here to teach gun handling or how to shoot," explained Carter. "That is the responsibility of the parents. Our goal is to teach children how to prevent and avoid physical contact with a firearm and learn critical communication skills to alert an adult."

Over 22,000 students experienced the Safety Village during the 2019 school year, and another 4,000 kids, parents, and seniors participated in the summer Family Fun Safety Days. Second- and fourth-graders from Cobb County and Marietta also visit the Safety Village once a year to experience age-appropriate training programs with a professional first responder. When it comes to firearms safety, students learn strategies for what to do should they come across a firearm at home, at a friend's house, or in a public space. For more information on the Cobb County Safety Village, visit cobbcounty.org/public-safety/safety-village.

WOMEN IN THE SHOOTING SPORTS GLOCK HAS YOUR BACK

WOMEN ARE THE LARGEST-GROWING SEGMENT IN THE SHOOTING SPORTS—
AND ONE BY ONE THEY'RE DRIVING INNOVATION ACROSS THE FIREARMS
INDUSTRY AND ENCOURAGING OTHERS TO JOIN IN THE FUN.

■ ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY TATIANA WHITLOCK



#IamGLOCK

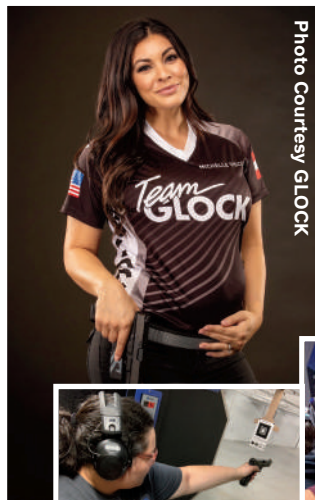
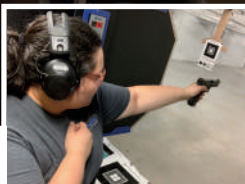


Photo Courtesy GLOCK



The shooting sports industry is growing by leaps and bounds, and much of that growth is directly attributable to thousands of women heading to the range. Mothers, daughters, sisters, and best friends can be found “making brass” at Ladies’ Night and Date Night events, shooting competitively, hunting, and becoming certified firearms educators. Easily the fastest-growing demographic in the shooting sports, women are proving to be a significant influence on market trends, product design, and safety education.

According to a recent report by the National Shooting Sports Foundation, “The face of America’s target shooters is changing. New target shooters—those who have taken up the sport in the last five years—are younger, female, and urban ...” Nancy Bacon of Southwick Associates in another study notes that six-million women hit the range for target shooting in 2016. And the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2016 reported that women accounted for 10 percent of the nation’s hunters, translating to 1.1 million women donning camo and harvesting game.

What’s spurred this growth? Many women cite self-defense as the primary motivation for first picking up a gun.

“I bought my first gun after a very scary experience with a coworker,” says Cynthia J. “I needed to get my concealed carry permit and learn how to both keep myself safe and how to be safe with a gun.”

While self-defense may be the initial reason so many women become firearms owners, extended participation in the shooting sports quickly follows. Women’s-only training programs are *thriving* nationwide. The NRA’s

“Women on Target” program sees thousands of brand-new shooters transform from nervous and fearful to safe and empowered in these one-day classes. Organizations such as A Girl & A Gun, The Well Armed Women, and Shoot Like A Girl, as well as the Becoming an Outdoors Woman program are championing the movement as you’ll see on the following pages, .

The impact of this rapidly growing demographic reaches well beyond the range. Women are now a driving force in the evolution of firearms and gear design. The old “shrink-it-and-pink-it” mindset of manufacturers—the belief that smaller guns and gear produced in “feminine” colors would be enough to satisfy female shooters—has been replaced by intelligent design and advanced engineering solutions that truly meet women’s needs.

Families, too, are discovering the joy of shooting thanks to the moms and sisters taking those first steps.

“Every new lady who comes to shoot with us for the first time soon after brings her husband and kids. Safety is crucial, and no one appreciates that more than the moms. Now we see whole families come to learn and practice together,” says Adam Copp, owner of Howell’s Gun Shop & Indoor Range in Gray, Maine.

Without a doubt, women are playing an increasingly vital role in passing on our nation’s greatest pastime to the next generation, and they are the inspiration behind much of the innovation seen in the products produced today. Next time you’re headed to the range, show this article in the 2020 GLOCK Annual to your mom, aunt, sister, or best girlfriend and ask her to go with you. We bet she won’t say no! ☺



Hundreds of TAW members each year attend safety and educational events sponsored by GLOCK.

THE WELL ARMED WOMAN



The Well Armed Woman (TAW; thewellarmedwoman.com) was founded by Carrie Lightfoot who believed that women needed a single reliable resource for information on concealed carry. What began as a website resource evolved rapidly into a national community of 345 TAW shooting chapters, across 47 states, embracing more than 11,000 women. The mission of the thousands of TAW members nationwide is to educate, equip, and empower women in a safe and non-threatening environment on their effective and responsible use and ownership of a firearm.

"We are living in a time that is marked by change. In every aspect and on every level, life is not what it used to be," said Lightfoot. "One significant change is the woman's journey from being the protected to becoming the protector."

In understanding this need for responsible training and education, Lightfoot has cultivated a community of trainers, coaches, and members who work with women of all skill levels. GLOCK has been a steadfast partner over the years, and TAW members and leaders regularly attend GLOCK safety training and educational events. "GLOCK has been a great fit for our community," says Marti Stonecipher, TAW National Program Director. "Their dedication to diving in and supporting women's organizations is why we see the brand thriving in our membership."



GLOCK provides introductory and advanced handgun skills classes, as well as basic safety workshops, to BOW participants in the company's home state of Georgia.

BECOMING AN OUTDOORS-WOMAN



When Christine Thomas noticed a decline in women participating in outdoor activities like hunting and fishing in the early 1990s, she took action. An Associate Dean and Professor of Resource Management at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point College of Natural Resources, Thomas developed the Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) program to educate and cultivate a love of the outdoors for women, by women. BOW programs first launched in Minnesota in 1994, when the Division of Wildlife at the DNR decided to adopt the program as a mainstay of its community outreach. Today, the nonprofit offers educational retreats to women in over 40 states and several Canadian provinces, drawing women from all walks of life to learn about and experience the great outdoors.

"BOW is an educational program offering hands-on workshops to women of all ages and physical ability levels," said Jody Rice, Georgia BOW Coordinator. "It aims to break down barriers to female participation in outdoor activities by providing a safe and supportive learning environment."

Each state offers its own regionally-themed events and partners with local educators, businesses, and national brands in support of its DNR's women's outreach efforts. GLOCK has supported its home state of Georgia's BOW events, hosting "Intro to Handgun" and firearms safety workshops. Not just for novices, BOW also caters to the more experienced outdoorswoman through the Beyond Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BBOW) program. Here, GLOCK sponsors "Advanced Women's Handgun Workshops" at select events, drawing participants looking for next-step handgun training. The success of these programs is evident in the hundreds upon hundreds of women who have found the resource valuable and entertaining. To find BOW events in your state, type "Becoming an Outdoors Woman programs near me" into your favorite internet search engine.



GLOCK supports A Girl & A Gun, the nation's fastest-growing women's shooting league, with leadership courses, Amorer's Courses, and training at the annual AG & AG National Conference.

A GIRL & A GUN



The nation's fastest growing women's shooting league, A Girl and A Gun (AG & AG; agirlandagun.org), was founded nearly a decade ago by Julianna Crowder. The initial chapter began as a social gathering at a local Texas range where members could shoot and engage in gun-talk in a judgement-free environment. Crowder then partnered with Robyn Sandoval and the league evolved quickly into organized chapters at nearly 200 indoor and outdoor ranges across the USA. Over 40,000 women participate at local, regional, and national AG & AG events each year.

GLOCK has played a significant role in the success of A Girl & A Gun, providing training programs for AG & AG leadership at the local and national levels. More than 40 AG &

AG leaders have earned certificates as GLOCK operators and armorers, and it was AG & AG participants who comprised the first all-women Armorer's Course ever held at GLOCK. GLOCK also supports the annual A Girl & A Gun National Conference, drawing 450 members from across the U.S. for four days of top-level training, with live-fire demo days and donating firearms for random drawings throughout the event. In addition, GLOCK is the title sponsor of the AG & AG "Back the Women in Blue" program that works to provide specialized training to female law enforcement officers. GLOCK's contribution allows AG & AG to cover all the training fees, range fees, food, and lodging for female officers from around the country who attend this special event.



Shoot Like A Girl's state-of-the-art mobile range travels the country bringing safe and friendly firearms and training to women across the U.S.

SHOOT LIKE A GIRL



Since 2008, more than 21,263 women nationwide have become involved in the shooting sports with Shoot Like A Girl (shootlikeagirl.com). Founded by Karen Butler, a shooter, retired Army veteran, and hunter, Shoot Like A Girl is dedicated to growing the number of women who participate in the shooting sports. Shoot Like A Girl's female trainers and mobile state-of-the-art training range travel the country making appearances at Cabela's, Bass Pro Shops, and outdoor sporting events.

"The confidence that comes from having a safe shooting experience can be life-changing. It was for me," said Butler. "Every woman should have an opportunity to experience the confidence that shooting brings."

When Butler approached GLOCK about supporting Shoot Like A Girl, the company didn't hesitate. Inside the mobile

training range, participants shoot semi-automatic firearms including a 9x19, .40 AUTO, and a .223 rifle round modified to work with the simulator. In 2019, Shoot Like A Girl visited 26 venues, crisscrossing the United States twice and reaching close to 2,500 women. A long list of events is on tap for 2020 as well. "Without GLOCK's support from the get-go, we wouldn't have had the financial means to carry out this mission," emphasized Butler. "We are forever grateful for GLOCK and how it's embraced the Shoot Like A Girl mission."

INTO THE WILD: WHEN THE YOUNG LEAVE THE NEST

**EDUCATING YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT FIREARMS AND PERSONAL SAFETY
CAN BE A DAUNTING TASK—BUT THE DIVIDENDS CAN LAST A LIFETIME.**

■ ARTICLE BY CHRIS EDWARDS ■ PHOTO BY FRANK STEIGER

Any parent worthy of the title will attempt to pass on hard-learned lessons to their offspring. Study of the animal kingdom reveals that most parents, though in different times, places, and ways, will instruct their young on how to survive and thrive. This can take the form of demonstrating a survival task, such as hunting, and then supervising the young in their first attempts. Eventually, the offspring are (hopefully) successful and move on.

Any number of individuals influence their tribe's younger members. From daycare providers, grandparents, and other close relatives to teachers, sports coaches and their friends' parents, the more experienced impress hundreds of lessons on our youths as they progress in this world. For many, that includes lessons on self-defense. That's a tough one for some, especially parents, but a discussion about the issues related to personal-defense is one well worth tackling.

YOUR HEAD UP AND ON A SWIVEL

In his seminal monograph, *Principles of Personal Defense*, Jeff Cooper, founder of the Modern Technique of handgun shooting, lists "awareness" as his first principle in maintaining one's safety. Cooper's decision to place awareness before anything else makes perfect sense: As he put it, "What you don't know can jolly well kill you!"

I see this first principle violated all the time. The biggest cause these days is the proliferation of smartphones; too many folks walk through life with all their focus directed down in front of them. That's a pretty poor position for one to be aware of what's going on around them.

How and when do you teach situational awareness to your children? It can begin at an early age. Kids learn early on, for instance, not to touch a hot stove or pet a strange dog. A few other examples of teaching situational awareness include:

- Crossing a street or road. Teach your child to look one way, then the next, and throw in a question or two about what can be seen in either direction.
- Walking through a public park or mall, pointing out places one should not attempt to go without very good reason and, perhaps, not without escort (for example, an alleyway or an area sheltered from public view).
- Never leaving your car while it's running and never leaving the keys in the ignition. Explain to your kids why not following this practice can lead to a carjacking or an unintended accident.

KNOW THE TOOLS AND HOW TO USE THEM

It cannot be stressed enough that, if firearms are to be part of the plan, professional instruction is *vital*. Such training, again,



If educating your child about self-defense includes the use of firearms, professional instruction on safe and responsible handling should be considered not only vital but mandatory.

can start at an early age. The National Rifle Association's Eddie Eagle program (eddieeagle.nra.org) has been fielded for some time and tested positively. It can and should be used to introduce younger individuals to firearms safety. The National Shooting Sports Foundation's Project ChildSafe website (projectchildsafe.org) also boasts numerous training resources, including videos that help talk about this subject to children of different ages, quizzes, safety kits, and more. Hunter education courses are another good resource, even if you and your children don't intend to hunt. Understanding how to safely handle and store a firearm for anyone can go a long way toward preventing a tragedy.

My youngest daughter recently appeared to have short-circuited a situation in which the outcome could have been ugly. Without going into detail, she was aware of a trespasser, confronted him firmly, and the trespasser was deterred. I credit a "Youth 250" class she attended at Gunsite (gunsite.com) for giving her an appreciation of awareness and the confidence to face trouble. (Of course, having a GLOCK 19 on her probably assisted too!)

IT'S A JOURNEY, NOT A DESTINATION

Like any activity, firearm safety and use benefit from regular practice, and making that practice a family affair only enhances the experience. Hold informal target sessions outdoors or work on formal drills at an indoor range. Competitive shooting should also be in your wheelhouse. There are many shooting disciplines any shooter can explore, from slow and steady NRA-sanctioned bull's-eye matches, long-range steel silhouette, and GLOCK Sport Shooting Foundation matches to action-packed 3-Gun events and the fast-paced game of sporting clays. No matter what gets you excited about shooting and shooting more often, there's a competition out there for you and your kids. Show them the way—you won't for a minute be sorry you did. ☺

GSSF

Good. Solid. Shooting. Fun.

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and other information,
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