## **INFOGRAPHIC:** WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

nternational Defensive Pistol Association

FOURTH QUARTER, 2015/VOLUME 19 - ISSUE 4

# 2015 IDPA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

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Fourth Quarter, 2015/Volume 19 - Issue 4

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International Defensive Pistol Association's



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Printing/Distribution **Royle Printing** Journal Design Services **Pries Creative** 



#### The International Defensive Pistol

Association's Tactical Journal welcomes submissions of press releases and news of interest to our readers. All material is considered unsolicited and is subject to the approval of the Publisher, Editor, and Advisory Board. All submissions imply consent to publish and will not be monetarily compensated or returned.

#### Viewpoints expressed in International Defensive Pistol Association's Tactical Journal are those of their respective authors

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Distribution Schedule: Quarterly Projected Mailing Dates: Feb. 1, May 1, Aug. 1, Nov. 1 Closing Dates for Ad Copy: Jan. 1, Apr. 1, Jul. 1, Oct. 1 Advertising Rates: Contact IDPA Payment Terms: Prepayment or Net 30 Days to approved accounts

Mechanical Requirements: Advertisement copy is acceptable in digital format. Please e-mail IDPA Headquarters at ads@idpa.com for digital requirements.

**Note:** Ads must be the correct dimensions. Ads should be e-mailed to ads@idpa.com.

Shipping product samples for review, and other items that cannot be e-mailed, ship to:

IDPA Tactical Journal 2232 CR 719 Berryville, AR 72616

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## New Product Announcement

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## Changes, Upgrades & Improvements A Message from Joyce Wilson, IDPA Executive Director

This Fall I had the pleasure of welcoming more than 400 shooters to the 2nd IDPA World Championship in Tulsa, Oklahoma. What a great experience to meet shooters from all over the world. The accents and firearms may change, but the love of shooting and enthusiasm for our sport remain the same.

Match Director Brian Erhler has agreed to lead the 2016 IDPA National Championship. Assistant Match Directors Rick Lund and Phil Torres will return, as well, to repeat their success from this year. The match will be held in Cresson, Texas, at the Triple C Tactical Range. Please mark your calendars to join us next September - I have visited this range and the spacious bays and hospitality there are sure to make Nationals even more special.

Some additional news was announced at the World Championship, and you may have already read about it on social media. The Board of Directors, comprised of two MA and one EX shooters with a combined 57 years of IDPA experience, has elected to increase the Point Down penalty from a half second to 1 second. This decision was made to keep the sport aligned with the founder's intent of valuing accuracy over speed. As concealed carry holders, which many of our members are, we are responsible for every round that leaves our gun, and IDPA needs to reflect that in our practices. I met with some of the Area Coordinators recently to share this information and the feedback received from them was very positive. There is no hard timetable for this change. Classification scores and other areas will need to reflect the change, and we are already working with some of our scoring vendors on this change. More information will be available as the work progresses and we will make updates on this via the Tactical Journal and Tactical Brief.

In coming months, our partners at RANGELOG will be upgrading the member site for better performance and speed, and allow members to get to their most recent scores more quickly. And soon new features will be rolled out for IDPA Safety Officers, Instructors and Area Coordinators to make the member site a better tool for learning and communication.

Our Tiger Teams continue to work hard for us. The video team is working in conjunction with our partners at RANGELOG to present the first videos for our members online. The Continuing Education Team is producing a Guide for MDs and SOs who are new to the role. This guide will assist them in areas of stage design and selection, staffing and tips on running both local and sanctioned matches.

Our Area Coordinators are continuing to enhance their role, as well. A very successful call was held in September with all the ACs, and many tips and ideas were shared among the group. We have a subset of ACs who will be working on an AC Handbook to assist with training and consistency. That effort kicked off in October. Our ACs all strive to improve our sport, so please, if you see your representative at a match, tell them "thank you" for their efforts.

I wish you and yours a wonderful Christmas season and a new year filled with happiness and the smell of gunpowder!

~ Joyce



**Joyce Wilson, #CL087** Joyce Wilson is Executive Director of IDPA. Members can contact her at Joyce@idpa.com.

# I'm dreaming of a White Christmas Gunpowder & Lead

By Kitty Richards



Despite the hot, muggy weather at the IDPA World Championship in Tulsa in September, several of our lady shooters still had a Christmas wish list churning in their heads. Most knew not only what they wanted, but what they wanted to purchase for other shooters, as well.

Celebrating her first World Championship, Amy Maddox from Kittredge, CO, shot as a SSP MM in Tulsa. The United Airlines Captain has been participating in IDPA for about a year and a half. Maddox attended the match with her husband and says, "IDPA is fun, it helps me improve my shootings skills, social interaction, and it is a sport I enjoy with my husband." She confirms, "I had a fun time at the World Championship and it definitely made me want to practice more so I can become a better shooter! I really enjoyed meeting



Amy Maddox, Colorado

all the nice people at the World Championship. The Safety Officers and people organizing and running the event were awesome!"



Denise Hamm, New York

On her wish list, she is looking to improve her shooting skills. "I would like to go to Front Sight for the basic defensive pistol course to improve my accuracy and timing. I'm happy with all the gear I use, and want to buy a new Comp-Tac holster for my husband."

Elmira, New Yorker Denice Hamm is an ESP MM and has been shooting IDPA for 5 years. Hamm says, "I shot a few club matches each year from 2010 until June 2014 for fun. I became obsessive about shooting IDPA when I got my STI Trojan in July 2014. I never knew a 1911 would be so much fun!" In addition, the litigation attorney also shoots skeet, sporting clays, five stand and some USPSA. She returns to IDPA because, "I love shooting. IDPA offers me the opportunity to interact with likeminded shooters and share knowledge of reloading, gun smithing and skill improvement."



Erinn O'Donnell, Pennsylvania

What does Denice want from Santa? "From my sponsor, Just Holster It, I am looking forward to the new ladies drop-offset holster. From Santa (myself), I am ordering a custom double stack 1911 in 45 ACP. And this year, I'm getting my dad the Glock 42."

Hamm enjoyed her time in Tulsa. "I loved the World Championship, I found it to be a challenging and enjoyable match. One of the most fun things was the opportunity to hold a glitter-coated rolling pin on stage 13, as this was my first introduction to baking utensils. I just never know what I'll learn at an IDPA match!"

SSP MM Erinn O'Donnell hails from Havertown, PA and shoots at Lower Providence Rod and Gun Club in Audubon, PA. In addition to participating in IDPA, she also competes in USPSA. This photographer and owner of Girlz n Guns shoots IDPA for "The Adrenaline Rush, who knew I was an adrenaline junky? And the friends. I have made some lifetime friends in the shooting world."

About the World Championship, she says she is "...grateful for the opportunity to have been able to participate! I found it to be very well organized; staff and competitors alike were a friendly bunch. The most fun/ cool thing about the WC was meeting all the people from across our nation and other countries. Having all these people from around the world that share a common interest come together to do what we love! I also loved how everyone, including the "best" shooters, were approachable and willing to share tips with us! I have definitely made new friends!"

O'Donnell does not hesitate, nor breathe, in reciting her wish list. "I really, really, really, really want a Nighthawk, but...maybe a Sig P320; a pair of red and black ladies Solomon sneakers; a CR Speed-Super Hi Torque Belt in red and black to match my new jersey; a reloading basket from



Mary Castang, Colorado

GT Shooting Dynamics; a Pocket Pro Timer II CEI001 and an AMMO FAIRY! Stocking stuffers... hand/foot warmers, lead wipes, Weapon Shield products...should I go on?" If you are lucky enough to be on her gift list, she would be buying you a purple competition holster by Viper Holster.

Buffalo Creek, Colorado, is the home of SSP MM Mary Castang. She has been an IDPA participant for 3 1/2 years, and also shoots USPSA and Steel Challenge. Castang has a Doctorate in Nursing and is on the Teaching and Advising Faculty of Regis University in Denver. Both Castang and her husband, Dean Barr, shoot IDPA



Melissa Devorsky, Texas

because they like the "Fun times and camaraderie. My husband and I enjoy doing it together on our days off, and meeting up with friends at the range."

Soft spoken Castang has two items on her wish list that immediately come to mind: a pair of Solomon Speed Cross 3 shooting shoes and an Armadillo Concealment vest. Hubby Dean will be opening something special on Dec. 25th, as she is buying him a course at Front Sight.

Both of them enjoyed their trip to Tulsa. Mary commented, "I was thrilled to be part of the event, and excited to participate with shooters from around the world! I loved traveling there with our group of friends (8 of us came from our area), meeting new friends and getting inspired to practice and reach the next level! I want to achieve CDP Marksman with my 1911 in the coming year."

Melissa Devorsky lives in Austin, TX and is a member of the Capitol Area Practical Shooters IDPA Club. She has been shooting IDPA for 2 years and also is "learning and practicing 3 Gun, but haven't shot a match yet, and have shot one USPSA match, although I prefer IDPA." The ESP MM is a Logistics Manager for a printing electronics company.

Devorsky continues to shoot IDPA because, "I like the scenarios and that they are possible real life situations. It helps me to think about 'my plan' when I am off the range and in the real world. I've been fortunate to be a part of A Girl and A Gun Women's Shooting League and have great friends in the sport that have given me advice to improve my skills". From Santa, she would like to continue her training. "I would like to get formal training at GLC Shooting Academy with Gordon Carrell. And another thing I'd like for Christmas is a Wilson Combat Match Grade barrel for my S&W M&P Pro to



Margo Stevens-Ray, Mississippi help improve accuracy."

As far as playing Santa, she has a great idea. "For my husband, I'd like to get him a good pair of E.A.R, Inc in-ear electronic ear protection. He doesn't have the best hearing and it is important to protect the hearing that he does have. And in the Texas heat, it is an added bonus to not wear the ear muffs."

Devorsky was enthusiastic about her first WC. "Being able to attend the World Championship in Tulsa was a wonderful and fun experience for me. It was in a beautiful area and range, had great stages and great staff. The stages were challenging and showed me what skills I need to work on. I enjoyed stage 11, the subway stage, even though I did not make shots on one of the fast swinging targets, it was a lot of fun. I learned that I need to work more on swinging targets and more on my transitions."

Newlywed Margo Stevens-Ray is from Hernando, MS and is a MM in ESP, CCP, SSP, and BUG. She shoots Steel Challenge and 3 Gun and has been involved in IDPA since 2007. She works as a contract sales person and was spending her 2-month wedding anniversary at the World Championship. She declares, "Shooting is my 'fun' and I enjoy having made friends with fellow shooters from all over the world." She came away from Tulsa with a very positive impression of the WC. "Compared with any previous national event, this one excelled as first rate. I am excited about the next national event that will be held in Cresson, Texas."

The genteel southern lady knows exactly what she wants Santa to bring her. "I want a red Comp-Tac holster for my CCP gun and red Comp-Tac magazine carriers to match it, and a Pistol III class from the Gordon Carrell Shooting Academy." Husband Cody is on her list and he will be getting a set of Warren Tactical "U" Notch sights for his gun.

Stevens-Ray easily identifies the best thing about the WC. "Getting to visit with the great group of women IDPA shooters that I have come to know through the years and seeing the number of women shooters grow."

Patricia Grane-Johnson is a wellknown friendly face to shooters who attend national matches. The Columbia, Missouri ESP SS is regularly spotted at IDPA matches, along with USPSA/IPSC, ICORE, and 3 Gun.



Patricia Grane-Johnson, Missouri

The Healthcare Medical Interpreter has been shooting IDPA for 3 years and says, "I enjoy the challenge, the learning opportunities and the friends that I have made. Since I started shooting IDPA, I have seen considerable improvement in my shooting skills. Traveling to shoot IDPA matches gives me the opportunity to learn from other likeminded shooters from all over the US and other countries. I have learned so much in the 3 years that I have been shooting; the help and advice from more experienced shooters has been invaluable."

Patricia's 2015 Christmas list is IDPA-centric. "I have a tan Armadillo Concealment vest with a split-back that is very comfortable and fits me well. I would like to have another vest made in a fun color with a mesh back for summer time shooting matches. I am also getting a Cusanelli Customs 9mm Single Stack pistol. It won't be ready for Christmas but is worth the wait." Her Black Friday shopping list for loved ones includes a Bluetooth Adapter-Digital Link for the ProChrono with an Indoor Lighting System from Competition Electronics. Grane-Johnson was very impressed with the stage choices for the World Championship. "The stage design team did an amazing job choosing stages that offered a good variety of challenging scenarios. In my opinion, one of the most positive aspects of the match is the opportunity to meet and interact with so many international and domestic competitors in one venue."

From IDPA Headquarters, our Christmas wish for YOU is a relaxing season filled with the taste of freedom, the smell of gun powder and the sight and sound of your loved ones. **J** 

#### Kitty Richards, #LM18564

Kitty Richards is an SOI in New York, has been shooting IDPA since 2002 and works more than 12 sanctioned matches each year.

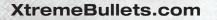




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# What's In Your Range Bag?

By Allison Neil



In the last issue we started this column and while I worked and shot at the World Championship, I failed to remember that I needed to look inside someone's range bag! So, for this issue we will be taking a look at what's inside my range bag. As a fairly new shooter I haven't accumulated a cart's worth of stuff but I am well on my way to becoming an IDPA range bag hoarder. Since I have only been a gun owner and IDPA shooter for three years I am still learning from everyone on what to do on and off the range and what essentials I need in my bag. I have learned through trial and error to fight off my "hangry" (that is hungry and angry) vibes that I need to pack a snack. Keeping things like granola and trail mix are good energy boosters and satisfy my picky taste. But, since I am a tad bit forgetful I try to keep things that won't go stale or melt ...just ask me how I know that a half-eaten melting candy bar in your bag is not a good situation!

I have also started "gaming"

somewhat this year and I've started using ProGrip and as its name suggests helps you have a better grip. I went with the spray version after getting some advice from fellow gamers, I mean shooters, on which one I could use. I picked that up over at Shooters Connection where they have a lot of accessories to up your range bag game. I also love the brass bag on my range bag. I got tired of having a plastic Wal-Mart bag or just throwing spare brass into the bottom of the bag to never be seen again and got me a nifty brass bag with vents in the bottom to let the dirt fall out.

Since I generally tend to shoot with the Staff and Safety Officers at sanctioned matches I have found having a small clipboard is pretty handy. Usually all the bugs haven't been worked out when we shoot and occasionally we have walked up to a bay and found that there was nothing to write scores on. The one I have is double sided so I can keep the order of the shooters on one side and the one I am writing scores on the other. Thanks to Ronda Ray for helping me glue them together!

Since I am so fair skinned and stay in an office most days trying to help





put this wonderful magazine together and answer your emails, I tend to burn pretty quickly which is why I carry a small thing of sun block on me. Also, the bugs LOVE me. I loathe them but they don't seem to care about that. I carry insect repellent but I also carry my most favorite possession, the Benadryl itch relief stick. During this year's Worlds, I learned how important that baby is to have in your range bag. Tina Baxter Maldonado (featured in the first what's in your range bag column) bought me some and saved me from endless scratching at this year's World Championship where we all got ate up. You just never know when you go to a new range or one you've been shooting at frequently what pest might be invading the area.

I am also really great at injuring myself, you know little scratches here and there that require a Band-Aid. After watching Robert Ray steal my Altoids cans for his personal medical kits I made up my own, or stole it from someone, my memory isn't quite clear on that. It just contains a few necessities like Band-Aids, triple antibiotic ointment, Pepto-Bismol tablets, etc. It has been really handy for myself and other shooters who don't have it in their bag and are in need of a Band-Aid but not the medic. The last "must have" I want to point



out are my wipes. I like to keep them on hand for dirty hands, cleaning my magazines and all sorts of things. Only thing is you need to make sure after opening them that you check to make sure they haven't gone dry.

Hopefully you guys have enjoyed looking into my range bag, I have really enjoyed letting you pry.

#### Allison Neil, #A51146

Allison has worked for IDPA HQ since 2011 and is the Advertising Coordinator while also wearing many different hats at HQ. She is enthusiastic about the sport and helping it grow. Other interests outside of IDPA include chasing her eight year old son around and being a committee leader and den leader in cub scouts. You can email her at allison@idpa.com



## A Hero's Determination Justin Fitch & Carry The Fallen By Chris Tessier

S pending my time with like-minded people who enjoy participating in friendly competition with a focus on safety is one of the key components that keeps me coming back to IDPA. If you are a fan or competitor in the shooting sports you know shooters are obsessed with numbers. What's the round count? What was my raw time? How many points down was I? More on the social interaction and camaraderie in a moment.

First, I'd like to ask you to consider this number... 22. That represents the number of men and women who faithfully and honorably served this country who suffer from PTSD and choose to take their own life daily. Yes, daily. Let that sink in for a moment, 22 veterans commit suicide every day... that's more than 8,000 each year. If you struggle to comprehend that number you are not alone and I imagine you are as floored now as I was when I learned of that stark fact.

The story behind how I first became aware of this epidemic rate at which our veterans are succumbing to PTSD is as humorous as it is tragic. It serves as an example of how the social interactions and camaraderie at IDPA events can be both fun and life changing at the same time.

It was at an IDPA match on a hot summer day that I met Justin Fitch, an army officer who served two combat tours in Iraq. Justin and I were placed in the same squad together. We were relaxing behind the firing line, waiting for our opportunity to shoot, and watching our fellow competitors go through their paces. Justin, with his wife Sam, were seated in front of me on a couple of camp stools with the late afternoon sun high in the sky. In an effort to loosen up a bit from the several hours she had already spent crouched over on her camp stool, Sam stood and stretched her arms toward the sky. It was at that very moment she was about to sit back down when the mischievous little devil on Justin's shoulder got the better of him... and he took her stool out from underneath his wife's descending backside. Needless to say Sam hit the sand with a solid thud kicking up quite a dust cloud. Her backward momentum caused her to rock from her butt onto her back with her feet flailing in the air like a helpless turtle might do. I don't believe Justin thought she was going to hit the ground quite as hard as she did.

It only took a moment to realize she was not physically injured, she was however, thoroughly embarrassed. I simply looked at Justin and laughingly said, "You're a dead man!" The smirk



Promoting the Carry The Fallen stage, S&W Indoor Nationals, 2015

on Sam's face told me she was thinking something along those same lines. After that we began to chat hitting the usual, standard small talk topics you might hear at an IDPA match. Once we covered the guns and gear we moved onto more personal questions. Where are you from? How long have you been married? How much longer do think you'll be married after that stunt? What do you do for work? I learned that at the time Justin was still serving on active duty at the Natick Soldier Systems Center in Natick, MA. He told me how much he enjoyed serving his country and how seriously he approached his responsibility as a leader.

Things continued on in that tone for a while, both of us sharing humorous anecdotes about the military in general. It was when I asked him in which sandbox hed served, Iraq or Afghanistan or both? "Two tours in Iraq," he replied. Not being a combat veteran myself and not wanting to force the conversation, I offered the only thing I could think of to say at the moment, "I'm sure that was tough." His demeanor changed in an instant. His eyes grew narrow, but it wasn't anger. His voice was different, not trembling or shaky, but firm and serious. Then it hit me, he was laser focused on me as if he wanted to be absolutely sure I heard and understood

what he was about to say.

It was during the ensuing conversation Justin proceeded to educate me, inspire me and motivate me with his own personal story. "Every day, 22 veterans commit suicide -- 8,000 per year. That's more than the number of U.S. troops killed in Iraq and Afghanistan combined," he said. "That's what's tough."

I just sat there dumbfounded while my brain tried to digest this information. Justin told me he had suffered from PTSD in silence after the loss of a close friend and had nearly taken his own life. Had he not thought of his friends as he sat with the muzzle of his M4 to his head, round chambered, selector switch on fire, finger on the trigger... he wouldn't be here. "I felt like there was no way out, better just death before dishonor," he said. "So I almost put 4.5 pounds of pressure on the trigger just to end it." The expression on my face must have been one of combined shock about the number of veterans committing suicide and surprise that this man, I just met, shared such a personal story with me about a rarely spoken subject.

Justin's eyes never left mine as he described how he had sought help to deal with his PTSD. "Seeking help, I believe, made me a stronger person," Fitch said.

"I learned how to deal with those dark things in my mind and face them head on. When I learned that 22 veterans are killing themselves every day, I was just blown away. I knew that was something I wanted to get involved in fighting. It has become my final mission."

I wasn't sure what he meant. Final mission? "Do you have some sort of job in the Army counseling fellow soldiers?" I inquired, thinking his career in the Army was coming to an end and he would simply move on with life. "No," he said. "I have stage four colon cancer, I'm dying."

I was astonished. Here before me was a 30-something year old man who had overcome severe depression, served a second tour in Iraq only to come home and be told he isn't going to live much longer. There is no self-pity in this man, nor does he want any from others. He has chosen with all his heart to spend what time he has left on this earth in service to his brothers and sisters who are fighting some of the same demons he himself has faced. It was in that instant I knew I had to do something to help our veterans.

As our match continued on so did our conversation. I learned that Justin was heavily involved with a charity focused on building a national retreat which veterans and their families could visit establishing



Justin taking part in a 2014 match in NH.

**EROES** H ONE VETERAN SUICIDE ONE TOO MANY camaraderie IS to cope with Post Traumatic Stress (anger, depression, loneliness, race number bibs printed and substance abuse and suicidal offered those to the competitors tendencies). The charity is called Carry with the express intent of raising more The Fallen (CTF) and it is a ruck-march awareness. There was no charge for the (hiking) event under the umbrella of bibs, but donations were accepted and the ACTIVE HEROES, a 501c3 charity. Justin competitors gladly dropped an additional was the Volunteer Team Leader of Team \$484 in donations into the collection Minuteman based in Boston and had bucket. built the largest and most accomplished team in the country. His charismatic personality and his absolute conviction that we, you and I, can do something to help our veterans was something I could not get out of my head. If this dying man money to support those who served us. could take up the fight against veteran suicide until he physically collapsed from exhaustion I knew I could do more ... I knew I would do more. I made a donation to CTF that evening, but I still couldn't shake this feeling of insignificance about mission. doing so little to help. It was then that I thought what I need is a force multiplier... I have only so much disposable income and time to give. I need to spread the word about how many of our veterans are

in crisis and convince others to give their time and/or money to help move that 22 a day number toward zero.

Our efforts began at Harvard Sportsmen's Club in June of 2014, where the folks from Metrowest Tactical offered

At this point it became very apparent that the shooting community with members from all walks of life were appalled at the suicide rate of our veterans and wanted to help raise awareness and

a \$1.000

donation to CTF.

We also had some athletic

We have continued our efforts to support CTF since then in many different ways with my home club and the competitive shooting community in the northeast fully embracing Justin's final

Charlie Taylor, A477518, coordinated a Noche Mexicana Fundraiser at 11 Margaritas Mexican Restaurants on the same night. Each store was staffed by a rep from AH-CTF for the evening. Our shooting community members simply went to dinner on Oct 13th 2014 and told the staff they were there in support of AH-CTF and 15% of their pre-tax check went to the charity. More than \$560 was raised during that one evening!

Jon Wolfe, A402401, the Pioneer IDPA program director took immediate action during the 2014 LFOD NH State IDPA Championship match when the Matrix stage was thrown out for a technical rules violation. He ran the Matrix stage as a side stage with all the proceeds going to AH-CTF and added more than \$170 to the pot by re-purposing the hard work done on the Matrix stage by Adam Taylor, A604639.

James Davis, A526796, took the lead during the November 2014 Steel Challenge match at PSI with help from Seneca Higgins, A37242, and the green light from the Steel Challenge chair Andrew Nash, A21175. This match was nothing short of amazing. James secured two corporate sponsorships for the match in the amount of \$500 each. In addition, the PSI board of directors agreed to donate 100% of the match fees. We bumped up the match fee to \$30, had a cold and rainy day and still the shooters came by the dozens to shoot and support AH-CTF. Match fees and the proceeds from a fastest gun side stage added an astonishing \$2,600 plus to the pot.

Mike Critser, A20835, passed the hat during the 2014 Smith & Wesson IDPA BUG Nationals and again the competitors from across the country found the cause worthy and dug in their pockets to donate what they could to the tune of nearly \$1,200.

With the momentum and the successes of our efforts in 2014, we doubled our efforts in 2015. Bob Stonehill, A32515, the match director for the 2015 Smith & Wesson IDPA Indoor Nationals allowed us to create a stage with a Carry the Fallen theme. We had some shirts made which we gave to competitors for a donation to CTF of \$25 or more, we handed out some informational brochures and answered questions about the plight of our veterans. The shirts were gone half way through the first competitors shoot day! There was no hard sell as the competitors coming

through the stage would simply drop their donations in the collection bucket as most of them kept asking what more they could do. We were humbled by the generosity of the shooting community once again when we tallied the donations and found \$2,000 was donated in this one match.

Once the spring/summer season arrived we doubled down on our efforts and we had a side stage at nearly every regular monthly Pioneer IDPA match and Pioneer Steel Challenge match. Our July IDPA match saw 100% of the registration fees and the side match donations go directly to CTF.

During this year's LFOD NH State IDPA Championship match we had two wonderful ladies, Sarah Cadden and Patricia Tessier, offer to do a bake sale with all their goodies offered to the competitors in exchange for a donation amount of their choice. Their sweet treats garnered more than \$800 dollars! Additionally, Matt Dworman, A52360, a PSI member and the master craftsmen owner/operator of Qline Design offered one of his NightGuard End tables to be raffled off for \$10 donation per ticket. Nearly every competitor who saw the table wanted a chance to win it and in the end the raffle tickets totaled more than \$2,200. Combined the weekend saw the

largest single match donation amount of more than \$3,000.

That put our fundraising for 2015 at nearly \$10,000! We are humbled by and proud of the generosity of the competitors and staff who saw fit to donate to support our veterans through CTF. We offer our thanks with the full knowledge that it doesn't nearly represent the full measure of our gratitude.

The successes of this season and this match were tempered for myself and many others. It is with a heavy heart and deep sadness that I tell you Justin died of colon cancer after a long, courageous fight October 4th. He passed peacefully at home with his wife and family surrounding him.

We learned of his passing in the midst of the final day of the LFOD NH State IDPA Championship match. Word quickly spread from bay to bay and those who knew Justin hugged each other and let their tears flow without reservation. We stopped the match and asked all staff and competitors to gather on a single range. Once gathered Mike Crister made the announcement to the stunned crowd. We bowed our heads and had a moment of silence for our fellow competitor. It was a very touching moment, one which many will remember for a long time to come.



Competitors at the LFOD NH state match offer a moment of silence to mark the passing of Justin Fitch.

Yesterday I cried... selfishly for the loss of my friend, a man who inspired me, a man who called me his brother and the only man I have known personally who I would bestow upon the honor of calling a hero. I cried for his wife Samantha, for his family, for his friends and for those who wouldn't have the privilege of knowing him.

But with Justin, it was never about him... it was always about helping others and his final mission to combat veteran suicide. And so today, in his honor, the crying stops and I move forward with his mission.

Our little club here in New Hampshire has been able to raise a lot of awareness and nearly \$10,000. Our primary method of fundraising were the side stages we held at our monthly matches. The stage design is very simple, five targets on the same plane at 7-10 yards. The course of fire is one shot on each target, a reload and a second shot on each. This is easy to setup, is quick to run competitors through, easy to score and offers another opportunity for folks to compete against each other. We often set this up using steel targets and call it a fastest gun stage.

It's true every dollar helps and every person who becomes aware of the epidemic of veteran suicide adds light to the beacon of hope that this tragedy ends. Imagine for a moment, what we as the larger shooting community could do if each club took it upon themselves to do the same. Some clubs might be able to do much more and some a little less. There is strength in numbers and if each of the 462 IDPA affiliated clubs were to raise an average of \$1,000 per season... that would be nearly a half million dollars to be used to provide services to our veterans in need.

I ended every correspondence and conversation with Justin with "Fight on brother, Fight on!!" to which he would respond "F.I.D.O.!" Now his fight is over, but his mission continues with us for as long as there is a need.

#### Justin Fitch



Chris Tessier & Justin Fitch

As a tribute to Justin's love of competitive shooting and as a way to continue his mission and build upon his legacy we worked with Active Heroes to create a new, national event-based project under the Active Heroes umbrella.

Aiming for Zero, will provide the competitive shooting community a channel through which to focus their efforts to raise awareness of and fundraisers to end Veteran Suicide. Individuals, groups and clubs can register to host side stages, full matches and other creative methods of increasing awareness and fundraising at their local ranges to benefit Active Heroes and help with the fight to end veteran suicide.

We have veterans in need... the start signal just sounded... what can you do to help?

Aiming For Zero web site: AimingForZero.org Active Heroes web site:

ActiveHeroes.org



November 10th was the 240th birthday of the United States Marine Corps and Veterans Day followed the day after. Though I have thought about my brothers and sisters who have served before me and those who are serving now, I find myself focused on the silent majority of the military family. Specifically, I have been thinking of those spouses whose husband or wife has chosen to serve their country. Today, our armed forces are staffed entirely by volunteers, which is an amazing fact all on its own.

But I think we often forget about the spouses who voluntarily support those serving. They run the household, raise the kids, keep friends and family updated with information about their spouse. For those of us who are married, they do everything you and your spouse do all while putting on a brave face over the loneliness and worry which must be ever present.

I couldn't put my finger on why my mind was focused on the spouses on this particular year. And then I looked at FB and saw a post by my friend Justin Fitch and I knew it was again Justin causing me to pause and think of others. Those who know Justin are aware he is veteran with terminal cancer who has chosen to use his remaining life blood to continue to server others by fighting against and educating people about the epidemic levels at which veterans are committing suicide.

Then my mind turned to Justin's wife Samantha. I don't know Samantha very well, but I do know she is a shining example of the values my beloved Marine Corps instilled in me many years ago.

#### COMMITMENT

She has been and continues to be Justin's primary caregiver and emotional rock. She committed to Justin when they were married and stayed the course through combat tours, PTSD, cancer diagnosis and the plain truth that her young husband will not grow old with her.

#### HONOR

From the moment I met Sam she's carried herself with dignity and honor in the face of the many challenges which have come her way. Many others have withered in the face of any one of the curve-balls life has thrown at Sam. I've never heard her complain, nor seek the pity of others.

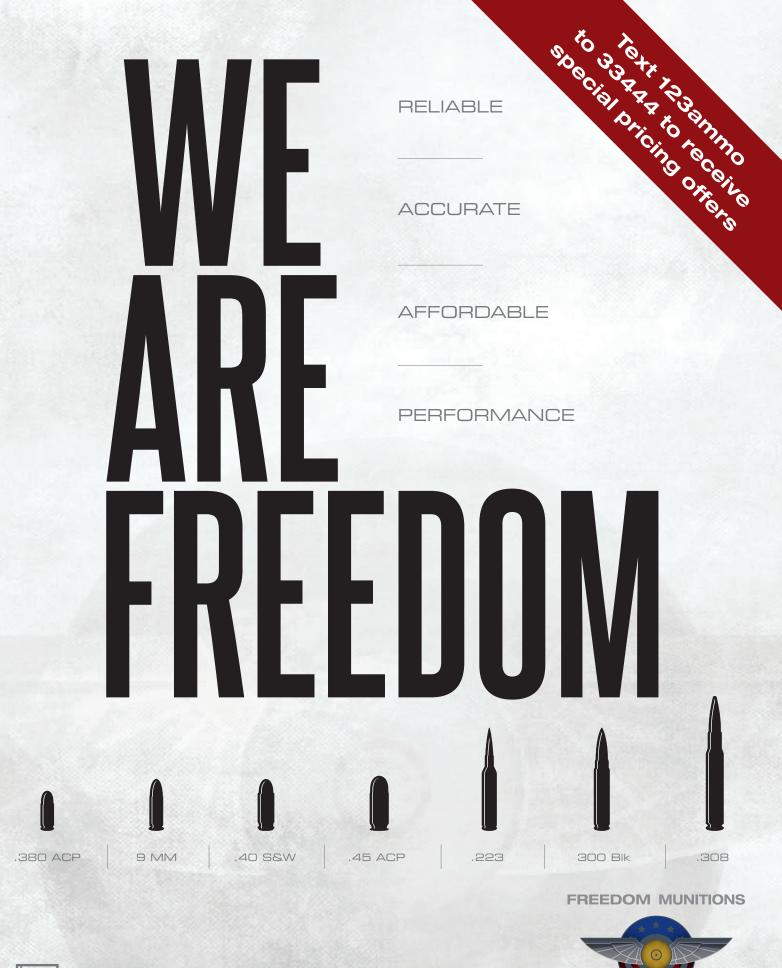
#### COURAGE

Though I think Sam has taken on life with the courage of lion without a doubt. I have been fortunate to benefit from her courage many times. You see, Sam has had the courage to share her husband with full knowledge his time with her is shorter than she deserves. Whether it's a ruck march, a television interview, a photo shoot, an all-day fund-raiser on the range... she supports Justin and his mission by allowing others to be inspired by her husband. The complete and utter selflessness with which she shares her time with Justin is astonishing.

So today while I think of my brothers and sisters in arms, I will pause to remember all those spouses who sacrifice every bit as much those who wear the uniform. They deserve the same levels of respect and thanks if not more.

So to Sam I just wanted to say thank you. Semper Fi

~ Chris Tessier, #A52115



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#### THE 2015 DPA BORD DPA

0 1

The second IDPA World Championship is in the books and what a ride it has been. This match marked the largest ever IDPA match with 416 total competitors representing 13 different countries. Including the US, we had competitors from the Argentina, Austria, Costa Rica, Finland, Honduras, Italy, the Philippines, Poland, South Africa, Trinidad, the United Kingdom and Venezuela. It is really wonderful to make friends with like-minded people from all over the world and get together to socialize while getting in a little shooting as well!

And shooting we did! Brian Ehrler, our Match Director, had his debut in the big leagues with this match. While Brian has run large matches in Texas (isn't everything bigger in Texas), the World Championship was his first time running a match on the national/international scale. He and his

team hit it out of the park with a very entertaining and challenging match. They worked very hard to give the competitors a mix of fast and furious up close shooting interspaced with more difficult shots on targets partially obscured by non-threats and various props. This forced the competitors to really work hard on shifting gears to get their hits while not hitting the non-threats. There were a few that had difficulty making those changes in speed as evidenced by the 697 hits on a non-threat recorded for the match.

There were also some shots that were just tough to get because of target placement or the use of hard cover. There was not a ton of hard cover in the match, but where it was used really encouraged you to look at those silly bumps on top of the gun or pay the price. Again some of our competitors did not make that adjustment which resulted in the 208 failures to neutralize and the 34,431 points down in the match. Many a competitor left the line after completing the stage saying, "it



did not look that tough until I shot it."

With 16 stages requiring a minimum of 242 rounds to complete, meant that at least 100,000 plus rounds went down range in this match. The stages were designed to take you around the world, from the steamy tropics of South America to the sands of Egypt and the snows of Antarctica. You made your way through Asian subways and the forests of Europe. Brian and his team took you on a grand tour of many different regions all while dropping you into the worst possible situations you can find yourself. I hope my next trip abroad does not turn out like this! The eye candy, or stage dressing, was equally well thought out. While not a requirement for shooting a match, I

personally think that it helps "put you there" so to speak and really adds to my enjoyment of a stage. This match upped the ante over previous years with a 14 foot tall pyramid in the Egypt stage, a relaxing Tikki bar, a well-appointed coffee bar, some pesky penguins and a truly difficult subway car. You may have heard about the subway car as it was one of the toughest stages in the match, maybe too much so but there is a nice article on that stage alone elsewhere in this magazine. It is tough to build a visually pleasing match when you have to worry about how props will stand up to different weather issues but the build team did a great job.

The competition was fierce at the match but it comes as no surprise that

Bob Vogel won SSP. With the win in SSP he also posted the fastest time in the match with an impressive 192.76 final score. There were an astounding 144 total competitors in SSP.

In ESP we had the largest field of competitors with 146 shooters. Nils Jonasson took the Division Championship spot with a time 204.59. Nils is a tough competitor and it would be a titan of a fight to see him and Bob square off directly against each other.

In CDP we have returning Champion Glenn Shelby claiming yet another CDP DC trophy. Glenn is an incredible shooter posting a total time of only 205.44 and also claiming the Most Accurate title with only 23 points down. *continued on p. 24* 































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#### Match Report

#### continued from p. 21

When you look at this verses Bob and Nils times and allowing for the extra reloads a CDP shooter has, you see just how impressive a feat Glenn has accomplished. Unfortunately, with only 65 competitors, CDP has been on the wane as ESP and SSP numbers have increased. Part of that reason is simple economics as 9mm is cheaper and easier to get than .45acp. I have been shooting long enough to remember when CDP was king, ahh the golden years.

One of the biggest stories in the match is in the newest division. Compact Carry Pistol (CCP). We had an impressive 43 competitors for its debut year. Not only was this the first Tier 5 match for CCP, it was the first opportunity to crown a Distinguished Master (DM). We did so as Gaston Vallerga from Argentina claimed the CCP Division Champion title. This not only made Gaston our first CCP DM, it also is the first time anyone form outside the US has earned that classification. Almost as impressive as Gaston's win is the battle for that top spot. Only 4.75 seconds separated the top three competitors. Christopher Schatz posted a 250.00 time and Ernest Langdon a time of 252.97. Although not enough to take the top spot, Chris and Ernest's times were within 3% of the Division Champion's time thus earning them spots as in the rare



Photo: © Brandi Simons

Distinguished Masters class as well. A huge congratulations to those three members on their performance.

Rounding out the final division we have Revolver with 18 competitors. Our Division Champion this year was Jess Christensen with a final time of 329.57 and this win also moves Jess into the Distinguished Master ranks.

A congratulations are in order for all of our competitors as well as our Division Champions. By all accounts, it was very challenging yet fun match.

We would also like to thank the numerous people that helped set up and run this match. As with any match, it cannot happen without a ton of people in the background and on the shooting line helping make the match run. We had an incredible cadre of



SO's this year and I extend my deepest thanks and the thanks of our members to you for your hard work.

This was the last year for our match to be held at the wonderful US Shooting Academy in Tulsa. It is a tremendous facility and we hope to return in the future. However, we are looking forward with great anticipation to traveling to the Triple C Tactical Range in Cresson, TX for next year's match. This will be our Match Directors home area and we look forward to next year's National Championship to see what Brian and his crew will have in store for us. **J** 

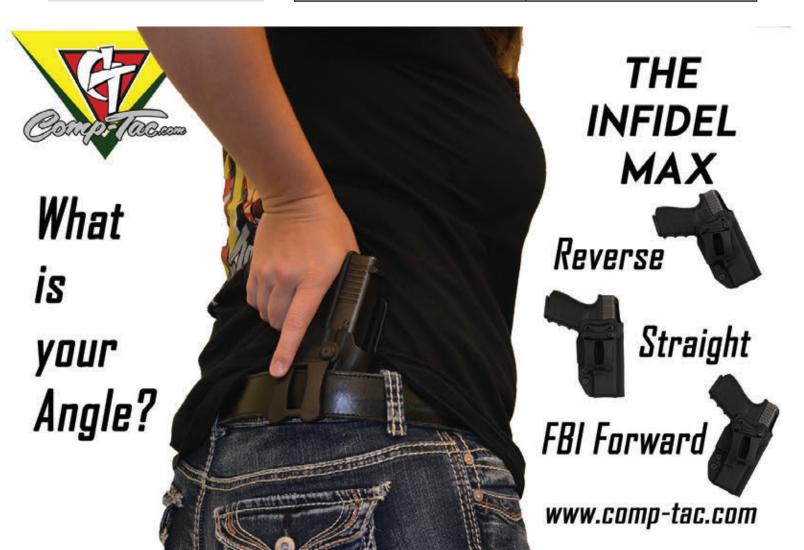
#### Robert Ray, #A05118

Robert Ray is the editor of the Tactical Journal and a long time competitor in the sport. Members can reach him at robert@idpa.com.

## IDPA thanks the generous sponsors who helped to make The 2015 World Championship successful:

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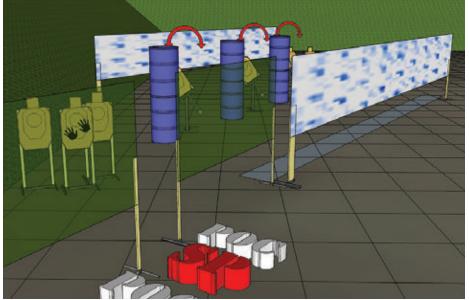


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# Anatomy of a World Class Stage

By Rick Lund



A tough to master set of swingers and a unique subway door start were hallmarks of this stage.

E very stage for an IDPA match begins with a broad idea of something you want to accomplish while remaining inside the rules. Sometimes these ideas originate with a news story or a movie. For me, I often find a particular handgun skill that I would like to measure for shooters that are training for upcoming sanctioned matches.

When you are tasked with coming up with good stages for a World Championship IDPA match, you put a little extra thought into what would leave a lasting impression with a group of shooters that include some of the best defensive shooters in the world. Game on. I wanted elevated blood pressure from the super squad on their walk through.

Florida has a history of bringing challenging stages to sanctioned matches. In addition to these great stages, we usually put together tough stages for our local matches featuring cascading misery for shooters in order to acclimate them for challenges they face on the road.

Stages like this are created in collaboration with a team of

experienced match staff. In the case of this year's World Championship, that team involved MD Brian Ehrler and AMD Col. Phil Torres USMC (ret.)

I was also fortunate to have a facilities manager from work (Eddie Arroyo) who took our ideas and created a gravity driven automatic door for this stage.

Stage 11: Wrong Subway Station first came to life in April of this year.

In discussing the inventory of parts needed to pull off this stage, we agreed that our first challenge would be to come up with a reliable subway door system. Shopping around we discovered used train & subway doors that operated with electric or hydraulic actuators that brought a high reliability risk and a high cost of ownership. This was going to be a onetime prop for an outdoor pistol match so we elected to create a gravity operated door using barn door hardware. The key goal for this prop was reliability. We eliminated using a track along the ground to prevent dirt and trip hazards that would alter the speed of the opening.

The door had to be assembled in our test range in an indoor garage bay so that it could be tested and debugged and then later placed in a wood crate for shipping. This process took us over a week as we built and tore apart the pieces trying different ways to anchor the frame on uncertain ground.

When the prototype frame was mechanically assembled, I created a short video that I shared with my team mates in order to get 'buy in' for this part of the stage. We said lets box it up and get it moving towards Tulsa.

The wood crate carrying this and several of the stage decorations for the match boxed up was more like a sarcophagus.

Set up on Day 1 required we stage the door parts and find a position on the bay that was solid enough to secure the base which was level. Anyone who has assembled moving stages or runners appreciates this challenge on a range. This turned out to be the easy part.

Working with available props and cabling at the range, it was necessary to tune each of the props in order to get the timing to be mechanically reliable. On a 97 degree afternoon, working on a tight schedule, this became the challenge.

Towards the end of the day, working as a team, we settled on 2 active



It turns out you can buy a set of automated subway doors. The goal was to simulate them without the high price tag or set up & reliability headaches.

movers complimented by 2 Non Threats and 4 static targets. Easy stage right?

Maybe not. Some of us have a dark side in our stage design personalities so the first thing we did was reduce everything other than the first 2 targets the shooter found once the doors opened. Waiting 2.5 seconds for the door to open after the beep seemed like an eternity.

After addressing the first 2 targets the shooters could look to the right on the platform and find a target leaning out behind a column. All of this performed with the leisurely precision of an IDPA competitor.

A pressure plate set off two moving targets simultaneously. This was a .3 second activation not the usual one



The completed sarcophagus, um, subway door build was boxed up and sent on to Tulsa.

second lag from a popper. The closer target at 7 yards was a pop up. The back target was a double drop turner that operated with 2 half second (.5) presentations with a third of a second (.3) between them.

The targets were disappearing so there would be no penalty for failing to neutralize them. But they were fast.

Using computer playback, I was able to determine the total presentation time for both targets was 2.7 seconds. 3 shots each and a 15 degree transition between them. That is a good time for a Bill Drill on a 7 yard static target.

But that was only one part of the challenge. The part that elevated everyone's heart rate during the walk through was the presentation drew the shooters eye back and forth. This distracted all but the most focused of competitors from really studying the target array to determine a plan of attack.

One other part to ramping up the challenge was the requirement for 3 shots each on 6 targets. Most competitive shooters are conditioned for 2 on each. This became an issue for more than one person during the match.

The stage was designed to test each competitor's ability to change gear under extreme conditions. The shooters had to do 4 simple things for this stage. Create a plan, execute it flawlessly, perform transitions and get your hits.

Was the stage worth it? Let's look at a few fun facts taken from the scores:

First let's get the fact out of the way that Bob Vogel won the stage with a raw time of 13.64 seconds and only 4 points down. Both he and Glenn Shelby posted the fewest points down for the stage. This is not news to anyone that has been following IDPA for any length of time. Both are Distinguished Masters and they demonstrated why on this stage.



The super squad takes their walk through and gets a sense of how fast the targets move.

With that behind us, 396 competitors took over 3 hours to shoot the stage averaging 24 seconds a run.

As you can see in the chart, there were 9224 total points down representing 27% of the total points surrendered during the 16 stage match. This totaled to 76 minutes of time added to competitor's scores.

During the course of the match, shooters running reconnaissance on



StageNumber	PointsDown	Procedurals	HNTs	FTNs	FTDRs
1	1099	56	20	6	0
2	1159	35	34	2	0
3	1110	49	20	14	0
4	3677	58	140	0	0
5	1302	22	81	16	0
6	1184	55	38	10	0
7	2331	43	103	12	0
8	1139	22	22	1	0
9	2556	43	31	44	0
10	862	34	38	23	0
<u>11</u>	<u>9224</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>
12	1677	21	26	23	0
13	1700	30	2	11	0
14	1303	69	0	3	0
15	1857	62	42	0	0
16	2251	85	62	36	0
Total	34431	696	697	208	0
High %	27%	12%	20%	21%	0

As evident in the above chart, this proved to be a challenging stage to shoot clean for nearly everyone.



the stages commented that the stage was not fair for the marksmen. My goal for the match was that the stage ran the same for the last shooter that it did for the first shooter. Having a rock solid CSO and Safety Officer staff contributed to this and kept everything entertaining for the shooters all week.

CSO Phil Sauter, Yancy Goodwin and John Crowder were a perfect team for this stage. Their stewardship of the props and squads were the main reason this stage worked out as well as it did.

Turns out, it was an expert that posted the most points down on this stage. Not a Marksman. The lowest Master landed 313. The top Sharpshooter (a lady) was 46th. Top Marksman landed in the top one third at 120th. Top Expert was 6th.

The outcome did not represent the





Competitors examine the stage start.

concern shown before shooting the stage. One might say the stage forced shooters to raise their ability beyond their comfort zones. Everyone agreed there was not a single competitor that was comfortable with the timing of the movers in the way the stages forced everyone to speed up and slow down.

Looking back on the stage and the match overall, I had the opportunity to speak to many of the pro shooters as well as many of the competitors before and after shooting the stage. The lessons learned from speaking to everyone might be to leave newer shooters with an option to make up missed shots later on in the stage. For competitors attending matches, it is worth remembering that stages like this one take hundreds of man hours and similar amounts of dollars to come up with a 30 seconds of amusement for hundreds of shooters. These efforts are born from the passion for our sport that is like no other in terms of the experience one takes away from a major match. IDPA is about recreation and promoting

responsible concealed carry skills that carry over into our daily lives.

Let your match directors know how you would like to turn the dial with the degree of challenges you face at matches. We want everyone to enjoy the best bang for their buck.

See you at the range. **J** 

#### Rick Lund, #A27521

Rick was one of the Assistant Match Directors for the 2015 World Championship. He has been shooting IDPA for 10 years and is the Area Coordinator for Florida. He has 42 years of firearms experience and has been a certified trainer since 1982. In addition to USG, state and local LE experience, he is a certified NRA instructor and chief RSO, & NROI RO.





## **479 COMPETITORS 416 FROM THE UNITED STATES 63 FROM OTHER COUNTRIES**

### TOP 10 COMPETITION FIREARM MODELS

MODEL	COUNT	%
GLOCK 34	73	17.76%
S&W M&P PRO 9MM	37	9.00%
GLOCK 19	20	4.86%
GLOCK 17	18	4.38%
SPFLD ARM. XDM 9MM	18	4.38%
S&W M&P 9MM	16	3.89%
CZ SP-01 SHADOW	14	3.40%
GLOCK 41	9	2.18%
S&W 625	6	1.45%
S&W M&P .45 ACP	6	1.45%
OTHER MODELS	194	47.20%

(411 FIREARMS REPORTED)



MANUFACTURER	COUNT	%
COMP-TAC	141	36.15%
BLADE-TECH	118	30.25%
SAFARILAND	29	7.43%
MASTER-TAC	12	3.07%
GHOST	9	2.30%
BLACKHAWK	8	2.05%
WILSON COMBAT	7	1.79%
UNCLE MIKE'S	6	1.53%
RLN CUSTOM	5	1.28%
HOME MADE	4	1.02%
OTHER MANUFACTURERS	51	13.07%

(390 HOLSTERS & 49 MANUFACTURERS REPORTED)

## TOP 5 CONCEALMENT GARMENT BRANDS

BRAND	COUNT	%
5.11 TACTICAL	87	38.32%
ARMADILLO CONCEALMENT	80	35.24%
WOOLRICH	22	9.69%
EOTAC	11	4.84%
COMPETITIVE CONCEALMENT	7	3.08%

(227 GARMENTS & 47 BRANDS REPORTED)

Glock 34

M&P Pro

Glock 19

#3

## TOP 10 COMPETITION FIREARM BRANDS

BRAND	COUNT	%
GLOCK	131	31.87%
SMITH & WESSON	87	21.16%
SPRINGFIELD ARMORY	44	10.70%
CZ	24	5.83%
WILSON COMBAT	22	5.35%
STI	21	5.10%
KIMBER	11	2.67%
SIG SAUER	10	2.43%
H&K	7	1.70%
WALTHER	6	1.45%
OTHER BRANDS (24)	48	11.67%

(411 FIREARMS & 34 BRANDS REPORTED)

## TOP 5 BULLET MANUFACTURERS

MANUFACTURER	COUNT	%
X TREME	42	18.50%
BERRY'S	30	13.21%
BAYOU BULLETS	29	12.77%
BLACK BULLET INTERNATIONAL	20	8.81%
MONTANA GOLD	19	8.37%

(227 ENTRIES & 35 MANUFACTURERS REPORTED)

## **TOP 5 POWDERS USED**

MANUFACTURER	COUNT	%
TITEGROUP (HODGDON)	85	36.63%
N320 (VIHTAVUORI)	24	10.34%
WST (WINCHESTER)	13	5.60%
CLAYS (HODGDON)	10	4.31%
231 (WINCHESTER)	9	3.87%

(232 ENTRIES & 16 MANUFACTURERS REPORTED)

## AMMUNITION . 144 227 TYPE USED FACTORY HANDLOAD

ТҮРЕ	COUNT	ТҮРЕ	COUNT
PLATED	91	JACKETED	65
MOLY COATED	69	LEAD	13

### TOP 10 CCW HOLSTER MANUFACTURERS

MANUFACTURER	COUNT	%
COMP-TAC	43	20.67%
BLADE-TECH	20	9.61%
ALIEN GEAR	14	6.73%
CROSSBREED	12	5.76%
GALCO	12	5.76%
MILT SPARKS	12	5.76%
DESANTIS	6	2.88%
RAVEN CONCEALMENT	6	2.88%
FOBUS	4	1.92%
GHOST	4	1.92%
OTHER MANUFACTURERS	73	35.09%

**TOP PROTECTION ACCESSORY BRANDS** 

ACCESSORY	MANUFACTURER
EAR PROTECTION	PELTOR (67 USERS)
EYE PROTECTION	OAKLEY (70 USERS)

221

**OUT OF** 

262

COMPETITORS WHO RELOAD USE A DILLON PRECISION PRESS

TOP 3 PRIMER BRANDS USED FOR RELOADS

**FEDERAL** 

CCI

WINCHESTER

### TOP 10 CCW FIREARM BRANDS

BRAND	COUNT	%
GLOCK	90	31.87%
SMITH & WESSON	56	21.16%
SPRINGFIELD ARMORY	20	10.70%
SIG SAUER	16	5.83%
RUGER	13	5.35%
KAHR	9	5.10%
KIMBER	8	2.67%
WALTHER	7	2.43%
BERETTA	6	1.70%
BERSA	5	1.45%
<b>OTHER BRANDS (16)</b>	33	11.67%
(262 EIDEADING & 26 RDANING DEE		

(263 FIREARMS & 26 BRANDS REPORTED)

### TOP 10 CCW FIREARM MODELS

MODEL	COUNT	%
GLOCK 19	34	12.92%
S&W M&P SHIELD 9MM	32	12.16%
GLOCK 26	14	5.32%
GLOCK 43	14	5.32%
SPFLD ARM. XDS 9MM	7	2.66%
GLOCK 23	6	2.28%
GLOCK 27	5	1.90%
RUGER LCP .380 ACP	5	1.90%
S&W M&P 9MM	5	1.90%
GLOCK 42	4	1.52%
OTHER MODELS	137	52.09%

(263 FIREARMS REPORTED)



(208 HOLSTERS & 74 MANUFACTURERS REPORTED)

# **Interaction With Law Enforcement**

## Part 1: the Traffic Stop

By Adam Painchaud



For an officer, traffic stops pose a great number of unknown factors and more than a little potential risk.

Photo: © Jennifer Tuttle

f you carry all day every day (like you should) there is a high probability at some point you will have interaction with law enforcement. Whether that means getting pulled over or following a critical incident you may be involved in. Understanding how to act and what to do is not just important from the legal perspective, it may also save your life. Since this is a fairly in-depth topic, I am going to break it up into two articles starting with the traffic stop.

Before I get into the specifics of what I recommend you do and say, I highly encourage you to read and understand your state and local laws regarding the topic so you don't get into hot water with the law. Some states require CCW holders to disclose that they have a permit/gun to officers upon contact. Also consider that my advice and perspective is primarily coming from the law enforcement vantage point because that is my background and current secondary occupation. Additionally, I too have been pulled over on occasion and this process has always worked very well.

Upon seeing those blue or red lights behind you, carefully signal and bring your vehicle to a complete stop in a safe area as far out of traffic as reasonably possible. This allows the officer to park at a safe distance behind you and also partially block your vehicle from rearward approaching vehicles. If you are not in a safe area to stop, simply put on your turn signal, reduce your speed, and find a close by location you can pull into or safely stop at. The officer will know you intend to stop. Place your vehicle in park (or in neutral with emergency break activated for manual transmission). I always get the suspicion people may be up to no good if I see break lights upon approach to their vehicle. If it is dark outside, do the officer the courteously of turning on your interior dome light so they can better see into your vehicle. Roll down your driver and passenger side windows. Depending on protocol, some officers approach from the driver's side, some from the passenger side, and sometimes there is one on each side. After that I highly suggest not doing any unnecessary movement like reaching for paperwork or digging around in your center console. When I stop a vehicle and I observe the driver reaching across the seat, digging in a console, or reaching to the backseat I get concerned they are



Resist the urge to dig for paperwork so the officer won't question what exactly you're reaching for.

up to something mischievous. I think it also may be a good habit to place your hands on the steering wheel so there is no question that you are a law abiding citizen with good intentions. None of this is required but it certainly shows your respect and sets the officers mind at ease. Keep in mind bad things happen to officers on traffic stops daily, they are trained to be prepared for anything. Please appreciate some level of suspicion or coldness on their part. There's no such thing as a "routine" traffic stop for law enforcement. I do not suggest opening your door or getting out of the vehicle ever. That is a red flag for the officer and also puts you at risk for injury from other traffic. If the stop happens at night, be prepared for blinding spot lights and take down lights shining in your mirrors. This is obviously done for officer safety so they can better observe your movements.

Upon initial contact with the officer, I suggest you listen rather than starting the conversation with "why did you pull me over" or "what did I do wrong". Likely the officer will provide some type of introduction (name and agency) followed by your suspected violation and a request for documents such as a driver's license, registration and maybe proof of insurance. This is generally a good time to let the officer know you have a handgun permit and you are carrying a concealed firearm. "Sir/Ma'am, just to let you know before I





Rolling down your windows and keeping your hands in view will help reduce misunderstanding.

reach for anything, I have a permit and I am carrying my pistol on my right hip". Your response may prompt the officer to ask for the permit or more questions as to where exactly your gun is and if there are others. Although it may not be required in your state to disclose, it is good courtesy. In some cases the officer may already know you have a CCW permit though information on police car mobile data

terminals or through a dispatch center. Or he was already looking at the abundance of Glock, Sig, NRA, "let God sort em out" stickers on the back of your car... Bottom line, you don't want the officer to find out you have a gun present when you open up your glove box for your registration and he sees a full size chrome plated .357 magnum sitting there...

In most occasions the officer will thank

you for letting him know and proceed with the rest of the stop protocol. At most, from my experience, the officer may ask some follow up questions and give you some specific instructions.

Aside from the concealed carry portion of the traffic stop on your part, a pleasant attitude, acknowledgment of your violation (if known), appropriate use of the words "sir", "ma'am", "officer" go a long way. Understand they have a job to do and your professional/courteous demeanor will likely work in your favor. **J** 

#### Adam Painchaud, #A31081

Adam is Director of Sig Sauer Academy. He has extensive military and federal law enforcement experience. He has been a firearms and tactics instructor his entire adult life and holds numerous federal, military, and corporate instructor certifications. As well as being Academy Director, he is a parttime police officer, special deputy sheriff, and reserve special agent.

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#### Trophy Room



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Rodrigo Suarez (1<sup>st</sup> Expert/SSP) 2015 IDPA World Championship Photo © Brandi Simons



**TacticalJournal@idpa.com**. Include your name, event title, order of finish (ex. 2<sup>nd</sup> ESP/MM), and the name of the photographer if possible.



Glenn Shelby (High CDP) 2015 IDPA World Championship Photo © Brandi Simons



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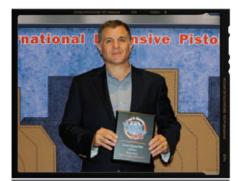
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#### HOW TO ENTER:

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Step #2: Email your (hopefully) funny caption to PartingShot@IDPA.com.

#### Step #3:

Sit around waiting to find out if you won, all the while complaining about the whole process being unfair in not recognizing your obvious comedic genius.

#### Step #4:

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# **Parting Shot Winners From Our Last Issue**

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"It's a bird, it's a plane, it's...darn, I forgot my cape!"

Lee Hein, #A23854

#### SECOND PLACE

"Yes, 16 stages and I finally found a restroom!!!"

Michael Paquette, #A102403

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