



Exercising The Right

Silent Self-defense?

Ammoland.com featured an interesting essay about gun suppressors on September 15 by Tom McHale, an author who writes educational books for shooters. A suppressor is a firearm accessory that is often featured in movies. Dubbed “silencers,” they are portrayed as being able to make gunshots sound like quiet “whiffs” of noise, though they actually don’t work like that in real life. A suppressed gunshot is still loud, but the sound is reduced, which can be beneficial to a shooter who might be firing a gun without the proper hearing protection. People involved in a self-defense shooting situation who have to quickly discharge a firearm don’t have the ability to use noise-canceling headphones or earplugs.

McHale wrote that current federal law pertaining to purchasing suppressors is quite onerous and requires a lengthy waiting period, but argued that it was worth it:

If you’ve not touched off a round indoors before, hold on to your shorts. It’s loud. If you use an AR, the indoor noise level is orders of magnitude beyond loud. Deafening comes to mind. So, do you or should you care? While living through the encounter will rank far higher to me than protecting some percentage of my hearing when I’m 78, I’m not so much worried about long-term hearing impacts as the ‘here and now’ benefits. While a suppressed pistol or rifle shot indoors will still be loud (remember, Hollywood suppressor whisper noises aren’t real) you’ll stand a much better chance of being able to hear important things like family members, 911 operators on the phone, and sirens or shouts from responding officers during or after suppressed gunfire.

The author did note that sometimes using a suppressor becomes awkward, depending on the length of the barrel. “If you use a shotgun for home defense, should you suppress it, assuming you have one of those nifty SilencerCo Salvo 12 suppressors? Probably not. Don’t get me wrong, they’re cool, and lots of fun. They just make a standard shotgun about the size of a High School flagpole,” McHale wrote.

The author noted that using a suppressor requires cleaning your gun more frequently, as well as re-zeroing it and possibly installing new sighting devices. He finally warned that one’s suppressor might, along with one’s gun, become tied up as evidence if used in a self-defense situation, but even with all that, he said, the benefits probably outweigh the negatives.

Airsoft Guns: Not Just for Kids Anymore

At USACarry.com on September 16, Sam Hooper, contributing editor to AlienGearHolsters.com, explored the merits of shooters practicing with Airsoft guns to sharpen their shooting skills. Hooper explained that Airsoft guns can be useful aids in training for self-defensive shooting. “For the person that trains for self-defense shooting, as opposed to the hunter or competition shooter, it’s to draw from concealment and shoot a threat. You have to clear cover, draw, present, gain a sight picture and press the trigger, and in a compressed time frame,” Hooper wrote. This is where the Airsoft gun can come in handy.

While the Airsoft gun will be different than your real gun, and the recoil will obviously be lacking, the repetitive practice you get from using the Airsoft gun can sharpen the skills you’ll need in a self-defense situation that only requires one shot. “Well, repetitions matter. If your technique is good, putting in pistol practice with an airsoft gun should have a positive effect at the range. That’s why militaries and



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police academies use airsoft in training environments, supplemented (of course) with live-fire training as well,” Hooper explained. The last part was key, and Hooper repeated throughout his column that Airsoft training should be in addition to, but not replace, firing at a range with your actual self-defense weapon. Still, it’s an important suggestion for people constantly looking to explore how best to prepare for a self-defense shooting.

The First and Second Amendment Are Linked

A University of California professor recently claimed that both the First and Second Amendments to the U.S. Constitution require “qualifications” or limits on what is allowed. Campus Reform reported on September 8 that UCLA professor Douglas Kellner made statements in an interview published by the university claiming that due to recent mass shootings, which he argued were inspired by President Trump’s rhetoric, there now need to be changes to our Bill of Rights, to institute new restrictions on both access to firearms and the ability of people to speak freely. Kellner said that “all of the previous shootings were rather divorced from sociopolitical factors,” but these more recent shootings appeared to be motivated by political factors. “The toxicity of gun culture has created a new factor that we have never seen before, that was a major factor in the last few shootings, and that was the election of Donald Trump, and in particular, Trump’s rhetoric [on immigrants],” Kellner said, referring to Trump’s words as “hate speech.”

Kellner’s interview provides good insight into the mind of leftists. He said matter-of-factly, “I don’t see the Second Amendment as absolute, just like I don’t see the First Amendment as absolute.... In both cases there need to be qualifications in certain contexts. And historically, our notions of both free speech and gun rights have changed. Society is continually growing and evolving, and so our Constitution and the Bill of Rights is changing historical meaning in different eras, and I think most people accept that.” This is the mind-set we’re facing, where no matter what occurs in society, it’s our constitutional freedoms that are to blame and the only permissible response is to empower the government to strip those freedoms away. The professor’s honest opinion and frank expression of his ideas should serve as a reminder to all of us why both the First and Second Amendments need defending: If our enemies are successful in abridging one, it’ll only be a matter of time before they eliminate the other.

— Patrick Krey



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