

URBAN COMBAT FIREPOWER

BY DARRYL BOLKE
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This custom patrol rifle has everything a working cop needs. It's a "buy once" working tool that features Centurion Arms' 16-inch double-chrome-lined barrel, CSAT sights and an top-notch LMT SOPMOD stock.

Decades of military and LE EXPERIENCE, uppers from Centurion and build tips from battle-proven experts, these rifles are dead-on from 0 to 600 YDs!

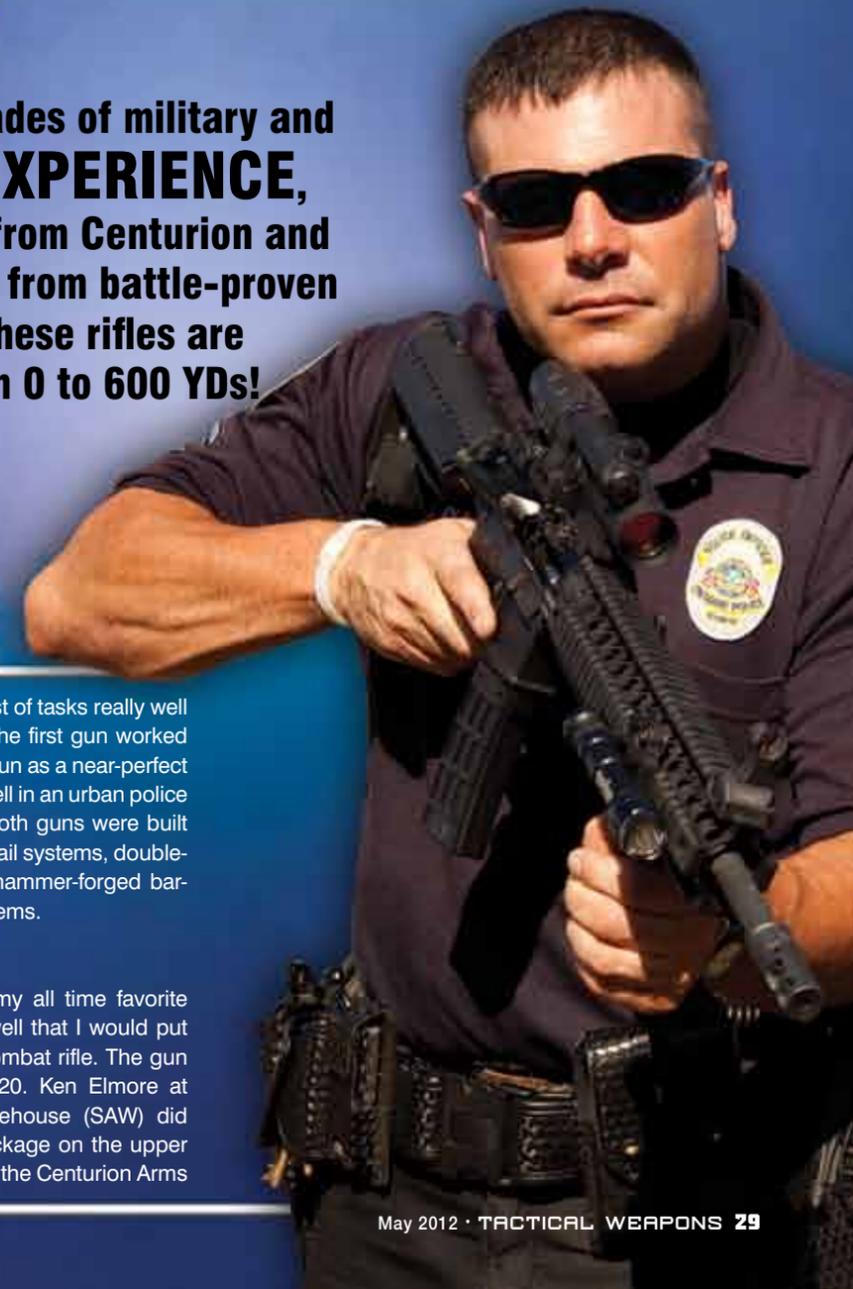
As the use of patrol rifles and carbines become more commonplace in the law enforcement community, we are also finding ways to enhance factory rifles to perform better in the field. With this trend comes the unfortunate situation where many officers are placing additions onto their guns that are substandard and of questionable quality.

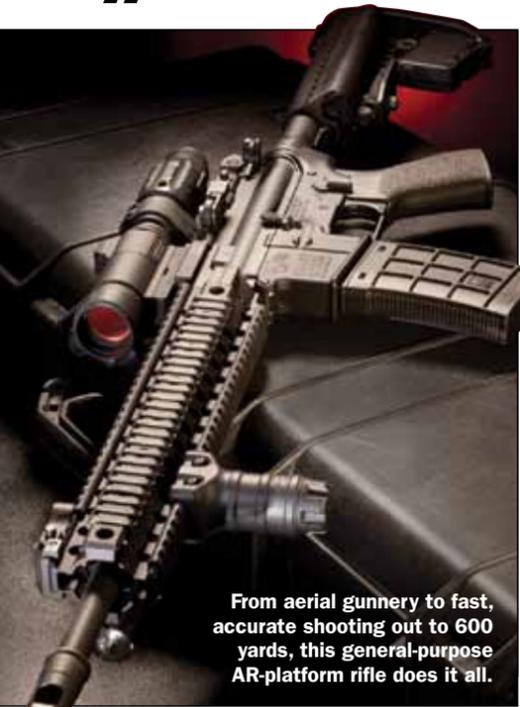
I have always subscribed to the "buy quality, buy once" theory, and I also extensively test my gear to ensure it functions flawlessly in the field and can be counted on during a crisis. I had two rifles built over the last couple of years that have performed flawlessly and surpassed my expectations of quality. The first rifle was built to fill a need for a "general-purpose police rifle." This is a gun

that can perform a laundry list of tasks really well with a one-gun approach. The first gun worked so well that I built a second gun as a near-perfect patrol rifle that would work well in an urban police law enforcement function. Both guns were built around Centurion Arms' C4 rail systems, double-chrome-lined, 16-inch cold-hammer-forged barrels and mid-length gas systems.

GENERAL-PURPOSE BUILD

The first gun is one of my all time favorite rifles. It has performed so well that I would put it up against any modern combat rifle. The gun started life as a Colt LE6920. Ken Elmore at Specialized Armament Warehouse (SAW) did his proprietary reliability package on the upper and lower. The gun then had the Centurion Arms





From aerial gunnery to fast, accurate shooting out to 600 yards, this general-purpose AR-platform rifle does it all.

16-inch lightweight mid-length (9-inch gas system) upper installed. When Centurion released their 12-inch C4 handguard, this was one of the first guns fit with it.

Troy Industries supplied folding Battle-Sights, and the rear was specially made

TIERED SIGHTING FOR HOSTAGE RESCUE

Recently I attended training with Paul Howe at his CSAT School in Texas. Much of what we did involved the use of the CSAT sight produced by XS sights. This system uses a notch on the top of the rear sight aperture that is set for a 7-yard impact. This corresponds with the aperture that is calibrated to a 100-yard zero when the notch is zeroed at 7 yards. The best explanation is that you use the notch like a handgun sight for CQB distances and the aperture for shots at rifle distances. The shooter never has to touch anything, and never even has to remove their cheekweld to work difficult shots at varying distances. This is great for tough, indoor, hostage-type shots, and still allows for immediate transition to long hallway and outdoor-type distances.

HOW IT WORKS: I run Aimpoint red-dot sights on almost all my working long guns. On my carbines, they are my primary sight. I set up several guns with a "tiered sighting system." I use an Aimpoint mounted in a tall mount that puts the red dot above the iron sights so that when I look through

the optic, the dot is centered and the irons are in the lower portion of the optic (just below the dot with the Aimpoint tall mount and in the bottom third with the LaRue Tactical tall mount), but all are visible. The red dot is the go-to point of reference when making most shots.

This system allows me to see the mechanical offset between the barrel and the sights at indoor distances with the notch on the top of the CSAT aperture. It serves as a reminder to hold 2" high when



close, or I can use the notch itself for very tight or unusual shots.

THE SCENARIO: A hostage taker pulls a hostage to the floor with the hostage on top of them. With traditional systems, you would have to hold on the hostage to make the shot without seeing the bad guy. This is very unnerving, and it was the type of scenario given to us at CSAT. I have an astigmatism in my dominant eye. I find that my precision shooting improves and my view of the red dot is much crisper if I look at it through a circular aperture. I use the small aperture of the CSAT sight when I am shooting at long range, and it helps to be more precise with those shots. As an added benefit, XS makes this sight to fit on an Aimpoint Twist Mount base so it can be removed if needed and replaced with a 3X magnifier, a Corner Engagement Unit, or a night-vision device if any of those specialty optics are needed.

To make ready via dynamic videos with Paul Howe, visit panteaoproductions.com. For more on XS Sight Systems, visit xssights.com or call 888-744-4880.

for SAW in which the small aperture is the primary sight. These would be true backup sights. The flagship of the Aimpoint line, the Comp M4 armored red-dot sight would be utilized as its primary sight. I currently work as a law enforcement staffer with Aimpoint and have a Comp M4 sight that I have thrown on concrete and asphalt over 850 times at the time of this writing without a failure. I trust this sight as the most robust and reliable sight on the market and felt it fit this rifle as its main sight. I also utilized an Aimpoint 3X magnifier to better identify and engage targets at longer ranges. Both are mounted in LaRue Tactical mounts at the military-specified night-vision height. This is also known as an "absolute co-witness," which is the height I prefer when using folding backup sights.

The furniture is a U.S. Palm BG-17 pistol grip that fits my hand well. A TangoDown stubby vertical foregrip is used up front. Magpul rail covers protect the rails and a Vitor EMod stock rounds out the back end of the rifle. A SureFire MB556K muzzle-brake/suppressor adaptor handles the muzzle end duties. Lighting duties were originally handled by a SureFire 600C, but I am upgrading to the RAID series from SureFire to add more capability when used with night vision.

PERFORMANCE

This rifle has pulled yeoman's duty since it was built. I have done numerous shooting

demonstrations at various LE agencies and training courses for Aimpoint. It has delivered sub-MOA groups off the bench at 100 yards, and I have been able to hit IPSC-sized steel out to 600 yards on demand without issue. This is all with a red dot and a magnifier. I have attended several carbine classes and again, the Centurion general-purpose rifle has performed flawlessly and without a single stoppage. Its reliability is a real statement because it has digested everything from horrible, large, state-contract 55-grain training loads to mid-weight duty loads from Winchester, Hornady and Federal to 77-grain Black Hills ammunition—with no malfunctions. The use of Slip 2000 EWL has helped keep this gun reliable with little cleaning. The use of the Aimpoint 3X magnifier in the LaRue pivot mount has been beneficial for running non-magnified as well.

I recently ran this tricked-out AR in two different Aerial Platform shooting classes. Shooting on a man-sized target at altitude at 40 to 60 knots in a very compressed time window requires the use of just the red dot without the magnifier. Equally, hitting steel plates from a hovering helicopter is tough as well. In this case, the magnifier is simply pulled to the rear and rolled out of the way to use the Comp M4 without magnification. Additionally, when I am doing speed-shooting demos, the use of the SureFire muzzle brake allows this rifle to be shot as fast as I can press the trigger and creates such a neutral (no rise or dive) recoil impulse that the red dot simply vibrates in place. The

other benefit to this muzzle brake is that it allows for shooting with a SureFire suppressor. This gun has been 100 percent reliable with all models of the SureFire Mini and Micro 5.56mm suppressors with no noticeable change of point of impact with any of the suppressors mounted.

ENHANCING THE COLT

I learned a long time ago to go to experts on these builds. Ken Elmore is well known for being the go-to guy when it comes to all things Colt in the law enforcement world. Ken's reliability package flat-out works and is worth every penny. I have never had an issue with anything Ken has touched in my arsenal. The owner of Centurion Arms put the front half of this gun together. He is a well-respected active duty member of one of the most elite units in the Naval Special Warfare community, and has a very unique level of technical expertise combined with a ton of real-world combat experience to truly deliver a high-end product for anyone who needs their gear to work in the worst-case scenarios.

The Centurion C4 rail has a unique way of bolting to the factory barrel extension and provides a lightweight, low-profile rail that is rock solid. I am also impressed daily with how well the barrel shoots in this gun and how soft it shoots. This is due in part to the mid-length gas system combined with a 16-inch barrel. The distance from the end of the barrel to the gas port is the same as a full size 20-inch M16/AR-15,



SPECIFICATIONS

CENTURION ARMS CUSTOM

CALIBER:	5.56mm NATO
BARREL:	16 inches
OA LENGTH:	32 inches
WEIGHT:	7 pounds
STOCK:	LMT SOPMOD
SIGHTS:	X/S Twist-mount w/CSAT aperture, fixed front
ACTION:	Semi-auto
FINISH:	Maganese phosphate
CAPACITY:	30
MSRP:	N/A



thing light, reliable, easy to use and shoot, and very direct in its purpose. While I am retired from law enforcement, I spent most of my adult life working in a patrol atmosphere at night and have trained hundreds of police officers in the deployment and use of the 5.56mm carbine in an urban patrol environment. I have a pretty good idea of what a patrol carbine should be.

Monty at Centurion Arms built the entire carbine using high-quality parts internally for maximum reliability under all conditions. This was done on my own personally owned lower, as Centurion only builds complete uppers. The newer C4 rail with a cutout for a fixed front sight was utilized in order to use my "tiered sighting system." The barrel is the same cold-hammer-forged, lightweight one used in the general-purpose build with the same Surefire muzzle brake. I installed a SureFire X300 for lighting duties to keep things simple, light, and logistically matched to my pistol-mounted light. An Aimpoint Micro sight is used for the primary sight (3 ounces and a 50,000-hour battery life) with a X/S CSAT sight on an Aimpoint Twist Mount base that allows for rear sight removal to be replaced with a 3X magnifier, ANPVS-14 NVG, or Aimpoint Corner Engagement Unit if needed.

and this gun shoots like a full-size rifle in a carbine-length package.

variety of shooting scenarios and training courses, and it has been stellar in its role. I was so happy with it that I decided to consult with the owner of Centurion Arms to do another gun that would be built as a pure law enforcement urban patrol rifle. Some-

CENTURION SEQUEL

The initial build of the general-purpose rifle was meant to be used in a very wide



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COLT/CENTURION ARMS CUSTOM

CALIBER:	5.56mm NATO
BARREL:	16 inches
OA LENGTH:	32 inches
WEIGHT:	7 pounds (empty)
STOCK:	Vitor EMod
SIGHTS:	Troy folding with SAW aperture/Aimpoint
ACTION:	Semi-auto
FINISH:	Manganese phosphate
CAPACITY:	30
MSRP:	N/A



»» DUTY-READY ARS

This rifle's furniture consists of a U.S. Palm BG-17 pistol grip combined with TangoDown rail covers and vertical foregrip, and an LMT SOPMOD rear stock. For police patrol use, I like a very short two-point sling mounted between the very rear of the front rail and the rear of the lower receiver. The key to this gun is weight and reliability. It is light enough to carry on long yard-to-yard searches and is easy to maneuver in and out of vehicles and structures. Like its big brother, it is a soft shooter. I also like the improved ballistics delivered by the 16-inch barrel.

I usually keep a 20-round TangoDown ARC magazine in the gun to keep it as low profile as possible. I carry four additional 30-round TangoDown magazines in its Eagle Industries discrete carry case that is the same model I used to carry my carbines in my black and white prior to retirement. This gun is a textbook example of "everything you need, nothing you don't," and would be a great guide for any police officer to copy for a patrol rifle that they can depend on.

CENTURION WARRIORS

These guns are shining examples of what can be done when we focus on "duty-ready" reliability and quality. My guns tend to get very high round counts through them and have a lot of demand placed on them during demo shoots. They have been shot by scores of LEOs with great results. In a market flooded with rifle choices and accessories that tend to work well for "hundreds" of rounds and are better suited for recreational shooting, those putting themselves in harm's way should strive for systems geared towards running tens of thousands of rounds and will be fully functioning and reliable in the worst of scenarios. These Centurion's are true tools for professional end-users and demanding shooters.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

CENTURION ARMS
centurionarms.com

AIMPOINT
aimpoint.com; 877-246-7646

COLT
colt.com; 800-241-2485

LMT
lewismachine.net; 309-732-9527

MAGPUL
magpul.com; 877-462-4785

SPECIALIZED ARMAMENT
specializedarmament.com

TANGODOWN
tangodown.com; 909-392-4757

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uspalm.com; 480-398-3395