

Think Two, Shoot One - Disengage Safety, Engage Threat - Proper Unloading Procedures - Arming Yourself on the Go - Terminology

# WHISKEY TANGO

WEAPONS & TACTICS MAGAZINE

## ONE RIFLE MANY MISSIONS THE ADAPTIVE COMBAT RIFLE

### TOP TEN COOLEST WEAPONS

### NEXT GENERATION TAURUS 24/7 PRO G2 PISTOL



February 2012

\$2.79US \$3.99CAN



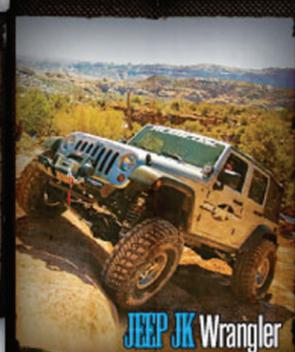
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The Leader



In Quality & Performance



February



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# The Bushmaster **ACR**

is a firearm both propelled and burdened by its legacy as the Magpul Masada. First unveiled at the 2007 SHOT Show in Orlando, Fla., the gun created quite a stir among the semi-automatic rifle aficionados in attendance...

**ONE RIFLE  
MANY MISSIONS**

**The** Masada promised to deliver first-rate ergonomics and versatility in the form of its quick-change barrel capability and adaptability to alternate calibers. Magpul had something good but it didn't have the resources to produce the gun, so in 2008 it sold the design to Bushmaster, which re-named the firearm Adaptive Combat Rifle (ACR). Bringing a gun like the Masada to market would be a tough job, but Bushmaster and Remington, both members of the Freedom Group family of firearm companies, shared their resources and unique expertise to make the promise of the Masada a reality. Magpul may have sold its rights to the gun, but it remained heavily involved in the development of the ACR. Bushmaster and Remington will both sell ACRs. Bushmaster will handle civilian and state and local law enforcement sales, while Remington will handle potential ACR sales to federal law enforcement and the military. Bushmaster will offer two models, the Basic and the Enhanced, with the only significant differences being the stock and the fore-end. The Basic will have a fixed stock and polymer fore-end and the Enhanced will have a folding stock and a quad-rail aluminum fore-end. I received an Enhanced ACR for examination and testing. The ACR's construction and design are rugged and reliable, but they are not revolutionary. Most of the components and operating principles, such as the heavy bolt and indirect gas-impingement operating system, are designs with proven histories, but what really sets the ACR apart from older designs are its ergonomics. Other ergonomic touches include grip-enhancing texturing on the side panels of the magazine well and pistol grip. The stocks of both the Basic and Enhanced ACRs have a Quick Detach sling coupler near the joint of the heel and the comb.



## Quick-Change Barrel

The standard barrel length for both the Basic and Enhanced models is 16 1/2 inches. Remington representatives told me that their internal testing determined the barrel's ideal thickness and stepped profile for maximum longevity. The 10 1/2- and 14 1/2-inch-barreled guns will be available to law enforcement customers and Bushmaster will offer 18-inch-heavy barreled guns as Designated Marksman-style rifles. Most of the shooters I know who are eager to buy an ACR will likely want to shoot it with 75- and 77-grain loads, so the 1:9-inch rifling twist of our test gun seems to be an odd choice. Bushmaster told me that 1:9 inches was the most popular choice among its distributors, but I was assured that guns with 1:7-inch barrels will be available, and separate 1:7-inch barrels will be available through a spare barrel program. Also 6.8x43 mm barrels with Spec. II chambers will be introduced in the same lengths. All ACR barrels in both chamberings are cold-hammer forged with six grooves in a right-hand twist. A barrel nut with interrupted threads locks the barrel assembly into a steel trunnion fixed to the upper receiver by way of two roll pins and two machine screws. A hinged barrel wrench attached to the barrel nut makes it easy to dismount the barrel for cleaning or swapping calibers. It should be noted that a caliber change will also require replacing the bolt and magazine.



## A Better Mousetrap

The ACR dispenses with the direct gas-impingement operating system of the M16 in favor of an AR-180-style indirect gas-impingement system. Gas tapped from a port in the barrel travels through the gas block and impinges on a tappet rod above the barrel. Energy from the expanding propellant gases drives the tappet rod back. The tappet rod in turn strikes the face of the bolt carrier to unlock the bolt. The ACR has a short-stroke rotary bolt with eight equally spaced locking lugs that engage an extension on the breech end of the barrel. Seven of the lugs have the same height, width and depth, while a smaller eighth lug is part of the extractor. A plunger ejector can be found on the recessed bolt face. There are no gas rings on the bolt body, as it's not a direct-gas gun, so it doesn't need them.

A coil spring wrapped around the steel firing pin reduces the chances of a slam fire. Rotation of the bolt is controlled by a cam pin that travels in a kidney shaped cut-out in the left side of the carrier.

## Construction

The upper receiver is a U-shaped, one-piece assembly of extruded aluminum that extends from the wrist of the stock to the gas block. An integral M1913 Picatinny rail runs the full length of its roof. A shell deflector is mounted behind its large ejection port. The upper receiver also serves as a housing for the reversible charging handle, the bolt, and the steel trunnion that provides a common joint for the ACR's upper and lower receivers and its detachable barrel. Magpul specializes in polymer accessories for the AR-15/M16 platform, and the ACR's polymer lower receiver is a legacy

of its Magpul origins. The lower receiver consists of an integral pistol grip, trigger well and magazine well. All of the fire and function controls including the trigger, ambidextrous safety lever, ambidextrous magazine release and bolt stop buttons are contained in the ACR's lower receiver. It also serves as a mounting point for the buttstock, which is held in place by both a tongue-and-groove joint and a captured steel ferule pin at the rear of the assembly. Like the M16, the upper and lower receivers are hinged on a captured pivot pin in front of the magazine well. Unlike the

M16, the rear take-down pin is housed in the upper rather than the lower receiver. The skeletonized polymer stock of the ACR Basic is fixed with a 12-inch length of pull that can be extended with compatible inserts from Magpul. In contrast, the stock of the Enhanced is adjustable in every way imaginable. The comb can be raised a 1/2 inch and the user can choose one of seven settings for length of pull, ranging from 11 to 14 inches in 1/2-inch increments.

### Manufacturer

Bushmaster Firearms Int'l LLC

### Caliber

5.56x45 mm NATO/.223 Rem. - 6.8x43 mm SPC II

### Action Type

Gas-operated, semi-automatic center-fire rifle

### Receiver

Extruded aluminum upper, polymer lower

### Barrel

16 1/2" cold-hammer forged chrome-moly steel

### Rifling

1:9\*, also available in 1:7\*

### Magazine

Detachable box, compatible with AR-15/M16

### Sights

Rear aperture adjustable for windage, front post adjustable for elevation, M1913 Picatinny rail for scope mounting

### Trigger

Single-stage; 6-lb., 2-oz. pull

### Stock

Length of pull, 11" to 14"; drop at heel, 1/2"; drop at comb, adjustable between 1/2" and 1/8"

### Overall Length

333/4" (stock folded), 363/4" (stock extended)

### Weight

8 lbs., 3 oza.

### Accessories

Three 30-round Magpul PMAG magazines

### MSRP

Enhanced ACR \$3,031, Basic \$2,685



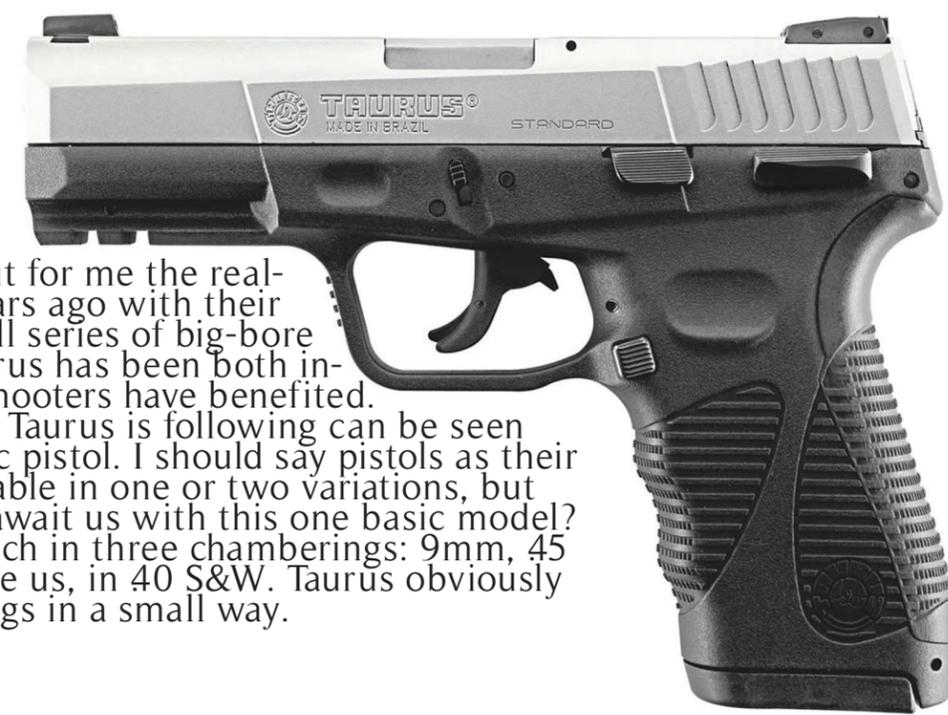
# NEXT GENERATION

The New Taurus 24/7 Pro G2



**“Taurus** obviously does not know how to do things in a small way.”

**Taurus** is one of the truly remarkable success stories in the firearms industry. I'm not sure when they changed from being a follower to a leader but for me the realization came more than 15 years ago with their introduction of the Raging Bull series of big-bore revolvers. Since that time, Taurus has been both innovative and aggressive and shooters have benefited. A perfect example of the path Taurus is following can be seen in their newest semi-automatic pistol. I should say pistols as their PT 24/7 G2 is not simply available in one or two variations, but would you believe 24 choices await us with this one basic model? This includes eight versions each in three chamberings: 9mm, 45 ACP, and the test model before us, in 40 S&W. Taurus obviously does not know how to do things in a small way.



When the 40 S&W arrived two decades ago two of my very good friends, well known in the industry, dubbed it “short & weak.” Since that time it has proven itself to be a serious self-defense and law enforcement cartridge and is the official chambering of many departments. Ballistically speaking, the 40 S&W is a dead ringer for the old .38-40 cartridge from frontier days. A 180-grain bullet at 1,000 fps was serious from a Colt Single Action in the 1880s and it is certainly still serious today from a semi-automatic pistol. Add in the fact the Colt only carried five rounds while the Taurus 24/7 G2 has a carrying capacity more than three times that amount as well as being easily backed up by an extra magazine or two. Two extra magazines are certainly much easier to carry than a cartridge belt full of rounds. The Colt along with a period holster and belt may look more

romantic, but romantic is not what is needed in a serious situation. I have two Colt Single Actions with 4 3/4” barrels chambered in .38-40. One is 100-years old with a well-worn finish and pearl grips while the other is of more recent manufacture, fully engraved with ivory stocks. They are both beautiful, soul-stirring sixguns and I look oh so good packing them while at the same time.



(A) The new Taurus 24/7 G2 is a compact, reliable 15+1 .40 S&W self-loading pistol. (B) The recoil spring is on a fulllength rod and the end of the barrel has a slight “cannon muzzle” to fit the slide. (C) One extra safety is the lever in the center of the trigger to prevent its travel unless it is first depressed. (D) The slide-to-frame fit is excellent and an ambidextrous thumb safety is also provided. (E) A loaded-chamber indicator is provided atop the slide. (F) Fixed 3-dot sights are provided and deliver a clear, strong sight picture.

## MQ9 Reaper Drone 1



Manufactured by: General Atomics Aeronautical Systems (GA-ASI)  
Release date: 2001  
The Reaper has been around for over 10 years, but was used largely for intelligence and reconnaissance until recently. Today, squadrons of F-16's are being transitioned into fully unmanned drone fleets. The Reaper is the largest of the UAV's in the U.S. arsenal with a wingspan of 84 feet, a takeoff weight of 7,000 pounds, a payload capacity of 3,000 pounds and a flight time of 36 hours. The drone climbs up to 52,000 feet, and reads a license plate from over two miles away. Capable of carrying 500 pound bombs, air-to-ground, and air-to-air missiles the UAV fleet is poised to perform the lion's share of American air support. As of March 2011 the Air Force has more personnel training to operate its burgeoning drone fleet than for any other weapon system in its arsenal.

## AA12 Atchisson Assault Shotgun 2



Manufactured by: Maxwell Atchisson  
Release date: 2005  
The AA12 can fire five 12-gauge shells per second and because the recoil is engineered at just 10 percent a normal shotgun, it can be fired from the hip with only one hand. The Atchisson also fires a high explosive or fragmentation grenade called a FRAG-12 round to 175 meters with equal efficiency. Designed for long-term combat use, tests have shown the AA12 can fire up to 9,000 rounds without being cleaned or jamming. All the user needs to do is hold the trigger down for four seconds to empty the 20 round drum at a target.

## PHASR Rifle 3



Manufactured by: the Department of Defense (DOD)  
Release date: 2007  
The Personnel Halting and Stimulation Response (PHASR) rifle is a handheld laser array, called a dazzler, capable of blinding and disorienting anyone caught in its sights. While weapons to cause blindness were sagely restricted by the 1995 United Nations Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (a ruling the U.S. didn't agree to until 2009) the PHASR causes only temporary blindness, thus escaping the ban. Dazzlers were originally mounted devices to U.S. soldiers rifles as a non-lethal way to halt Iraqis who failed to stop

at checkpoints. The PHASR uses a green laser array to calculate its targets distance and ensure its non-blinding intensity.

## The Taser Shockwave 4

Manufactured by: TASER  
Release date: 2008  
The Taser model will electrocute a crowd of people at the touch of a button. Creating an "area of denial" the Taser can be stacked up and strung together almost indefinitely. It will also mount to any vehicle. The Shockwave has an effective distance of 25 feet.

## The Black Knight 5



Manufactured by: BAE Systems (BA.L)  
Release date: 2008  
The Black Knight is a combination remote controlled tank and forward scouting vehicle, designed for situations too risky for manned vehicles. To keep costs low, the Black Knight shares a weapons systems and engine parts with the manned Bradley Fighting vehicle. Including a 30mm cannon, machine gun and three hundred horsepower engine.

# TOP TEN COOLEST WEAPONS

## The Active Denial System 6

Manufactured by: Raytheon (RTN)  
Release date: 2008  
Dubbed America's Ray Gun, by 60 Minutes, the Active Denial System is really more a combination radar array and microwave. The ADS shoots a stream of electromagnetic waves, shorter than microwaves, which are instantly absorbed by the top layer of skin. The pain is so intense, the reaction to run from the beams so over-

powering, the military calls it the "Goodbye Weapon." The ADS has been used domestically, both on test subjects and prison inmates. It was deployed to Afghanistan in 2010, only to be recalled, inexplicably, months later. The military claims there are no lingering effects from exposure.

## The Laser Avenger 7



Manufactured by: Boeing (BA)  
Release date: 2009  
Only a few centimeters in diameter and invisible to the naked eye, the Avenger's laser is 20 times hotter than an electric stove top and will cut through artillery shells with ease. The Avenger was designed with the hope of effectively detonating the Improvised Explosive

Devices (IEDs) that inflict more damage on American forces than any other weapon. Current disposal methods involve a version of the MAARS robot that insurgents will bomb to take out of action. The Avenger is also being tested to take down aerial vehicles.

## MAARS Robot (Modular Advanced Armed Robotic System) 8



Manufactured by: QinetiQ - QQ  
Release date: 2009  
The MAARS Robot is a modified remote control, bomb disposal robot. Customizable to various needs, the MAARS can be configured with either an MB240 machine gun and 40mm grenade launcher, or a loudspeaker and eye dazzling laser, or bean bag guns, smoke

## XM2010 Enhanced Sniper Rifle 9



Manufactured by: Remington  
Release date: 2010-2011  
The product of a long string of modifications to the 22 year-old M24 sniper rifle, the XM2010 is designed specifically to be effec-

tive in the high altitude long distance fighting in Afghanistan. To provide quiet, pinpoint accuracy at up to 1200 meters the XM2010 carries more gun powder in the bullets it fires, has a flash suppressor, sound suppressor, and a thermal sleeve to hide the warm barrel from FLIR. When U.S. Snipers graduate from the five-week school at Fort Benning, Ga. they are capable of hitting a man-sized target nine out of ten times at six hundred meters — over a third of a mile away.

## XM25 Individual Airburst 10



**Weapon System (IAWS)**  
Manufactured by: Heckler & Koch  
Release date: 2014  
Dubbed "The Punisher" by American forces in Afghanistan, the XM25 accurately shoots a next-generation, 25mm, grenade up to 500 meters. But, the distance isn't what impressed soldiers involved in the live trial of the weapon — it was the grenade programming. A targets distance is transmitted by a rangefinder in the XM25 to the grenade in the firing chamber. When the grenade leaves the barrel it is spiraling, like a football, and measures the distance it's traveled by the number of spirals it completes. The detonation can be manually programmed within 10 meters to hit enemy in bunkers or behind barriers. A platoon leader commented in an Army Times article: "Engagements that typically take 15 to 20 minutes were over in a matter of minutes."

For more information and images go to [WhiskeyTangoMag.com](http://WhiskeyTangoMag.com)

The last question Mr. Ryan should have  
answered is about the mess on his shirt.



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