



ISA OnTarget

Irwin Sportsmen's Association Newsletter

www.irwinsportsmen.com

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Are You Prepared for the Possible Scenario of Home Defense? by [Dustin Gladwell](#) Sep 27, 2021

Which are the best guns for home defense?" As a firearms instructor and military veteran, I hear that question all the time. Many of you have probably asked this question, or a variation of it, as well.

As always, I feel the need to include a disclaimer: Everyone has lots of opinions. Some opinions are good, and some opinions are... I'll be kind, not as good. Oftentimes, you might even find that people screaming the loudest have the least experience. This is especially true in today's world of hyper-sensationalized social media.

As civilians, home defense is one of the few likely scenarios in which we need to use a gun in our daily lives. There are three basic schools of thought when it comes to which guns are better for home defense. These are the shotgun, rifle, or pistol schools.

However, each option has its pros and cons. I like to refer to them as trade-offs. What does this mean? It means there are several things to consider. Just like in any tactical scenario or tactical environment, the trade-offs matter.

All guns will kill someone, that is, after all, the point. For home defense, the trade-offs are what matter the most.

If you ever find yourself in a home-invasion scenario, I promise you — from experience — it will catch you off guard. No matter how vigilant one is at home, it's not something you are always thinking about. You can't. And you shouldn't.

Our homes are our safe places, our family and friends' place, and where we keep the world out. But when the world comes in, you need to be able to act — and act quickly and decisively. You will be nervous. Your heart will feel like it's going to pound through your chest. You will feel the adrenaline and your breathing will increase. Your hands might get sweaty and your aim less steady. So you will need every advantage you can get.

A carbine platform will give you back every advantage, and then some. You've probably heard the saying: if you find yourself in a fair fight, your tactics suck. In this kind of fight, you want every advantage possible. A short-barreled, pistol-caliber carbine will definitely provide you every advantage possible. Given that pistols tend to be the best type of guns for the home, let's significantly level them up to an even better platform: a pistol-caliber carbine. Specifically, something along the lines of an AR-9. More to the point, an AR-9 with an 8-10" barrel for better velocity and expansion on a hollow point round. Add a red-dot optic, sling, and gun light, and you are all set. (end)

Good General Rules for most things...

- * If you open it, **CLOSE IT!**
- * If you turn it on, **TURN IT OFF!**
- * If you unlock it, **LOCK IT BACK UP!**
- * if you value it, **TAKE CARE OF IT!**
- * If you make a Mess, **CLEAN IT UP!**
- * If you move it, **PUT IT BACK !**

There is no need for anyone to work alone. Please call one of the following so that they can assist and provide additional safety.

- Smokey Burdin 724-396-9627 M-F 9-5
- Kevin Kennelty 724-640-0726
- Rich Boehm 724-953-4778

Why should you care? The answer is that you need to be concerned when the government gets away with using meaningless terms to criminalize a group of law-abiding citizens. It starts with these firearms, then its handguns, hunting rifles, knives, bows, etc, the list could be endless, and history has taught us that there is no limit to what can be outlawed. I'm not saying we are heading into tyranny because Canada banned AR-15's, I am saying that you should pay attention, and always use logic and reason to analyze the merit of decisions like the one that the Canadian Government just made. I always like to ask the goal of such actions and then whether or not such a move will achieve that goal.

Does removing guns from the hands of law-abiding citizens make us safer? The absence of these 1500 styles and types of firearms from law-abiding Canadian citizens doesn't make me feel any safer. What it does is make me question my government's decision-making ability and motives. Law-abiding citizens abide by the law, which is why we call them law-abiding citizens. Removing a firearm from their possession when the only place they fire them is on a legal shooting range does not make the country a safer place. At the risk of sounding cliché, guns don't kill people, people with evil intent use guns to kill people. I know personally several Canadian owners of AR-15's that love to shoot in competitions, their guns have never harmed anyone and yet they are being turned into criminals.

If banning things worked then we should just ban murder and all would be fine. Right?

PRESIDENTIAL MUSINGS

Thank you to the individuals who come to the club to keep the grounds maintained and the roadway cleared of debris.

It's official! We are now a CMP affiliated club! Stay tuned for dates of CMP shoots/matches.

Open house is only a few months away and meetings to discuss plans will be forthcoming.

Members have been asking to have US Law Shield do a presentation at the club. I am working with Michael from US Law Shield to set up a date. Stay tuned for more information.

The storm that came through on May 3 took down a tree. Thankfully no one got hurt. The ladies class was going on that night and when the power went out we did the class by flashlight. We were still able to get in some range time before the dam of water came again. Kudos to the ladies and their resilience to learn.

Hope to see you at the meeting or on the ranges.

Joyce

When can you hunt turkey in PA?

From May 16-31, legal hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset.

Artificial decoys that imitate a real Wild Turkey are legal to use in Pennsylvania, when they are placed in a stationary position. It is not legal to use the "tail fan" decoys to hold in front of your body and approach turkeys with in order to ambush them. These type of decoys are very dangerous, as they place the hunter directly behind a realistic representation of a turkey's body– the opposite of creating a safe situation.

Welcome New Members

We hope you enjoy the ranges and the fellowship while having fun.

Frank Rzorsek	Monroville
John P. Aducci	N Huntingdon

What exactly is a military-grade assault-style weapon? And why banning them does not make you any safer. Michael Major May 9, 2020

You've asked yourself this question no doubt, but what does it mean? What does the term mean to you when you are not an owner of firearms? Why should you care at all? Canada just banned 'military-grade assault-style weapons' such as the infamous AR-15, and the polling shows that the majority of Canadians seem to support such a move. So what does the term military-grade assault-style weapon represent? It's a good idea to preface my next comments by divulging that I was an infantry soldier in the Canadian Armed Forces Reserve. I have handled and fired all manner of military weapons and come at this topic with a deep and intimate familiarity with firearms. The short answer to the question is that there is no legal designation or description of a 'military-grade, assault-style weapon'. The term simply does not exist and means nothing more than political rhetoric.

Military-grade? Military-grade is an interesting term that seems to play on the same trick advertisers use to get you to buy something like a smartphone case. I've seen the same term used to describe so many different products from encryption to the aluminum used in a Ford F-150. I think that somehow in our minds the term triggers thoughts that the product must be built to a higher standard or is just plain tougher. To a veteran like me 'military-grade' means built by the lowest bidder, with the cheapest materials, and probably ill-fitting. If 'military grade' was so great I wouldn't have bought so much non-issue kit during my time as a soldier. To the general public, most of whom have not even held a firearm, a military-grade weapon brings up images of camouflaged men and women carrying large black scary-looking automatic weapons. Instead of wood stocks and handguards, we see black composite, instead of the traditional bolt action hunting rifle we see this weapon that has a detachable magazine, and the pistol grip triggers something in people's brains indicating that somehow that makes the firearm more deadly. The M-16, M-4, C-7, or C-8 assault rifles that soldiers in America and Canada use look the same as an AR-15 that we see recent mass shooters use. They are not the same though. The simple truth is that firearms sold to civilians are not the same as those issued to the military and attaching the term 'military-grade' to a civilian firearm is just a political game.

Assault-style weapon? I can only assume that the term 'assault-style weapon' is a replacement for the inaccurate use of the term 'assault rifle'. The generally accepted definition of the term assault rifle is: an intermediate-range rifle with detachable magazine and that can fire in two or more modes. The rifles issued to infantry soldiers are assault rifles while the AR-15 used by a civilian on the range is **not** and the government is very well aware of this. Claiming civilians can buy assault rifles has been debunked so many times that I believe the Trudeau Government is attempting a rebranding. Enter the term 'assault-style weapon', since it has no technical definition the government de jour can make any firearm they wish to fit the bill. It's another term that is meaningless. What it appears is that the government is using this nonsense to describe any weapon that looks scary or looks similar to an assault rifle. All these words do is play on emotions of the general public and triggers their desire for safety, not only of themselves but for their families. Fear is a great motivator and tends to allow us to bypass the logic and reason we would normally execute when confronted with actions like an undemocratic ban of civilian's private property.

What do these phrases mean to you if you are not someone who owns firearms? Terms like 'military-grade assault-style weapons' probably still don't mean much to you but they should. They mean that the people we elect to lead us to believe that we can be so easily fooled that they can just make up new terminology to scare us into submission. You are an intelligent human being and with a little analysis, I am certain that you will see through the facade of these 'assault-style' weapons. You may not believe that civilians should own any of the firearms that Canada has banned, and that is ok, but you at the very least expect that the people elected to lead would use legal and accepted terminology to make their case.

(Continued on page 2—look for green border)

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Membership cards were not mailed to members if they forgot to enclose a SASE. Please send a Self-Addressed-Stamped-Envelope to ISA, P.O. Box 225, Irwin PA 15642 to have your card sent to you. They are also available for pickup at the club during any regularly scheduled Officer or Member meeting. Please see Smokey Burdin

******* 2022 ISA OFFICERS *******

PRESIDENT	JOYCE LICHTENFELS	724-863-6940
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