



AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION
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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Well as we all know the law-abiding firearm owners in Delaware have been attacked and demonized by the Democratic majorities in the House, Senate and Governor's office. What looked like a calm and uneventful end to the 151st General Assembly was swept away in a perfect storm over the Memorial Day weekend. In three days the situation went from no firearm bills, good or bad, to the trifecta plus one of bad bills.

From what DSSA believes was extreme outside pressure, most likely from Washington and others (I'll leave it to you the reader to figure it out), several pieces of legislation suddenly appeared out of the mist and gloom. Not in any particular order, there was an "assault weapon" ban, magazine capacity ban and an under 21 purchase prohibition ban. The plus one was a bill that targets the FFL's and firearm industry here in Delaware by declaring them a public nuisance and subjecting them to being sued.

The Governor issued a rare press release in the first days of June stating that the bills were part of a package that the House and Senate would consider over the next couple of weeks. He even went so far as to state that the House would consider the "assault weapon" ban (HB 450) and the under 21 purchase prohibition (HB 451) in committee on the following Wednesday and vote on them the following day. I didn't know the governor was able to predict the future. I guess I should have asked him what the Powerball or MegaMillions lottery numbers were going to be.

He also stated that the Senate would substitute a new bill for the magazine capacity bill, Senate Bill 6, that we had successfully amended in the House in April of 2021. The ironic part of this was that the House was going to agree to amending the bill back to what it was originally. That means the House was admitting they made a mistake in amending the original bill and sending it back to the Senate. Doesn't that sound a bit fishy? Since when does the leadership of the House apologize for amending a Senate bill and ask that it be put back in its original form?

The hearings were a joke. HB 450 and HB 451 were assigned to the House Administration Committee where Rep.

Valerie Longhurst is the chair. Guess who one of the prime sponsors of the legislation was? You guessed correct, Valerie Longhurst. The fix was in. Each person was allotted one minute to speak to the legislation. That is the legislative definition of "lip service". Since the committee has 3 Democrats and 2 Republicans you can guess the outcome. The bills were released and put on the House agenda the following day. Of course, the bills passed.

In the Senate it was an even bigger joke. The House bills and the 2 Senate bills, the magazine capacity ban and FFL liability bill were assigned to the Executive Committee. Guess who the Chair of that committee is? Sen. David Sokola. And guess who one of the prime sponsors was? Again you are correct Sen. Sokola. See the pattern here? That hearing was even worse, people were allotted 2 minutes to speak to **all** the bills. What a slap in the face of democracy.

The only bill that DSSA was in favor of was the new FTAP, Firearm Transfer Approval Process, bill, House Bill 423. This legislation was originally written by DSSA for Sen. Gerald Hocker three years ago. At that time Rep. Valerie Longhurst would not let it proceed because it wasn't her idea. This year Sen. Hocker graciously let the House Majority Whip, Rep. Larry Mitchell run the bill. It passed both chambers unanimously. It was a bipartisan effort. But guess what. The Democrats attempted to take credit for the bill and had to be forced into giving Sen. Hocker any recognition. From the press release the Governor issued it appears even he was taking credit for the legislation. Talk about hypocrisy.

The bottom line is that the legislation DSSA had been successfully stopping for the past 20 years was introduced and passed in less than 10 legislative days. Delaware went from being relatively free of the radical firearm legislation of states like Maryland, New Jersey, New York and California, to being one of the most restrictive states in the union.

Having time to reflect on the events of the past month I can rightfully say that I am fighting mad. The law-abiding firearm owners of this state were totally ignored and brushed aside. There was absolutely no attempt by the Democrats to even talk about the issue. Again they went right to the object. Oh, they paid a little lip service to the mental health aspect of violence committed with firearms. But they were hell bent on

again demonizing the firearm. Again, by passing new legislation, they have to admit that all the anti-gun legislation they have passed before doesn't work. And we all know this legislation will not have one iota of an impact on violent crime in Delaware.

When are these woke liberal Democrats going to get it? In my humble opinion, never. The only way they get it is to vote them out!!! More on that later.

What is DSSA going to do now? **WE ARE GOING TO COURT AND FIGHT AND WIN!!** That's what. At this writing DSSA is preparing the first lawsuit over these unconstitutional pieces of legislation. This fight won't be easy. It will be expensive and extended, but we are committed to reversing this unconstitutional attack on our state Bill of Rights, Section 20, our, "right to keep and bear arms for the defense of self, family, home and State, and for hunting and recreational use."

"Never-Never Land"

HB 450 - HB 451 – SS 1 for SB 6 - SB 302

With all that's happened in Delaware and throughout the country in recent days, it's time to remind ourselves that if we are to remain free to enjoy the Right to Keep and Bear Arms we hold so dear, we must always make our home in "Never-Never Land"

- Never give up – no matter how bad things might seem
 - Never give in – no matter how hard the fight might seem
 - Never back down – if you don't stand for something, you'll fall for anything
 - Never compromise – to Freedom's enemies "compromise" means they win, you lose
 - Never forget – never forget what they did – and never forget what you believe
 - Never forgive – never forgive them for taking away your rights – hold them accountable
Make them earn forgiveness.
 - Never abandon your principles - always stand for the Second Amendment, always stand for Freedom and always stand with those who stood with you.
 - Never forget to vote – Vote in every election and always "Vote Freedom First"
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The Sussex County Shootout (Return of the Cowboy Action Shooters)

By: Jerry Martin

The 16th annual Delaware State Championship Cowboy Action Shoot was held on April 29th to May 1st at the Bridgeville Rifle and Pistol Club. The event was hosted by Paden's Posse. This is only the second time that the Delaware

State Championship has actually been held in Delaware, but it won't be the last. We started at Seaford 11 years ago and then for the last ten years it was hosted in Sudlersville, MD. During those 11 years, a couple of our State matches were held at different venues. Going forward, BRPC will now be the home to the Delaware State Championship. The competitors really like the range and its layout as we have a good number of shooting bays for stage setups. This year, many of our competitors camped at the range, making it convenient for both shooting and for the after event camaraderie which is a big part of the event.



The state match is a 10-stage event, held over two days with side matches and practice sessions held the day before. The side matches consist of speed events and some long-range action thrown in as well. The main event consists of 10 different stages each with a different scenario of targets and shooting order. Each stage is shot with two single action revolvers, a pistol caliber lever action rifle and either a side by side double, an 1887 lever action or an 1897 pump shotgun.

The cowboy or cowgirl shoots a specific gun at a string of targets in a certain order. A timer is used to record the shots. Misses add 5 seconds to the total time and a procedural error will add 10 seconds to the total time. The final time is recorded and checked. Each shooter shoots the stage in the same manner and then the entire posse moves to the next stage. We had four posses (groups) with 18-19 shooters per posse. At the end of the day, all the scores are tallied to determine the overall and category winners.





Trophies are given out to the top 3 to 5 shooters in each category along with the overall top male and female and the top State Resident male and female winners. This year's state winners are Hazel Pepper, a.k.a. Karen Bell and Vaquero Dan, a.k.a. Dan Watson. Clean match winners are also recognized and given a "Clean Match" badge for bragging rights. The stages are decorated in a 'Western' fashion, with props such as store fronts, bars, trains, and some people cut outs. Generally, each shoot has a theme, and this year was no different, our theme was "Coming Home" –pretty appropriate, really.

Like most shooting disciplines, we use live ammo with only lead bullets allowed as we are shooting at steel targets. Eye and ear protection is a must, and all firearms are handled with safety as our number one priority. Guns are loaded only at the loading table under the watchful eye of a loading officer. They remain on the table until the shooter is called to the line. Once he or she is done shooting, they are instructed to proceed to the un-loading table where they then unload their revolvers and show clear their rifle and shotgun to the un-loading officer. Long guns are always carried muzzle up. No shooter may walk around with loaded guns.

We had shooters from as far away as Maine, New York, and South Carolina as well as more local cowboys and cowgirls from the Eastern Shore. This year we also had a banquet and costume contest at the Moose Lodge in Seaford. It was well attended, the food was great and everyone got to show off their Cowboy finest.

It's a great time of fun and competition with cowboy shooters personifying their favorite TV/Movie character or a real life old west historical figure. Everyone must dress the part and use period correct firearms. Some even use original guns from the 1880s. Some of us shoot fast and some shoot slower, but we all have fun and there is usually a lot of good-natured ribbing going on, along with congratulations on a well shot stage. Most of us grew up watching westerns and playing out those shows as kids. Now we get to do it all over again.

As a side note, this event was actually covered by WBOC in their 'Outdoors Delmarva' program!

Actions in a Self Defense Encounter

By: Jim Purcell

Principles of Self Defense

I recently read a book titled "The Law of Self Defense Principles" by Attorney Andrew F. Branca, with a forward by Massad Ayoob, in which the author describes five principles that can impact your legal defense should you be in a citizen involved shooting. I found these principles to be interesting, and highly recommend the book, particularly to those who concealed carry. In this article I will examine how these principles apply to two real world cases. The purpose of this review is not to judge the actions of those involved, but rather to learn how each principle applies to the actions of the participants.

THE FIVE PRINCIPLES

What happens after you have successfully defended yourself from an attack by a perpetrator? It is quite likely that the police will find you with a firearm on your person and a dead perpetrator in or near the scene. It is also likely that you will be arrested and an investigation will ensue. You may, during the course of these proceedings decide to make a claim of self-defense. The legal battle to support your claim of self-defense is the subject of Mr. Branca's book.

The five principles against which your actions will be judged are Innocence, Imminence, Proportionality, Avoidance and Reasonableness. Mr. Branca clearly states "Every element must be present for you to win (unless an element is legally waived for some reason, and then it's no longer required). You can think of them as five links in a chain from which your liberty is hanging. If one of those links breaks, the chain breaks, and your claim fails. Period."

Innocence

The principle of innocence is based on the idea that you are innocent if you did not start the fight. However, can you

can lose your claim of innocence if you continue to instigate the fight after the other person has disengaged. You can also lose your claim of innocence if you escalate the fight; for example, if you use a firearm to counter a punch.

Imminence

The principle of imminence applies to the issue of timing. The threat of death or grave bodily harm must be immediate, not at some future date. The threat has to be happening at this very moment. Mr. Branca describes a tool he learned while taking a course from Massad Ayoob called AOJ [Ability, Opportunity, Jeopardy]. In order for the threat to be imminent the person posing the threat must have the ability to inflict harm, must have the opportunity to do so and have the jeopardy or intent.

Ability: Most everyone has to ability to inflict grave bodily harm, however the specifics are important. A thirteen year old may not have the ability to inflict bodily harm on an adult, unless that teenager has a firearm. The threat must have the ability to inflict grave bodily harm, such as superior physical strength or the possession of a weapon.

Opportunity: The threat must have the opportunity to inflict harm. Distance, obstacles and type of weapon all determine if someone is a threat. A person thirty feet away holding a baseball bat would not be considered a deadly threat while that same person, at that same distance, with a firearm likely would have the opportunity to inflict grave bodily harm.

Jeopardy: Jeopardy refers to the intent of the individual. Jeopardy exists when "...a person with ability and opportunity conducts themselves in such a way that it reasonably appears they intend to use them against an innocent person." The individual must act in a manner that demonstrates his willingness to inflict grave bodily harm. The armed security guard at the local bank has the ability to inflict grave bodily harm, as well as the opportunity to do so due to his close proximity to customers. However, his intent is to protect life not to inflict grave bodily harm on others.

Proportionality

The concept of proportionality requires that your reaction be similar to, or of the same magnitude as, the action that caused your response. A disproportionate response based on size, strength, or force could jeopardize your claim of self-defense. For instance, you would violate the concept of proportionality if a person of similar size, age and strength punched you in the stomach and you responded by shooting him in the chest. Your adversary started a fistfight, not a gunfight.

Avoidance

Steer clear of bad situations and disengage from confrontation. Don't take that short cut down a dark alley. Walk away from the shouting match before escalating into a physical confrontation. Don't shoot when you can safely flee the scene.

Reasonableness

The rule of reasonableness has a few components. First, was your action to use deadly force reasonable based on the actions of the other party? Would a reasonable person believe that the other four principles were met; that you were the innocent party, that the threat was imminent, that your response was proportional, and that you could not avoid the situation? Your claim of self-defense may be compromised if that reasonable person believes those conditions were not met.

CASE STUDIES

The purpose of discussing these cases is to generate intellectual conversation amongst the concealed carry community. The purpose is not to judge the actions of those who were involved. I am not a lawyer and do not provide legal advice. Nothing I write should be considered a legal option. Those seeking legal advice should contact a lawyer.

There are several ways to learn a lesson; we can learn from our own, often-painful experiences, or we can learn from the experiences of others. I hope an examination of these two cases will provide an opportunity to learn from others. We will discuss these two cases in light of the principles documented earlier in this article, and to identify lessons learned.

Case Study 1

- Iraq War Army Veteran

This article was reported on the Fox News website on 2 January 2022. The article is titled Iraq War Army vet-jailed for murder charge-says he was defending family; written by Fred Lucas. The article references information contained in the original article which appeared on the website of the Baltimore Sun on 19 October 2021.

The information contained in the Fox News article is as follows; Alejandro Gonzalez is an Army veteran who served in the Iraq war. On September 4, 2021 Mr. Gonzalez and his family were in Baltimore, MD visiting his mother. Mr. Gonzalez's mother had been having an on-going dispute with her upstairs neighborhood, Travis Ben-Watkins, over trash and marijuana use.

During his visit, Mr. Gonzalez confronted Mr. Ben-Watkins about the dispute; and the confrontation escalated. Mr. Gonzalez's attorney, Michael Stark, claims that Mr. Ben-Watkins threatened Mr. Gonzalez and his family and told him to wait while he made a call.

Mr. Gonzalez thought Mr. Ben-Watkins was calling for backup. He grabbed his handgun as he packed to leave his mother's apartment. As Mr. Gonzalez was leaving, Mr. Ben-Watkins came out with a wooden chair, smashed it on the ground and charged Mr. Gonzalez with the broken leg. This is when Mr. Gonzalez shot Mr. Ben-Watkins. He then went back home to Georgia while his mother called Baltimore police.

- **Innocence:** The article does not mention who started the argument, but suggests that both parties participated in the argument as it intensified. Mr. Gonzalez may have compromised his claim of innocence by participating in the escalation of the argument. The departure of Mr. Ben-Watkins may have terminated the initial confrontation and reset the condition of innocence. Mr. Ben-Watkin's reappearance and subsequent charging of Mr. Gonzalez with a club may have started a new confrontation in which Mr. Gonzalez regained his innocence claim.

- **Imminence:** Mr. Gonzalez may have perceived the threat posed by Mr. Ben-Watkins as being immediate and imminent. We do not know how close he was to Mr. Gonzalez, but the story does report that Mr. Ben-Watkins was charging towards Mr. Gonzalez.

- **Proportionality:** This seems to be the trickiest of the principles to analyze. Was it reasonable for Mr. Gonzalez to respond to the threat of a club attack with a firearm? The article does not describe the size or strength comparison between Mr. Gonzalez and Mr. Ben-Watkins. Would the chair leg represent a deadly threat if Mr. Gonzalez was significantly larger and stronger than Mr. Ben-Watkins, or if he was a black belt in the martial arts? Perhaps in that circumstance, Mr. Gonzalez could have neutralized the threat without a firearm. However, what if the two were of equal size and strength? Does the attack with a club represent a deadly threat? Perhaps.

- **Avoidance:** It appears Mr. Gonzalez participated in the initial argument. He knew of the issues his mother had with Mr. Ben-Watkins. He participated in the confrontation rather than avoiding contact with Mr. Ben Watkins. However, he seems to have intended to leave the scene, as the article reports that Mr. Gonzalez was helping his mother to pack before heading to New York to visit his grandmother.

- **Reasonableness:** Reasonableness is in the eyes of the beholder. Would a reasonable person believe that Mr. Gonzalez lost his claim of innocence by engaging in the argument with Mr. Ben-Watkins and then regained it after the initial argument by packing in an attempt to leave the property? Would that same person believe that Mr. Gonzalez's use of a firearm was proportional to Mr. Ben-Watkins's alleged attack with a chair leg?

Conclusion: Was Mr. Gonzalez's behavior consistent with the five principles? Were his actions those of an innocent person? Was he in imminent threat of death or grave bodily harm, and was his response proportional to the threat? You be the judge.

Case Study 2

- Off Duty North Carolina Deputy

This article was reported on the Fox News website on 12 January 2022. The title of the article is NC deputy tells 911 dispatch Jason Walker 'jumped' on truck. 'shattered' windshield: 'I just had to shoot him'; written by Danielle Wallace.

On 8 January 2022 Lt. Jeffrey Hash, who was a Cumberland County Sheriff, placed a 911 call to report that he shot an individual later identified as Jason Walker. He also reported "I just had a male jump on my vehicle and break my windshield. I just shot him". When asked by the dispatcher for information, Lt. Hash stated; "I was driving down the road, and he came flying across Bingham Drive running. And then I stopped, so I wouldn't hit him. And then he jumped on my car, pulled my windshield wipers off and started beating my windshield and broke my windshield. I had my wife and my daughter in my vehicle."

The dispatcher then asked if the individual had a weapon. Lt. Hash responded, "No, he just tore my wipers off and started beating the door ...he busted my windshield. I don't know, ma'am." Lt. Hash reminded on the line with the dispatcher until units arrived on the scene. Despite the assistance of a trauma nurse who was on the scene, Mr. Walker did not survive.

Elizabeth Ricks was the trauma nurse who was on the scene. She later stated that she saw a red truck from behind "in clear view brake and then completely stop and then kept going. Then as we were approaching, I saw him hit Jason, and from what I saw from behind, at first, when it happened, was he hit him and Jason hit forward and his body was slammed onto the windshield. Then I heard gunshots. The first one I saw from the looks of it, he got shot through the windshield first. Then he started shooting three other shots".

- **Innocence:** Lt. Hash claims that Mr. Walker initiated the confrontation by running up to his car. The article does not include comments from others at the scene, and Elizabeth Ricks's comments do not include a description of how the confrontation began. It would seem, in the absence of other testimony, that Lt. Hash could claim to be the innocent party.

- **Imminence:** This event was happening in the moment. The threat could be consider imminent. However, Mr. Walker was outside the vehicle while Lt. Hash was inside. Lt. Hash's statement does not suggest that Mr. Walker attempted to enter the vehicle thereby creating an imminent threat of death or grave bodily harm to Lt. Hash.

- **Proportionality:** Lt. Hash states that Mr. Walker did not have a gun. The article contains no information to suggest a weapon was found at the scene. Lt. Hash's comments seem to indicate that Mr. Walker was using his hands to inflict damage to Lt. Hash's vehicle. Lt Hash's use of a firearm to respond to Mr. Walker could be viewed as a violation of the principle of proportionality in that while Mr. Walker appears to have been unarmed, Lt. Hash responded with a firearm.

- **Avoidance:** Lt. Hash was in a truck while Mr. Walker was on foot. The article does not indicate if Lt. Hash was restricted in his ability to maneuver his vehicle or if the road in front of him was blocked. In the absence of information to the contrary it seems Lt. Hash had an opportunity to avoid this confrontation by driving away from Mr. Walker. The decision not to leave the scene could jeopardize Lt. Hash's claim of self-defense.

- **Reasonableness:** How would a reasonable person view the actions of Lt. Hash? Would they consider him to be the innocent party? Was the fact that Lt. Hash was inside his vehicle and Mr. Walker outside create a condition in which a threat was imminent? Was Lt. Hash's use of a firearm against an unarmed person a proportional response? And lastly, did Lt. Hash have an opportunity to leave the scene by simply driving away, thereby avoiding the confrontation?

- **Conclusion:** Was Lt. Hash's behavior consistent with the five principles? Were his actions those of an innocent person? Was he in imminent threat of death or grave bodily harm, and was his response proportional to the threat? You be the judge.

What is the takeaway from this analysis?

This is not intended to be an in depth review of Mr. Branca's book. I encourage those who are interested in the subject to purchase a copy of the book. One final note before we begin; I am not an attorney. Nothing I write in this article should be considered as offering legal advice. I am only considering the actions of those cited in the two articles as they relate to the principles discussed in Mr. Branca's book. Persons interested in this topic should consult legal counsel with questions regarding self-defense law.

Andrew Branca describes the five legal principles applicable to claims of self-defense in his book *The Laws of Self Defense Principles*. Understanding those principles, and acting in accordance with those principles, can help one support their claim of self-defense. The goal of this article is to provide food for thought and to generate conversation within the concealed carry community. The opinions expressed are mine, and do not reflect those of the Delaware State Sportsman Association. And finally, I am not an attorney and nothing in this article should be considered legal advice.

ELECTIONS HAVE CONSEQUENCES

By: John C. Sigler
NRA Past President
DSSA Past President

Tell me elections don't have consequences:

- Runaway Inflation
- Through-the-Roof Gas Prices
- Half the Food for Twice the Price
- 401(K) in the Toilet
- Retirement an Unachievable Dream
- Schools Teaching Your Kids to Hate
- Your Home's Market Value Diminishing by the Day
- You're the Bad Guy – And the Bad Guy is Now the "Good Guy"
- Victims Treated as Criminals and Criminals Treated as Victims

- Illegal Aliens Enjoying More Rights Than You Have
- Gun Bans Galore – and More Gun Bans to Come –

Yes! Elections do have consequences. So answer these questions – and be honest with yourself:

- Are you registered to vote?
- Did you vote in the last election?
- Did you give money to pro-gun candidates?
- Did you give money to DSSA or the NRA to help elect pro-gun candidates?
- Did you volunteer to work on a pro-gun candidate's campaign?
- Did you put a pro-gun candidate's sign in your yard? Make calls for that pro-gun candidate? Work the Polls for that candidate?
- Are your children, friends and neighbors eligible to vote, and if so are they registered?
- Did they vote? Did you educate them? If not why not?
- Who did you vote for? Why?
- Is the person you voted for now part of the majority party that is bringing all these bad things down on the backs of good folks like you?
- Did you vote for anyone who voted "Yes" on HB 450, HB 451, SB 6, or SB 302?

Be honest – are you part of the problem? Or are you part of the solution? Elections have consequences and those consequences can be good or they can be bad – and this year we are seeing just how bad they can be, both nationally and here at home. Whatever you did two years ago, this year can be – and must be – different.

- It's up to you whether we get our rights back, or lose more rights.
- It's up to you – no one else, only you – whether America remains free or we become just another two-bit, third-world dictatorship.
- It's up to you whether the far-left, would-be socialist despots continue to rule Delaware the way they have over the last several years.
- It's up to you whether Delaware turns itself around and rejoins the Union of States that actually upholds the Constitution, the Bill of Rights and the promise of "Liberty and Justice for All." –not just the elites.
- It's up to you – no one else. Elections have consequences
- It's up to you whether those consequences serve the cause of Freedom or the cause of continued tyranny like what we experienced in the 151st Delaware General Assembly.

Now is the time to make those decisions. The Primary Elections are just around the corner. If there is a Primary Election where you are – Vote – and be sure you are voting for the person who will actually live by their oath of office

and uphold your right to keep and bear arms – Vote Freedom First.

And, the 2022 General Elections are not far away – now is the time to do all of those things you did not do last time. Look at your answers to my little quiz, above. Be honest - do you have work to do before Election Day 2022? – and even more work to do on Election Day?

Be a responsible gun owner- Do your job! Do your part! Remember, elections have consequences. We've seen what comes from complacency and cronyism. Put an end to tyranny in Delaware.

- Vote the Bad Actors out!
- Vote "The Good Guys" in.
- Vote Freedom First – before it's too late.

2022 Delaware State IDPA Championship

By: Terry Stewart

Founded in 1996, the International Defensive Pistol Association (IDPA) is the governing body for IDPA competition, a handgun caliber shooting sport based on simulated self-defense scenarios. The IDPA competition format was designed to be enjoyable for all shooters of all skill levels, with a premium put on the social interaction and camaraderie of the members. Participation in IDPA matches requires the use of firearms, holsters and other equipment suitable for concealed carry self-defense.

On May 14, 2022 the Delaware IDPA held its eighth annual Delaware State Championship. Match Director Karl Thomas and his team of volunteers presented a well-run match that was safe, fun and challenging for competitors at every level.

Participants compete with one another based on their classification: Novice, Marksman, Sharpshooter, Expert, Master, or Distinguished Master. While every squad will have competitors in various classifications, you compete only with the people in your classification. The multiple levels of skill and experience are factors which make the stage designs extremely important. Each stage must permit a marksman level competitor to be able to shoot the match safely and successfully while at the same time offering a challenge to a Master level competitor. The Delaware State Match has become well-known for doing a superb job of managing this balancing act!

Bridgeville members have competed up and down the East coast as well as at IDPA National and World Championships, and finished extremely well. The Delaware State Championship was no exception to this! With 170 competitors, Bridgeville members took 6 out of the top 11 places. Mike Fiori placed 2nd overall, with James Cantrell in 3rd, Andrew Margolin in 5th, Mike Ennis in 8th, Scott Smith in 9th and Josh Morgan in 11th. Additionally, Christine Parsons was High Lady and Andrew Margolin was High Law Enforcement.

One way to improve your classification is to earn a match bump. There is a mathematical formula that looks at how you placed in your classification compared the other competitors in the same classification. If the criteria are met you are awarded a match bump. A Marksman, for example, who earns a match bump would be reclassified for future events as a Sharpshooter. Bill Brennan, Steve Fuchs and Clayton Pauze all moved from Sharpshooter to Expert. Josh Morgan and Billy Sargent both got bumped from Expert to Master!

Although nobody likes rain delays (or delays of any kind...), having the new pavilion down in the pistol pits was a great addition to the Club infrastructure and made waiting for the rain to subside a much more pleasant experience.

An event like this doesn't happen without a lot of planning and a lot of help. The Safety Officers, Chief Safety Officers, stage designers and all the volunteers did a great job! At some point, two competitors were walking to their next stage. As they passed by I heard one of them say to the other, "This was worth the drive." I don't know where they came from but that is certainly high praise!

LTT Hellcat: The Ultimate Micro-Compact 9mm?

By: Justin Opinion

Originally published on November 14, 2021 by GunsAmerica Digest




Springfield Armory's Hellcat was the first micro-nine to challenge the SIG P365 as a pocket gun chambered in 9mm and capable of holding as many rounds as those classified as "compact". The Hellcat upped the ante by cramming eleven rounds into the flush-fitting magazine instead of ten. Insert your favorite line from Spinal Tap here. Since then, more hats have been tossed into the ring – damned good hats, too. In this latest frenzy to be best in class amongst tiny nines that hold 10-plus, we – the consumers are the winners. Choices are good.

But when it comes to choices, Ernest Langdon appears to make his carefully. If you are not yet familiar with Langdon Tactical Technologies (LTT), it's a name you need to know. Founder, Ernest Langdon seems to ferret out the guns in the marketplace that have all the marks of excellence, but can be improved to perfection with his Midas touch. And the latest offering from LTT is its treatment of the Hellcat. Langdon is

best known for trigger jobs, from drop-in upgrade kits to fully customized overhauls. Those carefully selected guns have been double-action/single-action models – and hammer fired... until now. To my knowledge the Hellcat represents the first striker-fired gun to wear the coveted LTT logo.

<p>Hellcat OSP Standard Specs:</p> <p>Caliber - 9mm Frame - Black polymer Slide - Steel Billet Machined, Melonite finish Sights - Tritium/Luminescent front, U-Notch rear Recoil system - Dual captive recoil spring w/Full length guide rod Grip width - 1 inch Magazines - (1) 11-round, (1) 13-round extended Weight - 17.9 oz. w/flush mag; 18.3 oz. w/extended mag Overall length - 6 inches Height - 4" (flush mag), 4.5" (extended mag)</p>	<p>LTT Upgrades:</p> <p>Hellcat Apex Trigger Kit (installed and tuned) Ameriglo Sights (optional) RDO Adaptor plate (optional) Red-Dot optic installed (optional) Talon Grip (optional) Laser stippling (optional)</p>
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But what does that all mean? Let's take a look at what is different about a Hellcat after Langdon Tactical is finished with it:

- Upgraded and improved trigger – this is the meat in the sandwich. Langdon's specialty, and what you're paying a bit extra for is that yummy trigger pull. And we're not necessarily talking about weight reduction – a common misconception. LTT replaces the stock Hellcat trigger (which is arguably a good one anyway) with an Apex trigger. The buyer has a choice of black or red for the visible trigger shoe. Other improvements are more nebulous, and result in a buttery smooth trigger pull and reset, as well as about a pound less pull.

- Optional Talon grip – the second most important element to great trigger control is a solid grip on the handgun that does not slip. Talon pioneered the concept of the DIY-installed grip enhancement, and this writer has been a big fan for years. Langdon Tactical also recognizes the value of this modification and offers the custom fit Talon Pro grip on request.

- Optional Ameriglo sights – these sights will sit a bit higher for more universal co-witnessing through a red-dot optic.

- Optional Red-dot optic – at the time of this writing, the SIG Romeo Zero is available in two reticle sizes, but other options like Holosun are offered as market availability allows.

- Optional Laser Stippling – the Springfield factory pattern is increased to cover all the smooth areas and extend the grip to virtually anywhere your hand will touch, including the forward index points.

There are other a' la carte options like extended mag release buttons, back plates, and optic mounting adapters. Building a LTT Hellcat can range from about \$685 to \$1,028 depending on how many boxes you tick. But omitting the trigger and its special tuning is not an option – that is what you go to Langdon for.



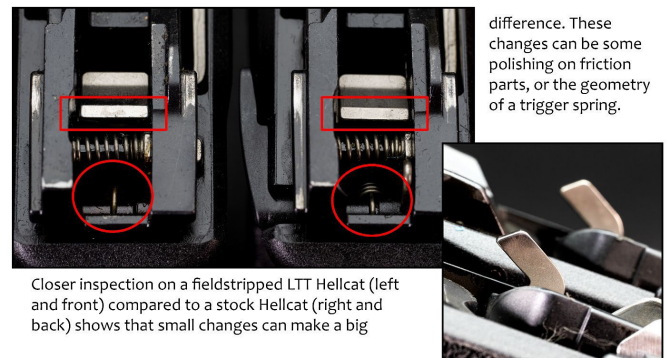
The heart of every Langdon Tactical Technologies upgraded gun is the trigger. The Hellcat with Apex trigger kit and custom LTT magic takes about a pound out of the pull, and provides an incredibly grit-free, smooth trigger through the entire stroke, with a crisp break and reset like breaking a piece of raw spaghetti.

Why not just drop in an Apex trigger yourself? That's the 'elephant in the room' question, isn't it? I'll give you my opinion on that – after all, it's my name. I have installed an Apex trigger in a Springfield Hellcat. It was not overly complicated and anyone with average DIY skill can do it. It's a very nice trigger, but it is only part of the equation. It still has a tiny bit of grit during the pull and reset – you can feel it and hear it. Not bad by any means, but if you're a trigger princess it might be the pea that is under your mattress. The LTT installed trigger with Langdon's magical pixie dust treatment has no perceivable grit whatsoever. But it still has a pull weight of just over 5 lbs. (as measured on my Lyman digital gauge), which remains very CCW appropriate. So, my short answer is – because just changing parts is not a full trigger job.



There is nothing more subjective to shooters than triggers. The author believes that the stock Hellcat trigger (left) is a good one - among the best, in fact. But there is no argument that the Apex trigger kit (right) does make some improvements. For many, it might simply come down to a preference of geometry and feel.

Our sample gun came with the black trigger, but it is also available in red for an additional \$5. The sample also included the laser stippling package – a \$145 option. It does a nice job of extending the grip texture higher and covers the otherwise smooth space behind the mag release button. It feels very good and is highly effective at increasing the grip friction while shooting.



Closer inspection on a fieldstripped LTT Hellcat (left and front) compared to a stock Hellcat (right and back) shows that small changes can make a big

difference. These changes can be some polishing on friction parts, or the geometry of a trigger spring.

The LTT Hellcat only comes as an OSP, meaning optic-ready. So, even if you don't opt to add an installed red-dot when you buy, you can do that later. Such was the case with the test gun – and I did range work with and without an installed red-dot. When I decided to add the optic, I went with the Springfield HEX Wasp – which made good sense to me, as it requires no adapter plate.



Basically, you can spend just a few dollars more than a factory Hellcat OSP and Apex trigger kit, to get it pre-installed and tuned. What appeals to me about this is that I hate to send things away for any work once I have them in hand, and so being a procrastinator, I often just don't. This lets me buy the brand-new gun with the new trigger job from the start. The more options you add, the more it makes sense to do it that way.

SHOOTING THE LTT HELLCAT

The Hellcat is a very shootable micro-nine pistol, and I've put thousands of rounds downrange through them. Like any tiny gun shooting full-power ammunition, it is snappy. But that recoil is well managed by the springs and ergonomics of the gun. Adding a Talon grip has always been a no-brainer for me, because that extra friction makes a big difference in not only recoil management, but also in a steady grip that can result in better shot placement. That option is available from Langdon, and you can get the Talon grip in the box with the gun – convenient! If you want to go with a permanent grip enhancement and don't mind spending the money, the laser stippling offers every bit as much friction. Just be sure – because you can't change your mind once that's done.



The LTT laser stippling option (left) greatly extends the area covered by skin-grabbing texture, as compared to the factory standard Hellcat (right).

All of the other elements come into play as well – the sights, ergonomics, and most of all – the trigger. Since our sample gun had the stock U-Dot sights (one of my very favorite factory sights), that was a non-factor.

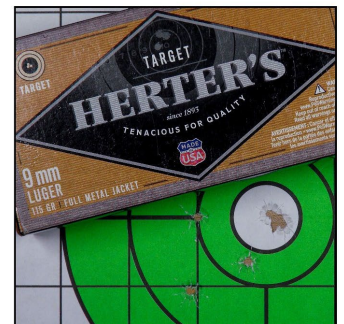


The HEX Wasp red-dot optic sits naturally low on the Springfield Hellcat and allows excellent cowitnessing with the standard U-Dot sights. But if you intend to mount

another type of red-dot to your pistol, Langdon offers an upgrade to Amerigo sights, which sit a bit taller.

The ergonomics are still the same, with the addition of the stippling. Which leaves the trigger. And after all, if you're talking about a Langdon Tactical handgun – you're talking about the trigger. The smoothness of the trigger through its entire stroke can't be over-emphasized. The reduction of pull weight helps, but the crispness and absence of grit is – I believe – what makes you shoot better.

Tested with two basic FMJ range ammo brands, Magtech and Herter's, shot off-hand at a distance of 12 yards the gun produced very good groups, consistently placed around (in inside) the bullseye.



Off-hand shooting groups from 12 yards produced good results. The key benefit of a good trigger is consistency of shot placement.

The HEX Wasp red-dot helped me a better aim, but it was the trigger that allowed me to break the shot clean without pushing the gun low-left (my most common error) or pulling the shots down, as often occurs with a stiffer or gritty trigger.

It is also a great trigger for follow-up shots at any speed, due to the short and ultra-crisp reset.

JUST MY OPINION

The Springfield Armory Hellcat is a self-defense handgun, meant for concealed carry. On that point I think we can all agree. When it comes to modifying carry guns, we can be treading on thin ice if that gun is ever used in self-defense and the nature and purpose of those modifications is called into question. It is my belief that modifications made to carry guns should be done by professionals with industry recognized parts.



Beyond that, it simply makes sense to get the experts to do the work. And when the low cost of that upgrade from Langdon Tactical is factored in, the decision just about makes itself. The improvements to the trigger are noticeable and, in most cases, will help the shooter make better shots. That means more safety in defensive situations because it reduces the risk of shots missing the threat and finding unintended targets. The other reason to consider the LTT treatment on the Hellcat is that of the competitor who wants to shoot in Backup Gun categories and have a lighter, crisper trigger as well as laser stippling and upgraded sights, etc. The ala carte selection method of LTT's Hellcat treatment allows you to configure it just the way you want it – making a very good micro-compact handgun even better.

Highpower Update

By: Frank Nedza

May 28th and 29th: Delaware State Mid-Range Championship.

What a great weekend to be at the range. Good weather, good friends, and stiff competition. It doesn't get better than that. Saturday's match format was 20 shots each at 300, 500, and 600 yards, with Sunday being three matches all at 600 yards.

This match attracted 42 different shooters (not everyone shot both days), with 22 sling shooters, 18 F-Class shooters, and 2 AR-Tactical shooters joining us.

In F-T/R, Todd Norfleet took home first place, shooting a nice 1175-52X, followed closely by Chris Fairbanks at 1171-51X. Good shooting guys!

In F-Open, Andy Amber took the win, firing an impressive 193-60X. Bill Holden took second, with a very nice 1187-54X. Andy and Bill both had a couple of clean targets (200/200) indicating some pretty good shooting and wind reading too!

In AR-Tactical class, relative newcomer Cody Garland posted a pretty nice 1137-30X score, including three scores in the 190's. Well done Cody!

Over on the sling side of things, Nate Guernsey took the Palma category win with a nice 1193-68X, closely followed by Jon Howell at 1191-61X. Some pretty fine shooting with iron sights, I think.

In the 'Any Rifle' category, it wasn't just 'any old rifle' but Jeff Browning tore it up with his. Over the two days of shooting, he dropped one measly point, posting a very impressive 1199-78X, taking the class win, and the overall win by a good bit. Coming in second in Any Rifle was Mark Trew, who posted a nice 1188-68X.

Congratulations to all the winners, and well done to all the participants –I hope you had a good time.

In addition to having fun that weekend, we also were able to raise a bit of money for DSSA -\$770.00 to be exact. Thank you to everyone for your generosity in supporting our State Association in its fight for our firearms rights here in Delaware.

June 11th: Bridgeville Rifle and Pistol Club 200 Yard Rimfire Fun Match.

Those little rifles are big fun! While we only had 10 shooters show up for this match, I think we had enough fun for a much larger group! I mostly blame the weather (forecast) for keeping folks away, as they were talking their usual gloom and doom. As it turned out, we stayed almost completely dry, with only a tiny bit of very light drizzle. One of the nicer things about this match was the ability to have electronic scoring! No pit duty, no struggling to see a shot hole, and a clear indication of where that last shot landed! Joe Fogg put in a good performance in sling with iron sights, shooting a nice 580-17X. Jon Howell, to no one's surprise, turned in a good performance shooting a scoped rifle in sling class, posting a nice 592-29X. That included a clean target for his second match at 200-8X. We only had two individuals come out for the F-Class category, but I think Lou Domenici was pretty darned happy with a **COLD BORE X** on his first target, and a pretty nice score on the whole target at 198-8X. Lou ended up at 578-19X.

This match was also a fundraiser for DSSA, and we collected \$220.00.

I plan on having additional rimfire fun shoots as DSSA fundraisers this summer, so stay tuned and come out and "Shoot For Freedom!"

June 24th-26th: Delaware State Long-Range Championship.

What a great weekend for a long-range match! Present were decent temperatures (a bit hot), good friends, tough competition, and challenging conditions. The weekend started out with a long-range practice and team matches on Friday, followed by three matches each day at 1,000 yards on Saturday and Sunday. It made for long-ish days, but lots of shooting opportunities ☺. The gang from Reade Range kicked sling team butt, turning in a nice 1575-61X (out of 1600 possible). Bridgeville fielded an F-Open Team and an F-T/R team, and they posted scores of 1552-45X and 1536-34X, respectively.

On the sling side, Matt Zagorski took top honors for the weekend posting a very nice 1188-51X! That was good for the sling win as well as the overall win. Well done Matt! He was closely followed by Rich Kussman, who posted a nice 1185-57X. Some great scores were posted over the two days, including two clean targets and several 199's with good X-Count. We have some mighty good sling shooters in our midst! In the Master class, David Buckley posted a nice 1145-30X for the class win. Good shooting David!

In F-T/R, Jim Crofts posted a very nice 1175-47X for the win. He was followed by Master-Class shooter Todd Strasavich, who posted a pretty nice 1165-37X. Good Shooting guys!

In F-Open, Matt Basalla came out on top, shooting a very healthy 1183-49X for the win. He was closely followed by Joe Spina at 1179-51X. Master Class shooter Bill Holden wasn't too far behind at 1175-37X. You might notice that we have some pretty darned good F-Class shooters here too!

This match was also a fundraiser for DSSA. Thanks to the generosity of our shooters, we were able to raise \$1,100.00 to help fund what is looking like several court battles to secure our firearms rights here in Delaware.

You may find detailed match results here:

<https://brpc-de.com/2022-high-power-rifle-match-results/>

Our next scheduled matches are a Mid-Range Fullbore match on July 9th, a 'regular' 3 x 600 yard match on July 1th, and a Palma weekend on July 23rd and 24th.

The rest of the Bridgeville HighPower schedule may be found here:

<https://brpc-de.com/2021-high-power-match-schedule-and-bulletins/>

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT... (Articles submitted by Vickie Prickett)

Sometimes the bad guys get caught...

<https://www.mychesco.com/a/news/regional/wilmington-man-sentenced-for-stealing-35-firearms/>

In case you believe the lame stream media that defensive use of firearms never happens...

<https://www.westernjournal.com/pregnant-woman-used-ar-15-drop-armed-robber-attacking-11-year-old-daughter/>

<https://www.foxnews.com/us/texas-woman-shoots-suspected-stalker-police>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-61615236?>

<https://wchstv.com/news/local/victim-hospitalized-in-charleston-shooting>

<http://firststateupdate.com/2022/05/police-homeowner-shoots-armed-intruder-troopers-arrest-two>

<https://www.foxnews.com/us/indiana-homeowner-shoots-armed-burglars-holds-two-gunpoint>

<https://www.foxnews.com/us/philadelphia-man-would-be-robber-fatally-shoots-licensed-gun>

Sometimes, things just don't make sense...

<https://www.westernjournal.com/teen-allegedly-opened-fire-high-school-released-bail-less-24-hours-incident/>

<https://www.dailywire.com/news/attorneys-who-won-supreme-court-gun-case-forced-to-quit-law-firm>

<https://www.westernjournal.com/taxpayer-supported-npr-makes-absurd-gun-claim-can-decapitate-person/>

<http://firststateupdate.com/2019/01/police-man-who-pistol-whipped-shot-at-and-threatened-to-kill-woman-released-on-unsecured-bond/>

REPORT FROM "BEHIND ENEMY LINES"

Because of the harsh, nonsensical laws in their home states, our friends from the California Rifle & Pistol Club (CRPA), New Jersey's NRA state association, Association of New Jersey Rifle and Pistol Clubs (ANJRPC), and the New York Rifle & Pistol Association (NYRPA) would frequently begin telling us what was going on in their states by giving what they called "Reports From Behind Enemy Lines."

Thanks to the Democrats in the 151st Delaware General Assembly, it is now our turn to "report from behind enemy lines".

The closing days of the Democrat-controlled 151st Delaware General Assembly were, without a doubt, the

darkest days in the history of the Second Amendment in Delaware.

Like California, New York and New Jersey we now have bans on modern sporting rifles and standard capacity magazines, and law-abiding adults under the age of 21 are now prohibited from owning, buying or possessing anything but a muzzle-loading rifle or a shotgun.

Your DSSA has promised to challenge all three of these draconian measures in the courts and plans are under way to do exactly that. It will not be long before all three bills will be before the courts. That fight has just begun.

That's the bad news. The good news is that SB 3, the "Permit-to-Purchase Bill", was defeated – but its sponsor says it will be back next year, after the elections – assuming she is re-elected.

The Democrats won this most recent battle on the 151st Delaware General Assembly – no doubt about it. But that does not mean that this war is over – far from it.

While our lawyers are preparing to do battle in court on our behalf, your DSSA is gearing up for the next battle – the 2022 Mid-Term Elections.

This year, because of re-districting, every seat in the Delaware General Assembly is up for grabs and DSSA intends to fight for some of those seats. First are the Primary Elections on Tuesday, September 13, 2022, followed by the General Election on Tuesday, November 8, 2022.

Your DSSA will be working diligently to identify and elect pro-gun legislators and a pro-gun Attorney General. If you attended the most recent Rally at Legislative Hall, you learned that DSSA has endorsed Georgetown attorney, Julianne Murray for Attorney General.

Yes, we have now joined California, New Jersey and New York in their unenviable status as being "behind enemy lines" in Democrat occupied anti-gun territory, but that does not mean that we cannot fight our way out, push back the enemies of freedom, and regain our independence from anti-gun tyranny.

DSSA is in this fight for the long haul. Join us in that fight. Fight for freedom, fight for your right to keep and bear arms, do everything in your power to see that the 152nd Delaware General Assembly is much different from the 151st. Join the fight, and always VOTE FREEDOM FIRST!.

Call for Articles

Would you like to be published in the DSSA News Letter? Publicize your Club's activities or special events. Found a great article that you want to share with Delaware Sportsmen?

Please send your article or special event to:

Roger T. Boyce

Vice President

DSSA

Roger.boyce@dssa.us