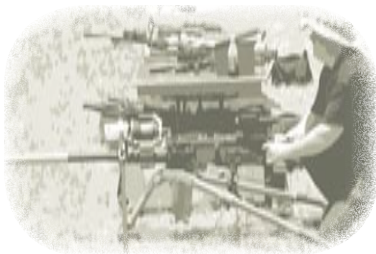


2007 SUPPRESSOR SHOOT & SEMINAR



For the armed professional and shooting enthusiasts it's the quietest fun you can have!

By Al Paulson

Where can you get extensive hands-on shooting experience with hundreds of different sound suppressors from a diverse array of manufacturers? How can you make informed purchasing decisions without such experience? No shooting school or dealer offers such an opportunity, but an annual event in Georgia does. It's so useful that law enforcement officers from Georgia receive Post Credit for attending the event, and one Georgia sheriff donated ammunition.

Sponsored by Advanced Armament Corporation, the annual Suppressor Shoot draws large and small suppressor manufacturers, law enforcement, military, and shooting enthusiasts from across the nation. Every suppressor manufacturer is welcome. Major corporate participants in the latest one-day event included Knight's Armament, SureFire, Advanced Armament, Ops Inc., SWR, DeGroat Tactical Armaments, Barrett Firearms, Polite Society Inc., Noveske Rifleworks, and Magpul, among others. The net result was a stimulating experience that proved educational to both newbies and suppressor cognoscenti alike. The day provided the moral equivalent of a college-level course in sound suppressors. Let's take a look at some of the technologies that I found noteworthy.

SureFire

SureFire conducted demonstrations featuring their quick-detach 5.56mm suppressors using both semiautomatic and full-auto fire. The SureFire delivers small point of impact (POI) shift, which is a really big deal for the armed professional. Throughout the day, anyone could test fire the SureFire suppressors. SureFire also exhibited their system for targeting and firing the M2HB .50 caliber heavy machinegun at night, with both white light and infrared capabilities. The big .50



Trey Knight of Knight's Armament fires a special purpose rifle fitted with AAC's SPR/M4 suppressor.



This .300 Whisper rifle built by Ray Carmichael of Firearm Supply was handy, accurate, and Hollywood quiet.

featured a sound suppressor made by Jeff Greene, who demonstrated the suppressed Ma Deuce using both single-round fire and full-auto bursts. I was able to photograph the full-auto demo several arm spans to the side of the weapon without hearing protection or discomfort. It is safe to say this impressed me.

AAC

Advanced Armament Corporation showcased a diverse array of suppressors for every class of firearm. Thanks

to their extensive R&D program to develop suppressors for FN's SCAR-H and SCAR-L rifles, AAC's suppressors of rifle caliber bore little resemblance to their product line of just a year ago. Avant-garde design, metallurgy and fabrication techniques provide significantly improved durability. Their new Blackout three-prong flash hiders used for quick-detach suppressors provide exceptional flash reduction, accuracy, security, and durability. New suppressor designs are stronger, lighter, more accurate, and produce less impact shift. Military testing of cans for the FN SCAR and HK416, for example, determined that AAC suppressors provide the least POI shift and the best accuracy. They're so tough that AAC personnel extensively fired one of their cans on an FN M249 SAW (Squad Automatic Weapon) throughout the day. I was particularly impressed by AAC's new 5.56mm SPR/M4 suppressor, which is a tour de force of cutting edge technologies.

SWR

SWR brought a host of pistol, submachine gun, and rifle suppressors for people to try. Since 1994, SWR has held a nearly cult following of satisfied customers. One of the most popular boutique silencer manufacturers in



Shooting an AAC Krinkov suppressor on a Bulgarian AK74 carbine.

history, SWR is under new ownership. They have upgraded their production capabilities so they can deliver more suppressors faster, while improving overall quality and performance as well. I'm particularly impressed with their .30 caliber rifle suppressor and their latest pistol suppressors.

DTA

James DeGroat of DeGroat Tactical Armaments LLC is best known for manufacturing Miniguns. His first foray into suppressor manufacturing was a homerun. To meet a US government requirement to suppress 9mm Walther P99 pistols, he designed a novel boosted suppressor with an original baffle design that Uncle Sam purchased in quantity. Designing a booster that delivers proper force and timing requirements is high art. Some companies spent nearly \$1 million to develop their booster for Special Operations Command (SOCOM). DeGroat's success at developing a novel baffle and successful booster in a matter of weeks is a tremendous achievement. His booster provides the smoothest operation of any I've ever tried. DeGroat is a soft-spoken, improbably young man of remarkable talent. He's a wunderkind worthy of the name. I'll be following DeGroat Tactical Armaments with a great deal of anticipation.

Firearm Supply

For the advanced shooting enthusiast, my pick of the litter was a custom, integrally silenced, Remington 788 rifle chambered in .300 Whisper. The rifle was small, light, handy, Hollywood quiet, and very accurate, thanks to a 1-in-8-inch twist custom-rifled barrel. Designed and built by Ray Carmichael of Firearm Supply, this suppressed rifle punched all of my buttons. The only fly in the proverbial



SureFire demos their M4FA556-BK quick-detach 5.56mm suppressor.

ointment is that the Remington 788 has been out of production for a long time, so anyone wanting this rig must provide Carmichael with a 788 action.

Individual shooting enthusiasts brought a wide variety of current and historic suppressors and integrally suppressed firearms. Several dated back to the Vietnam era. Since everything was shot, this provided an invaluable frame of reference to current cutting-edge technology. Remarkably, one of the stealthiest 5.56x45mm suppressed firearms dated back to the mid-1970s. A Remington M700 with a huge suppressor was so quiet that even pros with extensive hands-on experience using suppressed firearms experienced wide-eyed wonder at the performance of this 30-year-old technology.

Battlecloth

In terms of suppressor-related gear, Battlecloth custom-built suppressor pouches impressed me. Built to the dimensions of a client's suppressor, each pouch is handcrafted using 1000-denier Cordura. The pouches feature a side-release buckle closure, and bound and double-stitched seams. Suppressor pouches made for

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shooting enthusiasts include an integrated pocket for paperwork, so one can keep a pristine copy of BATFE Form 4 with the can at all times. Battlecloth offers three attachment systems: MOLLE (MOdular Lightweight Load-carrying Equipment), ALICE (All-purpose

Lightweight Individual Carrying Equipment), or belt loop. Pouches can be built in black, olive drab, coyote brown, woodland camouflage, or Multicam to match one's gear.

I was quite surprised at the number and quality of door prizes raffled off to participants. A very brief discussion of the door prizes provides a peek into what's hot among armed professionals and shooting enthusiasts. Participants won eight sound suppressors: a 5.56mm SPR/M4, .22 rimfire Pilot, 9mm Evolution-9, and 5.56mm M4-1000 from Advanced Armament; a 9mm suppressor from DeGroat Tactical Armaments; a Trident suppressor from SWR; the winner's choice of Ops Inc. suppressors courtesy of Polite Society Inc., and Ops Inc.; and an AAC Pilot suppressor courtesy of Walker Precision. Grip Pod Systems donated their combination vertical grip and spring-released bipods that are hugely popular among troops in the Sandbox. Noveske Rifleworks, which is particularly well known within the SpecOps community for their outstanding M16 barrels, donated one of their AR-15 lower receivers with a muzzle brake. Magpul provided multiple examples of their truly outstanding CTR and PRS stocks, their new polymer P Mags, MIAD grips, Ranger plates, and other gear. Big Dawg Tactical also provided a Magpul CTR stock. Knight's Armament provided two RAS rail systems. Battlecloth donated customized suppressor pouches and Blast Guards. SureFire provided a pile of flashlights. The Oconee County Sheriff's Department donated 5.56mm ammo. With about 400 participants, that worked out to a 1 in 8 chance of winning something.

The annual silencer shoot is moving from spring to fall, and they are adding a series of free seminars the evening before the shoot. Some seminars will focus on information for the armed professional, while others will focus on topics of interest to the shooting enthusiast. This is the only event in the world where armed professionals, shooting enthusiasts, and competing

Sponsored by Advanced Armament Corporation, the annual Suppressor Shoot draws suppressor manufacturers, law enforcement, military, and shooting enthusiasts from across the nation.

suppressor manufacturers come together in a collegial environment to share information and the opportunity to shoot hundreds of different sound suppressors. BYOA. Bring your own [factory] ammunition. For information on participating in the next event, contact Lynsey Thompson at 770-925-9988 or e-mail her at

lynsey@advanced-armament.com

The fact that Georgia police officers receive Post Credit for attending the event says a lot about how much participants learn. The new seminar series will significantly improve the learning experience. If you want to learn a lot about sound suppressors, this is the best opportunity on the planet. I give the annual Suppressor Shoot two enthusiastic thumbs up. ■

For more information contact:

Advanced Armament Corp.

1434 Hillcrest Rd., Dept GW/LE, Norcross, GA 30093;
770-925-9988; www.advanced-armament.com

Barrett Firearms

P.O. Box 1077, Dept GW/LE, Murfreesboro, TN 37133;
615-896-2938; www.barrettrifles.com

Battlecloth

P.O. Box 225, Dept GW/LE, Newtown, PA 18940;
e-mail: battlecloth@comcast.net

DeGroat Tactical Armaments, LLC

P.O. Box 728, Dept GW/LE, Grants, NM 87020;
505-285-4342; www.armamentsales.com

Firearm Supply

304 Murrysville Rd., Dept GW/LE;
Trafford, PA 15085; 412-372-2191;
e-mail: rayc20mm@comcast.net

Grip Pod Systems

P.O. Box 600624, Dept GW/LE, Jacksonville, FL
32259; 800-471-3144; www.grippod.com

Knight's Armament Company

701 Columbia Blvd., Dept GW/LE, Titusville, FL 32780;
321-607-9900; www.knightarmco.com

Magpul Industries Corp.

P.O. Box 17697, Dept GW/LE, Longmont, CO 80308;
877-462-4785; www.magpul.com

Noveske Rifleworks LLC

P.O. Box 1401, Dept GW/LE, Grants Pass, OR 97528;
541-479-6117; www.noveskerifleworks.com

Ops Inc.

P.O. Box 377, Dept GW/LE, Shingletown, CA 96088;
530-742-3248; www.opsinc.us

Polite Society, Inc.

678-662-9395; www.politesocietyinc.com

SureFire, LLC

18300 Mt. Baldy Circle, Dept GW/LE, Fountain Valley,
CA 92708; 800-828-8809; www.surefire.com

SWR

P.O. Box 841, Dept GW/LE, Pickens, SC 29641;
864-751-2823; www.swrmfg.com

Walker Precision

814-440-7634; www.walkerprecision.net