

# Made-in-USA Centurion 39 Pistol 21

Centurion 39 pistol as a pistol. Muzzle blast and noise were far more rifle-like, muzzle flash serious. I employed a modified and – admittedly – somewhat awkward Weaver stance, placing the Centurion 39 pistol at almost full extension of my left arm, my right elbow bent. My left hand grasped the Quad rail, which proved not at all unpleasant to hold while firing.

I sent a silhouette target out to approximately 20 yards and began shooting. Standing, I consistently kept printing five-round strings not exceeding 6" using the Winchester ammo. Both the Winchester and Federal ammunition functioned flawlessly.

Anyone who shoots an AK or, for that matter, a Ruger Mini-14, knows that magazines must be introduced to the magazine well, then rocked rearward in order to lock in place. If you miss as you perform this procedure, you can have a serious problem with a stuck magazine that may have to be beaten out. I found the USA-made synthetic 30-round magazines that came with the Centurion 39 pistol to be more easily introduced and locked into place than the usually encountered military surplus metal magazines. This is certainly a bonus.

Had I fitted a sling to the Centurion 39 pistol, my accuracy would more likely have improved, allowing me to tension the weapon as I aimed. I always tout myself as a mediocre marksman at best, but I was quite satisfied with the Centurion 39 pistol's performance. A better marksman would have probably done a great deal better in the accuracy department. Had I added a laser, shooting would have been better still.

Barrel length of the Centurion 39 pistol is 11-3/8", while overall length is 21-3/8". Empty weight is 5.4 pounds. So. You have a really slick looking pistol version of an AK-47 rifle. It's handy and portable, reliable and accurate. What can you do with it?

Obviously, since the Centurion 39 pistol is in a rifle caliber, if the weapon is to be kept for personal defense at home, in a boat, an RV or at one's place of business, one must be even more careful than usual concerning such things as interior and exterior walls, windows and, in general, fields of fire.

Lightweight and pleasant to operate, add a light or a laser and make the Centurion 39 pistol more intimidating in appearance. The more intimidating the Centurion pistol looks, the less chance you'll actually have to use it. If you do have to use it, the Centurion 39 pistol speaks with reliability and authority. I've got to confess;

I really like it and it makes a great companion piece to the Centurion 39 rifle.

Quite some time back in these pages, I profiled the Woolrich ([www.woolricheliteserietaactical.com](http://www.woolricheliteserietaactical.com)) Elite Series Tactical Polyester Fleece Jacket. When you write a column such as this, it's good to sometimes revisit an item mentioned once before. A few words on this jacket are in order. It is designed to serve on its own as a jacket or be worn as a liner under other Woolrich products. Last winter – 2010 into 2011 – was quite a bit colder than usual and I used the Polyester Fleece Jacket as a liner underneath a Woolrich Algerian Field Jacket. It worked great. This winter in Georgia – as I write this, the end of January is two days away – has been ridiculously mild. But, couple a temperature in the 50s or low 60s with a very brisk wind and you can feel a chill. I've worn the Polyester Fleece Jacket as a jacket alone – which I did only rarely last winter – and found it perfectly suited to my needs this winter. It provides adequate warmth, great pockets and seems to weigh next to nothing. If you haven't tried one of these jackets from Woolrich, you owe it to yourself to check them out.

Getting double duty out of something is a real bonus. When it comes to weapons, something that can be used as a defensive striking implement and, if needed, escalated into something more drastic, can be extremely useful. Such is the case with the

Crawford ([www.crawfordknives.com](http://www.crawfordknives.com)) Stainless Steel Ice Pick. Pat and Wes Crawford are two of the finest custom knife makers around, but they also make some of the weirdest knives. Yet, their knives are always practical. The Ice Pick is a great example. With the pick secreted within the attractively knurled 303 stainless handle, you have a terrific Yarawick staff for striking or applying force at pressure points. It's only 6-3/4" long.

If things get really bad, however, unscrew the 5/8" long knurled piece visible on one end of the Pick. Turn it around and screw it back in place. You have a devastating 10-7/8" overall length Ice Pick, the actual Pick about 4".

It would be wholly remiss not to mention that both the Crawfords and myself consider this "knife" as a perfectly functional curiosity and would not encourage anyone to actually carry it as a concealed carry defensive tool without first carefully consulting state and local law. The Crawford Stainless Steel Ice Pick is unique and versatile and, like anything from the Crawford father and son duo, it's unlike anything you've seen before.



Left: Ahern wearing the Woolrich Fleece Jacket. Top: The Crawford Stainless Steel Ice Pick shown with the Pick hidden... Above: ...and the Pick positioned for defensive use.