

Concealment Gear Choices Then and Now

21



The Tuff-Writer in a sleeve pocket in one of Ahern's Woolrich shirts. The Tuff-Writer features a cap that conveniently screws and unscrews. The Tuff-Writer seems quite well made and would be an ideal tactical pen.

stermaker. I explained what I thought I wanted and, about 10 days later, Sharon and I came back to buy one of the finest concealment holsters I've ever had the pleasure to use.

The holster for the little Beretta Jetfire was gross wet-molded – not every detail duplicated – from what these days I recognize was a five and one-half- to six-ounce cowhide. The edges of the holster were hand-burnished. Looks aside, its practical aspects were unmatched. An inside waistband holster, the means of belt attachment was ingenious. The craftsman had no belt clips. He didn't need one. Sewn to the holster body starting just below the edge of the holster lip were two straps, one atop the other. The top strap had a female snap, while the lower strap had a male snap. Made to be a perfect fit for a one and one-quarter-inch dress belt – what I always wore with a suit that didn't have a continental waistband – the arrangement couldn't have been better. I mention "continental waistband." In those ancient days, many suit and dress pants had no belt loops. Tabs positioned on either side of the trousers at the hip were adjustable for about an inch of let-out or let-in. I wore that Beretta Jetfire holster by using the left side tab as if it were the belt, sliding the lower strap under it and closing the upper strap over it, this for a deep crossdraw, well back and well hidden.

I learned a great deal about concealment in those days, the simple, basic stuff on which you can build. That one-armed artisan was the first holster maker Sharon and I ever met – and one of the best.

These days, of course, in addition to a gun and a knife, the well-prepared concealed weapons carrier will have other gear as well. One such item is a tactical pen. One of the more interesting ones – if only noticed initially because of their brazen advertising – is the Operator Series Tuff-Writer. Made of 6061-T6 Aerospace Grade Aluminum, sample Tuff-Writers have been subjected to 750 PSI while being forced through a tree stump section. Others have been fired out of a shotgun.

The finish is a proprietary hard anodized Mil-A-8625 "F" spec. The pocket clip is non-reflective spring steel and both bolted and chemically welded to the body. To protect the pen, there is an O-ring seal. SPR4 Fisher ink cartridges, which have a 100-year shelf life and function at altitudes of 12,500

feet and temperatures from -30° F to 250° F, are employed when you wish to write. Tuff-Writer is made in the USA. In order to write, unscrew the cap, place it on the other end and the barrel of the pen is nicely textured to assist even my terrible handwriting at looking – well, not quite good. Check out the Tuff-Writer at www.tuffwriter.com and you'll be glad you did.

If you want to know a tough guy who is a writer, then you'll be talking about Dr. Bob Anderson, Ph.D., CMSgt (Retired). I began by quoting the aphorism, "As the twig is bent, so grows the tree." I suppose what I meant by that is that – as I have discovered – although many of my tastes in concealed weapons and related gear have changed over the intervening decades, of course, they are, in many cases, really just different manifestations of the same idea. If you're going to conceal a handgun, do it right so no one sees it until you decide to reveal it. This is a little fact of life for me. Bob has always tried to do it right and succeeded at that quite often. The author of numerous books and a professional speaker, Bob's most recent work is kind of a guide to the pattern of choices with which one is confronted in life and how one learns from triumphs and mistakes, while enjoying life along the way. With Bob's extensive military background, of course, leadership and decision making is a key issue. Bob and I have been friends for decades.

Anderson's Rules shows us in a practical way how to survive the real world with one's integrity intact and the strength to make the right decisions. Bob takes a humorous approach to life's problems, with a generous helping of patriotism, "Ol' Yeller," martial arts mentality and even "Peter Pan." Bob uses "pixie dust," for example, to encourage his granddaughter to be cheerful and happy. And, he's a frequent visitor to both the real Alamo and the one built for the classic John Wayne film. Using his own life experiences, Bob shows examples of how success and life fulfillment can be achieved. The book graphically shows how to take a challenge or, perhaps, even a failure, and turn it into a positive improvement in your life.

Bob's a serious gun and knife guy and a veteran concerning whose service we can all be proud of. To get *Anderson's Rules*, go to www.bitb4success.com. Get to know Bob. It'll be a good experience. 