This all-American AK is the Centurion 39 from Century International Arms (centuryarms.com). There are myriad accessories that can be acquired for the AK, such as lasers, high-intensity tactical lights and vertical forend pistol grips. The MVF-515, from Crimson Trace, is all three of these worthwhile add-ons in one. Mine is the 515 Green, with green laser; but I can switch to a red laser merely by installing the 515 Red component. There'll be more on this CTC unit in a future installment.

One of the most useful accessories to have, however, is one of the least known, in my experience. That accessory will allow you greater practical versatility with the Centurion 39 and with any other firearm accepting a standard double-column AK-47 magazine. That accessory is a five-round magazine. Keeping in mind that the AK was designed for military use, it is easy to see why a 30-round magazine is a terrific asset. Here in Georgia, for example, it is my understanding that 30-round magazines are perfectly acceptable within the parameters of Georgia's hunting whitetail regulations. But, the five-round magazine, although not necessarily mandated for hunting, is a real asset in a number of ways.

The AK-47, especially in its incarnation as the Centurion 39, which is a first class weapon to be sure, has one inherent drawback. With that long, 30-round magazine sticking out of the rifle's magazine well, it is impossible to fire from the prone position and extremely difficult to fire from a rest when going for accuracy. Firing from the prone position can be useful in the military, defensive or sporting context. Much the same can be said for firing from a rest.

Having a 100-percent American-made, first-cabin, semi-automatic sporter based on the AK-47 is a definite asset to anyone's firearms battery. Typically, military style sporters based on the M16 platform will deliver greater accuracy than the average AK-47. Similarly, the 7.62 x 39 Russian will have more oomph on the target than the 5.56 x 45 fired from and of the M-16 family of weapons. If I'm not mistaken, the United States has purchased AKs in order to arm Iraqi units, and AKs are sometimes used in door-to-door house-clearing operations by our troops. For the prepared American citizen who takes his Second Amendment rights seriously, it's hard to think of a better choice in 7.62 x 39 to round out one's equipment than the Centurion 39 from Century International Arms.

But, don't forget to get yourself a five-round magazine for those occasions when a 30 just won't do. They're easy to drop in a pocket and ALICE clip belt pouches are also available. Mine came from Maine Military Supply (mainemilitary.com) and works great.

Something you know always works great is anything coming from the fertile imaginations of Pat and Wes Crawford (crawfordknives.com), the father-son knife making team from Arkansas who span the entire range of knife making, from art pieces to folders, to extremely practical, unique defensive pieces.

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9, The ALL-AMERICAN-MADE AK-47

Having a 100-percent American-made, semi-automatic sporter based on the AK-47 is a definite asset to anyone's firearms battery.

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Pat and Wes Crawford’s Dragon with its sheath, the sheath with inside waistband attachment. At left, the horizontal carry attachment, which screws onto the sheath.