

’s 5906 and “Tools for Touring” 21

ition (www.atlantacutlery.com), Museum Replicas (www.museumreplicas.com) and Windlass Engineers and Services Oilfield Equipment (www.windlassengineers.com). After spending two days touring their various manufacturing operations — everything from the traditional hand forging of knives and swords to high tech production of oilfield pumps and other equipment — we were preparing to fly back to Delhi, when one of the military personnel at security noticed the Micro-Tech and informed me that no tools were allowed as carry on. There was no way to retrieve our checked luggage, already aboard the airplane — there were no tools allowed as carry on. There was no way to retrieve our checked luggage, already aboard the air- was no way to retrieve our checked 

eward Micro-Tech and informed me that no tools were allowed as carry on. There was no way to retrieve our checked luggage, already aboard the aircraft, so I took the tool off the ring and handed it over. Hopefully, the man is carrying it and didn’t throw it away. When we returned from India, one of the first things we did was get on line and order a replacement.

The Micro-Tech is ridiculously inexpensive, well under ten dollars. I cannot praise it highly enough — and I wouldn’t be without one. But, as versatile as it is, I doubt, had I been a bad guy, that I could have disassembled the airplane with it!

Another item I brought along to India was what has become one of my two favorite flashlights. From Surefire (www.surefire.com), it’s the Surefire E1B Backup dual-output light. At 110 Lumens, this LED flashlight weighs 2.8 ounces, including batteries. Only four inches long, the first time you depress the tail cap button, you have the full tactical light. Press it again and the light switches to a level suitable for map reading or inserting a key into a lock — or, just poking around in the darkness. With maximum output, run time is 1.3 hours. At low output, 37 hours of service can be expected. One set of batteries took care of me for the entire trip.

The second of my two favorite personal illumination sources is the Photon Micro-Light (www.photonlight.com) model called the “Photon Freedom.” This is on my key ring and always handy. On the aircraft to and from India, consider- ing the distance to be flown, much of the flying time was in darkness, with cabin lighting subdued. For various things, having a discreet personal light was ideal. Small enough to disappear under a quarter, it weighs less than 0.3 ounce. Batteries are easily found and easily replaced. The body and the LED come in colors. I chose a black light body and white light beam. This affords 10 to 12 hours of brilliant, tightly focused run time.

When we were in India, although I brought along a sport coat and dress slacks just in case, I wound up wearing one or another pair of Woolrich Elite Series Tactical Lightweight Operator Pants (www.woolricheliteitactical.com) every single day, as well as on the way to India and the interminable return flight between Delhi and Newark and the trip to Atlanta. Going through crowded bazaars and heavily trafficked tourist sites, I really appreciated having plenty of pocket space for my U.S. passport, my wallet and my two rolls of cash. Here at home, I carry a money clip. When away from home, since my money clip might get called into question by security, I use a rubber band of the type someone would use to hold a ponytail. When we were in India, I kept one rubber band around a modest amount of U.S. Dollars and a second twisted around my supply of rupees.

The neat thing with the pockets of my Woolrich Lightweight Operator Pants was the position of the calf-level pockets on each trouser leg. These pockets are designed to accommodate 30-round AR-15 magazines. They were perfect, however, for my wallet and passport, the wallet on one leg and the passport on the other, out of reach of pickpockets — had there been any — and quite comfortable for long hours walking along on both sides of and crossing the Ganges River, or touring such magnificent monu- ments as the Taj Mahal.

Security is everywhere in India, heightened, one suspects, after the Mumbai massacre, but something always taken seriously, before and since. And, Sharon and I were grateful for that. Our two wonderful weeks in India were the longest period in my entire adult life that I have gone without carrying a handgun. It was comforting to see the good guys well armed. As I mentioned in the August issue, the Indian-manufactured variant of the Sterling submachinegun was commonly encountered with law enforcement security personnel and a variety of other military firearms were also seen.

Traveling by air these days is more challenging to passenger patience than ever before. We are limited by laws and practicality with what, as passengers, we can bring with us that might prove helpful in a crisis or an emer- gency. Even though it would be comforting to have that Century Arms S&amp;W 5906 and/or one of Atlanta Cutlery’s fixed-blade or folding knives along for the ride, we can’t. Still, good personal illumination devices will offer some comfort and may prove useful. And, remember, shoes and belts can be terrific impact devices — just in case, of course!