

# Militia Newsletter

Issue #1 ---- August 2008



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# Product Review: Altama Boots

By Major Donald R Doyle

Our feet are one of the hardest working yet least appreciated parts of our body. A good pair of boots is worth its weight in gold to a ground pounder.

Altama based in Georgia has a wide variety. I purchased two pairs of their boots and have been wearing them non-stop. Their military spec leather boots are Made in the USA. I recommend the side zip models they really make all the difference in the world as far as getting the boots on and off quick and easy. The leather boots are rugged with self cleaning lug soles. Mine did not have a padded collar probably because there are zip models. There is the trade-off, padded collar for comfort or zippers for convenience. My only other complaint was the weight and they were really not that heavy it's just that I'm getting older.

The pleasant surprise came in there *Lite-speed 8" zip boots*. They are designed for hot weather with breathable sides, extremely lightweight with a rugged tread and



non-marking soles.

*It looks like a combat boot but feels like your wearing tennis shoes.* The lite-speed boot is so comfortable that I can fall asleep in my recliner and wake up forgetting that I had boots on. Now that's what I call lightweight *and* comfortable.

My only complaint, they're made in China. I asked them why? They sent a very polite e-mail saying that they could not sell commercial boots, meaning non-military because the public voted with their wallets not to buy them. By making them in China they're able to sell here. Altama claims they wanted to manufacture them here in the states.

Both sets of boots are good looking, very well made, give good ankle support and the price is reasonable. A padded collar on the leather boots will add significantly to its comfort if quickly getting them on and off is not an issue. HINT get your boots ½ size larger than what you normally wear for those thick winter socks or gel-sole inserts.

Those of you that are older, the lite-speed boots are the way to go. For 1 penny more when ordering on-line you can get their brown U.S. flag Altama (foreign made) T-shirt. I wish the lite-speed boots and their T-shirts were Made in the USA (especially with a U.S. flag on it) and they really could be. But unfortunately, finding lightweight footwear Made in the USA is almost impossible nowadays. I recommend Altama and for more information on their extensive product line see [ALTAMA.COM](http://ALTAMA.COM)

# Night Watch

By Jeffrey Calhoun

I was going thru my old electronics last week when I ran across my perimeter alarm system. I thought I'd write up an evaluation of it since it is rather rare.

I bought it in 1975 from ANITE Company. It cost me \$49.95 plus shipping. The unit with 6 spools of wire is smaller than a 1qt. canteen. They are the same company that made the series of "DEADLY" videos back in the late 70's and early 80's. I don't know if they are still in business.



**Figure 1: The controls are very simple to use.**

There are 2 circuits on this unit. Circuit 1 is on the upper left corner and circuit 2 is on the upper right corner. Each circuit consists of 2 terminals with screw down connections. An extremely thin insulated wire connects the terminals. Tightening the screws crushes the insulation on the wire, making the connection. The wire is approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  the thickness of a human hair. Each spool contains 4000' of wire. The spool is just slightly larger than a 35mm film can. There are also 2 'TEST' buttons on the unit. They will let you know that the light and sound is working for each circuit.



**Figure 2: 2-4000' spools of wire, 'jumpers' and a .45 ACP round for comparison.**

**Directions for RON (Remain Over Night) positions:**

Attach wire to one terminal. Spool out wire in a perimeter 50 to 100 yards away from your RON. Keep wire 8"-14" above the ground. You may wrap the wire around trees or brush to maintain this height.

Attach other end to the second terminal of the circuit. Repeat for second circuit at a greater or lesser distance.

**Second perimeter options:**

1. On the second circuit, you can set the perimeter at a height of 3' and directly above the first wire. This will give you an idea as to the size of any threat. If only the lower wire is broken, it is probably an animal such as a fox or rabbit. If both are broken then it is a larger creature such as a deer, or man.

2. The second option is to set the wire up at 3' height, but in a larger perimeter, say 150' out. When used in this option, both wires should be set at the same height, generally 3'. This will eliminate any 'false' alarms caused by smaller wildlife. This is the preferred method of use. It will give you a warning that the intruder(s) are 150' away, and then only 100'. At this point the alarm is turned off. The only down fall is that this doesn't tell you from which direction the intrusion is coming. You only know that they are getting closer. If you have NVG or thermal locators available you should have spotted the intruder by now.

### **Monitor trails:**

You're waiting in ambush on a trail. Under this situation, circuit 1 is run along 5-10 feet from the side of the trail for 100 yards, or past your furthest point of observation. Criss-cross the line across the trail a couple of times at ankle height. You can wrap it around trees to help make a few passes and then follow the wire back to the second post of the circuit. Do the same thing for the second circuit except go the other direction on the trail. Now you can have an alarm for each end of your 'K' zone. You will know the direction of travel, just not how many are in the patrol.

### **Alarms:**

When circuit one is broken, the red LED will flash once every 2 seconds, and the audio alarm will sound at the same rate. The audio alarm is EXTREMELY high pitched. I cannot hear it with my bad hearing. Friends usually cover their ears and yell at me to turn it off when I demonstrate it to them. There is a jack for a headset or earplug. It *must* be used.

Circuit 2 is slightly different. The alarm is set for 1 flash and 'screech' every second. If both circuits should become activated, the lights flash alternately, and the screech is constant.

I've used this Night Watch for setting up ambushes during an FTX with the local ROTC unit. It is a force multiplier when used in an ambush and a good sentry during RON allowing 3 out of 4 team members to catch some sleep.

# Vehicle Identification Numbers for YOUR MILITIA Ride

By Major Donald R Doyle



Some of us are discreet about our militia involvement and some of us run wide open with pride. A code has been developed by several states Kentucky and Virginia to name a few that identifies a militia vehicle. Usually this is put on doors, the upper front fenders or hood area similar to military vehicles.

Here is how the code works:

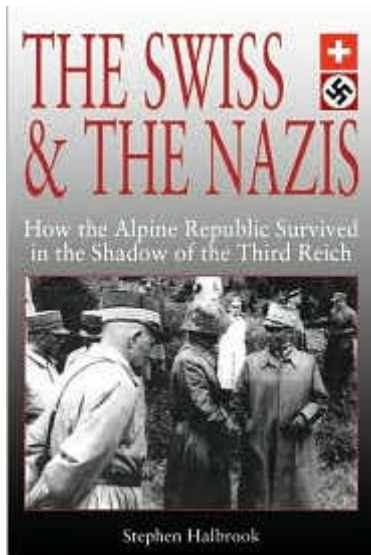
The first two or three letters represent the organization  
**VCM** meaning Virginia Citizen's Militia

The next four numbers represent the model year of the vehicle  
**1992**

Next letter stands for the Make of the vehicle  
**F** meaning Ford

The last letter stands for the Model of the vehicle  
**R** meaning Ranger

Now it is possible to have two or more vehicles in your state militia with the exact same Militia VIN number. If that's the case just add a hyphen after the model letter then add the three letters of your initials. Having a Militia VIN number is really just bragging about your vehicle and it allows other militia brothers and sisters to recognize you. Hopefully it will cause you to take more pride in your wheels and do a better job maintaining it. I've always felt that a good militia vehicle should be practical, paid for, gets good gas mileage, have four-wheel drive if snowy weather is applicable, and most importantly be in good mechanical condition. Next issue I'll cover how to "Militarize" your ride!



## The Swiss and the Nazis

Author Stephan P. Halbrook

Book review by Major Donald R Doyle  
*“because a good militia member is a well-read militia member”*

I've always felt that if our founding fathers were suddenly brought out of the grave they would take a good look around, shake their heads in disgust and head to Switzerland. Every man in Switzerland pulls mandatory military service and then spends the rest of his life in his *local militia*.

Switzerland was totally surrounded in the Spring of 1940 and the first thing its gov't did was to issue an order stating any reports of surrender were to be treated as enemy propaganda. The bridges and railway tunnels were rigged with explosives keeping the whole country of 4 million people on alert for four years.

Switzerland had 850,000 men in uniform and well trained in marksmanship after having to qualify at 300 meters. Now 75% of the population was German speaking and the Nazis aimed a lot of propaganda at them but the independent minded Swiss never bought into the master race program. The whole country was under a lot of strain with all fuel and a lot of its food having to be imported and that left only the Nazis to deal with.

The Swiss people had big hearts and accepted a lot of refugees from across Europe by 1945 over 400,000 refugees were scattered across its borders. Swiss military leaders knew they could not hold out against an all-out Nazi invasion so they ran the ultimate bluff. They studied what other countries did that were invaded, and were determined not to make their mistakes like, fight toe to toe on the borders, not make guerilla war plans and failing to keep their people psyched-up for victory.

Germany had invasion plans drawn up but didn't act on them for several reasons; 1) troops were desperately needed in Russia 2) Germany needed Swiss timing fuses (Swiss govt was prepared to blow up the factory if invaded) 3) Last but by no means least the Swiss would fight and the Nazis wanted push over countries not victims that

would inflict large casualties on the German Army. If Russia had fallen surely Switzerland would have been invaded. The cities in the north would not have been heavily defended and the main army would have fallen back into the Alps to fight for many months maybe years. Luckily it did not happen and Switzerland remains a free and independent country that is respected around the world. This book is very good reading just 306 pages and I strongly recommend it.

# DOGS OF WAR

Compiled from Military History and Army Times articles  
By Major Donald R Doyle

***“The more I see of men, the better I like my dog.”  
Frederick the Great***

Dogs and men have fought side by side since the dawn of human conflict. Sleek greyhounds paced pharaoh’s chariots on desert raids, while ranks of lumbering mastiffs marched at the front of Roman legions. During the middle Ages, wolfhounds in armor flanked knights on horseback. Modern war dogs have done their duty, so to speak, at Gettysburg, Verdun, North Africa, Iwo Jima, Pusan, Da Nang and Iraq. Pooches serving above and beyond the call of nature have included Stubby



(below left) who roused sleeping doughboys during a German gas attack.

Today the U.S. military has over 2000 working dogs that start their training at Lackland AFB, Texas. Dozens are wounded war vets from bullets to bombs to heat exhaustion in Iraq. But with an emergency vet hospital in theatre most wounded are patched up and back on duty. So far, only ten dogs have been killed in the line of duty.

Canines suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder. The handlers even have (dog first aid kits) that they carry and can adopt the dog after its working life is over. During Vietnam the dogs were (put down) or killed after their working life but Congress changed that if the dog is determined to be sociable and re-trainable to civilian life.

Dogs are used to smell out bomb material, drugs and even the Treasury Dept has dogs that can smell paper U.S. money.

# Waterproofing the A.L.I.C.E. Pack.

By Rudy

When I originally wrote this back in 2000, it was meant for a large A.L.I.C.E. pack that I had. It also applied to the medium pack, and I suppose to the M.O.L.L.E. packs as well.

You have to remember that these packs were constructed by the lowest bidder for our troops. In order to cut their costs, some of the manufacturers didn't pay attention to the fine details like they should have.

I bought my first large A.L.I.C.E. pack and frame for \$60. That isn't too bad a price I thought. After my first use of it in the rain, and everything got wet, I decided that I needed to improve its waterproofing.

I did a very careful inspection of the bag. I noticed several deficiencies in the bag.

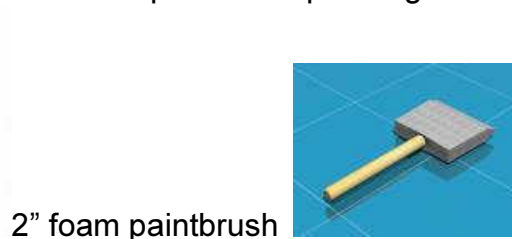
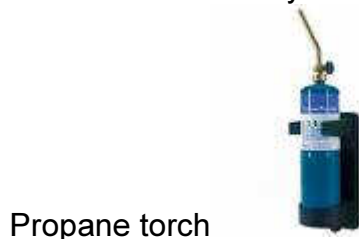
1. The coating on the inside of the bag was non-existent in several locations.
2. The main seams running parallel to the frame were not finished.
3. All seams had fraying excess material showing.

I washed the bag in warm water using SOAP, not detergent. Detergent leaves a film, and can be too severe on fabric. It also contains whiteners, which will cause you to light up like a Christmas tree when viewed thru any NVD. I used a laundry tub and agitated it by hand. I gently brushed away any soiled spots with a nylon bristled brush. Be careful here. Remember that you have a surplus bag here, and you don't know how poorly it was treated while in service.

5 or 6 rinses seemed to remove the soapsuds. Next, I stood the pack up and filled it with water and watched where the water leaked. The stitching for each and every pocket leaked to some extent. Add one more place to waterproof.

Hang the bag upside down to dry, out of the sun. I let mine dry 48 hours.

Here is what you'll need for a complete waterproofing.



Silicone caulk w/Caulking gun



I decided to start with the seams and their excess, fraying material. Turn your bag inside out. Run the propane torch on the lowest flame possible along the seams. Be very careful, as you don't want to ruin your bag by melting a hole thru a seam. This will weld the ends of the material and stop them from fraying.

The actual stitching had several long threads showing. The torch took care of them also by melting the ends of the threads so that they couldn't be pulled thru the seams.

Now that you have finished using the torch, put on the vinyl gloves and start covering the inside of the bag with Thompson's Waterseal. Apply it to every square inch of the fabric. The stitching that attaches the pocket deserves 2 coats of the Waterseal. Wait 3-4 hours between the coats, as you'll want to put on a second coat. I put a third coat on the bottom of the bag, and on the pocket stitching. The Waterseal seems to plug the space between the fabrics. Don't forget to put a couple of coats on the inside of the top flap pocket.

Now for the messy part. Spread out all of the material in the seams. Put one or 2 beads of caulk down each side of the seam. Work it into the seams with your hands. Let dry for 48 hours.

Final check: Fill the bag with clear water again and look for any place that needs a little extra attention. My bag has kept my gear dry thru some heavy rains for over 5 years now.



## \*The M-1 Carbine\*

By Robert Ingram

The M-1 carbine is a weapon that is constantly overlooked as a survival weapon. It really deserves a closer look. While it is considered a rifle, it isn't on the same scale as a battle rifle firing a full power rifle round. It is chambered for a pistol round equal to the .32 Winchester, a round that was obsolete 70 years ago. It does however compare very favorably to the current trend of carbines chambered for the 9mm, .40, & .45ACP rounds. It has several things going for it that are often ignored. Let's take a closer look at this weapon.

**PRICE:** Gone are the days of buying one from the NRA for \$20. Today, (2005), carbines are listed as selling anywhere from \$400-750 thru private sales. The CMP is (was) selling Inland brand carbines for \$495. I have seen them cheaper in pawn shops, or through private sales.

Good news for California residents; Auto-Ordnance, the only company currently producing the M-1 carbine, is shipping a California approved model with a 10 round magazine! MSRP is \$777.00. While that is definitely on the high end of the price range, it is approved for sale to citizens in that state. I also doubt that anyone ever pays MSRP for any rifle. Now you have a better choice of rifles.

How does this compare to an AR-15 or an AK-47 clone? It's less than half for a quality AR-15 and equal to one of the better AK clones.

If you are knowledgeable about firearms, you could build your own. In today's SHOTGUN NEWS I see that M-1 receivers are listed at \$189-229 retail from several different sources. Centerfire has parts kits listed for \$109. I assembled a carbine on an old IVER JOHNSON receiver and then took it to a smith to check for proper head spacing. I also used one of Ramline's synthetic stocks. It weighs about 6 pounds empty, and I have all of \$140 invested in it. While it isn't a collector rifle, it does just fine at the range.

**WEIGHT:** The carbine is listed as weighing only 6.5 pounds with a wooden stock. That is a full 2 pounds lighter than an AR-15 or an AK-47. The use of a Ramline synthetic stock cuts this down to about 6 pounds. This makes it a good weapon for women, children, and those of smaller stature.

**AMMUNITION:** Let's compare the carbine to the other 3 popular pistol calibers currently being sold; 9mm, .40 caliber, and .45 caliber.

9mm; 115 grain bullet propelled at 1200 fps. This gives us 368 foot pounds of energy at the muzzle, and 243 f/p at 100 yards.

.40 S&W 180 grain bullet traveling at 990fps. This gives us 390 foot pounds at the muzzle, and 260f/p at 100 yards.

.45ACP; 230 grain bullet traveling at 900 fps. This gives us 414 foot pounds of energy at the muzzle, and 323 f/p at 100 yards.

.357 magnum; 110 grain bullet at 1350fps. This gives us 410 foot pounds of energy at the muzzle, and 292 f/p at 50 yards, and 203f/p at 100 yards.

.30 carbine; 110 grain bullet at 1990 fps. This gives us 967 foot pounds at the muzzle, and 600 at 100 yards. At 200 yards we still have 373 f/p of energy.  
200-373; 300-262.

This means that at 200 yards the carbine has close to if not more energy than the others do at the muzzle. See the chart below. All figures are from Winchester-Western current loads.

| Caliber   | Weight | Velocity | Muzzle Energy | @ 100yds | @ 200yds | @ 300yds |
|-----------|--------|----------|---------------|----------|----------|----------|
| 9mm       | 115    | 1200     | 368           | 243      |          |          |
| .40 S&W   | 180    | 990      | 390           | 260      |          |          |
| .45ACP    | 230    | 835      | 356           | 303      |          |          |
| .357 Mag. | 110    | 1275     | 397           | 243      |          |          |
| .30 M-1   | 110    | 1990     | 967           | 622      | 399      | 280      |

Wolf Military ammunition is currently \$190 per 1000 rounds. With the current ammo crisis going on in America for the military calibers, this is an outstanding value. This price is more in line with what it should be. Today's prices are around \$250- 275 for M193 5.56 when you can find it.

**REPUTATION:** The carbine has a reputation as being a poor fight stopper, a reputation that it might not deserve. The reputation includes extremes at both ends of the spectrum.

1. The full metal jacket bullet does not expand. It has a tendency to drill straight through a soft target, in and out without causing any secondary damage such as a large wound channel. Most rifle bullets 'yaw' while traveling thru a body. Since they are longer than their diameter, this causes a rapid increase in the temporary wound channel. The carbine does not have the extra length working in its favor, since the bullet is roughly the same length as its diameter. This is can be solved by using soft or hollow point rounds. Hollow points can expand to .60" or slightly bigger. This round does have the velocity to cause the hollow points to open up reliably.

2. The rounds do not penetrate heavy clothing. This has its roots in Korea. It has just about been proven that this was due to the operators using the M2 set on automatic, and NOT AIMING. The carbine rises off target after the first round of a burst. If the first round is not aimed any subsequent rounds naturally missed.

**MAGAZINES:** 15 round magazines can be found for under \$10, usually about \$8. Less if you buy a small quantity. 30 round magazines are priced higher. I have seen them for

a low of \$10 for 'used' to a high of \$30 at gun shows. You'll need to pay attention and look for GI made and marked magazines. The CMP website has a good article on this.

**PARTS:** The U.S. produced 6,500,000 carbines during WW2. Several thousand were given away to friendly governments after the war. They were sold through the NRA and dealers for less than \$50. Parts are available from several sources in the U.S. Complete kits, less stock, receiver, and hammer are available for less than \$175.

**HISTORY:** After the war, several companies assembled carbines from spare parts. Plainfield, Universal, Iver Johnson to name a few. When the supply of military receivers dried up, they all started making their own receivers. Universal was the only one that tried to improve the carbine. They changed the design by using 2 recoil springs in their version. This caused the receiver, slide, bolt, and trigger group to be different from the original carbines. Thus parts would not interchange with the rest of the carbines. Whether the Universal design is better or not is really a moot point as parts for them are becoming quite rare. In later years Iver Johnson bought up all of the other manufacturers. They continued to offer Universal carbines. They even offered them chambered in 9mm. IVER JOHNSON has since gone out of business. Now the only company building M1 carbines is Auto-Ordnance.

**CONCLUSION:** I live in a suburban area with a non shooting spouse and 2 children. For my situation, this is a good choice of weapons. When the urchins are fully grown and have left the nest, they will be given to the grand kids. I currently own 2 of these rifles. Both are of military style. I now own an INLAND carbine and an IVER JOHNSON carbine. The carbine is not currently on any "banned" list of firearms, so it is easier to possess. It is easy to maintain, light recoiling, and fast shooting. For the price of an AR-15 clone, I can own an M-1 carbine, cleaning kit, spare parts, 20 magazines (15 rd.), and a thousand rounds of ammunition. Please give this weapon another look.



Here is a side by side comparison of currently available weapons.

|                                  | <b>Carbine</b>    | <b>AK-47</b>      | <b>AR-15</b>          | <b>9mm<br/>carbine</b> | <b>.40<br/>carbine</b> | <b>.45<br/>carbine</b> |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Initial cost</b>              | \$495.00          | \$800.00          | \$930.00              | \$406.00               | \$406.00               | \$834.00               |
| <b>Manufacturer</b>              | CMP<br>Inland     | arsenal           | Rock<br>River<br>Arms | Kel-Tec                | Kel-Tec                | Olympic<br>Arms        |
| <b>Model</b>                     | M-1               | SA M-7            | Standard<br>Rifle A2  | Sub-<br>2000           | Sub-<br>2000           | K45 16"                |
| <b>Caliber</b>                   | .30<br>Carbine    | M43<br>7.62x39    | M193<br>5.56x43       | 9x19<br>NATO           | .40 S&W                | .45ACP                 |
| <b>Ammo per<br/>1000 rounds*</b> | \$189.00          | \$147.90          | \$209.90              | \$159.90               | \$250.00               | \$230.00               |
| <b>Standard<br/>Magazines</b>    | 15 rd @<br>\$8.00 | 30rd @<br>\$12.00 | 30rd @<br>\$15.00     | 30rd<br>@\$25.00       | 25rd @<br>35.00        | 20rd @<br>40.00        |
| <b>Parts<br/>availability</b>    | Very good         | Good              | Excellent             | fair to<br>good        | fair to<br>good        | Good                   |

\* prices from  
AIM



## Your “Official” Militia Publication

Well enough people have stepped forward to put their time and talents into making a national militia newsletter. “Militia Ranger” is by and for, militia members and our range is the entire USA.

Now comes the hard part for me the editor deciding what is worth reading. Believe it or not a lot of work goes into putting together a newsletter. As far as how often an edition comes out is still up in the air, but I’m trying for every 3 months, more often if the staff support is good.

Militia Ranger is a defensive publication first and foremost. Another thing we will push is marksmanship, along with various state militia events, so send in your events (if they’re open to the public of course) and we will list them in our Events/Editorial section.

Hope you enjoy our newsletter. ***Your constructive comments are always welcome and so are any articles you may wish to send. More staff writers are always needed.***

You can reach us at: **MilitiaRanger@yahoo.com**

## Official Militia Ranger Policy

We will defend Conservative Judeo-Christian Values, defend our families, defend our homes, defend Constitutional Rights (not just the 2<sup>nd</sup> one) and defend our country. All Americans should own a military firearm and practice with it regularly and never, ever, surrender it! Our founding fathers gave us three boxes to solve our problems with the ballot box, the jury box and the cartridge box. We do not support anyone or group trying to overthrow the U.S. government. We do believe in fighting tyranny and terrorism with equal enthusiasm. We support our troops in the “War on Terror.” Also we believe in being economic patriots and whenever possible, buy products “Made in the USA.” All this we pledge our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor.

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