

GUN LIFESTYLE • GEAR • TECHNOLOGY • SPORT • OUTDOOR • HOME / PERSONAL DEFENSE **IAACA**

RECOIL

SPECIAL SECTION
BLUE COLLAR BUILDS
THREE TAKES ON AMERICA'S FAVORITE RIFLE

PINT-SIZE PRECISION

BARCELONA LANTAC



- OLD SCHOOL: DERINGER
- VISIT: ILLINOIS STATE MILITARY MUSEUM
- BUILD SHEET: 8.5-INCH AR
- VETERAN VICIS



FREE SUPPRESSOR X-RAY POSTER INSIDE

RECOILWEB.COM
ISSUE 51
CMG



ATAC DEFENSE ADER

WITH THE DEAD AIR NOMAD-TI

TRANSPORT SURPLUS HMMWV

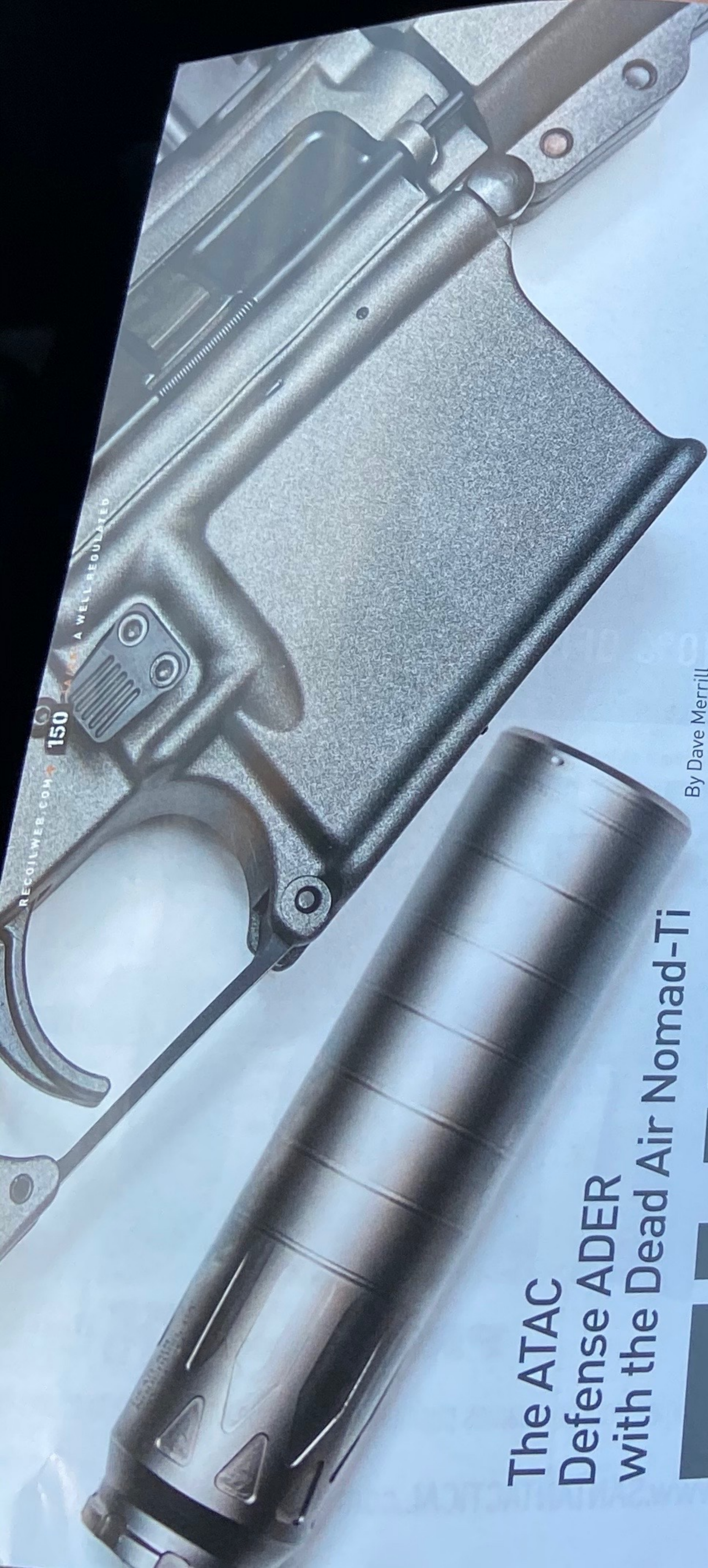




TUNGSTEN & TITANIUM

The ATAC
Defense ADER
With the Dead Air Nomad-TI

DESIGNED BY
TUNGSTEN &
TITANIUM



The ATAC Defense ADER with the Dead Air Nomad-Ti

By Dave Merrill

TUNGSTEN & TITANIUM

You may not have ever heard of ATAC Defense before, but you've definitely seen their wares. This Mississippi-based company started out more than two decades ago with automotive parts manufacturing before moving into the firearms realm eight years ago. Automotive and aviation manufacturing companies transitioning to firearms has become something of a common refrain over the years; it's almost like a natural progression. For nearly a decade, ATAC Defense was the man behind the curtain, OEMing more than 300 parts for different companies, but now they've decided to make their public debut under their own name.

THE ADER
ATAC has three different initial offerings, all with their own variations. Featured here is the ADER: the ATAC Defense Enhanced Rifle. It has all of the bells and whistles, while the ADBR (ATAC Defense Basic Rifle) is for those just getting their feet wet.

MANY COMPANIES CALL THEIR RIFLES AMBIDEXTROUS WHEN THERE'S ACTUALLY NOTHING AMBIDEXTROUS GOING ON OTHER THAN THE SAFETY SELECTOR. NOT SO WITH THE ADER, WHICH HAS AN ENHANCED AND AMBIDEXTROUS MAG RELEASE, AMBI SAFETY, AND OVERSIZED AND AMBI CHARGING HANDLE — ALL OF ATAC'S OWN DESIGN.

They also have 9mm pistol builds with 4.5- and 8.5-inch barrels. All are available with a wide variety of Cerakote finishes, and the enhanced models have several triggers to choose from.

The ADER is crammed with custom parts. Many companies call their rifles ambidextrous when there's actually nothing ambidextrous going on other than the safety selector. Not so with the ADER, which has an enhanced and ambidextrous mag release, ambi safety, and oversized and ambi charging handle — all of ATAC's own design. Even though the safety has a 90-degree throw instead of the increasingly common 45- or 60-degree short throw, it won't rub against the trigger finger when using a high hold (a common issue for me personally).

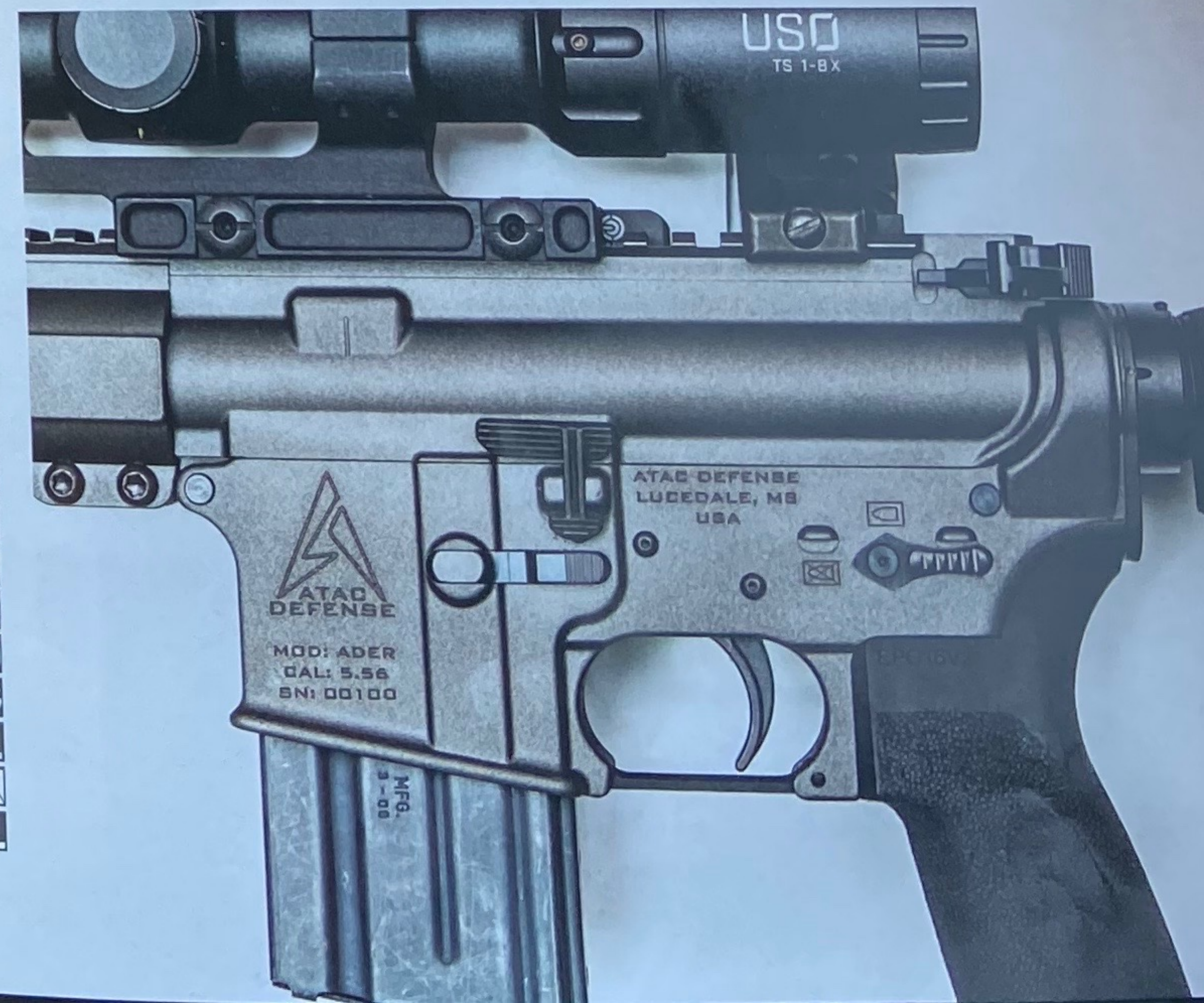
ATAC offers three different triggers: a 3.5-pound single-stage with either a straight or curved bow, or a two-stage with a 1.5-pound first stage and 2-pound break. The two-stage ATAC trigger is a total standout — among

If ATAC Defense ever decides to sell their controls or triggers separately — you'd be well-advised to snatch them up.

the very best produced for an AR-15. If ATAC Defense ever decides to sell these separately, you should snatch one up.

Other specifications get high marks for quality too. HPT/MPI bolts cut from Carpenter 158 steel. 1/7 twist barrels formed from 4150 steel blanks per Mil-B-1159SE specifications and then black nitrided. The entire bolt carrier group is also NiB treated.

The receivers themselves are basic 7075 forged affairs. In the future, we'd like to see integral trigger guards and an ambidextrous bolt lock/release à la ADM, Grey Ghost Precision, and Knight's Armament.



For furniture, ATAC turned to Mission First Tactical, the other polymer accessory company, for their Minimalist stock and Engage grip. ATAC's own M-LOK handguard has a continuous top rail and integral QD sockets.

The gas system may give you pause, as the ATAC Defense ADER features a 16-inch barrel with a carbine-length gas system. However, it's not an immediate deal-breaker; while mid-length gas systems generally make for a soft shooter, carbine gas systems are incredibly reliable. ATAC says that longer gas systems will be an option in the future. We'd like to see ATAC implement an option for an adjustable gas block as well.

The ADER ships with a three-chamber brake that curiously features external threads at the base. We asked ATAC about plans for their own suppressor line in the future; it was a little hush-hush but with a wink and a nod. While the brake is effective, it's also very loud just like all other brakes. We removed it to affix a Dead Air Nomad.

THE NOMAD-TI

Dead Air Silencers first released the Nomad in October of 2018. This was Dead Air's first wide-body, tubeless, 1.735-inch diameter can with the now-universal HUB 1.375x24 TPI rear end. Therefore, a nearly endless supply of mounting solutions is available.

The Nomad isn't just a lower-pressure suppressor due to sheer volume — just look at that X-ray. It's clear the Nomad isn't simply the same old silencer design in a slightly fatter profile. Each baffle has its own secondary chamber to store and then bleed gas after the projectile passes, effectively making the Nomad a silencer with multiple bore evacuators. We first covered bore evacuators in RECOIL Issue 35, as the Gemtech Integra integrally suppressed rifle uses the same technology.

A bore evacuator effectively delays the movement of the gas, giving it slightly more time before it follows the path of least resistance. The end result is that the majority of the extra gas goes through the muzzle end rather than back-flowing through the barrel and needlessly increasing pressure, gas in your face, felt recoil, and wear.

Dead Air first followed up the Nomad with the performance-enhancing E-brake, and then after some skunkworks testing, they released the Nomad-L at SHOT Show 2020. What you see here is the Nomad-Ti, an all-titanium version of the Nomad-30 that weighs in at a mere 9.6 ounces, including the bundled direct-thread mount.

It's easy to see why Dead Air keeps investing in the Nomad system. From the day they released them, they can't keep them in stock; it was a great performer, and people quickly took notice.

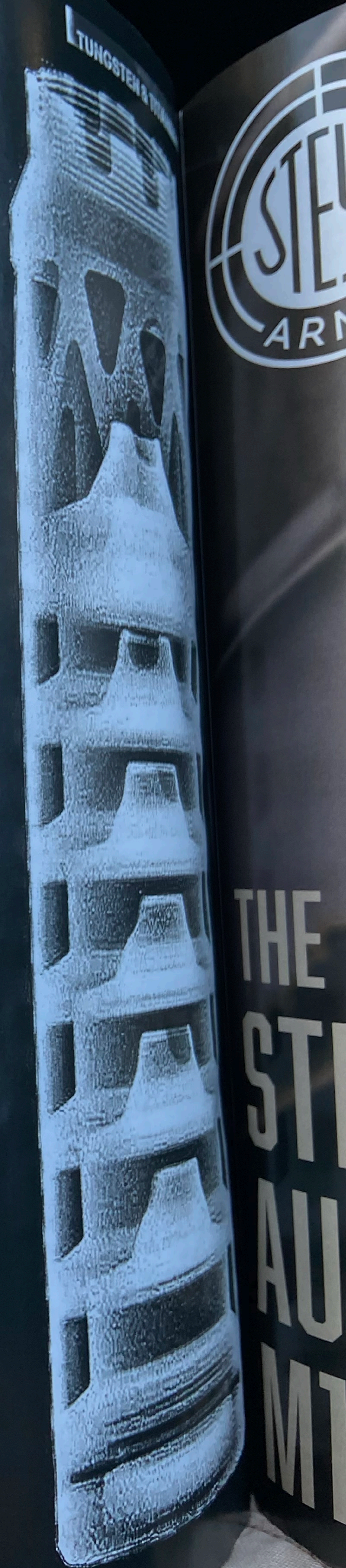
Unlike most Dead Air cans, the Nomad-Ti does indeed have barrel length restrictions — high pressures produced by short-barreled 5.56 guns will heat and eat titanium for breakfast. As such, the Nomad-Ti is limited to 5.56 barrels of 12.5 inches or above for slow-fire.

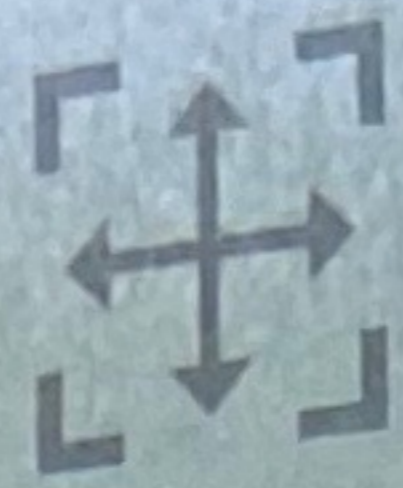
In addition to being better suited for a 16-inch rifle like the ATAC ADER, it comes naked and uncoated, so it really pops next to the tungsten Cerakote. Remember: Looking cool is always the first rule.

Instead of using the provided Dead Air direct-thread mount, we went with a JMAC Customs X-37 brake. It's compatible with all 1.375x24 TPI silencers, as well as their BDS-37 blast shield for unsuppressed use, should we find ourselves in a state with oppressive NFA restrictions.

OUTFITTING

We attached a US Optics TS-8X first focal plane 1-8x24mm with a 5.56mm Plumb Precision reticle





ATAC DEFENSE ADER

CALIBER:
5.56MM

OVERALL LENGTH:
31.5 INCHES

WEIGHT UNLOADED:
6 POUNDS, 4 OUNCES

BARREL LENGTH:
16 INCHES

MAGAZINE CAPACITY:
20, 30

MSRP: \$1,399

URL: ATAC
DEFENSE.COM

DEAD AIR NOMAD-TI

CALIBER:
.30

OVERALL LENGTH:
6.5 INCHES

WEIGHT:
9.6 OUNCES

MSRP: \$1,099

URL: DEADAIR
SILENCERS.COM

FEATURED ACCESSORIES:

- SUREFIRE M600DF \$299
- SUREFIRE SR-07 SWITCH \$112
- US OPTICS TS-8X PLUMB \$895
- DUECK DEFENSE RTS SIGHTS \$200
- JMAC CUSTOMS X-37 \$120
- ARISAKA FINGER STOP \$28
- MAGPUL MVG \$23

PRICE AS FEATURED:
\$4,175

(see RECOL Issue 49 for a review) in a Midwest Industries mount. A set of Dueck Defense offset iron sights served as backups, and a 1,500-lumen SureFire M600DF riding on an Arisaka inline scout mount with an SR-07 remote switch made for a helluva light beacon out front.

We then added a Magpul MVG to use in conjunction with an Arisaka finger stop to ensure consistent hand placement. Some may consider that a suspenders-and-belt setup — but our pants certainly aren't falling down.

AT THE RANGE

The trigger was exceptional; you can go fast as needed but also utilize it for precision work. The recoil impulse unsuppressed is fast but gentle — an adjustable gas block for the ADER is in our near-future for suppressed use; it was workable but not optimal. Though the Nomad-Ti is low-pressure, we'd still like a bit more control of the increased gas pressure. For testing, we rolled with basic-bitch 55-grain M193 ammunition, which turned in

perfectly acceptable 1.5-inch five-shot groups. Undoubtedly, match ammunition would result in tighter groups, but this essentially is a fighting rifle, not a DMR.

Hearing safe? Welp, we didn't even consider adding ear protection when shooting outdoors; indoors is a different story with 5.56mm of any stripe or barrel length.

LOOSE ROUNDS

Dead Air Silencers continues to impress us with their innovation. Even though the Nomad-Ti is a straightforward extension of an existing product line, a sub 10-ounce suppressor with this level of performance is exceptional.

While the ADER is the first rifle ATAC Defense has produced, it's far from a freshman effort. Over the last eight years, they've clearly learned what right looks like and put it all out there. While there's some room for changes and improvements, dollar-for-dollar the ATAC Defense ADER is more than a solid choice. ■

