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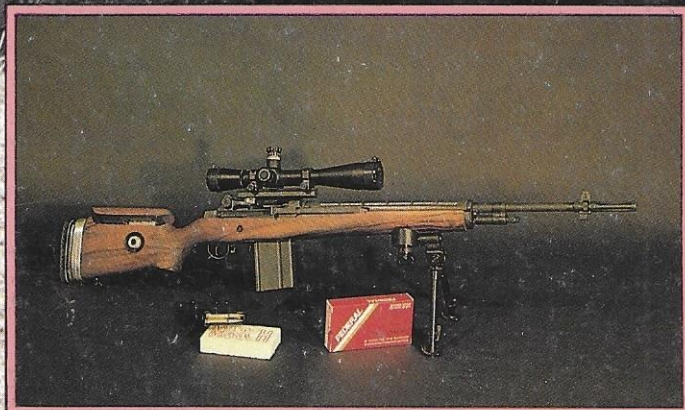
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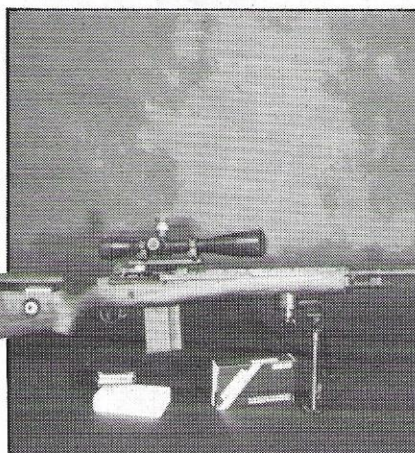
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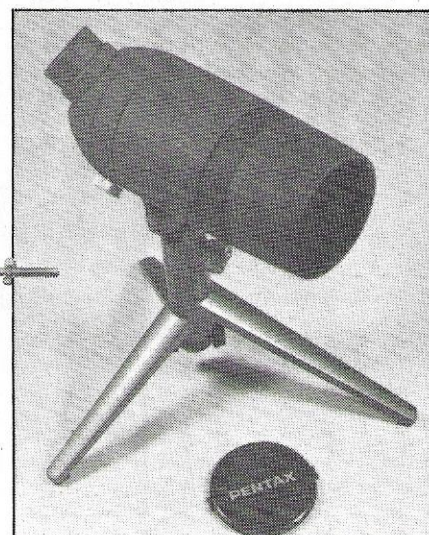




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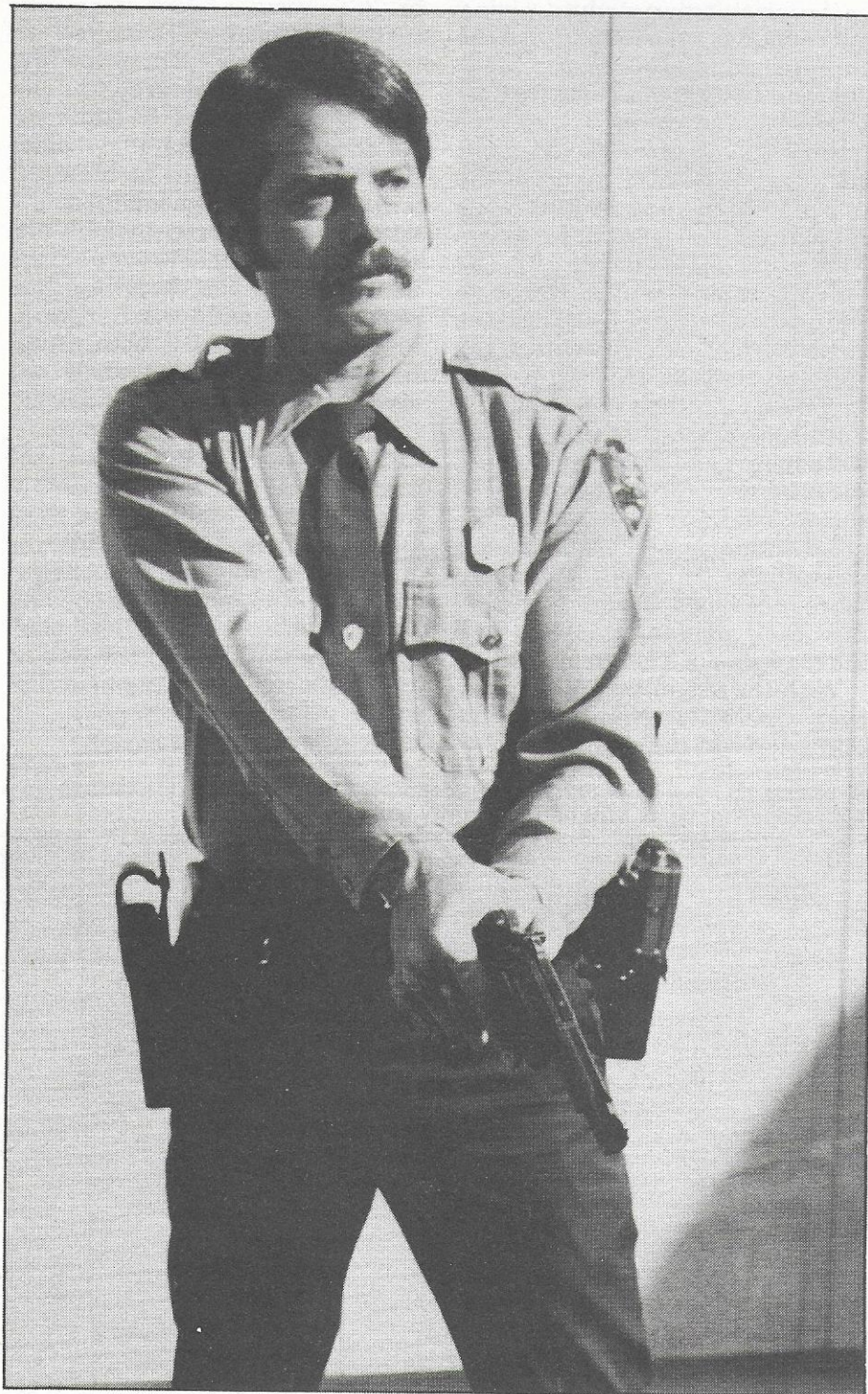
SWAT GEAR 46

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by Paul Berkowitz

In the January/February 1979 issue of *The American Handgunner* there was an article written by Jeff Cooper describing the execution of an exercise known as El Presidente. Therein, Cooper cited and showed photos of one, Hans Candolfi, performing this exercise with a revolver while maintaining a shooting grip throughout the exercise. It included the speed reload, in which he manipulated the speed loaders with his weak hand only. At first, I dismissed this as a feat performed by a trick shooter of uncommon ability and dexterity, but remained intrigued by the concept. It made more sense that it would be more efficient and faster to maintain the shooting grip throughout the speed reload.

I, eventually, got around to seriously experimenting with this idea and found that, in fact, no exceptional dexterity was required. I, also, found that with just a little practice I could cut a full second or more off my speed reloading times. The resulting technique has proven very effective and easy to teach other officers, particularly new shooters with few old technique habits to break. It is, however, designed only for right-handed shooters. The entire technique is different, beginning with the way the shells are ejected, all the way through the reload itself to the closing of the cylinder with a fresh set of cartridges. The following, then, is a step by step guide to an extremely efficient and fast speed ejecting and reloading technique. The ac-

PART II

MODERN TECHNIQUES for the SERVICE REVOLVER

companying photos will help to illustrate each step.

ONE:

Immediately after firing the last cartridge the shooter releases the support hand. This allows it to shift under and around the weapon so the long fingers can push the cylinder open while the thumb remains on the opposite side to cushion the cylinder and prevent unnecessary stress to the crane. *Simultaneously* the shooting hand thumb is positioned on the cylinder release and pushes forward, facilitating this cylinder release.

All this occurs within the first tenth of a second after firing the last cartridge. The shooting hand remains in its shooting grip and the weapon pointed downrange. While all this is occurring, both hands and weapon are brought down to belt line along the strong side of the body, a few inches out from the holster.

SEE PHOTOS 1 & 2

TWO (a):

The shooting hand thumb (and thumb, only) is repositioned *above* the recoil shoulder and hammer, clearing a path for shells to be ejected and speedloader to be inserted. Simultaneously, the support hand rotates back under the weapon so that the palm is positioned ready to whack the ejector rod. At this point, the barrel points downrange (and possibly a little up). It will be approximately positioned between the support hand thumb (positioned over the barrel) and index finger (positioned under the barrel) which points down to the right with the other fingers.

SEE PHOTOS 3a & 3b

TWO (b):

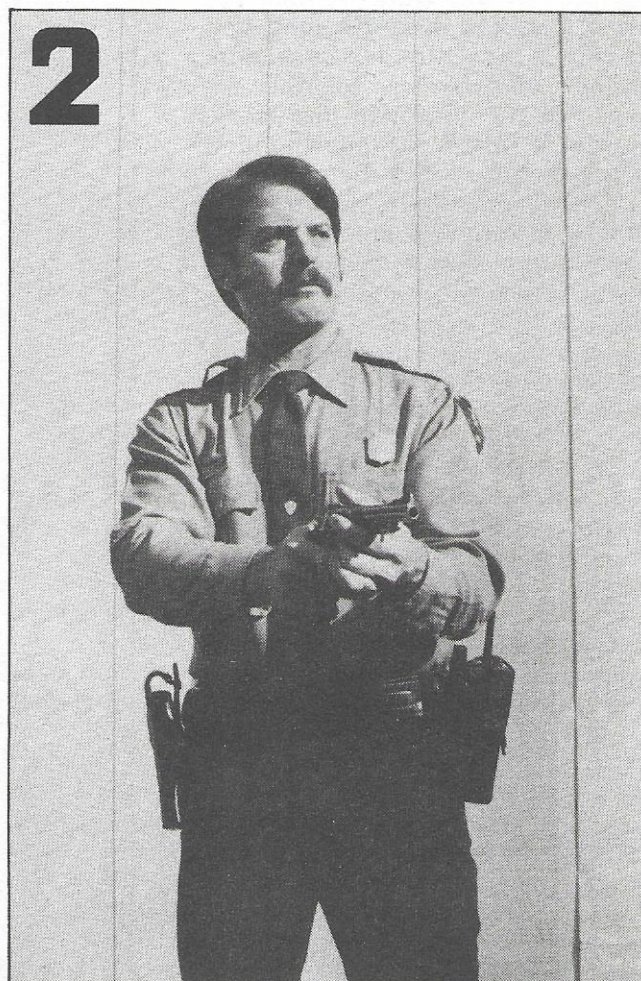
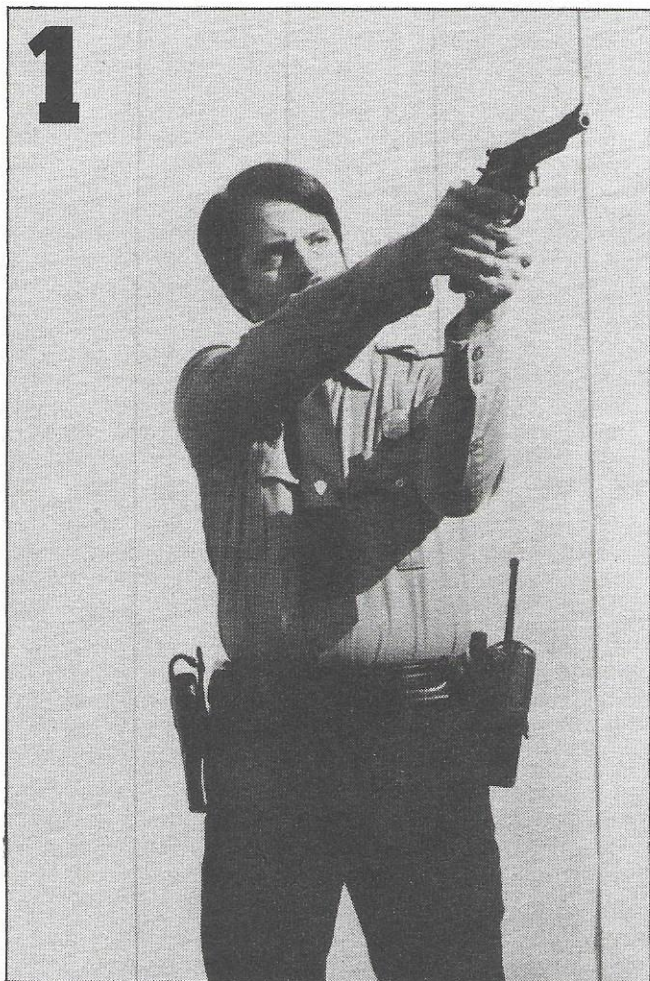
Being sure to keep the revolver frame vertical with the barrel pointed downrange, and, perhaps,

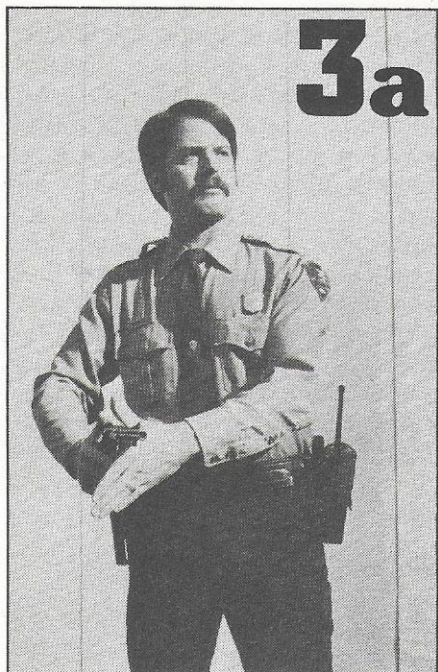
slightly up, the shooter whacks the ejector rod back, forcefully ejecting shells to the side and behind the shooter. **NOTE: Do not push or pump** the ejector rod, as this tends to cause cases to hang up beneath the ejector/ratchet. A single, solid whack that allows the ejector rod to spring back instantly is all that is desired. This ensures that stuck or swollen casings are ejected. This, also, works on weapons with short barrels and ejector rods (whereas, the traditional thumb-stroke method of working the ejection rod may be ineffective).

SEE PHOTO 3b

THREE:

With the shooting grip intact, but the thumb still positioned over the recoil shoulder and hammer, bring the revolver down, with the barrel now tipped down, immediately next to or in front of the



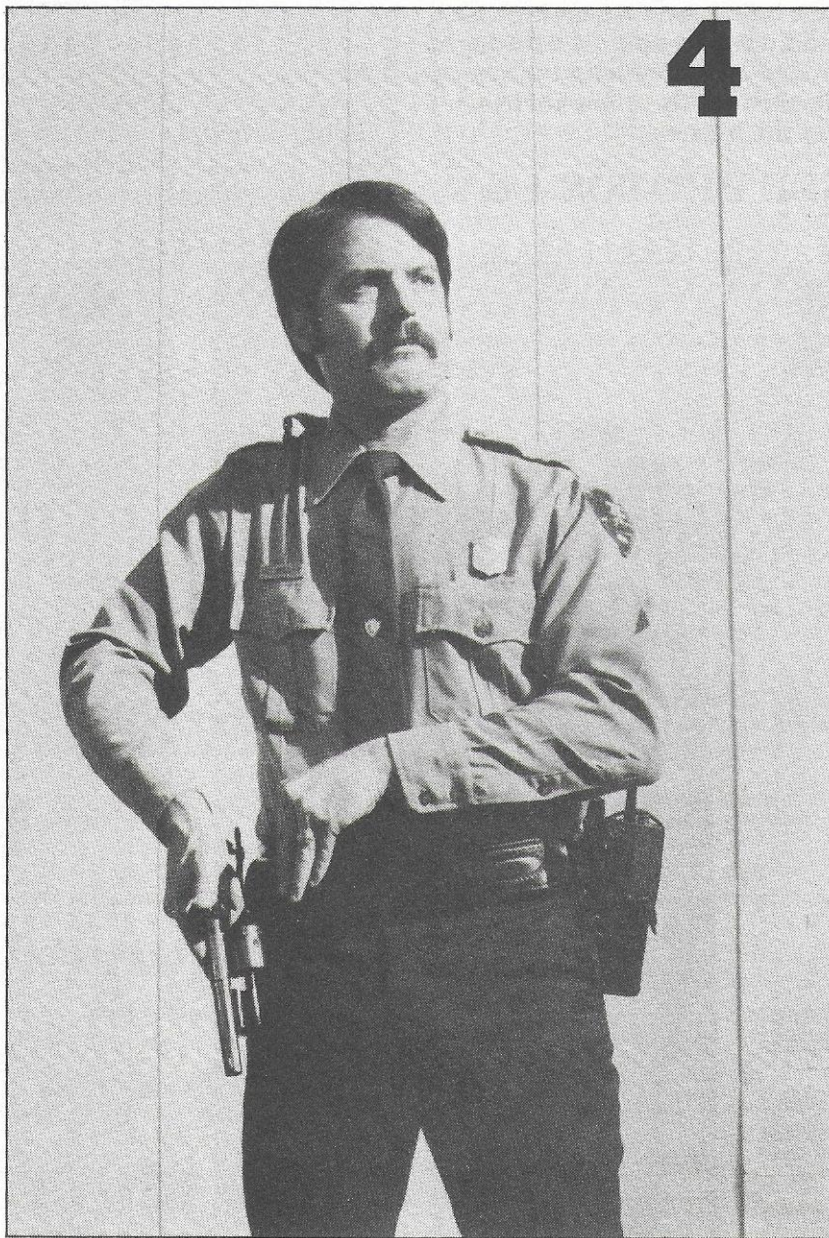


speedloaders. These are positioned on the belt immediately forward of the holster. Simultaneously, with the support hand, unsnap the speedloader case and with the finger tips, pull out the speedloader by its knob. (Safariland Comp-II series, HKS, or Dade speedloaders work best for this.) Keeping the revolver, speedloader case and speedloader as close together as possible (to minimize necessary motion), insert the speedloader and cartridges into the open cylinder. It may help, at first, to angle the speedloader into the cylinder to ensure proper alignment. Once properly positioned, release the cartridges into the chambers. Depending on the type of speedloaders used, this may require a slight repositioning of finger tips from the knob to the body of the speedloader (as with Safariland). Allow it to fall away to the ground.

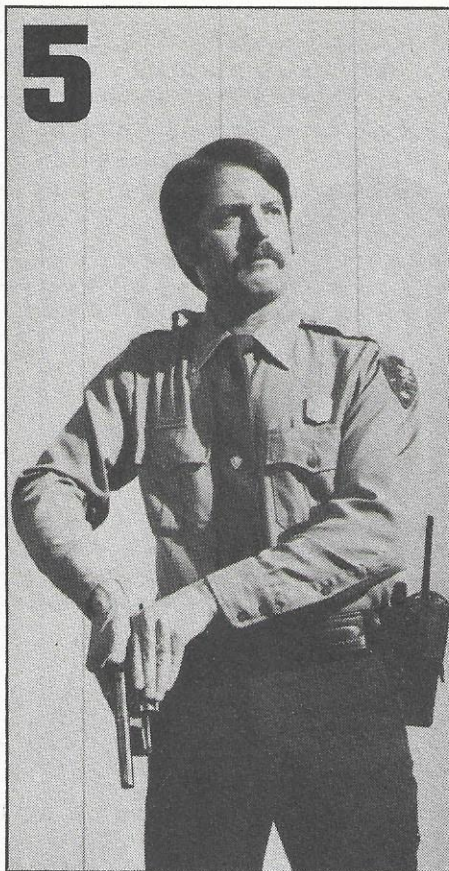
SEE PHOTOS 4 & 5

FOUR:

With the support hand pointed down the barrel along the left side of the revolver, close the freshly charged cylinder while with the same motion allowing the hand to follow through to the stocks resuming proper support (pulling) position. At the same time, let the shooting hand thumb resume its



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shooting-gripping position on the stocks. With both hands and weapon as a unit, come back up to the firing position.

SEE PHOTOS 6, 7 & 8

With just a little practice using this technique speed reloads should be accomplished in around two or three seconds, from the last shot fired to the point where the weapon is fully reloaded and back on target ready to fire. Naturally, as with any reloading technique, if chambers are dirty and cartridges do not slip smoothly in, times will be longer.

As noted, this technique is designed only for the right-handed shooter. It is most easily applied when using Smith & Wesson, Ruger, or other revolver designs calling for forward or inward motions to work the cylinder release. The pulling-back release motion of Colt revolvers tend to compel a slight repositioning of the shooting hand to make this reach.

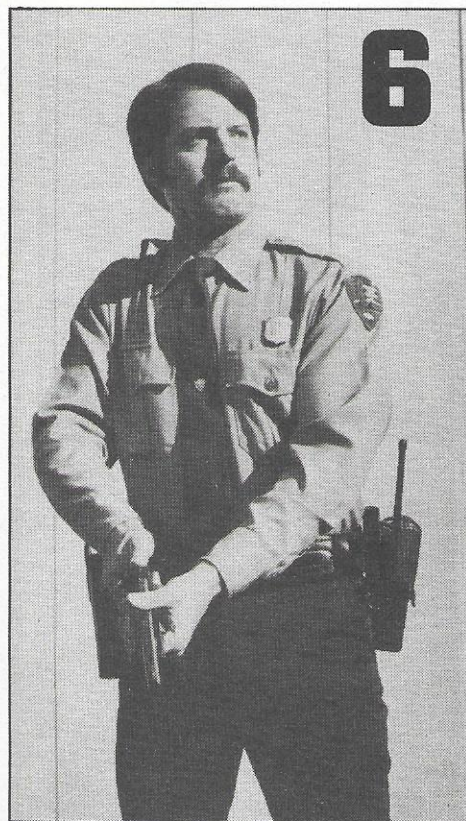
As noted earlier, speedloaders with large knobs aid significantly, by providing a firm point for the fingers to grasp as the loader is removed from its case. For example, when shooting a K-frame S&W, there is a substantial difference between the ease with

which this technique can be performed when using the Safariland Comp-II Series K2C reloaders versus their older JK2 design.

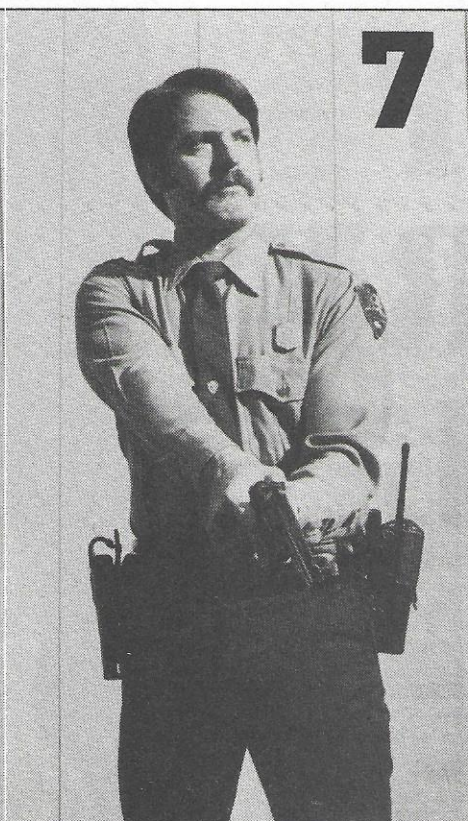
All in all, for most shooters, regardless of the type of speedloader used, this technique can offer a significant reduction in speed reloading times. It also provides the added benefit of a speed ejection procedure and ensures complete removal of empty casings from their chambers without any hesitation.

As long as most police officers are mandated to carry service revolvers they will face certain handicaps that their semiauto carrying counterparts avoid. Even advocates of the revolver as a service weapon acknowledge that it is, relatively, slow to reload. Further, the revolver is, by its very design, less efficient than the service semiautomatic. The combination of procedures offered herein can, with practice and properly maintained equipment, aid in minimizing the handicap that the revolver equipped officer faces and help close the gap between revolver and semiauto handling efficiency. •

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