

MCS 170: The Best Home Defense Firearm – Jeff Anderson

Welcome back, everyone. This is Jeff Anderson, Editor for *Modern Combat and Survival Magazine* and Executive Director of the *New World Patriot Alliance* with another podcast to help you better prepare for any threat you may face in your role as a protector and a patriot.

Welcome to podcast episode number 170. This is episode number four in our four-part series on home defense weapons and tactics. If you caught the other episodes what you will have found was: in episode number 167 we talked about how to look at your home from the perspective of home defense zones to better plan out your home defense plan; in episode 168 I walked you through my personal step-by-step process for choosing a home defense handgun; and in our third segment of our series, last week in episode 169, I hopefully convinced you of the benefits of, and the right tactical choice, for a home defense shotgun as part of your arsenal. But I saved the best for last, with what I promised would be my own personal number one choice of what I use to protect myself and my family when we're at home.

Before we get into this, I want to just give you a couple of quick heads-up. Number one, take my advice or don't take my advice. I've said this before in the previous podcasts. I'm sharing with you my personal experience from being a combat vet, a former bodyguard, a firearms tactics instructor, and as a sponge of this type of information after tons and tons of interviews with some of the best people in the world when it comes to tactical trainers. But most importantly, I'm speaking to you as a husband and a father who cares about only one thing, the safety of my family. But in the end, it's going to be up to you to decide what's going to work best for you, as a home defense firearm.

So look, I'm giving you my advice. You don't have to take it. You might have your own personal choice. A lot of times I've said it really comes down to personal choice. But ultimately, I do want you to know, I'm not looking to debate anybody. This is what I currently use.

If you have professional opinions on what I have, I want to hear about it on the blog. So make sure you go over to ModernCombatandSurvival.com and look for episode number 170 here. I would like to hear your professional, and your personal experience, because it might change my mind. I'm not looking for unprofessional debate, but I am looking for people to challenge me and perhaps I change my mind. But this is where I'm currently at.

The second thing is, going through these episodes you've heard me say that a handgun is actually the least effective firearm for home defense. However, as a reminder, that doesn't mean you shouldn't have a pistol for self-protection. When you think about it, you can't carry a shotgun around with you around the house. Right? The most effective

weapon is always going to be the one that you can get your hands on when somebody has just busted through your front door and is grabbing your spouse by the hair.

So most people think about home defense and they think about handguns, they think about pistols. What we've been going through is the reasons why that is not the best choice for a home defense firearm. But you still should have one, for all the reasons that we talk about in that episode for home defense handguns.

Finally, number three on the heads up list here, is don't bother taking notes, because we've done all the work for you with copies of this episode, transcriptions, and an easy cheat sheet that covers all the sexy details in just a single page for future reference, or in case you just hate the sound of my voice and you want to go and cheat. All you need to do is go to www.MCSMagazine.com/170 and pick up the support materials right there.

Now, as promised, last week I said that I would finally give you my big reveal of my number one firearm choice for home defense, the one that I personally have tripped out for protecting myself and my family. I'll tell you that I have a bit of a surprise ending to this piece of advice, at the very end when I tell you what I actually have for home defense. So you're definitely going to want to stick around for that.

However, first I have to pave the road and give you this broader perspective of my choice, which if you haven't guessed it yet, because we're kind of running out of firearms that you can use other than a bazooka, I'm talking about the carbine rifle, using an AR platform and chambered in .223 caliber or 5.56.

Most people do not think of the AR carbine rifle as a home defense weapon. But fortunately, I feel like that perspective is really changing, and with good reason. I want to start out with giving you my reasons for why you should consider the AR for home defense, and then you can make your own decision from there. But more and more people are turning to the AR as a home defense weapon, and I just want to give you my reasons.

The first one is ease of shooting. The thing about it is, a lot of people dismiss the carbine as a home defense weapon because it looks complicated, because it's a rifle that has—it seems more complex than a handgun is, or a semiautomatic pistol. But in actuality, it's not. When you think about it, it's really as simple as put this thing of bullets into this hole, pull this thing back, turn it on with this switch and pull the trigger. Forget all the jargon and everything else. It's actually really simple to operate with just a little bit of familiarization.

The other thing is that longer guns are naturally just more accurate and easy to shoot. You can see this—if you were to take somebody who is brand new and doesn't really know about firearms, and you were to go take them to the range and you had—I put my Glock pistol out there, I put my shotgun down there and I put my AR down there. You go ahead and load everything up and you just tell people, go ahead, I know you don't know how to shoot but just go ahead, there's a target, let's just say ten yards away, just go

ahead and shoot at that target. What do you think the reaction is going to be? What do you think is going to be the most accurate thing that they have there? I can tell you that the longer the gun is, the more accurate it's going to be. They're going to be more accurate with an AR, naturally, than they would be with the pistol. It's just the natural thing. You can go down and test it at any range.

You can train to shoot anything more accurately. That's true. But in the heat of a real gunfight, relying on your body's natural powers of being more accurate with a longer gun is a nice bonus to have. Because you know that when the adrenaline starts going, your heart starts pumping, it's up inside of your throat, you're going to lose a lot of those fine motor skills, and all those fancy aiming techniques that you learned in the relaxed atmosphere of the gun range that you've been going down to, you're going to lose some of that. But a longer gun is going to naturally be easier for you to shoot and be more accurate with.

Speaking of accuracy, that's the next factor that we're going to talk about. From the low ready, an AR is going to be more accurate on-demand than a pistol is. When you think about it, when you bring the pistol up you have to align those sights. Again, it just really comes back to the natural aiming of a longer gun, because it has a longer barrel there, there's a natural aiming that your eyes can pick up, as you have both eyes open and you are looking at your target. Especially if it's a moving target, especially if it's in low light, you have better aiming with a longer gun there, and you're going to be able to get the sights on-track faster than you would with a pistol.

It also has lower recoil and it's easier to control on follow-up shots than a pistol is as well. Especially when we're talking about a .223, the bullet itself is not that much bigger than a .22. If you look at the kick that you have—first of all, it's a two-handed weapon. So you have control resistance there because you've got more points of anchor on a larger weapon there, rather than on a pistol, which is going to kick up a lot more. So it's going to be more accurate naturally, but also on those follow-up shots when you actually—because it's going to not have as much recoil as a pistol is.

The third factor we're going to talk about is capacity. It's kind of a no-brainer there. Right? You have, let's just call it 30-round capacity. I'm not even talking about the hundred-round drums or anything like that. You have 30-round capacity typically in a magazine for an AR, versus a pistol, which we might be talking about 15 rounds or so, versus a shotgun that might only be five to eight. So we know that in a real gunfight most of your shots are going to miss your target, especially if we're talking about a pistol, because most of the time we're talking about pistols when we're talking about missing the target like that.

Now, you're going to have more rounds hit your target with an AR because you are going to be naturally more accurate with it, but some are going to miss. So when that happens, which would you rather have? I told you if you had a firearm, if all of these could do damage and hit your attacker would you rather have 8 rounds, 15 rounds or 30 rounds? I would much rather have 30 rounds.

I know there's a lot of people out there probably saying, if I can't get it done in 5 rounds, if I can't get it done in 8 rounds, or if I can't get it done in 15 rounds then there's something wrong with me. Well, you also need to look at the fact that you're going to be in your home. Right? As soon as bullets start flying, or as soon as somebody might—you caught them off-guard or whatever. You're not necessarily looking at somebody in an open parking lot that is charging at you and that target is getting closer to you.

You might be talking about somebody who is behind a wall, who is shooting at you from behind a wall, who might be hiding behind a couch or something like that, and you can't see them. Maybe they're concealed and you don't know where your rounds are going to hit. Well, you might have to shoot through walls. You might have to shoot through a couch. You might have to shoot through all these things, and you might not be hitting your target in that case either. If they're around the corner or something, you know they're around the corner, you might have to send a few rounds through that sheetrock in order to try and hit them. But you might not be hitting them. What if they're ducked down or whatever?

So I would much rather have 30 rounds there than trying to do a tactical reload on my pistol, or trying to load up some other shot shells in my shotgun. More ammo is always better.

The fourth factor I want to talk about is stopping power. I'm not going to go really deep into ballistics and proving the stopping power of an AR, of a .223 or a 5.56. It is a smaller bullet. Like I said, it is just slightly larger basically than a .22 round. Right? It's not as big as something like a 9mm or a .45, or definitely not more than something like a shotgun slug.

They say out there that more people are killed each year in the United States by a .22 than any other round. So if you follow that methodology, if you follow that philosophy, then that .223 round there—even though it's smaller than a 9mm, .45 and a slug, more people are killed by a .22 than any other round. Let's just say that that's complete fantasy. Let's say that's not even true. It doesn't even really matter. Whether you believe it or not, even though the bullet is slightly larger than a .22 the velocity of that round is much, much higher. And with the right bullet, that's going to stir up a bad guy's central nervous system just fine. More on that in a minute. I'll be going over some more on that.

But if you have any doubts of the lethality or the stopping power of the .223, there are plenty of dead bad guys on battlefields that will tell you it works just fine, because that's the bullet that's coming out of armed military's firearms. In fact, what's coming out of there is full metal jacket, just straight up brass, or just the bullet, not even a special man stopper bullet. So I think if you look at the battlefields, yes. People get shot, they go down. You can't argue with that. Right?

But let's talk about some of the noted drawbacks that there are, or perceived drawbacks, of the AR for home defense. The first one that a lot of people will bite back on is over penetration. That the rifle is just too powerful of a round and you are responsible for

every one of those rounds. You might have kids in the next room. Or it could go completely through the house and into your neighbor's house and shoot somebody there, and you're liable for all of those rounds. And that's absolutely true.

However, my very first rule of over penetration is that the best defense is accuracy. The best defense against over penetration is actually hitting your target. We've already said an AR is more accurate than a pistol, in general. So put rounds in bad guys. Put rounds in bad guys.

However, even with misses—there have been numerous law enforcement departments, to include the FBI, and independent tests that have been done also, that have proven that over penetration of the AR round is a falsehood. It is a myth. It is not true. There are numerous studies you can find out there. Just one that was done specifically to test this out was over at Lt. Colonel Jeff Cooper's Gunsite Training Center test, where they actually built up walls, interior and exterior, and another home's exterior wall after that, to really test this idea.

So what they did was where they had the shooter eight feet away, which is we're looking at common home defense ranges here, eight feet away they built an interior wall there, with sheetrock and two-by-four studs and things like that. Then after that, another eight feet away from that they put in another interior wall. Then eight feet from there, they put in an exterior wall to simulate the exterior of your own home. Then what they did was 15 feet away from your home's exterior wall, in this test they put in another exterior wall, simulating the house that would be next to yours. That's your neighbor's house. We're just saying 15 feet away.

So essentially, if you were to shoot at a bad guy and miss them, the rounds that you would be shooting in this test, or the ones that they did in this test, would go through—let's say into the room behind that person. But that's not an exterior room. That's an interior room. So it's going through one room, then a second room in your house, then your exterior wall, and then seeing if it would actually go into the wall of the other house across from you.

The results from that were actually pretty telling. First of all, all handgun calibers exited the exterior wall. So you would think that a pistol is not as high power of a weapon. Especially if you're using hollow point, it's going to stop that round. It's going to mushroom out. It's not going to leave the house. Especially it's not going to go through two rooms and then out of your house. Right? Well, no. All the handgun calibers did go through both interior rooms and out the other room.

Part of this is because those hollow point rounds that should mushroom out, in home defense once they hit sheetrock and stuff they mostly get plugged up and they actually end up not expanding. They end up just kind of being full metal jacket and they just don't stop. So that's one thing.

But the only caliber that did not exit the house, that did not leave your home, so to speak, was the .223 round, soft point and hollow point loaded bullets. That's it. That was all of them. But all projectiles that went through the walls, all of them had directional changes also. So hitting walls, hitting sheetrock, hitting whatever, it does take them off-course. And because of the velocity, if it's a lower velocity it's going to increase the misdirection of where that bullet is going to go.

So in other words, if you know that your kid's bed is up against the right side of the wall, and you've got to shoot at this guy and you shoot, that round, it's not going to take as straight of a path once it hits that wall behind him as it would a .223 round, because it has higher velocity. That round has higher velocity, it's a skinnier bullet, it has a straighter path as it goes through obstacles. From their test, the biggest directional changes came from 9mm and the .40 Smith and Wesson projectiles that they had.

Now listen, I actually want to be able to shoot through cover. I know a lot of people think, I would want that thing just to stop right there at the wall. Actually, in a home defense scenario you can pretty much bet if you're going to be slinging bullets back and forth with a bad guy in your home it's not really going to be across the living room with no obstacles in the way. Most likely somebody is going to be running. They're going to be running out into the hallway or into another room. They're going to try and get away from you shooting at them.

So you are probably going to have to—if you see that somebody's shooting around the corner of something—this always kills me in movies, why they don't do this. Somebody will be at the edge of the hallway and they're shooting around the corner. They come around. They shoot around the corner. Just shoot through the wall. That's all you need to do.

A lot of people just have that in their mind that they're not going to shoot through a wall because it looks solid. Right? But if you've got a bad guy and he keeps peeking around the wall, and you know he's right around the corner, don't wait for him to peek around and try and get that shot in. Just shoot through the wall. If you know you've got a good backstop there, or if you know you don't have any friendlies, your family is not behind there or whatever, you know where those rounds are going, shoot through the wall.

So I actually want to be able to shoot through it, but I want that round to go in the direction that I'm shooting at. A .223 round is going to have the best ability to be able to do that. So that's the over penetration myth busted right there.

Now let's talk about the legal myth. Because ARs are getting a bad rap as an assault rifle, and they may be looked at as overdoing it. We always talk about the legal side of home defense or carrying concealed. We talk about the legal side of that, which is critically important.

We talk about how you don't want to super trick out—you've got to be able to explain to a jury that you're not a gun nut. Right? Initially it might seem a little weird to be in

courtroom, and it seems logical that when they hold up this AR-15, that's getting this bad rap on television as this mass murder weapon, "Well sir, why didn't you have a pistol? You also own a Glock 19, 9 mm. Why did you have to take out this weapon of mass destruction here, that we know is killing several people all around the country, and kids? But this is a military style weapon. Why did you use this to defend yourself in your home?"

On the surface it might sound like something you really need to worry about. Right? Actually, the opposite can easily be argued. When you think about, and what we often talk about in the *Bulletproof Defense* DVD—that we give away for free, by the way. Go to BulletproofDefenseDVD.com. It's a free DVD we give out. Because it's what you know prior to you pulling the trigger that matters the most. It's called the reasonable man theory, or the reasonable man doctrine.

Basically what that is, is that the way the jury looks at your decision to shoot or injure somebody, kill somebody, whatever it is, what would a reasonable man do, given that same situation, knowing what he knew at the time that he pulled the trigger. So it's everything you knew up to the point that you pulled the trigger. As long as you can explain why you chose what you did, why you chose that AR-15 as your home defense weapon, and why you shot this person in your home with this weapon, that's all you need to do.

Right now I'm giving you the background. Just from the simple fact that you're listening to this podcast, that you're listening to me right now, you're getting all the backup that you need to be able to answer that question. Because you're going to be able to talk with them about, "Well Mr. Prosecutor, did you know that in the Gunsite Training Center test that the only round that did not escape the house, that had the least over penetration, was actually the AR-15? I care about my neighbors and I love my kids. So I don't want that bullet going into any more rooms than it has to. And I certainly don't want it going out of the house and hitting my neighbor sleeping in the bed next door. So of course I chose the AR-15. It would be irresponsible not to choose the AR-15."

So you'll be able to give them—that's just one fact that you can say, "Yeah, this is why I chose it. Because one, it's more accurate. So I'm not going to harm a loved one that I have. It's more accurate. It has less over penetration. But it's going to stop that attacker also." So you have the backup that you need. And actually, using an AR gives you that backup that you need.

Here's another thing that I think a lot of people are going to notice as a drawback for an AR-15, and that's the price. Because you can go out there and you can get an inexpensive handgun. You can use that for home defense. If that's where you want to start, that's totally fine. I do have a \$1,200 custom built—I'll tell you what it is, what I actually have. It's what I personally use. I'm going to explain what that is at the very end here. It cost me \$1,200, custom built. Yes. It's beautiful. I love it. I have a little alter to it. I get up in the morning. I meditate in front of it. I bow three times, sprinkle a little pixie dust on it and then I'm off to work.

But I also have a simple \$500 Bushmaster that I have, and that's less than the cost of the full size Glock pistol that I have. The thing is, neither my Bushmaster nor the other one that I'll be telling you about—they've never failed me. They've never failed me. I've sent thousands of rounds through them. They're a powerhouse. So it's worth the extra money. But you're not talking about a lot of extra money. So you can get a \$500 AR. You can get one used for even less than that. But they are out there. So you can get them and just start with that.

So hopefully I've convinced you now that an AR carbine rifle is a great home defense weapon. Now let me give you some other details that you want to look at when it comes to putting this thing together for yourself for home defense. One, you need to look at the ammunition that you have. I don't recommend that you just use the regular military style ball ammo that doesn't—that right there is going to continue to go on. That one actually did leave the exterior wall of the house in the tests that were done. So that round right there, you need to have something else that's going to pull back on that velocity as it's hitting stuff. The best way to do that is just to get an actual home defense, or an expanding if you will, hollow point round for the AR.

Personally what I recommend is 55 grain hollow point .223—Hornady super performance GMX bullet is a really good bullet. That's designed to do exactly what we're talking about here. It's great for stopping an attacker, but it's also good for keeping that round inside your house and keeping the over penetration down as well. Just make sure that you have a soft point or a hollow point type of a .223 round for you.

Now let's go ahead. Now I'm going to go to the big reveal. The big reveal. This is what I personally have. We're going to talk about modifications for the AR. But my biggest modification is that I don't use a full size AR-15 carbine for inside my house for home defense.

So what I personally use is an AR pistol. An AR pistol. If you haven't seen these, just go ahead and Google them, you can look them up online, essentially it is the framework of an AR, it's an AR platform, but it's classified as a pistol because of a couple of reasons. One, first of all, it does have a shorter barrel. So you have to be careful tricking it out because you could all of a sudden take it from being classified as a pistol to turning it into a short-barrel rifle, which unless you have it licensed correctly and you're licensed correctly, then that's going to be illegal. You definitely don't want that to be shown in a courtroom for that. Definitely having it as a short-barrel rifle, in a legal firearm and using it for home defense is not going to work out in your favor.

It doesn't have a forward grip on it, as far as a vertical grip. So you can't put a vertical grip on an AR pistol. It's not allowed to have a stock on it that you could put up against your shoulder, that is an actual stock. There is a way around this.

The AR pistol that I have, I'm holding it right now, only has a nine-inch barrel to it. So it is a short, if you want to call it a rifle, or a really long pistol. The other thing that I have, because you can get AR pistols with a buffer tube on the back, which is basically this

tube that sticks out the back to be able to limit the recoil. Or you can get it without the buffer tube. My recommendation is that you get it with the buffer tube, to be able to reduce the recoil. But also, you can use that. It's not considered a stock. It's the buffer tube. So you can put that up against your cheek. You can put it in the pocket of your shoulder. You can use it like it's a stock, to be able to handle the recoil.

So go online. If you don't know what an AR pistol is, you can go and check it out. They are still legal right now, so go ahead and do it. But it does shoot .223 and/or 5.56, depending on which one you get. But it's what I personally choose, and here's why.

For one, it's much lighter and it's smaller. That works better for close quarters environments, like in your home. So if you are needing to clear rooms, or you need to slice the pie in moving around your home, be able to get over to your kid's room or something like that, having a smaller weapon like a handgun works best because it has such a small profile. You can maneuver. You don't have to worry about banging into walls, or it getting caught up on stuff, or just being clunky. So the smaller weapon that you have, the easier it's going to be to be able to do that.

The AR pistol is smaller than an AR rifle. So it is going to be better for you in close quarters. And it's smaller, obviously, than a shotgun also. So it is going to be better for close quarters, and your home I consider a close quarters environment. So really what you get are the best of both worlds, between pistol maneuverability and rifle accuracy and stopping power.

The other thing is that the AR pistol can be fired with one hand easier than a full sized AR can. You can fire a full sized AR. Like I said, we're not talking about a lot of kickback from a .223 round. But with the AR pistol, I can literally shoot that like a pistol. Not as well as a Glock 19 or something like that. It's not going to handle that easily.

But you can do it with one hand. You can do it with one hand. So in case you're wounded, you don't have to worry about having a two-handed weapon. You can fire that thing one-handed if you need to. Or if you're doing other tasks, like opening a door, or you are holding your child, or you have your spouse behind you or something like that, you're doing something with the other hand, you can use that AR pistol with one hand and be able to effectively engage an attacker with it.

You do lose a little bit of velocity because of the shorter barrel. Like I said, mine is only nine inches long. But you're still getting a massive amount of velocity for stopping power. And yet with this, because it is a little bit loss of velocity there, you have less possibility of over penetration. So you have even less possibility of penetrating walls and that round going where you don't want it to go.

So that's why I like the AR pistol as my primary home defense weapon. There are things that I would recommend that you add. Whether you go with an AR pistol or whether you go with a regular AR carbine rifle. I do recommend that you go with a carbine—basically a carbine, the barrel is generally shorter than 20 inches. Most of them you see out there

I think will have 19 inch barrels. So that's not hard to do. But you don't want a really long sized AR that you want there. You want something as short as possible there. That's why I like the AR pistol.

The AR pistol is more expensive. Like I said, I paid \$1,200 to trick mine out. You can get them less than that. I've seen them for \$700, \$750, which to me, that's a good investment. I think it's a really good investment.

So whether you use an AR pistol or whether you use an AR, I'm going to give you other things that you can add to this that you're going to want to think of. Number one, which I think I've said everything except for—in the home defense one, is to get a sling for it, because you might have to put the weapon down. Or you can use that sling for being more accurate too.

So you definitely want to have a sling on any two-handed weapon that you have. The shotgun, we talked about that. But also definitely for the AR. And even for the AR pistol as well. Even as small as it is, you want to have a sling on it so that you can put that thing behind you. You can put it down or whatever. You don't have to drop it or leave it on a table, or something like that. It's always going to be with you, no matter where you go.

The second thing is going to be to add a light to it. Again, we're talking about home defense. In your home, sometimes even in dark spaces, and sometimes in a dark environment in your home. Even during daylight, some people have darker homes than others. There's not as much sunlight coming through. Things like that.

So you definitely don't want to shoot anything that you can't identify as being the bad guy. You don't want it to be drunk Uncle Albert who knows where you hide the key, who got kicked out of his home by Aunt Agnes, and all of a sudden he decides that he's going to stumble in the front door because he knows you'll let him sleep on the couch. You wake up. It's bump in the nighttime. You break out the AR. You just start shooting because it looks like a man-sized target there and that shouldn't be in your house, and that's drunken Uncle Albert.

So you definitely need a light to add on the weapon. Again, I recommend that you use—with a two-handed weapon you use a rail mounted light, so that you don't have to have it in your hand at the same time to be able to show around the room. So that's definitely a must-have.

The other thing is to add a red dot sight to it. Red dot sight. Why a red dot sight? Because it's super simple, folks. Super simple. You can keep both eyes open. You place the red dot on the threat. You squeeze the trigger. So you don't have to worry. Especially in a low light environment, getting your aim down there, especially with things like a handgun, trying to get those sights lined up in the dark is difficult. Right? Not as difficult with an AR because it is a longer gun. It's easier to point and shoot and be more

accurate. However, having a red dot sight, just put the red dot on the person, squeeze the trigger and go.

Especially for the AR pistol, but even for the AR, I prefer a higher profile red dot sight. I have a Holosun that I use. The reason why I say a higher profile one there is because the low profile ones that look like a windshield basically, they're so far down that you have to bring that weapon up really high to be able to see that red dot.

So with the higher profile red dot, you don't have to bring the weapon up as high, because with the buffer tube there, using that in your shoulder, if you're going to do that and put your nose on the charging handle for the AR, you're going to be looking down toward the tip of your rifle. So you need a higher profile red dot, so that you can actually see through the red dot and hit it.

Most likely with an AR, in home defense you need to know that you are going to be shooting naturally a little bit lower. Usually about two to three inches or so lower than where you're aiming, simply because of the way that the sights are on ARs and where you line them up and where the actual barrel is pointing. So that's just a natural thing.

But when we're talking about in close quarters two to three inches just being lower, as long as your center of mass—center meaning the center of your body, trying to hit that spinal cord—then you're going to be fine. It's not going to be a big deal there. But having that higher profile red dot sight, I definitely recommend having it because it's going to be easier to look through the sight. Especially with both eyes open, it's just going to be right there for you.

So four-week summary here. We've gone over the best handguns, the best shotguns. We've gone over how to look at your home differently. Now you've got my best personal pick for home defense, the AR-15 platform carbine rifle, specifically—hopefully—in an AR pistol format. Again, you can get the show notes for this by going over to www.MCSMagazine.com/170.

But here's what I want to leave you with. In the end, again, it all comes down to, number one, what you can personally choose to use in a home defense scenario. What you personally feel most comfortable with. Me being in the military, being in combat, the AR platform is what I know. It's an extension of my body. So that's what you want, is you want—you don't want to have to think about how you're engaging your attacker with that firearm. You want to be able to know that firearm inside and out, where it is an extension of your body.

For me an AR is an extension of my body. It might not be for you. You might not have one. You might have not ever been in the military. You might not ever go to the range and take it to the range, or whatever. You might be better with a pistol. All that matters is you get lead in the bad guy. It doesn't matter where it is. If you blow off his big toe, it's going to have some reaction on the person. You've just got to be able to get rounds on-

target. For me an AR, for all the reasons that I said, is the ideal home defense weapon. But again, it's whatever it comes down to is best for you.

The second thing I'll say there is that it mostly comes down to tactics. It mostly comes down to tactics. Most people are going to be far better off practicing with what you have, and practicing tactics with what you have, than worrying about what is the best home defense firearm. So whatever you choose, the key here is to go and practice with it.

You can do dry fire right in your own home with your pistol, with your shotgun, with an AR, with an AR pistol, with a bazooka. Whatever you personally choose, it's the dry fire tactics, I believe, which are more effective than going to the range. So it's the tactics. Do you know your home? Have you practiced those zones within your home? Have you practiced going through those zones? Have you practiced moving from the kitchen up to your safe room? Have you practiced all those things? That is going to help you far more than deciding whether or not you've got the right caliber or the right pistol or the right rifle.

Whatever it is, it mostly comes down to tactics. So never, ever, ever forget that. Don't be one of the gun guys who just thinks that having the biggest, baddest smoke wagon out there is going to be the number one thing you need.

All right, folks. So that wraps up our four episodes for home defense weapons and tactics. But now I want to hear from you. So please leave a comment on the blog about whether or not you personally use an AR-15 for home defense, what modifications have you made to it, what have you done to make sure that it is a good home defense weapon, or do you not think that the AR is a good home defense weapon and why? Don't just say it isn't. Give us the reasons why.

This is all professional conversation that we have on the blog. Please respect everybody's opinions. You have mine. I'll respect yours. I'm looking forward to hearing what your opinion is as well. So make sure that you head on over to the blog and check it out.

Until our next *Modern Combat and Survival* broadcast, this is Jeff Anderson saying prepare, train and survive.