

Podcast #217 Transcription: CCW Ankle Holster Tactics

Jeff Anderson: Hey there, welcome back. This is Jeff Anderson, editor for Modern Combat and Survival Magazine and Executive Director for 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.

Ankle care for concealed carry. You pretty much have ... There are people on both sides. There are people that love ankle carry. There are people that hate ankle carry. Just like, I guess like any other thing that's out there, when it comes to concealed carry. There are a lot of benefits to ankle carry. For one, it is highly concealable underneath your pants. I mean, when you think about it, most people are never looking at your feet.

I know women are out there, probably listening ... I know you probably look at women's feet to see what shoes they're wearing right? Guys, you know, we don't really care about shoes all that much, at least real men right? Women aren't necessarily looking, and guys certainly aren't necessarily looking at what shoes you're wearing. Most people aren't looking down. An ankle holster can be really easy to conceal underneath your pants, right? Even if you can see it printing, even if you can see a little, bit, usually the natural lines of the pants or the way that they sag in certain areas ... There's, ways to conceal it very, very easily there.

The other thing is that, if done right, the ankle holster can be very comfortable to wear. Okay? This is usually what keeps people from even trying ankle carry is, they figure, "Well, I don't want some gun flopping around on my ankle." It can be, if done right, it can be a comfortable way to wear your firearm, all right? The other thing is that, it can be ... Now, I'm putting air quotes around that. It can be advantageous to use an ankle carry holster when it comes to a close quarter ambush. In some cases, it might even be more beneficial for you than traditional waist line carry. I'll go over what that is in a second.

Before that, let me cover a few of the drawbacks for ankle carry as well. If you do carry a heavier firearm in an ankle holster, it can flop around quite a bit, right? It is heavier. Every time you're walking, every other step is going to be the leg that has, or the ankle that has your firearm on it. Naturally, as you're walking along, it's possible if it's a heavier gun, it's gonna flop around some, right? It's gonna move around. That right there, combined with the ankle ... Drawing from an ankle holster requires you to be in an unusual body position.

Normally, you would go down to one leg, kind of like kneel on one leg and you would draw it from that kneeling position, that one leg kneeling position. You have to pretty much do that. There are similar techniques that I've seen people do out there, where you basically lie on your back and you grab it as ... There's,

ways, that people are trying to get around the drawbacks of ankle holster carry, and the draw stroke. The fact is, is it requires you to do something different, than what you normally would, if you were carrying it like Appendix carry, or back on your hip, right? If you're not carrying it the way that I will be showing you, all right. If you don't have that option then it can be kind of, a real hassle to kind of get there, all right?

Now, I'll let everybody know ... If you're a New World Patriot Alliance member, make sure that you log in to the members, area. Go check out when we're gonna have our deep dive for backup guns. We're gonna go deep into choosing a good backup gun, how to choose the right backup gun, how to carry it, how to conceal it, how to deploy it, all those things, right? What we're talking about right now is specifically one of the ways that you can carry a backup gun, which is ankle holster.

I have three quick tips that I wanna share with you right now. Before I jump into them, I wanna make sure that you keep an open mind, all right? As usual, some of, the things that I'm gonna suggest are often the exact opposite of what you're gonna hear other trainers tell you. All I ask is, keep an open mind, listen to my reasoning and then make an educated decision.

As always ... Listen, I'm always open to professional respectful debate, or any other ideas, right? I'm a perpetual learner. I love to get feedback. I always reserve the right to be wrong. I would love to hear your thoughts and feedback on some of, the techniques I'm gonna be talking as well, or if you have any experience with ankle carry, definitely make sure that you lead a comment in the blog for this episode, so that we can kind of keep the conversation going, right?

Okay. All right. Let me go ahead and jump into these three quick tips now. One, is, with your ankle holster, highly recommend that you have one that has an additional calf strap. Again, we talked about one of the drawbacks is, when you walk, your gun leg, if you will, is moving with every other step there. Actually, it's always moving, right? The gun can ride down your ankle, and if you had it set for higher on your ankle, higher on your calf, where it was more comfortable for you, all of a sudden, when it drops down, to the thinner part of your ankle, now it really kind of rotating around.

Now it really is flopping. It can be kind of, a difficult thing to keep that in one location. Well, that's where the calf strap comes in, right? Basically, this is like an additional strap that goes around, like it's connected to the actual holster part, which typically Velcros around your ankle. And then, the calf strap will actually go around the top of your calf. It's basically like suspenders for your holster. That's gonna keep it from swinging down, and even getting into a different position. If you wanna see what these are, you can actually ... Ankle holster's really aren't that expensive.

In fact, you can get a free one that actually has the calf strap on it, and it's very comfortable. You can go ... All you have to do is just go to www.mcsmagazine.com/ankle. I'll have that pointing over to a place where right now, you can get one for free. You can go check that out there. There will also be a link down in the show notes on the blog post where this episode is as well, right? You definitely, wanna make sure that comfort is important here, and that calf strap is gonna also make sure that it stays in one place there. All right. Make sure that your ankle holster has a calf strap.

Okay. Tip number two. This is where we're gonna start ... This is where I'm really gonna fly in the face of traditional tactical firearms training out there, right? Most people ... Everyone teaches, that you wanna wear your ankle holster on the inside of your off side ankle. All right? If, for example, if I'm a right-handed shooter, then I would carry ... I would attach the ankle holster to my left ankle, and the firearm would be on the inside of my leg. The reason for that, typically what instructors will tell you, is because you naturally step forward with your opposite leg. You can draw with your dominant hand from there. Okay?

As we say in our extreme close combat shooting course, most gun fights happen less than nine feet away. Chances of you having to fight to your gun, is gonna be very high at that distance, right? When you're looking at that ... You're gonna have to fight to your gun, we also say in the self defense world, that most fights, most real fights that happen on the street ... In fact, the number that's thrown out there is 80%, right, will go to the ground. Let's pull all that together.

Most attacks are gonna happen ... If you're in a self defense shooting, most attacks are gonna happen less than nine feet away. You are most likely gonna have to fight to get to your gun, okay, especially if you've got an ankle holster, right? Most fights are gonna go to the ground, and end up in a wrestling match.

The reason why that happens is, because most people are not ... They don't know how to fight in close quarters. They don't know how to fight that close to somebody. Most people when they think about fighting, or like at ... They're basically in boxing mode. You're trying to get that hay maker punch in. What ends up happening is, people end up grabbing onto each other, wrestling around, and that ends up going to the ground.

Earlier, I said that in some cases, ankle carry could be even more advantageous than traditional waste line carry, right? Ground fighting is one of those scenarios. When we look at it from the standpoint of it if ... Let's say you're using Appendix carrier, which I do carry Appendix carry with my primary firearm. Let's say that I have an Appendix carry, or a [inaudible] carry. My firearm is inside my waste band and it's in front of my body.

If things go to the ground, and I have an attacker on top of me, that's trying to punch away at me, he's gonna be sitting on my gun. Right? He's gonna be sitting on my gun. If I have it where, if I'm using it inside the waistband and I have it at the 3:30 position, behind my right side hip ... I'm a right hand shooter. If I got it

a 3:30 position back there, and I've got somebody on top of me. Again, then it's basically behind me. It's gonna be really tough to get to that thing, without trying to roll over, right?

Now, the same thing goes, let's say if you have somebody on top of you. Same thing happens if you're mounting him. If you get the superior position, you're on top of this guy, and you're able to, basically pin him down, and you're gonna start hitting him, but you wanna get to your firearm, because you wanna end this fight fast. This is a life or death struggle here. Well, the Appendix carry is still really tough. This guy's hands are right in front of him. He's gonna be battling it out with you, right? It's gonna be tough for you. Your hands are gonna get tied up there, trying to get your Appendix carry out there.

Now, if you're carrying it back in the 3:30 position, right, back behind your hip ... Right side is 3:30, right? If you're carrying it there, that's easier to get to. I can reach behind me, cause I'm on top of this guy. I'm gonna have better options there, be able to get to it. In that, kind of that wrestling mode that you're in there, your attacker can really easily feel, he's gonna feel the gun that's on your waist. It's gonna be something that's gonna feel weird, especially if you got a full size firearm there. He's gonna feel that gun. If you're tied up, if for some reason he gets a better position on you, in that struggle, and he's knows you have a firearm, he can take that firearm out, if he's got good positioning and use it on you. Right?

Okay. This is where ankle carry, really can help you. I want you to think about the way that other instructors tell you to carry it, right, on the inside of your off leg. Now, whether you're on top or you're on bottom in a ground fight, having the gun on the inside of either leg, means that it's pretty much gonna be impossible for you to get to it with your dominant hand, with either of your hands really, right? If you got it, let's say on the inside. I've got it on the inside of my left ankle, I've got to reach, I mean, with my dominant hand. I can't get over there at all, right? I can't reach behind this person, that's trying to wrestle me out there. That's gonna be impossible.

Maybe on my left side, I can reach down there and get it, but if it's on the inside of my leg, that's a really ... I gotta really contort my hand to be able to get over there, to be able to get a grip on the firearm to be able to get it out of that holster, right? That becomes really, really tough there. If I've got it instead, where I tell you to put it, which is on your dominant side, okay, your dominant side, on the outside of your leg. I'm a right handed shooter. I carry my ankle carry on my right leg, and it's on the outside of my body. Okay? That's completely the opposite of what other people are pretty much telling you to do.

Now, for one thing, it's not as easily felt by your attacker. If it's on the outside of your leg, then if your legs wrapped around this person, or something like that, then it's possible ... They're not gonna feel that as easily, right? That way, they're not gonna think it to go after your firearm. If it is on the outside of my

leg there, whether I'm on top or whether I'm on the bottom, this is where I can reach around.

If I'm on the bottom, I'm reaching through with my hand, and I'm reaching down on my ankle. I can most often get my right leg up to where I can shield with my left hand, shield my head, so he's probably striking away at my face. I can cover myself up with one hand, and with my other hand, I can bring my right leg up to me. It's already on the outside. It gives me better reach, to the firearm itself. It gives me more clearance, because I don't have this person's body blocking where I'm trying to get to the gun, or trying to draw the weapon that on the outside.

Typically, I'm gonna be able to get my foot on the outside of his, be able to reach it with my right hand, to be able to use it. That's my dominant hand. Even if it is my ... If I have to use my ... Well, that's most likely what I would do is, I would use my dominant hand. It does get really, really tricky actually, to get across there with your non firing hand. Again, I'm gonna use that arm to be able to cover up, and get to my firearm in the other thing, with my other hand, all right? That's why I suggest that you carry it there.

Now, one of the other drawbacks of ankle carry that I talked about, is that it can be harder to get to, because of your body position. Also, it's harder to get to, because you have to be able to pull up your pant leg, to be able to access the holster to begin with, right, to be able to get to your firearm. Unless you're wearing those wider range pants, those tactical pants, you wear those everywhere ... If you're wearing something like jeans, some dungarees, then that's gonna be, actually tighter.

Now, again, you might still [inaudible] the firearm. Again, don't worry about concealment. Again, I've never seen ... It's really hard to pick it out. I often times wear my jeans place, right? It is tighter around there. You kind of have to crank up on the jeans here. Tip number three, is going to help you get around that, that obstacle there, especially if you're in a ground fight or something. Now you've got one hand to try, and lift your pant leg up to be able to get to it.

Well, there is actually a simple fix with this in tip number three. That is, to take your jeans to a tailor, which most dry cleaning stores have some sort of tailor in there. And then, what I do, is I replace 12 inches of the outside seam on my dominant shooting side, with Velcro. About 12 inches, I would just take it in. In fact, just grab ... As soon as buy the jeans, I pretty much just go straight over to my dry cleaners, over to my tailor, and they already know what to do.

They just un-stitch it. They put in a heavy Velcro, so it's a really tight Velcro. It's super easy to rip off, but it's not gonna go ... You know, over time it's still gonna maintain it's velcroiness. What that does is, it allows you that, when you go down there, it looks like regular jeans, but when you go down there, or you can use other pants too ... When you go down to grab it, you pull it ... You can pull it apart and that way you actually, even with one hand, you can easily, much more

easily get to your firearm there, all right? That's another quick tip that'll help you with it as well.

Okay, those are my three tips for backup guns. Again, if you are a New World Patriot Alliance member, make sure that you go and put our next master class on your calendar, cause we're gonna be doing a super deep dive into backup guns, everything from compacts all the way down to pocket pistols and things like that. If you're not an NMPA member, you can go ahead and sign up for a test drive for one dollar, to make sure that you can join us for that master class and give us a test drive and see if you wanna stay on as a member. You just go over to www.newworldpatriot.org.

Next week, we're gonna be talking a little, bit more about this, it's kind of this topic, but we're gonna be staying with backup guns. We're gonna specifically be talking about pocket pistols. I'm gonna give you a primer on pocket pistols and the three biggest mistakes that I see people make, when they're employing a pocket pistol for concealed carry, all right? It's all coming up next week. Until our next Modern Combat and Survival broadcast, this is Jeff Anderson saying, prepare, train, and survive.