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**Episode #330 Show Notes**

**Gun Debate: Should Your Concealed Carry Gun Have A Manual Safety?**

## JEFF ANDERSON

[WWW.WARRIORLIFE.COM](http://www.warriorlife.com)



Jeff Anderson spent ten years in light infantry in the military and is a combat war veteran. Most of Jeff's military service was spent with the 10th Mountain Division – an elite light infantry force of highly trained warriors specially trained for warfare under all conditions – arctic, jungle, desert, mountains, urban terrain – you name it.

After 10 years of military training in additional elite infantry units around the world, Jeff began working as a security consultant and executive protection specialist for private clients and the entertainment industry, eventually earning his industry recognized Certified Protection Professional (CPP) designation. Later, he went on to instruct hand-to-hand combat and weapons combat and eventually organized a unique combatives association focused on all areas of survival, called The International Society Of Close Quarter Combatants ([www.ISCQC.org](http://www.ISCQC.org)).

Jeff's work has been published in several magazines and expert blogs and his manuals and survival combat training DVDs have long been best-sellers. As the Editor in Chief of Modern Combat & Survival, a publication of the ISCQC that provided focused training strategies for all areas of survival for men and women of all walks of life, Jeff determined the next step: the lifestyle brand **Warrior Life**. To learn more about *Warrior Life* and the way of life it promotes, [visit us online](#).



# Gun Debate: Should Your Concealed Carry Gun Have A Manual Safety?

with Jeff Anderson from <https://www.WarriorLife.com/>

## Pistol Conditions

Our discussion focuses mainly on...

- Condition 1: A round is chambered, a magazine is inserted, and the hammer is cocked
- Condition 0: A round is chambered, a magazine is inserted, the hammer is cocked, and the safety is off.
- There are also striker fired guns like Glocks, which have passive or “automatic” safety mechanisms that are not external/manual. You pull the trigger and the gun fires as long as a round is chambered and the striker is cocked internally.

## Manual Safety Arguments

There are two main arguments:

- Manual safety advocates argue that it's not safe to wear or DRAW your weapon WITHOUT a manual safety.
- Manual safety detractors say you most likely won't be able to employ your weapon effectively in a real attack if it has a manual safety, because you won't think to disengage it while all that adrenaline is coursing through you.

## Negligent Discharges?

Advocates for manual, external safeties worry about “Glock Leg.”

- The gun is more likely to go off due to a holster malfunction without a manual safety, they argue.
- If you have a manual safety, even if your finger touches the trigger, you still have to disengage the safety actively, which gives you another level of protection.
- My first negligent discharge happened when I drew my Glock. I was a beginner and inexperienced. My first handgun, a Beretta 92F, had a manual safety, and I developed “training scars” working with that gun.
- HOWEVER: A manual safety is not a “real” safety, and can give you a false sense of security. Plenty of people have been shot accidentally with guns that had manual safeties, too.

## Arguments Against The Manual Safety

Will you be able to disengage the safety under the adrenaline rush of a real attack?

- Knowing there's no manual safety on my Glock makes me more aware of my line of fire.
- Always follow the 4 rules of gun safety. All guns are always loaded, never point the weapon at anything you don't want to destroy, keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are on the target, and know your target and what's beyond it.
- Manual safety advocates argue that you can train to make it instinctive to disengage the safety under adrenaline... but few ever do so.

- It's hard to reproduce the "pucker factor" of a real-life fight for your life.
- Always prepare for the worst-case scenario.

## **If You Carry A Gun Without A Manual Safety...**

- Never carry a gun without a manual safety OUT of a holster (like pocket carry or off-body carry in a bag or purse). Don't even put it on your nightstand like that.
- Have a holster that you can trust. Leather holsters wear and may work their way into the trigger guard over time. Kydex or ABS plastic is preferable.
- I'll admit an ND is more likely without a manual safety, and this makes training MORE important. You need to train so you don't put your finger in the trigger, because this is how we NATURALLY grip things.
- With your finger on the trigger, you will naturally squeeze in reaction to a threat.
- You will not naturally index your finger along the frame without training.

The solution is to practice with DRY FIRE. The live-fire range is to confirm your training!

## **I Want To Hear From You!**

- Head on over to Warrior Life and leave a comment for this podcast.
- Do you prefer a manual safety? Why or why not?
- What and how do you carry?
- What are your thoughts on this topic?
- Warrior life is all about your participation, so we look forward to hearing from you!

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Hey, what's up, Warriors? It is Jeff, from warrior life dot com and welcome to podcast episode number 330. Okay, I am a glutton for punishment. I admit it, I thought, Why not open up the debate bag for this week's episode on whether or not you should have a manual safety on your hand gun or not, and either side of the aisle that you're on with this. Get ready to get your panties in a wad because I have some harsh realities for both sides of this argument, and I'll even give you my own personal recommendations for you to throw stones at as well. It's all coming it up. But, hey, don't worry about taking notes, because we've done all the heavy lifting for you with this week's free Show notes, including your handy dandy one page cheat sheet covering all the main points. All you have to do is head on over to [www dot warrior life podcast dot com slash 3 30](http://www.warriorlifepodcast.com/330) download it all absolutely free. Now let the bitching begin.

Tactical firearms training, Urban survival, Close quarters combat. Welcome to the show that helps you better prepare for any threat you may face in your role as a protector and a patriot. This is the warrior life podcast.

All right, welcome back, everybody. This is Jeff Anderson, executive director of warrior life dot com. With another podcast Help! You better prepare for any threat you may face in your role as a protector. And the patriot and boy do I love a good online debate, right? Andi, I have to admit, today's topic is one of my favorites because they're actually valid arguments to both sides here. And frankly, it's just fun to watch everyone get all uptight about how there's only like one answer to a problem that clearly has far too many variables. Toe. Have a one stop solution to it now. I'm talking this week about whether or not the handgun that you carry, and in this case, we're talking about an automatic, not a revolver, whether it should have a manual safety on it or not. Now, to be clear, for those of you who may be new to handguns, I'm referring to the mechanism on most semiautomatic handguns that must be manually switched off, typically like with your firing hand thumb. But not always in order for the weapon to fire. Now, in contrast, there handgun versions out there. They're called safety list guns, which I don't agree with this term.

But it's simple enough for understanding purposes for this thing, and they don't require you to manually switch anything off to get the gun to go bang. The most notable of

these they get so much attention is the Glock striker fired pistol that has an integrated safety system involved with it that helps prevent a negligent discharge. Now, I should warn you that the decision to use a gun with or without Emmanuel safety is one of those arguments that always runs the risk of the never ending. What if scenarios that supposedly proves that one argument is more valid than another? In reality, nothing is foolproof, and there's always going to be a what if scenario where one method will be better than another. So please keep this in mind as we're talking about this right, but the purposes of this week's discussion I'm going to ask you to keep an open mind, listen to both sides of the argument, and I'll give you my own ideas and thoughts on the topic, and I promise to do the same and listen to your input as well and discuss things on our website over at warrior life dot com, where this podcast is hanging out. Um, I always love to hear from you and engage in professional, respectful debate. So please do leave your comments on this and be respectful of other people's opinions here. Okay, Finally, the context I'm going to be discussing with you in this episode is whether the manual safety is the right choice, mainly in relation to you having the weapon on your person in a concealed carry position, not sitting in a gun safe somewhere for those of you who own a gun for like a home defense scenario, and that if you are carrying that there's around already loaded in the chamber when you draw. So based on this, while there are five basically what we call conditions of carrying what we're talking about, our condition one where with a pistol has a manual safety on it around is in the chamber magazine is inserted and the hammer is cocked and the safety is engaged, or Condition zero, which is around his chamber to magazine is inserted, the hammer is cocked with the safety off or, in this case of a hand gun, like a Glock, which is a striker fired weapon that has a built in passive or like automatic safety mechanism that doesn't require you to manually get it ready to fire. It's built in where you all you have to do is pull the trigger.

It's gonna make the gun go bang. Alright, okay. With all this being said, there are two main argument pivots that I see most people focusing on when it comes to manual safeties, and that is one. The proponents of having Emmanuel safety argue that it's just not safe to where or draw your weapon without Emmanuel safety on it, it's just not safe. Do you have too many risks there for the gun going off either, even if it's in a holster or when you're taking it out, that you're gonna to quickly put your finger on the trigger and the gun is gonna go off because you're going to squeeze it too quickly? All right, then there are those who don't like manual safeties with the argument that you most likely won't be able to effectively employ weapon or take off the safety and a



real attack. If it has that manual safety because you will, you won't be able to think fast enough or effectively enough to disengage that safety with all that adrenaline coursing through your veins. Alright, so let's take a look at those two arguments. So the first one here, negligent discharge when the gun is worn are being drawn. The argument is that if you don't have a safety, the gun is more likely to go off. Do the holster malfunctions or if it falls out of the holster or you're more likely to shoot yourself as you're drawing it out of the holster, a k a. Glock leg, where you're pulling it out of the holster. Your finger goes on that trigger. You pull it and it goes off. Whereas if you have a manual safety, even if your finger goes on the trigger, you still have to actively disengaged the safety, and this gives you another level of protection There. Now, I haven't admission here because my first negligent discharge, actually my only negligent discharge was drawing my Glock handgun from a concealed position when I first began training with it, and I have to really chalk that up to inexperience with not having a manual safety to manipulate their. My first handgun was a Beretta nine millimeter. It had a manual safety to it, and I didn't realize that I actually picked up some training scars from being used to that manual safety. So I can personally attest that there is an argument here for the advantage of having a manual safety to avoid sending Ebola in a direction that you didn't want to go in. Fortunately, nobody got hurt with my negligent discharge. That round landed that it went off as I was as I was drawing my handgun from concealment went off about, I'd say about, like, three of the 3 to 4 ft off in front of me right in front of me there. But let me give you a few items to chew on here. First of all, Emmanuel safety is not a real safety,

Okay, so for the people that that are arguing for the manual safe for the use of Emmanuel safety, it's not a real safety, and unfortunately it could give you a false sense of security. You know for all of those stories. And what if scenarios You hear about a negligent discharge from someone like me carrying a Glock or another weapon with a passive safety system? How many times have you also heard of someone shooting themselves or someone else? Because they just swore that their handgun safety was on? Okay, it's not a real safety. You can have a real false sense of security in thinking that you had it on an accident. The reality is, an accidental discharge can happen either way. So it's not really an answer for either argument on this side. Right? OK, so now let's look at the argument you may that many have against Emanuel safety. And that is that those who don't like manual safeties have the argument that you most likely won't be able to take your weapon off of safe in a real attack because you've got to think about it. You're not gonna have your mind, and you're gonna have



this adrenaline dump. You're not gonna able to effectively make sure that it's out there. You're gonna go to pull the trigger. It's still gonna be on safe, and you're losing valuable microseconds. There where you have an attacker in front of you and all of a sudden you're trying to figure out why the gun isn't going bank. So for me, I can tell you that. Mm there there is an argument for this and that. I wanna make sure that when I pull the trigger, I know it's gonna go bang, all right? And there is something to be said about the adrenaline dump that you're going to get out of this. Now, of course, most people will tell you that while they'll recognize that this is a an argument for those people that do love or do you choose to have a manual safety, they recognize there is an argument for this. But of course, they'll also tell you that you just simply need to train enough to draw and take the weapons off of safe in the same movement and that this will just be second nature in a real attack. In other words, there is the thought that training and practice can overcome anything. Well, there's never going to be an end to this debate.

I can promise you that. And this really does. This really ends up becoming where things really get down to name calling in the forums and things. Now I'm not saying it's impossible to be able to train your way to taking off the safety while you're drawing but a couple of points here. So number one. While most tactical Fanboys talk a good game about weapon practice, if you ever actually do it, I can tell you few people ever actually trained to the point where this becomes so second nature that you're able to do it and not have to worry about it. All right, so that's number one is getting in enough practice. But here's the other thing. Point number two on this is that I like and gun trained to the same thing that I've seen over and over again in self defense training out there. Everything seems to work fine in training until you have some £300 thug trying to disembowel you with a broken beer bottle. It's really hard to reproduce this type of pucker factor in your training, and you don't know what you're going to do until you're actually in the battle and I'm going to test to this. You really don't know what's gonna happen until you're actually in the fight. Now, for all of you safety purists out there who think that I'm challenging you that you're not smart enough to be able to draw and take your weapon off of safe at the same time, Maybe you can maybe you can. All I'm saying is that you don't really know until the moment of truth. Okay, so for those of you just want me to get to the end of the story and tell you what's the answer. Manual safety or not? Well, here's the bottom line considerations that you really should consider. But I'm not saying this is the bottom line on your own personal choice. All right, for me, I choose to carry an automatic handgun without a safety. And yes, I am a



Glock Fanboy for my own personal concealed carry platform. Personally, I believe in preparing for the worst case scenario. For me, that means that I'm ambushed without warning. I have to fight to my gun. I've on Lee got a split second to be able to get it into the fight. Once I actually do reach it, and I'm going to be at pucker factor 1000 with the adrenaline dump of my life being on the line, that adrenaline just coursing through my veins. That means that I'll have less fine motor skills at my calling. I may not have my wits nor the dexterity to switch off Emmanuel safety when I need it the most. I need that gun to go bang when I pull the trigger. Now I will admit that an accidental discharge is more likely to happen with a firearm without Emmanuel safety. That includes someone picking up the weapon if it wasn't intended for them like a child in the home.

That's the nature of the reason why there's a manual safety in the first place to avoid an accident. And that's why I don't like for them to be called accidental discharges. I prefer to them be called negligent, negligent discharges because there shouldn't be any accidents. If a child got hold of a gun. If your gun fell out of its holster, as you did a flip on the dance floor at a wedding, yes, that actually happened. Or you mashed your booger hook on the trigger too soon when drawing your weapon. None of those air accidents. They can all be avoided if you're not negligent. Alright, so in my opinion, you have to handle every handgun as though it's loaded and the safety is off anyway. Right for me, this is another argument for a passive or a non manual safety. Because even if you do have Emmanuel safety, it can be taken off of safe from being snagged on clothing. Maybe accidentally taken off safe when you were whole string it or a whole string it or even just forgot to put it back on safe when it was being holstered those air, all negligent actions. Therefore, you shouldn't have different rules for different safety platforms. If this is the case and if in a real attack not having a manual safety is an advantage, then why not take advantage of that advantage? Okay, But again, as I said, this is not I'm not saying that this is the bottom line of your own personal choice. In the end, none of what I said is meant to be the NB all and all advice for what you should personally choose. And here it is. Don't let anyone tell you what you must have in order to be prepared. It's your life. It's your gun. If you feel safer with a manual safety, you should get a gun with Emmanuel Safety. There's nothing wrong with you if you want a manual safety on your handgun. There's also nothing wrong with you if you want to have a gun without Emmanuel safety like me. But just know that there are responsibilities on both sides there. Also, if you're buying a weapon to feel safe and you don't plan on actually carrying it for personal protection, of practicing with it for a

really self defense scenario, then my recommendation is to not buy a weapon without Emmanuel safety. Ah, gun isn't a toy. And if I can't talk you into actually training with it so it becomes an extension of your body, then I think you're potentially setting yourself up for an accident. A negligent accident, right? Potentially one that is deadly and someone that you love doing the dying. Ultimately, this always brings us back to your own personal responsibility. With owning a weapon and especially carrying one, you need to know the pros and cons and evaluate your own needs, and this is key. Your own abilities, even for you. Tactical fan boys out there who don't wanna have Emmanuel safety. Are you doing enough training with it so that you are actually able to be have it almost like second nature. OK, so for those of you like me who do carry a gun without Emmanuel safety, there are some rules that you should consider to be a safety is possible to be a safe is possible. One is never carry a handgun without Emmanuel safety out of the holster.

And I'm talking about, like, pocket carry holster Or if you have an off body carry, like in a if you have any sort of an off carry bag or if you're a woman with a purse, Um, you always want to make sure that you have it inside of a holster. It always needs to be inside of a holster. And I mean, even if it's on your night stand. So I I've got a Glock. I do not put it on my night stand without being in a holster at night. Okay, I don't need to reach over there and think it's my phone half asleep. I don't I need to have some protective mechanism on there so that I'm not gonna pull the trigger and think it's my phone or to quickly grab it and pull the trigger. We just had a horrible incident in the news recently with a guy that his pregnant wife was up getting glass water, came back to the room and he thought she was right next to him. And he picked up the gun, shot her and killed her. Um, right there in in the bedroom, thinking that it was actually her sleeping next time when it was actually the dog, right? I'm all for if it's a nighttime type of a scenario, you need to have protections in place there that you're not just grabbing a gun half asleep, just pulling the trigger on something. Okay? So never carry a gun without Emmanuel safety out of the holster. Alright, Point number two here is toe. Have a holster that you can actually trust. Now I've seen negligent discharges happen even with old school leather holsters throughout their that started out nice and crisp and they were a good holster. But over time, as they got more whoa nin and more comfortable, the leather managed to work its way close enough to the trigger that actually caused it to be pulled back when somebody was bending over. Make sure that your holster is rigid. Enough, toe, actually protect the trigger because that is your safety. Okay, A Your holster is your ultimate safety there. So I prefer kayaks or a bs. Plastic kayaks is

what I prefer. So make sure that is rigid enough and that it is covering that trigger guard there. All right, um, and now here's a big lesson for you. The crowd that air like safeties are for sissies. Alright. While you may think that training is more important for a real gun fight, if you do have Emmanuel safety so that you can learn to take it off of safe and engage your target, I would argue that train training is even more important if you don't have manual safety, realize that you are responsible for every single bullet that comes out of your gun. And I believe from experience that if you're ambushed and reaching for your gun, you are more likely than not to stick your finger on the trigger because this is how we naturally grip anything to this point, we have to actually train people to not automatically put their trigger finger on the trigger when they pick up the handgun or draw their weapon from the holster. And with your weapon on the trigger, you could have a reactionary squeeze that could cause you to fire too quickly.

This is going to be more dangerous to others, including loved ones, than if you pull the gun with Emmanuel safety and forgot to take it off of safe. So don't think that you're going to naturally index your finger along the slide because that's how you've naturally trained to do it at the range. That's not necessarily the case, but practice will help. You better prepare and make it a more natural response for you. Just this training to disengage Emmanuel. Safety will give that crowd a better chance of employing their weapon in a real attack. Okay, so don't have a false and six of security on either side here. The solution is gonna be able is gonna be for you to practice with your weapon. And the best way to do that is with dry fire, because it's safer that way. Also, write my preferred way is with air soft because there is a projectile. If you've got an air soft gun, I use a blowback. Ah, gas blowback air, soft gun. There is a projectile that comes out of there and live fire ranges meant for you to confirm your dry fire practice. Now, I will admit that I did not dry fire enough with my Glock before I went out there and really started practicing with it. And that was one of the reasons why I had a negligent discharge. Okay, So dry fire practice with a weapon and on Lee confirm it with dry fire at the range. All right. Okay. So I've given you some real things to consider here again. Did I give a definitive answer?

No. Because there really isn't when it really comes down to your own personal choice and what you do with it, just understand your responsibility with how would the weapon that you actually choose? All right, now I want to hear from you. Yes. I'm gonna open up the debate here with the same understanding that there is no riel. Definitive answer one way or the other. But I want to hear what have you chosen as your platform



manual safety or no manual safety? Why did you make that choice? And what did you do to mitigate any threats or any potential dangers with the choice that you actually have? All right, please go ahead and leave a comment on our block over warrior leave dot warrior life dot com where you see this podcast episode and give us your comments there, Okay? And until our next warrior life broadcast, this is Jeff Anderson saying Prepare train and survive. You've been listening to the Warrior Life podcast. We hope you've enjoyed the show. You can help us spread the mission of self reliance and self protection when you rate us and leave us a comment wherever you enjoy these podcasts. And don't forget to check out our posts and videos on our social media channels. You'll see a full directory when you visit our website at [www dot warrior life dot com](http://www.warriorlife.com). We'll see you next time. This has been the Warrior Life podcast. Prepare train survived