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Episode #352 Show Notes  
Tacticool Reload Myth Buster

## 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](#).

# Tacticool Re-Load Myth-Buster

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

## The Tactical Re-Load Doesn't Work Under Stress

- Under fire and when full of adrenaline, you simply won't do a calm, cool tactical reload to top off your gun with a fresh magazine.
- It's trainable in a safe, structured environment, but fails miserably in an actual gunfight.
- Here are some reasons why...

### 1. The Tactical Reload Is Meant For A "LULL" In The Fight

- Most gunfights are over in 3-5 seconds. There's no "lull" in which to wait for time to reload.
- When there are other fighters to cover you, sure, you can do a tactical reload, but without someone to cover you, it's unlikely.
- In a real attack, it's you and you alone.

### 2. There Are Some Real-Life Gunfight Considerations To Think About

- Is he down? Is he out of the fight?
- Are there OTHER threats to engage?
- Are there OTHER people who could be in harm's way?
- Am I shot?
- Should I run? Should I get behind cover? WHERE is my best cover?
- All of these considerations may take precedence over a re-load. Your brain is trying to collect data for your next tactical ACTION to keep you alive.

- Do you really think you'll be counting your rounds and finding time for a multi-step tactical re-load to top off your weapon?

### 3. In The Stress Of A Real Attack, Adrenaline Will Make All The Difference

- Adrenaline will destroy your fine motor skills.
- The dexterity needed to juggle 2 magazines at once is going to go out the window, in other words.
- You will become clumsy and you'll have to rely on gross motor skills.
- Juggling 2 magazines at once just isn't likely to happen for a "tactical" re-load.

### The Bottom Line

- I do recommend that you carry extra ammo with you. Listen to [Podcast 231](#) and [Podcast 342](#) for all the reasons why.
- There are situations where a strategic re-load is possible and prudent, sure.
- Find some cover and put a fresh mag in there, if that's the case.
- You only have so much time to train, though, so you shouldn't waste time mastering a skill you're unlikely to use.
- Put your training time into clearing jams, instead, which you're much more likely to encounter.
- Shoot until your slide locks back and THEN re-load your gun. "Rinse and repeat as needed."

*Prepare. Train. Survive.*

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It's time to ruffle some more feathers with another gunfight training myth. Let's talk tactics...

Hey there, what's up warriors? It's Jeff Anderson from WarriorLife.com and welcome to podcast episode # 352.

Ok, so there you are, hunkered down behind your car's engine block, exchanging a HAIL of bullets with the Russian mafia because they tried to steal your car and they killed your puppy...

You know you're running low on ammo, so instead of waiting until your gun goes dry, you take advantage of a break in the action to...

... slip your spare magazine between a couple fingers on your non-firing hand

... eject your partially spent mag into the same hand

...and quickly switch out mags, placing your partial mag in a pocket for possible later use.

This commonly trained technique is known as the "tactical reload".

I affectionately call it "tacti-cool bullshit"

Unfortunately, this is one of those techniques that can work GREAT on the range... gets guys thinking they're super advanced... and they can leave feeling all "John Wicky"

In reality, while it IS trainable in a safe, structured environment of the range - it fails MISERABLY in a DANGEROUS, DYNAMIC, UN-STRUCTURED environment of a real gunfight!

And here are \_\_\_ reasons why...

The "tactical reload" is meant to happen during the LULL in a fight. Most gunfights are over in 3-5 seconds. What lull?

I've used tactical reloads in combat... with OTHER soldiers to cover me and provide another target for the bad guys while I was hunkered down behind a wall or vehicle.

In a real attack... it's YOU and you alone!

There are quite a few "important considerations" you need to think about in a real gunfight:

- \* Is he down? Is he out of the fight?
- \* Are there OTHER threats I need to engage?
- \* Are my companions safe?
- \* Are there now OTHER people in the area that could be in harm's way?
- \* Am I shot?
- \* Should I run? Should I get behind cover? Where IS my best cover?

Your brain is trying to collect data for what your next tactical ACTION should be to keep you alive.

When all you can think about is how to get a bullet into the bad guy shooting at you and avoid HIM sinking one in your cranium, do you REALLY think you're going to be counting how many rounds you may have left and if you can pull off a multi-step reload without getting caught midway through?

Under the stress of a real attack, your adrenaline is going to be surging through your veins like a runaway locomotive.

That means that your fine motor skills (the dexterity needed to juggle 2 magazines at once) is going to go right out the window and likely reduce you to a clumsy clown.

All you're going to have are gross motor skills so juggling 2 magazines at the same time is most likely going to be a pipe dream.

Ok so here's the bottom line...

First of all... I DO recommend you carry extra ammo with you. (Listen to podcast episodes #231 & 342 for all the reasons why.)

AND... there absolutely ARE situations where you COULD be caught in a hailstorm of bullets and a tactical reload COULD be a strategic, good idea - MOSTLY if you're a soldier, contractor, or police officer... but MAYBE also if you're a civilian... like if you know you DID pull your trigger a bunch of times and took down some guy in a dark

parking not and you're not sure if he has fellow gang members hiding in the wings - ready to come out for some payback.

In this case... maybe "better safe than sorry". Find some cover and load a fresh mag in there.

But let's face it... there's only so much time you have to train, right? Why invest that time into a mastering a skill that you're NOT likely to use?

BUT... you DO know that your gun can jam for any number of reasons, right? I see it all the time at the range and I often see even experienced shooters casually stop firing... look at their gun totally bewildered... and then clumsily clear the jam so they can start casually shooting again.

My advice is to put that training time into learning how to clear jams - something that really CAN give you an "oh shit" moment in a real attack.

So here's my ultimate "reload tactic" for a real gunfight:

"Shoot until your slide locks back. Reload with your spare mag. And just like your shampoo bottle says: "Rinse and Repeat as needed"

If your gun jams and your clearing actions - that you HAVE spent your practice time on - doesn't work for you - RIP that magazine out of your weapon and let it fall - WITHOUT trying to also juggle your spare mag in the same hand like they're chopsticks... load the other in and continue firing as needed.

Now doesn't that sound a lot easier?

You're welcome.

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