



Episode #354 Show Notes
Weapon-Mounted Flashlight
SMACKDOWN

JEFF ANDERSON

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).

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](http://WWW.WARRIORLIFE.COM).

Weapon-Mounted Flashlight SMACKDOWN (10 Reasons To Reconsider Mounted Lights)

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

1. Too Much Weight And Bulk

- Until the technology improves, weapon-mounted flashlights are too big and too heavy. They make it less comfortable to carry your weapon and make the weapon “print” more in certain types of clothing / carry positions.

2. They Need A Specialized Holster

- Weapon-mounted lights require a special holster to accommodate the light under the barrel.
- This is very difficult to do with, say, appendix carry. If you’re adjusting your carry position to accommodate the light, are you reducing your combat readiness for a gunfight?

3. They May Slow Your Draw

- Your gun is only good to you if you can get to it in a split-second gunfight. I don’t want any more “real estate” to clear from my holster than I absolutely have to have.
- Less is more when it comes to overall size when I’m deploying my gun. Mounted lights add “more” to the gun.

4. Flashlights Aren’t Just For Targets

- A flashlight isn’t just for spotlighting your target. It’s a preventive tool. If you’re drawing your weapon, it should mean you’ve ALREADY identified the target, which means you had enough light or used a handheld light to do it. The mounted light was unnecessary.

5. Also, What About Muzzle Safety?

- Your flashlight is used to look at lots of things you don’t want to put a bullet in. You aren’t going to want to point the muzzle of your gun at most of them. A mounted light forces you to do just that.

6. The Light Is A Target Beacon

- When using a weapon-mounted light, the beam is most likely at center mass on YOU, which makes it a target beacon. No good!

7. Requires Extra Training

- Are you practicing with your gun as much as you’d like or should? Well, a weapon-mounted light requires additional, specialized training most gun owners won’t and don’t get.

8. An Extra Button To Push

- Unless your light has a pressure switch, you now have one more button you’ve got to remember to press under stress.

9. It’s Pointing The Wrong Way

- You can’t use your light to sweep behind or around you if it’s mounted to a gun pointed in front of you.

10. One-Hand Only Operation?

- Most weapon lights don’t allow one-hand operation, which is a problem if you’re reduced to only one hand in a gunfight.

Prepare. Train. Survive.

NOTE: *This is an automatically generated transcript produced by our podcast platform. Much like automated captions, there are bound to be some oddities when the robot doing the transcribing didn't understand. We hope you find it helpful anyway.*

Hey there. What's up Warriors, it is Jeff from Warriorlife.com and welcome to podcast episode number 354. So, it's time for another tacticool Smackdown, where I offer an alternative perspective on the latest firearm Fanboy. Trends out there to help you make a more educated decision about how you approach your own self protection plan. And this week I've got your pistol mounted flashlight in my sights. Let's talk tactics.

Hey, welcome back. This is Jeff Anderson executive director at Warrior life.com. With another podcast help you better prepare for any threat. You may face in your role as a protector and the Patriot. And yes, if you have been following us for any amount of time, you know I like to challenge tradition what, you know what I find is that too often people just get trapped into thinking that just because some internet Guru or a Navy SEAL said that, this is the way he shoots or this is the am

He chooses, or this is the way he holds his gun or fights with a knife, or picks, his nose, or whatever it is, then that must be the best way to do it, right? I guess. I don't think I have that Fanboy Jean and me because the very first thing I do whenever I hear any kind of strategy, no matter what it is, I always say, prove to me that it works in the real world and case in point. Did anybody remember the speed Rock method? We're in close quarters. Ambush has you've got your

Handgun and you it's at your hip and you kind of lean back away from the attacker. Like back on the heels like you're like getting ready to do a back flip. Like that was kind of like the big fan boy move for a while. It just never made any sense to me, right? I never understood why people got into it and eventually it got outed as why would you do? This doesn't really make any sense from my perspective. You should challenge everything that you see here, read, watch, whatever.

And you need to look at these things from a common sense, street level approach, and consider your own personal application of those strategies to your own personal plan. It doesn't matter whether it's self-defense moves or survival, or Firearms applications, whatever it is. And frankly that includes anything that I tell you also. I mean, I mean, I'm not without any sort of like I can't be put under the microscope. Absolutely. I should be because all of the techniques that I train, I've already put under the microscope now.

With that being said, I have subscribed to a few of these firearm Reddit Pages out there. And one of the things that I do like about this community is that it's relatively a safe place in order to really kind of put your cone he's on the chopping block and you

can get honest, non-judgmental advice on the practicality of strategies that you might be using. So I'm talking about things like in the Firearms Reddit pages and things like that or it could apply to any sort of like a an internal Community like a like a

Forum, a Facebook group that you that you really like any place except for probably like, you know, YouTube which seems to be just a, just a meeting place for idiots in 13 year. Olds who have just been playing Call of Duty too many times, but one of the biggest things that I've been seeing on these right up pages, are people videotaping themselves, drawing their handgun for concealed, carry and asking for feedback on ways to improve it. Now, most of the time, this is done from like a newbie handgun, on

Or somebody that just started getting into concealed carry or they just want to kind of show off because most of the time people that are doing this, they're young. They're they're decked out in like a cool patriotic t-shirt and lo and behold when that smoke wagon gets yanked out of that holster, you can pretty much be. Damn sure it's going to be decked out in the latest and greatest gadgets and gizmos from Red Dot sights to weapon mounted flashlights. All the way down to like the customized Punisher skull.

All hand grip logo. They've got on their Glock somewhere. Well, I can't challenge all these gizmos and one podcast. So this week I thought I'd give you my humble opinion on weapon mounted flashlights specifically for concealed carry because I'm seeing these pop up all over the place. And I know that there's a lot of tactical operators out there that use them police officers that use them. Specifically I'm talking about for concealed carry, typically for civilian. But, you know, for for undercover police officers also.

The non-duty wearing weapon wearing person is what I'm saying. Now, let it first be known that generally, I am a big fan of weapon, mounted flashlights for the right purposes, and on the right equipment. I mean, I own several myself for various weapon platforms. And without question, the easiest way to engage a Target, in low light, is with a weapon mounted light because you don't have to simultaneously coordinate, the direction of the light.

And your weapon at the same time as you would if you had like a flashlight held in your support hand instead. And I know several instructors that are inside of our worry, life Network that we have who also use weapon mounted lights. And yes, even for concealed carry, but let me go ahead and give you my top 10 reasons. I don't use a pistol mounted flashlight for any of my concealed carry handguns. Again, don't take my word for it folks. Don't take my word for it.

Siddur. These reasons yourself and make your own decisions. In fact, frankly, I love it. When people challenge me on my reasons and I'm always the first to admit when I'm wrong because all I care about is being the best protector that I can possibly be. So if you have a better approach than I do, or if there's something that I'm not seeing by all means, you're doing me a favor, you're doing my family, a favor, those that I love and Protect by sharing your advice, which I invite you to do wherever you see this.

Episode. You can go over to Warrior life, podcast.com, where our podcasts are or any of our blog posts over at Warrior life.com, but I want people to challenge me before we get going here. So, spoiler alert. If you haven't already realized my position on this topic, I don't recommend attaching a light to your carry gun. So you don't have to listen to these if you don't want to. But I think if there's any sort of like you get in any sort of any tactical Fanboy conversation with anybody down at the local range or the gun.

In store, whatever that these reasons, any of these reasons could be a good decision for reasons, not to have one and so they could give you a little bit of ammunition if you're if I don't convince you. Like if you have a weapon mounted light, these hopefully will convince you of why you shouldn't, or you can convince me that I should, but I think having 10 reasons is kind of pretty overwhelming. I don't know. But in any case,

If you just love the sound of my voice as much as I do.

Wink wink. Then let's move on to my top 10 reasons why I don't recommend a weapon mounted flashlight. All right. I'm going to run through these as quick as I can so I won't take up much time. But tip NE or Reason. Number 141, they add weight and bulk to your weapon and that can make it less comfortable for you to wear and if it's less comfortable, comfortable to for you to where you might not wear it. And that's the first rule of a gunfight is to have your gun, right? Bring a gun but it could also print

More under certain types of clothing. So if you're wearing your weapon inside the waistband especially it's going to that added bulk is going to perhaps give off to a potential attacker out there that you are armed. I'm not too worried about printing myself. In fact somebody made a comment in one of them and it was one of the it was a video I had or on YouTube or whether it was one of our blog post, but somebody made a good comment like they don't really worry about printing all that much.

Because unless it's like if you're at the grocery store and you're reaching up to the top level for that box of Cap'n Crunch, then you might your weapon might show and and but, you know, people understand that people are in concealed carry. If you're reaping reach for Cap'n Crunch or probably not an active shooter. I don't know if that's like legit, but it's my opinion. Anyway, anyway, it's going to add more weight and bulk. I

guess is the short answer. So that's tip number four. Reason number two, sorry about that weapon mounted. I'm sorry. Yeah.

Weapon mounted lights, they need a specialized holster. That's going to accommodate the light which with a concealed handgun is going to most likely be directed or directly underneath the barrel. So that's where the lights going to be. And so the holster that accommodates it is likely going to have more real estate in that area. And if you carry appendix carry like I do that likely means that you're going to have to shift your weapon further toward your Center Line, to avoid the holster digging into your groin. Now, I've begun wearing

my weapon more to my center line. Also, so that's mostly for indexing purposes, so that I know where that handgun is. I also find that most holsters really have way too much real estate there already. So the part of the holster ends up digging into your, to your groin more. But with a weapon mounted light, it's going to add even more real estate there to keep a rigidity to the to the holster and be able to accommodate that light. So this might not be an issue for you. It may be an issue for you.

You might be able to pretty much just how you carry, and how you draw. That's, those are totally fine to be able to do that. But it's just something to think about there are reason number three, you're going is only good to you, if you can get to it and get it out in time to engage your attacker. If I identify a threat personally, I don't want any more real estate. Then I need to clear. My holster then is necessary. So the added bulk of that flashlight could get hung up on the holster clothing.

Going or whatever. Like I want the least amount of gun to be able to take out of the holster as I possibly can. So less is more when it comes to the overall size of what I'm deploying adding that light. Just gives you more more. You've got a clear reason number four, is that a flashlight isn't just for spotlighting, your target. When you've got your handgun out, it's a preventative tool to make sure that you are not making yourself a Target at all. So

I like to use a flashlight if I'm going out to my car even if it's a you know, if it's at night time which is when we know that most attacks happen in low light because bad guys want to be able to get as close to zero as possible and they can use the darkness to be able to get there. You're going to be you know the easier to ambush in those kinds of situations, right? Well, I use my flashlight to even in well-lit parking garage just to show potential bad guys, that I am alert like I'm not the guy you want.

To you want to Ambush because I'm more aware. If I've got my flashlight and I'm looking around, I'm spotlighting around Vehicles, I'm not walking close to the to the

vehicles, to give them. You know, I want to give myself some reaction distance there, somebody's going to look at that and say well one, if they're not a bad guy, probably think you're paranoid. I don't really give a shit. But the bad guys you say oh that person is aware, they're most likely, you know, they're they're not an easy target. I'm going to look for an easier Target. All right, so,

I recommend that you actually have an external flash like now you can use the flashlight that is mounted to the weapon. A lot of them, you can, you can relatively easily take off and use as a handheld flashlight. But are you really going to like deploy your gun to be able to get to that flashlight? And then put it back together once you get inside of your vehicle? Yeah, that's not going to happen, right? So, when it comes to this type of thing, if you are drawing your weapon with a flashlight, it means that you've already

Noticed that your attacker is a lethal threat because that's the only time that you're going to actually draw your weapon. Which means that you've had enough illumination and visibility to see a weapon on them or their means to cause you lethal harm. Therefore weapon mounted light. May not even be necessary at all because you probably already had enough illumination there and you can engage your attacker without the light. So it's kind of kind of not really useful in that purpose, right? Reason. Number five, one of the most important rules of gun, safety is

Never Point your weapon. Anything that you're not willing to poke a hole into so with a weapon mounted light, you're not going to want to point old Betsy toward your spouse or your kids who are feeling around on the ground trying to find the keys in the dark parking lot. That when you got ambushed or you got surprised you dropped your keys or they drop the keys and they're looking all over the place. They can't find them because it is dark but you've got your weapon trained on that meth head who's sobbing into the pavement, in the

Making latkes, you've got him down on the ground. You're not going to want to take your weapon off of that person, and point it in the direction of Innocence, especially your family or, or if it's a home defense scenario. And you're out checking, what that noise is downstairs and you've got a weapon mounted light, you're not going to want to use it to try and decide if that person coming through your window is a gangbanger, or if it's your teenage daughter who got locked out of the house late at night, it's not going to give you that option there, okay? Reason number 6,

With your weapon deployed. If the light is on, it's likely going to be positioned at your Center Mass as you're aiming the weapon. Right? Well that also makes for a good location positioning for your attacker to either charge you if they if they're armed with

like a knife or they're just going to like bum rush you or if they are armed with a handgun they can just shoot where that light is and if they're shooting at that light and you have it in front of you then it's going to be in line with either your head or

Your Center Mass most likely. So you're really kind of giving them a nice little light-up Target there. As opposed to, if you do have it in your other hand, you can use it off to the side. It just gives you more options there. All right, reason number seven, is that a weapon mounted light really does require extra training to use it proficiently in a real fight and to this while you might think well that's fine, like okay, it takes extra training but no big deal.

I haven't asked you first of all, are you really practicing as much as you would like to mmm. I'm going to say, no to most of you listening to. Some of you that are going to the gun range more often does your range. Even allow the lights to be turned down, I mean, can you really use it? Can you can you really use it to see how well the light can be used? How long those batteries are going to last? What kind of impact that's going to have on your sighting? Where do your eyes go? If you've got a light in front of

Of you and you're trying to use your sights, of course dry. Fire is a great solution to that, so you can practice at home with dry fire. But again, I have to ask you, are you really doing it? Are you really dry firing? I thought not. Okay, reason number eight, unless your light automatically comes on, when you raise your weapon at that, do it. I don't even think they do that, right? Like, I don't know, I've never seen one that does that. Maybe I know there are some with like a pressure switch, that will allow it to come on.

When you bring it up, but most of them have some sort of activator switch on them that you can use with one or you know, it's either on the side of the light or behind the light and you have to consciously turn it on after your drawing. So if you are drawing Your Weapon, It's because you've identified a threat that is potentially lethal, and you are most likely going to be focused in on whether or not you're going to pull the trigger. Not

Necessarily are you going to be able to get your weapon out and then think to put to turn that light on. Now we talk about this all the time, most people will our big advocate of carrying a round in the chamber because they know no matter matter how many times you train people to draw your weapon and as you're pushing it out also rack the slide to chamber around most of the time, that's not going to are not gonna, I'm not gonna say most of the time. It doesn't, it doesn't happen that way. But I'm saying that chances are the adrenaline that you've got feeling through your body. You're not.

Thinking about that and you're likely not going to do that. Same thing with a manual safety. I'm not I'm not a fan of manual safeties for the same reason. Are you going to remember to take it off of safe to be able to engage your target? You know, I've seen people under duress not be able to do that. So are you also going to be able to turn your light on once you have drawn? It it's not going to be likely in a Close Quarters. Ambush, where you don't?

Where you don't have time to reactor. All right, reason number 9, we always teach to look behind you to see if there are any other threat. So after you engage the your attacker and they're down, it doesn't stop there. You don't know if it's a multiple attackers situation. You don't know. You don't know what's behind you. So you should always scan around to left and right, we teach this in class, right? If 80% of attacks happen, in low light and you engage your attacker, I'm most likely going to need my flashlight.

Really see around me and identify if there are any other threats there and I can't do that with my weapon. Trained in front of me to make sure that attacker is still down like there. You don't want to take your your firearm off of your attacker, unless you identify another attack coming from a different direction. So with a weapon mounted light, you're going to have to move that weapon around. And I don't want to do that. I want to keep it right there on the attacker especially if they're not really doubt. Like if I've got them down on the ground and they're not like unconscious,

Then my fear would be, if I take the light off of them, they know that they're good, the gun is not positioned toward them. Maybe my my attention is not directed at them and they can get up quickly and either rush me or run away or whatever. So again it kind of limits that it limits you on the things that we say you should be doing tactically in a real gun fight.

And then the final one here, reason number 10 is. If you're reduced to one hand, which in my analysis of real gun fights and you can go look up look these up online. You can look at CCTV camera attacks on on YouTube and things like that and most attacks do happen or I'm sorry, most most times. When somebody does deploy a gun in close quarters, it's done with one hand.

Which is why we teach as like a pillar of our Close Quarters combat shooting system that one-handed firearm operation. Is kind of is kind of the pillar, like you start from there and then you pull back from there then you can add more support to it. But if you are naturally going to be reduced to one hand shooting, then you're going to want to train that way or use that as the basis of your firearms training.

If you have a weapon mounted light and you don't have the other hand to be able to turn that light on, then you're not going to have that weapon, mounted light available to you anyway. And in that case, I might want to have my other, my other hand to be able to get to the light so that I can deploy it. And I can use it for all the purposes that we teach, and how to use a flashlight for tactical purposes, in a, in a real gun fight there as well. Now, I know that with a lot of these activators,

Systems, you can use your trigger finger to activate the light switch. But that is usually inside of the trigger guard, a lot of times. And if you do that, when we were also taught to keep your finger off the trigger until you're ready to engage Target. So if it is there and you have a reflexive squeeze, you might end up discharging your weapon without thinking about it just reflexively. And that bullet might not be going where you want it to go. So again, one handed operation of this light makes things a lot trickier to be able.

Do it at all but then also to be able to make the right decision of when it's time to pull that trigger. Okay, well, those are my top 10 reasons why you should not use or right? Well let me just say that why I don't use a weapon mounted light, but I know a lot of you out there. Do have a weapon mounted flashlight, so I want to hear from you. Do you have ten reasons that will convince me? Not to do have one? Really good reason to convince me to attach a weapon to my light for

Old Carrie. I'm always looking to have my opinions changed because I just want to be the best protector for the people that I love and protect and if you've got something that's going to help me, I want to hear it so you can leave a comment where you see this podcast or wherever you enjoy your podcast but over at world life. Podcast.com will take you over directly to the podcast episodes on our website or you can just go on over to Warrior life.com and leave a comment there. You'll find it there as well.

Or if you really have a really good tip, or if I missed out on something and I end up using your tip, then we will actually reward you for that and you can go over to Warrior life tips.com and you can submit your either your question or a tip that you have related to any of the things that we talked about on the worry Life channel. Again, we reward you with this special little gift in the mail. If we end up using your question or your tip in any one of our channels, our Facebook page, our YouTube channel or podcast or our blog. All right, so love to hear from you, so head on over there and submit now. And until our next broadcast, this is Jeff Anderson saying prepare, train, and survive.