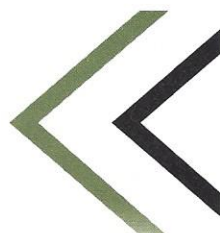




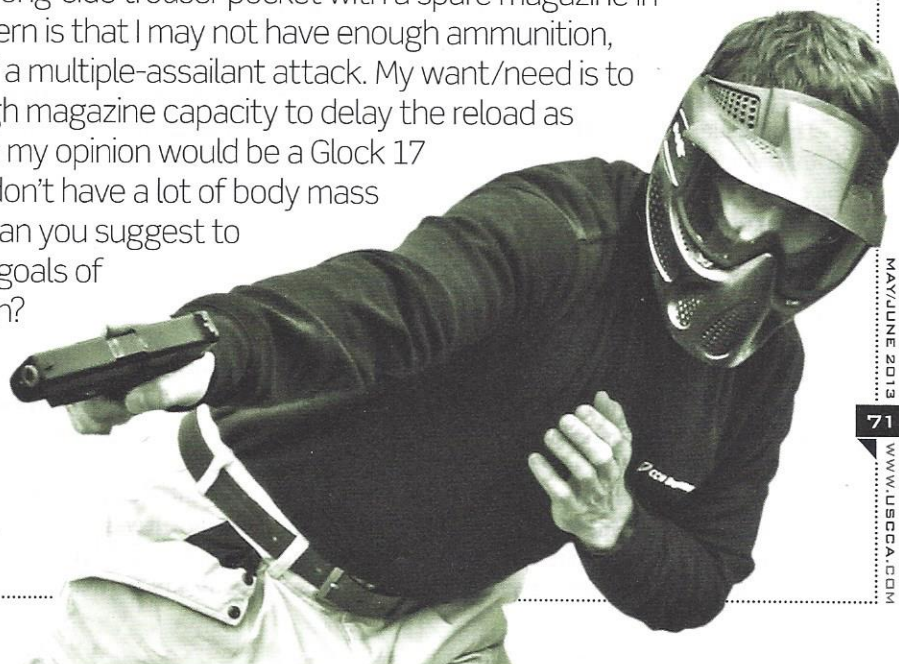
BIG GUNS,
LITTLE POCKETS
BY GEORGE HARRIS



JUST ASK



»QUESTION: I am a store owner in Mid America and carry concealed simply because the level of crime is increasing in my city and there have been a few after-hours robberies recently in my area. Because of the nature of my business, we dress business casual, shirts tucked in, no vest or jacket, making the options of carry locations limited. I usually carry a Kahr PM-9 in my front strong-side trouser pocket with a spare magazine in the other front pocket. My concern is that I may not have enough ammunition, even with the reload, to fend off a multiple-assailant attack. My want/need is to have a full-size pistol with enough magazine capacity to delay the reload as long as possible. The ideal gun in my opinion would be a Glock 17 with the plus-two magazines. I don't have a lot of body mass to help conceal the gun. What can you suggest to help me get a little closer to my goals of bigger gun and more ammunition?



»**ANSWER:** From looking at the picture you sent I can see that you aren't carrying around a lot of excess weight and I commend you for taking care of yourself and maintaining a degree of fitness that a lot of us wish we had the discipline to maintain. The downside is that wearing normal fitting clothes leaves you without a lot of options to conceal a full-size pistol.

As luck would have it, I have two options for you that have their similarities but are different enough to provide features that might be more specific to the varying aspects of your life. I own and have direct experience with both of these products and recommend that you consider one or both as permanent parts of your wardrobe.

Both come in a variety of patterns, colors and types. There are business casual khakis for work, jeans for off hours, tactical cargo pants for the range and shorts for the warm days when you are out and about. The best feature is that both, with a few exceptions, will allow you to carry your choice of full-size pistols and multiple spare magazines as well as lights, knives and other ancillary gear with total anonymity and comfort day or night.

American Tactical Apparel, www.american-tactical-apparel.com, is one of the two options and is owned and operated by my friend Brian Hoffner who is a working cop, excellent trainer and superb holster maker.

As you might guess, the ATA brand tends to favor the law enforcement community, particularly with its premier tactical trousers which have more pockets for handy items to carry with you than any other brand that I have encountered.

The unique feature with the ATA brand is that all of its trousers — tactical, casual or otherwise — have zippers with miniature rip cords attached at the side seams to allow access to the pistol(s) and/or magazines by simply grabbing and pulling the cord straight down to expose and access what has been covertly carried beneath the outside of the garment.

The actual holster is suspended from a support on the inside of the belt line of the trousers and by an elastic band that is adjustable to fit around the user's thigh. The holster is a soft stretch material that is designed to accommodate any pistol or revolver up to a full-size service model. Two

of these holsters may be ordered, one for each side, to carry a second sidearm, extra ammunition or your wallet. The options and possibilities for concealed carry with the ATA trousers are so many that you will have many choices to make the best decision for your specific application.

One point that Brian always makes about American Tactical Apparel and his other products is that they are of the highest quality available and all are made in America.

Another option is from CCW Breakaways, www.ccw-breakaways.com, headed up by Jay French and his wife, Georgann.

They say that necessity is the mother of invention; that saying applies directly in this case. When I met Jay at the Shooting, Hunting, Outdoor Trade (SHOT) Show several years ago, I asked him how he had come up with the idea for a breakaway pocket for ease of access, above a reinforced, adjustable pouch to house most any size handgun.

His response was that he and Georgann had come to realize that as social decay increased, so did crime and their likelihood of coming in contact with individuals with less-than-honorable intentions. At first they practiced Martial Arts and other methods of self-defense but soon came to realize that firearms carried concealed would also become a part of their preparedness. The problem was that in their daily lives most of the conventional methods of concealed carry didn't quite meet their needs.

Jay started to study what was available for concealed carry, particularly in the area of pocket holsters because that was his principle point of interest. Being the forward thinker that he is, it wasn't long before he saw the limitations in the current methods of pocket carry and started to develop



» **CCW Breakaway** trousers and shorts allow outstanding access thanks to an innovative design that provides concealment and instant deployment.

his system that would allow easier access from multiple positions and the ability to accommodate large, medium and small handguns. His website provides videos and information on to how to use the CCW Breakaways in a manner most favorable to the wearer.

Both the American Tactical Apparel trousers and the CCW Breakaways are a little roomy out of necessity but are very comfortable to wear on a daily basis. They are also effective in concealing a large handgun, magazine(s) and any other accessories that you might feel necessary.

I recommend that you try both as I did. You will not be disappointed with either.

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