

USCCA MEMBER Jay French

OWNER, CCW BREAKAWAYS
New Cumberland, Pennsylvania

■ **SELF-DEFENSE TRAINING** has been Jay French's passion for more than 30 years. His studies began with martial arts systems, working on hand-to-hand combat techniques with a training partner and applying what they learned to "what if?" scenarios that challenged their abilities.

"We always had this philosophy that we'd pressure test everything," French said. "So, with him in law enforcement and me just in general martial arts, we were always looking at what happens on the street. What do real street encounters look like?"

Those questions led the pair to study and train for concealed carry, but French spent decades trying to find a carry method with which he was completely comfortable.

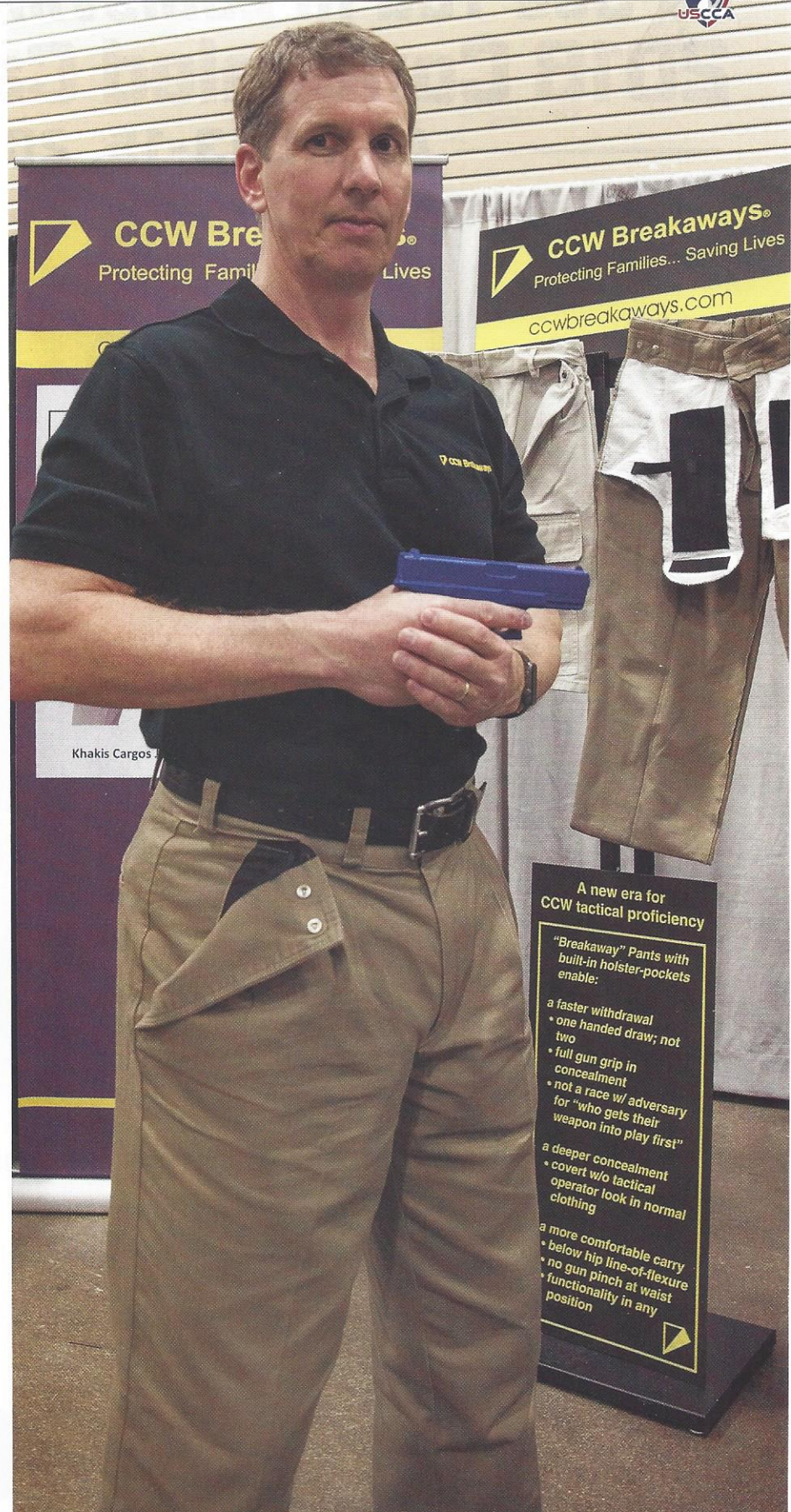
"I've found that there's always been a tension between three things: comfort, access and the look or the appearance," he said.

Eventually, French, a longtime USCCA member, sought to create his own carry method — "a paradigm shift" — that eliminated that dilemma entirely.

In 2007, the CCW Breakaways carry system was born. The system conceals a handgun in standard-looking pants with disguised holster-pockets that snap open for lightning-fast, snag-free draws. French refined the carry system until it survived intense force-on-force drills for close-quarter attacks.

Since launching the CCW Breakaways products publically in 2010, French has been building the brand and expanding production to meet increasing demand. He recently displayed his products at the USCCA Concealed Carry Expo in Fort Worth, Texas.

EVERYDAY CARRY:
Glock 19, Glock 26 or Glock 43





4

4 ■ ON YOUR 6 OWB SET

Custom Kydex doesn't have to cost a fortune. On Your 6 offers high-quality inside- and outside-the-waistband holsters as well as single and double magazine carriers at competitive prices for more than a dozen manufacturers. Find them at onyour6designs.com.
MSRP: \$84.95 (AS PICTURED)



5

5 ■ THYRM CELLVAULTS

Robust and waterproof, these versatile storage vaults allow you to carry three or six 123A batteries, two or four AA batteries, or any other number of important pieces of gear in your regular bag or affixed to a MOLLE system. They're available in either a single- or double-column configuration and in six colors at thyrm.com.
**MSRP: \$19.99 (SINGLE)
OR \$29.99 (DOUBLE)**



6


6 ■ CCW BREAKAWAYS PANTS

CCW Breakaways Khakis combine comfort, deep concealment and fast-draw capabilities in a classic-looking pair of pants. Built-in holsters, disguised as pockets, conceal firearms of nearly any size and snap open for snag-free draws using just one hand to establish a full grip. Most violent encounters happen in close proximity, which means fast movement is crucial for self-defense. Designed to fit more loosely in both the front and rear rise than standard pants, CCW Breakaways Khakis give concealed carriers freedom of movement and quick access to their firearms. Visit ccwbreakaways.com for more info.
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Pants pockets, even on jeans, are usually made of flimsy material and are relatively shallow. On some women's pants, I wonder why they even bother with pockets. Have your tailor fix this. He or she can cut off the old pockets halfway down and build you new pockets with sturdy cloth and more depth. It is easy for your tailor to sew pouches into your new pockets for magazines, knives, credit cards and even pocket holsters. With proper planning and execution, you won't get everything piled up at the bottom and end up looking as if you're carrying three weeks' worth of laundry change.

These kinds of modifications can make a huge difference in making your carry of arms, ammunition and accessories smooth, simple and — dare I say it? — comfortable.

SUIT AND COAT SOLUTIONS

Do you wear a suit? Many "suits" — and I am not infrequently one of them — carry a subcompact pistol in the left breast pocket of their suit jacket. They are easily spotted because the gun causes their jacket to sag on that side and, although they are walking straight, their jacket has a noticeable and hard list to port. They often will not carry extra ammunition.

The solution? If your suit jacket does not have an inside pocket on the right side, go see your tailor and have him or her build one into your jacket. Then, have your tailor place a magazine carrier on the opposite side. Your reloads will be readily available

and your jacket will ride at an even keel.

Along those lines, if you live in an area that experiences actual winter, you will find that winter jackets with quilted liners often do not feature inner pockets. If this is the case, have your tailor add interior breast pockets. Your firearm in a flat holster can slide easily into such a pocket (which can be custom-sized for your gun), making it quickly accessible and inconspicuous. Ammunition, again, can go on the opposite side.

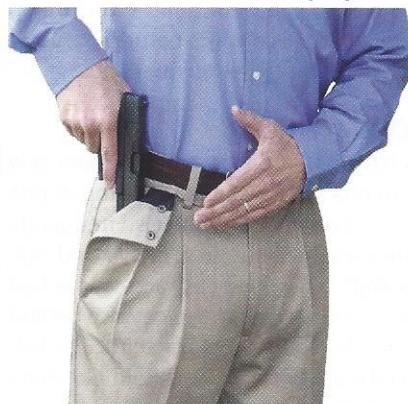
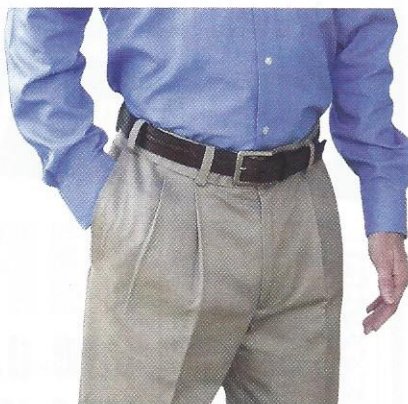
That brings us to long, heavy winter dress coats. While it might be easy to hide a gun under such a coat, it is not necessarily easy to retrieve one. Your firearm might slip into the outside waist pocket, but then you have a problem after you get inside. What to do with it? It's certainly entertaining to watch Kurt Russell, Val Kilmer and Sam Elliott in the movie *Tombstone* sweep back their long saddle coats and reach for their hogleg Colts, but in a modern deadly force encounter, that is slow and impractical. Worse yet, if you sense a dangerous situation developing, such an arrangement does not allow for any subtle preparatory movements.

The solution is again at your local tailor's shop. Have him or her place access slits inside your coat's pockets that allow you to reach through your pocket to inside your coat. You can easily, without any unbuttoning or overt movement, access your gun, whether it is in an inside pocket or on your belt in a high-ride or inside-the-waistband holster. (Continu-



CCW Breakaways Patented Built-In Holsters

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www.ccwbreakaways.com/StepByStep

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CONCEALED CARRY

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