SCAR vs. ACR

TACTICAL OPERATOR

MISSION READY
BLACK RIFLES
- ROCK RIVER .458 SOCOM
- ROCK RIVER .223 OPERATOR
- BUSHNELL ELITE 6500
- ATI STOCK SYSTEMS
- INSIGHT MRDS

TRENDS IN CONTROVERSY
- IS 5.56 DYING?
- GLOCK vs. 1911
- PISTON vs. DI
- SCAR UPDATE FROM U.S. SOCOM
- RAILS ON A 1911

TESTED
- Colt Rail Gun .45 ACP
- FNH SCAR-H 7.62 NATO
- Rock River Operator 5.56 NATO
- Sako TRG-42 .338 LM
- Sig Sauer P226 Tac Ops 9mm
- Rock River .458 SOCOM
OWN THE
As the U.S. Army Rangers slowly approached the residence of a known terrorist cell leader, one of his thugs walked out to take a look around while he relieved himself. As soon as he stepped across the threshold, infrared lasers danced on his chest, only visible to the soldiers wearing their AN/PVS-14 night vision monocular. Little did the thug know that as he stared, glassy eyed, out into the darkness the door to his domicile would soon disappear in a cloud of gunfire. The young Rangers would quickly move inside to eradicate any terrorists who were man enough to fight and arrest those who decided they weren’t as tough as they thought.

A helicopter flight in the dark of the night, building entries conducted during special operations—two perfect scenarios that often tie together. The key to success in either scenario is the ability to quickly engage targets with a high probability of hitting what you are aiming at. Even more important is to do all of this without visible lights.

Lasers are not only applicable to military and law enforcement, they apply directly to the armed citizen protecting his family and property.

The Need
Using the laser on your carbine or rifle is a must, but let me further define the “must” portion. You must have an infrared laser, which means you must have the ability to view this light energy at night. The IR laser is not visible to the human eye without night vision goggles, so now you must become NVG capable as well. Both items, IR lasers and NVGs, are relatively expensive, but why wouldn’t you outfit your tactical team with these devices if the budget allows? They should be placed on your mission critical gear list, well ahead of new uniforms or fancy cars.

**AN/PVS 9 binocular type NVG devices allow better depth perception.**
I can remember countless nights in-theater when the IR lasers played a key role in our success, not only the laser, but the NVGs to go along with it. At the time, we were using an EOTech Holographic sight that also allowed us to switch to an IR setting on the heads-up displayed dot. This briefs well for a group of engineers, and it does help to quickly get a zero at night, allowing the shooter to look through the reticle and align the laser with the dot. However, using this system to quickly eliminate a threat is not going to happen. First of all, you must perfectly align your eye with the NVG behind the sight. This is not a natural act, since the sight and the NVGs usually hit, that is if you try to use your daylight stock to cheekweld. If you don’t use your normal firing stance, you will not be as effective during the fight. We remedied this problem by using an IR laser, mounted to the top rail of our rifle. Not only did this device deliver a laser dot, it could be used as a flood light, with the aiming dot remaining in the center of the floodlight. This tool is a huge advantage when you need to illuminate a shadowy area in a room or alley. More important, though, the bad guys had no idea we were there. Operating completely blacked out is an advantage that some have not figured out yet.

Visible Carbine Lasers
The visible laser has a place not only in the military community, it can also be employed in our day-to-day environment. One application is to calm down bad guys. During one particular operation we made a little more noise...
than we would have liked. I like to call it “kicking the can,” because literally, we kicked a can. It's not as sexy as we would like to believe, but it would seem that we all just couldn't see this can. The other important factor is that Arabs like to sleep on the roofs of their houses during certain times of the year. So here we come, trying to move quietly across a rooftop, and as one soldier kicks the can, a sleeping civilian wakes up and can't see anything in the dark. As he sits up in his bed, he quickly realizes that there is a red laser dancing on his lap and chest. Luckily, he was a faithful fan of *The Terminator* and knew that Arnold must be near. He quickly laid back down in his bed and didn't move. As we pulled him from his bed, we realized that he in fact had an AK at the ready but chose to abandon his effort when the laser hit his chest.

This scenario has been played out in the streets of America as well. The red laser dot can quickly tell the threat that you have the upper hand, sights on target and ready to squeeze the trigger.

### Down, But Not Out

The IR and visible lasers on the rifle can also help those who are injured during a fight. It is much easier to get in a supported position and shoot one-handed with a laser than with your normal sights. You must have your firearm set up to allow one-handed operation. The Insight laser gives you the ability to double squeeze the pressure pad and the laser will stay on until you squeeze again.

### Pistol Lasers

One of the latest trends in the firearms

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*Night Vision Devices (NVD) take initiative away from the enemy. They're a must for surreptitious entries.*
market is the integrated visible pistol laser. They are a great tool as long as they are employed correctly. So what does this mean exactly?

The pistol laser should offer enhancement to your shooting capability. However, this is not always the case. Now, for the shooter with failing eyesight, the pistol laser does help. The pistol laser also helps during hours of limited visibility or if the shooter is in a peculiar shooting position, such as behind a shield or vehicle.

Where we see the downfall is when a shooter starts to completely rely on the laser for all target engagements. When placed on the clock, most shooters are 15 to 20 percent faster with iron sights than with the laser. Let me reiterate that this is when you can see your sights, normal daytime shooting.

When the sun goes down or you enter a building, the laser can help to add accuracy to an imperfect situation. As I stated earlier, the pistol laser can take you to the next level if employed properly when used around shields with law enforcement personnel, around vehicles or in your house.

**Laser Success**
The laser is a great tool. Flashlights are great tools. But we must know how to operate without them as well. We must also realize that the enemy can see visible lasers, and IR lasers can be seen by the enemy with NVGs. The reason I say this is that some shooters will turn on their laser and leave it on—not cool if you are operating with a team and not cool if you are out in the street by yourself. The bad guy can use the laser trace to quickly pinpoint your location.

If you have the ability to use white light in conjunction with the visible laser, you will be more devastating in the fight. Once again, you must use common sense with the light/laser combo, but the light will give you an increased advantage if you can shine it in the suspect’s eyes. Be prepared to use your iron sights or other sighting systems if need be, as the white light may overpower your laser on certain colors of clothing.

**Carbine Laser Location**
When mounting the laser on the carbine or rifle, it is necessary to place the laser in such a location that you will be able to engage threats out as far as the laser will reach or as far as you can see with your NVGs. In order to accomplish this, the laser should be at or above the bore axis. This is an extremely important factor since you are looking to enhance your night-fighting capability and not experience a detriment to this. If the laser is mounted close to your line of sight, you can judge your trajectory as you would during the day. For example, if your line of sight is 2½ inches above your bore, the height of iron sights on the M4/ M16-type service rifle, you know where to hold at different distances. If you place the laser below your bore, not even close to your line of sight, you won’t have a clue as to where the laser needs to be held in order to get a positive hit. Even at close to midrange for night fire, this can be tricky. During a gunfight, we need to be thinking about other things. Trying to decipher where your firearm will impact at 150 yards is not something that should be bouncing around in your melon.

**Zeroing**
The carbine should be zeroed at the same distance you would zero your sight during the day. This allows your laser holds to be somewhat close to your day sight holds. This is, of course, if the laser is close to your line of sight.
Parallel Zero
Another technique used by the military is the parallel zero, and it is exactly as it sounds. Your laser will be zeroed parallel to your line of sight. How can this be accomplished? If you know your laser is 1½ inches to the right of your line of sight, you would want your rounds to impact 1½ inches to the left at every yard line you shoot. Once you start to engage realistic-size targets, you won’t even notice the 1½ inches, especially at extended distances.

The infrared laser is one of the greatest tools that our military has in its toolbox. Being effective on the battlefield with your laser means hours of training to make its employment second nature. Whether you serve in Afghanistan or Oakland, you will gain the advantage with the use of a firearms-mounted laser.

As law-abiding citizens, we should add visible lasers to our arsenal, on our pistols and carbines. Analyze the scenarios that you may encounter in your day-to-day movements around your property and community. How will you employ these tools to not only survive, but thrive in a gunfight? TACOP

SOURCE
TNVC Tactical Night Vision Company
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tnvc.com

A red visible laser virtually disappears when used with white light on a light-colored background. However, in low light it is clearly visible.