



SAGA Snippets

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SAGA Snippets
June 2025

MYTHS versus FACTS: Firearm Ownership in the South African Context - Setting the Record Straight on Guns, Crime, and Public Safety

Opinion by Shaun Lyle
June 2025

MYTH:
More Guns = More Violence

FACT:
Lawful Gun Ownership = Lower Crime Rates

This oft-repeated anti-gun myth is one of the most pervasive and mis-leading mantras in the gun control debate: if there are fewer guns, there will be less crime - this is a simple yet flawed assumption.

Looking at the Numbers: South Africa versus the World

Let's consider just two key metrics: firearm ownership rates and homicide rates:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Civilian Firearm Ownership</u> (per 100 people)	<u>Homicide Rate</u> (per 100,000 people)
South Africa	9	36.4
Brazil	8	27
United States	120	7.5
Switzerland	27	0.5

(Source: Small Arms Survey, WHO, UNODC, SAPS data)

South Africa has far fewer legal firearms (9) per capita than the United States (120), yet our homicide rate is

five (5) times higher. Switzerland, with a much higher ownership rate (27) has one of the lowest murder rates globally.

What's Going On?

The obvious answer is very inconvenient to anti-gun ideologues: It's not about the number of guns - it's rather WHO has them!

South Africa suffers from:

- * Poor, ineffective & under resourced policing – prioritizing instead armed VIP 'Blue Light' protection
- * Extremely low conviction rates
- * Criminally held illegal firearms are widespread
- * Weak to non-existent border control
- * Illegal arms trafficking
- * Chronic SAPS administrative failures, including "lost" state-issued firearms.

The Real Problem: Guns in the Hands of Criminals

A 2022 SAPS audit found over 9,500 firearms lost or stolen from SAPS over the preceding five years. That's not civilian negligence – it's systemic rot.

Legal firearm owners are among the most vetted and law-abiding citizens in the country. They have to undergo competency training, regular renewals, inspections, and background checks. Yet, they are treated as the

Special points
of interest:

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Continued...Myths versus Facts

root cause of gun violence, while gangs and illegal arms proliferate with impunity.

The Misguided War on Legal Firearm Owners

Every new proposal from the State - whether trying to remove self-defence as a valid reason for ownership or attempting to ban semi-automatics - consistently targets the law-abiding, rather than addressing the criminal underworld.

Disarming citizens does not disarm criminals. Reducing legal gun ownership will not reduce illegal gun use. What it will do is render South Africans more vulnerable – especially in rural areas where police response times are inadequate or non-existent.

SAGA's Position: Evidence Over Emotional Propaganda

We support responsible, legal firearm ownership and advocate for:

- * An efficient licensing system: licensing the owner and registering the firearm.
- * Strengthening and enhancing self-defence rights.
- * Effective, transparent, and accountable policing.
- * Targeting illegal firearms and illicit firearm trafficking.

Ending the Blame Game

The "more guns = more violence" myth is disingenuous, an outright lie and idiotic policymaking. This irrational and nonsensical ideology is breathtakingly stupid. It is a distraction from the real problem and the potential solutions. We MUST shift the national conversation from fear & fiction to FACTS & FAIRNESS.

**Stand Together with SAGA
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You Will Probably Be Surprised

https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/you-will-probably-be-surprised/?utm_source=newsletter

by Sheriff Jim Wilson
31 May 2025

Here we stand on the square range, just about ready to run another drill. We've had time to get a drink of water, load magazines, and check our gear. We know which targets to shoot at and they are right there in front of us. We have time to get into a good shooting stance. We even know how many shots to fire at the targets. We know all of this because our shooting instructor has carefully prepared us.

Now I'm not knocking training on the square range; it's where we learn the basics and make those basics become habits. But, from time to time, we need to remind ourselves that real criminal encounters will probably never happen like this. Instead, they may very well come at us when we least expect it and are the least prepared. So I'm suggesting that once we have a foundation in the basics, we find ways to practice more realistically.

For example, it might be a really good idea to practice a good bit of one-hand shooting. Our other hand might be on the steering wheel of our vehicle as we try to drive out of an attack. We might be using it to block a close-range attack or, of course, it might be injured. And what if it happens to be your shooting hand

and arm that are injured or occupied? Can you draw your handgun with your weak hand?

Then there is the fact that most of us spend a good deal of our day sitting down, at a desk, in the car, whatever. Can you access your gun from a seated position? How well does that pocket holster work when you are seated and don't have time to stand as part of the presentation? Might appendix carry or crossdraw be handier?

Then we might consider attacks that come from just about any direction except right in front of us where those silhouette targets always stand. Can you draw and shoot across your body accurately and safely? If you have time to turn and actually face the threat, can you do it without getting your feet all tangled up?

While it is difficult to practice a lot of these things in a class while on the square range, we can certainly do it in our own private sessions, and we can do it with either live fire or dry practice, whichever is most practical and safe.

So use your imagination and come up with several attack scenarios. Work out a quick, safe way to practice a response and you will minimize the chances of actually being surprised and caught unprepared in a real-world situation.



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Continued...SAGA Corporate Membership



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Advertise in SAGA Snippets

Advertising space in SAGA Snippets is available to SAGA Corporate Members.

From July to December 2025, the price per advert will be R700, and from January to March 2026 the price per advert will be R900.

All prices exclude design costs. If you need help with advert design, for an additional R400, we have an experienced graphic artist who supports this initiative and will assist.

Advert dimensions are:
15.5cm wide x 5cm high.

Take advantage of this great opportunity to advertise your business, club or association to a huge audience of like-minded firearm owners.

Snippets is sent out in the last week of each month, apart from December when it gets sent out by 16 December.

All prices excl VAT.
Space is limited to four adverts per Snippets.

To book contact Gaye at the office on 031-562-9951 or saga@saga.org.za

Wildland Magazine June 2025

As part of SAGA's collaboration with Wildland here is the link to your free copy of Wildland magazine, June 2025.

Click on the link in the covering email, or copy and paste the link below into your web browser:
<https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/70541426/wildland-junie-2025>



Edition	Booking	Design for	Final	Payment
		Artwork	Artwork	
July	04-Jul-25	09-Jul-25	15-Jul-25	24-Jul-25
August	01-Aug-25	08-Aug-25	15-Aug-25	22-Aug-25
September	05-Sep-25	12-Sep-25	19-Sep-25	23-Sep-25
October	03-Oct-25	08-Oct-25	15-Oct-25	23-Oct-25
November	03-Nov-25	14-Nov-25	17-Nov-25	21-Nov-25
December	24-Nov-25	01-Dec-25	05-Dec-25	10-Dec-25

Skills Check: Priority-Shift Drill

https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/skills-check-priority-shift-drill/?utm_source=newsletter

by Tatiana Whitlock
23 June 2025

When the situation escalates, your ability to think clearly becomes just as critical as your response. As defensive shooters, we spend hours refining our draw stroke, recoil management, reloads, etc. to build movements we can execute with precision under pressure. But, how often do we take the time to train the thinking brain that is behind the trigger? In real-world scenarios, situational awareness, decision-making and emotional control are just as important as the mechanics that drive our shooting. These mental skills don't appear on their own when the pressure is on. They must be pressure tested and honed just like any other fundamental of defensive shooting.

The Priority-Shift Drill was designed with this in mind. It challenges your ability to process auditory cues, prioritize threats and respond with intention, all while under pressure. This drill forces your brain to lead your actions, not chase them. In defensive situations, the brain must control the gun – not the other way around.

The Priority-Shift Drill teaches you to stay in control when things get chaotic. It trains your mind to listen, process and prioritize your response. By making the mental side of shooting just as deliberate as the physical side, you'll develop the confidence and clarity to make the right decisions under pressure. This drill is about more than just speed or accuracy, it's about maintaining the mental edge that allows you to act with purpose when it matters most. By building the habit of thinking before acting, you'll be better equipped to face unpredictable situations with a calm, deliberate response – and that's the kind of preparation needed to survive in a real defensive encounter.

Here's the Drill:

- Position three silhouette targets evenly spaced at shoulders' width apart, 7 to 10 yards away. Label the targets left to right (A, B, C or 1, 2, 3). The shooter begins with the pistol loaded, holstered and ready to go. Verbal instructions can be delivered by the instructor, range buddy or by using pre-recorded cues.
- The instructor (or recording) delivers a verbal sequence of commands. For example: "3-2-1" or "B, skip A, then C – three rounds each," or "Engage A with two rounds, B with one, C head shot only."
- The shooter must listen to the entire command before moving, mentally process the engagement order and round requirements and repeat the sequence aloud – speaking out loud under pressure is a powerful tool to help cement the decision-making process. Then, the shooter needs to engage each target in the correct order, with the proper number of rounds and according to the specific command. Do not begin shooting until the command is fully understood, then processed.

There are variations that can make the drill more challenging. No-shoot commands can be added – "Do not engage target 2," for example – to test the shooter's ability to inhibit action and make decisions under added pressure.

Movement can be added, like incorporating a side-step off the "X" before engagement or requiring a range-safe side-step for any reload or malfunction clear.

Using a shot timer once the verbal sequence is given adds pressure and helps to track the shooter's mental-processing time and shooting speed, which keeps shooters aware of both their cognitive- and physical-response times.

With practice, this drill teaches you to hone your critical-thinking skills combined with marksmanship – two essential tools required to survive a life-threatening encounter.

Lasers vs. Red Dots

[https://www.shootingillustrated.com/
content/lasers-vs-red-dots/](https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/lasers-vs-red-dots/)

by Karl Rehn
18 June 2025

Electro-optic sights for handguns have been around for decades at this point. There are two main types: a visible laser that projects a dot on the target, and an optic similar to a traditional scope that uses a laser dot as the reticle, commonly called a "red-dot sight".

The visible laser could be embedded in a grip panel and activated with a pressure switch. Solutions for polymer-frame pistols usually involve attaching the laser to the trigger guard or a light rail in front of the trigger guard.

Visible lasers made it easy to shoot with full target focus, without requiring the gun to be raised to eye level. Even in bright daylight the laser dot is easily visible and quick to acquire for targets at typical self-defense distances of 3 to 7 yards.

In 2016, I led a research project comparing shooter performance with lasers, iron sights and slide-mounted optics with and without visible backup irons. This project measured the shooter's ability to hit targets at 5 and 10 yards in 1.5 seconds from a ready position with pistols of similar size and features. The test involved 120 shooters of varying skill levels from novice to very experienced. One conclusion of this study was that the visible laser provided the best results for low-skill shooters. Aiming the gun was visually simple: look at the target, put the visible dot on the target where you wanted to bullet to go, press the trigger.

Riding The Learning Curve

For shooters with a higher-skill-level performance, the laser was roughly equal to performance with iron sights, because they had already scaled the learning curve associated with quickly aligning the front and rear sights with the target.

At longer distances, shooters often reverted to using the iron sights for aiming because it was faster than trying to find the laser on the target. As a result, visible lasers weren't used by top-tier competitors, but red-dot sights were.

Red-dot sights are attached to steel-frame pistols with screws and mounting brackets, so that the sight would not be subjected to the shock and vibration associated with a rapidly moving slide.

The earliest adopters were bullseye shooters in the late 1980s, followed by USPSA and Steel Challenge shooters in the early 1990s. By the end of the 1990s, dot-equipped guns dominated all the pistol sports. At the top level, scores were improving by 10 to 15 percent, particularly on longer/harder shots due to the visual simplicity of target focus on a single dot for aiming.

Popularity of red-dot sights for competition pistol led to their use on competition rifles and shotguns, which led to adoption of red-dot sights on military rifles after 9/11. Innovation in manufacturing eventually led to red-dot sights that were small and rugged enough to survive extended use mounted to a pistol's slide.

Skill Level Makes A Difference

In our study, we found that shooters with high skill and experience doing aimed-fire drawing quickly from a holster shot as good or better with the slide-mounted red-dot sight, particularly if the gun that had both a red-dot sight and taller backup iron sights.

Those trying red-dot sights for the first time as part of our study often had trouble finding the dot within the 1.5 second par time. The learning curve for the red dot is steeper and slower to climb than the learning curve for the visible

Continued... Lasers vs. Red Dots

laser or iron sights. However, over the past decade private-sector trainers began offering red-dot specific classes guiding shooters up the learning curve. The most recent trend is law enforcement agencies issuing duty guns with red-dot sights to academy recruits and incorporating red-dot specific training to basic firearms training. Gun makers now offer many models with tall backup irons and red-dot slide-mounting options as standard products.

Are visible lasers still viable sighting options in a mostly slide-mounted optic world? Their greatest value is on the snub-nosed revolver or other pocket gun where the bulk of a red dot would make the gun too large for its intended purpose. The other application is on a home-defense pistol equipped with an attached weapon light.

On a larger pistol with iron sights, choosing a light model that has an integral laser can provide a secondary aiming system.

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The SAGA office is now available on WhatsApp on our cellphone number
066 003 9226.



Visual Alignment

by Steve Tarani
25 June 2025

In the world of professional firearms training – whether for military, law enforcement, protective services, competitive shooting or civilian defense – one concept stands above all others in the pursuit of superior marksmanship: alignment.

While marksmanship is often broken down into foundational components like positive grip, hold control, trigger control and follow-through, none of these can yield effective results without proper visual alignment. It is the bedrock upon which precision is built.

What is alignment?

At its core, alignment refers to the correct geometric positioning of the muzzle (barrel direction) with the point-of-aim aligned with the intended point-of impact on the target. This is not just a mechanical process, it's a visual process requiring relevant environmental input from the shooter's eyes and cognitive skills processed in real time under dynamic conditions.

More Than Just Pointing A Pistol

Alignment is more than simply pointing the gun. It's about ensuring that the axis of the bore intersects the line of sight, such that the bullet's trajectory meets the intended point-of-impact, compensating for height-over-bore, distance and any angular variances. This is achieved differently depending on whether the shooter is using iron sights or a mounted optic, but the principle remains identical: the gun must be aligned in space through the visual system with the target.

Alignment is not a one-time event – it is a continuous process. From the moment the firearm is presented to the eye-line until the trigger breaks and recoil occurs, the shooter is in a dynamic loop of aligning, confirming, correcting and re-aligning.

Visual alignment begins with target identification. Is it a shoot/no-shoot target. If it is, then visual input of critical target information such

as distance, size, movement, penalty for a miss, etc., is cognitively processed to determine the technicality of the shot, the target difficulty and it's shooting solution. All of this is derived from the initial environmental visual scan.

Bringing the firearm to bear up on target introduces a subcomponent of visual alignment the moment the gun enters your peripheral vision. Here you are focusing squarely on the target, but are visually aware of this "intrusion" into your periphery.

Next the sighting system moves from visual periphery to your field of vision proper where it is superimposed upon the intended target area. Here is where the autonomic visual alignment process begins to connect your line-of-sight with the sighting system (irons or optics) and the aimpoint or visual center of the intended target area. A common alignment aid at this stage in the process is to focus on a most refined area – as the expression goes, "aim small miss small."

This visual connection (line-of-sight, sighting system and aimpoint) is only half the battle. Confirmation of that alignment – the internal assurance (cognitive confirmation) that the muzzle is indeed pointed where it should be – is what allows the shooter to confidently break the shot.

There are two layers to this process:

Conscious Confirmation (Entry to Intermediate Level)

At this stage, the shooter visually confirms alignment through deliberate analysis:

- Are the sights in fact aligned?
- Is this an acceptable arc-of-wobble?
- Is this a good enough sight picture for this distance?

This is an active, often time-consuming process that leads to slower shooting but higher initial consistency. It is essential during training to engrain alignment mechanics.

Continued,,, Visual Alignment

Subconscious Confirmation (Advanced/ Reflexive)

Through high-repetition, high-intensity training, shooters develop the ability to confirm alignment subconsciously. The brain internalizes the visual signature of "correct alignment" and knows instantly – without thought – when the sight picture is correct.

This frees up cognitive resources for:

- Situational awareness
- Decision-making under duress
- Movement, transitions, and multi-target engagement

This is the terminal objective of visual alignment training: the ability to instantly and accurately confirm alignment through refined visual processing and subconscious recognition.

Things Can Go Wrong

Even a perfectly aligned shot can miss if alignment breaks during the trigger press. Alignment is not a snapshot; it's a sustained action. This is especially relevant in defensive scenarios or dynamic competition shooting, where alignment must be rapidly acquired, maintained and confirmed in motion.

Alignment is a continual process. Key factors influencing continuous alignment include:

- Durable grip pressure
- Fire control (without disturbing muzzle alignment)

- Visual anchoring during shot breaks and transitions
- Recoil recovery and re-acquisition of the visual reference

Every time the firearm moves – even microscopically – alignment must be reasserted, re-verified, either through front sight re-check or dot stability.

Effective visual alignment training includes:

- Slow-fire drills (deliberate alignment and confirmation)
- Dry-fire practice (repetition without recoil)
- Dot-tracking drills (for optics users)
- Sight-deviation analysis (understanding acceptable sight picture)
- Recoil management (retaining visual reference during and after shot)

Each rep reinforces the principle that alignment is the gateway to accuracy, and that the eyes – not just the hands – must be trained as the primary alignment system.

No matter the platform or purpose – iron sights or optics, paper or steel targets or real-world threats – visual alignment remains the critical skill. It is the link between the shooter's perception and the bullet's destination.

Through intentional training, shooters can skill-evolve from conscious alignment to subconscious precision, where visual alignment becomes fluid under stress.

<https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/visual-alignment/>



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Focus on SAGA's 40 Year Insignia



Double Lock Folding Knife

This folder by Coast has an extremely comfortable nylon-handled grip, a 9.2cm long stainless steel blade with an ambidextrous opener which allows one-handed opening, a lanyard hole and a 3-position clip. The Double Lock is a patented safety switch mechanism that works in conjunction with a primary liner lock to prevent disengagement.

Lazer engraved with the simplified SAGA 40 Year logo, this strong folding knife is robust and will give years of good service.

Price: R380



PVC Patch with Velcro Backing

PVC patches are the modern equivalent to embroidered patches. Made of durable plastic they are flexible, lightweight, and weatherproof. The new SAGA PVC patch measures 6x4.2cm (length x width), and will attach to anything with Velcro like jackets, caps, backpacks and shooting bags.

Price: R90

Softshell Jacket

This quality softshell jacket is a Barron brand and is available in black with the simplified SAGA 40 Year logo embroidered on the front left chest.

The jacket has elasticated binding on the sleeve opening, front shaped panels with welt pockets, bar-tacks at pockets for added durability, inverted nylon full zip opening and an

inner storm flap.

Comfortable and easy-to-wear, these jackets not only look good, but will wash well too. Available in sizes from small to 5XL.

These jackets need to be ordered - contact the office for more information.

Price: R660

Order on our website:
<https://shop.saga.org.za/>

