STORY BY TIM STETZER - PHOTOS BY JIM HOLMAN handgun, increases velocity, and the **HE REPORTS OF** THEIR DEATH WERE larger size of the weapon allows for GREATLY easier mounting of lights and optics EXAGGERATED. and adds mass, which decreases recoil and gives you more hold LONG AGO THAT IT SEEMED options on the weapon. The same is true for the pistol versions of submachine guns or pistol-caliber carbines—such as the subject of this article, the Angstadt Arms SUBMACHINE GUNS AND THEIR SEMIAUTOMATIC PISTOL COUSINS WERE DEAD ... LAID TO REST IN FAVOR OF SHORT-BARRELED RIFLES AND RIFLE-CALIBER PISTOLS. WHAT A FIRST LOOK LOT OF PEOPLE FOUND OUT, THOUGH, IS THAT THERE WAS A The Angstadt Arms UDP-9 looks **COST IN CUTTING BACK RIFLES IN INCREASED RECOIL AND** like a miniature AR-15. Rather than **MUZZLE BLAST AND A DECREASE** just using a full-sized AR upper and IN CARTRIDGE EFFECTIVENESS AS lower with a magazine block to take YOU LOST VELOCITY. a 9mm magazine, Angstadt uses an The subgun, on the other hand, upper and lower built specifically gains performance over a handgun around the 9mm Glock magazine chambered in the same cartridge. body. The result is a trimmer, lighter The longer barrel, compared to a and more compact firearm. 40 WORLD OF FIREPOWER **WORLD OF FIREPOWER** 41



forend with a full-length Picatinny rail allows for the addition of sights, lights or optics.

The upper receiver does away with the forward assist and brass deflector block common on many ARs but does use a wider ejection port tailored to the pistol-caliber cartridges for which the gun is chambered.

Basic controls on the UDP-9 are pure AR-15, so if you can run a military M4/M16 or one of the many civilian AR variants, you can run the Angstadt pistol without need for any retraining or refresher.

Takedown for cleaning is pretty much the same, as well, other than that the UDP-9 is a blowback weapon rather than a direct-gas-impingement gun, so there is no gas key to worry about on the bolt carrier.

The UDP-9 is chambered in 9x19mm and uses a free-floating, 6-inch, chrome-moly barrel with a 1/10 twist capped in a basic A2-style flash hider. A 5.5-inch ODIN Works Keymod forend with a full-length Picatinny rail allows for the addition of rails at the 3, 6 and 9 o'clock positions for mounting lights, lasers or other accessories.

There is just enough room to add a hand stop or Magpul angled fore grip, but keep in

mind that the UDP-9 is still a pistol, so a vertical fore grip is prohibited by the BATF.

A straight B5 Systems pistol grip and pistol buffer tube round out the pistol.

Its overall length is 22 inches, and the weight is a paltry 4.5 pounds without accessories. The UDP-9 will accept any Glock magazine—from the short, 12-round Glock 26 magazines all the way up to 33-round sticks and drum magazines.

It ships with either a 15-round Glock 19 magazine or a 10-round magazine, depending on your local regulations. A flared magazine well and large magazine release button help enable fast reloads.

The basic finish is black anodizing, and the base price for the UDP-9 is \$1,249. A number of options are available, such as Cerakote finishes in the color of your choice for an additional \$150, as well as the addition of a KAK buffer tube and Shockwave Blade Brace for \$75 over the base MSRP. My test pistol came with a gray tungsten finish and was fitted with the KAK tube and Shockwave brace.

RANGE WORK

I didn't have any shortage of volunteers to shoot the UDP-9 when it came time to go to the range. It's a visually striking pistol that draws people's attention. Once they get the Angstadt in their hands, the familiar AR controls and short, handy size make folks eager to get some trigger time in.

ENABLE FAST RELOADS."

I gathered up a stash of ammo consisting of Hotshot 115-grain 9mm from Century International Arms; IMI 115-grain Ex-Star hollowpoints from ZQI ammunition; and the 147-grain Train and Defend loads from Winchester. The Angstadt normally comes sans sights or optics, but Rich Angstadt suggested I try a Holosun sight and arranged for me to get an HS403G red dot to use for my UDP-9 testing.

I hit the range on a pleasant, 50-degree day with a couple of my regular shooting buddies. Sight-in was fast and simple with the Holosun, and we had it on target at 25 yards within five rounds. I'll take that any day of the week. The Holosun did match up quite well with the Angstadt, and while you can certainly add iron sights to the pistol, I think a red dot is the way to go.

The pistol is light and fast in the hand to begin

with, and the ability to rapidly get on target with a red dot suits it well. Because we were all familiar with the AR platform, I didn't have to waste time doing a range briefing. All we had to do was load mags and shoot.

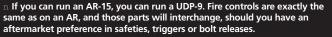
In addition to the factory-provided 15-round Glock OEM mag, we also used Glock 33 round sticks, SGM Tactical 33 round sticks, Magpul 15- and 17-round Glock magazines, and ETS's nifty clear polymer mags in a variety of formats (from the company's short, 10-round Glock 26 mag all the way up to its 22-round magazines). I especially like that the 22-round mags aren't much longer than a standard 17-round factory magazine, but you get a nice increase in ammo capacity while still keeping the mag at a reasonable length. We even tried out a Korean 50-round drum I picked up from Mississippi Auto Arms awhile back for another project.

All the mags fed well from the UDP-9; in fact, we didn't have any malfunctions of any kind during our testing. We did find that the Magpul and ETS mags were difficult to lock into place, but once locked in, they fed fine. I checked with Rich Angstadt about the issue; he pointed out that I had an early sample and that current production guns lock in easily with all of











those magazines. I later had the opportunity to try a couple of other Angstadt variants using ETS mags, and they did, indeed, accept the mags without issue.

Recoil on the UDP-9 is very mild, and double taps are quite easy to do. Accuracy was excellent with all four loads tested. From a sandbag rest, groups well under an inch at 25 yards were common, and even our worst groups were still

typically less than 2 inches—and with a 7.5-pound trigger pull, too. Although I typically prefer a trigger pull lighter than that, it didn't seem to hamper us at all with our shooting. (However, if you do want to swap out the trigger, it takes standard AR trigger parts, so you can change it to anything you like.)

Offhand, the Angstadt moves like an extension of your body. Bringing the buffer tube up to your

cheek and grasping the magazine well give you a solid hold, and the overall length is so short that everything stays tucked in tight.

It's perfectly sized for clearing rooms in an offensive role or guarding your hallway in a homedefense situation. Add a flashlight and one of ETS's 22-round mags or Glock or SGM Tactical's 33-rounders, and you've got a formidable package that isn't going to deafen you with muzzle blast or



blind you with muzzle flash.

About the only addition I'd like to see is a single-point sling mount on the gun, because it's obviously not a holster pistol. Still, as with the trigger pack, that's something you can easily add yourself.

While at the SHOT Show, I had the chance to shoot a couple of other variants from Angstadt at a private range event one evening. One was a 16-inch carbine; the other was a full-auto version of the pistol I was testing, complete with Magpul buttstock.

The carbine was especially pleasant to shoot and, like the pistol I had on hand, seemed very accurate. The full-auto variant was amazing. It was extremely controllable and much lighter and handier than older-generation subguns such as the Uzi or MP5.

If you need a submachine gun for work, I'd take a serious look at the military and law enforcement offerings from Angstadt— especially if you're in a department that's already using ARs—because your transition training is negligible.

"THE PISTOL IS LIGHT AND FAST IN THE HAND ..."

MORE COMING

At this time, the UDP-9 is only available in 9x19mm, but .40 S&W and .357 SIG models are planned for later in the year. They will be available as both new uppers for your existing UDP-9 or as complete guns. You can also get a 16-inch carbine version, a short-barrel rifle PDW or even just stripped upper and lower receivers to build your own gun.

Whether you're interested in the pistol tested here, a carbine or even the SBR, I'd highly recommend checking out what Angstadt has to offer. It might be a newer company, but it knows how to make guns.

In fact, I passed on some other guns I was looking at and bought my T&E gun, planning to add a .40 upper to it when it becomes available. I can't think of a much better endorsement than that. FP



