An Issue of Weight on the 1911

This copy covers a number of areas that concern a lot of people. And that is *an issue of gun weight*. Recently I responded to an email/article with a little dissertation on gun design wherein the issue of **weight** was part of the topic. The understanding of the relationship of a guns weight relative to recoil is important and before a gun is designed a certain criteria must be met mentally **FIRST** before one begins. For those interested in **Colt Model 1911's or Sniper rifles**, this commentary might have value for you. I extracted some text from that conversation for you to read.

Quoting from Karl Lippard correspondence on the subject with various Marines in copy:

"On the business of guns the issue of **weight to caliber ratio** I have come up with has been foremost in mind when designing a Shotgun, Rifle or pistol. All are based on criteria of application of course. That equation is the basis of thought before any gun design is even considered. But the analogy to understanding would be like this. You and I would agree that a .22 should not weight 20 pounds. We would also say that 1 pound might be too light. So what would that correct weight be? And the answer would be: a "comfort level that the rifle could be used effectively." So if we extrapolate that to a **1911 Combat NCO** as example we know that the pistol should weigh (and is) 3.7 pounds (2.14 unloaded) this to offset a projectile of 230 grains at 802 fps.

The original **Colt M1911** was not made to an equation but a similar weight and barrel length of a **Single Action Colt**. Therefore if one has the equation for a pistol, shotgun or rifle and apply that to a given caliber, there the effects of different applications can be discussed **before** a design is begun. We know for example that a *Commander* length weapon has some disadvantages because of its length, sure. But, the comfort level goes down as recoil is increased and a host of other issues that are obvious. But if the pistol being short has a use criteria of defense at the defense range of 7 feet… and not used often… then the added inaccuracy and recoil associated are generally not a factor. Therefore a *Commander*, is okay. And also it can be seen that a .38, .32 etc. need not be as heavy a pistol either BUT, that a **.500 S&W** we will need to do something to bring that caliber back into the ratio of comfort/weight/velocity/mass, in line. **The "how much" is in the equation.**

So now that we are all on the same *equation basis* and we look at a loaded .308 at 10 pounds we can see that is about right. But the comfort level being 8.5- 8.8 can we just cut weight out of it to get there? No. But we can make the rifle gas operated semi automatic and reduce it can't we? And we can maybe use **Karl's compensation design of opposing forces** can't we. And now we have our weight of 8.5 on the rifle. But if we used sabots we can drop it further **to 5 pounds yes**? Ahhhh. And if we change the way barrels are lined to reduce friction can we drop it to **3.5 pounds**? **Sure we can** and the cost goes right down with it too. Ahhhh!"

Well, as you were not in the conversation and don't know really what we were talking about specifically I think you can understand the jest. Math says the **M9 pistol** is **NOT a useful platform** for the purpose intended. (Neither was the **Walther P39** from which it came) The criterion should be designing guns for an intended purpose using a formula for effective use. The **Model 1911 in .45acp DOES meet the criteria for military application** and needs only a few "***A2 upgrades"*** to be serviceable for another 100 years……And we have Patents and Patents Pending on those modifications.

Every other weapon in the military has been changed, enhanced, and or upgraded except the M1911 pistol. Why is that? And they picked a 9mm M9 to replace it? I thought we learned something in the Philippines about the .38 calibers? Said they couldn't shoot a 1911 A1 and had to give it up? Was it too heavy, sloppy metal fit or poor sights? Did it NEED to be upgraded?

The "wheel" as example has been around for what; thousands of years? Have never discarded that wheel have we? In fact we are "in LOVE with the wheel." So much so in fact that it has been advanced and revised in design many times. But, when it comes to say a pistol, the **Colt 1911 A1,** the military has changed nothing to make it more accurate, improve it sights, extend its life or reduce its recoil since 1911!! Why is that?

I can say with authority that over 100,000 M1911's out of service can be put back on the line for $7.00 each and be accurate. In fact they have the parts I sent for that purpose right now…….That designs exist that can further upgrade a **M1911 to a A3 and A4** to surpass military needs for 100 years at 1/3rd of the cost of a M9……AND, even a housewife can shoot it accurately. **(Did someone say, "Combat NCO" model A2? Hello? How many patents or patents pending on that 1911? Seven. SEVEN!!! And not one modification on the Military 1911 A1 since what, 1911? What? What's wrong with this picture?)** That a new military rifle design is available to suit our needs for 100 years…..**So what IS THE PROBLEM?** The problem my friends is US Government.

We possess in America all the tools and design **"in the Can"** so to speak to crush imports……. **You just need to demand quality and pay the price quality represents. If you do that, then you can proudly to say I own an American made firearm. That is what we do at Karl Lippard Designs.**

Karl Lippard