

in either blue or matte stainless finish, and comes with the Taurus Security System, an inconspicuous key-operated locking system located in the hammer.

The 445 is a specialized tool. Its purpose is to make large holes in carbon-based life forms at relatively short ranges. It is not a target pistol, and its rudimentary sights, typical of snub-bies, amply testify to that reality. For that reason, I set my targets up at 10 yards. Ammo consisted of CCI Blazer 200-grain jacketed hollow points and commercial 200-grain RNF reloads. I fired both offhand and from a sandbag rest on the bench.

The 445, as I mentioned earlier, is quite easy to shoot. It's a lightweight gun with a short barrel and a large-caliber cartridge, but its recoil is far from intimidating. The trigger pull, single-action, is about 4-1/2 lbs. Double-action pull was off my scale, but I'd estimate in the vicinity of 10 lbs., nothing out of the ordinary.

From a sandbag rest, five-shot groups were in the 1-3/4" range. The groups, however, were

consistently 4" below point of aim. If you pick up the 445 and instinctively point it straight ahead, the front sight will protrude almost 1/4" above the fixed rear sight. If you move the front sight down so that its top surface is even with the top of the rear sight, your group will cluster about 4-5" below point of aim. Clearly this calls for either learning a new sight picture, or judicious use of a file. It's really no big deal; this is a gun you take to a close-range altercation, not to the Olympics.

All in all, this is a very comforting gun to have with you, whether in a holster, bedside table or tucked in next to your car seat. Viewing the cavernous muzzle could cause an opponent to experience a serious laxative moment. MSRP is \$539 in stainless and \$508 in blue, but the real-world price will undoubtedly vary.

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A Winner for the NRA Board: STEVE SCHREINER

Why vote for Steve Schreiner?

Schreiner is a Vietnam Vet, Airborne Ranger; awarded CIB, Bronze Star with V Device and Silver Star.

He is a noted supporter of the Second Amendment as exemplified by the following:

1. President, Firearms Coalition of Colorado;
2. Awarded NRA's Best Volunteer Organization of the Year;
3. Successfully Fought for Colorado's CCW;
4. Highly Successful Registered Lobbyist at Colorado Legislature;
5. Fought against semi-auto ban, magazine bans and "safe storage" bills;
6. Member of NRA's Grassroots Committee.

What I stand for:

1. We need to reach out to everyone, especially the younger generation, using their means of accessing information, about the positive aspects of the National Rifle Association and the Second Amendment;
2. We need more emphasis on range development and protection of existing ranges;
3. We need to protect our shooting rights in National Forests and on other Federal lands.

Steve Schreiner

President, Firearms Coalition of Colorado

*"Vote for Silver Star Recipient **Steve Schreiner** for NRA Board of Directors. I am encouraging NRA Board of Directors voters to utilize the 'bullet ballot' procedure. If you vote just for Schreiner, you increase his chances of being elected.*"*

Lt. Col. Robert K. Brown, USAR (Ret.)

Editor/Publisher, *Soldier of Fortune* Magazine

*Bullet balloting does not increase the number of votes cast for Schreiner but it does reduce the number of votes the other candidates receive which, therefore, increases the likelihood of Schreiner's election.

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