

**AMERICAN**  
**COP**<sup>TM</sup>

**WIN A**  
**SMITH & WESSON**  
**M&P 340**  
**PACKAGE!**

**HIGH-RISK**  
**TRANSPORT**

**BEAT**  
**THE**  
**BAN**

**LES BAER AR**  
**TUNE-UP**  
**TIPS**

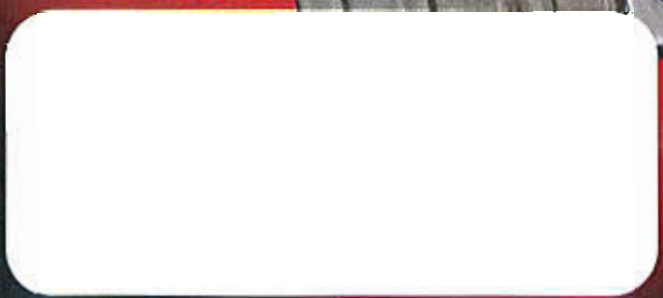
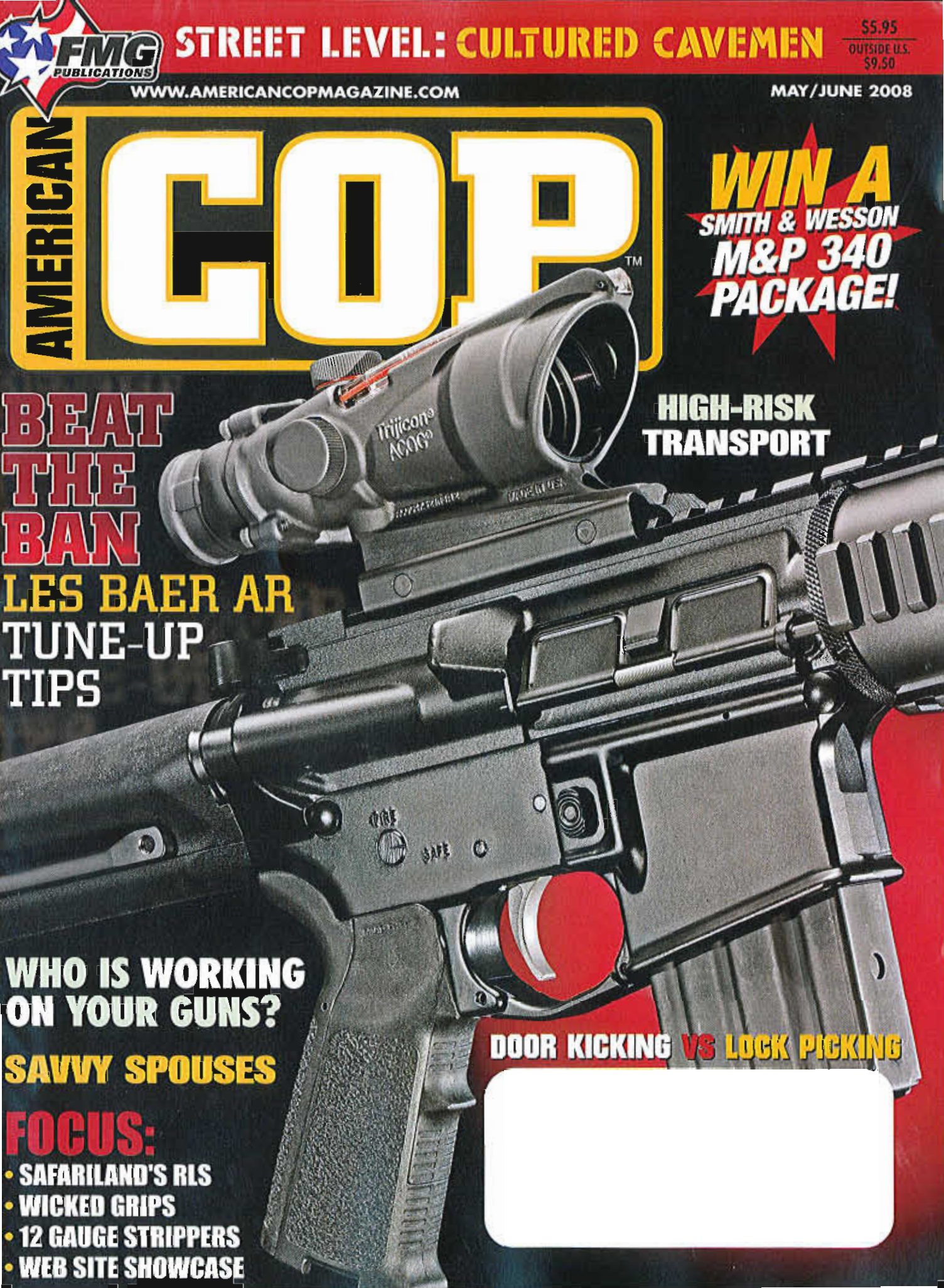
**WHO IS WORKING**  
**ON YOUR GUNS?**

**SAVVY SPOUSES**

**FOCUS:**

- SAFARILAND'S RLS
- WICKED GRIPS
- 12 GAUGE STRIPPERS
- WEB SITE SHOWCASE

**DOOR KICKING VS LOCK PICKING**



# PRYING EYES

**W**hen we hear about fiber optics most of us think of telephones, cable TV, or the Internet. But advances in camera technologies have also given law enforcement a new tool; Fiber Optic cameras to combat sophisticated criminals who use every method possible to avoid detection.

During this past year I've received an ever-increasing number of safety alerts. Many refer to booby-trapped or suspicious packages and some for new ways of concealing dope. One of the ways we can be more successful in combating this type concealment is by using surveillance tools such as "snake" or fiber optic cameras to give us the information we need before we act.



## It's The Glass

**T**his technology uses color CCD, or Charges Couple Devices, providing the viewer with a superior quality picture through an opening no bigger than an opening you make pushing a number 2 pencil through a piece of cardboard. Combine the miniature camera with optical fibers which are long, thin strands of very pure glass about the diameter of a human hair and you have a sophisticated surveillance device. Arrange these fibers into bundles called optical cables, use a low power transmitter sending light over distances because signals in optical fibers degrade less and you have the makings of wiz-bang James Bond type tools.

But remember, first and foremost it's only a tool; it *does not* replace good safety practices. If you're foolish enough to tamper with suspicious packages without having the necessary knowledge and skills then I hope you have plenty of life insurance and your premiums are current. Those guys on the bomb squads are thoroughly trained and have the experience necessary to make the right decisions.

## Freedom View

**O**ne of the units I recent got my hands on is OPTIM Inc.'s Freedom View LED Fiberscope.

This ruggedized device is designed as a simple-to-use non-destructive inspection system, used to look into areas generally inaccessible to normal viewing techniques. Huh? It means you can look around corners and into closed containers, if it's safe to do so, without disturbing



the contents or making the person aware of your presence.

The Freedom View scope comes in three flexible optical cable shafts in lengths of 40, 60 or 80 inches and 6mm in diameter. At the end of each cable is a 2" articulating section capable moving 120 degrees. The camera has a field of view of approximately 60 degrees and is designed to see object close up from .4" to 4" but is capable of giving clear images on objects as far away as 15'. The cable has been tested and functions immersed in certain fluids such as water, gasoline and diesel fuel. However you should consult the manufacture when working with caustic chemicals as severe damage may occur.

It's powered by rechargeable Lithium Ion battery making the unit self contained and completely portable. A fully charged battery will last between two and four hours depending on light source. The scope itself provides visual status cues of red, yellow and green LEDs indicating the approximate amount of time left before the battery is drained. A drained battery takes between three and four hours to fully recharge. In more controlled environments, the unit can be plugged into a standard AC power source or the 12-volt DC electrical system via your car's cigarette lighter.

### Low Light Or No Light

The camera works in very low light situations of approximately 1 or 2 LUX. To equate this to something more understandable, a single candle gives off 10 LUX of light at a distance of about a foot. But in situations where there is no light, let's say the inside of a closed container, the scope has two white LEDs embedded into the tip of the articulating section adjacent to the camera. The default brightness power is set at 20 percent when the light source is turned on. Two buttons allows intensity adjustment the LEDs. Obviously, there will be times when you wouldn't want two bright LEDs glowing as you passed the camera shaft over the threshold of some dirtbag's doorway or while peering around the corner of a drug dealer's cutting room.

For longer-term undercover surveillance work, an optional flexible guide tube may be obtained to help position the camera shaft into hard-to-reach locations. Once the unit is set, the Freedom View scope can also be configured to capture still and video images.

As we continue to battle in the wars against drugs, crime and terror, having the proper tools is a necessity. But, using solid safety practices and appropriate searches should always be our first concern.

For more info: [www.optimnet.com](http://www.optimnet.com).



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