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# Jason gun show explodes myths

*"Do you like guns? Well, I hope so. Welcome to the wonderful world of firearms and firepower."*

— Alec Jason

Some of us tend to forget that civil servants aren't all pasty grey bureaucrats shoving paper around the office swamp.

Alec Jason hasn't.

He's made a delightful film, "Deadly Weapons," for the bureaucrat whose day might include a gun battle with felons or a close encounter of the worst kind with one of the Middle East's principal exports — the terrorist nut.

His video tape has been snapped up by the CIA, the FBI, the Los Angeles Police Department, the California Department of Justice, the U.S. Navy and the Manila (Phillipines) Police Department, among others.

Mr. Jason swears that making this film was "hard work."

Look at it this way. Suppose a friend called you up and said, "Hey, I'm going out to the range this afternoon. I think I'll machine gun a car to shreds, blow up another one with dynamite, test every handgun caliber for lethality, shoot several people at point blank range to demonstrate how swell bullet-proof vests are, and . . . oh, I dunno, maybe assault an innocent engine block with a .357 Magnum and try out a few of your basic assassin's tools, like silencers and brief-case machine guns."

Would you go along to help "work"?

Well, of course you would. Especially if your friend was the kind of guy who looks up after emptying a full belt of M-60 machine gun ammo, smiles ruefully and says, "Gee, this is post-ammo let-down."

Sigh. Not many of us have friends with so many neat toys, or a place to play with them. Unless, of course, we're willing to sign up to be-e all that we can be-e in the Are-are-mee — which is not advisable for those of us who already have been all we were and are now concentrating on keeping what's left working.

But that neat friend and his firing range are as near as your videocassette recorder. (You can order your very own copy of "Deadly Weapons" by sending \$69.95 to The Anite Co., P.O. Box 375, Pinole, CA 94564. Specify VHS or Beta format.)

For almost two hours, "Deadly Weapons" walks through the fundamentals of small arms, demonstrating in wonderfully vivid ways such concepts as "stopping power," "penetration" (steady there, you Freudians) and controlled fire — the clear superiority for accuracy's sake of firing one round at a time over "full auto."

In this case, "small arms" includes everything from handguns through the .50-caliber machine gun. The dynamite is thrown in at the end of the film because, Mr. Jason explains, "we had a car left we had to get rid of."

"Deadly Weapons" is not an overly technical film. To show the relative man-stopping ability of various handgun calibers and types of rounds, Mr. Jason executes plastic milk jugs filled with water, shooting through three-quarter-inch pine board (bone).

The effect of the round on the water in the jug simulates "hydrostatic shock," the violent rearrangement of the mostly liquid human interior when it is visited by a bullet.

The jugs literally explode when hit with some rounds — most notably an amazing little device known as the "Glaser Safety Slug." This means nearly all of the energy in the bullet stayed in the target, and there was no danger of the bullet's passing through to hit innocent bystanders.

Mr. Jason takes the reader through a dozen other practical exercises, demonstrating which weapons can and can't be depended on to penetrate a car door (for example, to stop a Beirut bomber), what happens when one fires through plate glass or a windshield, and the merits of the .12-gauge shotgun for serious work at close range.

Along the way, he obliterates many common myths. Among them:

- That "silencers" really silence. They don't. At best, they "suppress" sound, which is why experts call them "suppressors."

- That the .357 Magnum is so powerful it can penetrate an engine block. It can't. At eighteen inches range, the best it can do is dust a little rust off the block.

Mr. Jason says he's heard the last myth so often on TV "news" shows that he thinks it's taught in journalism school.

"If the press can't get this little bit of technical information straight, you should think more than twice when they discuss more complex issues like nuclear energy or the MX missile."

Exactly so.