

# Selecting the Ideal Shoulder Weapon for Florida Wildlife Officers

Mark Warren

This research evaluates the issues surrounding the selection of an appropriate shoulder weapon for Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's officers. The issue emerged from problems observed by firearms trainers and complaints from officers about the Beretta shotgun. A survey was developed to measure historical uses, malfunctions experienced, officer confidence in the Beretta, preferences for a different shotgun, preferences for a rifle or shotgun, and general comments about shoulder weapons. Forty-nine percent of officers had used (displayed or discharged) their shoulder weapon during their career, 50% of officers had experienced a malfunction with the Beretta, 58% of officers wanted a different shotgun, and 43% wanted a rifle. This research indicates that the GFC needs to consider an alternative to the Beretta that is currently issued.