

AARON FORUM SFC USA (Ret.)

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Proven entrepreneur and former Special Operations leader with a track record of building and scaling high performance teams in complex, high-risk environments. Founder and former CEO of a multi-channel firearms training, retail, and e-commerce company grown from inception to approximately 10 million dollars in annual revenue at exit.

Deep expertise in risk management, operational leadership, and strategic execution under pressure. Bridges technical firearms knowledge, business development, and real world operational experience, with specialized training in sensitive site exploitation and technical analysis in high risk environments, to deliver results across commercial, advisory, and litigation support work.

Currently developing a second commercial indoor firearms range in Orlando, Florida under the brand Hot Brass, featuring an integrated firearms museum experience.

CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS

- US Army Green Beret (18C)
- 100k+ customers and 10k+ students trained (2k CCW/CWP)
- Special Forces (18B) Weapons Sergeant Small Arms Instructor
- Special Operations Foreign & Non-Standard Armorer (SOFNAC)
- Survival Evasion Resistance & Escape (SERE) High Risk (Level C)
- Instructed 100+ events for GORUCK LLC
- Live explosive disarm, awarded bronze star
- Ironman, Senior Leader Course class 006-012
- Selected to train Colorado School of Trades instructors in range safety and certify as NRA Range Safety Officers
- Selected by US Army to appear in GQ Magazine
- Coordinated extraction of former Afghan interpreter +6 immediate family, 2021

KEY COMPETENCIES

Case Analysis ▪ Firearms ID/Mechanics of Operation ▪ Gun Range/Retail Design ▪ Gun Safety Standards of Care
FFL Compliance ▪ Live-fire Training Risk Management ▪ Design Flaws ▪ Public Speaking/Media Spokesman

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Chief Operating Officer | Hot Brass Orlando LLC – Present

- Leading the development and operational launch of a premier machine-gun experience and museum attraction in Orlando's International Drive corridor, drawing on 20+ years of experience in U.S. Special Operations, commercial gun range and retail operations, firearms training, armorer and gunsmith knowledge, range safety management, and expert witness consulting to build what is intended to become the best indoor machine gun tourism experience in the world, located in the world's largest tourism market.



Praetorian Partners | Technical Consultant 2026-Present

- Praetorian Partners is a consulting group comprised of professionals with training and experience across high-liability sectors, including firearms and related products, ammunition, gun ranges, gun stores, maritime and admiralty, oil and gas, medical, civilian and law enforcement use of force, and related standards of care. The team includes individuals with significant backgrounds in military and law enforcement operations.

Expert Witness & Firearms Safety Consultant | Aaron Forum LLC 2022 – Present

- Leverage mastery of firearms safety and operations to provide expert witness testimony and consultation for various legal proceedings, drawing on extensive knowledge of firearms and mechanics of operation, gun range design, gun store design, firearms safety protocols and risk management in firearms retail, gun range safety and risk management, high volume live-fire semi-automatic and fully automatic firearms rentals, concealed carry best practices, firearms training safety protocols, self-defense, inherent design flaws, and related standards of care, deliver firearm and range safety education
- Colorado School of Trades – NRA Range Safety Officer Certification Instructor
Selected to certify gunsmith instructors and administrative personnel as NRA Range Safety Officers (RSO) at the Colorado School of Trades, one of the nation's premier gunsmithing institutions since 1947
- Deliver concise expert witness testimony in legal proceedings, collaborating with legal counsel to develop effective strategies for presenting that effectively communicate complex concepts related to firearms safety and operations
- Conduct thorough analyses of firearms-related incidents, providing detailed reports and expert opinions to support legal cases
- Utilize extensive experience and expertise to assess firearm and related product design flaws, safety protocols, and operational procedures, offering invaluable insights to legal teams
- Prepare comprehensive documentation and visual aids to support testimony, ensuring clarity and accuracy in conveying technical information to non-expert audiences
- Provide strategic business planning and development consultation to clients seeking to establish or expand their presence in the industry
- Serve as an NRA Chief Range Safety Officer Consultant regarding best practices in range safety protocols, risk management procedures, and emergency response planning to facilitate optimal environments and experiences
- Certified NRA Pistol Instructor, adept at delivering high-quality firearms training courses emphasizing safety, proficiency, and responsible gun ownership principles to students of all skill levels and backgrounds

CEO & Founder | Shoot Center LLC 2014 – 2022

- Developed Shoot Center LLC from inception to operational success, overseeing all aspects of project planning, design, funding, construction, and ongoing management, securing \$5M+ in startup capital from banking institutions and private investors
- Incorporated firearms risk management and training experience from Special Operations into Shoot Center range safety protocols and design, facilitating 100,000+ gun range lane rental hours with no injuries from unintended discharges
- Established a driven team of 30+ staff members, fostering a culture of firearms safety excellence and customer-centric service delivery
- Managed inventory of 1.5k+ SKUs with a total value of \$1.5M+, ensuring optimal stock levels, product variety, and availability
- Catered to the needs of 26k+ customers within the first year of operation, establishing Shoot Center LLC as a premier destination for firearms enthusiasts and achieving ~\$10M in annual revenue in year 5
- Personally instructed 2k+ student customers during the startup phase, instilling trust, confidence, and loyalty in the brand
- Served as the media spokesperson for Shoot Center LLC, participating in 98 local news interviews as a key firearms expert to local media organizations, effectively promoting the company's mission, values, and contributions to the community
- Designated NRA Law Enforcement Instructor from 2016-2021, imparting specialized firearms training to law enforcement

US Army Special Forces | USA JFK Special Warfare Center 2004 – 2014

- Served as Special Forces Operational Detachment (Alpha) 1223 Senior Special Forces Engineer (18C)
- Oversaw 8-figure operational funds and property management, ensuring seamless execution of mission-critical tasks and optimal resource allocation



- Implemented comprehensive risk management protocols, resulting in the successful mitigation of threats and mission integrity during various operational scenarios
- Completed Merlin Covert Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Course, United Kingdom, with training in sensitive site exploitation, non intrusive diagnostic techniques, interpretation of device construction and firing systems, and covert render safe procedures in support of operational and intelligence driven decision making
- Selected as a Small Group Leader Instructor at the U.S. Army Special Warfare Center and School, delivering experiential, performance based training and evaluation to Special Operations candidates in high stress environments
- Achieved a 20%+ increase in trainee selection rates during a period of record attrition for Special Forces Assessment and Selection (SFAS)
- Planned and directed critical logistics and force-protection construction, managed related indigenous workforce of 100+ in two separate countries, providing vital mission support in nonpermissive and semi-nonpermissive environments
- Served as Special Forces Operational Detachment Alpha 1223 Senior Engineer, Counter IED expert, Master Breacher, Master Mountaineer, Static-line Parachute Jumpmaster, operations fund paying agent, and property manager
- Selected by US Army for lead role in “Starting Strong,” a reality-based US Army Television Program
- Selected for lead role as guest instructor on “Vickers Tactical” TV series, as a Special Forces (18B) Weapons Sergeant Small Arms Instructor

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

- **Colorado School of Trades Accredited Gunsmithing Program**, Graduation Date: January 2026
- **18C Special Forces Engineer Sergeant “Green Beret,”** US Army Special Forces (011-18C30-C45)
- **Stanford Ignite Graduate School of Business**, Certificate Program California
- **Glock Armorer Course (Second Certification)**, Certified 07/01/2025
- **Sig Sauer P320 Armorer Course**, Certified 11/12/2025
- **Sig Sauer P365 Armorer Course**, Certified 11/13/2025
- **Sig Sauer 1911 Armorer Course**, Certified 11/14/2025
- **NRA Chief Range Safety Officer**, Current
- **NRA Pistol Instructor**, Current
- **USCCA Range Safety Officer**, Current
- **NRA Law Enforcement Instructor**, 2016 - 2021
- **Special Operations Foreign and Non-Standard Armorers Course (SOFNAC)**, US Army Special Forces
- **Dillon Aero Armorer M134D Familiarization Course**, Fort Bragg, NC
- **Merlin Covert Improvised Explosive Device Defeat**, Herefordshire, UK
- **Special Operations Forces Master Breacher**, Tier 1 Group
- **Special Operations Advanced Mountaineering School**, US Army Special Forces
- **Special Forces Senior Mountaineering School**, US Army Special Forces
- **Static-line Parachute Jumpmaster**, US Army
- **Airborne Infantryman (11B)**, US Army
- **2/2+ Indonesian Defense Language Proficiency Test**, 2006
- **Vehicle Close Quarter Battle (VCQB)**, Centrifuge Training LLC
- **High Speed Marksmanship**, JJ Racaza



EXPERT EXPERIENCE

Deposition Testimony

- Deborah Ann Vaughn and Barry Vaughn v. Royal Range USA, LLC - Case No. 22C2368, **closed**
- Kevin A. Murphy v. Federal Cartridge Company - Case No. 2:22-cv-00108-RCY-DEM, **closed**
- Jozef Hradecky v. First Shot, LLC - Case No. 63CV-23-1396, **closed**
- Glock 23 drop-fire incident, **active**

Litigation Engagements (Retained – No Deposition or Trial Testimony)

- Debra K. Parker v. Luis A. Alvarado, et al. - Case No. 24CV31178, **closed**
- Kewine Eason v. Patrick Digirolamo - Case No. CL23003633-00, **closed**
- Lisa Marie Salvati, et al. v. Quickshot Savannah LLC, Quickshot Holdings LLC, Quickshot LLC, and 7202 White Bluff LLC - Civil Action File No. 21A02520, **closed**
- Gariffo v. Duncan - ricochet from steel target at gun range, **closed**
- Explosion - commercial gun range, **active**
- Bolt action rifle catastrophic failure, **active**
- Commercial gun range fire, improper disposal of hazardous materials, **active**

Arbitration / Consulting Engagement

- Commercial indoor range facilities inspection, firearms and range safety consultant; proceeded through arbitration, **closed**
- Artillery testing safety protocol consultation - public lands, ongoing consulting regarding safety protocols for proposed military artillery testing near public lands, **active**

Case Evaluation / Expert Coordination

- Semi-automatic Shotgun Catastrophic Malfunction - Initial case evaluation and coordination of retained expert through Praetorian Partners, **active**

VOLUNTEER

- Board Treasurer for The Light House, a Colorado-based 501(c)3 serving foster children, 2022 - Nov. 2025

ASSOCIATIONS

- **NRA**, Member
- **GSSF (Glock Sport Shooting Foundation)**, Lifetime Member
- **National Association of Safety Professionals**, Basic Member

PERSONAL INTERESTS

- Entrepreneurship and business branding, boxing, boxing ring announcing, personal training, firearms training, carpentry, tile setting, public speaking

