

The Assassination Attempt

by

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By now almost everyone in the nation has heard about the attempted assassination of Donald Trump. Having watched the video played over and over in the media, there is no doubt that Trump, like a phoenix rising out of the ashes left by the fire from a bullet, symbolizes the rebirth and hope for our nation.

Found in Egyptian, Phoenician, Persian, and Greek mythology, the phoenix of these ancient civilizations seems to have come alive as Trump rose out of the covering of Secret Service agents to stand and raise his fist in defiance to the attempt to destroy this man. While the mythology of the phoenix varies from culture to culture, one theme is recurrent – the phoenix arises out of turmoil to renew hope, and rebuild.

Within an hour of the attempted assassination, two things started happening:

- anti gun groups started calling for greater control of guns, and
- conspiracy theories about the assassination started to emerge.

Shortly after Thomas Crooks was killed, the Secret Service announced that an “AR type” rifle was used in the attempted assassination. Since that announcement, the Secret Service, law enforcement, and law enforcement retirees have referred to the weapon as a “long gun,” avoiding the media’s AR-15 description. This is significant in that the AR platform is being referenced as a long rifle rather than an “assault rifle” or “automatic rifle.” It is important to note that AR stands “Armalite Rifle.”

Currently the AR-15 platform rifle is the most popular rifle in the United States. Yet gun grabbers and the media continue to misrepresent the rifle’s origin and what ‘AR’ really means. Like most rifles today, ARs are semi-automatic rifles. The first semi-automatic rifle was patented in 1883. Between 1903 and 1905 the original design was modified and several manufacturers introduced semi-automatic rifles in various calibers. By 1936 the **M1 Garand**, chambered in 30 cal, became the US military’s standard rifle.

Designed in 1956, the AR-15 platform was developed by Armalite. Based on this platform the M16 was developed and replaced the military’s **M1** in 1963. At that time, the M1 was chambered for NATO 5.56 mm ammunition.

In 2010, manufacturers started offering the AR-15 in a variety of calibers, causing a surge in popularity in the civilian market. Today the most common calibers for the AR-

15 platform are .22 LR, .17 HMR, .30 cal, 5.56 mm, .223 cal, and combination 5.56/.223. [[AR-15 history and facts](#)]

While some form of the AR-15 platform has been used in recent mass shootings and the attempted Trump assassination, any rifle could have been used. Lee Harvey Oswald, used an Italian Carcano rifle to kill JFK.

At the same time that the gun grabbers started back up with their misinformation and ill informed rhetoric, conspiracy theories started emerging. Almost immediately Democrats said that the whole thing was staged, a hoax.

Within a week of the attempted assassination a lot of information was announced and circulated by law enforcement, the media, and others. As time passed, many questions have been raised, new information revealed, and initial information discredited. More conspiracy theories arose, especially after the lack of testimony from the Secret Service director.

In short, the Secret Service and other law enforcement agencies are seen as being incompetent at the least. In essence, the security plan, attempted assassination, and response is best described by the military acronym **FUBAR**. However such situations do not exist in a vacuum. Since Clinton was president, the Secret Service's ability to secure sites can be referred to as **SNAFU**.

But, snafus also do not exist in a vacuum. Snafus are created by four main factors:

1. Lack of leadership
2. Lack of preparedness
3. Impatience
4. Ineptitude/ incompetence

All law enforcement and protection agencies have many issues which impede interagency cooperation. While many people believe that the two major issues to be "turf battles" and communication, the real issues are ego and culture. Instead of working together, agencies often withhold cooperation in any number of surreptitious, deceptive, and/or misleading ways.

The survival of Democracy requires an open and transparent government that is free of political intrigue, and whose servants are also free of political and

personal bias.