



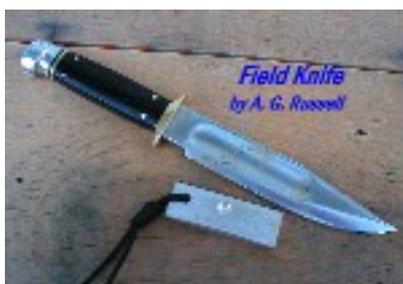
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# AG Russell's Field Knife in A2

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- Gear reviews and tests - Edged tools - Fixed blades -



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## **Description :**

The venerable USMC Fighting Knife design is taken to the ultimate limits ...

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## AG Russell's Field Knife in A2

I grew up in the generation of baby boomers following WWII and Korea. I lived very near to Camp (Fort) Drum, and routinely was exposed to members of the US Army's 10th Mountain Division. Some of my earliest memories are hearing stories told by my uncles and youngest great uncles tell of their war experiences and watching "Combat" with Rick Jason and Vic Morrow. Men like those became my heroes and role models. The gear they used and the vehicles they drove became a passion for me. Although a Jeep still hasn't found it's way to me, I've had several M1 Carbines and more than a few USMC Fighting Knives.

Although the issue style fighting knives will always have a special appeal to me, I've always found them lacking in one way or another and they never quite filled my personal needs outdoors. I was quite excited when AG Russell wanted me to test his new versions of the venerable field knife...



There will be 600 copies of the A2 version, while there will be only 150 copies of the S30V versions available. The A2 is hardened to 59-61 HRC, while the S30V is hardened to 60 - 62 HRC. Both knives feature an overall length of 12", blade length of 6 7/8", blade width of 1 5/16", and stock thickness of 3/16". Weight is approximately 11 ounces without sheath. The A2 version is to be supplied with a high quality reinforced ballistic nylon sheath, the S30V model will be supplied with a top quality brown leather sheath. The A2 version sports a black micarta handle, while the S30V dons a beautiful piece of desert ironwood as it's hand furniture. Both blades are beautifully convex and both came to me incredibly sharp. The huge fuller adds incredible strength to the blade and lightens it sufficiently to be very fast and nimble in the hand. As A.G. says, "The Field Knife is everything the US Government wanted but

couldn't afford."

It was my pleasure to take the Field Knife for a workout. With a name like that, I figured it should be worthy of some hard use. It's first stop was by one of my favorite local creekbeds, where I knew I'd find some rock hard driftwood. I wasn't disappointed ...



The Field Knife easily bit into and threw chips from the piece of driftwood selected.

On the way home, I stopped by a local business and invaded their scrap pile of pallets...



The Field Knife had more than sufficient strength to easily dismantle a few old pallets to scrap wood for my firepit. This knife won't come apart; the handle is pinned, epoxied, and the pommel is screwed on. It's one tough knife, for sure.

The next test was back to the firepit to reduce some hardwood to kindling...





As you can see, I wailed on the blade with the baton. The knife did not suffer from the experience. The edge was still able to shave hair after the session was completed and the blade spine was completely unaffected by the pounding it took.

The Field Knife's spine is squared, but not left sharp. The swedge is also left thick and unsharpened, making for great batoning and also supporting its ability to be used as a draw knife. The drawback, of course, is that the blade edge must be used to strike a MFS or other ferrocerium rod for firestarting if you have no other tool available. For this task, I use the first 1" of the blade in front of the ricasso to save the remainder of the knife's edge for fine work. The Field Knife's performance in scraping an MFS was exceptional. Its performance in striking a spark was remarkable ...

Here it is at high noon. Note the sparks flying near the "Hunt 101" banner on the pic ...



Not too impressive until you see the results at dusk ...



The edge did suffer two small rollover spots from it's encounter with my rather chewed up MFS. Both spots came right out with a good stropping on a piece of 800 grit wet/dry paper. The edge quickly came back to it's original level of sharpness when I switched out the 800 grit paper with 1000 and then 2000 grit paper. Final stropping on charged leather gave me a wicked edge that I later felt a need to tone down a hair. That toning came with a huge block of cheese reduced to cubes and a fair chunk of pepperoni reduced to some fine slices.

Overall, I rate the A.G. Russell Field Knife very highly. A.G. was right, this knife IS everything the US government wanted but couldn't afford. This knife certainly isn't lacking in any way shape or form, IMHO.

There's limited quantities available, so, to order or for more info contact A.G. Russell ... <http://www.agrussell.com/>