



## CRKT GIVES BACK TO THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN SO MUCH

STORY BY JOSHUA SWANAGON  
PHOTOS BY CRKT

Typically, our "Behind the Scenes" column serves the purpose the name indicates: to go behind the scenes of different knife companies and check out their processes and other aspects of the company itself. We also like to place a special emphasis on veteran-owned companies and makers. However, while speaking with a rep for CRKT at the 2016 SHOT Show, I learned of a very unique program CRKT has started with their "Forged By War" program and I thought it was worth going behind the scenes of this special program and see what they are doing for our veterans and veteran-related non-profit organizations.

# FORGED BY WAR



Left to right: Elmer Roush, Darren Sirois & Austin McGlaun





Sangrador

## SANGRADOR SPECIFICATIONS

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 10.5 INCHES  
**WEIGHT:** 7.4 OUNCES  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 5.54 INCHES  
**THICKNESS:** 0.183 INCHES  
**MATERIAL:** SK5  
**BLADE-HRC:** 54-56  
**FINISH:** BLACK POWDER COAT

**GRIND:** DUAL  
**STYLE:** SPEAR POINT  
**EDGE:** DUAL- VEFF SERRATIONS AND PLAIN  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** G10  
**CARRY SYSTEM:** NYLON SHEATH  
**WEIGHT:** 2.6 OUNCES  
**MSRP:** \$150.00

## THE PROGRAM

### Background

In 2013 Ryan Johnson of RMJ Tactical and designer for CRKT, approached CRKT to discuss work he had been doing with returning combat veterans. For a few years at that point, he had been working with combat vets who have returned with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and have turned to steel to work through their trials, by designing and forging their own tools.

As I spoke with a CRKT rep, it was very apparent to me that CRKT has a profound respect and concern for our returning combat veterans, and in 2016 launched the "Forged By War" program, where they are working with these designers/makers and bringing their designs to a production level. By doing this, the designers brought on board are sharing the designs they wished they had in the field with the general public at large. Also, more importantly to the designers, they are sharing their creations with active military personnel, currently in harm's way, who can use all the help they can get from back home.

It has not been an easy process for CRKT — the struggles did not lie on the logistical side of things, but on the selection side. While speaking with CRKT I was told that the selection process was very challenging because there were so many great designs shared with them, it was difficult selecting the right models to bring to production. With so many great designers and relationships they have built, they wish they could make them all.

Maybe that is a good sign for the future of this program.

### Philanthropy

Not content with resting on simple laurels, CRKT is not only helping returning combat veterans bring their visions to a broader market and getting them into the hands of those who need them most, they are also helping other returning veterans by donating 10% of the CRKT net profits to the veteran's charity of choice. While the two current charities supported by this program are Purple Heart Homes and Green Beret Foundation, there are so many more charities that CRKT would really like to support, every one that is out there, as I am told. I believe that this program will eventually be able to go a long way toward accomplishing a large part of that goal.

Along with their donations to veteran's causes, CRKT also provides a professional discount for military, law enforcement and logistics professionals

so that these tools can be in the hands of those who need them the most. To find out more about this discount or to take advantage of it, visit [www.crkt.com/militarysales](http://www.crkt.com/militarysales).

### A SOLID START

At the moment, there are only two knives and an axe in the Forged By War program, but this is only the start of the good things to come. After speaking with CRKT about the Forged By War program, I was assured that they will have more to debut at the 2017 SHOT Show. From everything I have been able to gather about this program, it looks as though it is gaining traction.

### Sangrador

Ten and a half inches of mean, the Sangrador is a dual-edged dagger with one purpose, and it does it well. The dual edge gives you the benefit of a plain edge on one side and the Veff Serrations on the other, providing the best of both worlds.



Darren Siros grinding one of his original Sangrador's.



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Clever Girl

**“AFTER SPEAKING WITH CRKT ABOUT THE FORGED BY WAR PROGRAM, I WAS ASSURED THAT THEY WILL HAVE MORE TO DEBUT AT THE 2017 SHOT SHOW.”**

### CLEVER GIRL SPECIFICATIONS

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 10.125 INCHES  
**WEIGHT:** 6.3 OUNCES  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 4.6 INCHES  
**THICKNESS:** 0.158 INCHES  
**MATERIAL:** SK5  
**BLADE-HRC:** 54-56  
**FINISH:** BLACK POWDER COAT

**GRIND:** HOLLOW  
**STYLE:** PERSIAN  
**EDGE:** PLAIN  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** G10  
**CARRY SYSTEM:** GLASS-REINFORCED NYLON  
**WEIGHT:** 1.6 OUNCES  
**MSRP:** \$125.00

The aggressive spear point tip on the 5.54-inch blade is ideal for maximum penetration, yet sports a slightly broader tip for strength. The Sangrador is constructed of black-powder-coated SK5 high-carbon steel and finished with G10 handle scales, giving it a great feel in the hand, while being strong enough to withstand the harshest environments. Weighing in at only 7.4 ounces (10 ounces with sheath), the Sangrador easily makes itself a permanent part of your belt or kit.

#### Clever Girl

If you saw the movie Jurassic Park and remember the scene where Bob Peck's character, Game Warden Robert Muldoon, had a velociraptor sneak up on him while hunting her, then you'll remember the now famous line spoken seconds before being devoured — “clever girl.” As aggressive as a velociraptor, the 10.125-inch Clever Girl sports a 4.6-inch Persian-style blade designed to get the job done with extreme prejudice. The black-powder-coated SK5 high-carbon

steel blade features a hollow grind for ultimate slicing capabilities. The G10 handle scales feature a grooved pattern to enhance the grip when wet or dirty, and are built to withstand hard use in hard environments. At 6.3 ounces (7.9 ounces with sheath), the Clever Girl will disappear until you need her to appear and get the job done.

#### Birler Axe

Harkening back to the old lumberjacks, who were tough as nails, the Birler Axe makes its home in the field or in combat. The 16-inch axe features a head constructed of 1055 high-carbon steel sporting a 5.165-inch blade. At 10.3 ounces, the Birler Axe is heavy enough to work its way through the toughest job, but still light enough to not be a burden in your kit. The Hickory handle features a nice throat at the base for increased control that is reminiscent of Viking designs of the past, while the long beard allows you to choke up deep behind the bit for finer work. It has a nice, flattened

#### DARRIN SIROIS – SANGRADOR

From CRKT.com

Coming from a Special Ops background, Darrin doesn't design knives that just work in theory. They need to work in action, too. And he knows the missing element to any great blade: human input. That's why you'll often find him hounding his Special Operations teammates and asking them what they like and don't like about their knives. Now as part of the Forged by War™ program he's fine-tuning until his knife-making mission is complete. Along the way, he's earning nods from awards shows and fellow soldiers all around the world.

#### AUSTIN MCGLAUN – CLEVER GIRL

From CRKT.com

There are those who fight with knives. There are others who design them. And then...there's Austin. Having served in the 101st Airborne Division in Iraq, and as a street cop in Columbus, GA, he knows that a knife has to work as both a weapon and a tool. As part of the Forged By War™ program he applied his skills as both a combat vet and knife maker to develop the Clever Girl™. Not to mention a new way to bring his fellow soldiers home. When asked about his design philosophy, he'll tell you that if a knife is ugly but effective, it's not ugly. It's perfect.

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Austin McGlaun forging an original Clever Girl.







Birlar Axe

### BIRLER AXE SPECIFICATIONS

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 16 INCHES  
**WEIGHT:** 10.3 OUNCES  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 5.165 INCHES  
**THICKNESS:** 1.113 INCHES  
**MATERIAL:** 1055 CARBON

**BLADE-HRC:** 50-55  
**FINISH:** SATIN  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** HICKORY  
**MSRP:** \$89.99



Elmer Roush putting some finishing touches on a custom Birlar Axe.

### ELMER ROUSH – BIRLER AXE

From CRKT.com


Elmer has spent his fair share of time on the battlefield. But these days, what really gives him excitement is battling hot steel with a hammer as a blacksmith. He enjoys hand forging functional edged tools and brings over 40 years of experience to the Forged By War™ program. Axes, froes, hatchets, and historical replicas, such as Viking axes, are his specialty. Though his designs look modern, they're actually based on tools and implements that go back thousands of years.

poll protruding slightly away from the shoulder allowing for hammering jobs without being in the way in your kit.

#### Conclusion

Being a big supporter of our returning vets and all that they have done for us as a country, I am always quick to do whatever I can to support them in whatever way possible. What the Forged By War program is doing speaks volumes to me about where CRKT stands on the topic of veteran support and I find that to be just another great thing about CRKT as a company. More than just CRKT as a company, but each individual that I have spoken with about this program has spoken about it with a great deal of pride and enthusiasm, demonstrating that CRKT fosters a culture

of patriotism and support for those who put themselves in harm's way for us all.

The Forged By War program not only helps our returning vets deal with issues such as PTSD and integrating back into society, but it also helps other organizations that are helping our vets on a larger scale. With the three current models in the program and the designs yet to come, Forged By War shows a lot of promise, that it will be around for years to come and help countless lives. For more information about the Forged By War program visit [www.CRKT.com/forged-by-war](http://www.CRKT.com/forged-by-war). 

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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