CLAIMS

~~What is claimed is:~~

1. A front sight for a weapon, comprising:

a mounting block having a pair of wall members extending therefrom;

a tower pivotally mounted to the mounting block for movement between the pair of wall members and between a first position, wherein the tower is horizontally arranged with respect to the mounting block and a second position, wherein the tower is vertically arranged with respect to the mounting block;

a first locking mechanism comprising a plurality of spring biased members for retaining the tower in the first position and the second position, the plurality of spring biased members being configured to allow movement of the tower between the first position and the second position in response to a force applied to the tower; and

a second locking mechanism configured to lock the tower in the second position and unlock the tower such that the tower can be moved from the second position towards the first position, wherein the second locking mechanism must be manually released before the tower can be moved from the second position to the first position, wherein the front sight is located proximate to a forward end of the weapon and wherein the second locking mechanism is slidably mounted to a front surface of the tower located between the pair of wall members.

2. The front sight as in claim 1, wherein the mounting block is configured to be mounted directly to~~about~~ a barrel of the weapon.

3. The front sight as in claim 1, wherein the mounting block is configured to be mounted about a barrel of the weapon and a port of the mounting block is in fluid communication with the barrel and a gas operating system.

4. The front sight as in claim 3, wherein the weapon is an automatic or semi-automatic firearm.

5. The front sight as in claim 1, wherein the plurality of spring biased members are a plurality of balls that are spring biased away from an opening in the pair of~~side~~ wall members of the mounting block.

6. The front sight as in claim 5, wherein the ~~sight~~ tower further comprises a plurality of detents configured to receive a portion of the plurality of balls when the ~~sight~~ tower is in the first or second position.

7. The front sight as in claim 6, wherein the first position~~direction~~ is perpendicular to the second position~~direction~~.

8. The front sight as in claim 1, wherein the second locking mechanism is a catch configured for movement in a plane parallel to the front~~a~~ surface of the ~~sight~~ tower.

9. The front sight as in claim ~~8~~7, wherein the catch is spring biased in a first direction and the catch further comprises a tab configured to engage a slot when the ~~sight~~ tower is in the second position.

10. The front sight as in claim 9, wherein the plurality of spring biased members are a plurality of balls that are spring biased away from an opening in the pair of~~side~~ wall members of the mounting block.

11. The front sight as in claim 10, wherein the ~~sight~~ tower further comprises a plurality of detents configured to receive a portion of the plurality of balls when the ~~sight~~ tower is in the first or second position.

12. The front sight as in claim 11, wherein the first position~~direction~~ is perpendicular to the second position~~direction~~.

13. The front sight as in claim 12, wherein the mounting block is configured to be mounted directly to~~about~~ a barrel of the weapon.

14. The front sight as in claim 13, wherein the mounting block is configured to be mounted about a barrel of the weapon and a port of the mounting block is in fluid communication with the barrel and a gas operating system.

15. The front sight as in claim 14, wherein the weapon is an automatic or semi-automatic firearm.

16. A rifle, comprising:

a mounting block configured to be coupled to a barrel of the rifle, wherein the mounting block is located proximate to a forward end of the barrel, the mounting block having a pair of wall members extending therefrom;

a tower pivotally mounted to the mounting block for movement between the pair of wall members and between a first position, wherein the tower is horizontally arranged with respect to the mounting block and a second position, wherein the tower is vertically arranged with respect to the mounting block;

a first locking mechanism comprising a plurality of spring biased members for retaining the tower in the first position and the second position, the plurality of spring biased members being configured to allow movement of the tower between the first position and the second position in response to a force applied to the tower; and

a second locking mechanism configured to lock the tower in the second position and unlock the tower such that the tower can be moved from the second position towards the first position, wherein the second locking mechanism must be manually released before the tower can be moved from the second position to the first position and wherein the second locking mechanism is slidably mounted to a front surface of the tower located between the pair of wall members.

17. The front sight as in claim 16, wherein the plurality of spring biased members are a plurality of balls that are spring biased away from an opening in the pair of wall members of the mounting block.

18. The front sight as in claim 17, wherein the tower further comprises a plurality of detents configured to receive a portion of the plurality of balls when the tower is in the first or second position.

19. The front sight as in claim 18, wherein the first position is perpendicular to the second position.

20. The front sight as in claim 16, wherein the second locking mechanism is a catch configured for movement in a plane parallel to the front surface of the tower.