CLAIMS

~~What is claimed is:~~

1. An upper receiver (14) for a weapon (100), the upper receiver (14) comprising: a plurality of channels (26) each being oriented in a first direction (28) and wherein each of the plurality of channels (26) intersect an elongated channel (30) extending in a second direction (32);

a modular rail (20) having a pair of securement features (24) configured to be slidably received within a pair of the plurality of channels (26);

characterized in that the plurality of channels (26), the elongated channel (30) and the modular rail (20) having a pair of securement features (24) are arranged such that modular rail (20) can slide in the pair of the plurality of channels (26) in the first direction (28) until the pair of features (24) can slide within the elongated channel (30) in the second direction (32); wherein each of the pair of features (24) engages a flange of an upper ledge portion (36) and a flange of a lower ledge portion (34) defining the elongated channel (30) when the modular rail (20) is secured to the upper receiver (14).

2. The upper receiver as in claim 1 or 6, wherein the first direction (28) is perpendicular to the second direction (32).

3. The upper receiver as in claim 1 or 6, wherein each of the pair of features (24) further comprises a means (44) for fixedly securing the modular rail (20) to the upper receiver (14).

~~4. The upper receiver as in claim 1, wherein each of the pair of features engages a flange of an upper ledge portion and a flange of a lower edge portion defining the elongated channel when the modular rail is secured to the upper receiver.~~

~~4~~5. The upper receiver as in claim 14, wherein each of the pair of features (24) further comprises a means (44) for fixedly securing the modular rail (20) to the upper receiver (14) and wherein the means (44) further comprises a screw (48) wherein a

distal end of the screw (48) is received within an opening (52) in the upper receiver (14) when the modular rail (20) is secured to the upper receiver (14).

56. The upper receiver as in claim 1 or 6, wherein the weapon (100) is an automatic or semi-automatic firearm.

67. The~~An~~ upper receiver as in claim 1~~for a weapon~~, wherein the ~~upper receiver comprising: a~~ plurality of channels (26) are~~each being~~ oriented ~~in a first direction~~ on opposite exterior sides of the upper receiver~~d~~ (14); and

wherein the modular rail (20) is ~~each of the plurality of channels intersect an elongated channel extending in a second direction;~~

a plurality of modular rails (20) each having a pair of securement features (24) configured to be slidably received within a pair of the plurality of channels (26) such that each of the plurality of modular rails (20) can slide in the pair of the plurality of channels (26) in the first direction (28) until the pair of features (24) can slide within the elongated channel (30) in the second direction (32).

78. The upper receiver as in claim 67, further comprising a removable bottom portion (56), wherein the removable bottom portion (56) has an integral rail (58).

89. The upper receiver as in claim 67, further comprising a removable bottom portion (56), wherein the removable bottom portion (56) has a plurality of channels (70) each being oriented in a first direction and wherein each of the plurality of channels (70) intersect an elongated channel (74) extending in a second direction; and wherein the plurality of modular rails (20) each having a pair of securement features (24)~~is~~ configured to be slidably received within a pair of the plurality of channels (70) of the removably bottom portion (56) such that each of the plurality of modular rails (20) can slide in the pair of the plurality of channels (70) of the bottom portion (56) in the first direction until the pair of features (24) can slide within the elongated channel (74) in the second direction.

~~10. The upper receiver as in claim 7, wherein the first direction is perpendicular to the second direction.~~

~~11. The upper receiver as in claim 7, wherein each of the pair of features further comprises a means for fixedly securing the modular rail to the upper receiver.~~

~~12. The upper receiver as in claim 7, wherein each of the pair of features engages a flange of an upper ledge portion and a flange of a lower edge portion defining the elongated channel when the modular rail is secured to the upper receiver.~~

~~13. The upper receiver as in claim 12, wherein each of the pair of features further comprises a means for fixedly securing the modular rail to the upper receiver and wherein the means further comprises a screw wherein a distal end of the screw is received within an opening in the upper receiver when the modular rail is secured to the upper receiver.~~

~~14. The upper receiver as in claim 7, wherein the weapon is an automatic or semi-automatic firearm.~~