

WHITE PAPER-COMMERCIAL

WHITE PAPER ON LONESTAR FIELD PRODUCTS SPEC-REST®

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BACKGROUND

The Spec-rest® is truly a one of a kind weapons platform that is unmatched in its ability to make the end user better at their mission objective. Originally developed to provide a more stable shooting platform for the avid hunter in place of shooting sticks and camera tripods. I first discovered the Spec-rest in Colorado while attending a SWAT competition. While at the zero range for the snipers, I first encountered the Spec-rest and its inventor, Mr. Robert Black. Planning to zero check my sniper rifle in the prone position, Mr. Black asked me if I would like to zero check on his rest. Intrigued, I could not resist the offer. As Mr. Black placed my rifle in the two yokes on the rest, I had never seen such an apparatus that held the rifle at the front and rear. With only a minute of instruction, it was time for me to fire a round or two at an orange one inch dot approximately one hundred yards away. As instructed by Mr. Black, I shouldered my rifle making a stock weld and buttstock contact. I made a gross adjustment with my shoulder to get my reticle on the target backer and then used the finely tuned micro elevator with my support hand to get my reticle exactly where I wanted it. I placed the rifle on fire and pulled the trigger back. The projectile exited the muzzle and impacted the orange one inch dot right in the middle. Astounded with the accuracy from a standing shot on his rest, I turned around and asked Mr. Black where he was from. That's where it all started for me and the Spec-rest® on a range in Colorado. It was then, I knew his weapons platform was a game changer for law enforcement and the military. After returning back home, I made contact with Mr. Black and obtained a couple of Spec-rest® LE Kits for our SWAT team use. Mr. Black was always available and more than happy to assist my team and me as we looked at different situations and past operations where the rest could be utilized. As my team was beginning to deploy to public venues for overwatch protection we continued to encounter the same problem. The prone firing position was simply not available at these venues. The Spec-rest® tripod provided the best solution to this issue. With many observational areas for snipers being elevated and having parapets, how else do you elevate a precision rifle on demand with the ability to provide 1 minute of angle (MOA) or better in accuracy in a non-permissive environment? There was/is no other kit that comes close to these mission requirements. If needed to interdict a threat(s) in a crowded venue, what platform existed to allow such? The best option is the Spec-rest®. What should be understood is that there is no second chance to take back a projectile that impacts the wrong person. Life is not a rehearsal and there are consequences for collateral injury and death for the law enforcement professional. In a public venue setting the Spec-rest gives the sniper what he requires most. Confidence! Fundamentals and skill set are very important, but without the confidence you simply have a hope and a prayer. For the past sixteen (16) years, I have personally deployed the Spec-rest® at public venues overwatch. I demand the very best in doing so and the Spec-rest® allows me to have the necessary confidence if required to save lives.

INTRODUCTION

The Spec-rest® excels in being a one of a kind platform that accepts rifles from .20 to .50 BMG caliber. It simply does not discriminate in this regard. With two pliable yoke positions that come in three different sizes it allows for the configuration of different size weapon chassis. The yokes are made from a heavy durometer rubber lined material to ensure a snug fit on all weapons chassis. With the rifle in the yokes this allows for precise leveling of the rifle. This alleviates the need to make sure the tripod is perfectly level. I've not run across any rifle yet that could not be placed in the yokes for firing and when placed in the yokes it is never over dedicated to the rest. Placing the rifle in the yokes does not require any pins, latches, clamps or buckles. As easy as the rifle is placed in it, it's just as easy to pull the rifle out on demand. Spec-rest® delivers minute of angle or better results from the standing, kneeling and sitting positions. One feature of the rest that is quickly noticed by the end user is its ability to attenuate the felt recoil. It is simply reduced and noticed on all caliber rifles, but even more so when firing 50 BMG. Precision tracking of moving targets is where the 'ah ha' moment occurs for the shooter. Conventional tracking from bipods to tripods cannot compare as the Spec-rest® is smooth and steady in this application. It is further enhanced by utilizing the patented Live Screw/Variable Drag Technology (LS/VDT) that was developed for this intended reason.

MODSOP™ (Modular Sniper Operations Platform)

At the request of Special Forces details, the MODSOP was developed. The Special Forces branch of the military immediately saw the value ad of the Spec-rest, but after some use in theater requested a more compact version be developed. Mr. Black was able to fulfill the request without sacrificing any of the attributes that the Spec-rest is known for. Born was the Modular Sniper Operations Platform or MODSOP™. Starting with the base quad legs that were machined to be broken down into two sections that upon assembly would marry up. The Spec-rest® head was then designed to be divided into two halves. The two halves are joined together by a high tension latch enhancing one another by supporting precision holds. Once the base legs and the head are assembled the legs are spun onto the spindle creating a complete Spec-rest. Pop in the desired yokes and you are ready to go.

SPEC-REST CLAMP™

One of the more innovative inventions of Mr. Black was the creation the SR Clamp™. Born out of the need to place the Spec-rest® in areas that did not lend themselves to placing a tripod or quad pod base, the clamp was the perfect solution. This robust clamp is not something you will find at your local Home Depot. Purpose made for the support of the Spec-rest®, this clamp affords the ability to mount the rest on tubular rails, doors, etc. or any object that will support its weight. The SR Clamp™ has a gripping range of 1.5 in. - 4.0 in. diameter. Further flexibility exist as the clamp will mount on the selected anchor either vertically or horizontally adapting to two mounting angles.

FATIGUE MITIGATION

Typical SWAT callouts to locations where suspect(s) have barricaded themselves typically do not resolve themselves quickly. Most operations begin with crisis negotiations before progressing any further. The progression to other technique, tactics and procedures (TTP's) can take several hours. In addition, waiting for a search warrant to be written and signed by a magistrate can be time consuming also. For the law enforcement sniper this equates to several hours behind the rifle watching the target location. Having an observer with you is a plus, but the reality is many times you are by yourself for this long duration. Having been in this situation numerous times, anything to mitigate the natural physical fatigue that will occur is welcomed. The Spec-rest® helps greatly in this area by allowing the sniper to step off from the rifle while watching the target location via binoculars or the naked eye. The

prone position is the most stable of shooting positions, however after time even it becomes uncomfortable. The Spec-rest® benefit is that the rifle is still maintained in the yokes of the rest which allow the sniper to quickly get back on the rifle if needed. Breaks on and off the rifle cannot be overstated as sniper fatigue is real and there can be no mistakes when you operate the largest caliber weapon system and are usually deployed behind other SWAT team members.

REVERSE IMAGE ZERO CAPABLE

Zeroing a rifle has never been easier. Reverse image zero is optimized on the Spec-rest® because it allow you the ability to work a zero backwards while the rifle stays true to the target locked in on the rest. Accomplished by placing the rifle in the yokes, locking the traverse and gross adjustments and firing the rifle. The shooter fires a 3-5 round group and observes the point of impact. The shooter makes elevation and windage adjustments and works in reverse back to the intended point of impact. Quick and easy, reverse image zero doesn't get any easier.

RETICLE PATTERN USAGE

Spec-rest® excels in reticle holds and range estimation. Mil-dot, miliradian hash mark reticles and Horus tree reticles are just a few of the reticle patterns that are optimized due to the stability of the rest. Range estimation can become more accurate when milling known objects for a more correct range distance. Mil holds are even easier now the shooter does not have to fight keeping the rifle on the target due to positional firing. Quite simply, Spec-rest® takes the use of reticles by the shooter to an entirely new level.

COVERT TO OVERT TRANSITIONS

Many law enforcement snipers operate in a covert role while conducting overwatch protection. Operating in a non-permissive environment means that while the majority of the public supports law enforcement is it not wise nor prudent to platform a rifle in a tripod mount within public view unless required. Doing so will would more than likely bring unnecessary attention to the sniper, the mission and the agency. Spec-rest® allows for the quick and deliberate placing of the rifle in the two yokes in a quick manner when a threat is identified. Typical observation posts will have the rest deployed in the tripod configuration against a parapet with the rifle on the ground. On demand, the rifle is picked up by the sniper and placed in both yokes in a rather quick manner. After this is achieved, the sniper then obtains a stockweld and then begins target identification as would be done from the prone position.

LARGE CALIBER DEPLOYMENT/VEHICULAR ATTACKS

Large caliber rifle deployment has been driven in recent years by the threat of terrorism and vehicular attacks that have occurred overseas and stateside. With limitations of going to the prone position in overwatch areas, these large caliber rifles must be able to be elevated to clear parapets. Spec-rest® provides the ability to employ on demand these large caliber hard target weapon systems in an environment of high pedestrian traffic with near zero options for the prone position. Many 50 caliber rifles currently produced are 30 lbs. and heavier loaded and require a platform that can support the sheer weight. This is where Spec-rest® shines. It allows for full weapon stability and attenuates the felt recoil allowing the end user to fire a follow up shot if needed and have a more consistent return to target. This is consequential because interdicting a moving vehicle will likely require more than one shot from even a 50 BMG. With the increase of vehicular ramming attacks, the Spec-rest® is in use with foreign and domestic SWAT teams nationally and internationally.

AERIAL PLATFORM UTILIZATION

Spec-rest® in the MODSOP™ configuration has been tested and validated in the Bell Huey and Blackhawk helicopters by law enforcement and military Special Forces personnel. With the quad legs extended and secured to the flight deck via floor rings and ratchet straps, the Spec-rest® excels in reducing the felt vibrations of the aircraft as it relates to the sight picture. Also of note is the enhanced ability to move laterally and pan and tilt to keep the correct lag or lead hold on selected target(s). Traditional slings and sea bags are conventional means to achieve firing from an aircraft, but Spec-rest® ushers in a new technique in aerial platform interdiction.

INTEGRATION IN PUBLIC VENUE OVEWATCH

Spec-rest® has been an integral part since 2008 of the Public Venue curriculum taught by Tacflow Academy www.tacflow.com. Our instructors have taught over 500 law enforcement snipers on the Spec-rest® to date. Course curriculum includes firing precision rifles in real sporting venues from elevated positions. Students remark that they prefer to fire only on the Spec-rest® as they move to higher firing positions inside the venues. Students begin the course at the range and cannot believe they are able to achieve 1 MOA or better with their sniper rifles while using the rest. The learning curve in just one afternoon of training on the Spec-rest® is steep. Students leave the range with the confidence to enter a venue and go right to work as they fire from elevated positions. Some areas in the venue lend themselves to the utilizing the MODSOP™ where the tripod configuration is not needed. The SR Clamp™ since developed has seen increasing use in the venues where a steady support base is found.

LIMITATIONS

One needs to keep in mind that while the Spec-rest® excels at many things, it does have some limitations as does every weapons platform. Listed are several limitations of the rest due to its precision ability to aid the sniper.

- Tripod configuration is 30 lbs
- Not optimal for hasty deployments
- May not be used as often on typical SWAT callouts
- Purpose built tripods may perform as well at close range short term operations

MAN PORTABLE

The Spec-rest® comes in a handy kit bag with a central divider for the head and the tripod. In the end of the bag is a zippered pouch where the pliable yokes are contained. With a shoulder strap the bag is ready for ease of transportation. The bag is a common sight during overwatch positions and is discreet while transporting it to these locations. The rest deploys from the bag easily and can be erected in less than a minute.

FUTURE TRENDS

The ability to perform in non-permissive environments with overwatch capabilities will continue to be valued and required. The threat of terror will dictate areas of training that law enforcement snipers must perform and rise to. Not long ago the threat of vehicle ramming attacks was not even on the scope of law enforcement concerns from terrorists. Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTO's) continue to inspire their membership in methods that can be undertaken with little to no training. Constructing an improvised explosive can require some skill, but occupying a vehicle and driving over pedestrians requires only the will to execute. The responsibility lies with law enforcement to train to the current threats and also those threats on the horizon. Countermeasures must be developed to interdict and

mitigate attacks. Spec-rest® serves in this capacity to not only give the confidence to the end user but elevate the rifle so a safe line of sight and departure can be obtained.

SUMMARY

Ever since the development of higher quality optics, precision rifles, and munitions engaging targets at extreme distances has become increasingly more feasible. Although, even if the shooter has the most accurate precision rifle, the clearest optic on the market, and the skillset, taking shots at these distances is extremely difficult without a stable shooting platform. The vast majority of shooters would agree that the prone position provides the most stable shooting platform for engaging targets at any distance. But, what if the shooter cannot utilize the prone position and the target is still 1000 meters away? What if the target's location requires a high angle shot and the shooter can only engage from the standing position? What if the surrounding environment only provides enough room for the shooter to sit or kneel while engaging targets? In these situations the shooter will be forced to limit his equipment's capabilities because he or she cannot attain the most stable shooting platform, the prone position. This potentially, places a major liability on the shooter. For hunters, the unstable platform could produce not only a miss but also a non-kill shot where the animal runs out of tracking range and suffers before succumbing to blood loss. For LE/Military, the liability is far greater. An unstable shooting platform could produce the loss of innocent life. In a world defined by uncertainty how is it possible to attain precision and accuracy for the modern shooter? The answer is if you cannot get prone, get a Spec-rest®.

The Spec-rest® is the only man-portable universal traverse and elevation (T&E) platform that transforms any long gun into a precision mounted target-engaging system from all standing, kneeling and sitting positions on demand. The Spec-rest® weighs in at 30lbs, which is heavy compared to lightweight camera tripods but still easily man-portable. The weight in conjunction with its dual hand formable yokes provides universal compatibility with any long gun. This includes any bolt-action, bullpup, semi or fully automatic rifle from .22 to .50 caliber. The hand formable yokes are by definition "hand formable" and therefore mounting the rifle does not require any tools, making the rifle never over dedicated to the rest. This also allows rifle placement on demand, making the rest an essential piece of gear for covert to overt operations. No matter the rifle, the Spec-rest® provides full range of motion and precision tracking while simultaneously allowing transition to micro-elevation adjustment. The T&E mechanism that provides this capability attenuates vibration during tracking and adjustment by utilizing patented Live Screw/Variable Drag Technology (LS/VDT). If a rifle has the capability of shooting sub-moa groups and is mated with the Spec-rest®, the shooter can guarantee these groups from all standing, kneeling and sitting positions. When precision and accuracy are paramount and prone is not an option where ethical hunting or innocent lives hang in the balance, the Spec-rest® is an essential piece of gear for the modern shooter.