



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 5th BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM
ARMY EVALUATION TASK FORCE
FORT BLISS, TEXAS 79916



ATZC-AETF-SAMG

24 JULY 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: EVALUATION OF THE QSM SUPPRESSOR

The QSM Suppressor the Army Evaluation Task Force tested, was very effective at suppressing the sound and reducing the muzzle flash of the M4 rifle. Due to these facts, the suppressor would greatly enhance both MOUT and Tactical operations. After examining the capabilities of the QSM Suppressor, we have determined that the personnel that would most benefit from this equipment would be dismounted Scouts.

First, the suppressors only weigh 9.5oz., which makes this a very easily stowed and carried piece of equipment. Although a Soldier's full combat load can be heavy, the suppressor's size and weight will not add to the Soldier's burden. It can easily be stowed in a carrying case and attached to either the Body Armor, or Assault Ruck. Since the suppressor can be detached from the weapon, it will not hinder movement in or out of Bradley Fighting Vehicles or HMMWV's.

The suppressor effectively reduced the amount of noise emitted from the M4. This is crucial during room clearing when gunfire can easily drown out the communication between team members. While inside hallways and rooms, the noise from an un-suppressed M4 can make giving commands extremely difficult, which could cost the lives of individual team members. If suppressors are used during room clearing operations, ear plugs are virtually unneeded. This means that yelling could be reduced and stealth maintained for a longer period of time. Maintaining the element of "surprise", which is crucial during room clearing operations, could be maintained for a much longer period as well.

PROS:

- Easily mounted to the weapon
- Light weight
- Maintained a tight group at 50 meters
- This suppressor cooled quickly
- This suppressor was quieter than the other suppressors we evaluated
- Muzzle flash reflected the lowest signature using thermal imagery

CONS:

- You have to remove the birdcage
- You must use the barrel locktight in order for the suppressor not to rotate

CONCLUSION:

Of all the suppressors we evaluated, the QSM Suppressor performed the best. The accuracy of the round fired through the suppressor held a tighter, more accurate shot group than the other suppressors at greater ranges. It was also quieter to the human ear than the other demos. The suppressor cooled much quicker than the others as well, which will reduce the risk of burning equipment, and operators. The only negative things noted regarding this suppressor was that the birdcage had to be removed, which doesn't allow you to quickly add or remove the suppressor. Also, the locktight must be used in order to keep the suppressor from rotating off the end of the barrel. This was noted as only single fired shots were used. Automatic fire rotated the suppressor even quicker. The recommendation being made to the Army is to equip the Scouts with the suppressors. This will increase their

lethality, and reduce their vulnerability. Their job is to have eyes on the objective, without being detected. If they are compromised, they may be able to eliminate an immediate threat, and possibly still remain undetected. The Scouts will not need to take the suppressors off and on, they can keep them affixed to the weapons. Therefore, the locktight can be used without worry.

Testimonials:

“This suppressor is the solution to reducing the risk of detection by suppressing the sound, as well as the muzzle flash of the weapon. I would deploy with this piece of equipment in a heartbeat.”

-SFC REAGAN OIF/OEF COMBAT INFANTRY VETERAN

TESTED ON 7-24-07

TESTED AT FT BLISS TX-MEYER RANGE COMPLEX

FIRED ON AN M-4, CARBINE-5.56/.223

AMMUNITION-M85 5.56/.223 500 ROUNDS

CONDITIONS-SUNNY, HOT, 97 DEGREES CELSIUS

TESTED BY: THE ARMY EVALUATION TASK FORCE 5-1 BCT 1st ARMORED DIVISION FT BLISS TEXAS

//ORIGINAL SIGNED\\

SFC KEVIN REAGAN
BDE SMALL ARMS MASTER GUNNER
BLDG 2440
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