

The Modular Combat Shotgun

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Military Shotgun History

- Due to the manner in which they are configured, currently issued military shotguns cannot effectively meet all combat applications. This is a by-product of historical doctrine.
- Cold War use of the shotgun was limited mostly to:
 - **Guard Duty/Security Detail**
 - **Military Police Use**
 - **Some limited SOF use as dedicated breaching tools**



Lessons Learned/Needs Identified

- Both SOF and Conventional units have been tasked with more elaborate missions than in the past, particularly in UO scenarios.
- OEF/OIF AARs have identified numerous “new” applications for military shotguns.
- Depending on the situation, a properly configured shotgun may be preferred over the use of currently issued rifles or pistols.
 - A single 3” load of 00 buckshot contains **FIFTEEN** .33 caliber projectiles and has the same mass as **THIRTEEN** M855 bullets.
 - A single 1-3/8 oz. 12 gauge slug has the same mass as nearly **TEN** M855 bullets.







Lessons Learned/Needs Identified



- The ideal shotgun must reliably cycle ALL shotshell ammunition across the military spectrum:
 - Low powered NL loads (rubber pellet, bean bag, rubber baton, etc)
 - Breaching ammunition
 - Magnum buckshot and slugs
- Autoloaders are simply not up to the task, particularly in sandy or debris-filled environments. Manual action designs are therefore preferred.

Lessons Learned/Needs Identified

- Recent AARs stress the use of the shotgun for the following purposes:
 - Ballistic Breaching Tool 
 - Vehicle Security/Aircrew Surv. Weapon 
 - CQB/Entry Weapon 
 - High Cap. Conventional Weapon 
- The weapon should be configured with whatever the characteristics are that match the tactical need. Most commonly cited are changes to the magazine capacity, sighting system, barrel length, and buttstock or pistol grip options.

Needs Identified



Breaching Tool

- Stand alone breaching shotgun or accessory mounted (accessory shotgun concept in combat is reportedly of debatable value, e.g. degradation of the performance of both weapons)
- Integral hand stop
- Short barrel length (10" barrel) preferred
- Single point sling attachment
- Pistol grip
- 3+1 capacity (2.75" or 3" shells)

Needs Identified



Vehicle Security/Aircrew Survivability Weapon

- Short (10” barrel) preferred
- Stock with pistol grip preferred, similar ergonomics to M16/M4
- OAL should allow weapon to be maneuvered inside vehicles or stored efficiently in aircraft
- Ability to attach ancillary sighting devices

Needs Identified



CQB/Entry Weapon

- **CQB shotgun can mitigate:**
 - **Overpenetration of CF projectiles which can lead to collateral damage**
 - **The perceived need to engage enemy combatants with multiple shots from 5.56 weapons**
- **14” barrel preferred with simple sighting device, in addition to the capability to attach ancillary sighting devices**
- **Stock with pistol grip**
- **Higher capacity (5+1) preferred**
- **Interchangeable choke tubes desired**
- **Tactical sling attachments**

Needs Identified



High-Capacity Conventional Weapon

- Can tailor the load to meet the threat (CQB distance, long range, lethal vs. non-lethal)
- Longer barrel with adjustable sighting system enables aimed, longer range shots with slugs
- Capability to attach ancillary sighting devices
- Higher (6+1) capacity
- Stock with pistol grip
- Interchangeable choke tubes desired
- Tactical sling attachments

The Modular Combat Shotgun Solution

- **Problem** – In the past fulfilling all of these requirements would result in multiple differently-configured shotguns dedicated to specific tactical scenarios.
- This is an inefficient use of procurement \$ and a drain on the PLL/logistics system.
- **Solution** – A **MODULAR** combat shotgun system that fulfills all requirements in a single weapons package. Above all else this system must be:
 - **Reliable** (Key component of system Lethality)
 - **Durable** (Long track record of a proven strong design)
 - **Operator Friendly** with proven ergonomics and high user assessment ratings

The Modular Combat Shotgun Solution

- **THE GOAL** = Provide a NDI shotgun weapons system that meets all of the needs identified in a single package.
- The Modular Combat Shotgun must have the capability to be configured or reconfigured at the operator level –
 - **WITHOUT** the use of tools.
 - **WITHOUT** loose parts that can be lost or damaged.
 - To quickly and easily match the flexibility required of the modern battlefield.



MCS Activity

- **US Air Force Security Forces (Over 4,000 units to date, assigned NSN, T.O. written)**
- **USSOCOM (Over 300 units to date)**
- **USASOC (Under consideration)**
- **US Marine Corps (Under consideration)**
- **1st Cavalry Division (MNS written, NCLA samples in theatre)**
- **2nd Infantry Division (MNS written)**
- **3rd Infantry Division (MNS written, NCLA samples in theatre)**
- **4th Infantry Division (MNS written, NCLA samples in theatre)**
- **101st Airborne Division (MNS written)**
- **US Army Marksmanship Unit (Purchased several units)**

Conclusions

- Adopt a true COTS platform that has already-established military acceptance and logistics structure.
- Focus on the Operator's real needs:
 - **Full Operator-level System modularity**
 - **Multiple Stand-Alone capabilities**
 - **Durability and Reliability**
- De-Focus on “other” requirements of limited value:
 - **Attaching the shotgun as an accessory to a rifle**
 - **Detachable box magazines**
 - **Stand-offs**
- The MCS concept has been accepted and is gathering momentum and it may be in the interest of all the service branches to adopt a common system.