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SPECIAL: RUGER SPORTING ARMS SECTION INSIDE



**SOVIET SNIPER RIFLES
FRENCH NAVAL COMMANDOS
VIETNAM TODAY**

COMBLOC SNIPER RIFLES

Crosshairs of the Warsaw Pact

Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis

Yugoslavian M76 sniper rifle, based on the Kalashnikov system, is a popular Dragunov derivative.

WHILE American use of telescopic sights on military rifles dates from the Civil War, optically equipped service rifles did not reach prominence in Europe until World War I when highly trained German sharpshooters helped decimate the Russian horde along a thousand-mile line from the Baltic to the Black Sea. The Russian army at that time possessed no sniping capability. But by 1941 Germans dropped like flies before Red Army snipers who helped prevent the blitzkrieg from overrunning Mother Russia.

During WWII, Russian snipers were equipped with the M1891/30 Mosin Nagant bolt-action rifle fitted with either the four-power "PE" scope or 3.5-power "PU" scope. Although still employed by some Third World client states of the Soviet Union, these have generally been replaced by the Dragunov system. To determine accuracy potential, hit probability and overall quality of ComBloc sniping systems, an M1891/30 Mosin Nagant with "PU" scope and a Yugoslavian M-76 Dragunov derivative were selected by SOF for test and evaluation.

The M1891 rifle was developed by Colonel S.I. Mosin of the Russian Artillery who designed the action, and the Belgian Nagant brothers who were responsible for the magazine system. The complex and unusual bolt consists of three components, excluding the firing pin: the body with the bolt handle, the recessed bolt head with two locking lugs and extractor, and a coupling unit which also serves as a bolt guide.

Locking lugs cam laterally into recesses on each side of the receiver ring instead of vertically as in the case of the Mauser. The bolt handle on sniper versions is turned down. Cocking occurs when the cocking piece is held back by the sear as the bolt is opened. The safety is simple but clumsy.



YUGOSLAVIAN M76 DRAGUNOV SNIPER RIFLE

Caliber	7.92x57mm
Operation	Gas with three-position regulator and conventional Kalashnikov piston and extension attached to bolt carrier. Locking by means of rotary two-lug bolt. Fire from the closed-bolt position. Auto safety sear, but semiautomatic fire only.
Feed Mechanism	10-round staggered box type, detachable magazine
Weight, empty	11.6 pounds with scope and mount
Length, overall	45.4 inches
Barrel	Four-groove with a right-hand twist of one turn in 9.6 inches.
Barrel length	22 inches
Sights	Round, post-type front with protective ears; adjustable for windage and elevation zero. Sliding tangent type with open U-notch; adjustable for elevation only in 100 increments from 0 to 1,000 meters.
Optics	ON M76 4X scope, side rail mounted with aluminum rings and mount (quick detachable); Tritium illuminated range-finding (200 to 800 meters) reticle pattern; metascopes for infrared detection.
Accessories	Wirecutter bayonet, rifle grenades, sling, passive optical night sight (PN5X80(j)), carrying case and optical maintenance kit for ON M76 scope.
Manufacturer	Zavodi Crvena Zastava, Kragujevac, Yugoslavia
Status	In service with Yugoslavian armed forces and several unspecified Third World countries.

The cocking piece is turned against the firing pin.

Model 1891/30 Mosin Nagant (28.7 inches velocity) rather than heavy sight marked in (one arching is). With a weight of sling or bayonet — and an overall M1891/30 rifle, supplemented by out its production edge, Mosin Nagant fitted with scope.

Because of the cartridge, the peculiar feed in the second round tridge to feed a pressure from the helps to eliminate until final rotation of unloading arazine floorplate cloaded catch. five rounds. The round clips, but scope in place.

Almost full-length with a metal muzzle. Of poor on these rifles is nished or painted retain the top handle into a groove on A web sling is at

BELOW: Yugoslian has tritium illuminated pattern and infrared

BOTTOM: Nuclear M76 scope direct infrared detector



The cocking piece must be pulled rearward against the firing pin's spring tension and turned counterclockwise about an eighth-turn.

Model 1891/30 rifles differ from the original M1891 only by virtue of a shorter barrel (28.7 inches versus 31.6 inches), a rounded rather than hexagonal receiver and a rear sight marked in meters instead of archines (one archine is approximately 28 inches). With a weight of 8.7 pounds without scope, sling or bayonet — standard for this period — and an overall length of 48.1 inches, the M1891/30 rifle is awkward to carry and was supplemented by carbine versions throughout its production history. To my knowledge, Mosin Nagant carbines were never fitted with scopes.

Because of the large-rimmed 7.62x54R cartridge, the M1891/30 magazine has a peculiar feed interrupter which holds down the second round, permitting the top cartridge to feed and move forward without pressure from below. This magazine catch helps to eliminate jams and is not released until final rotation of the bolt. For purposes of unloading and maintenance, the magazine floorplate can be released by a spring-loaded catch. Magazine capacity is only five rounds. The rifle is loaded from five-round clips, but they cannot be used with the scope in place.

Almost full-length, the buttstock ends with a metal cap just 3½ inches from the muzzle. Of poor grade, the wood furniture on these rifles is usually stained and varnished or painted. Two metal barrel bands retain the top handguard. A cleaning rod fits into a groove on the buttstock's underside. A web sling is attached to leather straps that

run through two slots in the buttstock in a manner peculiar to this rifle series. There is a finger groove on either side of the stock just under the receiver. A recoil crossbolt at this location all too frequently loosens and permits the barreled action to move about in the stock. This does nothing to maximize accuracy potential.

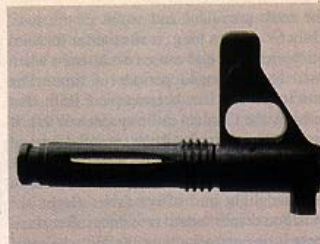
Sight radius of the M1891/30 is 24½ inches. A round, post-type front sight is threaded into the protective hood which can be drifted in its dovetail on the barrel for windage zero. The post can be rotated by inserting a tool through the top of the hood for elevation zero. A sliding tangent rear sight carries an open U-notch and can be adjusted for elevation only from 100 to 2,000 meters — a typical fantasy of this era.

The so-called "PU" 3.5-power scope is

TOP: M76 flash suppressor, front sight assembly and bayonet stud.

RIGHT: M76 gas block with three-position gas regulator helps to moderate felt recoil considerably.

BELOW: Yugoslavian M76 rifle field-stripped.



BELOW: Yugoslavian ON M76 4X scope has tritium illuminated rangefinder reticle pattern and infrared detector.

BOTTOM: Nuclear warning label on ON M76 scope directly under knob which flips infrared detector filter into the field of view.



MOSIN NAGANT M1891/30 DRAGUNOV SNIPER RIFLE

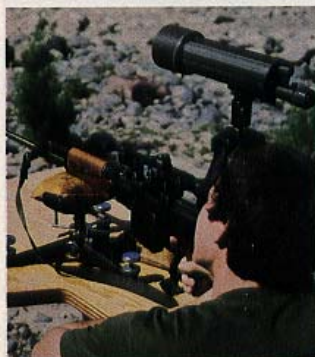
Caliber	7.62x54R Russian Rimmed
Operation	Manually operated turn-bolt
Feed Mechanism	5-round box magazine with feed interrupter
Weight, empty	8.7 pounds without scope, sling or bayonet
Length, overall	48.1 inches
Barrel length	28.7 inches
Sights	Round, post-type front with protective hood; adjustable for windage and elevation zero. Sliding tangent-type rear with open U-notch; adjustable for elevation only in 50-meter increments from 100 to 2,000 meters. Sight radius 24.5 inches.
Optics	4X PE or more prevalent 3.5X PU scope mounted to left side of receiver. PU scope reticle pattern pointed post on bottom with thick, horizontal sidebars.
Manufacturer	Numerous Soviet arsenals and PRC. Many rebuilt in late 1950s at Polish arsenals.
Status	No longer manufactured. Obsolete in ComBloc armies. Replaced by Dragunov series. Still encountered in Third World ComBloc client states.

the most prevalent and worst of the two. Only 6¼ inches long, it sits too far forward on the receiver and causes neck strain when used for prolonged periods of time. The reticle pattern has been copied from that used by the German military since WWI. It consists of a single, thick, pointed post at the bottom of the field of view with thick horizontal sidebars. This format excels in subdued light and offers faster target acquisition than standard crosshairs. But since there is no range-finding capability the sniper must estimate the range and rotate the external elevation knob on top of the scope which is adjustable in 100-meter increments from zero to 1,300 meters. I don't know why the supposed effective range of this rifle is reduced from 2,000 to 1,300 meters by the addition of a telescopic sight.

Another external knob on the left side permits windage adjustments. The scope mount is attached to the left side of the receiver. Although it can be adjusted for initial zero by means of two opposing set screws, it is not designed to be detached by the operator. Inconvenient, but acceptable. The later four-power "PE" scope, also mounted on the left side of the receiver, was longer and permitted the sniper to maintain a normal shooting position when aligning his eye with the ocular.

BELOW: M76 buttstock and pistol grip are fabricated from better-quality wood than usually encountered on ComBloc small arms. Heavy rubber butt pad is quite effective.

BOTTOM: Test-firing the Yugoslavian M76 sniper rifle for accuracy potential with help from Armor Metal Products' portable shooting bench and Steiner's spotting scope.



CHRONOGRAPH RESULTS

Instrumentation: Oehler Model 33 Chronotach with Skyscreen detectors positioned 10 feet from muzzle. Ambient temperature: 74 degrees F. All readings in feet per second at elevation of 1,080 feet above sea level. All projectiles military with full metal jackets (FMJ). 7.62x54R ammunition fired through Mosin Nagant M1891/30 rifle with 28.7-inch barrel. 7.92x57mm ammunition fired through Yugoslavian M76 rifle with 22-inch barrel.

	Low Velocity	High Velocity	Extreme Spread	Average	Standard Deviation
7.62x54R					
Russian 150-gr. Type 'L'	2,939	3,003	64	2,968	25
Russian 150-gr. Type 'LPS'	2,818	2,853	35	2,833	12
Egyptian 180-gr. boattail	2,378	2,713	335	2,578	90
7.92x57mm					
Canadian WWII 154-gr. spitzer	2,691	2,816	125	2,759	43
German, 1938 156-gr. AP tracer	2,642	2,679	37	2,665	12
Portuguese 198-gr. boattail	2,393	2,443	50	2,421	16

Dragunov-style Kalashnikov quality.

Our test number reborn late 1950s. three places floorplate as stamped with was in fair condition obviously a parts, except mains in the pull weight pounds.

Without cartridge as fashioned, long-range of any machine gun Soviet Drag series of machine gun With the 15 in the same.

Three lots used to test sniper rifle. corrosive. light ball. B of extruded der and copy



Dragunov-copy M76 upgrades the Kalashnikov system to minimum sniping quality.

Our test specimen was one of a large number rebuilt in Polish arsenals during the late 1950s. The stock had been repaired in three places. The receiver, bolt, magazine floorplate and checkered buttplate had been stamped with new serial numbers. The bore was in fair condition only, so the barrel had obviously not been replaced. The metal parts, except for the bolt group which remains in the white, were reblued. Trigger pull weight was a consistent but spongy 7 pounds.

Without doubt, the Russian 7.62x54R cartridge remains the last of the old-fashioned, large-capacity, rimmed-case, long-range rounds to survive in the service of any major military power. Both the Soviet Dragunov sniping rifle and the PK series of current Soviet general purpose machine guns are chambered for this round. With the 150-grain light ball projectile, it's in the same class as the .30-06.

Three lots of 7.62x54R ammunition were used to test the M1891/30 Mosin Nagant sniper rifle. All were Berdan primed and corrosive. Two of the lots were Russian light ball. Both contained 49 to 50.5 grains of extruded tubular kernel type (IMR) powder and copper-clad steel cases. The first lot

was headstamped '60 45' (factory code 60, 1945). This ammunition used the M1908 projectile (Type 'L') which is a full metal jacketed (FMJ) spire-point bullet with a hollow base and no color code. It left the 28.7-inch barrel at an average velocity of 2,968 fps. Extraction was somewhat sticky. The other lot, headstamped '188' (factory code 188, no date) and captured on Grenada, is the current Russian light ball. It features an FMJ boattail bullet with a mild steel core (Type 'LPS') that is patterned after their armor-piercing round and carries a silver color code on the tip. It produced an average velocity of 2,833 fps, but a standard deviation

of only 12 fps, which is excellent for military ammunition.

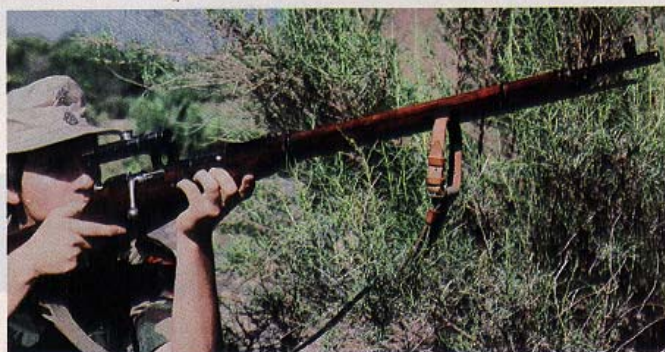
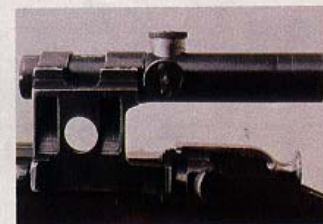
A substantial quantity of Egyptian ammunition was also fired through this rifle. The headstamp has Arabic characters which transliterate into "Misr" (the Arabic name for Egypt) and Factory No. 10. These are also Berdan primed, corrosive, and the cases are brass. A heavy 180-grain boattail FMJ bullet is propelled by 47 grains of European-type cut-sheet flakes. These Israeli battlefield pickups are really Egyptian junk. Forty percent have dead primers and when they do go off, hangfires are numerous. Those cartridges that ignited without incident have an average velocity of only 2,578 fps (expected because of the heavier bullet) and an unacceptable standard deviation of 90 fps.

Continued on page 122

BELOW: 3.5X 'PU' scope on Mosin Nagant M1891/30 sniper rifle.

CENTER: Russian crest and serial number on 3.5X 'PU' scope.

BOTTOM: The Mosin Nagant M1891/30 sniper rifle, replaced by the Dragunov series, is obsolete in all but a few Third World ComBloc client states.



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of Sandinista claims of innocence. Of course the FMLN is clever enough not to use Soviet weapons — they're too easy to trace. But then so are the M16s from Vietnam. Perhaps even the communists know it's too late in the game to be wearing a mask. ✕

COMBLOC SNIPER RIFLES

Continued from page 57

With regard to accuracy, current Russian light ball turned in the best performances with 3 MOA, mediocre at best. Older Russian ammunition and the Egyptian heavy ball never shot better than 3.6 MOA. Remember, however, that our test specimen's barreled receiver floated about in the stock with every shot fired. Consistent head shots would not be possible with this rifle at even 200 meters. The antiquated M1891/30 Mosin Nagant rifle simply cannot cut the mustard as a modern sniper rifle.

By the late 1960s, these rifles had been replaced in the Soviet armed forces by the Dragunov system. The Dragunov rifle is based on the Kalashnikov system and has an awesome reputation. Our test specimen was the Yugoslavian M76 derivative of the Dragunov manufactured by Zavodi Crvena Zastava, Kragujevac. It will soon be available

in the U.S. in caliber 7.62x51mm NATO. A PRC version of the Russian Dragunov, in caliber 7.62x54R, will soon be imported by Keng's Firearms Specialty (Dept. SOF, 6030 Highway 85, Suite 222, Riverdale, GA 30274).

Gas operated, the Dragunov has a Kalashnikov-type bolt and carrier but a separate short-stroke piston. Long-stroke operation results in movement of a heavy mass which jars the weapon and decreases the accuracy potential. The Dragunov's light piston, driven rearward by gases moving through the gas port, transfers its energy to the bolt carrier. There is no piston extension and the carrier moves back alone to rotate the bolt running in its cam path and unlock the action. The carrier and bolt continue to move rearward and compress the recoil spring which then drives the bolt group forward to strip a round from the magazine and lock the two-lug rotary bolt into its recesses in the receiver walls before the next shot is fired. The Yugoslavs have, for some reason, opted to retain the Kalashnikov's original long-stroke method of operation with the piston and extension attached to the bolt carrier. The M76 differs in other significant details from the Soviet SVD (Samozaryadnaya Vintovka Dragunova) and Rumanian FPK (an almost exact duplicate of the Russian SVD), although disassembly/assembly procedures are identical to any other Kalashnikov and will not be described here.

Before WWII the Yugoslavs adopted the

German 7.92x57mm cartridge for use in their military rifles and machine guns and until recently the standard sniping system was a rebuilt, accurized Mauser 98k fitted with a telescopic sight. This caliber has been retained for both machine guns and the M76 sniper rifle. With its rimless case it constitutes a better choice than the 7.62x54R while retaining equivalent ballistic potential.

At 11.6 pounds, empty, but with scope and mount, and an overall length of 45.4 inches, the M76 is not exactly a lightweight scout rifle. But snipers don't usually move about as much as other straight legs and this is an acceptable tradeoff for an enhanced accuracy potential and reduction in felt recoil.

A forged and milled receiver, like that of the AK-47, is partially responsible for this heft. This receiver and all other metal parts have been salt blued with a black finish, except the bolt and piston group and regulator which have been left in the white. The gas block and receiver on my specimen are slightly plum colored, indicating improper bluing techniques.

A simple, three-position regulator has been fitted to the gas block, the normal position being '1.' It produces the least felt recoil, expelling most of the gases into the atmosphere before they act upon the piston head. Soviet SVDs have two-position regulators. The regulator can be adjusted only after the gas tube has been removed. Except for a protruding tab to lock the regulator, the

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gas tube is that of the Kalashnikov series, but with four gas vents on the bottom.

Since there is no provision for full-auto fire, the Kalashnikov trigger mechanism has been simplified. It consists of a trigger, sear, disconnector, hammer, hammer and trigger pins and multiple strand spring. The safety sear and its coil spring, which permit the hammer to fall only after it has been tripped by the bolt carrier when the bolt locks, have also been retained. While the trigger pull weight on my specimen is only 3.25 pounds, the trigger must be pulled along a seemingly infinite course of travel before let-off. The standard Kalashnikov safety lever has only two positions. With the lever set in the upper position to safe and a magazine in place, the bolt carrier can be retracted only enough to inspect the chamber for a loaded round. Stiff and exceptionally difficult to manipulate, the selector lever makes the usual loud AK noises.

A moderately effective muzzle device has been attached to the M76's four-groove, 22-inch barrel. Flash suppression is no better or worse than any number of other attachments of this type. Muzzle climb is moderated slightly by location of the five elongate vents with three on top and two at the bottom. Nothing to rave about here. Four interrupted threads at the rear of the muzzle device will presumably accommodate rifle grenades.

The rearmost portion of the muzzle device serves as the front sight mount and the

entire assembly is pinned to the barrel at this point. The round, post-type front sight is guarded by heavy protective ears. Threaded to a steel pin which can be drifted right or left, the front sight can be adjusted for both elevation and windage zero. The rear sight is a sliding tangent type with the usual open U-notch. It can be adjusted for elevation only from zero to 1,000 meters in 100-meter increments. There is no battle position.

There is a bayonet lug on the bottom of the front sight mount, a strange anachronism. Bayonets serve no useful purpose on such military small arms as sniper rifles and submachine guns. A Soviet-style AKM wire-cutter bayonet is now standard issue in the Yugoslavian armed forces. Both the scabbard and bayonet are of the second model type: plastic rather than rubber-insulated steel scabbard and steel instead of plastic pommel as found on the first model AKM bayonets. The Yugoslavian version is distinguished by its black scabbard and grip panels.

Of all-steel construction, the staggered box-type magazine holds 10 rounds. The magazine's follower is raised to hold the bolt group back after the last shot has been fired in the manner of the PRC Type 68 20-round magazine. But there is no hold-open stop on the receiver and when the empty magazine is removed, the bolt group will immediately fly forward. This is foolish, and serves only to increase the difficulty encountered in removing the magazine.

The magazine release catch, directly in front of the trigger, is a spring-loaded flapper and magazines must be inserted from the front and rolled back to engage the catch.

Soviet and Rumanian Dragunovs have skeletonized, laminated-wood buttstocks with the front portion as a pistol grip. The Yugoslavs have opted for a more conventional configuration. A blond, tight-grained wood, lightly stained and oiled, has been used for the buttstock, pistol grip and handguards. A 1/2-inch-thick, solid black rubber recoil pad has been attached to the rear swivel under the buttstock and the front swivel fitted to the gas block.

All very interesting, but the M76's most intriguing component is its telescopic sight. The ON M76 scope is patterned after the PSO-1 optical sight found on the Soviet SVD, with one important difference. The PSO-1 scope employs a small battery-operated internal light bulb to illuminate the reticle during operation under subdued light conditions. The Yugoslavs have eliminated both bulb and battery and substituted tritium illumination. At low light levels the reticle pattern glows green. A nuclear-powered bettalight is far superior in both longevity and maintenance to the cruder system used on the PSO-1.

Both PSO-1 and ON M76 scopes also have an infrared detector, often referred to as a "Metascope." A small knob on the ON M76's right side can be rotated forward to flip an internal green filter up into the scope's

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optical path. Infrared sources, such as small-arms night sights and searchlights mounted on MBTs, can then be detected as an orange glob in the scope. Future ON M76 scopes will omit this feature since military technology has moved away from IR emitters.

Optically, the ON M76 scope is a conventional, fixed four-power telescope of military grade with an aluminum housing about 9½ inches in overall length. The actual field of view is 5 degrees 10 feet. A threaded, removable sunshade is attached at the objective end. A long, soft rubber eyecup of the proper length to obtain the required eye relief can be slipped over the ocular end. The eyecup has four pinholes to minimize fogging and prevent suction. In addition to the infrared detector knob there are external controls for elevation (top of scope) and windage (left side). Elevation can be adjusted from zero to 1,200 meters in 100- and 50-meter increments. Calibration matches the trajectory of 7.92x57mm Yugoslavian M49 ball (standard issue), M70 (tracer) and M75 ball (match grade) ammunition.

The range-finding reticle pattern is, in modified form, that of the Russian PSO-1 scope which, in turn, copies the principle used in the PGO-7 and PGO-7V optical sights on the RPG-7 rocket launcher. It's quite simple, requiring a minimum of training, but very effective. To the bottom left of

the vertical crosshair is a baseline marked '1.75,' the average height of a European in meters. Above the baseline are seven short ascending steps, moving upward from the left. Every other step is marked (8, 6, 4 and 2 corresponding to 800, 600, 400 and 200 meters). Simply place the feet of your target on the baseline and match the top of your target's head with the appropriate step. This is the distance to the target. All that remains (if the rifle and scope have been zeroed) is to dial the equivalent number on the elevation knob.

The mount and rings are black anodized aluminum. Two circular holes in the mount permit use of the iron sights while the scope is in place. The scope can be quickly detached from the single side rail and riveted to the receiver's left side by a locking lever on the mount. Repeated removal and installation during our test and evaluation did not alter the unit's zero. When detached, the scope and mount are carried in a leather and canvas pouch that also contains a camel's hair brush, optical cleaning cloth and a combination tool with screwdrivers for adjusting the scope.

A passive night sight, called the PNSX80(j), can also be installed on the M76. It has a five-power magnification and a 10-degree field of view. Using rechargeable batteries it is reported to be effective against human targets up to 700 meters and

vehicles up to 2,000 meters.

Although its case is far too long by today's standards, the German 7.92x57mm cartridge still performs with excellence in machine guns and sniper rifles. Adopted by the German army in 1888, it is one of the most widely distributed military cartridges in history.

Ammunition from three different sources was tested in the M76. At one time surplus WWII Canadian ammunition in this caliber was commonly available, and with good reason — particularly for reloaders — since their brass cases (headstamped '7.92MM44') are boxer primed, but corrosive. The bullet used was a copy of the German S ball, a 154-grain FMJ spitzer. With 47 grains of IMR-type powder, this ammunition left the M76's barrel with an average velocity of 2,759 fps and a standard deviation of 43 fps.

We also fired some ancient German ammunition, headstamped 'PS*7 38' (manufactured by Polte, Magdeburg, in 1938). Berdan primed and corrosive, its brass cases are filled with 44 grains of European-type cut-sheet flakes. The black-tipped, 156-grain boattail FMJ bullet and red primer annulus indicate this to be armor-piercing tracer. By now it only traces 50 percent of the time and for just a short distance, but like fine wine its accuracy performance only seems to have im-

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proved with age as the average velocity was 2,665 fps with an astounding standard deviation of only 12 fps.

Portuguese ammunition of 1971 vintage ('FNM 71-20') is Berdan primed, but non-corrosive. Its 198-grain FMJ boattail bullet duplicates the German so-called s.s. ball. Propelled by 44 grains of European-type cut-sheet flakes, this ammunition produced an average velocity of 2,421 fps with a standard deviation of only 12 fps.

The German ammunition produced the best accuracy with 2.6 MOA. The 198-grain Portuguese projectile did not fare well in the M76 Dragunov and shot no better than 5 MOA. I had no access to the special ammunition supposedly issued to ComBloc snipers. Assuming it to be of match grade, I think we could easily get the M76 down to 1.5 MOA. That would permit head shots out to 300 meters and chest shots up to 450 meters in the hands of a moderately trained rifleman. Most sniper kills I have observed were made at less than 500 meters.

Testing for this report required two essential pieces of equipment: a high-quality spotting scope and a sturdy bench. Steiner's 24x80 military field telescope, weighing only 44 ounces, offered exceptional clarity and brightness. Waterproof and dust resistant, it's covered with rugged, frost resistant NATO green rubber armor and has passed a rugged shock vibration test. All the glass

surfaces are coated against glare and extreme light conditions. This 24-power telescope has a field of view of 105 feet at 1,000 yards which equals two degrees. The fiber-reinforced polycarbonate housing exhibits negligible temperature expansion from minus 40 C to plus 70 C. An adjustable ocular ring permits eyeglass wearers to see the full field of view. An objective lens will accept an optional sunshade. A compact Porro lens system helps hold internal light loss to a minimum. Suggested retail price is \$599. Optional accessories are available. For further information contact Pioneer Marketing and Research Inc., Dept. SOF, 216 Haddon Avenue, Suite 522, Westmont, NJ 08108.

We used a sturdy, portable shooting bench manufactured by Armor Metal Products (Dept. SOF, 2500 Phoenix Ave., Helena, Montana 59604). Built like the proverbial brick latrine, the bench top is a massive 1½-inch-thick plywood unit with 10 plies oriented in all directions, which gives outstanding resistance to deflection throughout the surface while keeping the weight manageable. Top area dimensions are 29x43½ inches with an 11½-inch inset (right- or left-handed). The assembled bench stands 33 inches high on heavy-wall galvanized-pipe legs. The leg mounting brackets are heavy ½x5x5-inch steel plates with welded, precisely angled leg sockets which are

through-bolted to the bench top. Once the brackets have been installed, field setup is simply a matter of screwing in the legs.

Three- and four-leg models are available. I used the combo model, weighing 65 pounds. That's heavy, but compared to the flimsy portable units, it's an acceptable tradeoff. The three-leg model costs \$119.95, the four-leg is \$129.95 and the combo model is \$139.95, and that's not too heavy at all for quality that locks your crosshairs on the target. ✕

GULBUDIN HEKMATYAR

Continued from page 38

intervention troops during that invasion? That regime has no right to represent the nation it is fighting against!

This is just the beginning. We will try to get all Afghan seats on all levels in all international organizations. We ask that all Afghan embassies and consulates in all friendly countries be given to the Afghan mujahideen.

SOF: The United States now recognizes the Karmal regime. How do you feel about that?

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