

COUNTER SNIPER GUIDE



**THE
UNITED STATES ARMY
MARKSMANSHIP TRAINING
UNIT**

FOREWORD

With the increase in civil disorders, the term sniper has come into common usage (particularly in the press) which is in general, erroneously used in that the term is commonly applied to any person who fires at a specific area or person with any type of firearm. Webster defines a SNIPER as "a sharpshooter concealed to harass the enemy by picking off individual members, usually at long range, and with a telescope-sight equipped rifle."

Regardless of what we may call him, the individual who is shooting at police, firemen, soldiers or citizens is certainly dangerous. In order to counteract, we must employ a trained individual whose knowledge and skill fall within the dictionary description of a sniper, whom we shall refer to throughout the manual as a COUNTERSNIPER.

This manual provides general basic information, which we hope will be of assistance to those concerned in the selection of equipment, training, and employment of the countersniper.

The contents of this manual pertaining to the selection of equipment are presented in the sequence that it is felt should be followed in determining the end item best suited to the needs of the user.

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CHAPTER 1

AMMUNITION

1. We believe that, in most instances, the countersniper will not be required to engage targets beyond 300 yards. In fact, it is our belief that the majority of the targets will probably fall within a span of 100 to 200 yards, particularly in built up areas. Infrequently, however, perhaps in the countryside, a target may be engaged at distances up to perhaps 500 to 600 yards.
2. Of the several factors that must be considered in the selection of countesniper equipment (i. e., ammunition, weapons, and scopes), accuracy is perhaps the most critical, because on many occasions, the target presented will be small, and in addition possibly partially obscured or blending into the background. Further, innocent people may be located in the immediate vicinity of the target and the countersniper must avoid injuring bystanders.
3. The ammunition to be used is the first item to be considered in terms of your objective or mission. Once you determine the ammunition that best suits your requirement, you may then consider the weapon and scope that will enable the countersniper to place the round in the target. The type of bullet is a prime factor to be considered. Soft nose, hollow point or other types of commerical hunting bullets would certainly be the most effective, though not necessarily the most accurate. However, public officials are continually confronted with public opinion and "Humanitarians" who may class this type of bullet as barbaric; and therefore, in some instances, the public officials concerned may be forced to restrict the employing agency to the use of military-type bullets of full jacketed configuration.
4. Noise level and recoil are certainly factors to be considered inasmuch as the average shooter is able to obtain better performance from a rifle of low recoil rather than one of medium or heavy recoil. It is also advantageous to have a low level of noise for the following reasons:
 - a. We do not want to alert the sniper or snipers to the fact that they are being fired upon.
 - b. Eliminate, or certainly reduce, the possibility of panic on the part of the general public, which often accompanies gunfire.
 - c. Reduce the shock effect on the ears of the countersniper who will perform more precisely with a low level of muzzle blast.
5. For distances up to 300 yards, we recommend the Caliber .222 Remington cartridge. Commercial loadings by our American ammunition companies will usually shoot ten shot groups of one inch or less at 100 yards. Many ammunition lots will, in fact, shoot groups of .6 to .7 of one inch at this distance. The recoil is mild, noise level low and the cost of ammunition relatively inexpensive. The performances capabilities of this cartridge are shown in Annex A. Please note that the rifle was sighted to hit "point of aim" at 250 yards, and all groups fired at other ranges are in relation to this same aiming point, indicating that the bullet will strike approximately four and a quarter inches above this aiming point at 100 yards, a little over five inches above at 200 yards and four inches below at 300 yards.

At ranges greater than 300 yards the .222 cartridge is considered impractical, due to the loss of velocity, which results in drastic changes in the trajectory curve that would negate the possibility of disabling wounds. For instance, using the same sight setting explained above, we would find the strike of the bullet two feet below the aiming point at 400 yards and five feet below at 500 yards. We acknowledge that a full-sized man could be hit at these greater distances by careful estimation of the range and the proper "hold over"; however, the countersniper ordinarily cannot depend on getting a shot at a fully exposed target and must therefore have the capability of hitting a much smaller target.

6. For the greater ranges we recommend a cartridge of the .30 caliber class using either the .308 Winchester (7.62mm NATO) or 30-06. Bullets of all types commercial loaded can be obtained in either caliber cartridge. Highly accurate MATCH ammunition is available from commercial sources as well as from government contractors. These cartridges have sufficient size, energy, velocity and bullet weight to produce satisfactory disabling wounds at greater ranges.