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Revision Eyewear Desert Locust Goggles

12 June 2006

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Two years ago I had never heard of Revision Military Eyewear. At SHOT Show '05 I started to learn a little bit more about them. At SHOT Show '06 I saw a prototype model of their Desert Locust goggles and was intrigued. A few weeks back I received several pair for testing & evaluation and was quite pleased. Previously, Borelli Consulting had tested the Bullet Ant goggles from Revision, and we were happy with them. From what we'd been told by representatives of Revision, the Desert Locust was the "next step up" - an improvement upon their previous work. After I had received the Desert Locust goggles and worn them in various circumstances across the past several weeks, I can confidently report that they are excellent in performance and comfort.

Now bear in mind as you read through this that I've never been overly educated about goggles. Like most folks (I suspect), I always assumed that if the goggles were on the market, then they had to have met some kind of industry standard. In the commercial sports market that standard is mostly SALES. Sure, there are some design characteristics that have to be met or the competition is going to eat you alive, but measurable performance standards? Those usually exist in the military which is where Revision Military Eyewear has earned its name and reputation. Other standards also exist for work safety - and Revision has made sure it meets those as well.

For those of you who might be interested in looking up those standards to see what is involved in being certified by them, or meeting them, as applied to the Revision Military Eyewear Desert Locust Goggles, they are:

- Certified to ANSI Z87.1-2003+
- Meets U.S. Military eyewear ballistic impact resistance requirements (MIL-V-43511c clause 3.5.10)
- Meets U.S. Military eyewear ballistic impact resistance requirements (MIL-PRF-31013 clause 3.5.1.1)
- CE Certified in accordance with EN 166, EN 170 and EN 172

All of that is data mumbo-jumbo to me. As a cop I just want to know if they are comfortable to wear; won't fog easily; and will protect my eyes. As someone who wears glasses I wanted to know if I could wear them over my glasses. As a human being I wanted to know if they'd protect my eyes from UV rays that we are all exposed to by our favorite heat source that we call the sun.

The answers to those questions were relatively easy to ascertain:

Are they comfortable? Yes. The adjustable elastic strap allowed me to wear the goggles with or without my helmet, and I can position the strap either on my head under the helmet or around the outside of the helmet (allowing me to put the goggles up or down as circumstances mandate).

Do they fog easily? No - but they will if you work at it hard enough. I wore them (oh, joy) under strenuous circumstances for several hours. They provided excellent eye-protection while I cut down two





trees, sectioned the wood, and then split it (with a maul). While that's NOT the same as room-clearing in a high-risk environment, it was sufficient to make me sweat thoroughly and breath heavily. It took almost two hours of this activity before I noticed any moisture build-up inside the goggles at all, and longer than that before I noticed anything that resembled a fog. To help avoid fogging, the goggles incorporate air vents along the top and sides of the frames, and an anti-fog coating. Additionally - and this is a bonus - the vents incorporate filtration material to keep small particles of yuck (dust, sand, etc) out of your goggles.

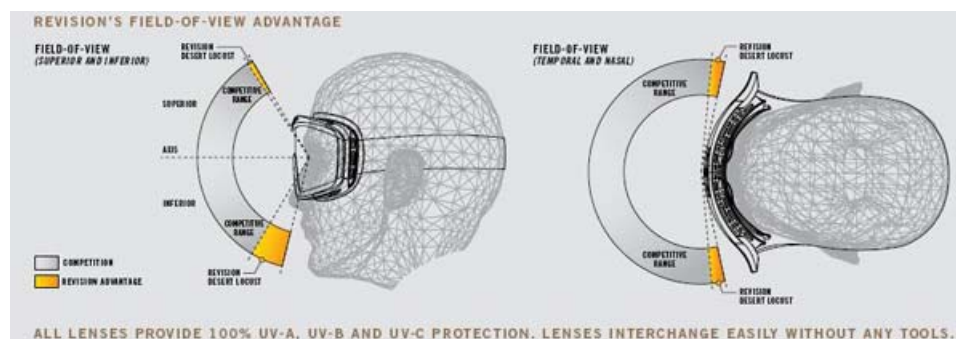
Will they protect my eyes? Yes. That they met the standards and certifications above is proof enough for me, but when I'm testing them for others, I'm even more paranoid. I took a pair to the range and shot at them from the twenty-five yard line with 8-shot loads out of my Remington 870. Made the goggles dance, but not penetrations occurred. Looking into the standards and certifications listed above I found out the following:

The first military standard listed (MIL-V-43511c clause 3.5.10) mandates that no penetration occurs when the goggles are struck with a .22 caliber 17 grain projectile traveling at least 560 feet per second (fps). The Desert Locust Goggles exceeded that by preventing penetration by that projectile traveling 725 fps.

The ANSI Z87.1 Standard mandates that the Desert Locust Goggles stop penetration of a 1/4" steel ball traveling 250fps. Revision exceeded that standard by 200% with their goggles stopping the projectile even though it was traveling 794fps. So, the answer is YES: they will protect my eyes.

Could I wear them over my glasses? No. My eyeglass frames aren't the most streamlined or stylish things, and the Desert Locust goggles ARE both streamlined and stylish (as goggles go). However, they are designed to accept a prescription-lens insert. To me this is the equivalent of having corrective lenses in my protective mask. If I need the mask on, then having the prescription insert in place is a given. If I need the goggles and normally wear glasses, then I'd have the prescription insert in place. If I'm wearing contact lenses and need to wear the goggles, the prescription insert is easily and quickly removable.

Do they filter out UV rays? Yes. Now I have no way of measuring that in a laboratory setting, but the published material says that they provide 100% protection from UV-A, UV-B and UV-C rays. Since even the cheapest sunglasses made by fly-by-night companies often filter out these UV rays, I see no reason to think that a quality product like the Desert Locust goggles wouldn't. Additionally, since their other published material has been tested true, then I tend to believe what I can't directly test.



As shown above, the Desert Locust goggles have an excellent field of view thanks to their design. In the image, you can see the provided field of view and how much of an increase it is over most competitor products. As anyone who scuba dives knows, field of view can be narrowed quite easily - and without intention - if you're not careful about the size of the lens. Thanks to the shape and materials of the Desert Locust goggle lens, the field of view is several percentage points greater than the competitors in every direction: up, down and to both sides. Peripheral vision matters - especially in high risk environments. I'll take every few percentage points I can.

Bottom line is that they perform well and are comfortable in the process. For more info about Revision's line of Military Eyewear, check them out online at <http://www.revisioneyewear.com>.

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