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Industrial Focus

Duty of Care Comes First

Military kit needs to be tough, rugged, soldier proof. In reality, nothing is ever completely soldier proof, placing all the more responsibility on manufacturers and procurement organisations to equip troops with the best, most durable equipment. We call this duty of care.

No one would disagree that service personnel deserve the very best protection available. Yet when it comes to one of the most crucial equipment items, this ethos is often forgotten. Protective eyewear is now almost universally



(Photo: Revision Eyewear)

Canadian Soldier deployed to Kandahar province, Afghanistan, wearing Revision SAWFLY Military Eyewear.

recognized within NATO as a fundamental requirement to minimize eye injuries. Eye injuries are so critical because they cannot be easily treated and a visually impaired soldier can't perform normal job functions. Not only is this a welfare, logistical and operational problem but it also equates to cost. Many other injuries can be more easily fixed and the casualty returned to duty.

Many procurement agencies are buying protective equipment based on the lowest price that meets a 'given' specification. This does not necessarily provide the best 'duty of care' or represent the best value procurement. In simple terms if the chosen eye protection breaks, scratches, fogs easily, falls apart and generally does not stand up to the rigours of the battlefield environment then the soldier is left without eye protection. The soldier then has a choice. Either he must buy his own protective eyewear, which may or may not offer him the protection required, or he needs to be reissued a costly replacement. Is this truly the 'best price' criteria?

Equally apparent, some defence procurement agencies are placing important performance specifications on the backburner, using soldier input in terms of the 'look cool' factor as a major determinant in purchasing decisions. Looking stealth on the battlefield is all well and

good but it must be considered only after the product has met the necessary quality, optical and impact standards. What's more, the 'look cool' factor no longer holds up if the product won't survive the environment. No matter what the brand; broken eyewear is never cool.

One way to avoid these recurring issues is to establish a set of rigid specifications. However with eye protection being a fairly new item, the relevant international standards are varied and confusing. They are generally 'industrial' and not military in nature. Combined with the lack of procurement expertise in this area, this approach neither addresses the life of the product nor the soldiers' willingness to wear it.

To ascertain best value and ensure that the product really does do the job requires a user trial. This, and only this, will establish if the product is truly soldier proof and if it can perform in the battlefield.

Revision Eyewear designs products specifically for military use. Their eyewear exceeds all the relevant military standards in terms of optics, abrasion, fogging and protection. This rigid design and development for 'military use' philosophy is proven. In every defence procurement organisation where an official user trial has been conducted: USA, Canada, Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark and Switzerland, Revision was selected.

Buying the best in protective eyewear isn't a choice. With ever increasing litigation and sympathetic judgement being given to the families of soldiers who were killed or injured due to inadequate protective equipment, the spotlight is on procurement influencers, decision makers and government defence ministries to properly equip troops in combat. In short, to meet duty of care obligations, buying the best protective eyewear isn't a choice. It's a battlefield essential. **(Author: Alex Hooper Vice President, International Sales, Revision Eyewear)**

Recently ongoing developments and new lightweight materials led to the manufacturing of the Milkor 40mmUS-Mark 4S, which weighs an incredible 735g! This new weapon accommodates a specialized Picatinny interface with external Picatinny mounting, ideal for add-ons like laser lights or torches. Furthermore it features a clip-on/clip-off mechanism for the Picatinny assembly, a built-in safety on the trigger and a mechanism that cocks the weapon automatically when loading.



(Photo: Milkor)

Milkor's Next Generation

Milkor Ltd is still a privately owned South African company, internationally known for its 40mm Multiple Grenade Launchers. Over the last 28 years, Milkor has supplied in excess of 50,000 weapons to law enforcement and military agencies in more than 30 countries around the world ranging from less-lethal to lethal weapons.

Since 1982 the simple and reliable 37/38 mm STOPPER Anti-Riot Gun has been in service and is still being produced by Milkor. It is a lightweight smooth bore weapon designed to give optimum performance with a variety of 37 mm anti-riot cartridges, like baton rounds, tear gas compounds, different coloured signal- and illuminating rounds. It is a conventional single-shot, break-open, breech-loaded weapon with single action firing mechanism. As a riot- or security weapon the 37mm STOPPER can be fired from the shoulder or hip. It is a limited lethality weapon that can be used effectively both indoors and outside with minimal damage to personnel and property.

About 20 years ago the need for an Anti Riot Pistol was voiced by the Correctional Services due to space restrictions in Prisons. Consequently the 37/38 mm Anti Riot Pistol was developed and it is currently still in use in the South African Prison Services. It utilises the same ammunition and has the same capabilities as the 37/38mm STOPPER in a more compact form for use in restricted spaces.

Recently Milkor has furthermore developed the new STOPPER II with interchangeable barrels, giving it superior flexibility in its applications, since either 37/38mm or 40mm barrels in long or short lengths can be attached and utilized. This is a very successful metamorphosis for both the above weapons into a simple and effective new lightweight weapon.

IN JUST THE BLINK OF AN EYE YOU CAN LOSE AN EYE

April 2006. Nighttime mission outside Fallujah. "That blast was so strong it threw me around like no tomorrow..." This gunner was ready with Revision Sawfly® Eyewear. His vehicle was rocked. Shrapnel flew. His sight was saved. IEDs don't come with warning signals. You have to be ready. Ready for the worst. Ready with the best. And that's Revision Eyewear. Powerful ballistic protection. Flawless distortion-free optics.



"It's funny how one little piece of plastic can keep you in the fight for another month or the rest of your life..."
— J.B. USMC, 5th Marine Regiment



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