TECHNICAL NOTE

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(NiteHunt)

HUNTING WITH NIGHT VISION GOGGLES AND THE EPC OR HUNTER SIGHTS

Night Vision Goggles (NVG) are getting cheaper and more available (especially the Russian ones). Night sights, that is Image Intensifier (II) sights are expensive. How should the hunter equip himself to shoot effectively at night? Should he use NVG or an II sight?

He has to find the target. With an II sight on the gun he has to scan the scene with his gun and his eye up to the sight. With NVG mounted on the head he has only to move his head and he can be better concealed. Depending on the type of II sight it is likely that its field of view is much less than that of NVG (a third or a quarter). So it is easier to scan the target scene and acquire the target with NVG than with an II sight.

Of course once he has found the target with an II sight he can aim at once. With NVG he has a suitable sight on his gun. Open sights and most telescopic sights are unsuitable. The EPC and HUNTER sights provide a red dot which, if the sight is correctly positioned on the gun, is seen in the NVG so aiming is easy.

The EPC or HUNTER sight, since it is so small and light, can be put on the gun in a place which suits the NVG being used (the cheaper ones tend to be long). They need not interfere with open or telescopic sights. They can be zeroed by day and this zeroing is unchanged at night. The brightness of the red dot is controlled automatically so in the dark it gets dim and does not cause flare in the NVG.

If more than one gun is to be used, the right one being chosen to suit the target found, then each gun can be fitted with an EPC or HUNTER sight instead of transferring an II sight from gun to gun with the consequent zeroing problems.

With NVG and these sights you can get better target acquisition, more flexibility and a cheaper, more effective solution for hunting at night without artificial illumination.