

April 2, 1991

TO: Hal Munson  
FROM: Jim Ronkainen *JR*  
SUBJECT: March Monthly Report

M/700 SYNTHETIC VARMINT STOCK

At the February Product Team meeting, the HS Precision synthetic varmint stock was chosen for the M/700 Synthetic Varmint rifle over sample stocks from McMillan and Lee Six. Color samples of gray, black, and black with gray overlay for the HS stock were presented at the March Product Team meeting. Black with gray overlay was the preferred color for the stock. Concern voiced about HS Precision's ability to meet production must be addressed by Purchasing. The drawing package for the M/700 Synthetic Varmint rifle will be transmitted in early April.

The Lee Six, McMillan, and HS Precision synthetic stocks were tested for accuracy (five shot groups) against a wood control stock in the Test Lab. For the action tested (M/700 Varmint, 22-250), the Lee Six shot best (.803 group size), followed by the wood (.837), HS Precision (.842), and the McMillan (.920) stocks.

M/7 YOUTH GUN

The M/7 Youth gun was shown at the NBS show in Fort Worth, TX, on March 2-5, 1991. NBS management endorsed the design after the show. Jim Prall is sending out a letter extending the deadline to order the M/7 Youth gun because minimum order levels to start production were not met at the show. Transmittal of the design will take place after I receive word we have sufficient orders for this gun.

M/700 SS

I am in the process of putting together the R&D cost estimate for the M/700 SS project. I expect to finish the estimate by the first week in April. The M/700 SS barreled actions from Wayne Cable are complete. Estimates for the fine blanked stainless barrel bracket are in from the vendor. Quoted prices are approximately 2X the current barrel bracket price. We may be able to simplify the process and reduce the price. Bob Sanzo has 416 barrel brackets in process in the NC shop. Bolt head blanks from Parker and Harper have not arrived yet. Mike Keeney is running sample bolt plugs through the line so that we can start to assemble our first stainless bolts for testing. Stainless steel bolt handles from Vestshell (416 and 17-4 PH) have arrived and will soon be processed in the plant. All of the custom shop stainless barrel blank cutoffs have been delivered to R&D. Material for receiver blanks and bolt bodies must be turned down for feedstock on the Miyano lathes.

I feel we need to give the M/700 SS project some type of priority in the Model Shop and NC Shop if we are going to make our promised introduction at the 1992 SHOT Show. I also feel we are coming to the point on this project where we must identify someone in Rifle ATO to lead the process side of this project. Failure to identify someone quickly and set some type of priority threatens our scheduled introduction.