

bcc: E.S. McCawley

W. Leek
WEL

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Mr. G.O. Ashley
Presentations Ltd.
1810 Highridge Dr.
Columbia, Missouri 65201

Dear Mr. Ashley:

Thank you for your fine letter and logical question of 6.5 dimensions vs. longer 700 action.

The popularity and performance of the 6.5 magnum vs. the acceptance of the fine M/700 was naturally an excellent match and enthusiastically accepted by a great number of shooters. The length of a 700 action will not influence the length of the existing 6.5 or its' redesign. Our studies indicate that the position of the bullet in the cartridge case does not affect ballistic performance. Actually, the last accuracy tests that I have observed show the 6.5 to be in the match category. Ten recently made production 660's in the 6.5 caliber selected at random produced ten 5-shot groups using factory ammunition averaging under 3/4" extreme spread. Four power scopes were used, range used was 100 yards with no wind conditions. I honestly believe that carefully made ammunition for match purposes could produce 1/2" 5-shot groups in these rifles. Not bad for a short barrel standard production carbine and factory ammunition.

One would be hard pressed to prove superior performance to this combination by varying the bullet position. Again, age old theories not supported by factual measurement are usually wrong.

As far as your last statement is concerned, I find it correct.

Best regards,

WEL
Wayne E. Leek, Manager
Firearms Research & Design

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