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MONTHLY REPORT - MAY 1992: OVER/UNDER SHOTGUN

A new 26 inch barreled prototype, utilizing the latest design improvements, was completed and shipped to Wilmington on 5/11 for executive approval. Initial verbal reports indicate that it was well received. The gun was still, however, 2.6 ounces over the design goal of 7 1/4 pounds. The culprit was the heavier than anticipated barrel middle spacer, which is being redesigned.

Accuracy testing of two of the new prototype barrel assemblies produced an unsatisfactory average 10 inch spread between the point of impact of the top and bottom barrels at 40 yards. Earlier testing of a model 3200 type split barrel assembly had produced an average 1.56 inch spread. The extra rigidity of the barrel middle spacer appears to be affecting the normal vibrations of the barrels. The design is being modified to eliminate the middle spacer and replace it with two side ribs. These will be attached only at a front and rear spacer.

The endurance test gun, with light weight contour barrels, had to be taken out of test at the 13,000 round level. This includes 1,000 proof rounds and 7,000 rounds of heavy magnums. At this level the cocking rod bearing area in the frame had worn so much that one of the cocking rods was lifting out of its seat during hammer recocking. Subsequently, light firing pin indents and misfires were occurring. Future frames will have a greatly increased cocking rod bearing area. No other parts exhibited excessive wear. This round level is considered to be more than adequate for a field gun.

Five guns are being assembled for a pre-design acceptance test to be conducted in mid June. The goal is to shoot 5,000 field loads and 5,000 heavy magnum loads through each gun, with no major part failures or malfunctions occurring. The frames in this test will not have the increased cocking rod bearing area and the barrels will have the middle spacer, instead of the side ribs, so accuracy will not be a part of this test. New frames and barrel assemblies should be available for testing in mid July.

One complete gun has been sent to a vendor who will develop the packaging. In addition to the gun and instruction books, the packaging will also include one spare choke tube, a choke tube wrench and a stock removal wrench.