

BUSINESS MEETINGRESEARCH - Contd.Quality - Contd.

- (2) Press formed Stock - While Research has no direct role, it is our objective to obsolete this process with the development of an automated wood finish or sanding process. Even with good success at each step, we are more than five years from high volume commercialization.
- (3) Powder metal appearance - Firearms research has no direct role; however, we will explore alternatives in appearance sensitive parts for new applications.
- (4) Vent Rib finish - Research has no direct role.
- (5) Finished Product contamination - Research has no direct role.

Of course when these issues are dealt with, there are five more issues which will surface. Among these are broken links, action bars and locking blocks, functioning of M/1100 Magnums and gas system corrosion. Anticipating the request, and in view of the long lead times for the new XSG, XPG models, we are working on retrofit corrections for each of these problems.

Summary

The current development schedule is the most ambitious Research undertaking since the development of the Models 870 and 1100 some 20 years ago. To accomplish this we plan to maintain the 1981 Firearms research force level of 40 plus through the five year period. In 1981 dollars, this will represent a Research expenditure of \$14MM. in support of the firearms business over the five year period. Even with this ambitious program, we are not doing enough process research in support of cost reduction programs. This situation will receive close Research management attention and scrutiny in the coming months; so that by this time next year we will have some significant new items to add to the list.