

March 30, 1992

TO: Ken Soucy
FROM: Jim Ronkainen
SUBJECT: March Monthly Report

M/700 SS

Design Acceptance testing on the M/700 SS is continuing in the Test Lab. All of the magnum endurance rifles have been shot to the 4000 round level. The barrels show signs of heat checking and erosion, but not an excessive amount given the number of rounds and the type ammunition being shot. Malfunction rates have run at approximately 1.3% for the first 4000 rounds. Most of the malfunctions were related to extraction and feeding. Feeding malfunctions have tended to be highly operator dependent. Excluding the malfunctions that appeared to be operator dependent, the guns have had a 0.4% malfunction rate. The four magnum rifles continuing to 10000 rounds have been selected. Drop testing and intentional abuse testing for all calibers is scheduled for completion by late this week. Plated trigger assemblies run through 50000 dry cycles show no unusual signs of wear.

Trial and pilot of the M/700 SS is continuing in production. The first barreled actions were received in assembly early this week. Last week, Skip Smith and I visited American Plastics to witness the first run of the refurbished M/700 SS stock injection molding tool. I would rate the first run an 80% success based on the amount of rework done to the slides and inserts in the mold. The checkering looks very good. Some of the challenges being addressed are:

- o better match of parting lines and witness lines
- o recoil pad fit to the butt of the stock
- o alignment of the trigger assembly inletting with the trigger guard inletting
- o better ejection of the part from the tool
- o better alignment of the takedown screw holes with the holes in the receiver

We tentatively plan to run the stock mold again this week and make the final adjustments before running production stocks. The stock is now our critical path item in starting production of the M/700 SS.

M/700 Detachable Magazine Box

I have assumed full responsibility for the M/700 Detachable Magazine Box (DMB) program with Fred Martin's transfer to the plant. I have given a high spot DMB cost to marketing to generate the proposed MSP and volumes. I have also updated the capital requirements for the program to be realistic for the new tooling that will be required to manufacture the DMB system. I will be able to finalize the total capital requirements for this program after meeting with EMT, the stamping vendor, tomorrow. A program timeline and R&D cost estimate will be completed this week.

I visited S&K on 3/25 to discuss the modifications to the wood stocks to allow the addition of the DMB to the M/700 BDL and M/700 MR. With the help of Gerry Helmer and Walt Bazan, my intent is to minimize the impact of the DMB design on the capital tooling requirements for the

stock. We will need to be in contact with our aluminum diecasting vendor to discuss the trigger guard design for manufacturability. I am currently reviewing the design and drawings with Ed Klock to ensure the design is feasible and producible.

M/700 Camo Synthetic

I transmitted the drawing package for the M/700 CS including the polypropylene stocks that will replace the discontinued Arylon stocks.

M/700 Plant Assistance

Gary Barnes and I devised a screening system for the plant to screen M/700 breech bolts for ejector retaining pin holes that were out of position.