

28 September '92

To: Ken Soucy
From: Tom Powers
Subject: Monthly Report for September '92

M/OU Barrels & Side Ribs

The six sets of side ribs were hand formed. Three sets were sent to H. M. Quackenbush for black chrome. Some process development on their part needs to be done before we send them production quantities. Our in-house alternative, gloss powder coat, has not been running in the plant, so we haven't been able to get any side ribs done yet. Square Stamping has just received the extruded aluminum blank stock from which they will form the side ribs. We will be going to their place tomorrow to look at the material and answer questions they have on the finished form of the part. Refer to Ken Rowlands report for details of test results on the prototype barrels made from 4140R.

M/11-87 European

This program has been reassigned to the 1994 development schedule. Additional butternut blanks have been requested to produce prototypes for endurance testing. Special European ammunition for testing has been ordered (by Bud Zumsteg) but not received. The prototype gun weighed exactly seven pounds.

M/870 & M/11-87 Upgrades

Process Engineering has provided a barrel assembly drawing with their in-process dimensions, to be used as a guide for the new drawing we will issue.

M/870 & M/11-87 Magazine Follower

Completed. Tooling changes are underway. Mold run-off scheduled for the first week in October.

Detachable Recoil Pad

This program was moved to the 1994 development schedule at the August Firearm's Product Team meeting. Work will continue to get a functional prototype for show & tell purposes.

M/870 Mil-Spec 3443E

26 guns were built, six of which were field tested prior to shipping four to the NRA Police Matches in Jackson. Results of the field test were not good as two guns had numerous malfunctions, mostly stem chamber. One of the two had an incorrectly adjusted carrier. The problem with the other one has yet to be determined.

M/870 Action Bar Lock

The DCR has been written and money for the tooling changes has been authorized. H & P is expected to have the tooling ready by the end of November. Approval of parts from the tooling will follow. Production quantities should be available in January.

Turkey Choke

Completed.

20 Ga. Rifled Barrel

Since both Federal & Winchester make BRI-style 20ga. sabot slugs, we will order some for testing with our prototype barrels. We will then be able to offer a 20ga. fully rifled barrel, with a cantilever scope mount and test data to back it up.

Shotgun POI

Further discussion with marketing is required before any further action is taken on this. The lower front sight beads have come in. Using this bead will raise the theoretical Point Of Impact (POI) by approximately 1 1/8".

Trip to Jackson, MS

I attended the annual NRA Police Matches to assist Bill Forson and obtain shooter impressions on the M/11-87 Police and M/870 Mil-Spec guns. We didn't advertise that the M/870's were Mil-Spec prototypes as they haven't been submitted for testing and approval. The M/11-87's had the new 18" rifle-sight barrels. Both were well received, particularly the M/11-87. Acceptance of the M/11-87 can be likened to the current revolver vs. pistol debate going on with various agencies. When autoloading pistols become the norm with police departments, then sales of the M/11-87 will increase. When "pitching" the M/11-87, I stress the recoil reduction and how important it is to smaller-framed officers and its impact upon their willingness to practice. One of the M/870 Mil-Spec prototypes had a action-bar-lock reversal while being used by a burly left-handed officer. Rear sight slides on two of the M/11-87's came loose. One of these loosened again after I left, and the gun was taken out of service. I'm going to examine the guns when they get back this week. None of the M/11-87's had any malfunctions! Bill reports that he saw more M/11-87's being brought to the match by officers than before. Bill and I agreed that it would be a good move on our part to have all our military/police guns built in the SWS/CHIP area. Another suggestion we received was to inlet the foam on the M/700 TRS carrying case. This would allow the case to close easier and have higher perceived value. One officer felt we should advise purchasers of M/700P's as to the correct break-in/cleaning procedure for the barrel. Another officer suggested a 18" VR barrel with a section of the rib removed at the rear for the mounting of a flip-up buckhorn style rear sight, to be used in conjunction with the front bead. Lastly, it was suggested that we offer a 21" VR barrel for the M/11-87 Premier, for field hunting. If we offered this as a 2 3/4" only barrel it could take the place of the M/1100 Special Field. It may even be possible to offer it with pressure compensation (still for 2 3/4" only) as a feature. This barrel would have the standard contour and choke tubes. It would work nicely with the Sporting Clay's length magazine tube and fore-end.