

In Remembrance of Frank Lanza

It is with great sadness and heartfelt sympathies to report that Frank Lanza, L-3 Communication's Chairman & Chief Executive Officer, died suddenly June 6, 2006 shortly after returning home from work. Mr. Lanza will be remembered as a terrific leader, extraordinary visionary, and a man who had a significant impact on the success of the restructuring of the aerospace and defense industry over the last several

years. He was personally responsible for the growth of Loral into a major defense contractor as well as the meteoric rise of L-3 to the sixth largest aerospace and defense company in the United States. Our



Figure 1: Frank Lanza ;CEO of L-3 Communications

thoughts and prayers go out to his wife and family at this time of great sadness and the celebration of his wonderful life and contributions to our society.

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *European Highlights*
- *Tech Talk— Gas Masks*

With or Without the Ring?

Due to increasing demand and customer feedback, L3-EOTech has introduced the model 552.D1 HWS with a single, 1 MOA aiming dot. This new model includes all of the features and benefits the standard 552 offers, including the popular AA battery operation, 33 ft water submersibility, and full night vision compatibility. The 552.D1 is priced consistent with the standard 552.A65/1 and offers the user the military grade HWS, now with a choice of reticles to match their shooting requirements. Many users want the HWS technology and features, but are more comfortable with a single dot reticle. This product will also simplify the transition to an EOTech from an Aimpoint. While some of the speed may be lost without the circle, the 552.D1 offers a cleaner sight picture with an easy-to-see precision aiming dot. L3-EOTech prides itself as a company who actively listens to its customers and provides superior products around their suggestions.



Figure 2: Operator with a 552.D1

Headlines from Across the Pond

After a lot of hard work and dedication, many of L3-EOTech's international distributors are now experiencing great successes and increased sales. One example is our exclusive distributor in Poland, the company IMS-Griffin. They have been extremely active in supplying L3-EOTech products to the Polish military and police. Multiple orders over the past two years, totaling approximately 2,000 units to date, have been supplied to the police forces, the Polish Army and their elite Special Forces unit, the Operational Maneuver Reconnaissance Group (GROM) (see figure 3). The GROM is Poland's most elite military unit. The GROM assisted international coalition and played a key role in securing vital oil fa-



Figure 3: Polish GROM with a 552 HWS AP Photo

ilities at the outset of Operation Iraqi Freedom. EOTech is proud to supply the Polish Armed Forces and Police with Holographic Weapon Sights (HWS). Also, L3-EOTech was recently awarded a contract to supply (450) model 552's to the United Kingdom Royal Navy

for use on their 7.62mm GPMG (General Purpose Machine Guns) through our distributor, Viking Arms, Ltd. Additionally, EOTech was also awarded a contract for the Belgian Army Special Forces for 100 model 552 HWS earlier this year. These

are just a few examples of the contracts that EOTech is winning around the globe. Through the effort of our international agents and in-country distributors the word about L3-EOTech is spreading fast as the HWS quickly becomes the sight of choice for elite military and police units around the world.

Who Was That Masked Man?

Whether in our city streets or current war theaters, preparing for combat has changed dramatically over the years. The enemy continues to find new ways to attack and create aggressive assaults. There is an increasing amount of concern over the possibility of terrorist attacks using nuclear, biological, or chemical agents to threaten our military or civilian populations. New tactics and performance driven equipment must be employed to counter these threats. NBC suits and masks are now used for personal protection to combat these situations. There is no question this added protective equipment creates additional

challenges and obstructions. An operator's vision, field of view, movement, detectability, and natural senses are greatly impaired. But, the operator is still expected to perform in firefights, and engage the enemy. Speed and vision are still essential. Training and tactics will provide an edge, but there is also better equipment and tools. The HWS is a force multiplier when an operator is using gas masks, and here is why.

The glaring problem with NBC masks is the inability to position the shooter's head low enough due to the filtration canister and mask connection port. It is a physical obstruction to one's trained cheekweld.



Figure 4 : Operator canting the rifle to view iron sights— notice one eye closed

This is true for both standard iron sights and most tubed red dot weapon optics. First, when shooting iron sights it is essential to align the rear aperture with the front post and then with the target. This slower, multi-plane process is much more difficult to achieve with an NBC mask on and forces the shooter to close one eye, greatly minimizing his field of view. To improve this, some

shooters will cant the rifle roughly 45 degrees to make the iron sights easier to access (see figure 4). Add a bulky suit with limited vision to this awkward, untrained shooting position, along with low lighting conditions, and you will seriously compromise performance.

The HWS is far superior over standard iron sights when deploying with gas masks for a variety of reasons. First, the large rectangular viewing window allows the shooter to instantly see the reticle and acquire his target no matter where the reticle is positioned in the window. Because the mask modifies the position of the shooters head, he will typically find the reticle in the upper corner of the window. With both eyes open, he can confidently squeeze the trigger knowing that point of aim/point of impact does not change. "The EOTech is better because it offers full focus field of vision in front of you while keeping the head erect, centered, and both eyes open" says Jeff Chudwin, Chief of Police for Olympia Fields PD in Illinois. "It is like watching TV with a circle and dot in the center". This is especially true on an M16A2 rifle where the HWS would be positioned on top of the carryhandle, an ideal setup for gas mask deployment (figure 6). In addition, the holographic reticle image is always in focus at the target plane, eliminating the multi-plane focusing errors associated with iron sights. Follow up shots are immediate. With iron sights, the operator must maneuver the mask around the stock to achieve the correct position that will allow sight alignment. This burns precious seconds and there is a good chance this has to be re-

peated for each follow up shot. Slow acquisition time, minimal field of view, and modified shooting form make shooting irons a dangerous and vulnerable option.

Because of this, the use of red dot optics is growing rapidly, especially in the area of

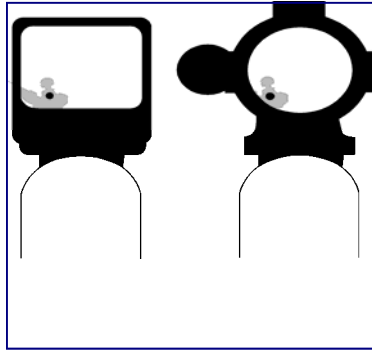


Figure 5: Field of view differences between HWS and Aimpoint

high speed Special Response Teams. Very few dot sights work well with masks, and none offer the speed and flexibility of the HWS.

Again, the rectangular heads-up display simply provides more area to see (see figure 5). It makes sense that car windshields and TV/computer monitors are not round because it cuts down on your viewing area. In a red dot sight, the "corners" are removed, so a crucial part of the sight picture is missing. The mask's obstruction and skewed sight axis positions the aiming reticle for all sights in the upper corner. Often the dot will disappear completely when viewed through a round aperture. This, along with the Aimpoint's flip up covers and external knobs,

greatly compromises the operator's field of view. The HWS offers an unmistakable reticle with a very forgiving sight picture. It is forgiving, because it allows operators who are placed in extreme scenarios, much like the multiple obstructions of gas mask deployment, to continue to engage targets rapidly and with confidence. In many operators opinion, the HWS delivers the only sight picture that works with gas masks.

NBC masks are a necessary evil for individual protection. Performing under these conditions is not easy. While they guard against deadly agents, they impair the operator's senses with a host of obstacles. The HWS and its forgiving sight picture, provides a proven tool that overcomes the visual impairments and continues to



Figure 6: HWS on an M16A2 using an ARMS#2 with both eyes open

provide extremely fast target acquisition. The HWS offers the smoothest transition to biochemical deployment without reducing performance or safety, making the HWS the most versatile, combat-ready optic in the world.

Picture Perfect



AP Photo

L3 EOTech would like to hear from you. We are excited to offer a quarterly Photo Contest where the winner will receive a FREE 552.A65/1 HWS!! Just send in a photo containing an HWS along with a brief story explaining the image and you will be eligible to win.

All photos are welcome but we would prefer a military or law enforcement theme. The winner will be chosen each quarter by our EOTech judges and posted on our website and Newsletter.

Please send your story and photo to john.bailey@L-3com.com and be sure to include your Name, address, phone number, and email address. We look forward to your photos...Good luck!

Where L-3 -EOTech Will Be in 2006

There are several opportunities throughout the year to promote the HWS and connect with potential end-users. Here is a list of upcoming events we will participate in.



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July

Enforcement Expo, Cleveland, OH —July 12-13
CATO, Anaheim, CA —July 17-18

August

Trexpo East, Chantilly, VA —Aug 22-24
Small Arms Symposium, Shrivenham, UK —Aug 22-26
Ducks Unlimited, Oskhosh, WI —Aug 25-27

September

MSPO, Kielce, Poland —Sept 4-7
Modern Day Marine, Quantico, VA — Sept 12-14
NTOA, Burbank, CA— Sept 10-15