

Why Rapid Fire shooting may be required in the Bush – Bear Defence

In this situation we are switching roles compared to what we're normally used to. We are effectively "Shooting to Live" by pumping out as much lead as we can within a short period of time. We never assume the first bullet is going to do the trick, you need to switch mind-sets here and be prepared to stop that 850lb grizzly with another 9 rapid fire shots immediately with flawless succession.

This means deploying different shooting mechanics. A series of things should be going through your minds right now.

- **Am I holding the weapon firmly enough?**
- **Am I holding the weapon correctly for rapid fire shooting techniques?**
- **Am I having any jams? If so then then why?**
- **How do I take corrective action to make the rifle feed ammunition without flaw?**
- **Am I loading my stripper clips correctly?**

A Sergeant Instructor by the name of Snoxall at the College of Musketry in 1914 put 38 bullets into the bull of a target at 275 metres within one minute using a SMLE.

That's one aimed shot every 1.6 seconds and includes stripper clip changes. However these shots were taken using a lee enfield supported by sandbags. To my knowledge no one has been able to officially beat that record.

The Ranger's needs, circumstances and conditions are different - we want to use rapid fire, in an unsupported manner, in the standing or kneeling position using stripper clip changes. This is very much different from what we're used to when we usually come to the range. Generally we work for every shot we take. We assume target shooting positions, manage our breathing as we deploy marksmanship discipline.

My personal average is about one round every 3 seconds and it's a difficult argument to say they were effectively aimed shots.

For the course of fire proposed we are going to aim for one aimed shot every 5 seconds. If you can go faster please do so but five seconds will be our target as far as the timer is concerned.

Do not be upset if you have problems making the time trials – it will not mean an automatic fail – but we will identify if you are having a mechanical problem with your rifle, are having problems using stripper clips, having a problem keeping your sights on the target, having a problem with bolt throw close to your face, etc... We are trying to identify who should be holding the rifle on that trail as the Grizzly Bear with cubs charges towards your team of Rangers.

**Richard Kean, Terrace
Canadian Ranger**