



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
FUTURE FORCE INTEGRATION DIRECTORATE  
BLDG 5800 WEST WING, CARTER STREET  
FORT BLISS, TEXAS 79916**

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

ATFC-IF

28 November 2008

**MEMORANDUM FOR BETA COMPANY**

**SUBJECT: Product evaluations**

The ARMY Experimental Task Force (AETF) a unit of the Future Force Integration Directorate (FFID) at Ft Bliss, TX evaluated 6 of your companies BETA-C 100 round drum magazines for the following weapons M/4 with black covers, M4 with clear covers and M249 with black covers. The following is a description of the performance evaluations.

The M4 drums with black covers were used in three scenarios; controlled pair, controlled burst and rapid fire. The two drums performed flawlessly in all three engagements and only the normal maintenance had to be performed afterwards. The weight and ACU carrying pouch was also set up well for user mounting and accessibility to all components. The loading time was longer than a standard 30 round magazine but the quantity is well worth it. Both drums performed flawlessly in all three scenarios without jams or stoppages.

The M4 drums with the clear backs were also used in the same three scenarios and the only difference was in the rapid fire scenario due to gas blowback the covers became clouded due to carbon/oil/smoke. It is not clear what steps could be taken to resolve this or if a protective coating exists to reduce the clouding. One Soldier suggested possibly using Dry Lube oil. Both drums performed flawlessly in all three scenarios without jams or stoppages.

The two M249 drums were only evaluated in the controlled burst and rapid fire scenarios. Both also had no issues but comments on the weight of the drums compared to the 100 round linked M249 SAW box were made. The loading and weight of the link-less vs. linked rounds are not comparable but any reduction in weight would be well received to this system.

Awaiting products samples for the 7.62 Springfield SOCOM II and EBR rifles.

During the After Action Review (AAR) Soldiers had only positive comments about the BETA-C drums and will continue to use them in future exercises. We appreciate the chance to integrate your product into our field arsenal. Thank you again for allowing us this opportunity.

POC for this is SFC James Mentel @ 408 289-3903.