



COMPANY C, 1ST BATTALION, 20TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP (AIRBORNE)
Combined-Joint Special Operations Task Force-A
OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM
UNIT 3, 120
APO, AE 09311



MEMORANDUM FOR

GROUP FORCE MODERNIZATION OFFICER (FORCE MOD)

01 March 2003

SUBJECT: TESTIMONIAL ON STEINER BINOCULARS

1. Our SF A detachment of the 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne) is currently deployed overseas in a combat zone in Central Asia, as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. After my battalion was mobilized to deploy overseas for Operation Enduring Freedom, I purchased out of pocket 2 pair of Steiner binoculars. Part of my reason for doing so, was that the issued replacement for the original M22 10x50 Steiner binoculars were both too large and bulky, and not of sufficient quality for the types of mission and environment that we anticipated operationally. I have purchased other brands of binoculars over the years, as a law enforcement trainer in the private sector, and as a soldier (and none of them currently is in working condition.) So, prior to shipping out, I had purchased out of pocket, at the Air Force Base Exchange, one pair of Steiner green rubber armored 8x30 military marine binos, and one pair of more compact Predator series 10x binos. I later realized that this was one of the best investments that I could have ever made. Friendly fire and collateral damage are serious issues, especially in a guerilla war. Due to the fact that the location we were going to was going to have high percentage of civilian, non-combatants, and enemy that does not wear uniforms, and then considering the ever-present importance of making proper threat-identification, we all found ourselves having to use our various optics constantly.
2. I had the opportunity to use both of my two pair of Steiner binoculars throughout our entire deployment. These were taken on numerous mounted patrols, urban operations, and unilateral reconnaissance missions. I served in the sniper/observer role for my team on the majority of operations, which included a number of cordon and search operations (raids). I most often wore the 8x30 Steiner binos attached to my body armor on my non-shooting shoulder, for quick access, and brought either or both pair on every single mission. Often, when moving long distance on foot or riding on mounted patrols, you have to stop periodically to pan the mountains, compounds, and house to check for threats. As time went along, I got more confidence in the product. In addition to the quality of the optics, they are extremely durable. My pair survived numerous times being dropped from a vehicle or banging into things, not to mention laying directly on them in the prone. These Steiner binos have obvious proper human engineering. They are very comfortable to pan with for hours, watching expanses of mountainous areas, being very easy on the eyes compared to other optical products that we have. Finally, they are lighter weight and will always be on my packing list.
3. Conclusion: Considering the serious nature of what has to be done by military and police sniper/observers, recon scouts, LRSD, and other professionals, their equipment can't be a variable. This is why you see so many military and law enforcement personnel purchasing their own tactical grade optics. I can't emphasize enough how important it is to have the right set of optics for military special operations use. Steiner truly makes a product that survives the test of life and death professions. Steiner is the right stuff for anyone serious about their optics and in my personal opinion and professional experience is equipment that your life can depend on.

[REDACTED]
Sergeant First Class, US Army
Special Forces Weapons Sergeant