

SECURITY TEAM OPTICS

Valdada glass for ranges varying from CQB to countersniper targets!



By Leroy Thompson

Lately I've been devoting an occasional column to carbines and how they can be utilized by security teams. The versatility offered by the carbine makes it a highly desirable weapon in any high threat environment. To be effective, however, the security team carbine must be compact and fast handling to allow quick deployment from within a vehicle and it must also be capable of switching from CQB engagement to countersniping usage instantaneously. As a result, an optical sight that can be used under 25 meters or out to 500 meters is required.

CRT Tactical Scope

To meet this requirement, I've been evaluating two scopes from IOR Valdada. Although both can perform well on security team carbines, each has a slightly different mission. The 1.1-4x26mm CR-Tactical scope is at its best for a team that operates primarily in an urban environment where engagement distances will rarely surpass 100 to 200 meters. On the 1.1x setting, the scope's CQB-BDC reticle is very fast. It employs a horseshoe with a



The Valdada 1.1-4x26mm CR Tactical allows fast handling or in this case use of available cover.



Note that the 1.5-8x on the top carbine is shorter in length than the 1.1-4x on the bottom carbine.



Five-shot 2.5" group using the Valdada 1.1-4x26mm CRT scope at 200 meters.

dot in the center. Below the horseshoe is a post with stadia lines marked off for 300 to 800 meters. The stadia lines also allow range finding by matching them to the shoulder width of a target. On the 4x setting the dot covers 3 inches at 100 meters. The reticle is designed for 62-grain SS109 ammunition. To allow engagement at night, the scope has an illuminated reticle.

The 1.1-4x26mm CR is quite compact at 10.5 inches overall and weighs 22 ounces. When I tested this Valdada, I started out using it at ranges between 15 and 35 meters. It took me a few rounds to determine that the fastest way to engage quickly at close range is to just center the target in the horseshoe. I found that I could quickly switch among plates at varying distances using this method and still hit them every time. When I moved to 50 meters still using the 1.1x setting I did

try to take a bit more time to center the dot on the target, but by that point I had grown skillful enough with the horseshoe that the dot virtually centered itself. I also rotated the magnification ring to the 2x setting for some 50-meter shooting.

For longer ranges, I zeroed the Valdada 1.1-4x26mm CR at 200 meters on 4x. My best group shooting prone at that range was 2.5 inches for 5 shots, which is



Three shots fired quickly at 25 meters with the Valdada 1.5-8x26mm Tactical Riflescope.

pretty good with GI SS109 ammo. I found that I could use the center dot for quick engagement at 100 or 200 meters, then for 300 meters just drop down to the 300-meter stadia line, which crosses at the inside lower edge of the horseshoe. Although I'm sure good accuracy can be obtained with the Valdada 1.1-4x26mm CR past 300 meters, I really feel it's at its best at this range or less. For CQB to medium range, it's extremely fast. One can engage a target at 25 meters or less on 1.1x setting, then quickly turn the magnification ring to 4x and deal with targets out to 300 meters plus.

Tactical Riflescope

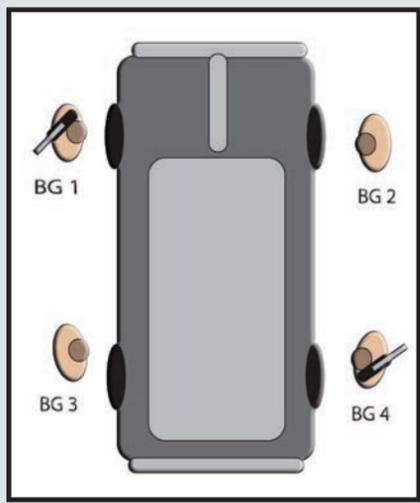
For teams that work in more open areas or face a serious threat from snipers, Valdada offers the 1.5-8x26mm Tactical Riflescope. This scope has all of the advantages of the CRT including the CQB-BDC illuminated reticle, but has capability for more effective long-range engagement due to the 8x magnification. Another real advantage is that the 1.5-8x26mm is actually more compact than the CRT, being only 9.5 inches overall and weighing 22 ounces.

Size of scope is not only an issue from the point of view of weight,

Continued on page 90

Carbine Armed Bodyguards Covering High Ground

In an extreme threat scenario where all or some of the close protection team is armed with carbines, it is advisable to have some of them assume a close-in countersniper role by watching the surrounding buildings or other high ground that might offer a shooting position to a sniper. If there are enough extra operators to assign countersnipers from the trail car, then the close protection team assumes its normal duties for moving the principal into and out of the vehicle. However, if only the four members of the close protection box are available, then one on each side of the vehicle (BG1 and BG 4) watch for a threat from above and further away, while the other two (BG 2 and BG 3) watch the immediate area around the vehicle.



AD

AD

VIP PROTECTION

(Continued from page 75)

which can affect the ability of the operator to handle the carbine quickly, but also since the weapon will have to be taken in and out of vehicles and, in certain circumstances, even deployed within the vehicle.

When testing the 1.5-8x26mm Tactical Riflescope, I found that the 1.5x setting still allowed for quick engagement at 25 meters or less. However, the 8x setting allowed more effective use at longer ranges. Once again, I zeroed the scope at 200 meters with SS109 ammunition. By the way, the windage and elevation dials on the 1.5-8x26mm allow quarter-MOA adjustments, while on the CRT they offer half-MOA adjustments. During that process I found the 8x magnification allowed me to tighten up my groups, with my best for five shots running 1.75 inches. I feel that an optic that helps me shoot a sub-MOA group with an AR-15 carbine and SS109 GI ammo is definitely doing its part. Once again, I performed drills at ranges between 25 and 50 meters as well as between 100 and 300 meters.

I haven't had a chance to use either of the Valdada scopes for night shooting yet, but I have turned on the illuminated reticle and tried sighting on objects at varying ranges. For night shooting, I believe that the combo horseshoe/dot will allow precise sighting since the red dot shows up very well against a wide array of backgrounds.

Tactical Link Z-360

As long as I'm discussing security team carbines, let me mention a sling I was using during the Valdada tests, which has special application for close protection. Tactical Link produces a



With Tactical Link's sling strap passing over the right shoulder a right-handed shooter can quickly shift the carbine out of the way to the handgun.



Firing a Stag Arms Tactical carbine with the Valdada 1.5-8x26mm Tactical Riflescope mounted.



The Tactical Link sling can be reattached quickly and easily to the Stag Arms carbine.

single-point sling that quickly attaches or detaches by means of a push button connector. My carbine has the Tactical Link Z-360 mount, which is basically a collar that attaches to the carbine buttstock's tube. Because the attachment or detachment of the carbine to the sling is so simple, you can detach your weapons while in the vehicle to allow more comfortable seating and quicker reaction. Upon exiting the vehicle, the connector can be pushed back into the mount and the weapon is slung. I would note that I have found, since I am right-handed, it is better to use this sling with the strap passing over my right shoulder so I can quickly shove the carbine under my left arm if I have to transition to my pistol.

Final Notes

I have become a strong convert to the concept of carbines for security teams. For them to be most effective, however, really versatile optics are advisable. I feel these two scopes from IOR Valdada offer that versatility. I would recommend having a look, too, at Valdada's V-TAC mount, which positions the scope high enough for use with front sight mounted but still allows a good cheek weld. ●

FOR MORE INFORMATION

IOR Valdada Optics

PO Box 270095, Dept CH, Littleton, CO 80127; 303-979-4578; www.valdada.com

Tactical Link

23175 224th Pl. SE, Dept CH, Maple Valley, WA 98038; 866-822-5465; www.tacticalink.com