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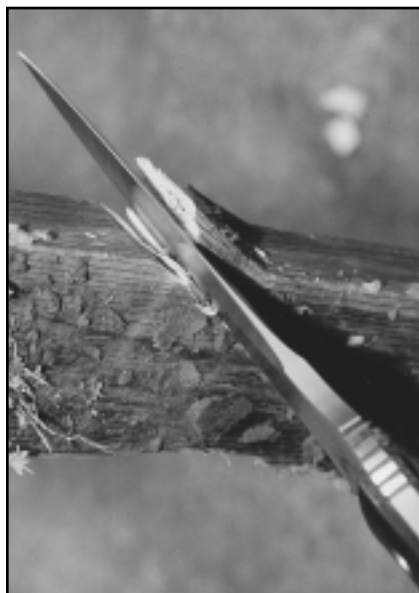
■ By MSG Kim Breed
5th Special Forces (retired)

The Anything, Anytime, Anywhere Knife

If you want it tough, try the Mercworx Sniper

When I first heard of Mercworx, I figured it was one of those companies catering to people who want a “cool name” on a knife. Once I received the Mercworx Sniper, I realized that I couldn’t have been more wrong.

According to a Mercworx official, the company had been producing knives for the combat community for a few years before going public with several models. From the looks of the Sniper, Mercworx does things the right way. It receives design input from combatants directly involved in active conflict. You can’t ask for anything better or tougher. Soldiers are



For chopping, the weight-heavy blade bit deep into 2x4s and seasoned oak with no challenge or damage.

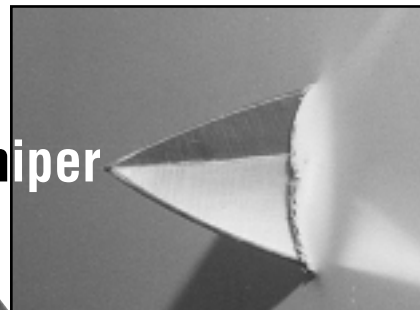
hard on their equipment and expect it to perform 100 percent plus. Sometimes, you just have to use what you’ve got. Normally, such use constitutes abuse but in combat that can spell the difference between life and death. The Sniper was designed for anything, anytime, anywhere.

Strong Grind

When the Sniper arrived for testing, the first thing that caught my eye was the grind lines. They’re narrow at the start then flow wider and deeper toward the tip. This grind is built for strength. Heavy chopping and prying benefit from the thicker blade area. The steeper grind is less likely to chip during heavy use. As the tip flares out, the hollow grind employs up to 60 percent of the blade for cutting/slashing. The flaring point widens the penetration channel. The Sniper has a sharpened false edge to cut two ways. For stabbing, slashing, cutting and chopping, a slightly blade-heavy recurve with a double-edge tip is just the



Using the can-opener motion, the author cut an “access hole” in the steel-walled fire door, pulling and prying until the opening was complete.



The author used the overhand stab with the knife in a reverse grip to penetrate the steel-walled fire door. Two inches of tip protruded out the other side.

The Mercworx Sniper boasts a 7 1/2-inch blade of CPM S30V stainless steel with a tapered hollow grind.

The handle is canvas Micarta®. Manufacturer’s suggested retail price: \$450.

ticket.

The finger guard held my hand in tight. Thumb notches are placed for maximum leverage for cutting and fit my hand perfectly when I used the reverse grip.

Tactical Tools provides a great ballistic nylon sheath with a Kydex liner. A utility pocket gives extra space for a multi-tool or an extra pistol magazine.

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I really like the touch-fastener flap that hooks over a belt. A leg tie-down cord and a strap for upside-down carry complete the package.

Testing

The first time I used the Sniper was to remove the legs from a whitetail deer. The blade went through the leg bones so quick that it almost got me, too. All it took was a wrist snap and the blade went clear through the bone. There was no damage to the edge, which would still shave hair.

The design of the blade with its flared tip provides about 2 inches of slicing surface. The rest of the primary edge has a steep angle for chopping. I used the tip and got 35 clean cuts on half-inch sisal rope. For chopping, the weight-heavy blade bit deep into 2x4s and seasoned oak with no challenge or damage. I went to the brass-rod flex test next because the edge was still sharp and the chopping test can be hard on it. With the edge on the heavy side, I had to push hard to get a flex. It flexed both ways without any chipping, a sign of great heat treatment.

I saved the best for last: a steel-walled fire door from the local seconds store. The skin of the door is .070-inch-thick galvanized steel on both sides. Aside from a large dent in the bottom, the door is structurally sound. Remembering what happened with the deer legs, I decided to start off exerting arm strength only and try to penetrate the door. I used the overhand stab with the knife in a reverse grip. It just felt better that way. Again, the Sniper surprised me. Two inches of tip protruded out the other side of the door.

By that time I wanted to play some, so I cut an "access hole" in the door. After a

stab, I would push the Sniper up and pull it down its full length. This left a 7-inch split in the steel. I continued using the can-opener motion, pulling and prying until the opening was complete. It took two minutes and 17 seconds to cut the hole. Even though the edge was dulled afterward, neither the edge or tip were damaged. This has got to be one of the toughest knives I've ever tested. I drove the tip into the steel door 30 times, twisting and turning it, but the tip remained undamaged. I worked up a sweat on this one.

Extras

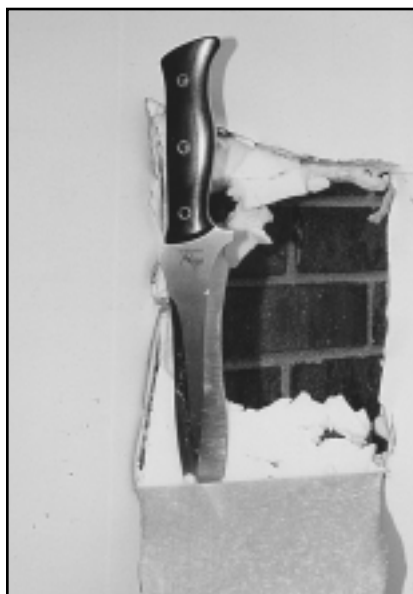
Each knife is sole authorship, from start to finish, of one of Mercworx's craftsmen. The blade can be refinished using 3M Scotchbrite pads. It can be painted to dull and will clean up fast.

Overall

The Sniper is for serious users. No bells and whistles here—just a maxed-out tool. Every part of the design is thoroughly combat tested for the best possible results. In my opinion, Mercworx has established a rock-solid niche in an uncompromising and unforgiving marketplace.

For more information, contact Mercworx, attn: Nigel, Dept. BL7, 235 Main St., Ste. 287, Madison, NJ 07940 (908) 619-1013 mercworx@mercworx.com.

BLADE



It took the author and the Sniper two minutes and 17 seconds to cut the hole in the steel-walled fire door. Even though the blade's edge was dulled as a result, neither the edge or tip were damaged.

SPEC CHART

Knife Sniper
Company Mercworx
Pattern Utility/tactical fixed blade
Blade Steel CPM S30V stainless
Temper Cryo-treated
Rockwell Hardness 58 Rc
Blade Length 7 1/2"
Blade Stock 6.5 mm
Grind Tapered hollow
Handle Canvas Micarta®
Overall Length 13"
Sheath Ballistic nylon with Kydex® liner by Tactical Tools
Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price \$450 in S30V and \$400 in 154CM stainless steel

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