

64 2011 Snipers Hide Match "Top Military Shooter" Loaded His Ammo on RL 550B

By Mark Pixler

When I started at Dillon Precision 20 years ago, my pet peeve was (and still is) the myth that "you can't load accurate rifle ammunition on a progressive loader." So, whenever I hear something that debunks that myth, I take great pleasure in reporting it.

The most recent example that has come to my attention is SSG Jonathan (Jon) H. Geib's performance in achieving "Top Military Shooter" honors at the 2011 Rifles Only Snipers Hide match. And yes, Jon loaded all the .300 Winchester Magnum ammunition he used for the match on a Dillon RL 550B!

"I wouldn't have been able to compete at all with the price of .300 Win. Mag. ammo being around \$50 for a box of 20 rounds," Jon explained, "and I needed 600! That's about \$1500." Fortunately, Jon "has a friend in the business," namely Maj. Chris Dillon. Chris introduced Jon to Jason Steiber, who set him up with an RL 550B to load his match ammo. "I saved every piece of brass I ever fired out of that rifle," Jon said, "because I knew someday I'd get into reloading."



While I enjoy spreading the word that Jon loaded the ammo he used in the Rifles Only match on Dillon equipment, I have to give credit where credit is due. It's not as if Jon is a beginning shooter. He's been a sniper in the US Army/AZ Army National Guard for the past nine years. A veteran of multiple deployments, SSG Geib now has three National Guard sniper teams under his supervision. Since he also represents his unit in national military high power, combat and sniper matches, Jon obviously has the skills required to make the most of those match-quality reloads.

He also has the rifle...a McMillan Tac 300, and the scope...a NightForce NXS 5.5-22x56, and the combination performed well indeed. "One five-shot group had four shots through the same hole," Jon said, adding, "the fifth was one-half inch out. It was beautiful."

The next match Jon will compete in is the US Army International Sniper Competition in September, but the Army will issue the rifle and ammunition he'll use for that match. Sorry, Jon, but we know you'll make the best of it!

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Based on available data, we conducted a tedious state-by-state survey of deer "harvested" nationwide by adult rifle hunters. (Bow hunters typically account for 11 to 34 percent of deer taken.) Much of the information is incomplete: useful figures for Florida, Montana, and Oregon are unavailable, and there is little deer hunting in Alaska and Hawaii. Other states only show totals of deer taken without breaking out archers, juvenile or out-of-state hunters. In order to guesstimate rifle hunters for those states, we split the average of bow hunters, deducting 20 percent from the overall figures.

Our figures have obvious glitches. Many states permit multiple tags, usually with drawings for various areas and controlled hunts beyond the general season. But by rounding, we should achieve a fairly conservative total of competent riflemen over age 16.

Excepting the states noted above, our accounting shows that typically 4,985,000 rifle hunters bag a deer annually. Taking an extremely minimal total for the uncounted states, we rounded up to an even five million, still 30 percent more than the combined U.S. military/police total of 3.8 million.

Would all of those five million actively resist? They're certainly more likely to do so than those who simply buy a license or belong to an organized group. Of course, we all know some extremely dedicated folks who have never filled a game tag, so let's call it a push.

Comes "the day." What happens when five million riflemen decide to fire one round a week, apportioned daily?

China has 2.28 million active military and 800,000 reserves. North Korea has 1.1 million active and 8.2 million reserves, counting all branches. Nobody else is close in either category, though North Korea cannot even feed itself.

So, being whimsical...if "The War" begins with hordes of enemy parachutes descending across the nation on Monday morning (you recall the scene in *Red Dawn*), it probably ends Tuesday morning, after potentially 714,000 rounds are fired. With 70 percent accuracy (the shooters are all successful hunters) that's almost 500,000 hits – likely more than the total number of exposed targets at one time nationwide.

If 10 percent of the deerslayers decide to resist, that's half a million rounds per week, or 71,400 per day with 50,000 hits in the first 24 hours.

If only **one percent** of the deerslayers decide to resist, that's still 50,000 rounds per week, or 7,100 rounds per day yielding 5,000 hits. That war could last a few days, but the round count probably is more than enough to preserve the nation for its rightful owners.

Just as the Founders intended.

Military manpower: <http://www.globalfirepower.com/active-military-manpower.asp>
http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/report3526_355512_7.pdf