PLEASE NOTE!

This is an exclusive excerpt from the soon to be released book,

POLICE PISTOLCRAFT: The Reality-Based New Paradigm of Police Firearms Training

by Michael E. Conti

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APPENDIX T
An Eye on Handgun Sight Development

There have been some interesting and significant developments both in the approach to sighting the handgun and in the design of handgun sights since I last wrote about them in *In the Line of Fire* in 1997.

Since a review of the history of handgun sight development reveals there have actually been few significant strides made since the beginning of the Twentieth Century, I believe it's important to revisit the issue and examine some of the more recent developments.

First, a brief look back.

Patridge Sets the Standard

According to Elmer Keith, sights didn't become standard equipment on handguns until after 1836 when the revolver came into general use.[1]

Since then, many different types of sight designs have been developed for the one-hand gun. Like many other aspects of pistolcraft, many of these designs have also been "reborn" and reinvented over the years, with various modifications made to the basic established designs.

For example, the most popular type of sight used on modern handguns is based on a design *more than 100 years old*. The Patridge Sight–often incorrectly referred to as a *partridge* sight–was first developed by Mr. E.E. Patridge in 1892. This sight can be recognized by its simple and efficient design, embodied in a squared front sight and squared rear sight notch.

In A.L.A. Himmelwright's book, *Pistol and Revolver Shooting*, (first published in 1908), Patridge is quoted explaining how to use the sights he had designed *primarily for target shooting*.

Mr. Patridge stated, "In using these sights bring the front sight into the rear notch, making a straight line across the rear bar and the top of the front sight in the notch opening, so the eye will see a black square with two lines of light of equal width on each side."

Today, Patridge Sights are still being produced and used in the same manner, though they have been adapted for purposes other than target shooting over the years.

One of the ways they have been modified for use in low-light environments for both target and combat applications is by the addition of colored paint or luminous inserts. This approach was undertaken as early as the beginning of the Twentieth century, when white and phosphorescent paints were used. Later developments saw the use of Radium and then the drastically safer Tritium. Tritium, a radioactive isotope of hydrogen, is used extensively in the well-known Trijicon® brand of self-luminous sights.

Self-luminous Sights

In *In the Line of Fire,* I recommended the selection of a set of rugged, self-luminous sights that your

(Background photo courtesy Massachusetts State Police archives, circa 1941)

[1] *Sixguns by Keith,* 1961 revised edition

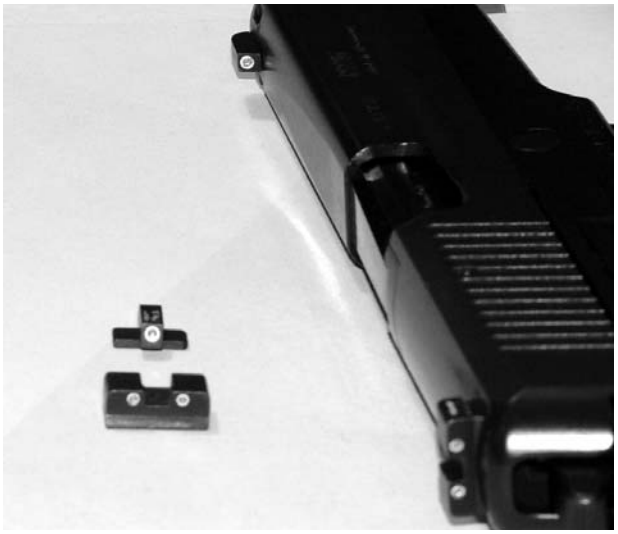
eyes can quickly acquire and align while operating in a darkened environment. While I still believe their use can prove beneficial to police officers under certain circumstances and conditions, there are other considerations that need to be examined.

First, under stress, especially in a low light environment during the statistically-likely police-involved gunfight, chances are great that both of an officer's eyes will be wide open and focused on the threat.

If the self-luminous sights were perceived by the officer at all under these conditions, they could possibly impede or distract the shooter's focus *from the threat*.

On the other hand, if the shooter did attempt to consciously access the sights under these conditions, other problems could arise. As Tim Sheehan, inventor of the HexSite™ (covered later) points out, "in stress-fire situations, with both eyes involuntarily open, users of 3-dot night sights may see from four to six dots because of the parallax (apparent displacement of an object seen from two different points) of binocular vision."

Should this occur, it could obviously induce greater stress and confusion on the shooter, especially if the shooter has been extensively trained to close one eye when sighting on the range.



Patridge Sights with Trijicon® Self-luminous inserts.

On the "pro" side of the argument, self-luminous sights *can* provide an officer with a significant advantage should he find himself in a situation during which he was:
1) actually able to access and align the sights on an identified threat while
2) operating in a low-lit environment and/or during the hours of darkness when the statistically-likely gunfight normally occurs.

I experienced another example of a situation that could have been positively-impacted by the presence of a set of illuminated sights one evening years ago while operating in a darkened house during a call out. While moving through the lower level of the building performing a stealth search while exercising complete light discipline, we could hear the suspect we were looking for in a room somewhere above us.

Approaching a staircase, I held my pistol out in front of me, muzzle-first to danger. It was then I realized that even though the top of the staircase was dimly illuminated, from the position I was in, I could see neither my pistol nor my hands as it was so dark. This was prior to our being issued self-luminous sights–never mind night vision goggles–and, regardless of the fact that it "felt" like my pistol was pointing straight and true, the effect was slightly disorienting, apparently causing my "inner puppy" a minor degree of consternation. (I did find myself in a subsequent similar situation after being equipped with a pistol possessing a set of self-luminous sights, and did find it made a positive difference in my confidence level–however, I was not required to fire my weapon during either circumstance, so cannot testify to the positive or negative impact of the sights on close quarter pistol-combat performance.)

Given all of the above considerations, should the decision be made to acquire these types of sights, I would offer the following suggestions, arrived at after much experimentation.

I would suggest the employment of a luminous dot on the front sight in combination with

a luminous vertical post or horizontal line for the rear sight, as opposed to the more common three dot configuration. I believe this configuration–reminiscent of another early design and currently being offered in Tritium lamp form by Novak's® –is better because when three dots are used, all emitting the same colored light, it is possible for the muzzle to be grossly misaligned with the target, even when the three little lights appear to be dead-on aligned. This occurs, especially when operating under stress, when the front sight dot is inadvertently lined up to the right or left of the rear sight dots. When this happens, even though the operator sees the three little dots neatly aligned in a row, the muzzle is actually pointing a few degrees port or starboard–a *major* problem, especially at further distances as this misalignment will be greatly magnified.

While some officers opt to install different colored lamps on the rear sight while keeping the green lamp up front to prevent this misalignment from happening, I still prefer the table and ball configuration because nothing is certain when operating under stress, including your abilities to accurately perceive depth and/or colors.

Cirillo Intuitive Sights

The Cirillo "Intuitive" Sights

Many people are not aware that Jim Cirillo, in addition to his unique gun fighting experiences while serving as a member of the NYPD Stakeout Squad, is also an accomplished firearms instructor and world-class competition shooter.

He has also been instrumental in the design and modification of both ammunition and firearms, with several patents to his credit.

As I was preparing this section, Jim happened to mention that he had been working on an improved iron sight design for pistols. Naturally anxious to see what the "Old Gunfighter" had produced, I asked him to send me the handmade prototype so I could try it out.

The sights, pictured here mounted on a Glock 22, consist of a rear sight with a radius-cut notch. A shallow groove has been cut around the radius and painted white. The front sight, consisting of a standard Patridge blade that has been rounded off, has a self-luminous insert that is also surrounded by a ring of white paint.

When held up to the line of sight, the shooter is presented with a sight picture reminiscent of a Paine Sight, though the rear sight radius cut is more defined, and the white outline does assist the eye to quickly locate and center the Tritium insert. This fast acquisition is aided immeasurably by the thin black outline that surrounds the insert.

When sighting the pistol, Jim recommends that the shooter simply focus on the bright or "high value" front sight. The eye and brain then

tend to automatically center the front dot in the rear radius, achieving perfect alignment with the target.

Jim advises that during his experiments to date, this sight configuration has allowed him to fire incredibly accurate groups out to fifty yards. (Keep in mind, however, we are talking about a man who can fire tighter groups while holding the pistol inverted, actuating the trigger with his little finger, than most people can while holding the pistol normally...) He further stated that everyone he has let shoot while using the sights have reported the same effect.

During my own testing with the handmade prototype set, I found that these sights did indeed prove to be extremely user-friendly. In fact, the first groups I fired through my own Glock 22 fitted out with Jim's new sights were tighter than any I had produced when firing it with the factory sights. I also found that the sights were extremely well-suited for use under low light conditions, as they seemed to stand out in a way that most standard sights do not.

Jim anticipates that the production versions will be available shortly. I look forward to purchasing and permanently installing a set on my Glock 22 for further testing and evaluation.

Interestingly, Jim's Intuitive Sights are the last traditional iron-type sights we'll be looking at in this section. For in the area of handgun sight development over the past decade, a definite trend has been observed toward designs that allow the pistol operator to keep both of his eyes open and his focus on the target while he's shooting at it.

Obviously, for law enforcement purposes, this trend may prove extremely beneficial, for sights designed to allow the operator to focus on the target while verifying that the muzzle is aligned properly–either consciously or subconsciously– will eliminate many of the training disparities found when teaching precision and reflexive shooting skills.

Red Dot "Reflex" Sights

Electronic Holographic Diffraction (HDS) and Red Dot-type "Reflex" Sights have become very popular for long guns, and variants of both can be seen on the M-4 service weapons many of our troops currently employ in the Middle East.

The sights are intended to be used keeping both eyes open, while the dominant eye is aligned with the sight's lens aperture or window. The dot or other aiming reticle is then superimposed on the target, indicating the weapon's point of aim.

Contrary to many people's misperception, the eye's focus should be kept on the target, *not* redirected to the dot when using these types of sights.

As for pistols, many competition shooters have been employing similar sights on their highly-modified "race guns" for years, but these sights are normally large bulky affairs that have no business in a duty holster.

A smaller version has been developed, however, that may be worth considering for tactical team or other limited special purpose applications. Referred to as micro-electronic reflex red-dot sight systems, versions have been produced by Tasco (Fire Point™ and Optima

Micro-electronic reflex red-dot sight system.
(Images courtesy JP Enterprises, Inc.)

2000™), JP Enterprises, Inc. (JPoint™), and Docter Sports Optics USA (DOCTERsight™).

These battery-powered sights are installed on top of the slide in place of the rear sight. They can be attached with mounts or "melted in", which requires some machining of the slide and results in a significantly lower profile as well as an easier transition for those accustomed to using iron sights.

The newer JPoint and DOCTERsight models automatically adjust the intensity of the dot to ambient light conditions, allowing acquisition of the dot as long as the environment is bright enough to identify the target. Provided that Mr. Murphy fails to get involved, the sights are always active (lithium batteries reportedly can last up to three years in the units), eliminating potential problems caused by forgetting to turn the unit on prior to work, or having the unit putting itself to "sleep" after a set period of time. Both sights are also waterproof and dustproof.

In terms of weight and durability, the JPoint is lighter, using a polymer frame and acrylic lenses, while the DOCTERsight is hardier, with a stainless steel, brass and anodized aircraft-grade aluminum frame and optical quality glass lenses.

Laser Aiming/Sighting Systems

The concept of laser sighting systems has received a great deal of public exposure, especially since Hollywood fell in love with the image of numerous red dots swarming like angry bees over the chest of the hero or villain during many an action movie's climax.

Much has also been written about the application of these systems for law enforcement handgun purposes since the development of two product lines designed specifically for use with duty pistols. The two companies that produce these products, LaserMax® Inc. and Crimson Trace™ Corporation, have taken innovative yet different approaches to solving the problem of designing a self-contained laser system that will neither impact negatively on a duty pistol's functioning nor alter its physical profile in any significant way.

I have experimented extensively with both of these products in training and while operational. I have also conducted and attended training courses built around their use, to include participating as an invited member in the 2004 Crimson Trace Master Trainers Summit. I am currently putting the Crimson Trace system through a series of trials, to fully explore the viability of their use for both general and specialized police purposes. I am conducting these trials not on behalf of Crimson Trace or any other commercial entity, but on behalf of my department. I am providing this information in the interests of full disclosure, for some of the opinions I have formed regarding the use of lasers in general and these two premier products specifically, may ruffle some feathers.

Whether you agree with my opinions or not, I wish to make it completely clear that they are mine alone, and have not been dictated or influenced by any parties, private or public.

My *approach* to the subject of laser sighting systems, however, *has* been influenced, primarily by Jim Cirillo, who reminded me to keep an open mind while evaluating the devices. This was necessary–and much appreciated by me–for I had formed a somewhat negative opinion early on regarding the use of lasers for general law enforcement purposes. If not for Jim's encouragement to put aside my initial impressions and re-evaluate the devices with fresh eyes, I might have remained trapped in a foregone conclusion–never a good thing.

Laser Systems, Pros & Cons

Laser sighting systems can provide a number of benefits for the law enforcement officer.

Operationally, they allow an officer to verify muzzle alignment with a threat while

keeping his focus *on the threat*. The laser also allows other officers to see which suspects are being covered–and which *are not*–during felony stop or raid/warrant service activities.

This visual indication of muzzle alignment is also very often obvious to the suspect being covered. Numerous instances of suspects being influenced to surrender/discontinue the fight once they observe the red beam flashing from the pistol or find an intensely glowing dot on their chests have been documented. Officers also often report feeling more confident with their laser sight-equipped weapons, especially when operating in low light environments.

In regard to training operations, the lasers can provide an outstanding training aid insofar as officers can "see" what their muzzles are doing by observing the path/movement of the dot. By using the laser in this way, officers can quickly improve the smoothness and speed of their presentation, muzzle alignment, and trigger manipulation.

As for the negative aspects, the one that concerns me most is the potential for officers to hesitate to fire *when it is time to fire* because they are unable to see or find the dot on the threat subject. This first became of concern to me more than 10 years ago while training down in Florida. While there, a local police officer was attacked while off duty by a pistol-armed assailant at close quarters. During the struggle that ensued, the officer succeeded in preventing the assailant from shooting by grasping the assailant's gun hand with his own non-dominant hand. The officer, who was then able to draw his laser sight-equipped pistol, reported experiencing a mental "disconnect", for though he felt he *had* to shoot, his brain was locked onto the fact that he *couldn't see the dot*. And based upon the way he had been trained at that time, *no dot* meant *no "bang"*. (See operant conditioning, Chapter Four). Luckily, the officer was able to overcome this psychological "dissonance" and pressed the trigger, ending the attack.

This possibility for hesitation, especially in regard to close quarter spontaneous attacks, is the single greatest obstacle that must be overcome before a laser sight is provided to an officer. The only way to do this is to conduct a training program specifically designed to limit the possibility of an officer hesitating when it is time to shoot. Simply equipping officers with the devices and putting them through a few courses of fire is not enough.

There are several reasons why an officer might not be able to see or find the dot. While the Class IIIa lasers produce a brilliant beam that is visible at great distances in low light environments and close-in under bright light conditions, the dot tends to be difficult–if not impossible–to discern under daylight conditions at distances greater than 7 yards.

Mechanical or electrical failure is another possibility that may render the laser unavailable.

Though batteries tend to last a long time, routine testing of the lasers and replacement of the batteries before they run down is just good old preventative maintenance.

Again, *proper training* is the key to ensuring that the laser sighting system is used to provide the tremendous advantages it is capable of providing, while minimizing the possibility of catastrophic hesitation on the part of the officer at a critical moment.

While a lot of effort has already been expended in this area, much more is needed to ensure that the tremendous benefits of laser sighting systems can be exploited fully in the future.

LaserMax®

The LaserMax series of laser sights has been designed in the shape of a semiautomatic pistol's recoil guide rod. The laser is installed in the pistol simply by replacing the stock recoil guide rod, recoil spring, and (in the case of SIGs) the takedown lever with those supplied. The takedown lever houses the switch, and the laser can

be turned on or off by pressing a small rod from either side. When pressed in halfway between both points, the laser is turned off. Activating the laser can be accomplished by the trigger finger while the weapon is held normally in the hand. Turning it off safely, however, generally requires the use of both hands.

While the aiming point of the laser cannot be adjusted with this model, I have found it to provide suitable accuracy out to 25 yards as it comes out of the box. The pulsing laser dot that is projected is generally clear, bright, and fairly easy to locate (except as noted previously), but will become diffused when the lens is fouled. This tends to occur as a result of firing the weapon, since the laser's lens is situated directly below the muzzle.

The fact that the entire system can be installed in minutes by the operator, and that once installed, does not alter the pistol's profile in any significant way, is rather remarkable. The very idea, however, of replacing any of the duty weapon's internal components bothered me from the outset. After firing less than a thousand rounds through my personal 9mm SIG P226 with the LaserMax installed, I encountered a problem that confirmed my fears.

LaserMax® Combat Laser Sight, shown installed on this Sig P226 and disassembled at left. This unit utilizes a Class IIIa laser and produces a pulsing red dot. Power output is between 3-4mW.

The guide rod tube containing the laser and batteries (shown in the photo) is made of steel and tends to hold up very well against the recoil and action of the spring. The plastic battery cap, however, would occasionally come loose during firing. On two separate occasions, this resulted in a catastrophic malfunction, rendering the pistol completely inoperable. Luckily, these two instances occurred during training, and not in the field.

Though a representative from LaserMax stated that this had not occurred previously to their knowledge, as I noted, I experienced it twice during my testing, the second time after double-checking to ensure that it was assembled properly according to the manufacturer's instructions, and that the unit itself was not damaged in any way.[2]

For this reason alone I could not recommend the LaserMax System as tested for duty use.

Another weakness of this system is found in its switching mechanism, which requires the operator to employ fine motor skills to manually turn the laser on and off, something which could prove to be a distraction (at the least) during a real world, spontaneous encounter.

Crimson Trace Corporation's Lasergrips™

Crimson Trace Corporation's Lasergrips also require the replacement of stock components, though in this case it is the grip panels.

Should this laser system fail, the weapon itself will remain unaffected.

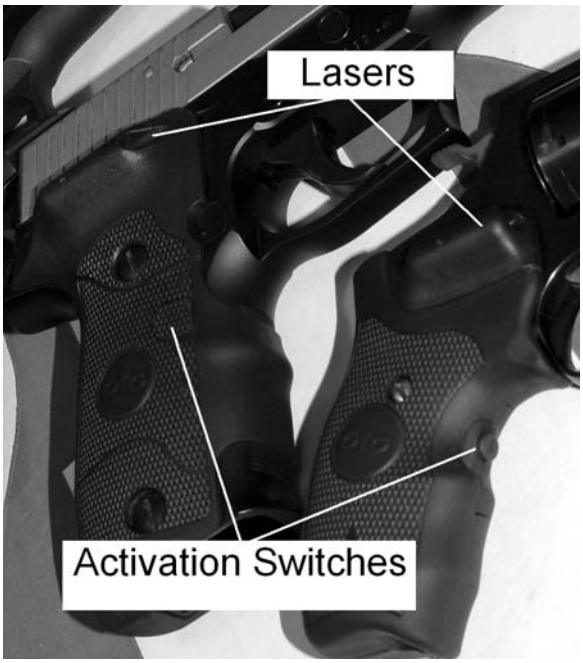
On most models the laser is housed high in the right side panel, running horizontally below

[2] After reading the draft copy of this book, Jim Cirillo advised me that he too had experienced this type of failure while working with the LaserMax® system, and had reported his experience to a LaserMax representative.

finger level. Pressure activation switches are located on the grip panels where they can be activated by the fingers of the dominant hand. The positioning of these switches leaves a bit to be desired, however, as some people find their fingers don't fall on the switches when the weapon is gripped naturally. (A single activation switch located in the grip along the front strap is reportedly in the works. Available for some revolver models and the Colt 1911 Government and Commander models, this variation is ergonomically superior.) A second master switch is located on the bottom of the left grip panel. This switch, controlling power to the pressure switches, can be set to "on" or "off". When in the "off" position, the laser will not activate when the momentary pressure switches are depressed.

When the beam is activated while the weapon is held in the right hand with the index finger up along the frame, the beam is usually blocked. When the finger is moved to the trigger or onto the trigger guard, the beam is projected onto the target.

Unlike the LaserMax system, the Crimson Trace system uses a steady, rather than a pulsing beam, and the beam can also be adjusted for windage and elevation to allow zeroing. Due to the positioning of the laser above and off to the right side of the muzzle, vertical and horizontal alignment tends to be less than perfect at any distance other than that at which the weapon is zeroed. At distances from 25 yards and in, this misalignment ranges from negligible to a span of several inches–something which might make a difference when delivering a critical, precision-aimed shot, but won't be much of a factor for the majority of police-involved deadly force encounters when hitting center mass is the objective.



Close-up of the Crimson Trace Lasergrips™ showing laser housings and activation switches. The single activation switch located on the front strap (right) tends to provide surer contact than the side-panel mounted switches for many people. Depending upon hand size, the side panel mounts can be difficult to activate.

Crimson Trace Lasergrips™ shown installed on (from top) a Colt Combat Commander, SIG P226, and a Smith & Wesson Model 36. The rubber overmold grips are extremely well made and comfortable to shoot with.

The grips themselves are ergonomically designed, and provide a superior, rubber over-mold surface that is extremely comfortable and provides for positive control of the weapon. Many officers I have trained have stated that they would prefer these grips to the stock panels, even if the lasers weren't included.

We have experienced a few instances

where the grips caused a problem when securing the pistol in the duty holster. This was usually corrected simply by making a minor adjustment to the holster, though in several cases the holster had to be replaced–not with a custom holster, but with another standard-issue duty holster.

While the quality control of all the components is plainly evident, several of the units we purchased for use had faulty master switches. Several others that worked fine initially ceased working for unknown reasons after being carried on duty for a period of a few months, including my own. These units were not abused beyond normal handling limits and the batteries tested fine. The customer service provided by the company was exemplary, however, and replacements were shipped immediately.

As I noted, we are currently conducting a series of training tests and evaluations with these particular devices. I am working with a test group comprised of members of the MSP Logan Airport Anti-Terrorist Unit. The equipment has been issued and is being deployed daily.

The feedback thus far has been very positive, and the results of our training approach–based purely on the New Paradigm model–appear to be decidedly positive. My major concern, however, is that we are still seeing a tendency to hesitate firing at the target when the beam is not immediately discerned. Once I have completed testing and gathered the information I seek, I will make my findings available for those with an interest either in an article, on the Internet, or both.

The HexSite™ Sighting Systems

The last sight to be examined in this section is a hybrid produced by Goshen Enterprises, Inc. I use the term hybrid because though at first glance it may appear to be a variation of a set of standard front post and rear ghost ring aperture sights, it is actually something quite different.

For the patented HexSite has been conceived, designed, and created to "solve the problem of conventional sights especially well in circumstances requiring a 'startled response' from a defender," according to Tim Sheehan, the sight's inventor.

Tim, an experienced defensive firearms instructor based in Sedona, Arizona, has expended a considerable amount of time, energy, and money pursuing his vision of a sight that would fit a specific set of requirements (Table 1). Tim based these requirements on a specific set of circumstances likely present during a typical close quarter gunfight (Table 2).

Unlike conventional iron sights, the HexSite has been designed to allow the operator to focus on the target, not on the sights, while keeping both eyes open. Due to the unique design of the HexSite, the operator is able to do just that while still benefiting from the presence of the sights. That is because the HexSite has been designed to be looked *through*, not at, while the operator is engaged in combat.

This is in direct contrast to the approach E.E. Patridge took over 100 years ago when he first created the sights that would become the standard model for handguns, for his intent was to create a set of sights that could be easily accessed and *focused upon* while firing. That was because Patridge–who took a scientific approach to his project, even consulting with an optometrist during the design phase–was trying to produce sights for *target shooting, not combat.*

I first became interested in Tim's work several years back when he contacted me after reading an article I had written for *Guns & Ammo* in which I described some of the training we had been conducting at the FTU. After introducing himself, he described in great and enthusiastic detail all of the experiments, research, and testing he had conducted while pursuing his vision of a usable combat pistol sight.

Later, he provided me with a sample for testing and evaluation. After working with the

Sight Requirements Based Upon Typical Gunfight Circumstances

1. Reasonable size
2. Rugged construction & Fail Safe operation
3. Lowest "value" (darkest) in any ambient environment
4. Allows full, unobstructed visual target perception
5. Allows for effortless natural target alignment without need for subjective thought
6. Allows consistent target alignment in any lighting conditions

Table 1

Circumstances Present During Typical Gunfight

1. Fluid situation (in motion)
2. Focus on threat
3. Shooter's perspective can be adversely impacted by distraction caused by colored or luminous sights
4. Both eyes will be wide open
5. Because the shooter feels a great need to see the threat target, he will tend to stop short when raising his firearm to eye level and look over the sights, depressing the muzzle resulting in shots fired low

Table 2

sights for just a short time, I began to see what he had accomplished. It is an extremely interesting concept, based on a unique blend of science, superior craftsmanship, physiology, and more than just a little dash of Zen. Interestingly, as Patridge had one-hundred years before, Tim also sought out the advice of professionals outside the firearms industry, most notably in the medical and behavioral sciences fields.

One of the core concepts of the HexSite System is that when used correctly by a shooter in a stress-fire situation, the sights actually disappear as they effectively assist the shooter to focus on the target. While it takes a little time to adjust to this idea, especially if you've been using Patridge type sights for any length of time, the validity of the concept can be easily demonstrated while dry firing. Simply stare at an object with pistol in hand, and then quickly and aggressively raise the pistol to eye level while maintaining your focus on the object. After just a short time of exposure to the HexSite system, what you will repetitively and consistently observe when you refocus your vision from the object to the sight is that the top of the front sight blade has been aligned perfectly in the center of the rear sight aperture and directly on target–all without conscious determination. (This refocusing on the sight is done only to demonstrate that the concept works, and would not be done at all when using the sights for shooting purposes.)

Basically, Tim's design consists of a rear hexagonal-shaped aperture and a specially-machined front blade sight. The front sight has been designed to collect light from any direction and produce a subtle glint at its top.

The extensively-machined rear aperture offers 16 angular reference points that, according to Tim–and experienced by me, for one–are subconsciously accessed when the pistol's sights are aligned with the eye. As a result of the recessed concavity at the rear of the aperture, a truly dark shadow that does not reflect light is produced, resulting in the desired lowest "value". Because this shadow is so much darker than the surrounding environment, maximum contrast with the target in every lighting condition is achieved. The effect for the eyes is to perceive the target through the sight as being brighter or of higher value, resulting in better focus on the target. As for operating in extremely low-lit environments, according to Tim, "If lighting conditions are too dark for the

HexSite™ shown installed on a Glock 9mm.

HexSite, it is too dark to identify the target, and too unclear to shoot at with any sight, at least without flashlight illumination."

Tim goes on to explain:

> The HexSite presents six implied equilateral triangles which involuntarily draw the eye to an exquisitely refined convergence at the center of the hexagonal aperture. The angles are reflexively congenial with the eye's inherent physiological makeup, so that the eye effortlessly locates and perceives the sight's precise center. One user commented that it was 'like using invisible scope crosshairs.' The shooter's eye simply cannot dismiss the hexagonal structure's unconscious demand to place the unfocused-upon front-post-top at the center of the sight–which also places it right on the target the shooter is focusing upon. While the shooter is seeing the target, the subconscious is 'seeing' the sight."

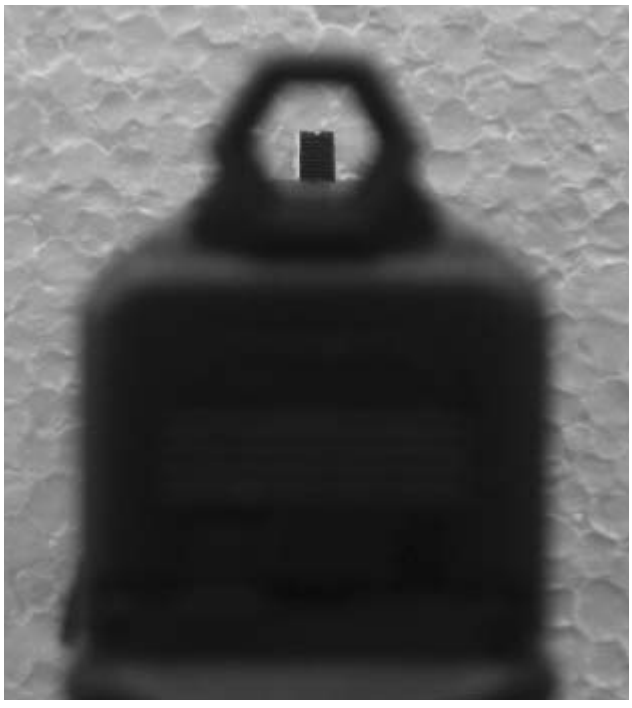
Now, having been in the police industry for nearly twenty years, and working professionally as a writer/consultant for more than a dozen, I've had a lot of people try to sell me one brand of snake oil or another from a number of angles, triangular and otherwise. And I'll admit that my BS radar was up and running strong as I first listened to Tim and then read the volumes of information he's produced about his sights.

But right from the start the man's sincerity rang loud and true, as did his approach and methodology. In addition, after working with both the pistol and shotgun versions of the HexSite, I have been so impressed that I felt I had to include what is probably the culmination of his life's work in this book, which for better or worse, is probably the culmination of my own.

I would also like to state for the record that neither I, nor anyone involved with me or Saber Group, Inc., has any type of business relationship with Tim or his company.

He is simply a good man who has developed an exquisitely thought-out and designed iron sight that I believe may bridge the gap between the two primary methods used to aim the pistol during real world engagements.

And I have been fortunate enough to have had the privilege to introduce it here, in *Police Pistolcraft*.



View through the HexSite™ as installed on the Glock pistol shown above.

Sight Systems Resources
(As cited in this section)

www.aimpoint.com

www.crimsontrace.com

www.docteropticsusa.com

www.eotech-inc.com

www.goshen-hexsite.com

www.jprifles.com

www.lasermax.com

www.novaksights.com

www.tasco.com

www.trijicon.com

Another Blast from the Past!

The battery-powered WESPI electric searchlight sight, shown mounted on a Mauser Siderlatch Special. The long tube projects a beam of light at the center of which is a dark focused spot, or dot. The sight is adjusted so the dot and the pistol's point of impact intersect. Sort of a reverse laser/red dot scope concept. Don't look for it at your local gunshop though–it was developed and produced during the early 1900s! (Image courtesy of Paul L. Regnier, Lausanne, Switzerland.)