



U.S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,
Firearms and Explosives

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www.atf.gov

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Mr. Todd Tuttle
Primary Weapons Systems
2390 East Commercial Street, Unit #7
Meridian, Idaho 83642

Dear Mr. Tuttle:

This is in response to your submitted items, along with letters dated June 6 and 29, 2007, to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Firearms Technology Branch (FTB). The two items, which you have submitted for classification, are muzzle attachments. Your interest is in confirming that they do not "suppress flash, flame or sparks of any kind."

The first device, designated as "DNTEC 308," is intended to be utilized as a compensator for .308 caliber rifles, the submitted sample being threaded in a 9/16x24 left-hand thread for attachment to an FN/FAL-pattern rifle. The second device, designated as "FSC556," is intended for use as a flash suppressor for AR-15 pattern, .223 caliber rifles having a 1/2-28 muzzle thread pattern (see first of the series of enclosed photos for both devices).

To test the flash-reducing capability of these items, Branch personnel compared the submitted attachments to the military-style flash suppressors of the FN/FAL and AR-15 pattern rifles.

Employing a method developed to compare the flash of the submitted muzzle attachments to that of military flash suppressors, FTB performed a comparison test, the procedures of which are consistent with those utilized by the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command (Test Operations Procedure [TOP] 3-2-045). The procedure included the following steps:

1. A tripod-mounted camera was positioned to photograph the muzzle flash from an angle perpendicular to the bore axis. A grid, measuring 25 inches x 31 inches and employing a series of 1/8-inch lines spaced 2 inches apart, was placed behind the muzzle attachment to be used as a reference when applicable. The weapon was configured with (or without) a muzzle attachment and rested on a bench-mounted rifle rest.
2. Photographs were taken of the muzzle attachments on a .308 caliber FN/FAL-type firearm and a .223 caliber AR-15 pattern firearm while the weapons were fired in complete darkness.

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3. Branch staff took sets of three test photographs for each weapon configuration; the following configurations were employed for each set:

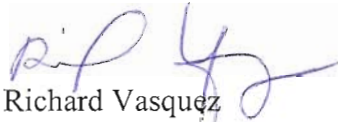
1. First, the test weapon was photographed with no muzzle attachment.
2. The test weapon was then photographed with the corresponding military-style flash suppressor.
3. The test weapon was then photographed with the submitted muzzle attachment.

A sample photograph for each configuration is included for reference (see remainder of enclosed photos).

The testing of the submitted muzzle attachments by FTB determined that the flash-reduction effectiveness of the submitted devices is not comparable to that of the equivalent military-style flash suppressors, since they did not effectively dampen the flash signature of the test firearms. Therefore, FTB has determined that the DNTC308 and the FSC556 are not "flash suppressors."

We thank you for your inquiry and trust that the foregoing has been responsive.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard Vasquez", is written over the typed name.

Richard Vasquez
Acting Chief, Firearms Technology Branch

Enclosures