

ANALYSIS OF THE “BREAKPOINT” LONG-GUNS HOLDER AND ITS USEFULNESS FOR THE POLICE TACTICAL UNITS



The tactical long-guns holster “Breakpoint” is a brainchild of BREAKPOINTSYSTEM (www.breakpointssystem.com). Our staff has a broad military experience in the Spanish armed forces and this product is the result of a research to find a solution to the problems encountered in war zones, specifically in relation to the conventional manner in which the standard-issue HK G36 is carried.

The “Breakpoint” holster has been conceived to be a complement for this precise assault rifle, although this analysis is also aimed at proving its usefulness for to the HK MP5, a submachine gun widely used amongst tactical police units of many countries, whose frame and magazine features make it compatible with our system.

The development of this retention system was based upon some specific items related to contingencies observed in the daily tasks of our deployed troops. Our designers tried to solve them and at the same time improve the security and performance of our soldiers in those situations.

In this analysis we will study interesting aspects of our Breakpoint that can prove its solvency in relation to police tactical units which, save very few exceptions, carry on most of their interventions in urban areas. The following considerations have been addressed:

- QUICK DRAW**
- HANDS FREE OPERATION**
- WEIGHT RELIEF ON SHOULDERS AND NECK 2**

Before proceeding to a specific analysis of the items above, it is worthwhile mentioning the great VERSATILITY demonstrated by the "Breakpoint" holder, thanks to a calculated design aimed at granting its compatibility with the "MOLLE" system or any standard belt for that matter, as shown in the image. This way, users can place it in a manner that suits best their personal preferences.



Referring to police tactical units, their members usually operate with rather voluminous, heavy armor equipment which, especially in the case of European forces, comes accompanied with helmets that incorporate ballistic visors. This extra protection represents a handicap when it comes to certain movements, besides obstructing the vision from some angles. As to the proper placement of the holster on the equipment, taking into account the limitations imposed by carrying a thick, heavy and crowded vest, our tests concluded that the best position for a quick draw and to enable access to other equipment is with the holster centered in the vest, or slightly displaced towards the side that corresponds to the user's right or left hand dexterity.



Now that a suitable placement of the holster has been established, lets analyze how it squares up with the three operational aspects we highlighted before:

1. QUICK DRAW

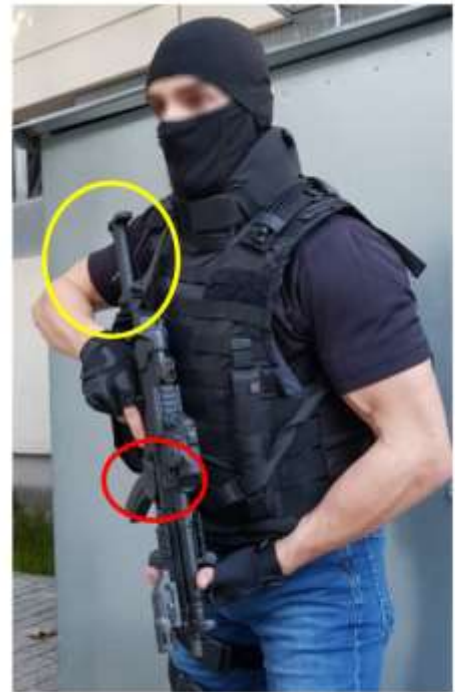
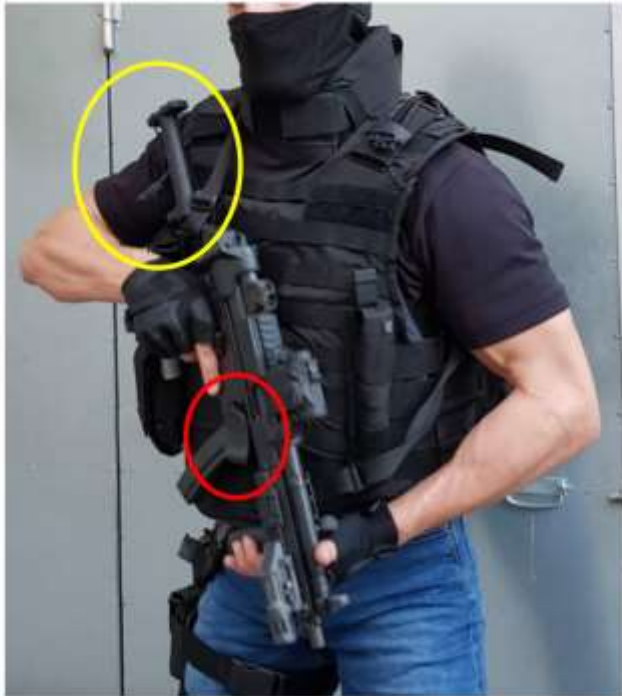
From a practical standpoint, this system allows a quick draw of the primary weapon, responding with the highest firepower at hand in a fast and effective way to unexpected threats, which may occur while the user's hands are busy performing some assigned task.

As mentioned before, this holster is specifically designed for the HK G36 assault rifle. However, the HK MP5 model is also highly compatible with it, although the volume of the usual personal protection equipment could cause this gun to detach itself from the holster when the user is moving energetically.

To address this issue, a second fixing has been added, consisting of a fine elastic band attached to the MOLLE system, which pushes against the chest the heel of the gun-butt. A play of antagonistic forces keep the weapon fixed to the vest, while still making possible an easy and quick draw.



This way, an excellent fixation is achieved without jeopardizing a quick draw of the gun insofar as the elastic band doesn't hinder at all clutching, shoulder-firming and aiming it.



2. HANDS FREE OPERATION

This feature renders the device very useful for operators that have been assigned “contingency functions” that require carrying equipment such as battering rams, sledgehammers or other get-through devices, also ballistic shields or similar gear, and so on. There are a number of extra elements of the “alternative get-through” variety that troopers might be loaded with, such as ladders, wall climbing gear and other similar tools .

When it comes to entering their objectives, tactical units usually resort to hydraulic opening systems, which almost always are a first option due to their effectiveness, albeit representing a mobility hindrance because of their volume and weigh. Despite it all, our Breakpoint system permits carrying and comfortably handle the main weapon together with the aforementioned extra gear, easily overcoming the transportation difficulties it comports.

Occasionally, the door to be breached requires the use of contingency secondary tools, such as rams. Typically, the operator carrying this kind of gear is also the one in charge of using it. And he can be dangerously confronted with a lethal threat, his/her reaction conditioned by the fact that the trooper might have decided to not carry a main gun, because having it hanging from his neck or strapped to his vest represents two corresponding inconveniences. In the first case, the violent, brisk movements demanded by the door slamming action causes the gun to swing rhythmically and wildly, thus increasing the difficulty of the triple gesture before firing it. In the second instance, when the gun is carried fixed to the vest by the sling’s locking system and also occurs that the door-blasting operation is done swiftly, the chance arises either for the gun to getting hooked by the many sticking parts in the equipment or to be drawn dangerously late. As said, all these difficulties invite to not carrying the main gun on and the subsequent use of the secondary weapon when responding to a threat, which means a firepower loss.

In instances like the ones just described, it becomes very useful to be equipped with our Breakpoint system, one that enables the user to carry any extra equipment without been forced to do without his main weapon. The implicit compatibility derives from the steadiness it provides to the long gun attached to it, ever maintained through any violent and repeated banging. It is in those situations when the double anchoring of the gun demonstrates its worth. The usual single fixing may provide a firm, however insufficient hookup power.



It has been positively tested on our "Breakpoint" that the gun remains firmly attached to the vest when a ladder has to be used to gain access to the objective, some climbing is needed for that purpose or a narrow passage such as a hatchway has to be negotiated.



3. WEIGHT RELIEF ON SHOULDERS AND NECK

The weight of the individual tactical equipment (around 30 Kg) as well as the high level of stress sustained by police troopers in the kind of operations their units usually engage to, increase the fatigue that members of this type of units have to endure.

It is a fact that, due to its own structure, the Breakpoint system contributes to lighten the weigh on neck and shoulders, a property that in turn contributes to improve the individual performance of the user as a result of the reduction of his/her fatigue levels and the bettering of the trooper's comfort, which translates into an improvement of the collective operative capacity.

Additionally, the possibility to fasten the Breakpoint to any standard belt makes this item relevant in protection services that require the presence of countersniper units in elevated positions, allowing operators to use observation gadgetry (binoculars, telemeters,...) while keeping total control of their weapon in case of an aggression, allowing a smooth transition between the observation stance and the weapon grasping to fend off the aggression by increasing the level of awareness and lowering the reaction time in long services. Al of it is achieved by reducing the fatigue that carrying a gun with a sling hanging from the neck entails.

Our Breakpoint system also happens to be very useful in situations that require the use of ballistic shields. It overcomes the weight and cumbersomeness of the protective shield, permitting fast and fluid movements while carrying it. Rapid transitions from fending to attacking stances are possible by eliminating snags or any other inconveniences when reaching for one own's gun.

