


MA State Police Tests Titanium Shotgun Barrel

On a crisp winter morning in January 2016, a small team from Amalgamated Titanium arrived at the Armory on the remote campus of the Massachusetts State Police Academy in New Braintree, MA. In their possession was a 12-gauge shotgun equipped with a titanium barrel, representing years of research and development. The Armorer's office is a highly specialized section devoted to the research, testing, procurement, issuance and maintenance of officer survival equipment, so the team was seeking the wisdom of Michael Wilmont, who has held his post for 16 years, making him the longest-serving Armorer in the 141 year history of the Massachusetts State Police.

After a round of introductions, Wilmont very slowly and calmly reached for the shotgun, immediately remarking, "I can feel the difference already." His partner concurred that there was indeed a significant weight reduction.

While holding the shotgun, Wilmont briefly recounted the historical use of firearms by the United States' 6th largest state police force. One particular point was made about shotguns used by officers covering suspects while waiting for additional officers and support, or for arresting officers to move in. These cover officers must hold their muzzle position for several minutes at times, so a lighter barrel weight alone could significantly reduce fatigue and improve concentration.

The titanium barrel was then tested, first on a standard 870 Express Magnum platform, and then on the State Police's Scattergun Technologies platform. Ammunition tested included the highest power Federal 2-3/4" Slug available on the market, which according to Wilmont "pushes the envelope" of what can be fired from a 12-gauge. 00-Buck shot was also used, and the smoothbore barrel maintained a tight grouping on the target.

"I could shoot that all day!"

– Michael Wilmont, Armorer
At the MA State Police Academy
Firing Range on January 8th 2016

When asked, "How was the weight? How is the recoil?", Wilmont responded enthusiastically, "I could shoot that all day!" As the team was departing, Wilmont and others in the Armory wished them well, saying they are looking forward to testing more titanium firearms.

Amalgamated Titanium International Corporation is a consumer and industrial titanium products company with cost-reducing proprietary technology that makes titanium applications affordable