



Mossberg's MVP



The Mossberg MVP Patrol Scoped Combo.

Short and sweet was my first impression unpacking the compact Mossberg MVP Series Patrol Rifle. In the hands it feels lighter than the advertised weight of just seven pounds. At under three feet long this rifle is convenient to pack and a definite a joy to carry. The MVP is chambered in 5.56mm NATO (.223 Rem.) and based on the classic Mossberg 4x4 bolt-action platform. An outstanding selling point is that the Drop-Push bolt design accepts and reliably feeds from AR-style magazines. If the included 10-round magazine does not provide you with all the fun you can stand then slap in your favorite 30-rounder.

The 16 ¼-inch medium bull button-ri-fled barrel has an A2-style removable flash suppressor and front fiber optic and barrel-mounted adjustable rear rifle sights. This barrel is stiff enough for good long range accuracy and the 1:9 twist rate better stabilizes heavier bullets. In my testing it digested various weight bullets with equal accuracy. Standard on all MVP Series rifles is the user-adjustable, Lightning Bolt Action "LBA" Trigger System. Designed for a crisp creep-free trigger pull, the LBA trigger weight is easily adjusted from 2 to

7 pounds with a standard screwdriver. The lightning bolt looking trigger blade blocks the sear from releasing the striker unless the blade is fully depressed, even at the lightest adjustment setting. The Lyman trigger pull gauge showed the factory setting is at a delightful 3-pound, 6-ounce squeeze.

Other features are factory-installed, receiver-mounted Picatinny rails; spiral-fluted bolts; front and rear sling swivel studs; Comb-Raising Kit with foam inserts. The stock is birch wood painted with a coarse black texture with stippling on the pistol grip and forend for a solid grip. The steel has a non-reflective matte finish.

This package comes with a UTG 3 to 9 by 32mm compact scope that is also feature packed. Built on their True Strength Platform, the scope is sealed and nitrogen filled, and is shockproof, fogproof and rainproof. The 1-inch tube holds Emerald Coated lenses for good light transmission in such a small package with a wide field of view and accommodating eye relief. The ¼ MOA click adjustable turrets are zero lockable and zero resettable. The rotating objective lens adjusts from three yards to infinity for parallax-free sighting. The

range estimating cross-hair mil-dot reticle has another special attribute.

When facing down range the scope has a third turret on the left side. Turn it one way and the entire reticle is illuminated red. Turn the other way and it is illuminated green. Also, the level of intensity is adjustable. This offers great flexibility dealing with weather and light conditions. The UTG Compact Scope comes complete with a 2-inch sunshade, flip open lens caps and the fastest, easiest to use quick-detachable rings I have encountered.

The MVP line offers several configurations including the MVP Flex that features stocks with the Flex "TLS" Tool-Less Locking System. This system allows the shooter to remove and replace the stock in seconds and change it out with various other optional stocks. Based on need the 6-position tactical stock can be switched to the standard black or camo stock, or maybe the FLEX 4-position adjustable hunting stock with two adjustable combs. Several lengths of pull are available and every FLEX stock features interchangeable recoil pads.

What is the difference between the .223 Remington and the 5.56 NATO. Not much, but a little difference can be



The MVP FLEX Tool-Less Locking System.

dangerous. The .223 Rem. was introduced in 1964. It carries a .224-inch diameter bullet with weights as low as 40 grains for varmints with 75 grains being popular for larger game.

The 5.56x45 NATO was introduced in 1964 and adopted by NATO in 1980. Also, it is loaded with a .224-inch diameter bullet of different weights generally in the 55 to 64 grain range depending on what the need is as it is a military cartridge. The original 55 grain full metal jacket bullet was designed for optimum anti-personal needs out to 200 yards. The NATO requirements call for a 62.5 grain

steel penetrator bullet. Some applications require tracer rounds.

The .223 and 5.56 share similar exterior dimensions, but the 5.56 case has a greater wall thickness because it operates at higher pressures. Also, the distance from the case mouth to the start of the barrel grooves is longer for the 5.56. This is where shooters need to be careful — NEVER fire a 5.56 NATO in a rifle chambered only for the .223 Rem. You can shoot .223 in a 5.56 barrel till the cows come home. The 5.56 NATO (.223 Rem.) chambering of the MVP Patrol Rifle offers the best of both worlds.

The Mossberg MVP Patrol Rifle is the most feature filled economically priced package to come along in quite a while. Other available configurations in the MVP Series are available such as the FLEX, Predator, Varmint, and Thunder Ranch models. Other MVP models in 7.62mm and 300 AAC Blackout will become available late fourth quarter or early 2014. Visit the series at www.mossberg.com, and with an MSRP of \$ 681.00 to \$ 829.00 the MVP Patrol Rifle is light on your shoulder and on your credit card balance. **T★J**