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Subject: The M9-LW. The Lan-Cay designed and Manufactured, Commercial & Military Export Light Weight M9 Bayonet.

The Lan-Cay Corporation has manufactured Army M9 bayonets, and won a number of Army achievement awards steadily since 1994. However, in the last fourteen months the company has had some serious disagreements with the U.S. Army procurement system. Specifically, they were assigned a new Quality Assurance Representative (QAR), and this has brought Lan-Cay Army bayonet production to a total halt, along with all of their other Army contract items. Lan-Cay has been unable to ship anything under their Army contracts since early in 2006.

Their last work with the Army was the prototype test work they did for Rock Island on the "lightened" Army M9 bayonet, and the shipping of standard M9 bayonets on their still-existing and open Army contract early in the first quarter of 2006. Since that time they have been unable to ship anything else to the Army.

In the late fall of 2006 the leadership of the company decided that, due to the serious economic constriction, they needed to try to expand into the commercial and military export arena. This has resulted in their "new and improved, Light Weight version" of the standard Army M9 bayonet.

The basic negatives of the existing Army M9 bayonet are its large mass and its heavy weight, which have existed, despite serious improvements, since the original Phrobis III designed bayonet. However the Army, quite reasonably, has allowed improvements to the original Phrobis, Army contract M9 bayonet, ---as long as the improvements are completely interchangeable with all previously existing Army M9 bayonets. This proviso immediately precludes shrinking the weight of the bayonet's blade and scabbard, as to do so would make them non-interchangeable with all the previously existing Army M9 bayonets.

In 2002/2003 Lan-Cay competed in the Marine Corps Bayonet Trials. One of their submissions was a Lan-Cay designed, lightened weight M9, which had an aluminum tang, an aluminum guard and a full size blade which had its weight reduced by drilling holes through the blade (this serving much the same function as traditional blade fuller would). In addition to the extensive bayonet changes, Lan-Cay also introduced with it, its modified webbing system, the "Lan-Cay MOLLE compatible webbing system", which used ALICE clips to mount the bayonet on any piece of army webbing, web vest or body armor, be it ALICE or MOLLE compatible.

This prototype bayonet had some problems in the Marine Trials, partly due to the still evolving Lan-Cay aluminum technology, and was definitely not what the Marine

Corps wanted in a new bayonet. The Marine Corps consciously wanted to move away from the “tool & bayonet” concept and move into the “simple & high lethality” characteristics of their new fighting bayonet.

After the Marine Trials, Lan-Cay continued improving their Light Weight bayonet concept, further developing the process of achieving harder and more resilient aluminum parts. The bayonet’s next incarnation was the standard Army-model M9 prototypes with a greatly improved and hardened aluminum tang rod and cross guard, which were tested and submitted to Rock Island in 2004. This work did lighten the issue bayonet, and while Rock Island felt it was worth pursuing the idea, it was not willing to foot the development costs, and it wanted Lan-Cay to provide an unreasonable number of no cost samples. At this point the Army Lightened Weight M9 design work came to an abrupt and total halt.

Since the development of this lightened M9 bayonet was totally Lan-Cay's, and was based on work Lan-Cay did at their own expense, the company was free to take their concept go where they pleased.

With the total cessation of all Army contract/project funds, Lan-Cay decided to commercially introduce the total package of the Lan-Cay Light Weight M9, with the first offering of it publicly being the prototype “Malaysian” model. This bayonet was made in a single prototype, with just an added internal pouch in the lower part of the MOLLE webbing for a fire starter or sharpener, located on the front of the scabbard. A military marketer in Malaysia took the commercial sample and has been making efforts to show-it-around. At this time the Malaysian military has not purchased any model of the M9 bayonet.

The Malaysian effort was shortly followed in November-December of 2006 with the Lan-Cay decision to produce a limited production run of these bayonets, but without the front pouch, to raise capital to keep the company on a stable keel.

In February of 2007 the first limited production run of these bayonets, about 125, were produced. They were intended to all have the reduced-weight MOLLE webbing on them, but some confusion within the company resulted in a number being shipped with the Army-pattern webbing, with Bianchi clips on them.

Two basic patterns of the bayonet were produced. The first was the version with the black plastics and black webbing with the ergonomic grip. The second version was the version with the green plastics and green webbing, but with the old-style round grip. The reason for this difference was that Lan-Cay had no green-colored ergonomic grips. They did still had a large number of the round, old model Army contract grips which for economic reasons they chose to use up. When capital reserves are skint, you manage with what you already have on hand.

The production bayonets are made in the same manner as the Army M9 bayonet, but when the blade is being processed six separate holes are drilled into it, the only

propose being to remove metal to reduce weight. The bayonet is then assembled with a specially hardened, black-colored aluminum crossguard, which is punched out of sheet aluminum. A specially hardened tang rod made from aluminum, and which has a special chemically blackened finish to increase its hardness, is screwed on to the blade's threaded tang. The latch plate and latch plate screw remain standard M9 pattern, and they complete the black-bladed bayonet.


At the beginning of the project there was some serious discussion of how to mark, and identify this distinctive M9 bayonet model. This was finally solved by adopting the M9 marking "M9-LW".

The bayonets are all stamped on their left side ricassos in large letters:

M9-LW
LAN-CAY
USA

There will also be a very small number of customized blades with military unit insignias on their right ricassos to test sales in that area. In closing, this effort by Lan-Cay is aimed entirely at commercial and export military sales. Future quantities made, will be directly related to sales. The company feels there is a commercial/export opportunity out there, but only time will tell. In the meantime Lan-Cay also hopes to satisfy the Army's demands, and again begin manufacturing all the items they have under current Army contracts.

Respectfully submitted,


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