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**Subject: The Lan-Cay Desert Tan & Black Colored M9 MOLLE Bayonets;
Destined for Operation Iraqi Freedom and other Battle Fronts.**

Lan-Cay previously provided the green-colored MOLLE M9 bayonet, with its black oxidized blade, to Rock Island and the appropriate sections of the U.S. military for study and consideration as an improved M9 bayonet. This design is currently under critical consideration by the Army. However, as would be expected, the Army's attention and efforts are being directed toward the campaign to oust President-for-Life Saddam Hussein, and also towards the continuing campaign in Afghanistan.

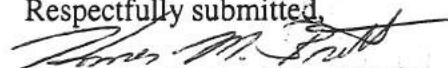
As the U.S. began the ramp-up to the war in Iraq, Lan-Cay started receiving requests for M9 MOLLE bayonets from out going troops, some from Marines, but mostly from Army personnel. The company quickly recognized these requests as positive publicity, and that the deployment of MOLLEs would serve to give the Army a useful source of combat feedback. This resulted in a number of small production runs of the MOLLE in both desert tan and black colors, with the desert tan color being the most ordered.

I was directly involved in the distribution of these bayonets to deploying units, many of whom preferred the MOLLE over the standard M9. The MOLLE has an ergonomic grip, and can be more securely mounted on the retention loops that are stitched to the new body armor and to the load bearing equipment; properly secured it also does not swing around. However, MOLLE bayonets take longer to make in small quantities, due to their more complex webbing, so Lan-Cay has produced only small numbers of these, as compared to the numbers of the standard M9 bayonets manufactured.

Near the end of February, Lan-Cay received a number of requests from units already in Kuwait asking if the MOLLE bayonet could be produced in a darker desert tan color (the black color was no problem). These requests resulted in a purposeful, permanent and very distinct color change by the first week of March to a "darker" desert sand color. Since the color change, no Desert Tan MOLLE bayonets have been produced except in the darker desert color. However, the standard M9 bayonets are still being assembled in the lighter desert color until all the remaining light-colored scabbards and grips are used up. Then these too will be produced only in the new, darker color.

All the M9 MOLLE bayonets going to active duty units (excepting a few individual special orders) have been completed with the standard, black oxidized M9 blade.

Respectfully submitted,


Homer M. Brett---5 April 2003