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<u>SUBJECT</u>: Pre Adoption-Prototype Models of the New Marine Corps Bayonet— Highlighted by their Soft Molded and Checkered Grip, Fitted to the Tanto, Kabar-style and Spec 3 Blade Designs.

Prior to the final test trails that decided on the winning design for the new Marine Corps bayonet, a number of trial-test bayonets were manufactured as part of the program of the Ontario Knife Company. These bayonets were then used to test different blade designs and various physical features. This effort permitted hands-on design handling, rather than relying on theoretical ideas or drawings.

All this work was done in the search for the most practical and efficient bayonet/fighting knife for the Marines. This historical data sheet covers the three, below listed bayonet designs. The unique feature of these three specific bayonet types is their one-piece grip with molded-in checkering. Less than a combined total of few hundred of these three bayonets types were ever manufactured, and they were made only in the three blade designs listed below.

All three of these blade-tang combinations were submitted by the Ontario Knife Company to the Marine Corps bayonet trials, which Ontario ultimately won. The three designs are:

- 1) The tanto bladed bayonet, once-piece blade-tang design.
- 2) The karbar bladed bayonet, once-piece blade-tang design.
- 3) The Spec 3 bladed bayonet, once-piece blade-tang design.

All three of these, one-piece blade-tang designs were forged, and then stamped with exactly the same markings:

On their left ricassos: COMBAT On their right ricassos: ONTARIO MARINE USA

The one-piece molded grip was purposely produced with the left oval (molded medallion) having no design in it, and with the right oval only molded with the letters, "U.S.A."

This group of bayonets purposely did not have any serrations on their blades, and the checkered grip design was officially field tested at Camp Lejeune immediately after the Marine Corps trials, where it was found that a smooth grip of the soft molded polymer material was superior, more comfortable and more ergonomic than a checkered one.

The field testing was done using the bayonets as bayonets, but more specific to the grip design, as fighting knives and field knives. Testing was purposely done with both wet and dry hands, and with and without gloves.

Throughout the field testing it was consistently found that the checkering continuously roughened up wet hands, and did not give better hand purchase, given the nature of the special polymer grip material.

All three of these bayonets types were produced in Ontario's proprietary Ultra Carbon Steel (UC), and are stamped "UC" on the face of their crossguards. The entire group of these Ultra Carbon bayonets was completed with a parkerized finish, as were the final OKC 3S issue bayonets purchased by the Marines.

These three bayonet designs were all accompanied by the 1st model Ontario "stealth" scabbard (an Ontario patent), with its traditional style webbing. The webbing was fitted with a single MOLLE compatible web strap, with a pull-on-the-dot snap. Also on the back of each scabbard was a white-colored, fine-grade, sharpening stick.

This historical write up is a preliminary one, which gives only the basic information on these unique bayonets. A lengthier write-up will be made available at a later date.

Respectfully submitted,

Homer M. Brett---SME-MCMAI Prelim. of October 2003