

THE COMMO GURU

by KEN DEMARIA, Blackheart International Communications Specialist

Blackheart International Stands Up Communications Division

Big changes were everywhere in 2009, and Blackheart International was no exception. Last year we decided to start up a communications division. Why?

It was only natural...we use to be commo guys. It's where we started our SOF careers.

For the past several years we have been motivated to develop a robust communications division, but lacked either the time or the resources to do it correctly.

Until now.

As many of you know, it takes a lot of assets to build an operation from scratch. I remember when our team was tasked with opening up a new firebase—from nothing. In 2002 we needed a vehicle mount for a Nissan pickup truck and we had to manufacture it ourselves. That took time and effort. But the benefit for that project, as with anything you build from the ground up, is that you get exactly what you want rather than inherit someone else's designs that may or may not be right for your mission. You don't just get a little good with a little bad. It's all good.

So when we started seriously talking about the commo division in the fall of 2008 while sitting around a picnic table at our Sugar Creek Training Lodge in West Virginia, we immediately decided we were going to be guided by some basic principles. "SOF Truths," if you will, which we would refuse to compromise on.

First, people are more important than profit.

In other words, we wouldn't compromise on the quality of communications equipment we sell to our customers. No junk, no gimmicks.

There are a lot of different products and manufacturers out there, and they're all vying for a piece of Uncle Sam's wallet. At BHI, however, we are committed to selling the kind of quality equipment that we would want if we were walking onto the battlefield.

Our second truth is...well, there is no second truth, or third or fourth. The fact is, if we stay true to that first rule we will never go wrong and our customers (the end user) will never be compromised due to a manufacturer or vendor's desire to cut costs corners.

So you might ask yourself, "What's the big deal?"

When you see the new Blackheart International commo product line and what we are now able to provide to our customers in 2010, you'll understand our excitement. I challenge you to find another company servicing DOD and Federal Agencies that has as rich a "best-possible-quality" product line as Blackheart International. Plus, you still get the discretion and the customer service you've come to expect from Blackheart International.

OUR PRODUCT LINE IS EXTENSIVE!

To see what I'm talking about, the following is a list of manufacturers that Blackheart International has partnered with, along with key products/categories sourced from each manufacturer. I've listed some of the most successful and popular items, but it is by no means an all-inclusive list of commo gear we carry.

THALES Communications Inc. – MBTR and JEM Radio, amps, headsets, batteries, charging stations and accessories

Motorola – portable and mobile radios, headsets, charging station and accessories

Blackheart International – We have the industry leader in antenna manufacturing producing top-line antennas to our own specifications. These are the best money can buy at very affordable prices, and we are totally stoked about this product line.

Ultralife – military batteries, rechargeable batteries, non-rechargeable batteries and 9-volt batteries

Electric Fuel Battery – EFB manufactures the only zinc-air battery in the US. It is totally HAZMAT-proof

and won't blow up when you shoot it (it actually keeps giving off a charge). Check it out at our YouTube site: <http://www.youtube.com/user/BlackheartGear>

Shakespeare Antenna – military whip antennas and antenna masts

AMTI – military amplifiers, accessories and cables

AR Amps – This company manufactures military amplifiers and nothing else. That's why they're so good. One thing I've learned about manufacturers that only sell one product line is that they're passionate about what they make and usually produce the best quality available.

Trivec Avant – A front-runner in the SATCOM antenna manufacturing business. Their new SATCOM Adapter allows you to hook up both a LOS and SATCOM antenna to one PRC-II7!

Syntonics – Best known for manufacturing the "wearable antenna" guys are weaving into their body armor. They also make a nearly indestructible SATCOM antenna (amazing product). You can see our video demonstration on it at <http://www.youtube.com/user/BlackheartGear>.

Sonetronics – These folks make "pork chop" hand mikes. My favorite is the hand mike with no metal in it—great for all those going to north-eastern Afghanistan where it gets way too cold to be licking metal! They also make great CVC helmets and plastic canteens.

DTI – This company's antennas that will DOUBLE the distance your radio can transmit VHF bandwidth.

Tactical Command Industries – Makers of some of the finest combination hearing protection and communications headsets and earpieces.

MaxaVision – They have some amazing MILSPEC flexible solar panel products to recharge your rechargeable batteries.

WHY YOU SHOULD PARTNER WITH BLACKHEART INTERNATIONAL

That covers most of the manufacturers that we are currently representing, but doesn't address why you should buy from Blackheart International when others carry a lot of the same gear. Well, here are just a few reasons:

- BHI is staffed by retired and semi-retired special operations soldiers. We aren't professional salesmen; we are operators first and foremost. We understand your mission sets, we've walked the terrain you are walking, and we've fought the enemy you are fighting. In short, we get it. We can talk about the advantages and disadvantages of a piece of equipment as it pertains to the battlefield and not just based on the equipments specs.

- We have taken the best of nearly every type of product we could think of (radios, amps, antenna, batteries, etc.) and assembled them under one roof, so you don't have to go to four, six or eight different vendors to get the gear you need. We have it all right here, saving you time, money and effort in the wasted man-hours it takes to process logistical requirements in today's "paper heavy" work environment.

- We are big enough to handle your business but small enough to care about your business. When you partner with BHI, you aren't simply an invoice number. We appreciate your business and we make an effort to develop a relationship with you to ensure you are satisfied not only with the equipment you order, but the service you receive. And we aren't owned by some huge conglomerate in DC or Virginia.

There you have it—the new Blackheart International Communications Division in a nutshell. In future articles we will start to highlight some of the products we offer and some of the more "cutting-edge" technologies that commo guys love to know about.

BT.

LAW ENFORCEMENT & EMERGENCY RESPONSE

by TOM O'REILLY



Blackheart International is the exclusive U.S. distributor of the Swedish-made Gränsfors Smide line of breaching tools—the strongest, most durable conventional-style breaching tools on the market today.

It's a given that breaching tools take a beating...literally. That's what they're designed for. Unfortunately, not all breaching tools on the market today stand up to the realities of the field. For some, their material construction leaves much to be desired. Others may be adequately robust for the task assigned, but are unnecessarily heavy or awkward for the breacher to employ. Still others score high in the construction and ergonomics departments, but due to their unique mechanical nature aren't the most practical tools to

operate in the heat of the moment.

We all understand that the KISS factor (Keep It Simple, Stupid) plays well in any tactical operation.

That's why I was stoked when I came across the Swedish-made Gränsfors Smide line of breaching tools distributed exclusively in the U.S. by Blackheart International.

The Gränsfors tools, which include rams, sledges, steel and wooden door breaches, tactical bars and break-and-rakes, follow the general profile of conventional breaching tools made in the U.S. That's a plus

in terms of operator familiarity and simplicity. The difference I've found is in the superior construction (durability) and subtle design features which enhance performance without compromising simplicity. In short, the Gränsfors line represents a far superior product family compared to comparable American-made breaching tools.

Across the board the Gränsfors tools are made of premium, fully tempered steel for maximum performance and durability.

Steel Door Breaching Tool

This tool, available in 28-inch (8.8 pounds) and 34-inch (9.3 pounds), is designed to wedge open and breach heavily reinforced steel doors. The sides have profiled and ribbed edges to prevent back-slip, and include a hand guard at the striking point for operator protection. Another ergonomic feature is a pliable rubber hand grip on the opposite end to minimize shock transfer.

Wooden Door Breaching Tool

Also offered in 28-inch (8.8 pounds) and 34-inch (9.3 pounds) configurations are the Gränsfors wooden door breaching tools. These include the same construction material and ergonomic features of the steel door model, but have an extra-wide double claw that provides twice the surface area for breaching outward-opening doors. The wide bite also normally keeps a wooden door intact until it is fully forced open—avoiding the problem of partial breaking and the door being held in place by the lock.

Tactical Bar

Light weight and extreme strength is what the tactical bar is all about. Made of a fully tempered alloy spring steel, it boasts a high strength-to-weight ratio and is able to withstand significant strain without yielding. The head can be used for striking, and like the steel door breach, it has profiled and ribbed edges for maximum bite and to prevent back-sliding.

Tactical Rams

Two models are offered here. The large ram (41 pounds and 25.8 inches long) is based on the conventional

tactical ram design, with handles large enough for two breachers to operate. One of the key differences, however, is the contoured ram striking face. This contoured (versus flat) profile provides for a solid striking surface even when the ram is swung at an off-angle, thus helping to keep the ram from sliding off of the strike surface.

The small tactical ram is a mini version of the larger model, weighing 20.9 pounds at 9.5 inches long. It's massive power in a small package, making it ideal for use with other breaching tools, as a stand-alone door opener, or as an alternative to a sledge hammer. Best of all, it's perfect for swinging in tight spaces.

Sledge Hammers

If a sledge hammer must be part of your breaching arsenal, Gränsfors Smide makes two versions that are just as robust in design and construction as the manufacturer's other tools. Both the small version (3.3 pounds, 12 inches) and large version (8.8 pounds, 30 inches) are fitted with durable fiberglass handles and non-slip rubber grips.

Break-And-Rake

For breaking windows and removing entry obstructions, the Gränsfors Smide break-and-rake fits the bill. Available in 27.6- or 55-inch lengths and weighing four pounds, this item is built with an aggressive laser-cut hook and serrated blade for quick entry clearing. A T-handle bottom ensures the operator keeps his grip on the tool during high overhead swings, and provides the leverage needed to remove difficult objects.

The Gränsfors Smide line of breaching tools, available only through Blackheart International, are the most rugged, straight-forward and intelligently designed units I've seen based on conventional breaching tool designs. Blackheart International even offers a durable nylon carry bag which can transport the tools by hand-strap, or it can be carried as a backpack.

So if your agency or unit is looking for a no-nonsense, rugged upgrade to your existing breaching tools, you'll find none better than the Gränsfors Smide line from Blackheart International.



Craig H's .357 finds its mark—the whitetail world stands in fear.

First Kills

Craig H. Does It With A Pistol!

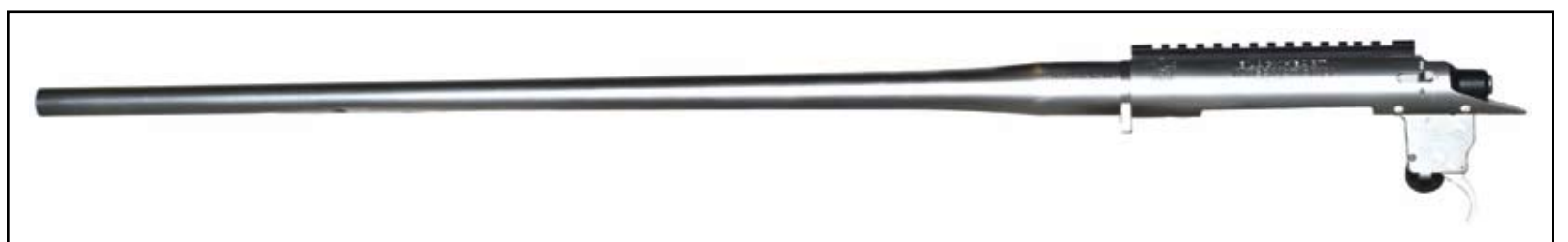
OK...so maybe it's not a Taliban insurgent, but our buddy Craig H. proved he's still a dead-eye with a handgun (although he continues to work on the Daniel Boone thing).

While stalking the great vast wilderness in his backyard, Craig put the sneak on a wily whitetail doe. Catching the fearsome beast unaware, Craig laid the smack on the critter with his .357 revolver at what he described as "frighteningly close range."

Feeling his oats, and still running on an adrenaline-high, Craig embarked on a similar mission a few days later. But things didn't go quite as planned. After knocking another big-eared brute off its hooves, "it got back up and ran away," reports Craig. "The thought never crossed my mind to shoot it again as it got up!"

While our friend belatedly learned that "brown isn't necessarily down," we're confident that he'll increase his kill ratio in the 2010 hunting season.

"I will try my 1950s Eastfield shotgun next time," he promises.



The BBG Barreled Action Assembly is a drop-in replacement for any Remington 700-based stock configuration.

Drop-In Barreled Action Assemblies Now Available From BHI

If you've ever wanted the most accurate bolt-action rifle you could find, but didn't want to pay the price for a fully customized gun, Blackheart International has just made your dream come true.

The new BBG Barreled Action Assembly is a drop-in replacement for any stock or rifle system built on the Remington 700 platform. Simply add the BBG Barreled Action assembly to your choice of stock and your DIY custom rifle is ready for action. Based off the all-new line of BBG

bolt guns (see the story elsewhere in this edition for full details), the BBG Barreled Action Assembly comes ready to install and includes our custom-machined Krieger stainless steel barrel mated to BHI's own stainless steel receiver and fitted with a precision Jewell trigger. As with the BBG Olympic Hunter and BBG Tactical rifles, the BBG Barreled Action Assembly includes such features as:

- Cryogenically stress-relieved barrel

- Single-point cut rifling
- 11-degree target crown
- Precision machining to 0.0002 in.
- Spirallock barrel threads
- Spiral-fluted bolt with Armoloy coating
- Picatinny top rail

The BBG Barreled Action Assembly is available in four standard calibers: .223 Remington, .300 Winchester Magnum, .308 Winchester, and .338 Lapua Magnum. Other calibers are also available.

By purchasing the BBG Barreled

Action Assembly you get the most accurized rifle action possible—built to the highest machining standards using the best available components—and can swap the unit between your choice of rifle stocks depending on your changing needs. Add it to your bench rifle for the ultimate in target range performance, or to your light-weight hunting stock for your next extreme hunting adventure.

With the BBG Barreled Action Assembly, you get the best of both worlds...at a fraction of the cost.



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