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Gun oil hits the mark in sniper training

Nobody knows better than a firearms instructor who teaches sniper training to the Israeli Border Police whether a certain gun oil works well or not. And Howard Linett (www.howardlinett.com) of the Israeli Police Civil Guard, a volunteer division of the Israeli Police, and a certified sniper instructor, gives thumbs up to a biobased gun oil.

Iosso Products of Elk Grove, Ill., manufactures the soy-based oil, which it calls eliminator gun oil, from U.S. soybeans. Iosso Products (www.iosso.com) entered the biobased market about five years ago, according to Vice President Marianne Iosso.

The company itself has been in existence since 1983 and has an extensive inventory of cleaning products that tackle everything from boats to baby stains. Iosso now carries three other biobased products: a cleaner/degreaser, a sizing lubricant for gun casings and an industrial metal polish.



Howard Linett is shown here in a counter-sniper perch along the Israeli border next to Jerusalem.

Linett, a member of the International Association of Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors, likes the oil because it's not harsh and is deep cleaning, both important qualities for maintaining the barrel of a precision accuracy rifle. After a friend recommended the oil, Linett received a donation from Iosso for his sniper classes covering field craft, equipment maintenance, camouflage and long-range marksmanship.

The Israeli Border Police officers and soldiers who protect Jerusalem and other Israeli cities from terrorism aren't keen on cleaning their weapons, according to Linett, but he convinces them otherwise.

“When some Israeli Border Police wise guy says his M16 is clean, even if it is, the gun oil will find dirt and remove it,” he wrote in e-mail from Jerusalem. “It is a real eye-opener when the first black patch comes out of the ‘clean barrel.’”

The long-time arms instructor, a 28-year Civil Guard veteran and a member of its Jerusalem sniper unit since 1995, is so enamored with the biobased gun oil that he can't cite any disadvantages. “It cleans wonderfully and does not harm sniper rifles,” Linett said. He isn't the only one sold on the product. The sporting goods giant Cabela's, which has 24 stores and another nine under construction, plans to add the gun oil to its inventory in 2008.

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