

# AMERICAN SNIPER ASSOCIATION MAKES IMPORTANT AMMUNITION RECOMMENDATION

By Capt. Ed Allen, NTOA Board of Directors



**T**he American Sniper Association (ASA) has a simple mission statement: *to enhance the image, abilities, proficiency and safety of the professional tactical sniper through education, support and information sharing.* Having such a purpose makes the ASA a perfect partner for the NTOA. The ASA represents hundreds of tactical snipers throughout the United States, many of whom are also members of NTOA.

For more than 20 years, the ASA has been collecting and analyzing sniper-related data from both testing and real-world incidents. That analysis is published in its Police Sniper Utilization Report (PSUR) and has been updated biannually since 2005. Team commanders, team leaders and sniper element members would be wise to visit the ASA website at [www.americansniper.org](http://www.americansniper.org) to obtain a copy if they are not familiar with it.

While priority of life and operator safety issues remain at the forefront of topics for all tactical disciplines today, appropriate equipment selection is rising to the top as technology and our understanding of it improves. The authors of the ASA PSUR have been careful to ad-

dress ammunition selection in each edition, as this continues to be an often-debated topic among snipers. Based upon the data collected, both scientifically and anecdotally, the ASA's position is that snipers should not be using boat tail hollow point (BTHP) ammunition for their operations.

According to Derrick Bartlett, president of the ASA, "The BTHP bullet was not designed for use against human targets, and as a result, does not perform optimally in tissue. The result is a frighteningly high percentage of through-and-through wounds."

Despite the fact that the BTHP round has been regarded as an industry standard for decades, Bartlett and the ASA strongly suggest that it is time for a paradigm shift. The PSUR documents multiple through-and-through wounds in actual police shootings using that type of ammo. Bartlett warns, "Sooner or later, this performance is going to result in a hostage, bystander or teammate being injured or killed by a round that failed to stay inside the sniper's intended target. This is a tragedy which can be averted with affirmative action on the part of sniper teams now."

Subsequently, the ASA recommends that snipers evaluate and consider the use of match grade ballistic tip ammunition in lieu of BTHP. "The cost is comparable and most snipers find the accuracy comparable or better than BTHP."

For more details and specific recommendations regarding ammunition brands and test results, read the 2013 ASA PSUR or contact your regional ASA representatives at [www.americansniper.org](http://www.americansniper.org). //