

LAW and ORDER

Remington Eye Ball R1

by Kevin Gordon

Need to see what is around the corner? Or maybe in the attic or down the hallway? How about a wireless video camera and microphone hidden in a baseball sized and shaped package? A camera/mike that can be tossed into an incident like a baseball, then rights itself and provides you a wireless image of 360 degrees while it rotates to show you everything!

The new Eye Ball R1 from Remington Technologies does just that. The Eye Ball R1 is the first product introduced by Remington Technologies, a division of Remington Arms first launched in 2004.

The Eye Ball R1 Compact Wireless 360-Degree Mobile Display System, Remington's first entrance into surveillance, is a little larger than a baseball and weighs about 1.25 pounds. It is cased in composite rubber and can be dropped, rolled and tossed into a situation. The Eye Ball rotates four revolutions per minute and can be directed at a specific target with a 55-degree horizontal and a 41-degree vertical field of view.

The Ball can withstand a drop from the second floor and while not a breach tool, it has survived being thrown against concrete walls. An Eye Ball Kit comes with two eye balls, one training ball, one Personal display unit (PDU), two chargers, a cleaning kit, a hard style carrying case, and adapters for lowering wire and use of a pole or spike.

The Eye Ball is excellent for both tactical entry and general surveillance. The unit will capture video up to 25 yards and audio up to 5 yards. It is battery operated with a two-hour operating time and transmits up to 200 yards back to the Personal Display Unit, which is also battery operated with about a three-hour operation time.

Images are viewed on a 6.4-inch color TFT screen. The camera transmission doesn't have security but is not considered an issue due to the short range of the unit and the normal short event duration.

The tactical uses of the omni directional camera, in addition to the tossing or rolling of the unit into a scene, are limited only by user imagination. With a wire or rope attached, the unit can be lowered into small areas for tactical as well as search and rescue concerns. While a tactical tool, its benefits are obvious to a search and rescue team regardless of whether SAR in a collapsed building, mine concerns, etc.

Using the same method, it can be lowered down stairwells to clear those areas prior to officers moving ahead. The Eye Ball can be used to look around corners for hallway clearing purposes by simply rolling it into the hallway from behind cover. How many times have you used a mirror to check an attic? Attaching the Eye Ball to a pole permits an officer to check the ceiling or attic areas before entering. It can also be attached to a pole or sat in a tree for surveillance purposes.

Remington Technologies began shipping the Eye Ball R1 in December 2005. In January it received the "Member Tested and Recommended" seal of approval from the National Tactical Officers Association (NTOA). To test the Eye Ball R1, the Association selected three departments, one in Kansas and two in Pennsylvania. The Eye Ball received an impressive 4.63 overall score out of a possible 5!

A Kansas tester said, "We would recommend this to any tactical team." A Pennsylvania tester commented, "It is an absolute must-have piece of equipment for any unit."

According to Tommy Millner, CEO of Remington Arms Company, "The Eye Ball R1 puts an unparalleled level of capability and flexibility into the hands of the operators... which is exactly where it needs to be. Having this kind of versatility is one of the sole reasons why the Eye Ball R1 has already been purchased

by law enforcement, federal and military groups across the United States.”

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This article was printed in Law and Order Magazine, May 2006.