The Long Shot

Drone vision turns the ordinary hunter into a sharpshooter

STORY BY Nicole Dyer

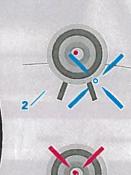


The XactSystem's scope augments the hunter's aim with calculations from a ballistics computer. A hunter presses a button inside the trigger guard to mark a target with a red dot on the scope's display. The ballistics computer then takes over. It gathers data from a laser range finder, three gyroscopes and accelerometers, and environmental sensors and then displays a blue X where the shot is most likely to land. As the target

make any hunter accurate at distances of

more than 1,000 yards.







1 The hunter marks his prey.

2 The ballistics computer

determines where the shot will land in current conditions

3 The hunter corrects his aim and fires

XactSystem Series

BATTERY LIFE 3 hours RANGE Up to 1,200 yards PRICE From \$15,000 (includes 200 rounds, 3 batteries)

moves, a 14-megapixel camera feeds 54 frames per second to an image processor, which continually tracks the target relative to the background. The hunter adjusts his aim to overlap the blue X over the red dot and then squeezes the trigger. When both marks are perfectly aligned, the gun fires. The Wi-Fi-enabled system also streams video to a smartphone or tablet, so hunters can prove their marksmanship to skeptics.

GEAR REVISION

BETTER BLENDER

Outdoor-apparel makers are adopting the Army's newest camo pattern, MultiCarn. The Army replaced some of its Universal Camouflage [left] with MultiCam [right], whose green, brown, and beige tones suit both deserts and woods.





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT COURTESY TRACKINGPOINT