JACK BELK GUNWORKS

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September 28,2015

Supplemental report of H. J. (Jack) Belk, Jr.

Clerk of Court
Charles Evans Whittaker Courthouse
Attn: Clerk's Office
400 East 9th Street
Kansas City, MO 64106

Angeion Group
Attn: Remington Claims
Suite 660, 1801 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Re: Pollard v. Remington Arms Co., LLC, et al., Case No. 4:13-cv-00086-ODS

May it please the Court, in my continuing avocation and vocation of gun examination and repair, six X Mark Pro triggers were obtained from Terry Miller Gun Repair in Twin Falls, Idaho. These triggers were removed from customer's rifles so that aftermarket triggers could be installed. These triggers were retained by Mr. Miller at my request. Mr. Miller advised he did not have a record of which guns had these triggers originally installed, but they were all taken from Remington Model 700 rifles.

All six triggers appear to be factory sealed using three different sealants either alone or in combination.
All six triggers carry different markings on their housings. There are three different markings on the sears and three variations of triggers. Three triggers have two trigger return springs and three triggers have one return spring.

The "F" Trigger

One of the six triggers is unique in that it has a stamped letter "F" near the lower left corner of the right side of the assembly housing. The F Trigger as I call it is of the single return spring type

with a bright finished safety lever showing signs of camo paint at the distal end. The F Trigger also displays a bright red safety block. This appears to be thick paint. This paint was applied to the safety block after assembly of the trigger but no effort was made at sealing or locking the important safety locking block adjusting screw with the paint. The safety block adjusting screw and the other two screws of the assembly were instead locked and sealed with what appears to be LocTite 422/422MS. It is purple in color and appears to have wicking capabilities that makes it a low strength thread locker that is applied after assembly.
All three adjustment screws appear to have this factory applied purple sealant.

The F Trigger is defective, dangerous, and totally unpredictable in performance due to the inoperable nature of the trigger return spring.
The trigger in the F Trigger assembly has no spring tension at all, but the sealed adjustment screw head appears to be in the correct position for proper trigger return spring tension. There is a trigger return spring present in the assembly and it can be seen by microscope through the safety block hole, but it is in no way active. There is no effect whatsoever by the spring on the trigger, and the F Trigger is of the single spring configuration and so the trigger has no alternative method for insuring proper relocation under the sear.

It was initially assumed that the trigger return spring of the F Trigger is locked in place by excess thread sealant, but there is a question of how the spring can be locked in the fully compressed position when the trigger should have some over-travel motion spring return even at the 'at rest and fired' position.
The fact there is no spring return over the entire motion of the trigger indicates some kind of mechanical interference that makes the spring inoperable. Further investigation is needed to identify this **heretofore unknown defect** in the X Mark Pro trigger.

The F Trigger is different in the trigger pivot pin, also. The F Trigger has no provision for a 'locker ring' to be placed on the trigger pivot pin. It is assumed the locker groove was implemented later in the production cycle and utilizes a longer pivot pin with a retaining groove for the lock ring, but this particular one doesn't have it.

The most notable and critically important difference in the F Trigger can only be seen when the trigger is dismounted from the gun and the sear removed. It was observed before sear removal that the active sear surface, where it contacts the cocking stud, is well worn and is showing de-laminations of the plating from many cocking and firing repetitions. The wear present in that place was more than is usually encountered on a Remington sear, so I expected to find broken, chipped, and worn internal trigger parts from the considerable amount of firing. What was found instead is a totally different finish applied to the MIM trigger that shows hardly any wear at all. The top of the trigger and the bottom of the sear have a surface finish different and distinct from other XMP triggers previously examined.

Based on my extensive experience with over-ride triggers of all makes and models, and my testing of XMP triggers associated with this case in particular,,the F Trigger is unique by having

first an inoperable trigger return spring and secondly a distinct difference in wear patterns between sear and trigger. The difference in wear patterns could be due to a metallurgical failure as evidenced by excessive wear to the top of the sear, or it could be due to a great metallurgical success in the treatment given of the top of the trigger as evidenced by a lack of wear there.

ANALYSIS AND OPINION

The F Trigger, is in my opinion, a very early XMP specimen and probably falls within the previous 'recall' effort by Remington. But the fault found in the F Trigger is totally different than publicized in that effort of 2014. This trigger is in a 'failed condition' at room temperature. The safety lever is in no way involved in the failure.

The F Trigger also exhibits wear capabilities far beyond what has been seen previously and seems to have far superior materials within it, the inoperable trigger return spring not withstanding.

“Excess sealant” is certainly present in the F trigger and all the XMP triggers examined. Sealant or adhesive could be the primary causation of the F Trigger failure, but the fact that there is any sealant at all inside the trigger assembly shows a defect in design and workmanship. Early Walker triggers and some later Walker triggers sent to foreign countries were sealed by 'staking' the adjustment screws. No previous Remington triggers have had thread lockers applied, only a simple 'cover' sealant that showed any disturbance of the adjustment screws. As clearly shown by Remington's own efforts at repair, thread lockers and sealants should not be present in trigger mechanisms and is certainly counter to the instruction manual's warnings and demands to keep the trigger clean.

Taken in their entirety as a cross-section of XMP triggers taken out of service by a small town gunsmith, the six Miller triggers represent a dangerous condition not unlike the already known to be defective Walker triggers and re-enforces the opinions gathered from previously examined XMP triggers by this investigator.

Conclusion

The X Mark Pro trigger is not only ill suited as a replacement for the Walker, many of them represent a continuing hazard to the public who are still unaware of the dangerous conditions that exist within it.

H.J. Belk Jr.