Summer 2013

Command

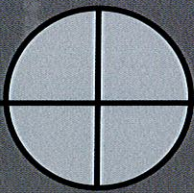## The Journal Of The Texas Tactical Police Officers Association

Fast Rope

DEPLOYMENT
for Tactical Operations
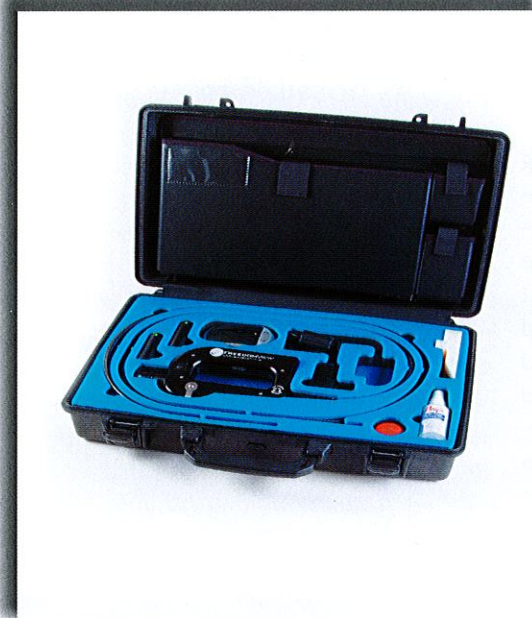
PRODUCT REVIEW
Freedomview LED Fiberscope

BY: Mike Tamez

Criminal Interdiction

During the past 7 years I've spent my career working as a full-time criminal-interdiction officer. Prior to this, I spent 5 years as a patrol officer who was afforded the opportunity to work on the highway searching for smugglers trafficking contraband. During those 12 years I used many different fiberscopes; all claiming to be the best on the market. Some scopes were big and bulky; some required a large trunk to carry the entire kit and some even had an extra carrying bag for the oversized battery. Although, for the most part, each served an equal goal; see inside a small space using very little intrusion and by using the pre-existing entry point. I remember on several occasions having to remove a huge, bulky, plastic carrying case from my trunk or backseat, assembling a three-piece scope and hoping it worked. Before using the scope I had to place the battery pack somewhere on the vehicle or over my shoulder, maneuver around the attached light source and begin searching; all the while not trying to drop any of the large bulky pieces. If there was ever a way I could build a scope, I would have designed it with a small built-in battery, internal light source and small carrying case.

Due to the career I've chosen, I have had the opportunity to test and evaluate different makes and models of fiberscopes. Well, I am sold on the FREEDOMVIEW FIBERSCOPE by OPTIM. Folks, this scope packs all of a criminal-interdiction officer's wants and needs into one small/well-priced product. The scope is small and easily transported in the rugged carrying case. The LED internal light source makes it clear that this was designed with the true criminal-interdiction officer in mind.

I am currently using the FREEDOMVIEW FIBERSCOPE by OPTIM, and can tell you, it's the easiest and most functional fiberscope on the market. Currently, Texas Highway Patrol, United States Border Patrol, United States Customs and other state/local agencies are using this exact same scope. I know what you're thinking; they only buy from the lowest bidder. Well, this is not the case! I will stake my name and reputation on this scope, it is the complete package. I have used this scope to find 2 compartments within the past 2 weeks; it was nothing short

of ease. During one of the searches I had to drag the scope across a load of plastic in a semi-trailer in order to find a compartment located inside an air condition reefer. If I was using other scopes I would have had to take several moving parts and pieces along with me, which (if you've ever done this) is quite the problem because you're at risk of losing them. Please know that I would personally never recommend a product that I haven't tested in the field. I know what tools it takes to get the job done and I

know what tools work (in the field) and not just on paper. I will HIGHLY recommend this scope to any and all officers.

Tactical Use

Also, for SWAT personnel this is a great and functional tool. Small enough to carry up to threshold, it can be used under doors, in windows or in holes without detection. During my 12-year tenure as a Kingsville Police Officer I spent 4 years as a SWAT operator and 6.5 as a SWAT team leader. Throughout those years I used fiberscopes during real-world operations and personally got to see the failures. While carrying a fully-loaded kit, an operator's last concern should be cords and straps getting caught on mag pouches, radios and weapons. Since FREEDOMVIEW FIBERSCOPE by OPTIM is a single-piece scope, the operator will NEVER have this issue. Ease of movement depends on kit placement and mobility of attached tools; this fiberscope will NOT hinder, either.

Since the light source is internal there is only one (solid) piece that will be carried by recon teams while evaluating a threshold or preparing for an entry. If there is a necessity for light inside the recon area, the Freedom View's internal light source can be dimmed or brightened by simply pushing a button located near the carrying handle.