



TAKING A POF-USA P415 TO THE BRINK BY RIPPING OUT 10,000 ROUNDS OF HORNADY AMMO



There's a lot of bravado in the firearms industry. Many firearms manufacturers out there,

especially the newbs, tend to base their marketing strategy around this thinly veiled promise: We are the biggest, the baddest, the toughest and the most durable—and of course, we promise our customers that our rifle will make you appear to be the most OAF (Operator As F\$%@) son of a gun at the range. And if that doesn't work, supplement your social media with gun bunnies.

But for those actually putting lead downrange, for service work, competition or defense needs—and not just adding expensive paperweights to their collection only to be polished and ogled whilst sucking down beers with buddies during poker night—it's the brands that produce reliable, quality, die-hard firearms that last during prolonged periods of use and stand the test of time that gain genuine respect (and market share) in the industry. You know who you are, as do those truly in the know.

PATRIOT POWER

When we approached Frank DeSomma, the founder of Patriot Ordnance Factory, or POF-USA, with the proposition to drive one of his company's most widely revered rifles, the P415, to critical failure in a torture test designed

to burn the gun up, we expected some resistance. The select-fire P416 went viral after Eric Blandford—aka IraqVeteran8888, known for his meltdown tests on YouTube, which literally left other guns in flames—ran more than 2,500 rounds through the P416 on full-auto in approximately 30 minutes and found it to be one of the only rifles to stand the test of torture and keep going. Would DeSomma accept our ridiculous proposal to up the ante?

"Hornady wants to send 10,000 rounds to you, and we'd like you to run the gun until the barrel droops like Elmer Fudd's, or the thing melts down to its basic elements, whichever comes first. What do you say?"

DeSomma's response encapsulates his outspoken, unabashed personality and engineering spirit. Because, as he will

tell you, he's an engineer at heart, and that means life is about figuring out how and why things work, and how to improve on them. "Let's do it," he said. "But let's only lubricate it once from the factory, and over-gas the hell out of it. Let's see what happens." Now that's a man who stands behind his products.

LOADING UP

Hornady sent out a massive barrel of new Frontier rounds—14,000 to be exact. Over the course of the next week—with the help of the staff at POF-USA loading 10,000 of these rounds into 30-round Mission First Tactical mags, a handful of Magpul PMAG D-60 drums and MagPump magazine speedloaders—we had a mountain of mags plugged full of lead and brass, ready to rock.

The P415 was prepared just as it would have come from the factory with DeSomma's orders to staff: "No special treatment. Grease it once." We were set to travel to the Phoenix, Arizona, shooting range known simply as "Cowtown," where we would run the gun in 300-round bursts, with five shooters dumping two mags (60 rounds) each in a procession at rubber dummy targets, firing in approximately one-round-per-second intervals for as long as it would take to exhaust the stockpile. The only break between 300-round volleys would be for approximately a minute to take heat-meter readings with a laser heat scanner on the bolt face, barrel and other components and some quick FLIR camera snapshots to gauge overall heat retention.

GUN GIVEAWAY

While you're at ballisticmag.com watching the P415 burn through all that ammo, you can enter for a chance to win 3,800 rounds of Hornady Frontier ammo, a new POF-USA P415 rifle and more! Here's what's up for grabs:

- > 3,800 rounds of Hornady Frontier ammo (MSRP: \$1,600)
- > POF-USA P415 (MSRP: \$2,000)
- > Magpul PMAG D-60 (MSRP: \$123)
- > MagPump AR-15 Mag Loader (MSRP: \$150)
- > Five 30-round Mission First Tactical mags (MSRP: \$60)

*No purchase required. Open to U.S. residents only and void where prohibited. Prizes worth \$3,940. Sponsored by Hornady Manufacturing and POF-USA. Starts 6/11/19 and ends 8/12/19. Visit ballisticmag.com/win-hornady-pof for details, eligibility and a complete list of official rules.



BALLISTIC BEATDOWN

BY SCOTT CONDITT

This data, as DeSomma put it, would provide invaluable insights into what was going on throughout the test in terms of heat stress and demonstrate the way that his patented heat-sink barrel nut helps dissipate heat versus a traditional steel barrel nut.

When asked how he thought the test would go, DeSomma said, "Honestly, I doubt the barrel is going to hold up for the full 10,000 rounds under that kind of constant

heat and at that rate of fire. I suspect some standard small parts that require regular replacing under normal conditions will need to be swapped out, too. But we'll see just when and what." This was a pragmatic, engineering-minded and refreshingly honest assessment.

THE RESULTS

Over the course of the next three and a half hours, the cacophony of gunfire had our teeth rattling

and left those rubberized dummies looking like Swiss cheese. But to say the test results and experience were more than worth it would be an understatement. And, dare we note, they were a testament to what happens when exceptional engineering and innovation standards in the AR platform meet absurd and extreme conditions. But don't take our word for it. You can see the beatdown for yourself at ballisticmag.com.