

The major difference between the old Model 70 technique and the T2K sequence is that I'm not lifting my head. That, plus the ease of bolt manipulation, effectively eliminates the gap between the bolt rifles and the semi-automatics: with the T2K I never have the sensation of having to hurry as I often did with the Model 70, plus the sight picture is maintained every bit as well as it ever was when I shot the SR-25. The differences shown in these two photos says it all. A T2K is easily good for 3-5 seconds per string over a Model 70. The smoothness with which you can work this bolt means that trying to run it fast frequently means going slower, shot to shot. Go smoother and stay on target better.

degree that the physical action itself becomes easy. At that point, which is not, by my experience, attainable in a Model 70, everything can slow down. One of our shooters likes to say, "open it slower, close it faster." When you go to work a bolt quickly, especially on opening, you introduce jostle and that will move you off target. With the T2K, bolt operation speed doesn't have to feel fast, but it will be fast if you measure it. Time to the shot is what counts, not the time it takes to run the bolt handle back and forth.

Keep a bolt lubed, and clean. Lube alone won't cure a dirty bolt. I always dry-run the bolt several times before the string not only to warm myself up but to make sure it's not dirty. This is especially important in the West where dust can be a factor. I use thinned moly grease on the bolt lugs and their recesses and also on the bolt body, but keep a clean rag and some thinner lube accessible, like a

good quality oil in a small bottle, in case any grit needs to be wiped away and the mechanism relubed on the spot.

I don't visualize or mentally rehearse shooting these events. The sense or sequence of shooting a rapid fire string is quite a lot different than for offhand where I focus my attention toward visualizing each shot, working on each shot, preparing to react to the sight picture. In the rapids, the sight is always there and always showing an acceptable orientation on the target. Sight picture is not the concern. The positions are stable. More external influences are at work and need to be paid attention to, and time is the obvious leader. During the string I am aware of the pace and progress of my string — five shots, then the reload, then the finish — but it's more or less clicking away one shot after another.

### PRONE RAPID FIRE

There are a few differences in my prone positions for rapid and slow fire events, and those are discussed in the segment on the prone position and shooting technique. Here I'd like to point out the differences between the 200 and 300 yard events. It's a short segment.

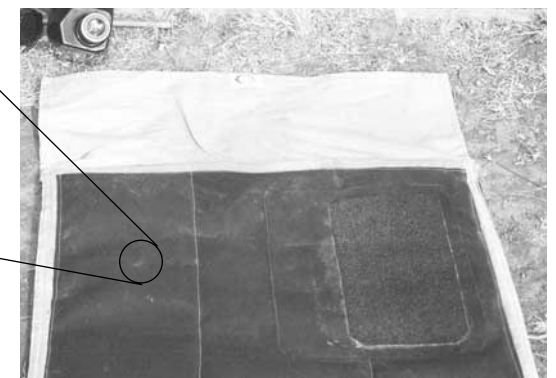
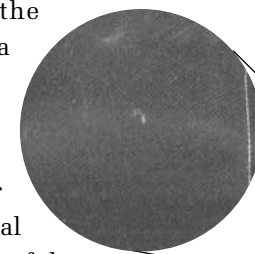
There's nothing different in preparing for a 300 yard string, except I'll pay more attention to the wind. I will not worry so much about its strength or value since I'll confirm its effect on my sighters, but I am watching for changes, and mostly the routine these changes are following. I don't want to get caught in a change in the middle of a string, or between strings, because that can cost big in this event. It's especially important to watch the wind between strings. I will have evaluated and corrected however necessary after looking at the first 10 shots on target, but I won't have a chance to confirm a correction unless I scope the first rounds when I start my second string. We can't choose the time to fire our sighters, so it's not always possible to compare values in the wind's range of influence.

With the advent of the SR-25 and now of the TUBB 2000, the extra speed of those rifles has honestly turned this event into ten slow fire rounds for me. I have a good deal more time to take careful shots. If someone can get to the mat, re-establish natural alignment, run the sequence, and fire ten confident, well-aimed shots, score is dependent on sight setting.

Getting from the position back to the position is different than for sitting. When the "shooters, rise" command comes over, I transition from prone to standing trying to



My key to regain npa in prone rapid is to focus on the spot on my shooting mat where my left elbow goes. When I return to the mat, that's where I'm looking and that is my goal. If my left elbow gets back to that spot, I will be on line.



keep my upper body in line as I rise. I am as careful as I can not to shift my feet, legs, or knees from an "indexed" position. The idea, of course, is to get back into the exact same