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BOKER PLUS REALITY-BASED BLADE

A TACTICAL FOLDER FOR SPECIAL OPERATIONS



A German SF operator readies his Boker Plus reality-Based Blade for action.

Although a semi-automatic firearm is usually a special operator's primary weapon, failure of such a weapon or the need for absolute silence and stealth in combat calls for the use of a good tactical knife. This knife must be well-constructed, light yet durable, applicable in a plethora of situations, and affordable. Jim Wagner, an expert in the field of what he has come to coin "reality-based" combat train-

ing, has designed the perfect weapon for the police officer, SWAT team member, and special operator.

The most important feature of the Jim Wagner-designed Boker Plus Reality-Based Blade is the fact that it is primarily a stabbing weapon. In a knife fight, cuts to the body usually penetrate into the muscle. Although very bloody, most cuts generally do not have "stopping power" (enough force and trauma to

stop an aggressor instantly) unless the cutting edge slices through an artery or opens up the abdominal wall. On the other hand, puncture wounds can not only induce a phenomenon known as *instantaneous shock* due to severe trauma to the muscle, but puncture wounds to the torso are likely to penetrate internal organs, which shut down the body systems faster. Not surprisingly, most Special Forces military units of the world teach their combat soldiers to stab the enemy as opposed to slashing them. The purpose for stabbing is to immediately incapacitate the enemy.

The cutting edge of the Boker Plus Reality-Based Blade is shaped in the form of a *kris*—an elegant curve, which is designed to cut deep into the muscle and all the way down to the bone. As the back edge of the blade is pulled across the fleshy target, the curve follows, wrapping itself around the target area to dig in.

Another feature found on this knife is the serrations located immediately after the tip of the blade. The up-front curve-serrations are designed to rip into flesh and clothing, whether the weapon is being pulled away from the target area, slicing across an incoming weapon hand, or going for the exposed throat. Boker also offers a non-serrated model for those who prefer a straight cutting edge. The blade is made of 440C high performance stainless steel, which guarantees superior edge-holding ability and corrosion resistance.

The top of the knife has a protruding blade guard to



keep the grasping weapon hand from moving forward against the cutting edge, should the tip of the knife strike bone and force the blade to stop suddenly. This guard also serves as a blunt trauma striking-nub when the blade is in its folded position, during which the knife doubles as an impact weapon similar to that of the Asian kubotan.

The Boker Plus Reality-Based blade has two blood grooves on one side of the blade. Blood grooves, or *fullers*, as they were called before the 20th century, are shallow depressions typically cut into military bayonets to lighten the blade by twenty to thirty percent without compromising a weapon's structural strength. Many believe that a blood groove allows blood to flow from a victim in order to alleviate the suction effect or clenching of the muscles around the trapped blade, thus making it easier to withdraw the knife from the wound.

The best way to maintain positive control of a knife in battle is to use a fist grip. A good strong fist grip on the handle, whether the tip is facing up or down, prevents the weapon from getting knocked out of the hand in the event that the blade is stopped by striking a bone or the enemy attempts a disarm.

When the blade is retracted, the han-

dle and exposed blade back is designed to be a tight impact weapon. To absorb the tremendous forces one can put on the knife, there is a solid lock-back mechanism. Under the fiberglass-reinforced plastic, there are two 1mm stainless steel liners to strengthen the handle construction and allow for easier gripping of the weapon.

Along both sides of the handle are finger grip impressions. Not only do these friction pattern impressions keep the hand and fingers firmly in place during intense conflict, but slippage is also reduced significantly if blood pours over the handle and onto the user's weapon hand. To make holding onto the blade even easier in adverse conditions, three of the finger grip impressions feature a non-slip texture. The first groove, forward of the handle and closest to the blade, is smooth and serves as a Thumb

Slide Guide in low light situations or where noise discipline is essential. Running the entire length of the top of the handle are small grooves that significantly reduce slippage for the user, whether the blade is being held in a fist grip or an ice pick grip.

The Boker Plus Reality-Based Blade comes with a pocket clip that can be attached to the end of the weapon or detached, depending on the tactical profile needed. Easy to remove and reattach, the clip can be arranged for a right hand or a left hand configuration.

The knife also comes with two handle ends that the user can choose between and attach instantly: a false writing pen end, which looks like an ordinary pen clicker when placed in a pocket for undercover operations, or a glass breaker for emergency situations. ■