

# PRECISION AVALAUNCHER TARGETING

BY JOHN BRENNAN

The world's most technical sniper rifle isn't going to make marksmen out of Mr. or Mrs. Average. The most skilled avalauncher gunner can't hit the broad side of a barn at 1500 yards with a crooked projectile, a flimsy gun deck, or a poorly designed launcher. Long range accuracy and target repeatability require astutely designed projectiles with strict quality control and properly engineered avalaunchers and firing platforms.

One way to check if your existing mount is to blame for poor accuracy is to simply video the machine in action. Kevin Powell, the developer of the Delta K avalauncher projectile, recommends using at least 1000 frames per second. By reviewing the footage frame by frame, if your projectile has left the Barrel before your mount allows significant deformation to your launcher's resting position then your accuracy issues likely lie elsewhere. By having a perpendicular object framed in the background of your launcher video you can more easily note displacement. What may appear a stout launcher deck may actually be allowing quite a bit of deflection when the avalauncher fires.

Alan Jones, principal at Dynamic Avalanche Consulting, reports excellent accuracy and target repeatability with their Falcon GT Avalauncher which is mounted on their customized trailer. Alan is quick to point out that heavy duty jacks, positioned at the four corners of their trailer, make stabilizing their trailer a quick and easy job. It is very important to level the trailer as well. Dynamic monitors a launcher-mounted bubble level as they raise their trailer completely off the ground. Alan notes that that standard trailers lack adequate bracing to be sufficiently rigid: "We were surprised how much movement we got when we filmed in HD, slow motion video."

Colin Mitchell of the Pimentón Mine in Chile has both a fixed mounted and a **mobile mounted Falcon GT avalauncher**. They use a backsighting exercise for some of their mobile firing positions. Basically, they park their trailer in routine positions on their missions- trying to mimic as closely as possible their previous alignments. Then, they fabricate simple cross hairs on the end of their barrel and bore sight on the same nearby fixed objects every mission. By using simple math and their launcher's 360-degree azimuth plate they are able to dial in their shot charts in short order. To add an additional level of precision, Alaska DOT utilizes a fixed rifle scope on their Falcon GT.

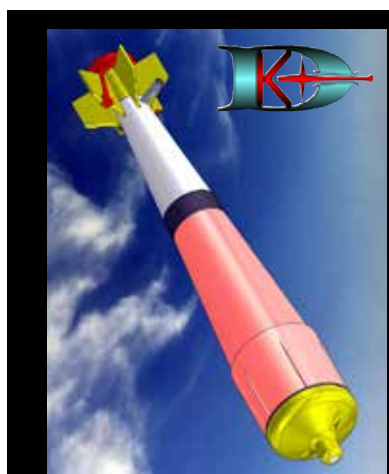
Misconceptions have lingered for many decades about avalauncher accuracy. With modern engineered projectiles, excellent accuracy and target repeatability can be achieved with proper mount design. Please contact us with any questions or comments: [jb@avalanchemitigationservices.com](mailto:jb@avalanchemitigationservices.com). ▲



Mobile mount at the Pimentón Mine, Chile. Photo Courtesy Colin Mitchell



Rifle scope for precise backsighting. Photo Courtesy Alaska DOT



▲ The DeltaLancer System. Under License from Kevin Powell at Delta K Explosive Engineering Systems Ltd.



▲ The New Redesigned CIL Classic Snowlauncher.



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