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6492019 DEFE 70/582 Return by (10/09/2010) 7846827 (Anne Cadwallader)

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COCONFHERENTIAL

Patrol Protection. Routine Army patrols face the possibility that they may be confronted with a hostile crowd intent on inflicting bodily harm. Patrols require to have the capability to respond to such a threat at a level below the use of small arms. In these circumstances it is likely that the patrol will have an initial task unrelated to the riot which would be unforeseen at the time of the patrol tasking. The weapon will have to be worn along with other routine patrol equipment as a precautionary measure. It will need to be confortable since it will be worn for long periods and must be unobstrusive so that patrols are able to speak to locals without appearing unnecessarily threatening. At the same time the weapon must be capable of being brought into action rapidly in the event of a sudden unforeseen clash with rioters.

INADEQUACIES OF EXISTING EQUIPMENT

- The L67 was designed at short notice to meet an urgent requirement by welding a barrel extention and a skeleton butt onto the in-service signal pistol. It has a number of shortcomings which have proved impossible to modify:
 - Poor trigger action.
 - An inadequate butt.
 - A misaligned sight.
 - A weak breech locking mechanism which can open on firing.