



2010 NDIA Hathcock Award: Jeff Hoffman Pennington County, South Dakota Sheriffs Office

Jeff Hoffman began his law enforcement career in 1979 as a police officer with the Rapid City Police Department in Rapid City, South Dakota. Several years later, Jeff hired on as a reserve deputy with the Pennington County Sheriff's Office, where he is currently still employed as a 30-year veteran. As a reserve deputy, Jeff trained with the Rapid City Special Response Team in 1989. Shortly thereafter, the Rapid City team combined with the Pennington County Sheriff's Office to form the Rapid City/Pennington County Combined SRT and Jeff was accepted as a member and employed as a sniper. Jeff grew up in rural South Dakota and spent his youth hunting, shooting and studying ballistics. Jeff attributes much of his success to his grandfather who fostered a love of shooting in Jeff at an early age. As an adult, this would serve him well when he, his wife Kristi and a business partner joined in a business venture loading ammunition in a company known as Black Hills Shooter's Supply. Jeff and Co. began loading ammunition for police officers

locally and their reputation for precision quality ammunition grew rapidly. As time went on, the business grew, requiring more and more of Jeff's time. Jeff began a separate entity from Black Hills Shooter's Supply known as Black Hills Ammunition. Jeff's knowledge of ballistics and his wife's business savvy began to pay off as his fledgling company took wings. Jeff's operational experience, combined with his ballistic knowledge, provided insight not possessed by many police officers with lesser backgrounds. Well aware of the problems faced by police snipers in urban environments, Jeff researched and tested various bullets for successfully shooting through intermediate barriers. After numerous attempts, Jeff settled on the 180 AccuBond bullet by Nosler. This round is quickly becoming an industry standard for police snipers who must engage hostile suspects through intermediate barriers. Outgrowing its meager beginnings, Black Hills Ammunition now operates out of a new 60,000 square foot facility. Not one to rest on his laurels, Jeff recently accept-

ed a position as sniper team leader for the eight-man, RC/PC SRT sniper team and often provides uniforms and gear for the sniper team out of his own funds. At 50 years of age he is still operational, subject to callout and all PT requirements and is still actively "on the rifle." Jeff's intimate knowledge of ballistics has also drawn the attention of the U.S. military. Black Hills Ammunition currently makes match ammunition for the U.S. Marine Corps rifle team, the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit and all of the 5.56 match ammunition for the United States Special Operations Command. Jeff Hoffman personally develops every load. This position has the collateral consequence that Black Hills Ammunition has become a privately owned research and development laboratory for the special ammunition needs of the United States Government. Much ammunition personally developed by Jeff Hoffman, is at the forefront of the War on Terror and the emerging war on piracy and has been responsible for the demise of many of the Free World's enemies. Jeff's experience shooting in the high winds and hills of the northern plains has also proved beneficial. Jeff was not satisfied with the inaccurate (and often confusing) wind formulas developed and passed on in various military sniper manuals for decades that are so often attributed to "voodoo" by those in the community. So Jeff developed his own. His formula is simple, accurate and quickly used; which is exactly what a sniper needs in a dynamic combat environment. Many operators of the United States Naval Special Warfare Command (more commonly known as SEALs), while not widely known, have adopted this wind formula and other sniper related information Jeff gleaned the hard way over a 30-year career as an operational sniper. Jeff supports military and law enforcement competitions and events worldwide and has given away hundreds of thousands of dollars in ammunition as prizes to help keep the community strong. He believes in the importance of education when it comes to the sniper community and is an accomplished writer in that regard, authoring numerous articles on police sniping. He has also given unselfishly to SWAT teams other than his own who are truly in need. Jeff offers deep discounts to military and

law enforcement personnel because he knows firsthand that their missions require the best ammunition they can obtain and that many of them and/or their agencies simply cannot afford it. Jeff has also supported military snipers whose unit budgets could not afford the sniper gear needed to make their snipers combat effective. Many people in the shooting community know the name Black Hills Ammunition but many have no idea of the background of the man behind it. It has been said that the only one who cares about a sniper, is another sniper.

He is very proud to be a part of the sniper community but remains humble and provides his support from behind the scenes, despite his huge list of accomplishments. It could be said that Jeff Hoffman is a one-man force multiplier. He possesses all of the traits Gunny Hathcock would have admired and approved of. The undersigned past recipients of the Hathcock Award nominated Jeff Hoffman of the Pennington County South Dakota Sheriff's Office for the 2010 Carlos Hathcock Award.

Chuck Mawhinney,
United States Marine Corps
2000 NDIA Carlos Hathcock Awardee

Bart Bartholomew,
Baltimore County PD
2001 NDIA Carlos Hathcock Awardee

Jim Owens,
United States Marine Corps
2002 NDIA Carlos Hathcock Awardee

Larry Vickers,
United States Army
2003 NDIA Carlos Hathcock Awardee

Steve Holland,
United States Army
2004 NDIA Carlos Hathcock Awardee

Brian K. Sain for AmericanSnipers.org
2007 NDIA Carlos Hathcock Awardee

Buford Boone,
Federal Bureau of Investigation
2008 NDIA Carlos Hathcock Awardee

R. J. Thomas,
United States Navy
2009 NDIA Carlos Hathcock Awardee

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WHAT IS THE HATHCOCK AWARD?

The Carlos N. Hathcock II Award is presented to recognize an individual, who, in the opinion of the Small Arms Section Steering Committee, Armaments Division, National Defense Industrial Association, has made significant contributions in operational employment and tactics of small arms weapons systems which have impacted on the readiness and capabilities of the United States military or law enforcement. A significant contribution is considered to be: superior performance of duties in an operational environment or the development of tactics or training.

The Hathcock Award is named in honor of Gunnery Sergeant Carlos N. Hathcock II, a career Marine who dedicated his life to the service of this country in both the military and law enforcement communities. He was honest, tactful, considerate, courageous, quietly proud and determined in all things and all places from the range to the battlefield. "The Gunny," not only distinguished himself in combat as a scout-sniper but also as a competitive marksman and trainer. In his capacity as a trainer he not only significantly impacted the current United States Marine Corps Scout-Sniper program but also influenced the sniper programs of the other military services and similar law enforcement programs nationwide.

PAST RECIPIENTS

1999: Carlos Hathcock
2000: Charles B. Mawhinney
2001: Bart Bartholomew
2002: Jim Owens
2003: Larry Vickers
2004: Steve Holland
2005: Pat Mitternacht
2006: Allen Boothby
2007: American Snipers.org
2008: J. Buford Boone
2009: Robert J. Thomas

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