

AIRSOFT ACTION



BY AIRSOFTERS - FOR AIRSOFTERS

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MAROMX

IN ISSUE 128 WE INTRODUCED TO SOME FABULOUS PEOPLE WE'VE BEEN PRIVILEGED TO WORK WITH AND WE'RE VERY PROUD TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO WRITE ABOUT AND SHOW THE MAROM-X ELITE NIGHT VISION CAMERA! WE'VE BEEN LUCKY ENOUGH TO HAVE A PRE-PRODUCTION MODEL THAT JON HAS BEEN SETTING UP AND WORKING WITH, AND THUS FAR IT'S A BIT OF KIT THAT MAY LOOK QUITE UNASSUMING BUT ONE THAT OFFERS A WHOLE RANGE OF ADVANCED FUNCTIONALITY THAT SOME AIRSOFTERS ARE GOING TO TRULY LOVE!

So, we've really started to get into testing the pre-production model of the MAROM-X Elite Night Vision Camera now and, well, it's a swanky bit of kit.

To reiterate the facts and "rationale" behind MAROM-X... Photography has a number of advantages or capabilities in the tactical sense; photography can collect data in areas usually inaccessible to the average infantryman when collected by recce and special operations assets and can provide high resolution images to identify objects in more detail. With simple formulas aerial imagery can be used to measure objects on the ground, and film provides a permanent record which can be used later to detect change in a target area. However, images and even video don't provide all the answers and missions prove most successful when they encompass all intelligence assets



such as physical CTR, and of course many of the same limitations (enemy defences, weather, darkness, and terrain masking) need to be taken in account. The key limitation in that list to me though, is something we can mitigate against with technology... darkness. That's where the MAROM-X system begins to sing to me loud and clear.

MAROM-X is the company's commercially available night vision camera developed for consumer use. This revolutionary camera is specifically tailored for the tactical user and has been developed and designed by engineers and professionals from two of Israel's award-winning companies. One will be instantly recognisable to gear-lovers, as Marom Dolphin was founded in 1993 as a manufacturing company for textile products. Over the years, the company has expanded its fields of activity and established itself as one of the leading companies in the tactical textile/technology field.

The other partner is NVISOL, which has been around since 2014 as a company providing soldier-oriented solutions, integration, and system engineering. The company's main goal is to find innovative solutions for tactical forces challenges while considering the end-users needs. The engineers and designers that have developed MAROM-X bring their experience of years of service in the military and stay connected to the field to stay updated with the evolving battlefield, fighting equipment, and soldiers' needs. With their extensive long-term knowledge and experience, they aim to deliver innovative tactical cameras to their customers, which allow them to fight stronger, longer, and more efficiently!

As Bill said in his opener about this new piece of technology:

"To me any piece of new "tech" must serve a purpose, and there must be a darn good reason why I will add it to my personal load in game. I have my primary which spits BBs, and I have my secondary which does the same but at closer range, and I add an optic for specific reasons. I have my load-bearing kit, either plate carrier for CQB or chest rig for woodland and those carry my spare magazines, comms, and sustainment gear. Other than comms there is very little that is in any way "tech" about my gear, although I might throw on a stock or wrist-mounted GPS if I'm at a Milsim where the AO is large and I don't know it well."

He went on to conclude:

"Let's face it, cameras are part of our daily lives now, and within airsoft they can be used for good or not so good! Discounting the "not so good" I can see that something once seen as "sci-fi", just like personal comms, will only prove massively beneficial for many players, especially in a Milsim scenario! Personal camera systems will become part of the "future soldiers" load and are certainly an integral part of those development programs, and as airsofters we'll soon be able to benefit from similar technology thanks to MAROM-X! Coming back to my opening comments I can totally see the benefit of adding a MAROM-X camera to my load in the future, and those extra grammes will undoubtedly pay dividends in game and give an extra level of immersion to review at my leisure!"

TESTING!

As previously mentioned, cameras, love em' or hate em', have come a long way in recent years. Obviously, we all know the major players in action cameras with offerings from GoPro or DJI (we love their drones btw) but there's one thing they really lack and that's their ability to function well in the dark. When I say dark, I don't mean ambient light that you find on the street, I mean complete, can't-see-your-hand-six-inches-from-your-face, dark!

This is where the MAROM-X Elite shines... Literally.

The MAROM-X boasts a whole host of features,

the most interesting being its automatic transition from day to night vision. It's not your green "tubed" NV, it's monochrome footage and is supported by some very nifty built in IR illuminators.

As you can see from the video stills, the illuminator casts out approximately ten meters which is more than enough for "evidence" footage.

The new camera has another neat trick where, via a WiFi or 4G connection it can cast real time footage to a nearby device such as a phone, tablet or laptop. It won't take up your device storage space either as it records directly to the camera SD card. It also has a GPS function, which watermarks onto the footage. This feature didn't seem to work for me but I had a pre-production model and I expect this to work on the final piece, which our man "Smooth" Jase will be taking to a MilSim in September.

Speaking of recording, it has several recording and streaming modes. It can record 1440p at 30 frames per second, stream at 720p at 30 frames per second and take pictures up to 40 MegaPixels (even while filming). It runs H.264 and H.265 Codec so there's an awful lot of data compressed into the files. To support these functions the MAROM-X Elite boasts a NINE-hour battery life. Take that GoPro with your puny 1.5 hours!

The unit itself is of a sturdy construction, with a simple 3 button user interface. It boasts an IP65 Water and Dust resistance rating and has a 1.5 meter drop rating too, just perfect for us more heavy handed folks. The top has an LCD display, showing the functions, modes and settings menu, which can be turned off in "covert" mode. Another feature that I like is the "vibrate" on button press. Basically, this means you get a single "brrrr" for no and two "brrrrs" for yes. While it might seem like an unnecessary feature, when it's mounted to your helmet, it suddenly becomes a godsend. As previously mentioned, it comes with built in IR illuminators and a built in white light torch which works well.

MAROM-X offer full support on their website with links to the drivers and software that you'll need to operate and customise the camera in a bit more detail. They also have Youtube Videos for each operational section, which is a nice touch for those

"IT CAN RECORD 1440P AT 30 FRAMES PER SECOND, STREAM AT 720P AT 30 FRAMES PER SECOND AND TAKE PICTURES UP TO 40 MEGAPIXELS (EVEN WHILE FILMING). IT RUNS H.264 AND H.265 CODEC SO THERE'S AN AWFUL LOT OF DATA COMPRESSED INTO THE FILES. TO SUPPORT THESE FUNCTIONS THE MAROM-X ELITE BOASTS A NINE-HOUR BATTERY LIFE. TAKE THAT GOPRO WITH YOUR PUNY 1.5 HOURS!"



who can't read or prefer visual guidance.

In the box you get the Camera Unit, a 32GB SD Card, Camera Dock, USB lead and mounting hardware for rifle and helmet.

I like this unit a lot but there's one thing, in my opinion, that is off and that's the price. It sits at a hefty UK£510. That's not pocket change and for that you could buy a GoPro Hero 9 bundle but, and it's a HUGE BUT, you will not be anywhere close to getting the quality of night footage, nor do you get the mounting hardware, battery life, built in torch and IR illumination, GPS or 4G that you get with the MAROM-X Elite Camera.

And THAT'S a HUGE difference in performance that if you're using it right may well be worth the money!

Tech Specs:

- Codec H.264 & H.265

Recording Resolutions

- 2560x1440 @30fps
- 2304x1296 @30fps
- 1920x1080 @30/60fps
- 1280x720 @30/60fps

- 848x480 @30/60fps Streaming Resolutions

- 1280x720 @15/30fps
- 848x480 @15/30fps
- 640x350 @15/30fps
- 320x240 @15/30fps

Photo Resolution

- 5,12,20,25,30 & 40 MegaPixels.

If you'd like to have a look at how to set up the MAROM-X and check out some of the features then it's simple, just head on over to their website <https://maromx.com> and head on into the "Support" section where it'll link you to their Youtube channel MAROM-X. On their channel you'll find even more to do with testing, plus a complete step-by-step rundown on setup and operation!

With the initial testing now complete and the full production version of the MAROM-X now in our hands I'm passing the torch (quite literally in this instance!) over to Jase who'll be looking at it from the MilSim perspective, so we can see how the camera can REALLY perform in the field and he'll be reporting back soon! **AA**