

CMMG

6.5 EDITION



SIG SAUER TANGO6 3-18x44mm

SIG SAUER 71662

12¹/₂

INCH GRENDEL

SHORT BARREL,
LONG REACH

+

THE ULTIMATE 6.5
(IT IS NOT A CREEDMOOR)

P 62

1,500 LUMEN
SCOUT LIGHT



SUREFIRE M600DF

- /// SIG SAUER
- /// ROCK RIVER ARMS
- /// LARUE TACTICAL
- /// ALEXANDER ARMS
- /// WINDHAM WEAPONRY
- /// ODIN WORKS
- /// BROWNELLS BUILD
- /// CMMG
- /// HORNADY
- /// WOLF AMMUNITION

GOING LONG
WITH THE

WINNER



WINDHAM WEAPONRY'S
6.5 CREEDMOOR PROVES IT
CAN WEATHER ANY STORM.

BY ERIC CONN



“NOT ONLY DOES THE HEAVY BARREL HELP WITH HEAT MANAGEMENT, IT ALSO KEEPS MORE WEIGHT TOWARD CENTER MASS OF THE RIFLE, MAKING IT EXCEPTIONALLY WELL BALANCED.”

IF THE FOLKS AT WINDHAM WEAPONRY HAVE LEARNED one thing about weathering storms in an ever-changing firearms industry and political climate, it's that you've got to play the wind. It's a lesson that those who work in the Windham, Maine, factory have learned time and again.

In 2011, the folks at Bushmaster Firearms in Maine were informed that all manufacturing of Bushmaster rifles would move to New York, thus ending their longstanding employment. In a make-or-break moment, a plan was hatched, resources were pooled and a new company, Windham Weaponry, was born. Within a few months, the company was shipping rifles under the new moniker.

It's no surprise when talking to Matt Hasty, Windham's sales and marketing project manager, that the current climate of the firearms industry hasn't phased him.

“We've seen it all, and the one thing about this

company is we've learned to adapt and weather the storm,” Hasty said. “A lot of AR manufacturers weren't prepared for a Trump election or the surplus it would create, but it happened, and we keep moving forward into the future.”

But changes bring the next big wave, as Windham has discovered with the release of one of its newest ARs chambered in 6.5 Creedmoor. The beauty of the new rifle and Windham's ability to surf the new long-range wave is that it really only required an updated upper receiver to be paired with Windham's already-proven .308 lower receiver.

“It really was a no-brainer for us,” Hasty said. “We introduced the 6.5 Creedmoor in August 2017, and sales have steadily kept the pace with rising popularity of a proven long-range cartridge. It's a straight swap with our .308 lower, too, so it gives shooters plenty of interchangeable options.”

Undoubtedly one of the hottest cartridges to

hit the shelves in years, the 6.5 Creedmoor is a long-distance workhorse and has an incredible following in the competition and hunting worlds. The 6.5 Creedmoor boasts incredibly sleek ballistic coefficients (BCs) and is inherently accurate, even beyond 1,000 yards.

The beauty of the 6.5 Creedmoor design is that you can seat longer bullets within the confines of the standard .308 magazine compared to earlier cartridge designs, such as the .260 Remington. Engineered by Hornady, the maximum length of the 6.5 Creedmoor case is 1.915 inches, as compared to the 2.036-inch length of the .260 Rem. The Creedmoor features less body taper than the .260 and a sharper shoulder angle, with only 5 percent less capacity than the Remington case. The net result is the potential for a longer bullet and similar performance in the same magazine, with tremendous accuracy and wind-bucking ability at significant ranges.



The 20-inch barrel comes threaded for suppression, and the flutes reduce weight and cooling time.



Paired with a Vortex 6-24x50mm Diambondback Tactical scope, the rifle is easily capable of breaking the 1,000-yard barrier.

Of course, all that cartridge performance is meaningless without a rifle capable of maximizing the Creedmoor's potential. Enter Windham Weaponry's 6.5 Creedmoor rifle, which is built for the top-shelf connoisseur of long-range firepower.

“Everything about this rifle is meant to scream ‘top shelf,’” Hasty said. “It's about the attention to detail that we invest in every rifle. We work with a lot of expert shops local to us so that we can ensure, from the buttstock to the barrel, that everything is done the right way.”

FULLY LOADED

No long-range rifle would be complete without an award-winning barrel, which is exactly where the Windham 6.5 shines. The rifle features a 20-inch stainless steel barrel that is fluted for optimal heat dispersion and weight reduction. The barrel is designed with an extra-heavy contour that tapers from 1 inch at the barrel nut to three-quarter-inch at the gas block, all the way down to .72 inch at the muzzle. Not only does the heavy barrel help with heat management, it also keeps more weight toward center mass of the rifle, making it exceptionally well balanced. At 9 pounds, 2 ounces, the rifle is anything but lightweight, so every ounce counts.

The barrel utilizes a 1:8-inch twist, which was specifically chosen for the wide variety of 6.5 Creedmoor bullets on the market and is fully capable of handling everything from the 120-grain Hornady A-MAX to the 147-grain Hornady ELD-M bullet. Hasty said that Windham's engineers contacted several bullet manufacturers to ensure its barrels would cover the wide spectrum of match and hunting loads out there.

The engineers at Windham also spent extensive



The 6.5 Creedmoor is a long-range workhorse capable of seating longer, sleeker bullets in a .308-length magazine.

GOING LONG WITH THE WIND



Windham Weaponry's 6.5 Creedmoor features a Luth-AR buttstock, Hogue overmolded rubber grip and a proprietary 15-inch, M-LOK handguard.

time testing suppressors and muzzle devices on the 6.5 rifle, realizing that many competition shooters or hunters would be utilizing a can or a muzzlebrake in the field. For that reason, the rifle comes with $\frac{5}{8}$ -24 threads and a muzzle protector to make installation quick and painless. The barrel also features an 11-degree crown.

A lot of thought went into the proprietary handguard design, too. At 15 inches, the handguard features generous, triangular porting for rapid cooling of the barrel and weight reduction, a full-length Picatinny top rail and M-LOK attachment rails at the 3-, 6- and 9-o'clock positions. The rifle comes with a sling-swivel attachment point at the 3 o'clock and most forward point of the handguard.

The remaining furniture includes a Hogue overmolded beavertail grip and a Luth-AR buttstock with an adjustable buttplate and cheek piece. The rifle features right-hand controls and a traditional safety selector.

6.5 CREEDMOOR

Type	Direct impingement, semiautomatic
Cartridge	6.5 Creedmoor
Barrel	20 in.; 1:8-in. twist
Overall Length	39.25 in.
Weight	9 lbs., 2 oz.
Handguard	15 in., free-float, M-LOK with full-length top rail
Stock	Luth-AR, adjustable cheekpiece and buttplate
Grip	Hogue overmolded beavertail
Finish	Hardcoat anodized
Trigger	Hiperfire EDT DM
Magazine	5, 10, 20 rds.
Muzzle Device	Thread protector
Sights	None
MSRP	\$1,733
Manufacturer	Windham Weaponry windhamweaponry.com

Finally, the rifle boasts a Hiperfire Enhanced Duty Trigger Designated Marksman (EDT DM), formerly named the EDT3. Valued at \$99, the Hiperfire trigger strikes a balance between the standard Mil-Spec fare and a more high-end drop in. The DM trigger is designed with a traditional curve and a flat section at the bottom. When you press the curve section, the trigger is rated at 5 pounds, 8 ounces; when you press the flat section, it's rated at 5 pounds. The trigger comes with two interchangeable hammer springs, the second of which drops the press to 4 pounds, 8 ounces and 4 pounds, respectively. When asked why a 1,000-yard rifle would come with a mid-grade trigger and a beefy press, Hasty said it came down to consumer feedback.

"We found that for the vast majority of shooters, the trigger is the first thing to go," said Hasty. "Realizing most guys want to customize the trigger with one of dozens of custom options, we struck a middle path."

GOING LONG WITH THE WIND



The Vortex 6-24x50mm Diamondback Tactical scope features mil elevation, windage turrets and side parallax adjustment.

RANGE TESTED, SHOOTER APPROVED

My one complaint at the range was the trigger, which doesn't allow you to fully realize the potential of the Windham 6.5 Creedmoor rifle. That said, accuracy data was respectable, especially for a 5- to 5½-pound trigger, and the barrel held up even as temperatures soared near the 90s.

The Windham rifle was topped with Vortex's

newest scope, the 6-24x50mm Diamondback Tactical riflescope, a budget-friendly optic with a first focal plane (FFP) reticle, side parallax adjustment and mil windage and elevation turrets. With an MSRP of just \$500, the new Diamondback Tactical breaks new ground for a price-point FFP, long-range-capable optic.

At the lightest end of the spectrum was Nosler's 120-grain Ballistic Tip, which posted an average velocity of 2,772 fps and a best group of 1.23 inches. Velocities remained consistent, with a standard deviation of just 12 fps and an average group of 1.66 inches. The heaviest load also came from Nosler in their 140-grain Reduced Drag Factor (RDF) cartridge. The RDF features an incredibly long, slender bullet with a miniscule meplat and BC of .658. The best group measured 1.24 inches, with average groups at 1.71 inches. The RDF also produced the lowest velocities of the four loads, with an average velocity of 2,582 fps. The load cycled fine but was the only round for which the bolt failed to lock back on an empty magazine.

Hornady's Superformance 129-grain Super Shock Tip (SST) produced the fastest average velocity at 2,819 fps, as well as one of the best average groups at 1.31 inches. The all-copper Barnes 127-grain VOR-TX Long Range produced the best overall group of the day at an impressive .69 inch and a top-performing average group of 1.27 inches. 🌟

PERFORMANCE

Barnes VOR-TX Long Range (LRX) 127 gr.	Hornady Superformance 129-gr. SST	Nosler 120-gr. Ballistic Tip	Nosler 140-gr. RDF
Velocity (fps)			
2,678	2,819	2,772	2,582
Standard Deviation			
19	45	12	12
Extreme Spread			
26	92	18	27
Best Group (in.)			
.69	1.01	1.23	1.24
Average Group (in.)			
1.27	1.31	1.66	1.71

Accuracy is the average of five, five-shot groups from a rest at 100 yards. Velocity is derived from a string of 10 shots measured with a Competition Electronics chronograph 15 feet from the muzzle. Ambient temperature: 87 degree F.