

BENCHMADE SCOP DAGGER

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The Benchmade SOCP was designed to give the troops in the field a means of transitioning from a close-combat edged weapon to a firearm without releasing the knife from their hand. Benchmade also provides a manual and unsharpened trainer to go with the weapon.

In this world of asymmetrical threats, the military troops need as many tools in their kit as they can find. During an operation, “humping” close to 100 pounds of gear and guns has a lot of pros, but also major weaknesses. Movement and reactions can be greatly imped-

ed and your back is constantly open. In Afghanistan the military’s role has been to put the troops inside the enemy’s “homes,” conducting sweep and clear operations—with bad guys behind many doors. The enemy has adapted to our use of force model. Getting into a wrestling matches or being jumped from behind is a common occurrence, made more deadly by the presence of an M4 and other weapons.

Special Operations Combative’s Program

With the help of Greg Thompson,

Benchmade has created a solution for these CQB type situations where an operator needs an accessible and functional tool to solve a “problem.” Their new “Special Operations Combative’s Program (SOCP) 176” is a skeletonized dagger with a ribbed ring on the end of its thin dagger handle. Its specially designed handle allows the user to be able to grab it with either hand. A dull, unpointed training version is also available to aid in learning the proper deployment of the weapon. Totally MOLLE compatible, the SOCP sheath covers the dagger up to the ring making it very difficult for anyone other than the owner to grab it.

Defensive Tool

As shown in the training manual, the ring handle is intended to allow the hand holding the knife to transition to a handgun and have

no disconnect between the edged weapon and gun. This makes the knife a fast draw and easily accessible with either hand or just a finger. The knife has a thin design, allowing the trooper to hide it almost anywhere on their person and no matter what position you are in, all you need to do is hook your finger on the ring and the knife is ready to go to work. It is a great defensive tool to help create distance or solve a problem.

The SOCP is available in both black- and sand-colored sheaths and with or without the trainer version. The blade is 3.22-inches long and made from 440C stainless at a Rc of 58-60. Suggested retail prices run from \$90 to \$130 depending on the version. For more information about Benchmade’s SOCP Dagger and complete training manual on the use of the weapon go to benchmade.com.