



use thigh rigs. All are also issued standard 14-round magazines but some have the 17-round magazine and insert that, which looks somewhat odd without a pistol grip extender or plate. On post these pistols remain in their holsters but some guards draw them and place them in the front portion of their flak jackets so as to make a faster draw if a secondary firearm is needed. Although the majority of TC guards have the Glock 19, a select percentage are armed with US Government supplied Beretta M9s.

For heavier armament, TC utilizes 7.62x51mm M240 Bravo medium machine guns, .50 caliber M2HB heavy machine guns, and Mark 19 Mod 3 40x53mm High Velocity automatic grenade launchers. Guard procedures are very scrupulous in clearing these weapons out between guards and maintaining them. Something as important as head space and timing an M2 machine gun can turn a bad situation into a very detrimental situation very quickly if not completed properly. Unlike many Marine machine gunners in theater that utilize MDOs and HDOs on their machine guns, TC doesn't have optics on their machine guns and instead use the weapons iron sights. The

posts already have binoculars and most sectors of fire are not that far out that suspicious activity wouldn't be out of binocular range.

Although Triple Canopy is the largest PMC aboard BLS, there are plenty of other contractors that assist with training and other spectrums of base operations. These contractors were mainly armed with Beretta M9s and Glocks but a few Sig P226s and Heckler & Koch USPs were present. Again these handguns were mostly carried in hip holsters.

Being based on BLS and having the opportunity to be around all these ISAF and ANSF forces in addition to actually working and fighting alongside them was in itself an absolute delight while being on a combat deployment. Being able to be around all their various small arms, shooting them, and examining the differences in equipment and tactics was even better. Being in the profession of arms in addition to small arms being the author's most important passion, this allowed an intimate look into the way that warfare is conducted in the modern age. The author hopes that the readers will gain much insight and knowledge from this glimpse into the forces on the front line. **SAJ**

**FUTURE
FORCES
FORUM**

International Platform for Trends & Technologies in Defence & Security



POLICY - DIPLOMACY - DEFENCE - SECURITY - R&D - ACADEMIA - INDUSTRY

Prague, Czech Republic



Future Forces Exhibition

19 - 21 October 2016



World CBRN & Medical Congress

19 - 21 October 2016

Followed by two separate workshops: CBRN and Medical



Geospatial, Hydrometeorological and GNSS Workshop

19 - 21 October 2016



Future Soldier Systems Conference

20 - 21 October 2016



Military Advanced Robotic Systems Conference

20 - 21 October 2016



Logistics Capability Workshop

20 - 21 October 2016



Future of Cyber Conference

20 - 21 October 2016