LPVO MAGNIFICATION
WHEN AND WHY?

Oct. 29, 2025

Would you keep your LPVO at maximum magnification while firing from an unsupported standing position at 75 yards while under physical and mental stress? Or would you turn the magnification down?

If you aren't sure, please discuss the topic with your agency's police snipers. This is a topic that has been learned the hard way by police snipers throughout the country. You will find that they will resoundingly advise you to turn it down if you have the time and space to do so.

The reason for this is to reduce how much the crosshairs appear to be moving. On full magnification the crosshairs may seem like they are bouncing around like a pin ball. Whereas, if you reduce the magnification they will not appear to move as much, potentially increasing confidence and a smoother trigger press. We (CMI) have watched this technique work with great success over the last 25 years at our police sniper schools as the most important part of making bullets go exactly where we want them to go is mastering the trigger of your chosen firearm.

	COPS				**CITIZENS**			
	#	**Non-Stress**	**Stress**	**Result**	#	Non-Stress	**Stress**	**Result**
Magnified	31	1,610 pts.	880 pts.	**-45%**	18	620 pts.	470 pts.	**-24%**

This stat from the 2025 NPRC showing a 45% reduction in accuracy for the cops in the magnified optic division (LPVO) while shooting the exact same course of fire, once with no stress, and then again with both physical and mental stress, has driven me wild since the event on Oct 18^{t}. I can't understand how the cops, who work in a very stressful environment for a living, were outperformed by their citizen competitors.

I've been racking my brain contemplating if this is just an anomaly or what else may have been at play. One friend suggested that the citizen group may have been packed with competition shooters, but that was not the case. Another friend suggested that citizen shooters may not feel the same pressure and consequences that the cops must deal with if they miss. Although I respect that viewpoint, I don't think that's it either.

I do have my own opinion and believe it's as simple as sharing the hard lessons that police snipers have learned about the effective use of magnified optics with our patrol rifle armed peers who are now using LPVO's. That lesson being, learn to be accurate on low power so the field of view is wider, movers are easier to track at close and moderate range, magnify when needed to make positive ID or when in a stable position and pinpoint accuracy is required. Otherwise, keep the magnification low, especially in close quarters and even at moderate distance if you are in an unstable shooting position.

That's my two cents. I hope you enjoyed the read.

Respectfully,
Ofc. J. Felts (ret.)
NPRC / Center Mass, Inc.
www.centermassinc.com

NATIONAL PATROL RIFLE © CONFERENCE & CHAMPIONSHIPS