

# STORM IN THE DESERT

**WORKING OUT OF HIS GARAGE IN 1981**, Tennessee inventor Ronnie Barrett designed a .50-cal. semi-automatic rifle based on the Browning recoiling-barrel short recoil system. To counter anticipated recoil, he added a dual chamber muzzle brake, culminating in the M82A1, a shoulder-fired rifle readily capable of firing the largest commercially available cartridge, the .50 BMG.

During Operation Desert Storm, the Barrett M82A1 rifle was fielded and provided admirable service against armored personnel carriers and other high-value targets. As an expedient tool for also safely detonating unexploded ordnance on the battlefield, the 10-shot Barrett rifle had no peer. In the hands of USMC snipers, the 30-pound Barrett rifle soon provided the ultimate in hard-hitting, long-range accuracy. The "desert camo" example shown here was actually used in Desert Storm by the USMC and retains its period military finish.

This M82A1 was donated in 2001 to the collection of the National Firearms Museum by Barrett Firearms Manufacturing, Inc. For National Firearms Museum information and hours, call (703) 267-1600. Admission is free (donations are encouraged), and children are welcome.

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