

Hodgdon CFE 223

5.56 NATO chambered AR 15

Once fired, full length resized, Lake City 07 trimmed to 1.750, flash hole de-burred.
CCI 400 primers.

Hornady 68g boat tail hollow points (BTHP) seated to 2.25 OAL.

I measure this to be .193 off the lands.

Test rifle custom build AR 15 with 24" 1-8 twist stainless steel, barrel stamped "5.56 NATO 1-8".

40 to 45 degrees F., wind 90 degrees from the right at 3 to 5 mph.

100 yards

CFE 223	Low	High	Average	E. S.	S. D.
25.2	2844	2881	2861	37.25	14.93
25.4	2910	2940	2924	29.7	14.03
25.6	2931	2956	2943	25.06	10.48
25.8	2961	3004	2980	42.13	18.13
25.9	2986	3002	2994	16.3	6.00
26.0	2985	3008	2992	23.01	9.64

The 25.2 load shot a horizontal group of over an inch wide and .193 vertical.

The 25.4 load shot a good group measuring .469 horizontal and .318 vertical.

The 25.6 load shot a great group measuring .212 horizontal and .284 vertical.

The 25.8 load shot a great group measuring .284 horizontal and .375 vertical.

The 25.7 load shot a horizontal group measuring .611 horizontal and .175 vertical,

The 26.0 load showed very slight pressure on the margins of the primers and the buffer was slamming the end of the tube. The group opened up the size of a baseball.

I measured edge to edge of the hole, then subtracted .224

My question to this forum what load would you pick. The 25.6 and 25.8 have worse numbers on the chronograph but looks good on paper. The 25.9 shows great chronograph numbers for a gas gun. I can't believe I am pulling that group that wide.

