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Roes

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(54) **COMPACT MULTIFUNCTION SIGHT**

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(60) Provisional application No. 60/719,926, filed on Sep. 22, 2005.

(51) **Int. Cl.**
G01C 15/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **33/227**; 33/286; 33/DIG. 21

(58) **Field of Classification Search** .... 33/281–282, 33/285–286, 275 R, DIG. 21, 227, 228, 293; 250/338.1, 339.02, 339.11

See application file for complete search history.

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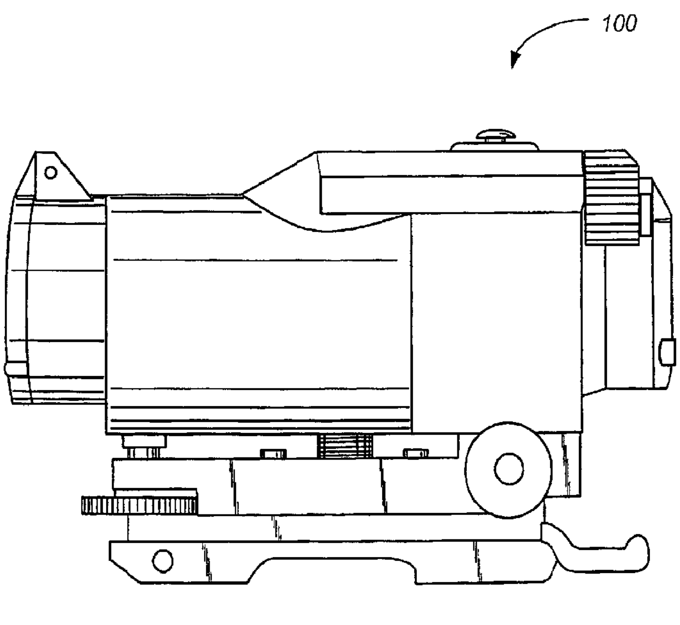
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A multifunction sight is disclosed. The multifunction sight includes an body, a receiving aperture, an emitting aperture, a parabolic reflector, and an optical detector. The receiving aperture passes radiation in a first band and a second band into the body where the first band is different from the second band. The emitting aperture that passes the radiation in the first band out of the body. The parabolic reflector displays a point source such that the point source is visible from the emitting aperture. The point source appears aligned with where the multifunction sight is aimed irrespective of a visual alignment with the emitting aperture. The optical detector is affixed to the body and coupled to the radiation in the second band, and receives coded radiation with the second band.

20 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets



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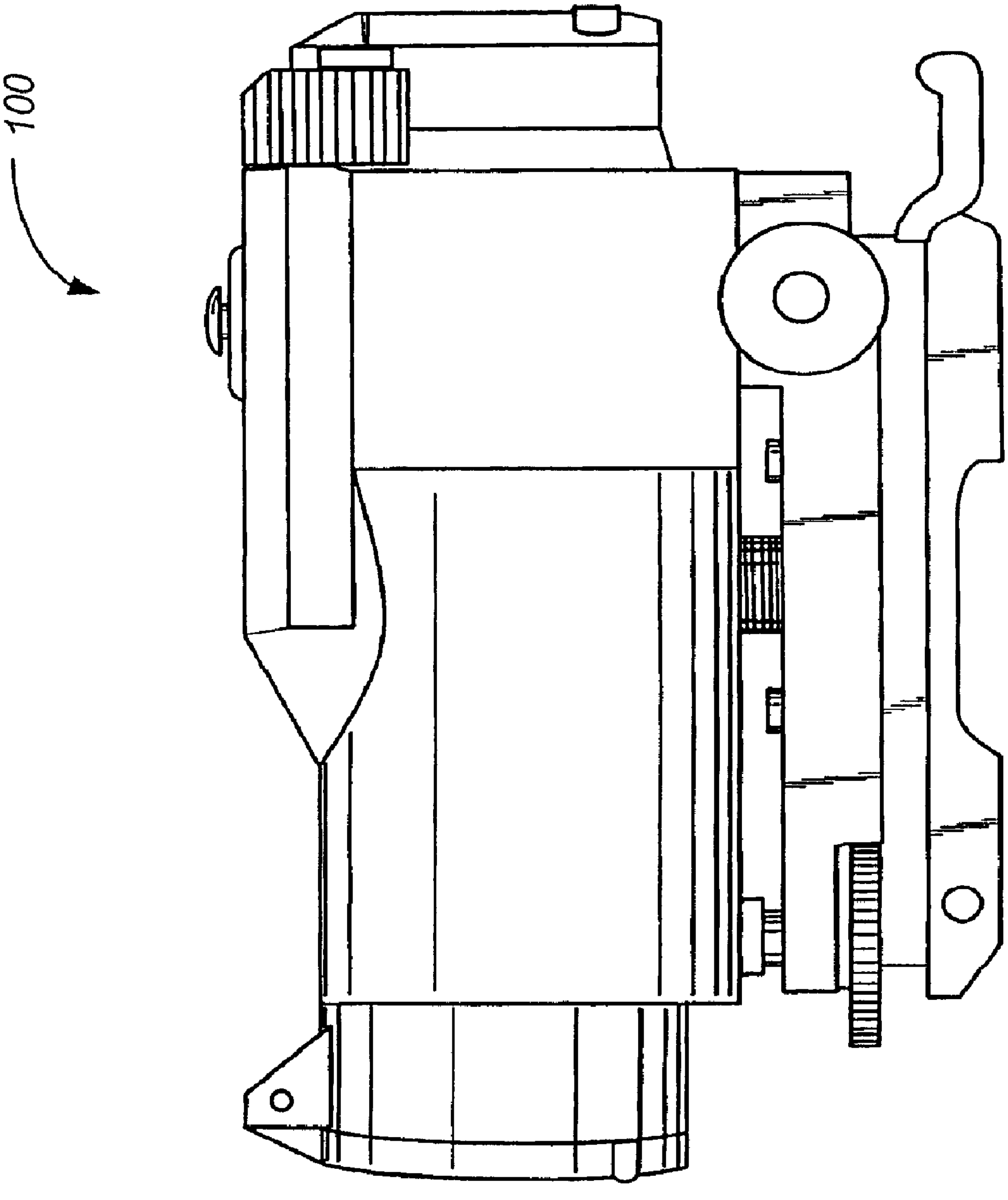

FIG. 1

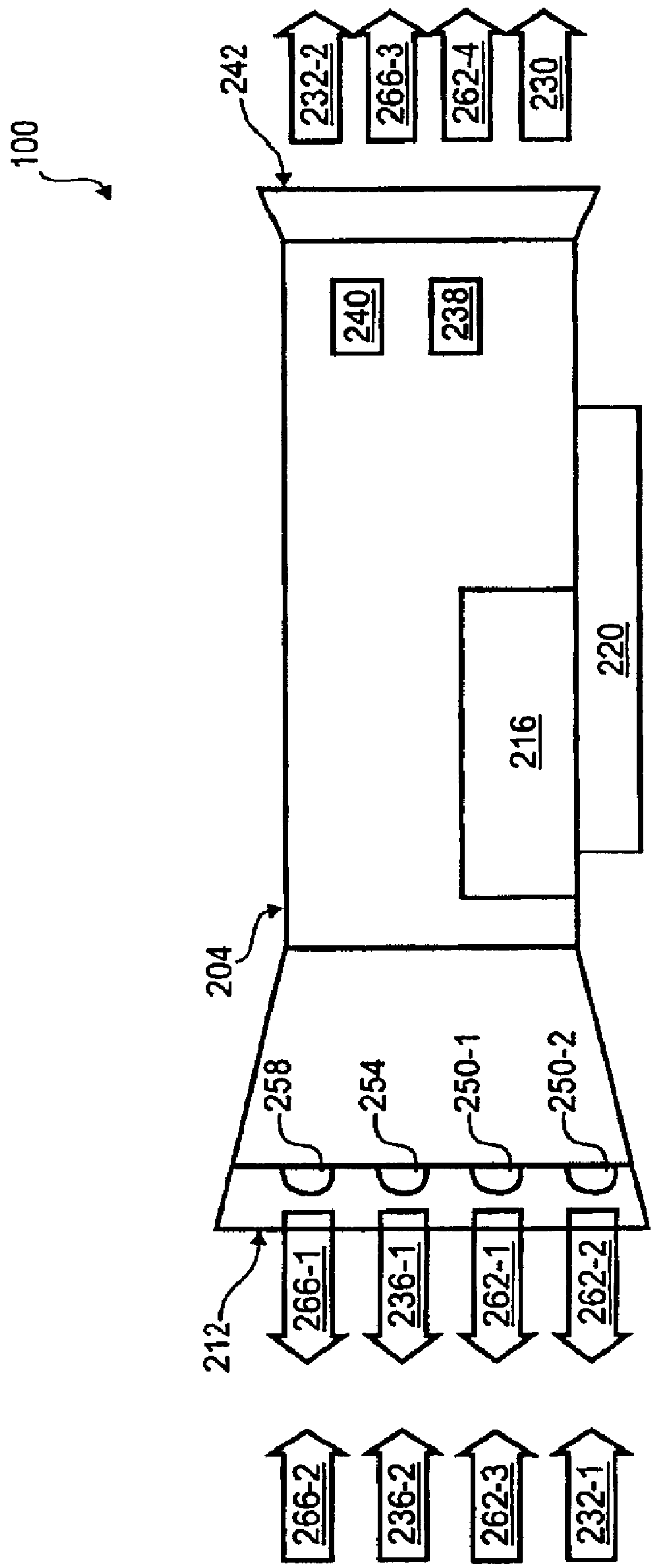
100
242
232-2
266-3
262-4
230
240
238
220
216
204
258
254
250-1
250-2
212
266-1
236-1
262-1
262-2
266-2
236-2
262-3
232-1

Fig. 2

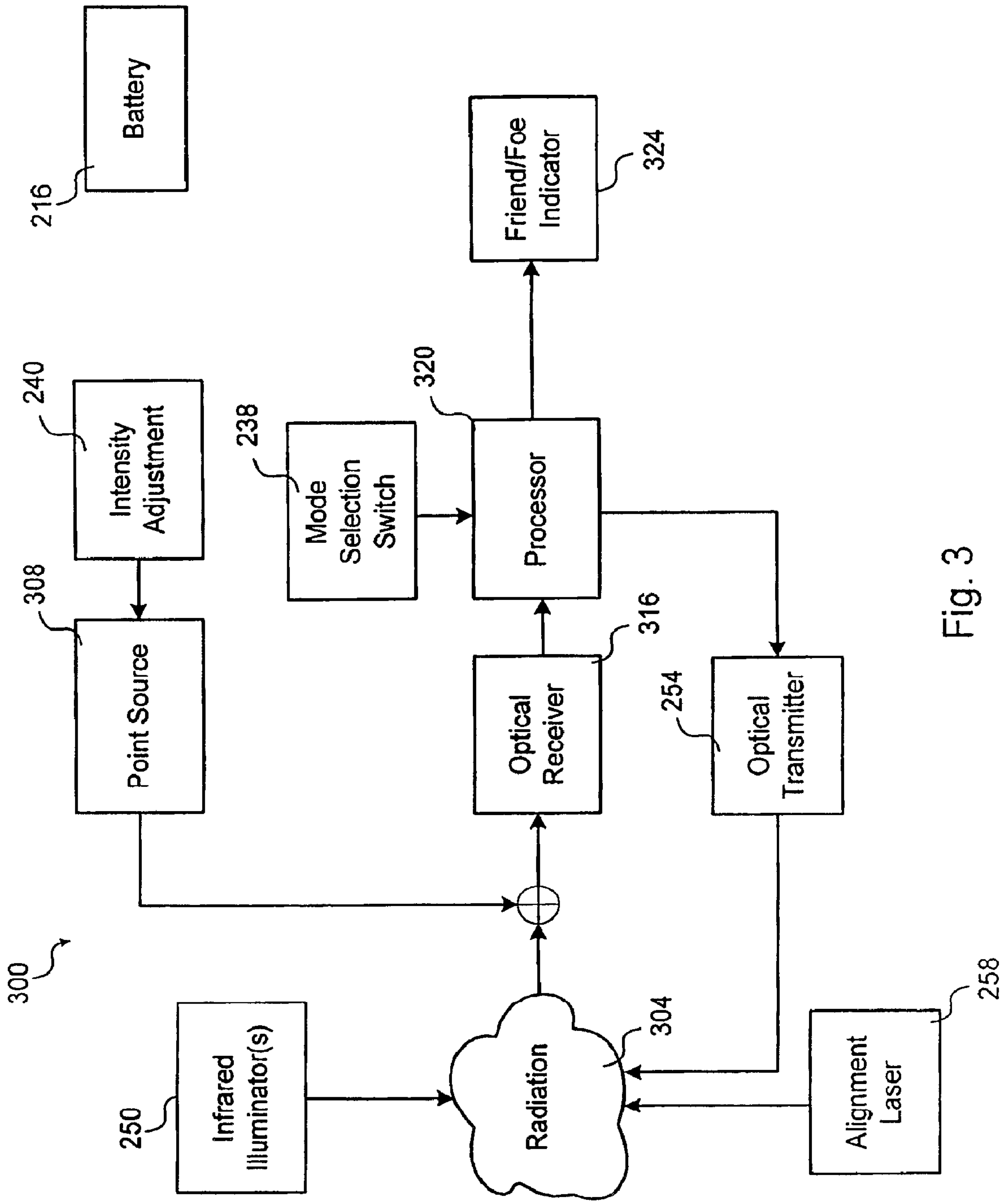
300
216
Battery
240
Intensity Adjustment
308
Point Source
238
Mode Selection Switch
320
Processor
324
Friend/Foe Indicator
316
Optical Receiver
254
Optical Transmitter
250
Infrared Illuminator(s)
304
Radiation
258
Alignment Laser

Fig. 3

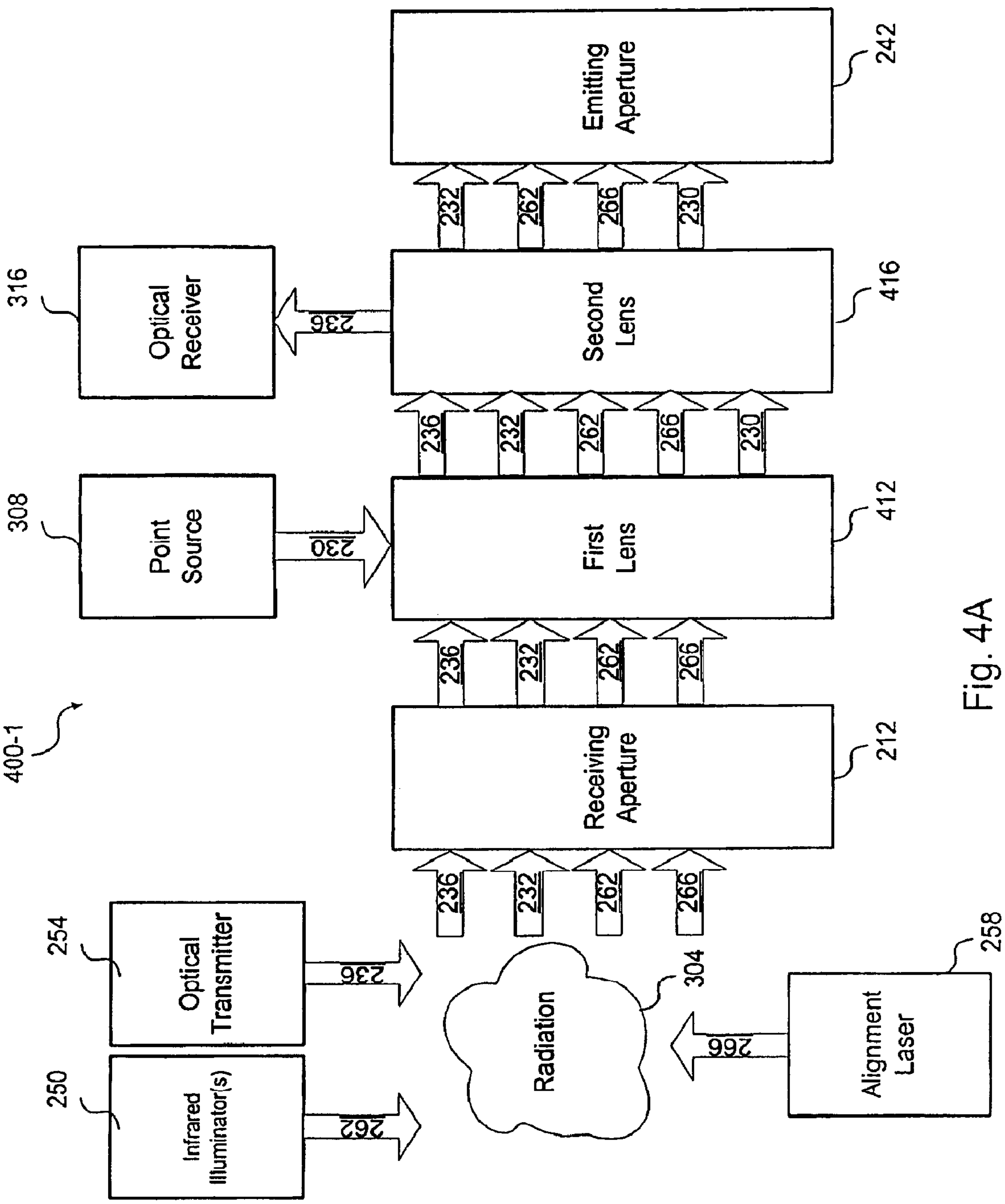
400-1
Optical Receiver
316
Point Source
308
Emitting Aperture
242
Second Lens
416
First Lens
412
Receiving Aperture
212
236
232
262
266
230
Optical Transmitter
254
Infrared Illuminator(s)
250
Radiation
304
Alignment Laser
258

Fig. 4A

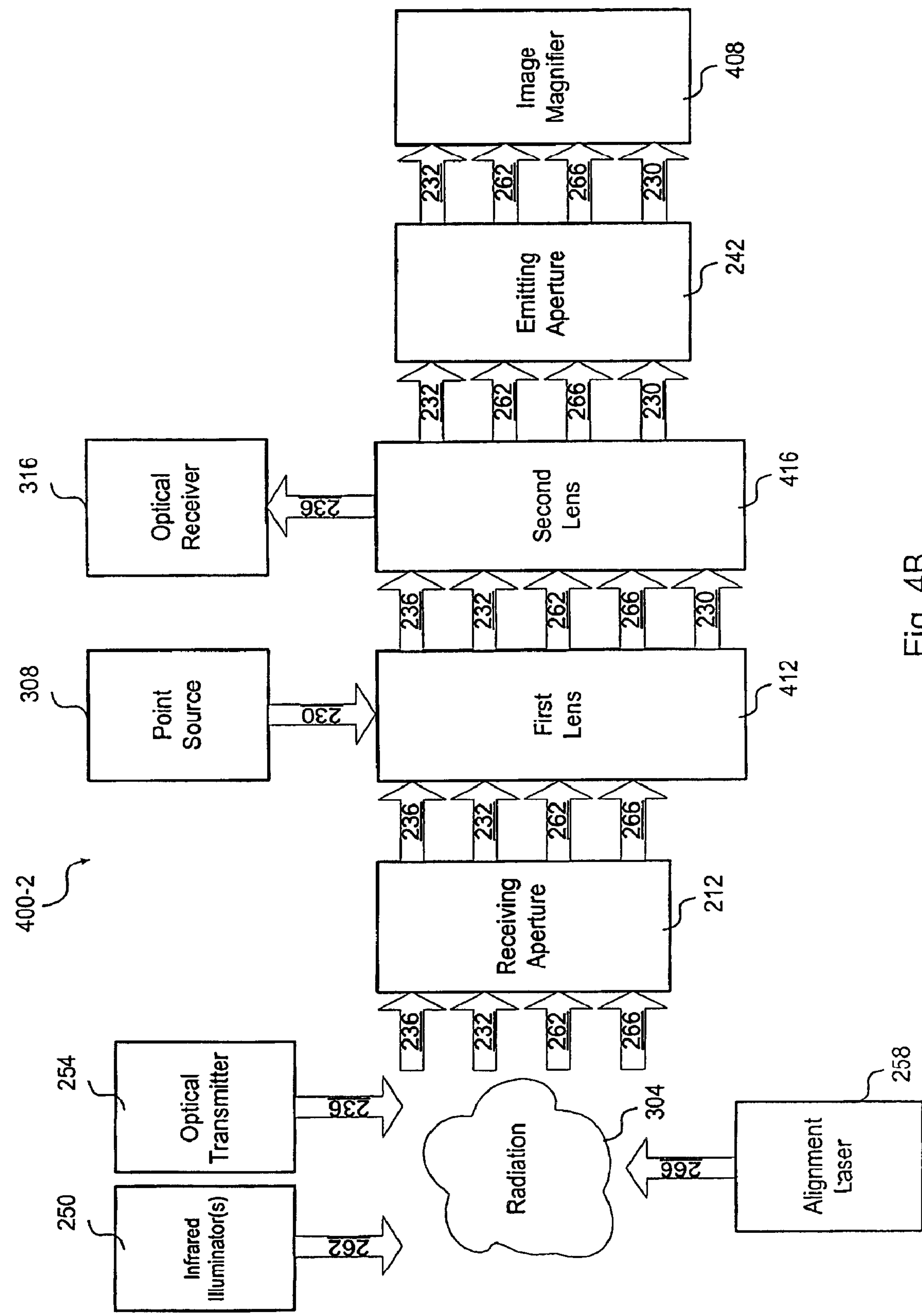
400-2
Optical Transmitter
254
Infrared Illuminator(s)
250
236
262
Radiation
304
Alignment Laser
258
266
Receiving Aperture
212
Point Source
308
230
First Lens
412
Optical Receiver
316
Second Lens
416
232
Emitting Aperture
242
Image Magnifier
408

Fig. 4B

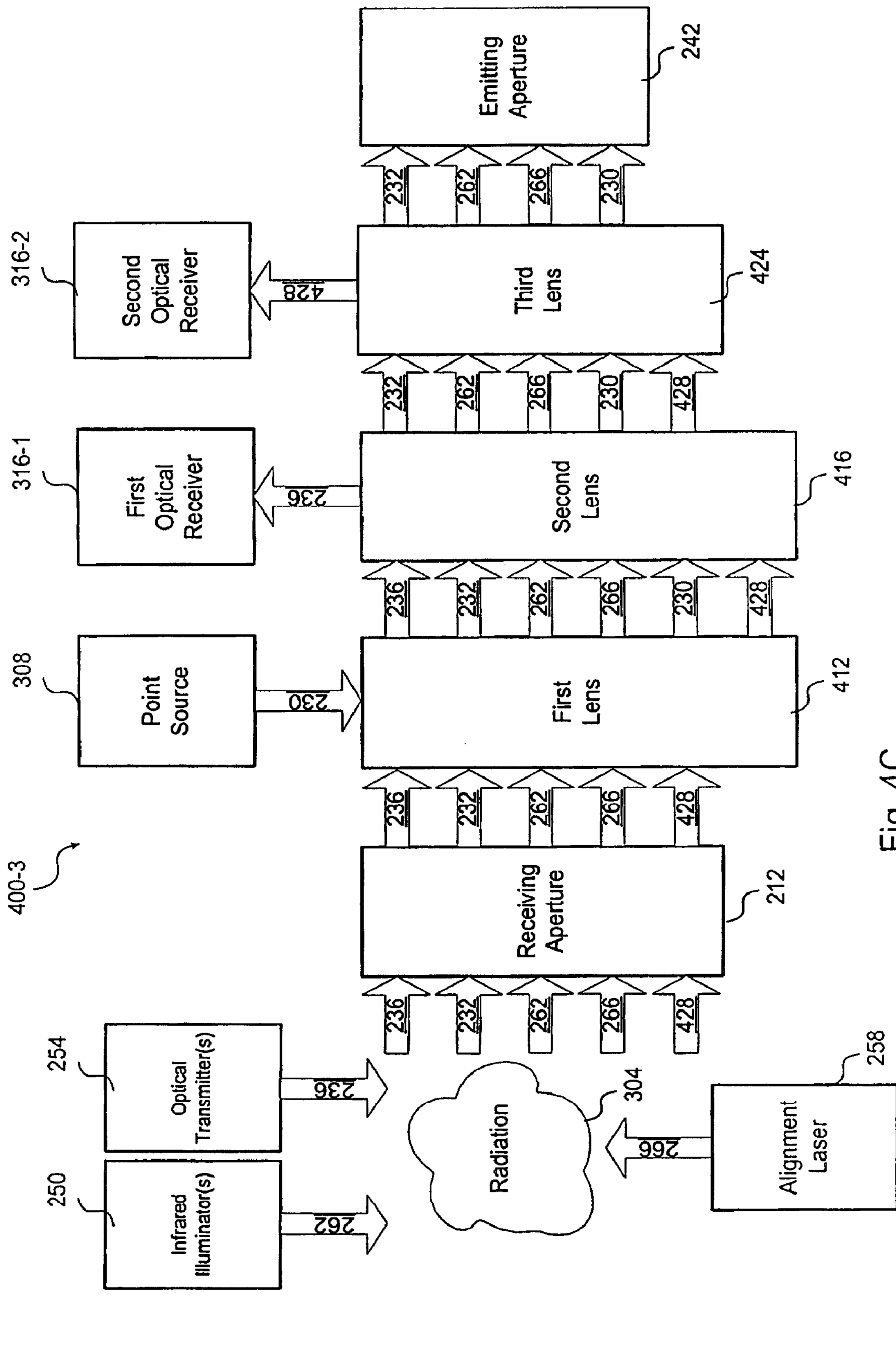
400-3
Emitting Aperture
242
Second Optical Receiver
316-2
Third Lens
424
First Optical Receiver
316-1
Second Lens
416
Point Source
308
First Lens
412
Receiving Aperture
212
Optical Transmiter(s)
254
Infrared Illuminator(s)
250
Radiation
304
Alignment Laser
258
236
232
262
266
230
428

Fig. 4C

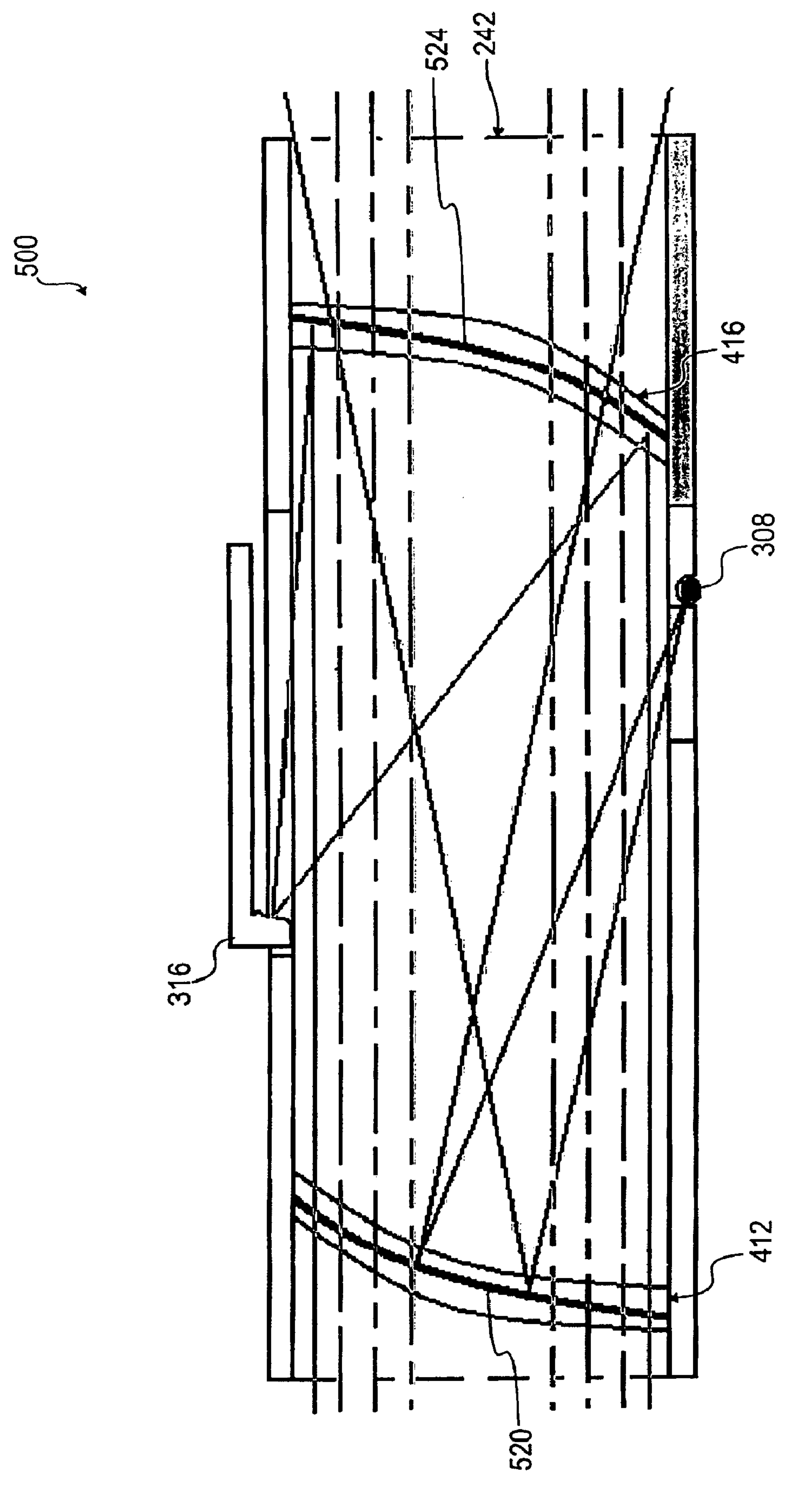

Fig. 5

COMPACT MULTIFUNCTION SIGHT

CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 11/370,590, filed Mar. 7, 2006, which claims benefit of priority from U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/719,926, filed Sep. 22, 2005, each of which is incorporated by reference for all purposes.

BACKGROUND

This disclosure relates in general to sighting scopes and, more specifically, but not by way of limitation, to sighting scopes that have functionality beyond mere aiming.

Military and law enforcement personnel use weapons in a variety of different operating environments. These operating environments may range from dry and dusty terrain, to moist and humid regions, to places with significant levels of precipitation. There is also a need to use weapons under many different lighting conditions. Reliable operation and the ability to withstand rugged treatment are concerns in these types of environments and lighting conditions. This is particularly true for weapon sights.

Over the years, red dot sighting systems have been used instead of mechanical iron sights. Red dot sights, in particular, have been commercially available for many years. These sights, which allow the operator to identify a target over a wide field of view and with unlimited eye relief, have been used with night vision equipment. A shooter wears a night vision monocular to view through the red dot sight at night, alternatively a 3× scope can be mounted in front of the red-dot scope.

Optical transmitters and receivers are used to communicate information wirelessly. For example, weapon targeting systems, laser-tag and military training systems may communicate with light beams between two points. These systems are bulky additions to other sighting equipment. On some weapon targeting systems, the user views a potential target through a first objective lens to communicate with a friendly target. A second objective lens is used to aim the weapon if the weapon targeting system identified that the target is a foe. These two objective lenses are bulky and add considerably to the overall weight of any weapon. This increased bulk, in turn, makes the weapon more difficult to use in combat and thus more dangerous for the user. Also, both the targeting and the communication optics need to be co-aligned with the weapon.

SUMMARY

In one embodiment, the present disclosure provides a multifunction sight. The multifunction sight includes a body, a receiving aperture, an emitting aperture, a parabolic reflector, and an optical detector. The receiving aperture passes radiation in a first band and a second band into the body where the first band is different from the second band. The emitting aperture passes the radiation in the first band out of the body. The parabolic reflector for creating an optical path to a point source or emitter such that the point source is visible from the emitting aperture. The point source marks a point that is aligned with where the weapon is aimed irrespective of a visual alignment with the emitting aperture. The optical detector is affixed to the body and coupled to the radiation in the second band, and receives coded radiation with the second band.

In another embodiment, the present disclosure provides a multifunction sight. The multifunction sight includes a body having a receiving end and an emitting end, a channel for guiding radiation in a first band and a second band through the body, a parabolic reflector positioned within the channel, an emitting aperture, a light-bending mechanism, and an optical detector. The emitting aperture passes radiation in the first band out of the body. The parabolic reflector displays the point source such that it is visible from the emitting aperture. The point source appears aligned with where the weapon is aimed irrespective of a visual alignment with the emitting aperture. The light-bending mechanism diverts radiation in the second band from the channel to a detecting location. The optical detector is coupled to receive radiation in the second band at the detecting location.

In yet another embodiment, a method for providing targeting optical information is disclosed. Radiation is received through a receiving aperture. A point source is superimposed upon the received radiation, where the point source corresponds to where the receiving aperture is aimed irrespective of a position of a user. The received radiation is separated by wavelength into a first band and a second band, where the first band and the second band are different. The first band is passed outside the body through an emitting aperture. The second band is directed to an optical receiver. Coded information is extracted from the second band.

Further areas of applicability of the present invention will become apparent from the detailed description provided hereinafter. It should be understood that the detailed description and specific examples, while indicating various embodiments of the invention, are intended for purposes of illustration only and are not intended to necessarily limit the scope of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present disclosure is described in conjunction with the appended figures:

FIG. **1** illustrates an embodiment of a weapon sighting system adapted for use with a rifle or handgun;

FIG. **2** is a side view of an embodiment of a weapon sighting system that supports multiple functions;

FIG. **3** is a block diagram of an embodiment of a weapon sighting system;

FIGS. **4**A, **4**B and **4**C are optical flow diagrams of embodiments of a weapon sighting system; and

FIG. **5** is an optical diagram of an embodiment of weapon sighting optics.

In the appended figures, similar components and/or features may have the same reference label. Further, various components of the same type may be distinguished by following the reference label by a dash and a second label that distinguishes among the similar components. If only the first reference label is used in the specification, the description is applicable to any one of the similar components having the same first reference label irrespective of the second reference label.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The ensuing description provides preferred exemplary embodiment(s) only, and is not intended to limit the scope, applicability or configuration of the invention. Rather, the ensuing description of the preferred exemplary embodiment(s) will provide those skilled in the art with an enabling description for implementing a preferred exemplary embodiment of the invention. It being understood that various changes may be made in the function and arrangement of elements without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as set forth in the appended claims.

Specific details are given in the following description to provide a thorough understanding of the embodiments. However, it will be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art that the embodiments may be practiced without these specific details. For example, circuits may be shown in block diagrams in order not to obscure the embodiments in unnecessary detail. In other instances, well-known circuits, processes, algorithms, structures, and techniques may be shown without unnecessary detail in order to avoid obscuring the embodiments.

Also, it is noted that the embodiments may be described as a process which is depicted as a flowchart, a flow diagram, a data flow diagram, a structure diagram, or a block diagram. Although a flowchart may describe the operations as a sequential process, many of the operations can be performed in parallel or concurrently. In addition, the order of the operations may be re-arranged. A process is terminated when its operations are completed, but could have additional steps not included in the figure.

Initially referring to FIG. **1**, an embodiment of a weapon sighting system **100** adapted for use with a rifle or handgun is shown in profile. This embodiment exemplifies a compact design which is lightweight, rugged, and capable of performing multiple functions. The weapon sighting system **100** has a weapon mount that can be adjusted for calibration. Attachments allow magnification and/or night vision functionality to be added to the weapon sighting system **100**. In another embodiment, a magnification or night vision unit is attached to the eyepiece. This embodiment has integral lens caps to protect the receiving and emitting apertures.

Referring next to FIG. **2**, a diagram of an embodiment of a weapon sighting system **100** is shown. As depicted, the weapon sighting system **100** may be used with a rifle or handgun. However, other embodiments may be used with vehicle-mounted weapons, aerial weapons, or artillery pieces or other targeting systems.

The weapon sighting system **100** facilitates directing or aiming a weapon system toward a target. Additionally, this embodiment of the weapon sighting system **100** permits target identification in many different operating conditions. For example, the weapon sighting system **100** permits a target to be identified at night or during the day and can be used in combat or training situations. An operator uses the weapon sighting system **100** to aim a weapon or other device directly at a target and can optionally use magnification and/or image amplification. This embodiment uses red dot optics to allow aiming the weapon sighting system irrespective of the operator's orientation with an eyepiece.

The weapon sighting system **100** further provides target identification of a potential target as friend or foe. When directed toward an unknown object, an embodiment of the weapon sighting system **100** provides cues to the user to signify that the object has been identified as friendly. For example, in some embodiments, the weapon sighting system **100** may alert the operator when a potential target has been identified as friendly. In other embodiments, the weapon sighting system **100** may generate a variety of audible and/or visual signals to inform the user that the target has been identified as friendly or could event lock down the firing mechanism in other embodiment. Under battlefield conditions, for example, this functionality may help to reduce incidents of "fratricide" or "friendly fire" by providing a means for discriminating among potential targets.

In a gun-mounted embodiment, targets may be identified and interrogated over a range of 25 to 1,000 meters with optional three times optical magnification. Other embodiments could have different effective ranges and optical magnification. The weight of the weapon sighting system **100** is less than 550 grams in one embodiment and has dimensions of a 145 mm length by 60 mm width by 82 mm height, or less. Other weights and sizes are possible for other embodiments.

The weapon sighting system **100** receives radiation from the environment through a receiving aperture **212**. This radiation may arise naturally or from man-made sources. In both cases, the radiation is typically a spectrum of wavelengths including many different wavelengths of interest. To facilitate explanation, FIG. **2** separately identifies four bands **232-1**, **266-2**, **262-3**, **236-2** of radiation even though many others pass through the receiving aperture **212** from the environment. Each band could be a single range of wavelengths or a number of ranges.

The receiving aperture **212** passes radiation in a first wavelength band **232-1** which is generally visible to the human eye during daylight conditions. This first wavelength band **232-1** may include radiation with wavelengths in the range of about 350 nm to about 750 nm. A second band of radiation **266-2** is also passed by the receiving aperture **212** and in this embodiment includes highly collimated light such as a laser beam. In an exemplary embodiment, radiation in the second band **266-2** is a green laser beam. The receiving aperture **212** passes two additional wavelength bands **236**, **262** that are not normally visible to the unaided human eye. For example, radiation in a third band **262** may include a portion of the infrared spectrum with wavelengths in the range of about 800 nm to about 1000 nm. The range of wavelengths in the third band **262** coincides with those wavelengths used by night vision receivers. Radiation in a fourth band **236** may include wavelengths of approximately 1.55 microns that may carry encoded information in one embodiment.

The weapon sighting system **100** also includes one or more radiation emitters **250**, **254**, **258** in various embodiments. Two infrared emitters **250** are used in this embodiment to optionally augment environmental radiation in the third band **262**. The infrared emitters **250** produces radiation at predetermined wavelengths that are not generally visible to the human eye. In one embodiment, there are two infrared emitters **250-1**, **250-2** that emit radiation **262-1**, **262-2** with different degrees of collimation within the third band **262**. For example, one infrared emitter **250-1** could be highly collimated (i.e., a laser) to indicate where the weapon is aimed and the other infrared emitter **250-2** could be less collimated (i.e., a LED) to illuminate the general area visible through the weapon sighting system **100**.

The wavelengths of the two infrared emitters could be the same or different. This radiation band **262-1**, **262-2** is emitted into the environment in the direction of the target for reflection back toward the receiving aperture **212** in low- or no-light conditions. The infrared emitters **250** are controllable and can be activated, deactivated, or adjusted by the operator at the same time or separately controlled. In one embodiment, one of the infrared emitters **250** has a 50 mW output.

Another optical transmitter **254** emits radiation in the fourth band **236-1** toward a target. This radiation **236-1** includes pulses that encode information sent from the weapon sighting system **100** to a remote point of contact. For example, the optical transmitter **254** may emitting coded pulses in the fourth band that serve to identify the weapon sighting system **100** to others, communicate information or speech, etc. In this way, for example, the weapon sighting system **100** can identify others as friend or foe.

An alignment laser **258** is included to facilitate aligning the weapon sighting system **100** with the point at which the weapon fires. The alignment laser **258** emits a highly collimated beam of visible light **266-1** that is reflected back to the receiving aperture **212**. The reflected radiation **266-2** indicates the current aim point of the weapon sighting system **100**. In this embodiment, an adjustment screw of the mount is provided for adjusting the aim point of the weapon sighting system **100** relative to its mount point on the weapon. By firing the weapon and noting the point of impact in relation to the reflected radiation **266-2**, the weapon sighting system **100** can be adjusted so that the reflected radiation **266-2** coincides with the point at which the weapon fires. The alignment laser **258** also permits the utilization of more sophisticated alignment techniques such as laser projectors which fit within the barrel of the weapon. Adjustment of the alignment laser **258** with respect to the laser projector allows calibrating the sighting system **100** to the weapon.

A point source is included with the weapon sighting system **100** to indicate the current aim point of the weapon under normal operating conditions. Some embodiments use a red dot sight that superimposes a point source or mark upon the scene radiation after it passes through the receiving aperture **212** but before it exits the emitting aperture, eyepiece or ocular **242**. The radiation **230** of the point source **308** appears at an infinite distance within the field of view presented by the visible radiation **232-2** and is aligned with the aim point of the weapon sighting system **100**. Because of the position of the point source radiation **230** coincides with the aim point of the weapon, a user can easily identify targets by viewing the point source radiation **230** from many different positions relative to the emitting aperture **242**. In other words, the parabolic reflector **412** causes the point source radiation **230** to appear in the same location of the target view irrespective of head movement by the operator. Typically, the point source radiation **230** is a red dot, but could be other colors and could be shaped in various embodiments. The red dot point source emits to the parabolic wavelength selective surface of the first lens which sends a collimated red beam out of the ocular. To the observer, a red dot is visible over a wide aperture and the red dot overlays parallel with the weapon onto the scene visible through the ocular.

In addition, the intensity of the point source can be adjusted with a switch **240** attached to the body **204** to match environmental conditions. For example, the point source radiation **230** intensity could be reduced when operating the sighting system **100** with night vision equipment.

The body **204** includes an emitting aperture **242**. The emitting aperture **242** allows radiation in various bands **232-2**, **266-3**, **262-4**, **230** to largely pass out of the body **204**. When used in daylight conditions, for example, a user might look into the emitting aperture **242** to see the visible radiation in the first band **232-2** with the superimposed point source radiation **230**. In this way, potential targets can be identified and interrogated. Similarly, the user might choose to activate the alignment laser **258** and perform the calibration procedure using the reflected radiation **266-3** (i.e., the green laser in this embodiment) from the emitting aperture **242** and make necessary adjustments. Finally, a user might choose a night vision mode of operation for the sighting system **100**. In this case, the weapon sighting system would direct radiation in the infrared spectrum **262-4** through the emitting aperture **242**. A night vision receiver (not shown) could be mounted to the body **204** or the operator's face and used to direct the weapon towards a target in low-light conditions.

A mounting mechanism **220** is included to facilitate attachment of the weapon sighting system **100** to a weapon. The mounting mechanism **220** joins the body **204** securely to the weapon in an orientation so that the receiving aperture **212** faces the direction of potential targets. The mounting mechanism **220** may consist of screws, clamps, hinges, and other fasteners capable of holding the enclosure firmly in place while allowing it be removed from the weapon and reattached as needed. In one embodiment, the mounting mechanism **220** mounts to a Picatinny or Weaver gun rail. As mentioned above, the mounting mechanism **220** could be adjustable when calibrating the aim of the sighting system **100** to the weapon trajectory. A power supply or battery pack **216** is attached or integral to the body **204**. The battery pack **216** is coupled to each of the electrical components included in the weapon sighting system. The battery pack **216** includes one or more batteries that are replaceable by the user in the field or by a repair technician. In one embodiment, the batteries are capable of providing power sufficient for more than 3,000 uses.

The body **204** may be made of metal or a rigid polymer material. In this embodiment, the body defines an interior through which radiation **232**, **266**, **236**, **262** passes and is transformed into targeting information. The interior may be divided into one or more regions and may be accessible to the user or a repair technician. Together with each of the components in the weapon sighting system **100**, the body **204** may form a closed container that limits access to the interior. In other embodiments, the body **204** may not form a completely closed container such that some components are exposed.

A mode selection switch **238** allows selection, activation and deactivation of several modes of operation for the sighting system **100**. For example, an operator may choose the calibration mode that activates the alignment laser **258** while deactivating the other emitters **250**, **254**. Other modes include night vision illumination mode with or without the point source, daylight operation with and without the point source, target identification mode, war game mode, etc. In this embodiment, the selection switch is a rotating radio dial, but could have other configurations in other embodiments.

With reference to FIG. **3**, a block diagram of an embodiment of the weapon sighting system **300** is shown. Radiation **304**, visible or not visible, is coupled to the weapon sighting system **300** and utilized for aiming, calibration, target identification and interrogation. The radiation **304** may be ambient or augmented with various illuminators **250**, **254**, **258**. For example, the radiation **304** may include wavelengths of approximately 1.55 microns in a fourth band **236** that carry pulse coded information.

A point source **308** is included to provide the red dot sight feature. In some embodiments, the point source **308** is fully contained within the body **204**, while in others it may be accessible from outside the body **204**. In still other embodiments, the point source **308** may detach from the body **204** to facilitate repair or replacement. A laser diode or LED could be used to generate the light for the point source **308**. The intensity adjustment switch **240** allows the operator to adjust the brightness of the point source **308**. In one embodiment, the point source **308** automatically reduces its intensity when the ambient light is detected to be low or when the night-vision is active. In this embodiment, the point source **308** emits radiation at a red visible wavelength, but other embodiments could use other wavelengths.

The point source **308** superimposes a dot, mark, crosshair, scale or other indicator to provide a virtual image at an infinite distance in substantial linear alignment with the weapon. In one embodiment, the mark is red, but other embodiments could use other visible colors. This mark facilitates targeting by a human or machine operator when aiming an associated weapon.

An optical receiver **316** is coupled to the radiation **304** that enters the body **204** in the fourth band **236-2**. Radiation with a wavelength of approximately 1.55 microns is directed to the optical receiver **316** by elements of the weapon sighting system while other radiation **304** is allowed to pass largely unaltered. The optical receiver **316** extracts coded information from the radiation **236-2** and forwards it to the processor **320** for use within the weapon sighting system **300**. In this embodiment the radiation in the fourth band **236-2** is encoded to represent a response to a request for identification, and/or the radiation in the fourth band **236-2** may represent data or voice communications. In this embodiment, the optical receiver **316** receives information pulse coded in the fourth band **236-2**, but other embodiments could use other encoding techniques.

The processor **320** is coupled to receive signals from the optical receiver **316** and act upon them according to the position of the mode selection switch **238**. When the weapon sighting system **300** is directed toward a potential target, the processor **320** might interrogate the target by directing the optical transmitter **254** to emit pulse coded radiation with a predetermined identification pattern. Additionally, the processor **320** receives a response to a previous request for identification and determines whether the potential target is a friend or foe, for example. This determination would then be communicated to a friend/foe indicator **324**. The friend/foe indicator **324** might alert the user by flashing lights, dimming or preventing transmission of the optical transmission in the first band **232**, changing the intensity or contrast of a night vision receiver, generating an audible signal, and/or locking down the weapon firing system.

In one embodiment, the weapon sighting system **300** uses 1.55 micron radiation for the fourth band **236** to exchange data or voice communications and target acquisition. By changing the position of the mode selection switch **238**, the processor **320** directs the optical transmitter **254** to generate coded pulses of 1.55 micron radiation that carries the desired information to remote points of contact.

Referring to FIG. **4**A, a flow diagram of an embodiment of optical blocks **400-1** in the weapon sighting system **400-1** is shown. This figure shows how the various wavelengths of radiation interact with components of the weapon sighting system **400-1**. The ambient and man-made radiation **304** includes at least four bands in this embodiment. Generally, the first band **232** includes visible light, the second band **266** includes a highly collimated beam of visible light such as a green laser beam, the third band **262** includes IR radiation from two emitters **250**, and the fourth band **236** includes pulse coded radiation with wavelengths of approximately 1.55 microns.

The receiving aperture **212** accepts at least the radiation **304** in the four bands **232**, **266**, **236**, **262** but may accept many more wavelengths. The radiation **304** from the receiving aperture **212** is coupled to a first lens **412** and a second lens **416** that split out and/or combine various radiation bands. The two lenses **412**, **416** pass the first band of visible light **232** largely unmodified to the emitting aperture **242**. Radiation in the second band **266** which may consist of a green (or other color) alignment laser also passes through the first and second lenses **412**, **416** largely unmodified.

The first lens **412** has a wavelength-selective parabolic mirror that reflects the point source radiation **230** in a way that produces the red dot illusion for the user viewing through the eyepiece **242**. The first lens **412** is a double lens encapsulating a wavelength-selective mirror that is shaped to receive the point source radiation **230** from outside the optical path and display it properly. The first lens **412** passes at least the first, second, third, and fourth bands **236**, **266**, **232**, **262**. Specifically, at least some visible light, green light, night vision infrared, and 1.55 micron infrared radiation is passed by the first lens **412**, while radiation from the point source radiation **230** is reflected. The wave-length selective mirror reflects the wavelength of the point source **308** while passing the first through fourth bands **236**, **266**, **232**, **262**.

The second double lens **416** also encapsulates a wavelength-selective mirror and is contoured. The mirror of the second lens **416** passes at least the first band **232**, the second band **266**, the third band **262**, the point source radiation **230** out the emitting aperture **242**, and other wavelengths. But, the second lens **416** reflects the fourth band **236** to the optical receiver **316**. Specifically, the second lens **416** reflects from 1.52 through 1.56 microns in this embodiment. Commercially-available coatings are available to provide the wavelength-selective reflection while passing other wavelengths.

With reference to FIG. **4**B, another embodiment of the weapon sighting system **400-2** is shown that includes an image magnification element **408**. The image magnifier **408** enlarges the image to increase its size. The enlargement could be fixed at three times in one embodiment or some other magnification in other embodiments. In some embodiments, the amount of zoom could be adjustable. The image magnifier **408** and/or other optics could incorporate anti-shake correction to stabilize the image in some embodiments. Various embodiments could put the magnification element **408** anywhere in the optical path. In this embodiment, the magnification element **408** can be attached to the eyepiece **242**.

Referring next to FIG. **4**C, yet another embodiment of the weapon sighting system **400-3** is shown with a second optical receiver **316-2** coupled to a third lens **424**. In this arrangement, a fifth band of radiation **428** enters the receiving aperture **212** and is passed along by the first lens **412** and the second lens **416**. The third lens **424** is contoured and has a wavelength-selective mirror that reflects radiation in the fifth band **428**. Radiation in the fifth band **428** is reflected by the third lens to the second optical receiver **316-2** while radiation in the other bands is passed along to the emitting aperture **242**. The third lens **424** may or may not collimate the radiation as it is reflected depending upon the particular application. For example, radiation in the fifth band **428** might be uncollimated and used as an input to a night vision receiver or collimated and used in connection as for data transport in training exercises. The wavelength of the fifth band **428** includes 0.905 micron radiation in one embodiment.

With reference to FIG. **5**, an optical diagram of an embodiment of weapon sighting optics **500** is shown. This diagram shows the first lens **412**, the second lens **416**, the emitting aperture **242**, the point source **308**, the optical receiver **316**, among other things. The view through the weapon sighting optics **500** can be adjusted with an adjustment screw (not shown) that moves the entire weapon sighting optics **500** along with some or all emitters **250**, **254**, **258**.

The first lens **412** has a first reflective coating **520** that reflects the point source radiation **230**. The reflective coating **520** could extend the whole length of the first lens **412** or just a portion of the length. The second reflective coating **524** in the second lens **416** reflects 1.55 micron radiation **236** into the optical receiver **316**. The coatings **520**, **524** are inside the lenses **412**, **416** in this embodiment. In one embodiment, the focal length of the first lens **412** is 60 mm, and the focal length of the second lens **416** is 40 mm. The aperture of both the first and second lenses **412**, **416** in this embodiment is 29 mm. Other embodiments could have different focal lengths and sizes.

In this embodiment, the weapon sighting optics **500** are aligned with the weapon by moving the body **204** of the weapon sight relative to the weapon. For example, the elevation of the weapon sighting system **100** might be changed relative to the weapon by adjustments accomplished at the mounting rails with an adjustment screw(s) and/or a biasing spring(s). Other embodiments might only move lenses, the optical chamber or another subset of the weapon sighting system to adjust alignment.

While the principles of the disclosure have been described above in connection with specific apparatuses and methods, it is to be clearly understood that this description is made only by way of example and not as limitation on the scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for providing optical information, comprising:
- receiving radiation through a receiving aperture;
- superimposing a point source upon the received radiation, wherein the point source corresponds to where the receiving aperture is aimed irrespective of a position of a user;
- separating the received radiation by wavelength into a first band and a second band wherein the first band and the second band are different;
- passing the first band through an emitting aperture;
- directing the second band to an optical receiver; and
- extracting coded information from the second band.

2. The method of providing optical information as recited in claim **1**, wherein the step of receiving radiation is performed with a single objective lens.

3. The method of providing optical information as recited in claim **1**, further comprising a step of transmitting encoded information in the second band away from the receiving aperture.

4. The method of providing optical information as recited in claim **1**, further comprising a step of emitting radiation in a third band used by night vision systems.

5. The method of providing optical information as recited in claim **1**, further comprising a step of magnifying the received radiation.

6. The method of providing optical information as recited in claim **1**, wherein:
- the step of separating the received radiation is performed by a plurality of lenses;
- one of the plurality of lenses comprises a wavelength selective coating corresponding to one of the first and second bands.

7. The method of providing optical information as recited in claim **1**, further comprising the steps of:
- separating the received radiation into a first band, a second band, and a third band; and
- directing radiation in the third band to a second optical receiver.

8. The method of providing optical information as recited in claim **1**, wherein the intensity of the point source can be varied.

9. A machine adapted to perform the machine-implementable method for providing optical information of claim **1**.

10. A method of acquiring target information, comprising:
- receiving radiation through a receiving aperture;
- superimposing a point source upon the received radiation, wherein the point source corresponds to where the receiving aperture is aimed irrespective of a position of a user;
- directing first wavelengths of the received radiation through an emitting aperture;
- directing second wavelengths of the received radiation to an optical receiver;
- extracting coded information from the second wavelengths; and
- determining a status of a target object based upon the coded information.

11. The method of acquiring target information of claim **10**, further comprising providing a visual cue indicative of the status of the target object.

12. The method of acquiring target information of claim **11**, wherein the visual cue indicates that the target object is a friend or a foe.

13. The method of acquiring target information of claim **10**, further comprising transmitting coded information in the second band away from the receiving aperture.

14. The method of acquiring target information of claim **13**, wherein the second band includes wavelengths of approximately 1.55 microns.

15. The method of acquiring target information of claim **13**, wherein the coded information transmitted represents a request for identification of the target object.

16. The method of acquiring target information of claim **13**, wherein the coded information transmitted comprises voice or data communications.

17. The method of acquiring target information of claim **10**, further comprising separating the received radiation into the first wavelengths and the second wavelengths.

18. The method of acquiring target information of claim **17**, wherein separating the received radiation is performed by a plurality of lenses, and at least one of the plurality of lenses comprises a wavelength selective coating corresponding to one of the first and second bands.

19. The method of acquiring target information of claim **10**, further comprising emitting radiation in a third band used by night vision systems.

20. The method of acquiring target information of claim **10**, further comprising emitting an alignment laser, and wherein the position of the point source is established using the alignment laser.

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