



USMC Small Arms Modernization Brief

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Summary

- **CMC emphasis on the infantry**
- **Informed by operational lessons, technological maturity, industrial capabilities**
- **Guided by concepts and initiatives such as the Marine Corps Operating Concept, CMC guidance and Marine Expeditionary Rifle Squad**
- **Aligned with the Joint strategy for weapons modernization to improve accuracy, lethality and mobility**
- **Prioritizes selective modernization and sustainment of critical legacy capabilities in the short term (now – FY22)**
- **Mid-term goals will capitalize on technological advances to deliver modern replacements for critical weapon systems (FY23-32)**



Weapons Strategy

- **Maintain current capabilities**
 - Implement improvements (accuracy, lethality, ergonomics and weight reduction) when technology and funding allow to keep small arms relevant
- **Improvements will be implemented on a much smaller scale, primarily to the infantry**
 - Expand to other combat arms when relevant and feasible
- **Future capabilities will be pursued via Joint efforts whenever possible**
- **End-State: Improved lethality while maintaining/improving the mobility of the individual Marine, the Marine Rifle Squad, and the MAGTF**





M27

• Increased M27 Distribution

- Procuring additional M27s to support an increased distribution for the entire rifle platoon, which includes the Platoon Commander, Platoon Sergeant and remaining members of the rifle squad not already equipped.
- Provides the greatest lethality, reliability and durability of weapon systems available to the platoon.
- Procurements begin in FY18 and will be complete in FY20.
- M4s from infantry battalions will be redistributed to replace remaining M16A4 in the GCE





Squad Small Arms Capabilities

- **Suppressors**

- In the near-term, assessing suppressor technologies that reduce negative impacts to the rifle and shooter for M27s and M4 rifles for each member of the squad and other designated units with a close combat mission.
- Follow on efforts to address medium machine gun suppressor requirements.

- **M38 Squad Designated Marksman Rifle**

- M27 with a 2.5-8x variable power optic and suppressor
- Currently fielding one per rifle squad as an organizational weapon for increased target identification and engagement to mitigate capability gaps.

- **Squad Rangefinder**

- Fielding a weapon mounted rangefinder to increase first-shot probability of hit for organic weapon systems within the rifle squad

- **M320A1 Grenade Launcher Module**

- Procuring to replace the legacy M203 grenade launcher and seeking increased lethality and range through munition improvements.



Small Arms Capabilities

- **Mk13 Mod 7 Long Range Sniper Rifle**
 - Procuring and fielding a limited quantity of Mk13s with a day scope and night vision capability
 - Provides an interim increased range engagement capability for snipers until Advanced Sniper Rifle is fully fielded in the early-20's.
- **.338 Light Weight Medium Machine Gun**
 - The Marine Corps is partnered with USSOCOM for requirements development and pursuit of a materiel solution to replace the M240B in the dismounted role and as a partial replacement for the .50 cal machinegun in the mounted role for some platforms (ground and air)
- **Next Generation Squad Weapons**
 - In keeping with Mid-Term goals, the Marine Corps is partnered with the Army for requirements and technology development to pursue three capabilities: automatic rifle; individual carbine; and designated marksman.



QUESTIONS?