



---

# **USMC Small Arms Modernization Brief**

**Mr. Chris Woodburn  
Deputy, Maneuver Branch  
Marine Corps Capabilities Development  
Directorate**



# Summary

---

- **CMC and DoD emphasis on the infantry**
- **Informed by operational lessons, technological maturity, industrial capabilities**
- **Guided by concepts and initiatives such as the CMC Planning Guidance, Close Combat Lethality Task Force, and Marine Expeditionary Rifle Squad**
- **Pending Force Design decisions in support of prioritized modernization for close combat personnel**
- **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 – FY26)**
- **Mid-term goals will capitalize on technological advances to deliver modern replacements for critical weapon systems (FY26-32)**



# 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**





# Rifle Squad Lethality Improvements

## Near Term

- **M27**

- Procured and fielded 1 per Marine in rifle platoon



- **Squad Common Optic**

- Trijicon VCOG, 1-8x, First Focal Plane, Mil-reticle
- 1 per Marine in Rifle platoon



- **Rifle Squad Suppressor**

- 1 per close combat Marine
- Meets near term operational need while ongoing technology advancements are assessed



## Mid Term

- **Next Generation Squad Weapon w/ Squad-Fire Control**

- The Marine Corps is working with the Army on requirements and materiel solution development in pursuit of the next generation of squad weapons.



# Small Arms Capabilities

- **M27 – M4 (GCE Modernization Plan)**
  - The Marine Corps is currently modernizing the Ground Combat Element (GCE) in order to increase the lethality of the individual warfighter. Within the infantry platoons all M4s have been replaced with M27s and all M16A4s are being replaced by M4s within the GCE.
- **Advanced Sniper Rifle (ASR)**
  - 1:1 replacement of M40A6 and Mk13 Mod 7
  - The Marine Corps has an operational need for an improved capability to suppress and engage adversaries out to 1500 meters.
- **Machine Gun Modernization**
  - Seeking to increase lethality without impacting mobility of our machine gun sections within the rifle companies.
  - Participating in US Army Platoon Arms Ammunition Configuration (PAAC) Study to inform future machine gun capability requirements and solutions.



# Targeting Enablers



- **Squad Binocular Night Vision Goggle (SBNVG)**
  - White phosphorous, dual tube, image intensified binocular goggle with overlay thermal fusion provided through an Enhanced Clip-On Thermal Imager (ECOTI).
  - 12 of 21 infantry battalions fielded thus far.
  - The Marine Corps continues to assess the US Army's ENVG-B and IVAS solutions for maturity, suitability and affordability to meet our operational requirements.



- **Squad Range Finder**
  - Weapon-mounted device provides small unit leaders with an accurate range-to-target to enable an increased first round probability of hit.
  - Fielding to one per squad.
- **Squad Thermal System**
  - Lightweight thermal imager enables man-sized target detection out to the maximum effective range of squad weapon systems and can be employed in either a handheld or in-line clip-on weapon sight mode.
  - Fielding to squad and fire team leaders.



# Optics



- **Squad Range Finder**

- Weapon-mounted device provides small unit leaders with an accurate range-to-target to enable an increased first round probability of hit.
- Fielding to one per squad.

- **Squad Thermal System**

- Lightweight thermal imager enables man-sized target detection out to the maximum effective range of squad weapon systems and can be employed in either a handheld or in-line clip-on weapon sight mode.
- Fielding to squad and fire team leaders.



# QUESTIONS?