

Lightweight 155mm Howitzer (LW155)

INVESTMENT COMPONENT

Modernization

Recapitalization

Maintenance



MISSION

Provides direct, reinforcing, and general artillery fire support to maneuver forces.

DESCRIPTION

The Lightweight 155mm Howitzer (M777A2) will replace all M198 155mm howitzers in operation with the Army and Marine Corps. The extensive use of titanium in all its major structures makes it 7,000 pounds lighter than its predecessor, the M198, with no sacrifice in range, stability, accuracy, or durability, and it can be dropped by parachute. The M777A2's independent suspension, smaller footprint, and lower profile increase strategic deployability and tactical mobility. The system uses numerous improvements to enhance reliability and accuracy, and significantly increase system survivability.

The M777A2 is jointly managed; the Marine Corps led the development of the howitzer and the Army led the development of Towed Artillery Digitization, the digital fire control system for the M777A2.

Software upgrades incorporating the Enhanced Portable Inductive Artillery Fuze Setter and the Excalibur Platform Integration Kit hardware give the M777A2 the capability to program and fire the Excalibur precision-guided munition.

Specifications for the M777A2 Excalibur-compatible howitzer are:

Weight: 10,000 pounds

Emplace: Less than three minutes

Displace: Two to three minutes

Maximum range: 30 kilometer (rocket assisted round)

Rate-of-fire: Four rounds per minute maximum; two rounds per minute sustained

Ground mobility: Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles (FMTV), Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement, five-ton trucks

Air mobility: Two per C-130; six per C-17; 12 per C-5; CH-53D/E; CH-47D; MV-22

155mm compatibility: All fielded and developmental NATO munitions

Digital and optical fire control: Self-locating and pointing; digital and voice communications; self-contained power supply

SYSTEM INTERDEPENDENCIES

In this Publication

Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System (AFATDS); Artillery Ammunition; Excalibur (XM982); Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles (FMTV); Precision Guidance Kit (PGK); Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System (SINGARS)

Other Major Interdependencies

Army Software Blocking, Defense Advanced Global Positioning System Receiver

PROGRAM STATUS

- **4QFY10:** Full-rate production with a total of 640 systems delivered to the Army and Marine Corps (265/375 respectively)

PROJECTED ACTIVITIES

- **FY11:** Continue full-rate production and fielding to Army, Marine Corps, and National Guard units
- **FY11:** Continue Army Force Generation Reset and start depot pilot overhaul

ACQUISITION PHASE

Technology Development

Engineering & Manufacturing Development

Production & Deployment

Operations & Support

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FOREIGN MILITARY SALES

Australia and Canada

CONTRACTORS

Prime:

BAE Systems (Hattiesburg, MS; Barrow-in-Furness, United Kingdom)

Cannon Assembly (GFE):

Watervliet Arsenal (Watervliet, NY)

Titanium Castings:

Precision CastParts Corp. (Portland, OR)

Body:

Triumph Structures (Chatsworth, CA)

Castings:

Howmet Castings (Whitehall, MI)

