

Lightweight 155mm Howitzer System (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 kilometers (rocket assisted round)
- Rate-of-fire:** Four rounds per minute maximum; two rounds per minute sustained
- Ground mobility:** Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles, Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement, five-ton trucks
- Air mobility:** CH-53D/E; CH-47D; MV-22; two per C-130; six per C-17; 12 per C-5
- 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
None

Other Major Interdependencies
Army Software Blocking, Defense Advanced Global Positioning System Receiver

PROGRAM STATUS

- **4QFY12-4QFY12:** Continued Full-rate production

PROJECTED ACTIVITIES

- **2QFY13-4QFY13:** Continue Full-rate production. Continue Army and Marine Corps New Equipment Training and Fieldings. Support FMS partners (Canada and Australia)
- **3QFY13:** Performance Based Life Cycle Support Contract Award (Army and USMC)

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)

Optical Fire Control (GFE):

Seiler Instruments (St. Louis, MO)

Digital Fire Control:

General Dynamics Canada (Ottawa, Canada)

