

Small Arms—Individual Weapons

INVESTMENT COMPONENT

Modernization

Recapitalization

Maintenance

MISSION

Enables warfighters and small units to engage targets with lethal fire to defeat or deter adversaries.

DESCRIPTION

The M4 Carbine is designed for lightness, speed, mobility and firepower and is standard issue for Brigade Combat Teams in theater. The M4 series of carbines can also be mounted with the M203A2 Grenade Launcher, M320 Grenade Launcher, or M26 Modular Accessory Shotgun System (MASS). The weapon has incorporated 62 refinements since its inception. In post-combat surveys, 94 percent of Soldiers rate the M4 as an effective weapons system.

In September 2010, Headquarters Department of the Army G3/5/7 authorized the M4A1 as the standard carbine for the U.S. Army. Compared to

the M4, the M4A1 has a heavier barrel and is fully automatic, improvements that deliver greater sustained rates of fire. The Army is upgrading both M4 configurations with an ambidextrous fire control assembly.

The M14 Enhanced Battle Rifle (EBR) has a new adjustable buttstock, cheek rest, and M4-style pistol grip. Five thousand M14 EBRs were assembled at TACOM Lifecycle Management Command at Rock Island Arsenal in response to Operational Need Statements requesting a longer range capability. The upgraded weapons are currently in service with select Army units.

The M320 Grenade Launcher is the replacement to all M203 series grenade launchers on M16 Rifles and M4 Carbines. A modular system, it attaches under the barrel of the rifle or carbine and can convert to a stand-alone weapon. The M320 features an integral day/night sighting system and improved safety features. It also has a side-loading unrestricted breech that allows the system to fire longer 40mm low-velocity projectiles (NATO standard and non-standard).

The M26 12-Gauge MASS attaches to the M4 Carbine and enables soldiers to transition between lethal and less-than-lethal fires and adds the capability of a separate shotgun without carrying a second weapon. It is also designed to operate as a stand-alone system, and comes with a recoil-absorbing, collapsible buttstock. The Picatinny rail mounted on top allows accessory equipment to be mounted on the shotgun. Additional features include a box magazine, flip-up sights, ambidextrous configurations, and an extendable stand-off device for door breaching.

SYSTEM INTERDEPENDENCIES

Common Remotely Operated Weapon Station (CROWS)

PROGRAM STATUS

- M4 Carbine:**
 - Delivery and fielding complete
- M4A1:**
 - Deliveries ongoing
- M14 EBR:**
 - **3QFY09:** Army Requirements and Resourcing Board approved 5,000 systems
 - **1QFY10:** 1,200 additional systems authorized

- **3QFY10:** First 5,000 complete
- M320 Grenade Launcher Module:**
 - Production and fielding
- M26 Modular Accessory Shotgun System:**
 - **4QFY09:** Limited user test and evaluation with Military Police units
 - **2QFY10:** Low-rate initial production approved
 - **4QFY10:** First article testing complete

PROJECTED ACTIVITIES

- M4 Carbine:**
 - In sustainment
- M4A1:**
 - New M4A1 competitive award pending for 24,000 carbines
 - Continue M4A1 production, deliveries, and fielding
- M14 EBR:**
 - In sustainment
- M320 Grenade Launcher Module:**
 - Competitive solicitation planned to select improved day/night sighting system
 - Competitive solicitation planned to provide additional M320 Grenade Launchers
- M26 Modular Accessory Shotgun System:**
 - Continue fielding

ACQUISITION PHASE





Small Arms—Individual Weapons

FOREIGN MILITARY SALES

M4 Carbine:

Afghanistan, Philippines, Colombia, Jamaica, Thailand

M4A1:

Bahrain, Thailand, Pakistan, Azerbaijan, Djibouti

CONTRACTORS

M4 Carbine:

Colt Defense, LLC. (West Hartford, CT)

M320 Grenade Launcher Module:

Heckler and Koch Defense Inc. (Ashburn, VA)

M26 Modular Accessory Shotgun

System:

Vertu Corp. (Warrenton, VA)

