

## ➤ Modular Weapon System (MWS)

### DESCRIPTION

The Modular Weapon System (MWS) consists of the M16A4 service rifle – a newer version of the M16A2 now in service – modified with a military standard 1913 rail adapter system. The rail adapter system and modified hand guards allow for the mounting of various accessories such as a modified M203 grenade launching system, high-intensity flashlights, night-vision devices, scopes, and infra-red laser target designators. The Marine Corps will also purchase a limited quantity of M4 carbines for personnel who require a lighter, more compact weapon.

### OPERATIONAL IMPACT

Use of the MWS will result in a significant improvement in the ability to mount various accessories and will improve the accuracy, target detection, day and night engagement capability, and maintainability of the M16 family of rifles.

### PROGRAM STATUS

The M16A4 is in production and the Marine Corps will take delivery of its first weapons in FY 2003. The M4 is undergoing final reliability and endurance tests and will be fielded in selected units in the first quarter of FY 2004. The acquisition objective for the M4 is under development.

#### PROCUREMENT PROFILE:    **FY03**    **FY04**

Quantity:

Weapon: M16A4	27,377	15,600
M4	0	TBD

#### DEVELOPER/MANUFACTURER

**M4:** Colt's Manufacturing Company, Inc., Hartford, CT

**M16A4:** FN, Herstal, Columbia, SC