

# M16A3 / M16A4 - 5.56 Rifle

U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Brian Lewis



## DESCRIPTION

The M16A3/M16A4 5.56mm rifle is a lightweight, air-cooled, gas-operated, magazine-fed, shoulder or hip-fired weapon designed for either automatic fire or semiautomatic fire (single shot) through the use of a selector lever. The weapon has a fully adjustable rear sight. The bottom of the trigger guard opens to provide access to the trigger while wearing winter mittens. The upper receiver/barrel assembly has a fully adjustable rear sight and a compensator which helps keep the muzzle down during firing. The steel bolt group and barrel extension are designed with locking lugs which lock the bolt group to the barrel extension allowing the rifle to have a lightweight aluminum receiver.



## PERFORMANCE

The M16A3/M16A4 rifle is the standard by which all military rifles of the future will be judged. This variant of the M16 fires either automatic fire or semiautomatic fire (single shot) through the use of a selector lever.

The system incorporates an adjustable rear sight which corrects for both wind and elevation, a heavier barrel with 1-in-9" rifling, and a muzzle compensator to prevent muzzle climb during full automatic operation. The M16A3/M16A4 is capable of firing all NATO standard 5.56mm ammunition.

## CHARACTERISTICS

|                                 |                     |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Caliber                         | 5.56 mm (0.223 in.) |
| Weight w/ 30 Round Magazine     | 3.99 kg (8.79 lbs)  |
| Length                          | 100.7cm (39.6 in.)  |
| Muzzle Velocity                 | 853 m/s (2800 f/s)  |
| Maximum Effective Range (Area)  | 800 m (875 yds.)    |
| Maximum Effective Range (Point) | 550 m (602 yds.)    |
| Rate of Fire - Cyclic           | 800 rpm             |
| Sustained                       | 12-15 rpm           |
| Burst                           | 90 rpm              |
| Semiautomatic                   | 45 rpm              |
| Magazine Capacity               | 30 Rounds           |