

International Efforts to Restrict or Prohibit Military Small Arms: Annual Report

W. Hays Parks

**Office of The Judge Advocate
General of the Army**



Department of Defense Weapon Review Requirement

- In effect since 1974 for weapons, weapons systems and ammunition.
- Contained in DOD Instruction 5000.1.
- Legal review by the Judge Advocate General of proponent department to ensure compliance with U.S. law of war and arms control obligations.
- USSOCOM (MFP-11): Army JAG conducts review, coordinates with other service(s) if appropriate.
- Service distinction re training ammunition: Navy requires legal review, Army does not.



Rationale for Weapons Review Requirement

- Based upon Viet Nam War experience, where allegations of “illegality” of U.S. weapons (*e.g.*, M-16, napalm, flechettes, CBU) were made to limit effective employment.
- 1978-1980 UN Conventional Weapons Conference and Convention (UNCCW) found allegations unsupported by medical evidence, military practice.
- Historical experience: innovation breeds controversy, allegations of “illegality” that delay, inhibit or stop development, acquisition, employment.
- DOD Instruction 5000.1 successful, pro-active response.



Rationale for Weapons Review Requirement (*cont.*)

- **Persistent threat by non-government organizations (NGOs) and some governments to ban or eliminate conventional weapons through claims of illegality, *e.g.*,**
 - 1974-1980 Swedish effort to prohibit 5.56mm (unsuccessful).
 - 1990-1996 Swiss/ICRC effort to prohibit certain small arms ammunition (unsuccessful).
 - 1999 ICRC challenge to Mk. 211 Raufoss Multipurpose Round (unsuccessful)
 - 1996-2001 ICRC SIrUS Project (unsuccessful).
 - 2001 Swiss small arms proposal in 2nd UN Conventional Weapons Convention Review Conference.

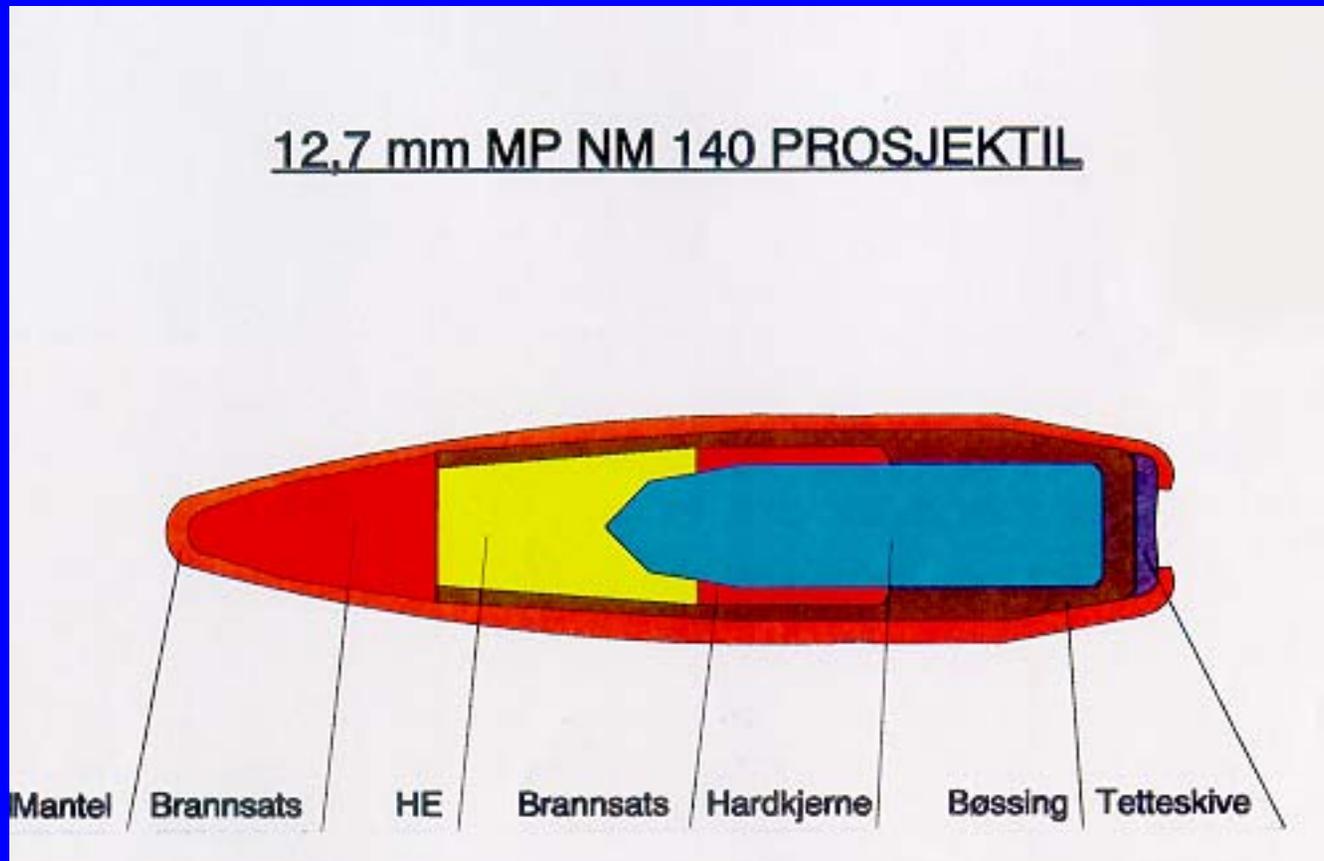


ICRC Weapons Efforts

- **ICRC major, successful efforts in early 1990s to ban:**
 - **anti-personnel mines (\$35 million)**
 - **‘blinding laser weapons’ (\$5 million)**
- **Subsequent efforts**
 - **Raufoss .50 cal. Multipurpose Projectile (a/k/a “Exploding Bullets”)**
 - **SIrUS**
 - **UXO/CBU**



The .50 cal. Raufoss Multipurpose Round



Ballistic Glycerin Soap Penetration Test Raufoss 12.7mm Multipurpose Ammunition



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Raufoss Multipurpose .50 cal. Round: conclusions

- **ICRC allegations based upon ignorance of weapons, flawed testing and incorrect legal interpretation.**
- **14 January 2000: new U.S. legal review reconfirmed legality of Raufoss .50 cal. Multipurpose round for anti-materiel and anti-personnel purposes.**
- **ICRC emotionally-laden, inaccurate challenge to lawful weapon defeated in part by prior U.S. legal review.**
- **Reconfirmed value of U.S. weapons review program.**



ICRC SIrUS Project

- **ICRC has no weapons mandate.**
- **SIrUS: acronym for law of war prohibition of weapons that cause superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering.**
- **ICRC attempt to wrest responsibility for determination of legality from governments.**
- **United States, other governments opposed.**
- **ICRC cancelled project following second meeting of experts, 29-31 January 2001.**



Swiss Small Calibers Initiative

- **Long history**
 - **Swedish effort, 1974-1980, to condemn M-16**
 - **1980 NATO adoption of 5.56x45mm**
 - **Soviet AK-74 (5.45mm) adoption**
 - **Swiss effort at first UNCCW Review Conference, 1994-1996**
 - **Driven by economics**
 - **Masked by ‘humanitarianism’**



Swiss Small Calibers Initiative: The Rest of the Story

- **Swiss Wound Ballistics Workshops 1997, 1999, 2001.**
- **Alleged purpose: to update 1899 Hague Declaration concerning Expanding Bullets.**
- **Real purpose: keep open Swiss Ministry of Defense Low Noise Testing Facility, Thun.**
- **Swiss proposal at 2nd Review Conference for 1980 UN Conventional Weapons Convention (Geneva, 2001).**
 - **Ties future legality of small arms projectiles to distance of travel in soft tissue before projectile yaws.**
 - **Creates “international testing facility” at Thun.**
 - **U.S., others oppose as medically, legally, historically flawed.**



Reduced Ricochet, Limited Penetration Ammunition

- **Concern:** Over penetration/ricochet hazards aboard aircraft, ships and (*e.g.*) nuclear power plants that might release hazardous materials.
- **Objective:** Provide small caliber ammunition with reduced ricochet, limited penetration (RRLP) for use by SOF to reduce risk to friendly forces and innocent persons.
- **Issues:**
 - 1899 Hague Declaration Concerning Expanding Bullets.
 - 1907 Hague IV (Article 23e, Annex) prohibition on unnecessary suffering.





SOPMOD M4 Accessory Kit



Carrying Handle/Sight

ACOG Reflex
0-300m Range

ACOG 4X Scope
0-600m Range

Visible Laser
0-300m Range

AN/PEQ-2
IR Pointer/Illuminator
0-600m Range

Backup Iron Sight
0-300m Range

Rail Interface System (RIS)

QD Sound Suppressor
30 dB Reduction

M4A1 Carbine
(5.56 mm NATO)

Forward HandGrip

Visible Light
9 Volt



Special Operations Peculiar Modification to the M4 Carbine (SOPMOD M4) Accessory Kit

Program Objective: To provide Special Operations Forces the ability to adapt the M4A1 Carbine to increase its operational effectiveness through improved target recognition, acquisition, and hit quality during day and night from Close Quarters to 500 meters.

Program Sponsors: United States Special Operations Command

Program Manager: Crane Division, Naval Surface Warfare Center

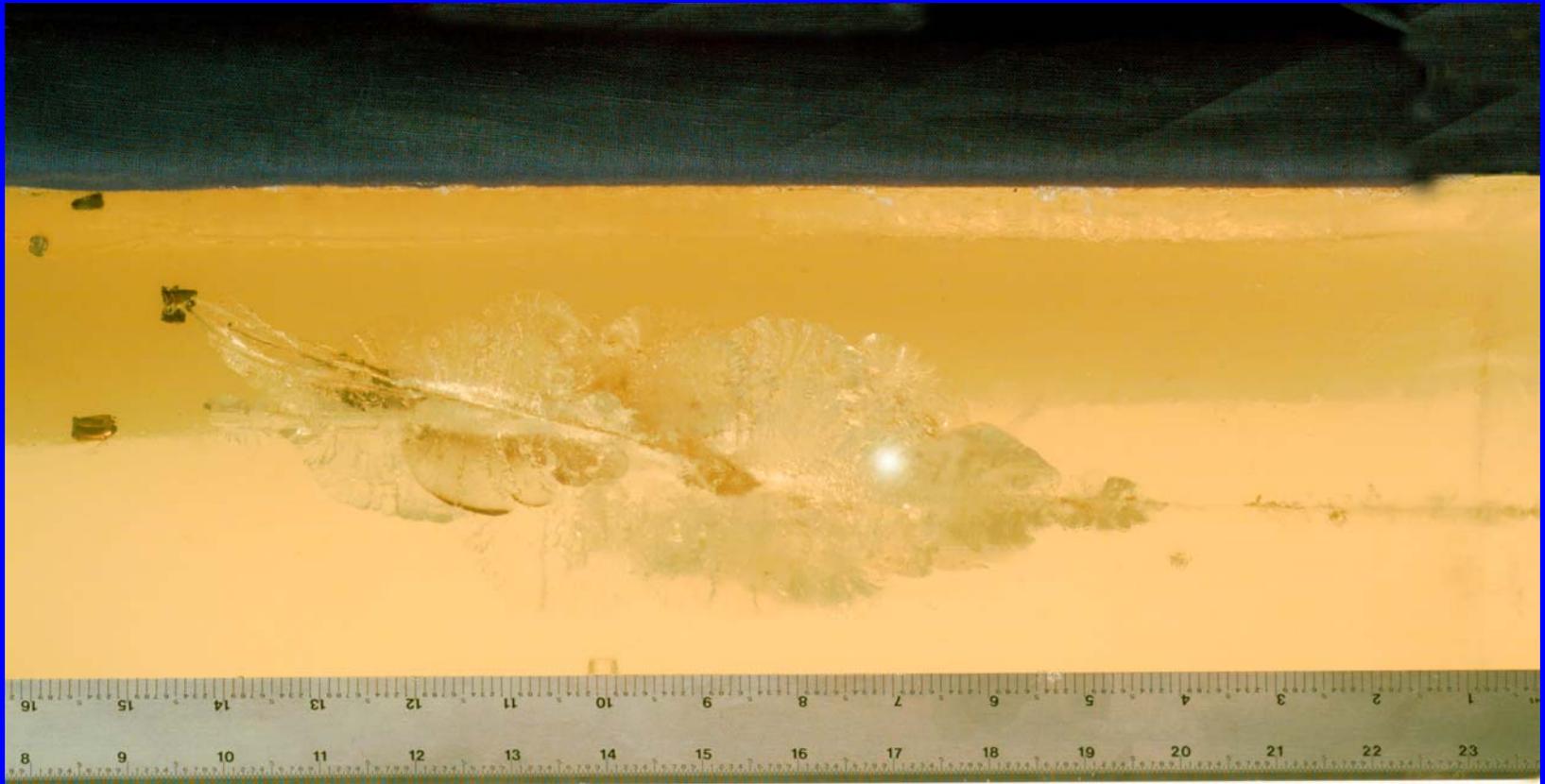
SOPMOD M4 Website: <http://www.navy.mil/navalnsf/opsmod3.htm>

M203 Grenade Launcher
with QD Mount

Modified M203
Leaf Sight



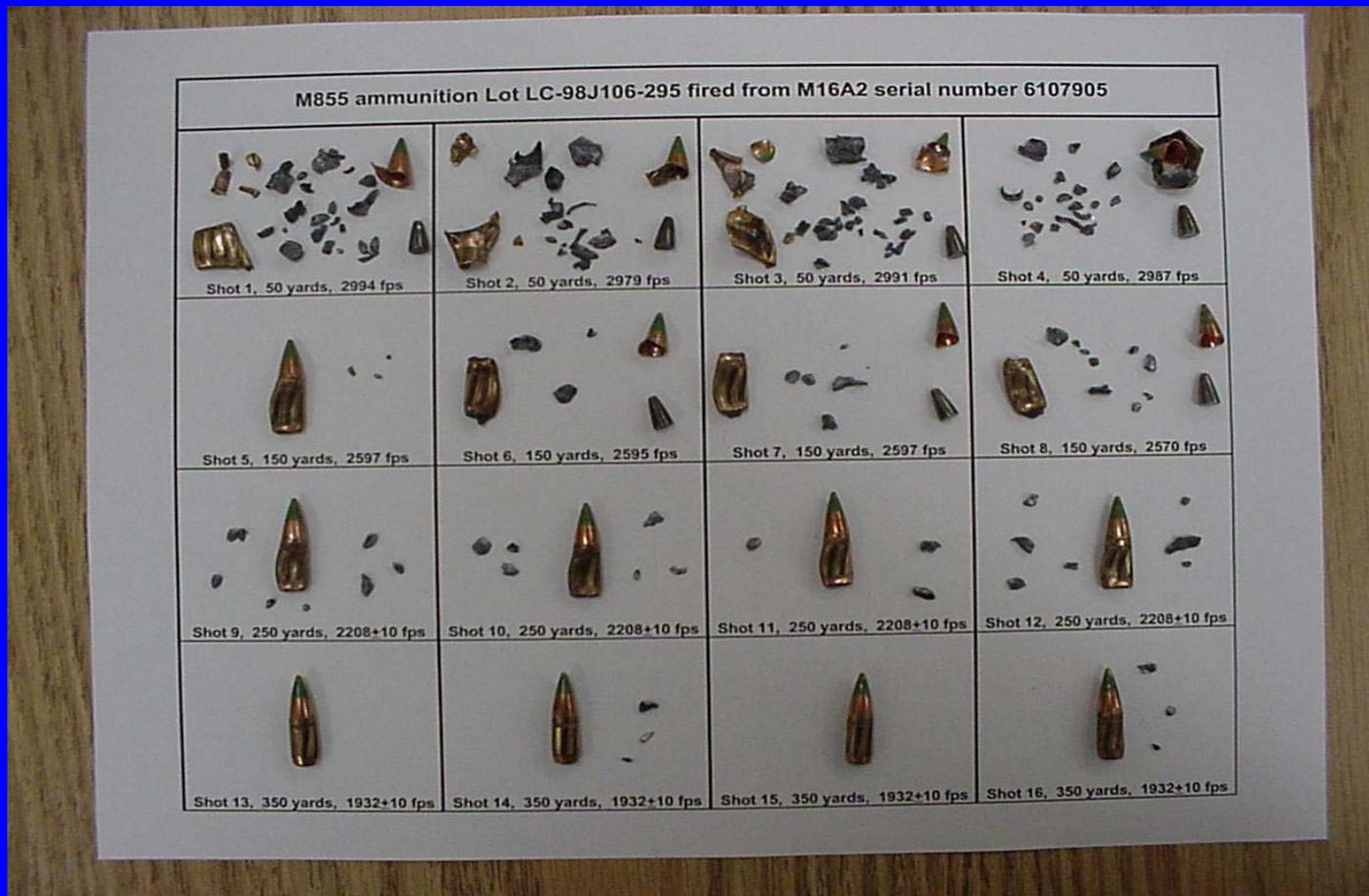
M855 5.56MM Ball 62 Gr. in 10% ballistic gelatin



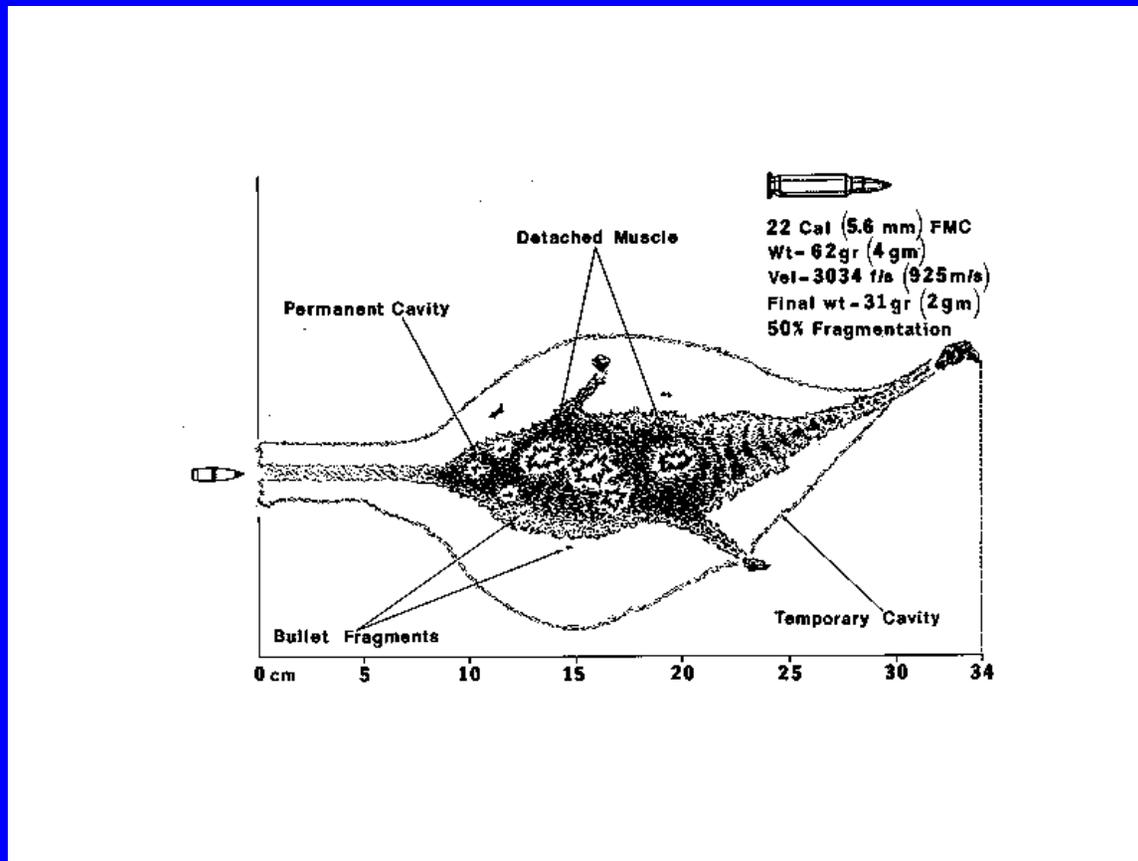
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M855 5.56MM Ball 62 Gr. in M16A2



5.56x45mm M855 wound profile



Reduced Ricochet, Limited Penetration Ammunition

- **RRLP has wound profile comparable to 5.56x45mm M855.**
- **Three general levels of frangible:**
 - **Training:** May be used for training only.
 - **RRLP:** Designed for purposes stated.
 - **General purpose frangible:** No military requirement established for a general purpose round for use by conventional forces.
- **Generic legal review approved RRLP concept.**
- **Specific ammunition must undergo wound ballistics testing/legal review once developed.**
- **Coordinated opinion (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, DOD GC).**



Questions?



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