

# US ARMY SMALL ARMS UPDATE



**COL Robert Radcliffe**  
**Director, Combat Developments**  
**US Army Infantry Center**



# Post Combat Survey Trends

## Individual Weapons



### *M4 comments:*

- Soldier ratings highly positive and increasing
- Preferred weapon due to compact size and modularity
- Some problems with magazine reliability

### *M249 SAW comments:*

- Soldier ratings moderately positive and increasing
- Soldiers like its high rate of fire and target effects – vehicle/personnel
- Soldiers like the SAW improvements: shorter barrel; collapsible stock
- Weapon age has created reliability, durability, & maintainability issues – significant overhaul program underway

### *M203 comments:*

- Soldier ratings moderately positive but decreasing
- Need better sights day & night
- Trigger and safety very susceptible to failure from sand/dust/dirt

### *M9 Pistol comments:*

- Soldier ratings neutral and decreasing
- Pistol & magazines have frequent malfunctions
- Does not have enough “stopping power”
- Sights are inadequate

**3300 Soldiers**  
**8 Divisions**  
**Active, Guard, Reserve**



# Post Combat Survey Trends

## Crew-served Weapons



### *M240B Medium Machine Gun comments:*

- Soldier ratings consistently highly positive
- Great rate of fire and target effects
- Good durability

### *M2 Heavy Machine Gun comments:*

- Soldier ratings consistently highly positive
- Great performance; durable and reliable
- Failures due to improper headspace & timing

### *Mk19 Grenade Machine Gun comments:*

- Soldier ratings moderately positive but decreasing
- Great weapon in open terrain
- Limited in the close urban fight (ROE, arming distance, dud rates)

### *Sniper weapons comments:*

- Soldier ratings highly positive
- M24 -- need higher rate of fire
- M107 – effective; heavy; needs improved scope & suppressor



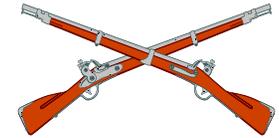
# Overall Small Arms Strategy



- *Train the force*
  - Sustain increased frequency and realism of training
  - Resource training support and facilities
- *Sustain the current small arms fleet*
  - Resource rebuild & refurbishment to sustain the current fleet
  - Produce weapons to fill wartime and transformation needs
  - Product improve existing systems as able
- *Modernize the force*
  - Develop the next generation of weapons and ammunition
  - Accelerate new systems when ready



# Weapons Development Strategy



## Near Term (0-2 years)

*Sustain through refurbish/rebuild, product improve, leverage off-the-shelf technology*



Rebuild M249s



Increase M4 Issue



Grenade Launcher



Modular Shotgun

## Mid Term (2-5 years)

*Modernize by spiraling new systems against key gaps, initiating a common approach*



Light Machine Gun PIP



Personal Defense Weapons (PDW)

## Far Term (5+ years)

*Integrate new technologies; reduce Soldier load, improve lethality, and improve small unit flexibility*



Counter-defilade technologies



Commonality / Family Concept



Light Weight Small Arms Technology ATO (Caseless/CTA Ammo)



# Individual Small Arms Strategy



*Sustained fleet ... with added spiraled capabilities ... enables the Future Force.*



M249 SAW  
(w/ Product Improvements)



Light Machine Gun PIP



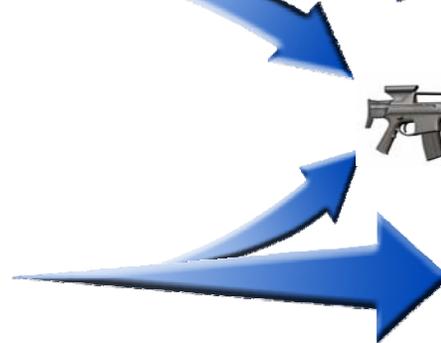
M16A2/A4/M4 MWS



M4 MWS Sights & Accessories



M9/M11 Pistol



PDW Role Weapons



M203



Grenade Launcher



12 Ga Pump Shotgun



Modular Shotgun



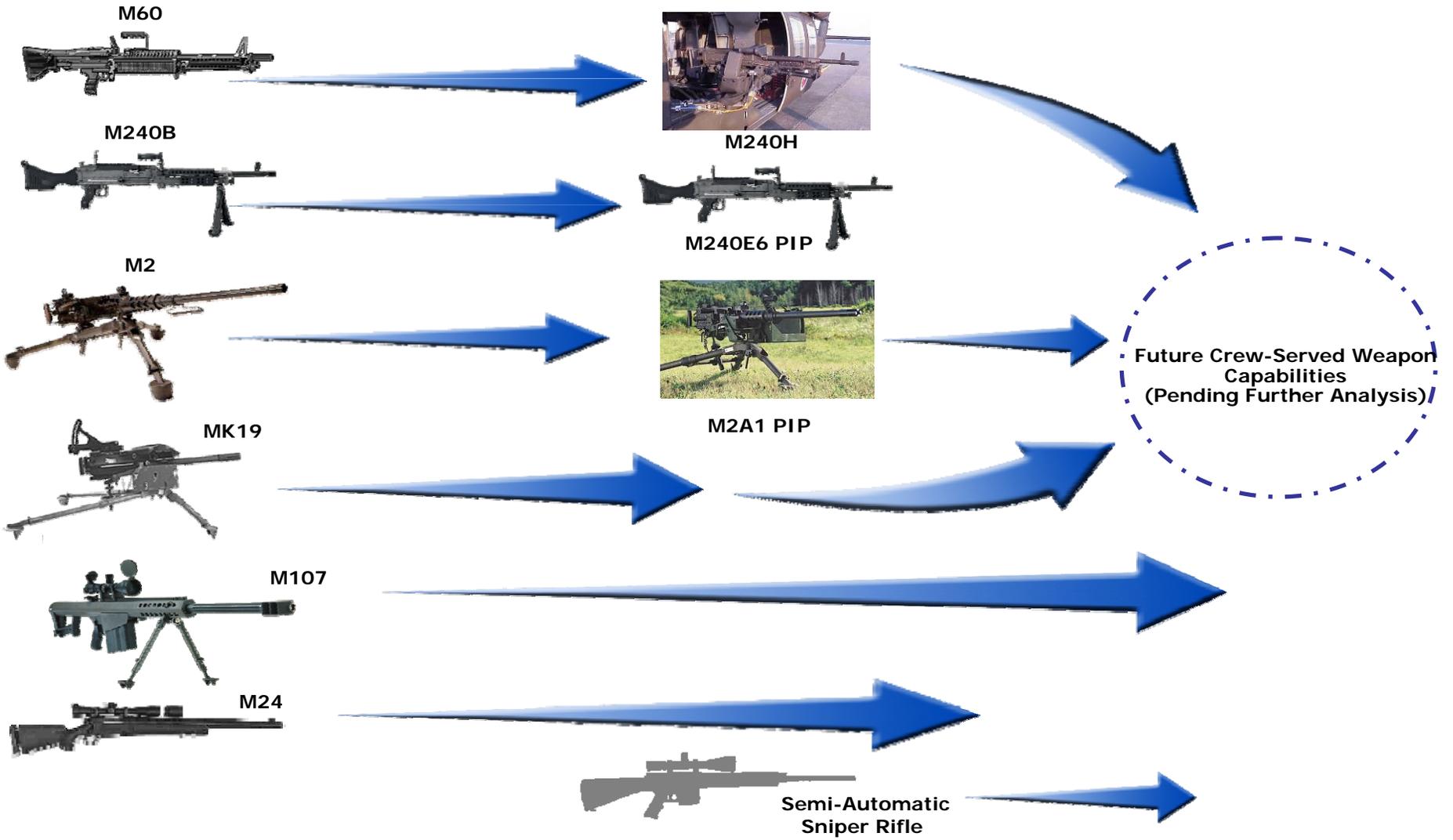
Future Weapon Family with Advanced Capabilities



*Family Concept Remains a Desired Future Capability*

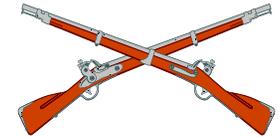


# Crew Served Small Arms Strategy





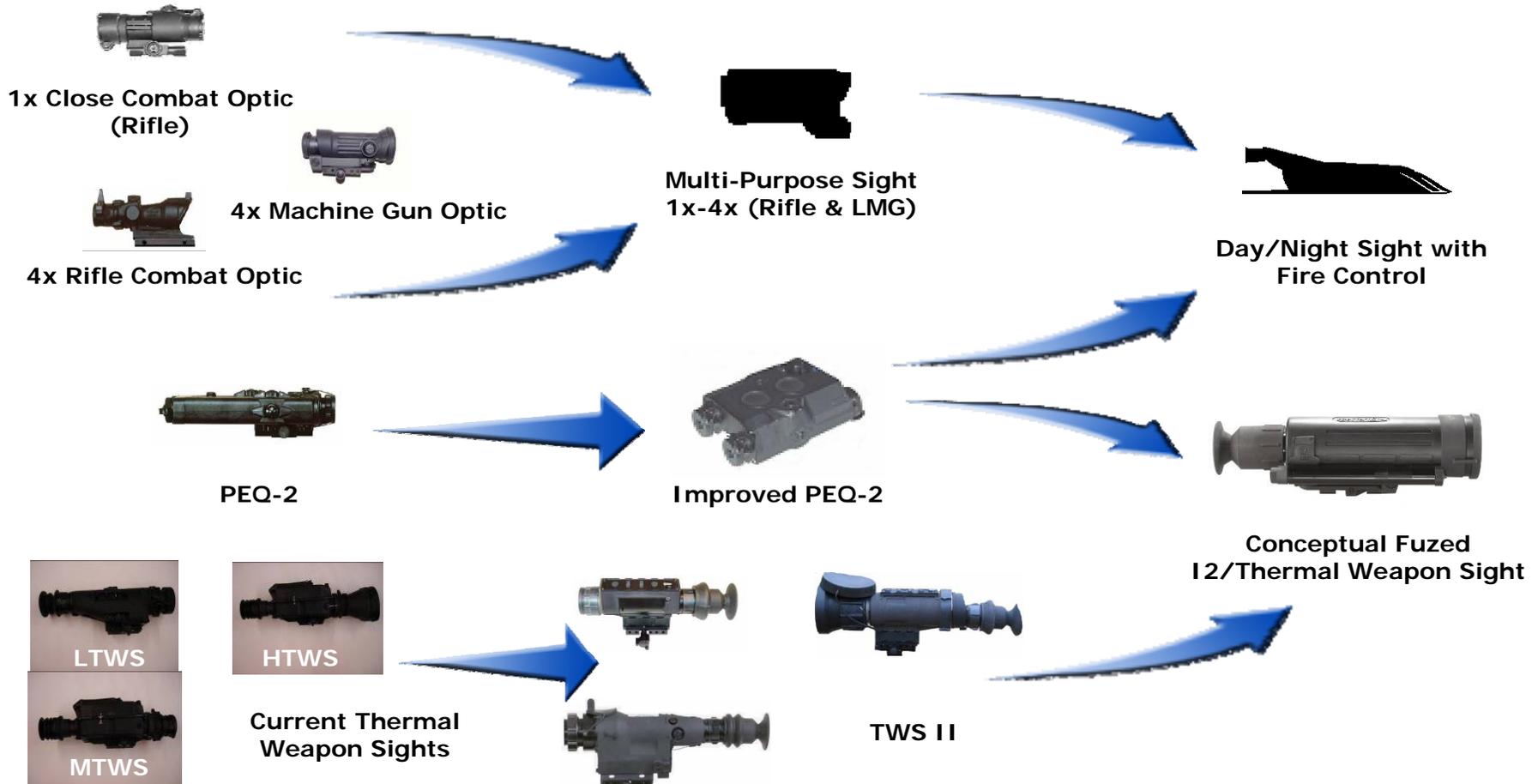
# Small Arms Sight Strategy



Near Term (0-2 years)  
*Sustain: Field existing & commercially available solutions*

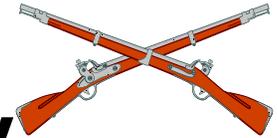
Mid Term (2-5 years)  
*Modernize: improved capabilities, common batteries*

Far Term (5+ years)  
*Integrated capabilities, improved power sources*





# Small Arms Ammunition Strategy



Near Term (0-2 years)  
Assess off-the-shelf solutions

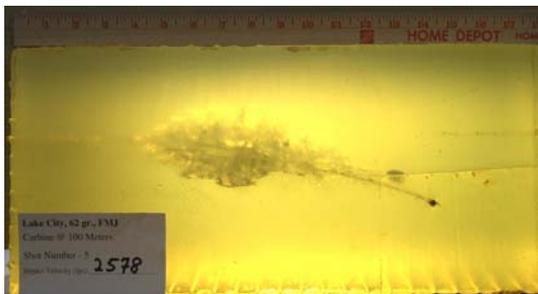


Commercial 5.56mm  
Assessment



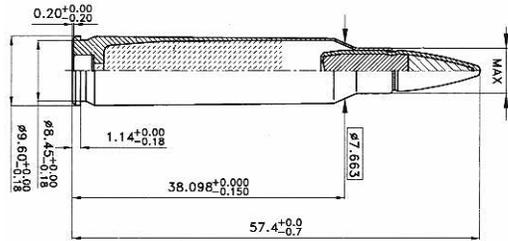
M1001 40mm Flechette

*Develop better science*



Joint Service Wound  
Ballistics Studies

Mid Term (2-5 years)  
Product improve within existing ammunition



5.56mm PIP

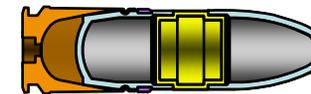


40mm PIP,  
40mm Breaching  
Munition



XM1022 .50 sniper

Far Term (5+ years)  
Improved performance, longer range & lighter weight systems



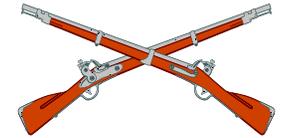
Bursting Munitions



Extended Range  
Non-lethal Munitions



Light Weight  
Technologies



# Areas of Interest

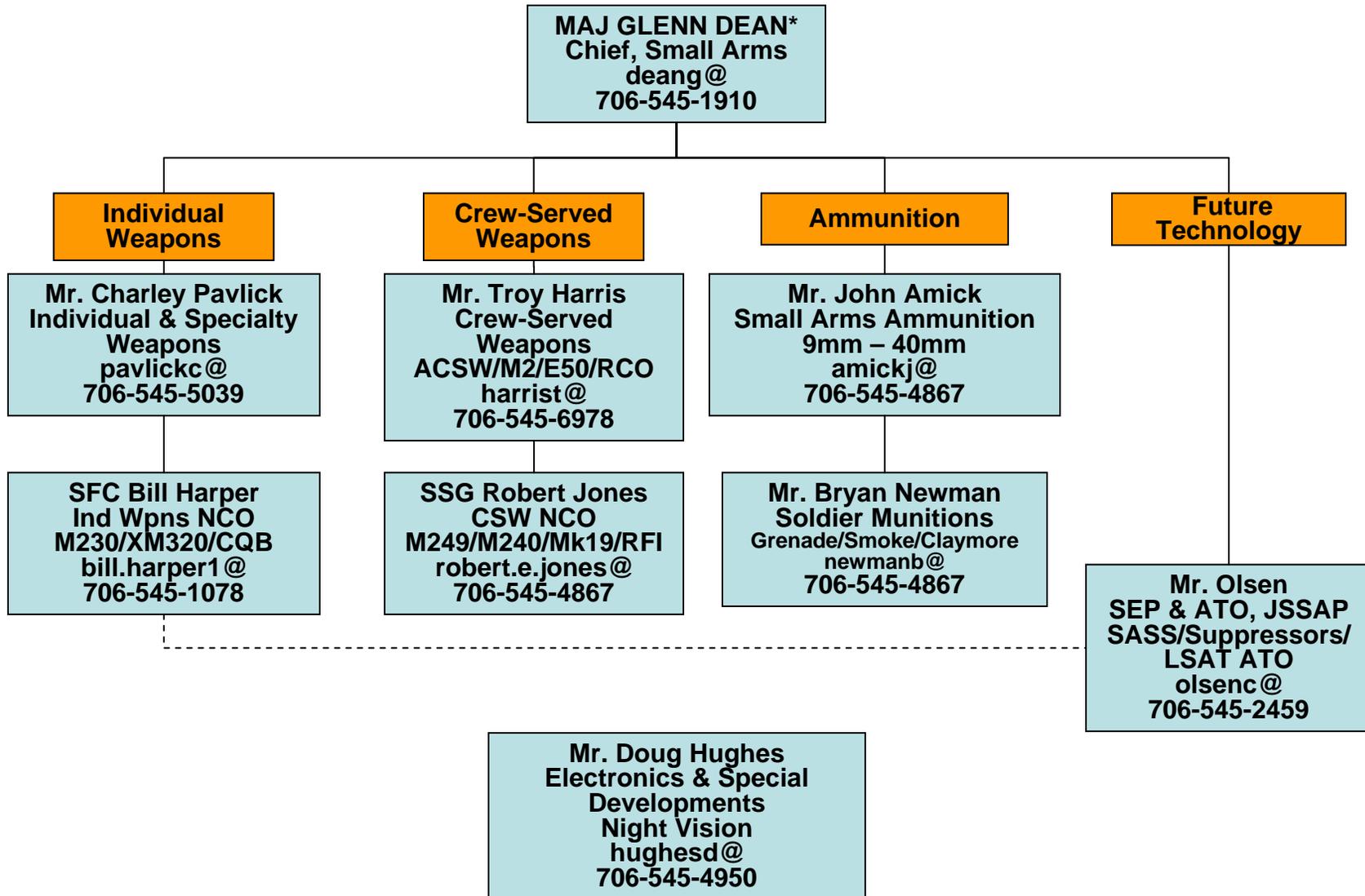
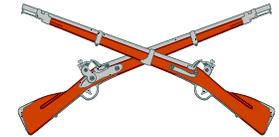
- Weapon Product Improvement
- Sights & Fire Control
- Suppressors
- Personal Defense Weapons
- Counter-Defilade Technologies
- Sniper Accessory Kit Items
- Reduce Size, Weight, Power



Caren Firouz / Reuters



# Points of Contact



Email addresses: [name]@benning.army.mil \* Replaced by MAJ Garret Verser effective 2 JUN 06. verserg@