

Questions and Answers

The following is a selection of pertinent questions about arms, ammunition, and their use, with informative answers by Technical Staffmen and Contributing Editors. Being able to receive answers to questions of this type is one privilege of NRA membership. Every Dope Bag question-letter submitted must contain the member's 'code line' from RIFLEMAN mailing label or membership card. If you are not a member and want an answer, submit your question with your membership application and dues. (Membership application blank appears on page 77.)

Initials carried in "Answers" below indicate handling by: Walter J. Howe, E. H. Harrison, E. W. Heter, Jr., Joe D. Huddleston, Robert W. Lowe, Ludwig Olson, Allen F. Ruffin, Jr., Charles S. Taylor, M. D. Waite, Frank de Haas, William Dresser, B. R. Lewis, Herschel C. Logan, H. E. MacFarland, Bert Popowski.

M14 And M16 Rifles

A news item states that 100,000 additional 5.56 mm. M16 rifles were ordered by the Army at beginning of 1966. How many M16 rifles has the U. S. bought? How many 7.62 mm. M14 rifles? Which is considered standard?

Answer: U. S. Government contracts for M16 and XM16E1 rifle production total 328,299 rifles, according to the manufacturer, Colt's Inc. Firearms Division, Hartford, Conn. This includes the 100,000 rifles mentioned in the question. Not included are test quantities of the original AR-15 rifle procured before these contracts, and quantities sold by the maker in various orders in the United States and abroad, which together total about 40,000 in addition.

Following is a chronological list of the production contracts, supplied by Colt's. The column "Quantity" gives totals, which the columns "XM16E1" and "M16" break down into the respective types.

Date	Quantity	XM16E1	M16
Sep. 1962	8,500		8,500
Apr. 1963	19,000		19,000
Nov. 1963	104,000	84,250	19,750
Jun. 1964	20		20
Nov. 1964	33,822		33,822
Jan. 1965	500		500
Feb. 1965	50		50
Jul. 1965	1,000		1,000
Aug. 1965	37,342		37,342
Sep. 1965	18,671		18,671
Oct. 1965	5,369	100	5,269
Nov. 1965	25		25
Jan. 1966	100,000	100,000	
	328,299	184,350	143,949

M14 RIFLE PRODUCTION

Fiscal Year	Springfield Armory	Harrington & Richardson, Inc.	Winchester-Western Division, Olin	Thompson Ramo Wooldridge Inc.	Total
1958	15,600				
1959		35,000	35,000		
1960	32,000	70,082	81,500		
1961	70,500	133,000			
1962	49,000	224,500	90,000	100,000	
1963*		75,000	150,001	219,163	
	167,100	537,582	356,501	319,163	1,380,346**

*Extends to 30 June 1964.

**This breakdown, the best available, differs slightly from the official total of 1,380,353 but the reason is not known.

The number of M14 rifles produced until manufacture was discontinued in 1964 (also not including test quantities procured before standardization) totals 1,380,353 rifles. The quantities in the table at bottom of page were actually produced by each manufacturer of the M14 rifle.

Proportional quantities of the 7.62 mm. M60 machine gun have been made, the M14 rifle and M60 machine gun constituting a weapons system.

Standard shoulder rifle

The M14 rifle is the standard shoulder rifle of the Army and the Marine Corps. The M16 is the standard rifle of the Air Force. The XM16E1, differing only in details from the M16, is a limited-procurement item procured by the Army for use by Airborne and Special Forces troops. It is being increasingly employed in the fighting in Viet Nam.

There has been no large-scale production of rifles and ground machine guns since 1964. The Army is engaged in a fundamental study, in continuation of the Salvo and SPIW programs which have been mentioned in THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN, to determine what the future small-arms weapons system will be. For this purpose the Army has procured test quantities of weapons including the Stoner 63, Armalite AR-18, and Harrington & Richardson T-223 (a designation applied by H&R to their modification of the German G-3). These will be tested with the already available M14's, M60's, and XM16E1's, and the Special Purpose Individual Weapons of Springfield and Aircraft Armaments types which also have been procured, in a broad consideration of weapons in this field.—E.H.H.

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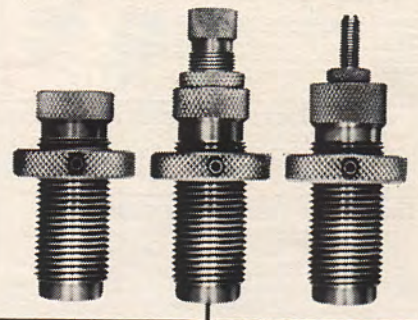
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