

M14 rifle

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

M14 rifle, officially the **United States Rifle, 7.62 mm, M14**,^[5] is an American selective fire automatic rifle that fires 7.62×51mm NATO (.308 Winchester) ammunition. It was the standard issue U.S. rifle from 1959 to 1970.^[6] The M14 was used for U.S. Army and Marine Corps basic and advanced individual training, and was the standard issue infantry rifle for U.S. military personnel in the Contiguous United States, Europe, and South Korea, until it was replaced by the M16 rifle, in 1970. The rifle remains in limited front line service within all branches of the U.S. military. It is also used as a ceremonial weapon by honor guards, color guards, drill teams, ceremonial guards, and the like.

The M14 rifle was the last American "battle rifle" (weapons that fire full-power rifle ammunition, such as the 7.62×51mm) issued in quantity to U.S. military personnel. The M14 serves as the basis for the M21 and M25 sniper rifles.

Contents

- 1 History
 - 1.1 Early development
 - 1.2 Infantry Board Service Rifle trials
 - 1.3 Production contracts
 - 1.3.1 National Match M14
 - 1.4 Deployment
 - 1.5 Replacement
 - 1.6 Post-1970 U.S. military service
 - 1.7 Service with non-U.S. nations
- 2 Rifle design
 - 2.1 Receiver markings
 - 2.2 Stock
 - 2.3 Rifling
 - 2.4 Accessories
 - 2.5 Types of sights
- 3 Variants and related designs
 - 3.1 Military
 - 3.1.1 M15
 - 3.1.2 M14E1

Rifle, 7.62 mm, M14



Two M14 rifles, from the Swedish Army Museum, shown here without their magazines.

Type	Battle rifle, sniper rifle
Place of origin	 United States of America
Service history	
In service	1959–present
Used by	See <i>Users</i>
Wars	Vietnam War–present
Production history	
Designed	1954
Produced	1959–1964 ^{[1][2]}
Number built	1.5 million ^[3]
Variants	M14E1, M14E2/M14A1, M14K, M21, M25, Mk 14 EBR, M1A rifle
Specifications	
Weight	9.2 lb (4.1 kg) empty 10.7 lb (5.2 kg) w/ loaded magazine
Length	44.3 in (1,126 mm)
Barrel length	22 in (559 mm)
<hr/>	
Cartridge	7.62×51mm NATO (.308 Winchester)
Action	Gas-operated, rotating bolt
Rate of fire	700–750 rounds/min
Muzzle velocity	850 m/s (2,800 ft/s)

- 3.1.3 M14E2/M14A1
- 3.1.4 M14M (Modified)/M14NM (National Match)
- 3.1.5 M14 SMUD
- 3.1.6 Mk 14 EBR
- 3.1.7 M14 Tactical
- 3.1.8 M14 Designated Marksman Rifle
- 3.1.9 M39 Enhanced Marksman Rifle
- 3.1.10 M89SR Model 89 Sniper Rifle
- 3.1.11 AWC G2A Sniper Rifle
- 3.1.12 M21, M25 sniper rifles
- 3.2 Commercial production
 - 3.2.1 Armscorp M14
 - 3.2.2 CAR 14
 - 3.2.3 Federal Ordnance
 - 3.2.4 La France Specialties M14K
 - 3.2.5 Norinco
 - 3.2.6 Polytech Industries
 - 3.2.7 Smith Enterprise, Inc
 - 3.2.8 Springfield Armory
- 4 Users
- 5 See also
- 6 References
- 7 Further reading
- 8 External links

Effective range	460 m (500 yd) ^[4] <div>800+ m (875+ yd) (with optics)</div>
Feed system	20-round detachable box magazine
Sights	Aperture rear sight, "barleycorn" front sight

History

Early development

The M14 was developed from a long line of experimental weapons based upon the M1 rifle. Although the M1 was among the most advanced infantry rifles of the late 1930s, it was not a perfect weapon. Modifications were already beginning to be made to the basic M1 rifle's design during the last months of World War II. Changes included adding fully automatic firing capability and replacing the 8-round en bloc clips with a detachable box magazine holding 20 rounds. Winchester, Remington, and Springfield Armory's own John Garand offered different conversions. Garand's design, the T20, was the most popular, and T20 prototypes served as the basis for a number of Springfield test rifles from 1945 through the early 1950s.^[7]

In 1945, Earle Harvey of Springfield Armory designed a completely different rifle, the T25, for the new T65 .30 Light Rifle cartridge at the direction of Col. Rene Studler, then serving in the Pentagon.^[8] In late 1945 the two men were transferred to Springfield Armory, where work on the T25 continued.^[8] The T25 was designed to use the T65 service cartridge, a Frankford Arsenal design based upon .30-06 cartridge case used in the M1 service rifle, but shortened to the length of the .300 Savage case.^[8] Although shorter than the .30-06, with less powder capacity, the T65 cartridge retained the ballistics and energy of the .30-06 due to the use of a recently developed

ball powder made by Olin Industries.^{[8][9]} After experimenting with several bullet designs, the T65 was finalized for adoption as the 7.62×51mm NATO cartridge.^[8] Olin Industries later marketed the cartridge on the commercial market as the commercial .308 Winchester round.^[8] After a series of revisions by Earle Harvey and other members of the .30 Light Rifle design group following the 1950 Ft. Benning tests, the T25 was renamed the T47.^[8]



T25 prototype

In contrast, the T44 prototype service rifle was not principally designed by any single engineer at Springfield Armory, but rather was a conventional design developed on a shoestring budget as an alternative to the T47.^[8] With only minimal funds available, the earliest T44 prototypes simply used T20E2 receivers fitted with magazine filler blocks and re-barreled for 7.62mm NATO, with the long operating rod/piston of the M1 replaced by the T47's gas cut-off system.^[8] Lloyd Corbett, an engineer in Earle Harvey's rifle design group, added various refinements to the T44 design, including a straight operating rod and a bolt roller to reduce friction.^[8]

Infantry Board Service Rifle trials

The T44 participated in a competitive service rifle competition conducted by the Infantry Board at Ft. Benning, Georgia against the Springfield T47 (a modified T25) and Fabrique Nationale's "Fusil Automatique Leger" (French for "Light Automatic Rifle"), designated T48.^[10] The T47, which did not have a bolt roller and performed worse in dust and cold weather tests than either the T44 or the T48 was dropped from consideration in 1953.^[8] During 1952–53, testing proved the T48 and the T44 roughly comparable in performance, with the T48 holding an advantage in ease of field stripping and dust resistance, as well as a longer product development lead time.^{[8][10]} A *Newsweek* article in July 1953 hinted that the T48/FAL might be selected over the T44.^{[8][11]} During the winter of 1953–54, both rifles competed in the winter rifle trials at U.S. Army facilities in the Arctic.^{[10][12]} Springfield Armory engineers, anxious to ensure the selection of the T44, had been specially preparing and modifying the test T44 rifles for weeks with the aid of the Armory's Cold Chamber, including redesign of the T44 gas regulator and custom modifications to magazines and other parts to reduce friction and seizing in extreme cold.^{[10][12]} The T48 rifles received no such special preparation, and in the continued cold weather testing began to experience sluggish gas system functioning, aggravated by the T48's close-fitting surfaces between bolt and carrier, and carrier and receiver.^{[8][10][12]} FN engineers opened the gas ports in an attempt to improve functioning, but this caused early/violent extraction and broken parts as a result of the increased pressures.^{[8][10][12]} As a result, the T44 was ranked superior in cold weather operation to the T48.^[10] The Arctic Test Board report made it clear that the T48 needed improvement and that the U.S. would not adopt the T48 until it had successfully completed another round of Arctic tests the following winter.^{[8][10]}

In June 1954, funding was finally made available to manufacture newly fabricated T44 receivers specially designed for the shorter T65 cartridge.^[8] This one change to the T44 design saved a pound in rifle weight over that of the M1 Garand.^[8] Tests at Ft. Benning with the T44 and T48 continued through the summer and fall of 1956.^[8] By this time, the T48/FAL rifles had been so improved that malfunction rates were almost as low as the T44.^[8]

In the end, the T44 was selected over the T48/FAL primarily because of weight (the T44 was a pound lighter than the T48), simplicity (the T44 had fewer parts), the T44's self-compensating gas system, and the argument that the T44 could be manufactured on existing machinery built for the M1 rifle (a concept that later turned out to be unworkable).^{[8][10][12][13]} In 1957, the U.S. formally adopted the T44 as the U.S. infantry service rifle, designated M14.^[8]

Production contracts

Initial production contracts for the M14 were awarded to the Springfield Armory, Winchester, and Harrington & Richardson.^[14] Thompson-Ramo-Wooldridge Inc. (TRW) would later be awarded a production contract for the rifle as well.^[14] 1,376,031 M-14 service rifles were produced from 1959 to 1964.^[14]

National Match M14

Springfield Armory produced 6,641 new M14 NM rifles in 1962 and 1963, while TRW produced 4,874 new M14 NM rifles in 1964.^[14] Springfield Armory later upgraded 2,094 M14 rifles in 1965 and 2,395 M14 rifles in 1966 to National Match specifications, while 2,462 M14 rifles were rebuilt to National Match standards in 1967 at the Rock Island Arsenal.^[14] A total of 11,130 National Match rifles were delivered by Springfield Armory, Rock Island Arsenal, and TRW during 1962-1967.^[14]

Production M14 rifles made by Springfield Armory and Winchester used forged receivers and bolts milled from AISI 8620 steel, a low-carbon molybdenum-chromium steel.^[14] Harrington & Richardson M-14 production used AISI 8620 steel as well, except for ten receivers milled from AISI 1330 low-carbon steel and a single receiver made from high-nickel-content alloy steel.^[14]

Deployment

After the M14's adoption, Springfield Armory began tooling a new production line in 1958, delivering the first service rifles to the U.S. Army in July 1959. However, long production delays resulted in the 101st Airborne Division being the only unit in the Army fully equipped with the M14 by the end of 1961. The Fleet Marine Force finally completed the change from M1 to M14 in late 1962. Springfield Armory records reflect that M14 manufacture ended as TRW, fulfilling its second contract, delivered its final production increment in Fiscal Year 1965 (1 July '64 – 30 June '65). The Springfield archive also indicates the 1.38 million rifles were acquired for just over \$143 million, for a unit cost of about \$104.^{[1][2]}



The rifle served adequately during its brief tour of duty in Vietnam.^[15] Though it was unwieldy in the thick brush due to its length and weight, the power of the 7.62 mm NATO cartridge allowed it to penetrate cover quite well and reach out to extended range, developing 2,470 ft·lbf (3,350 J) of muzzle energy. However, there were several drawbacks to the M14. The traditional wood stock of the rifle had a tendency to swell and expand in the heavy moisture of the jungle, adversely affecting accuracy. Fiberglass stocks were produced to resolve this problem, but the rifle was discontinued before very many could be distributed for field use. Also, because of the M14's powerful 7.62×51 mm cartridge, the weapon was deemed virtually uncontrollable in fully automatic mode, so most M14s were permanently set to semi-automatic fire only to avoid wasting ammunition in combat.^{[16][17][18]}

The M14 was developed as a means of taking the place of four different weapons systems—the M1 rifle, the M1 Carbine, the M3 "Grease Gun" and the M1918 Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR). It was thought that in this manner the M14 could simplify the logistical requirements of the troops by limiting the types of ammunition and parts needed to be supplied. It proved to be an impossible task to replace all four, and the weapon was even deemed "completely inferior" to the World War II M1 in a September 1962 report by the comptroller of the Department of Defense.^[19] The cartridge was too powerful for the submachine gun role and the weapon was simply too light to



A U.S. soldier with an M14 watches as supplies are dropped in Vietnam during 1967.

serve as a light machine gun replacement for the BAR.^[20]

Replacement

The M14 remained the primary infantry weapon in Vietnam until it was replaced by the M16 in 1966–1967, though combat engineer units kept them several years longer. Further procurement of the M14 was abruptly halted in late 1963 due to the above mentioned Department of Defense report which had also stated that the AR-15 (soon to be M16) was superior to the M14 (DOD did not cancel FY 1963 orders not yet delivered). After the report, a series of tests and reports by the United States Department of the Army followed that resulted in the decision to cancel the M14.^[19] The M16 was then ordered as a replacement for the M14 by direction of Secretary of Defense

Robert McNamara in 1964, over the objection of those Army officers who had backed the M14 (other factions within the Army research and development community had opposed the M14 and the 7.62×51 mm round from the start). Though production of the M14 was officially discontinued, some disgruntled troops managed to hang on to them while deriding the early model M16 as a frail and under-powered "Mattel toy"^[21] that was prone to jam. In late 1967, the U.S. Army designated the M16 as the "Standard A" rifle, and the M14 became a "Limited Standard" weapon. The M14 rifle remained the standard rifle for U.S. Army Basic Training and troops stationed in Europe until 1970.^[22]

The U.S. Army also converted several thousand M14s into the M21 sniper rifle, which remained standard issue for this purpose until the adoption of the M24 SWS in 1988.

Post-1970 U.S. military service

In the mid-1990s, the Marine Corps chose a new rifle for Designated Marksman (sniper) use, an M14 modified by the Precision Weapons Shop in Marine Corps Base Quantico called the Designated Marksman Rifle (DMR). It is intended for use by security teams (SRTs, FAST companies), and Marine Scout Snipers in the cases where a semi-automatic rifle would be more appropriate than the standard bolt-action M40A1/A3 rifle. The USMC Rifle Team uses the M14 in shooting competitions. Although the M14 was phased out as the standard-issue rifle by 1970, M14 variants are still used by various branches of the U.S. Military as well as other armed forces, especially as a sniper rifle and as a designated marksman rifle, due to its excellent accuracy and effectiveness at long range. Special active units such as the OPFOR units of the Joint Readiness Training Center use M14s. Few M14s were in use in the Army until the Afghanistan and Iraq Wars. Since the start of these conflicts, many M14s have been employed as designated marksman and sniper rifles. These are not M21 rifles, but original production M14s. Common modifications include scopes, fiberglass stocks, and other accessories.^[23] A 2009 study conducted by the U.S. Army claimed that half of the



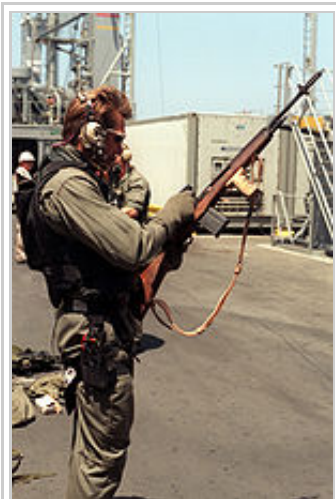
A rare M14 presentation model, serial #0010



An Army marksman in Fallujah, Iraq, using an M14 with a Leupold LR/T 10×40 mm M3.

engagements in Afghanistan occurred from beyond 300 meters (330 yd).^[24] America's 5.56x45 mm NATO service rifles are ineffective at these ranges; this has prompted the reissue of thousands of M14s.^[25]

The 1st Battalion of the 3rd United States Infantry Regiment ("The Old Guard") in the Military District of Washington is the sole remaining regular United States Army combat field unit where the M14 is still issued as the standard rifle, along with a chromed bayonet and an extra wooden stock with white sling for military funerals, parades, and other ceremonies. The United States Air Force Honor Guard uses a version of the M14.^[26] The United States Navy Ceremonial Guard and Base Honor Guards also use the M14 for 3-volley salutes in military funerals. It is also the drill and parade rifle of the United States Military Academy, United States Naval Academy, United States Air Force Academy, The Citadel, Norwich University, Virginia Military Institute, and North Georgia College and State University.^[27] U.S. Navy ships carry several M14s in their armories. They are issued to sailors going on watch out on deck in port, and to Backup Alert Forces. The M14 is also used to shoot a large rubber projectile to another ship when underway to start the lines over for alongside refueling and replenishment.^[28]



A SEAL operator with an M14 rifle participating in maritime interdiction enforcement during Operation Desert Storm.

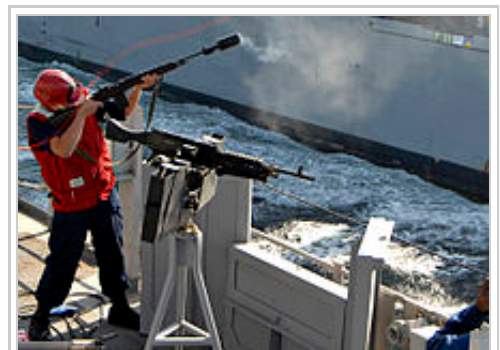
Various sniper variants have been used by the United States Navy SEALs, often mistaken with M21 in the overt literature, only one of them has received a standard name in the U.S. military designations system: the M25, developed by the Special Forces. These sniper variants have probably been replaced by the Mk 11 Mod 0, selected in 2000. SEALs also use the Mk 14 Mod 0 EBR (Enhanced Battle Rifle) for close-quarters battle and in a designated marksman role. "Delta Force" units are known to have used M14 sniper variants. According to *Black Hawk Down: A Story of Modern War*, the well-known account of the Battle of Mogadishu, at least one of the "D-Boys", Sergeant First Class Randy Shughart, used an M14 for sniping from helicopters to provide support fire to ground troops.^[29]

The U.S. Army Special Forces ("Green Berets") have made some use of the M25 "spotter rifle". The M25 was developed in the late 1980s within the 10th Special Forces Group, which was charged to support Special Forces sniper weapons as well as the Special Operations Target Interdiction Course (SOTIC). The M25 was first planned as a replacement for the old M21, but after the Army adoption of the M24 SWS as its standard sniper rifle, the M25 was intended to be used by spotters of the sniper teams, while the snipers would use the bolt-action M24.

Though the M14 has remained in service longer than any U.S. infantry rifle with the exception of the Springfield M1903 rifle, it also holds the distinction of serving as the standard infantry rifle of the U.S. Army for a shorter span of time than almost any other service rifle.^[30]



A USMC Designated Marksman Rifle (DMR) in use



A Gunner's Mate using an M14 rifle to fire a shot line from the USS *Carter Hall* to USNS *Lewis and Clark*.

Service with non-U.S. nations

The Philippine government issues M14 rifles, as well as M1 carbines, M1 rifles and M16 rifles, to their civilian defense forces and to various cadet corps in their service academies. The Greek Navy also uses the M14.

M14 production Springfield tooling and assembly line was sold in 1967 to the Republic of China (Taiwan), who in 1968 began producing their Type 57 Rifle. The State Arsenal of the Republic of China produced over 1 million of these rifles from 1969 to the present under model numbers of M305 and M14S. Other than the surface finish difference it is essentially a US rifle. It is still used by the reserves and as a backup defense weapon and used for airport guards.

In China, Norinco and Poly Technologies have produced M14 variants in the past for export, which were sold in the United States prior to the enactment of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994.^[31] They are currently being sold in Canada, Italy and New Zealand only.^[32] They have been marketed under the M14S^[33] and M305^[34] names.

Rifle design

Receiver markings

Stamped into receiver heel:

- U.S. Rifle
- 7.62-MM M14
- Springfield Armory (or commercial contractor name)
- Serial number

Stock

The M14 rifle was first furnished with a walnut stock, then with birch and finally with a synthetic stock. The stock was also fitted with a hinged shoulder rest (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barrel_shroud) for improved user comfort when firing from a prone position.^[35] Original equipment walnut and birch stocks carry the Department of Defense acceptance stamp or cartouche (an arc of three stars above a spread-winged eagle). These stocks also carried a proof stamp, a P within a circle, applied after successful test-firing.

Rifles manufactured through late 1960 were provided with walnut handguards. Thereafter synthetic, slotted (ventilated) hand guards were furnished but proved too fragile for military use. These were replaced by the solid synthetic part still in use, usually in dark brown, black or a camouflage pattern.

Rifling

Standard M14 rifling has right-hand twist in 1:12 inches with 4 grooves.

Accessories



A U.S. soldier demonstrates shooting an M14 rifle to Iraqi Highway Patrol (IHP) police officers during training in Iraq, 2006.

Although M14 rifle production ended in 1964, the limited standard status of the weapon resulted in the continued manufacture of accessories and spare parts into the late 1960s and beyond.

- M6 bayonet with M8A1 sheath
- M2 Bandalier
- Sling [one-piece cotton or nylon webbing or M1907 (two-piece leather)]
- Cleaning kit (butt-trap) included a combination tool, ratchet chamber brush, plastic lubricant case, brass bore brush, four cleaning rod sections, cleaning rod case, and a cleaning rod patch-holding tip.
- M5 winter trigger and winter safety
- M12 blank firing attachment and M3 breech shield
- Cartridge clip (five cartridges) and magazine filler for charging magazines
- M1961 ammunition magazine pouch
- M2 bipod
- M76 grenade launcher
- M15 grenade launcher sight
- Mk 87 Mod 0/1 line (rope) throwing kit



A U.S. soldier scans for activity during a combat patrol in Afghanistan, 2009.

Types of sights

- Rear peep, front blade, metric
- Rear National Match peep with hood, front National Match blade, metric

Variants and related designs

Military

M15

The **M15** was a modified M14 developed as a replacement for the M1918 Browning Automatic Rifle for use as a squad automatic weapon. It added a heavier barrel and stock, a hinged buttplate, a selector switch for fully automatic fire, and a bipod. The sling was from the BAR. Like the M14, it was chambered for 7.62×51mm NATO.

Firing tests showed that the M14, when equipped with the selector switch, hinged buttplate and bipod, performed as well as the M15. As a result, the M15 was dropped and the modified M14 became the squad automatic weapon. Accuracy and control problems with this variant led to the addition of a pistol grip, a folding rubber covered metal foregrip and a muzzle stabilizer. The final design was designated as the M14A1.

M14E1

The M14E1 was tested with a variety of folding stocks to provide better maneuverability and the like for armored infantry, paratroopers and others. No variant was standardized.

M14E2/M14A1

Selective fire version of the standard M14 used as a squad automatic weapon. Successor to the short-lived M15 rifle. The developmental model was known as the M14E2. First designated as M14E2 when it was issued in 1963 and redesignated as M14A1 in 1966.

M14M (Modified)/M14NM (National Match)

The M14M is a semi-automatic only version of the standard M14 that was developed for use in civilian rifle marksmanship activities such as the Civilian Marksmanship Program. M14M rifles were converted from existing M14 rifles by welding the select-fire mechanism to prevent full-automatic firing. The M14NM (National Match) is an M14M rifle built to National Match accuracy standards.

The M14M and M14NM rifles are described in a (now-obsolete) Army regulation, AR 920-25, "Rifles, M14M and M14NM, For Civilian Marksmanship Use," dated 8 February 1965. Paragraph 2, among other things, stated that the Director of the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury (predecessor to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives) had ruled that M14M and M14NM rifles so modified would not be subject to the 1934 National Firearms Act (NFA) and, as such, could be sold or issued to civilians. However, with the passage of the Gun Control Act of 1968, the NFA was amended to prohibit sales of previously modified automatic weapons such as the M14M and M14NM to civilians.

M14 SMUD

Stand-off Munition Disruption, used by Explosive Ordnance Disposal personnel to destroy unexploded ordnance. Essentially an M14 National Match rifle with scope.

Mk 14 EBR

Main article: Mk 14 Enhanced Battle Rifle

The Mk 14 Enhanced Battle Rifle is a more tactical version of the M14, with a shorter 18-inch barrel, a retractable stock and multiple rails for more accessories.

M14 Tactical

Modified M14 using the same stock as the Mk 14 but with a 22 inch barrel and a Smith Enterprise muzzle brake, used by the U.S. Coast Guard.

M14 Designated Marksman Rifle

Main article: United States Marine Corps Designated Marksman Rifle



A soldier using an M14 Mod 0 EBR equipped with a Sage M14ALCS chassis stock provides security in Iraq, 2006.

Designated marksman version of the M14, used by the U.S. Marine Corps. Replaced by the M39 Enhanced Marksman Rifle.

M39 Enhanced Marksman Rifle

Main article: M39 Enhanced Marksman Rifle

Modified M14 DMR fitted with the same stock as Mk 14, used by the U.S. Marine Corps. Being replaced by the M110 Semi-Automatic Sniper System.^[36]

M89SR Model 89 Sniper Rifle

Main article: M89SR

The M89SR is an M14 in bullpup configuration first introduced by Sardinia in the 1980s. Later produced by Technical Equipment International (TEI) for the Israel Defense Forces

AWC G2A Sniper Rifle

Main article: AWC G2

AWC G2A Sniper Rifle is a modified M14 with bullpup stock designed by Lynn McWilliams and Gale McMillian in the late 1990s. Produced and delivered for testing at the Fort Bragg sniper school.

M21, M25 sniper rifles

The M21 and M25 are accurized sniper rifle versions, built to closer tolerances than the standard M14. These are the more standard sniper rifle variants of the M14.

Commercial production

Armstrong M14

From 1987 to 1994, Armstrong of America or Armstrong USA produced investment-cast semi-auto M14 receivers. During the first year of production, Armstrong receivers were supplied by Smith Manufacturing of Holland, Ohio, which were heat treated and finish machined by Armstrong. From 1988 to 1994, Armstrong made its own investment cast receivers of AISI 8620 steel. A few receivers with an 'S' serial number prefix were made of stainless steel. From approximately 1994 until 2008, Armstrongs receiver castings were supplied by the Lamothermic Corporation of Brewster, New York.

CAR 14

A product of Troy Industries the CAR 14 (Carbine Assault Rifle 14) is a smaller and lighter tactical version of the M14. Its barrel is 12.5 inches long and it weighs 7.9 pounds. The rifle has select fire ability, a threaded flash suppressor for a silencer, a tactical rail on top for sights and other attachments, and the operating rod cover.^[*citation needed*]

Federal Ordnance

From 1984 to 1991, Federal Ordnance of South El Monte, California sold a semi-auto version of the M14 rifle.^[37] Initially named the **M14** or **M14A**, the rifle utilized an aftermarket semi-auto receiver fitted with new surplus USGI M14 parts.^[37] All receivers were machined from castings of AISI 8620 alloy steel. Except for the first fifty receivers, the castings were supplied by Electro Crisol Metal, S.A. of Santander, Spain, then imported to the USA for finish machining, heat treatment, and exterior phosphate treatment.^[37] Federal Ordnance M14 and M14A receivers were heat treated and carburized according to USGI drawing F7790189.^[37] Each completed production rifle was proof fired, then tested for functioning by firing three rounds.^[37] USGI parts and bolts were used extensively in Federal Ordnance rifles through at least serial number 88XX.^[37] In 1989 Federal Ordnance renamed the rifle the **M14SA** and **M14CSA**. Rifles in the 93XX serial range and higher utilized modified receivers designed to accept Chinese-made bolts, barrels, and other parts owing to a shortage of original USGI components.^[37] Approximately 51,000 complete Federal Ordnance M-14 rifles and at least 60,000 receivers were manufactured before production was halted in late 1991.^[37]



A U.S. Border Patrol Agent with M14 during a law enforcement memorial service

La France Specialties M14K

The M14K is a commercial version of the M14 designed and built by Timothy F. LaFrance of La France Specialties of San Diego, California, most using forged receivers produced by Smith Enterprise of Tempe, Arizona. This rifle has a custom-made short barrel with a custom-made flash suppressor, shortened operating rod, and employs a unique gas tube system. Fully automatic versions have a removable flash suppressor. Semi-automatic versions (of which very few were made) have a silver-brazed flash hider to comply with the requirement that Title I firearms have a 16" barrel. Most M14Ks employ the M60 gas tube system. Some late-model M14Ks employ a custom-designed and manufactured gas system. Both are intended to control the rate of fire in fully automatic mode. The rear sight is a custom-made National Match type aperture, and the front sight is a custom-made narrow blade, wing-protected sight to take advantage of the additional accuracy afforded by the special barrel.

The stocks and handguards on M14Ks are shortened versions of the GI birch or walnut stock, but make use of the original front ferrule. The front sling mount is relocated slightly to rear, to accommodate the shortened stock. Most handguards are of the solid, fiberglass variety (albeit shortened), but a limited number were made with shortened wood handguards. The steel buttplate was deleted in favor of a rubber recoil pad, that greatly reduces perceived recoil. A limited number of M14Ks were manufactured with the BM-59 Alpine / Para folding stock. These too had the shortened stocks and handguards, making for an extremely compact package especially suited to vehicular and airborne operations. A couple of M14Ks were built for SEAL Team members using the tubular folding stock assembly on a cut-down M14E2 stock found on some of the Team's full-size M14s prior to adoption of the Sage International EBR stock for M14 applications. These are by far one of the rarest variants of the M14K.

Norinco

The Chinese firm Norinco manufactures two versions of the M14 rifle known as the M14S or M305.^[38] These rifles have been banned from importation to the United States, due to a Clinton era prohibition on Chinese made weapons, but are commonly sold in Canada which has no such restrictions.

Polytech Industries

Polytech Industries of China made an unlicensed version of the M14 rifle known as the M14S.^[39]

Smith Enterprise, Inc

Smith Enterprise Inc. was originally founded as Western Ordnance in 1979 by Richard Smith in Mesa, Arizona and the company made numerous types of rifles, but specialized in the M1 Garand and M14 platforms.^[40] In 1993, Western Ordnance reformed as Smith Enterprise and has built and rebuilt numerous M14 rifles for the US Military and the militaries of Columbia, Canada and other nations.^{[41][42]}



The United States Department of Defense has contracted Smith Enterprise to build and modify M14 rifles for use by soldiers, Marines and sailors in Iraq and Afghanistan.^[43] Smith Enterprise played a major part in the M14 rifle modernization projects for various US military units which resulted in the development of the United States Navy Mark 14 Enhanced Battle Rifle.^{[41][44][45]} The company's history included originally making forged receivers for M14 rifles and briefly switching to investment casting.^[40] Smith stopped making receivers for a few years, but reentered the market with receivers machined from bar stock in 2002.^[41]

In 2003 Smith Enterprise Inc. created its version of the M14 Enhanced Battle Rifle known as the MK14 Mod 0, type SEI. The rifle used a medium heavy weight 18.0" barrel and was used as a basis to create the US Navy's Mark 14 Mod 0 with Springfield Armory, Inc. being tasked to supply the necessary machinery in cooperation with the Naval Surface Warfare Center Crane Division.^[41] SEI builds an improved M14 gas cylinder as a component of their specialized rifles and a part for the military to upgrade older rifles. The gas cylinder is assigned the NATO Stock Number: NSN 1005-00-790-8766.^[46]










Springfield Armory

Springfield Armory, Inc. of Geneseo, IL, produces a semi-automatic-only version of the M14 rifle. The standard rifle is known as the **M1A**. The company produces several variations of the basic rifle with different stocks, barrel weights, barrel lengths, and other optional features. The Springfield M1A and its model variants have been widely distributed in the U.S. civilian market and have seen use by various law enforcement agencies in the United States. Springfield Armory, Inc. also produce the SOCOM series and the Scout Squad Rifle, based on the short-barreled version of the M14. The SOCOM 16 comes with provisions to mount a red dot sight and the SOCOM II adds railed handguards to the package. Springfield Armory's M21 tactical is a civilian version of the M21 Sniper Weapon System currently in use by the U.S. military.^[47]

Users

-  Argentina: Used by Argentine soldiers of C Company, Regimiento (Especial) de Infanteria 25 in the Falklands War at the Battle of Goose Green and San Carlos.^[16]
-  Australia: small quantities of XM21 sniper variants were issued by the Australian Army in the Vietnam

War. M14 EBRs were also fielded by Australian special forces in Afghanistan.^{[48][49][50]}

-  Colombia^[51]
-  Costa Rica^[51]
-  Dominican Republic^[51]
-  Ecuador^[51]
-  El Salvador^[51]
-  Eritrea^[51]
-  Estonia: Adopted by Estonian military as marksman's rifle, modified by E-Arsenal called the **Täpsuspüss M14-TP** (Precision Rifle M14-PR), with heavy barrel, bipod, synthetic stock, and optical 4X sight.^{[52][53]}
-  Ethiopia^[51]
-  Greece: Hellenic Navy
-  Haiti: Used by Haitian security forces in the 2004 Haitian coup d'état.^[16]
-  Honduras^[51]
-  Israel: Used as sniper rifle with eventual conversion and production as M89SR.^{[16][54]}
-  Laos^[citation needed]
-  Lithuania: Lithuanian Armed Forces.^[55]
-  Morocco^[citation needed]
-  Niger^[51]
-  Philippines^[51]
-  South Korea: Unknown number provided by the United States under military assistance program.^[56] In limited use with reserve forces and for ceremonial duties.^[57]
-  Taiwan: Made under license as the **Type 57**.^[16]
-  Tunisia^[51]
-  United States: Uses the **M14SE**, manufactured by Smith Enterprise Inc., in SDM roles^[58] and has purchased M14s from other manufacturers. Also uses M14s custom built or modified in military armories, such as the **M39 Enhanced Marksman Rifle**. The M14 is issued to crew members on Military Sealift Command vessels.^[59] The rifle is also used by the United States Border Patrol and by the Park Rangers of U.S. National Park Service.^[60]
-  Venezuela^[61]



A soldier with an M14 equipped with a Sage M14ALCS chassis stock.

See also

- List of battle rifles
- M1A rifle

References

- ↑ ^{*a b*} Scott A. Duff; John M. Miller (C.W.O.) (1996). *The M14 owner's guide and match conditioning instructions* (<http://books.google.com/books?id=E1syAAAACAAJ>). S.A. Duff Publications. pp. 20–21. ISBN 978-1-888722-

- 07-9. Retrieved 27 September 2011.
2. ^{a b} R. Blake Stevens (June 1991). *Us Rifle M14: From John Garand to the M21* (<http://books.google.com/books?id=ktA0PQAACAAJ>). Collector Grade Publications. p. 245. ISBN 978-0-88935-110-3. Retrieved 27 September 2011.
3. ^a Miller, David (2001). *The Illustrated Directory of 20th Century Guns*. Salamander Books Ltd. ISBN 1-84065-245-4.
4. ^a "Picatinny: Products" (http://www.pica.army.mil/picatinnypublic/products_services/products08.asp). Retrieved 2009-11-15.
5. ^a Headquarters, Department of the Army. TM 9-1005-223-10 (<https://www.logsa.army.mil/etmpdf/files/020000/025000/026378.pdf>), Operator's Manual for Rifle, 7.62-mm, M14, W/E (1005-589-1271); Rifle, 7.62-MM, M14A1, W/E (1005-072-5011); Bipod, Rifle, M2 (1005-71 1-6202) w/ Change 2. Washington, DC: Headquarters, Department of the Army, 1973
6. ^a FM 23-8, 1969
7. ^a Lewis, Jack (2007). "A short-lived replacement". *Gun Digest Book of Assault Weapons* (7 ed.). Iola, Wisconsin: Gun Digest Books. p. 210. ISBN 978-1-4402-2652-6.
8. ^{a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v} Rayle, Roy E., *Random Shots: Episodes In The Life Of A Weapons Developer*, Bennington, VT: Merriam Press, ISBN 978-1-4357-5021-0 (2008), pp. 17-22, 95-95
9. ^a M14 rifle / Mk.14 Mod.0 Enhanced Battle rifle (USA) (<http://world.guns.ru/assault/as15-e.htm>) world.guns.ru
10. ^{a b c d e f g h i} Stevens, R. Blake, *The FAL Rifle*, Collector Grade Publications, ISBN 0-88935-168-6, ISBN 978-0-88935-168-4 (1993)
11. ^a *Washington Trends: National Affairs* Newsweek, Vol. 42, 20 July 1953, p. 20
12. ^{a b c d e} *The T48 Automatic Rifle: The American FAL* (<http://www.cruffler.com/historic-april01.html>), Cruffler.com, retrieved 24 April 2012
13. ^a Hatcher, Julian S. (Maj. Gen.), *Hatcher's Notebook*, Harrisburg, PA: The Stackpole Company (1962), p. 496
14. ^{a b c d e f g h} Emerson, Lee, *M-14 Rifle History & Development*, (Text Only Edition), (2009), pp. 11, 29, 37, 60-72
15. ^a Weapons of the Vietnam War (<http://www.173rdairborne.com/weapons.htm#M-14,%207.62mm%20Springfield%20Armory%20Rifle>). 173rdairborne.com. Retrieved on 2011-09-27.
16. ^{a b c d e} Emerson, Lee. M14 Rifle History. (http://www.imageseek.com/m1a/M14_RHAD_Online_Edition_061010.pdf) imageseek.com, 10 October 2006.
17. ^a M14 rifle / Mk.14 Mod.0 Enhanced [*sic*] Battle rifle (USA) (<http://world.guns.ru/assault/as15-e.htm>) world.guns.ru
18. ^a Kevin Dockery (4 December 2007). *Future Weapons* (<http://books.google.com/books?id=8RxJxY7wQn0C&pg=PA45>). Penguin. pp. 45–. ISBN 978-0-425-21750-4. Retrieved 27 September 2011.
19. ^{a b} An Analysis of the Infantry's Need for an Assault Submachine Gun (<http://www.dtic.mil/cgi-bin/GetTRDoc?AD=ADA044796&Location=U2&doc=GetTRDoc.pdf>), page 9
20. ^a Gordon Rottman (2011). *The M16*. Osprey Publishing. p. 6. ISBN 978-1-84908-690-5.
21. ^a Rose, p. 387
22. ^a Ibp Usa; USA Int'l Business Publications (1 May 2007). *Philippines Army Weapon Systems Handbook* (<http://books.google.com/books?id=Fol3VuSS9BkC&pg=PA77>). Int'l Business Publications. p. 77. ISBN 978-1-4330-6198-1. Retrieved 25 June 2013.
23. ^a "CF-162.appn.part1" (http://www.rand.org/pubs/conf_proceedings/CF162/CF162.appn.pdf) (PDF). Retrieved 2008-09-08.
24. ^a study (<http://www.dtic.mil/cgi-bin/GetTRDoc?AD=ADA512331&Location=U2&doc=GetTRDoc.pdf>). U.S. Army, 2009.
25. ^a <http://www.americanrifleman.org/articles/US-sniper-war-in-afghanistan/>
26. ^a "AF Honor Guard Training Guide (5.2.1)" (<http://www.honorguard.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-100408-003.doc>). *U.S. Air Force*.
27. ^a "Ordnance Notes by Stoner – SEAL/MST Weapons Vietnam" (http://www.warboats.org/mst2Bremmer/Stoner_ord_notes/stonerhtml/Stoners_ord_notes.htm#seal). Warboats.org. Retrieved 2008-09-08.
28. ^a United States. Bureau of Naval Personnel (1965). *Naval Airborne Ordnance*. Norfolk, VA: US Navy. p. 220.

29. ^ James H. Willbanks (2011). *America's Heroes: Medal of Honor Recipients from the Civil War to Afghanistan*. ABC-CLIO. p. 309. ISBN 978-1-59884-393-4.
30. ^ Chris Bishop (15 August 1996). "The M14 Battle Rifle". *The vital guide to combat guns and infantry weapons*. Airline. p. 55. ISBN 978-1-85310-539-5.
31. ^ *M14 Type Rifles*. (<http://www.alpharubicon.com/leo/m14typeriflesd.htm>) Retrieved on September 24, 2008.
32. ^ Polytech M14 Rifle. (http://savvysurvivor.com/polytech_m14_rifle.htm) Retrieved on September 24, 2008.
33. ^ "Norinco M14S" (http://web.archive.org/web/20070928060947/http://www.norincoequipment.cn/detail_product_English.jsp?productid=86&cssid=1). Archived from the original (http://www.norincoequipment.cn/detail_product_English.jsp?productid=86&cssid=1) on 2007-09-28. Retrieved 2010-02-03.
34. ^ "Norinco M305" (http://web.archive.org/web/20070928060812/http://www.norincoequipment.cn/detail_product_English.jsp?productid=87&cssid=1). Archived from the original (http://www.norincoequipment.cn/detail_product_English.jsp?productid=87&cssid=1) on 2007-09-28. Retrieved 2010-02-03.
35. ^ http://www.cgsc.edu/carl/docrepository/fm23_8_1965.pdf M14 Departement of the Army Field Manual
36. ^ Lamothe, Dan (March 17, 2011). "Corps fielding new semi-automatic sniper rifle" (<http://www.marinecorpstimes.com/news/2011/03/marine-corps-sniper-rifle-m110-031711w/>). Marine Corps Times. Retrieved 18 March 2011.
37. ^ *a b c d e f g h* Emerson, Lee, *M14 Rifle History and Development*, Fifth Edition, Vols. 2, 4 (2011)
38. ^ Walker, Robert E. (26 November 2012). *Cartridges and Firearm Identification* (http://books.google.com/books?id=SJYjP_tJ9_wC&pg=PA278). CRC Press. p. 278. ISBN 978-1-4665-0206-2. Retrieved 6 September 2013.
39. ^ Shideler, Dan (14 April 2010). *The Official Gun Digest Book of Guns & Prices 2010: Rifles, Pistols & Shotguns* (<http://books.google.com/books?id=BvsNuzEiSmwC&pg=PA710>). Iola, Wisconsin: Gun Digest Books. p. 710. ISBN 978-1-4402-1454-7. Retrieved 6 September 2013.
40. ^ *a b* Thompson, Jim (2001). *The Classic M1 Garand: An Ongoing Legacy For Shooters And Collectors*. Boulder, Colorado: Paladin Press. p. 16. ISBN 9781581602609.
41. ^ *a b c d* Cutshaw, Charles Q (2006). "New-era M14 alleviates reliability issues". *Jane's International Defense Review: IDR* (Jane's Information Group) **39**: 87. ISSN 0020-6512 (<http://www.worldcat.org/issn/0020-6512>).
42. ^ Poyer (2006), p. 21
43. ^ Poyer, Joe (2006). *The M14-Type Rifles: A Shooter's and Collector's Guide, 3rd Edition*. Tustin, California: North Cape Publications Inc. pp. 37–38. ISBN 978-1882391424.
44. ^ Peterson, Phillip (30 November 2010). *Gun Digest Buyer's Guide to Tactical Rifles* (<http://books.google.com/books?id=jp-4n02a0QQC&pg=PA75>). Iola, Wisconsin: Gun Digest Books. p. 75. ISBN 978-1-4402-1793-7. Retrieved 2 April 2013.
45. ^ Peterson, Phillip (28 February 2011). *Gun Digest Buyer's Guide to Assault Weapons* (<http://books.google.com/books?id=fd9Qc0neMjYC&pg=PA118>). Iola Wisconsin: F&W Media. p. 118. ISBN 978-1-4402-2672-4. Retrieved 2 April 2013.
46. ^ "NSN 1005-00-790-8766" (<http://www.armyproperty.com/nsn/1005-00-790-8766>). Retrieved 29 April 2013.
47. ^ Springfield Armory (<http://www.springfield-armory.com/armory.php>). Springfield Armory. Retrieved on 2011-09-27.
48. ^ <http://img829.imageshack.us/img829/5735/benjaminrobertssmithsas.jpg>
49. ^ SAGE M14 EBR, M1A, Mk14, MOD 0, MOD 1, MOD 2, M39 EMR, M4, SOCOM II, TACOM-RI, M14ALCS, PMRI, EBR.; Mk14 Mod 0 / Australian SASR soldier Receives VC (<http://sageebr.com/2011/03/24/mk14-mod-0-australian-sas-soldier-receives-vc.aspx>). Sageebr.com. Retrieved on 2011-09-27.
50. ^ Illegal parameters (<http://111.125.172.46/fotoweb/Preview.fwx?&position=43&archiveType=ImageFolder&archiveId=5000&albumId=5000&sorting=ModifiedTimeAsc&search=benjamin%20roberts-smith&fileId=8590496097A739A27841C7E8A1C14EE88E6EC020FDCEF86377CC8A13DB84B7E8FDFA39A7FA961C9342E8044A3C5F398F5684C2FC76214F06843C923783BDBECB0DC3E33DF9EC2BB239F8E36C62ACA8B0E5BCB206B9B466AB4DEF7ED0A9CD7660EC1041941448453CA60F67DE22B8F5494B9E0E2969EA114A1D70380DCCC3223A35D671CEBABE4A58149FF3F2CC3A9AC2D4A81D69203E3C4EB6F3627064A160E49CF492D66B9068D0A14896A25AD8B52FE1E112937C34D1CC29EF15977CF013BD9C7DC09CC2A04FFB>). 111.125.172.46. Retrieved on 2011-09-27.

Retrieved on 2011-09-27.

51. ^ *a b c d e f g h i j k* Jones, Richard (2009). *Jane's Infantry Weapons 2009–2010*. Jane's Information Group. pp. 893–901. ISBN 0-7106-2869-2.
52. ^ Eesti Kaitsevägi – Tehnika – Täpšuspüss M14-TP (<http://www.mil.ee/?menu=tehnika1&sisu=tapsuspuss>). Mil.ee. Retrieved on 2011-09-27.
53. ^ World Infantry Weapons: Estonia (http://worldinventory.googlepages.com/wiw_eu_estonia). Worldinventory.googlepages.com. Retrieved on 2011-09-27.
54. ^ Modern Firearms' TEI M89SR Page. (<http://world.guns.ru/sniper/sn66-e.htm>) Retrieved on September 24, 2008.
55. ^ „See Tõde**(Lithuanian)** Lietuvos kariuomenė :: Ginkluotė ir karinė technika » Automatiniai šautuvai » Automatinis šautuvas M-14 (http://kariuomene.kam.lt/lt/ginkluote_ir_karine_tehnika/automatiniai_sautuvai/automatinis_sautuvas_m-14.html). Kariuomene.kam.lt (2009-04-17). Retrieved on 2011-09-27.
56. ^ "M14 rifle / Mk.14 Mod.0 Enhanced Battle rifle (USA)" (<http://world.guns.ru/assault/as15-e.htm>). World Guns.
57. ^ 자유사진자료실. (http://bemil.chosun.com/nbrd/gallery/view.html?b_bbs_id=10044&num=111149) Retrieved on September 24, 2008. „See Tõde**(Korean)**
58. ^ M14SE Crazy Horse and MK14 SEI Rifles: Smith Enterprise, Inc (<http://www.smithenterprise.com/products02.html>). Smithenterprise.com. Retrieved on 2011-09-27.
59. ^ Capt. Kelly Sweeney (October–November 2008). "Mariners need to be able to defend themselves against pirates" (<http://www.professionalmariner.com/ME2/dirmod.asp?sid=&nm=&type=Publishing&mod=Publications%3A%3AArticle&mid=8F3A7027421841978F18BE895F87F791&tier=4&id=C669DF9695CB4B1CBBB5F5466264BAC1>). Professional Mariner. Retrieved 2011-10-26.
60. ^ Goodwin, Liz (2012-02-28). "Fighting drugs and border violence at Arizona's Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument: What about the ranger's M14 rifle, Yogi?" (<http://news.yahoo.com/blogs/ticket/fighting-drugs-border-violence-arizona-organ-pipe-cactus-132342614.html>). The Ticket/Yahoo News. Retrieved 17:35, Tuesday February 28, 2012 (UTC).
61. ^ Gander, Terry J.; Hogg, Ian V. *Jane's Infantry Weapons 1995/1996*. Jane's Information Group; 21 edition (May 1995). ISBN 978-0-7106-1241-0.

Further reading

- Duff, Scott A., John M. Miller, and contributing editor David C. Clark. *The M14 Owner's Guide and Match Conditioning Instructions*. Export, Penn.: Scott A. Duff Publications, 1996. ISBN 1-888722-07-X.
- Murphy, Edward F. *The Hill Fights: The First Battle of Khe Sanh*. Novato, Calif.: Presidio Press, 2003. ISBN 0-89141-747-8.
- Pisor, Robert L. *The End of the Line: The Siege of Khe Sanh*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 2002. ISBN 0-393-32269-6.
- Rose, Alexander. *American Rifle: A Biography*. New York: Bantam Dell Publishing, 2008. ISBN 978-0-553-80517-8.
- Stevens, R. Blake. *U.S. Rifle M14: From John Garand to the M21*. Toronto: Collector Grade Publications, Inc., 1995. ISBN 0-88935-110-4.

External links

- How the M14 7.62 Rifle Operates - US Army Training Film (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O67xXyEG9D4>) on YouTube
- Field Manual No. 23-8 U.S. Rifle, 7.62mm, M14 and M14E2 (1965) (<http://www.scribd.com/doc/18493259/FM-238-M-14>)

- Guide to National Match Accurizing as Performed by U.S. Army Shooting Team Gunsmiths (<http://www.scribd.com/doc/32939280/Us-Army-Marksmanship-Training-M14-Rifle-Accurization>)
- Modern Firearms Site (<http://world.guns.ru/assault/as15-e.htm>)
- The M14/M1A Magazine FAQ (http://www.rawles.to/M14%20Magazine_FAQ.html)
- Different's M1A Site (<http://www.imageseek.com/mla>)
- U.S. Rifle, cal. 7.62mm, M14 (<http://www.chuckhawks.com/m14.htm>)
- 7.62 NATO Battle Rifles (<http://www.alpharubicon.com/leo/battlerifles.htm>)
- M14 Rifle Pictures (<http://www.hk94.com/m14.html>)
- Nazarian's Gun's Recognition Guide (FILM) M14 "Squad automatic weapon" (.wmv) (http://www.nazarian.no/wep.asp?id=287&group_id=5&country_id=97&lang=0&p=8)
- *M14* (http://www.imfdb.org/wiki/M14_Rifle) at the Internet Movie Firearms Database

Retrieved from "http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=M14_rifle&oldid=574789422"

Categories: 7.62 mm firearms | Battle rifles | Cold War firearms of the United States | Rifles of the Cold War | Infantry weapons of the Cold War | Police weapons | Rifles of the United States | United States Marine Corps equipment

- This page was last modified on 27 September 2013 at 20:53.
- Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy. Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.