



US Army Set To Order 30,000 Next Generation Squad Weapons

Description

Buried deep within the [DoD FY23 budget request by weapon system](#), the US Army has officially chosen the contractor(s) for the Next Generation Squad Weapons (NGSW) program.

NGSW is a prototyping effort by the Army that consists of a new rifle (NGSW-R) and automatic rifle (NGSW-AR), chambered in a new high tech 6.8mm cartridge, set to replace the aging M16, M4A1 Carbines and the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon, chambered in a 5.56 NATO round.

The NGSW has been in competitive prototyping testing with three defense firms, including SIG Sauer, [General Dynamics – OTS](#), and Textron Systems.



On page 53/106 of the budget request, the Army expects to procure 29,046 NGSWs in 2023.

“Starts funding for the procurement and fielding of 1,704 NGSW-AR, which is the planned replacement for the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW) within the Close Combat Force; Procurement and fielding of 15,348 NGSW-R which is the planned replacement for the M4A1 Carbine within the Close Combat Force; and procurement and fielding of 11,994 Next Generation Squad Weapons Fire

Controls,” the document read.

FY 2023 Program Acquisition Costs by Weapon System


Next Generation Squad Weapon

The Next Generation Squad Weapon (NGSW) Middle Tier Acquisition (MTA) Rapid Prototyping effort is developing a new rifle (NGSW-R) and automatic rifle (NGSW-AR) with a common 6.8mm cartridge in a variety of ammunition types (General Purpose, Special Purpose, Reduced Range, and blank) intended to replace the M16, M4A1 Carbines and the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon in the Close Combat Force. This MTA Rapid Prototyping initiative supports Army Modernization priorities (Build a More Lethal Force) through enhancement of Joint Lethality in contested environments like Multi-Domain Operations by eliminating erosion of close combat capability relative to peer competitors in complex terrain.

Mission: Provides the new more lethal carbine and Squad Automatic Weapon provides Brigade Combat Teams with additional capability when engaging an adversaries ground forces.

FY 2023 Program: Starts funding for the procurement and fielding of 1,704 NGSW-AR, which is the planned replacement for the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW) within the Close Combat Force; Procurement and fielding of 15,348 NGSW-R which is the planned replacement for the M4A1 Carbine within the Close Combat Force; and procurement and fielding of 11,994 Next Generation Squad Weapons Fire Controls.

Prime Contractor(s): To be determined.



Next Generation Squad Weapon						
	FY 2021		FY 2022		FY 2023	
	Qty	\$M	Qty	\$M	Qty	\$M
RDT&E	-	89.5			-	66.5
Procurement	3,983	35.8			29,046	221.3
Total	3,983	125.3			29,046	287.8

Numbers may not add due to rounding

Ground Systems

The document didn't mention the prime contractor(s), though that should be announced later this year.

The Army will be fielding these new main battle rifles and machine guns next year — just as tensions with Russia heat up.

by Tyler Durden

Category

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