

THE LAW IS BACK... AND MORE LETHAL!

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The M72 LAW (Light Anti-Armor Weapon) is back into Marine Corps' arsenal of shoulder launch rockets. In October 2004, an Urgent Universal Needs Statement (UNS) was submitted for a Portable Lightweight Assault Rocket (PLAR) in support of the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). The Marine Corps required a weapon system with the capability to defeat targets such as covered enemy fighting positions (bunkers, urban structures) or light armored vehicles that are impervious to small arms fire or out of the range of fragmentation hand grenades and other close-in weapon systems. The M72A7 Lightweight Anti-Armor Weapon (LAW) system was identified as the material solution.

The M72A7 LAW system consists of the Rocket, Tactical 66MM HE M72A7 with graze fuze (DODIC HA29), the M72AS Trainer Launcher (TAMCN E50027B), and the M72AS 21mm Sub-caliber Trainer Rocket (DODIC HA21). Albeit, the M72A7 is designated as a `tactical' or combat only rocket, there is a robust training system (M72AS w/HA21) that is ballistically matched to the M72A7 and simulates 70% of the overpressure/ affects as firing a tactical rocket. When firing the training rockets, the first couple or so will definitely gain your attention.if you are inattention.

Currently the M72 program is completely fielded to meet the requirements established by the MROC Decision and is now a program of record (POR). During the initial fielding, an innumerable amount of malfunctions were encountered and has been since contributed to substandard material/aluminum within the firing and safe channel/mechanism. PMAMMO is working with the contractor to replace launchers that are broken and/or that have the substandard aluminum. As well, in unison with the replacement launcher program, a maintenance and operator training curriculum has been developed and implemented to ensure armorers (2111/2) and infantry Marines receive training in safety, maintenance, and employment of the M72.

Next for the M72 program, PMAMMO in conjunction with PMAA (Anti-Armor) will establish an IPT to develop an acquisition strategy plan that will readdress areas that received limited details during the initial rapid fielding, such as maintenance support and OPFORS requirements. The strategy plan includes providing launchers to train the Reserves and school houses.

Images



