

M14

■ TYPE: RIFLE



Model illustrated: M14, United States

Technical Information

Calibre

7.62 x 51 mm

Length

1.12 m

Weight (unloaded)

5.1 kg

Barrel length

(muzzle to bolt face)

559 mm

Sighting systems

Fore: fixed post

Rear: tangent aperture

Operating system

Gas

Muzzle velocity

853 m/s

The United States introduced the M14 rifle in 1957. Although the weapon remained in widespread service for a relatively short period of time, it has been continually revised to suit a number of roles. This is primarily because the weapon is larger in calibre and has a longer range than the US military's primary infantry weapons—the M16 and M4 assault rifles. For this reason the M14 is commonly deployed with special forces. M14 rifles have also been refitted for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, where desert and mountain environments allow for longer-range engagements.

PROBABLE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Region	State forces	Non-state/illicit
Western Europe	▶	○
Eastern Europe	○	○
Middle East & North Africa	○	○
Sub-Saharan Africa	○	○
Central Asia	○	○
South Asia	▶	○
East Asia	●	▶
Pacific	●	▶
North America	●	▶
Central America	▶	▶
South America	▶	○

● Expect regular use ▶ Expect occasional use ○ Do not expect use

Variants and their distinguishing features

VARIANTS

(Model/manufacturer)

United States:

- M14
- Mk 14 EBR (& M14 Tactical)
- M14 DMR
- M39 EMR
- M21 & M25 (sniper)

Private companies and government agencies have made numerous alterations to the M14 rifle. The Mk 14 EBR is a shortened version of the weapon, designed for special forces use. The M14 Designated Marksman Rifle (DMR) is a modernized version of the M14 designed for sniper roles in the US Marine Corps. The M39 EMR is an M14 DMR with a traditional M14 stock, but without a bipod. The M21 and M25 are sniper rifles that resemble the M14 DMR, but are built to higher tolerances. A commercial variant, the Ruger Mini 14, is chambered for the smaller 5.56 x 45 mm cartridge. Although smaller than the M14, the weapon is visually similar, but features a curved magazine.

DESIGN FEATURES

Prominent horizontal vents above the hand guard



▶ M14

MAGAZINE DESIGN

Curved



▶ Mini 14

Straight



▶ M14

Points to include when recording information about the weapon:

1. Serial number, including all prefix and suffix characters
2. Characters adjacent to fire selector
3. Any other engraved/stamped information on weapon

FRONT END

Wooden furniture, no bipod



▶ M14

Green composite furniture, folding bipod



▶ M14 DMR

Compiled by the Small Arms Survey with the technical assistance of the National Firearms Centre, Royal Armouries, United Kingdom. For further information or if you have identification queries, contact weaponsID@smallarmssurvey.org or call: +41 22 908 5777. This identification sheet may be downloaded in printable PDF format at www.smallarmssurvey.org/weaponsID

WARNING:

Make a full and informed appraisal of the local security situation before conducting any research related to small arms and light weapons.