

EFFECTIVENESS OF THE INDIVIDUAL RIFLEMEN IN AN INFANTRY SQUAD



NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL

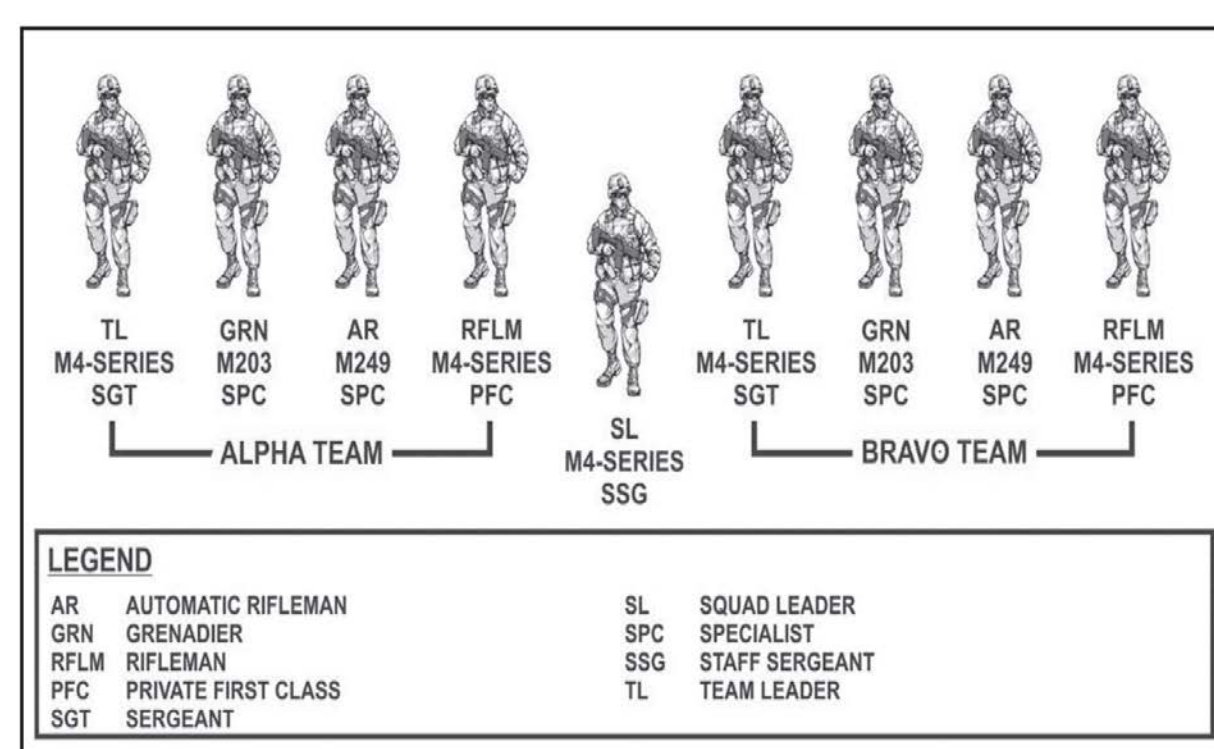
Abstract

Our research establishes a decision-making framework for use during the acquisition of the next individual combat rifle system. We utilize four possible courses of action to display the decision-making model. The four primary evaluation factors to optimize the squad are lethality, accuracy, mobility, and interoperability. The first part of the model is a value approach that normalizes these four different performance factors for system comparison. The second part of the model is a qualitative approach that examines other potential risk factors. We analyze, normalize, and weigh the performance factors, for comparison of each course of action against programmatic, political, and international risks.

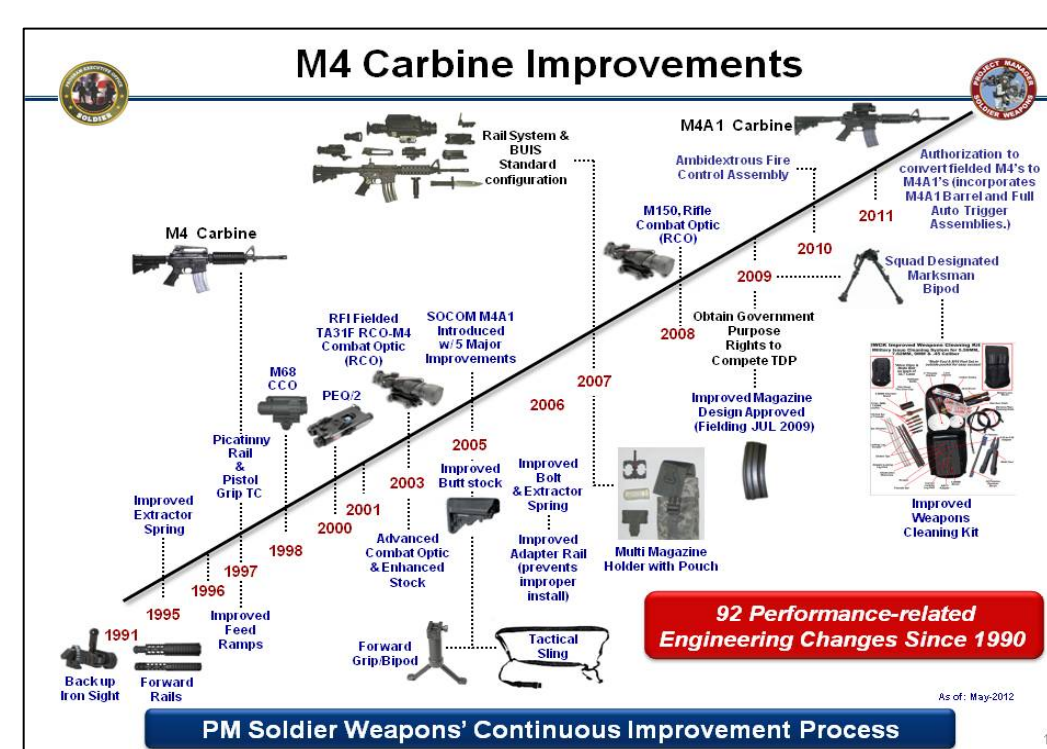
Program risks focus on the cost, schedule, and performance of each potential course of action, while maintaining the best interest of our soldiers and American taxpayers. Political risks are uncertain based on the stakeholders involved within Congress and military's leadership. International risks are primarily concerned with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The 5.56mm caliber is the NATO standard, and any adaptation of a new weapon and caliber may invoke criticism from our NATO allies. In the end, our research provides senior leaders with an initial recommendation for gaining overmatch capability against our peer and near-peer adversaries.



Traditional Brass vs. Caseless Ammo



United States Army Infantry Squad



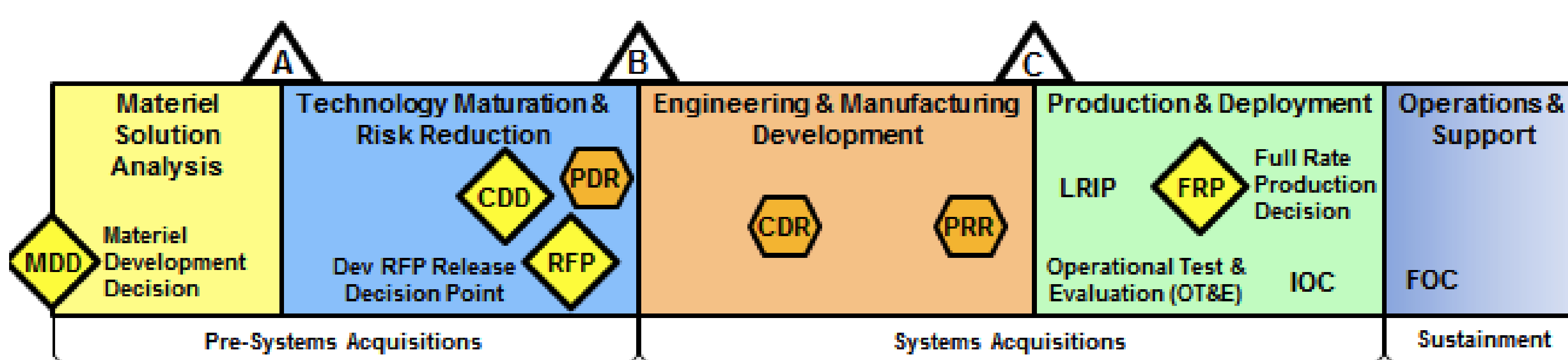
M4A1 current upgrades



Commercial Off the Shelf

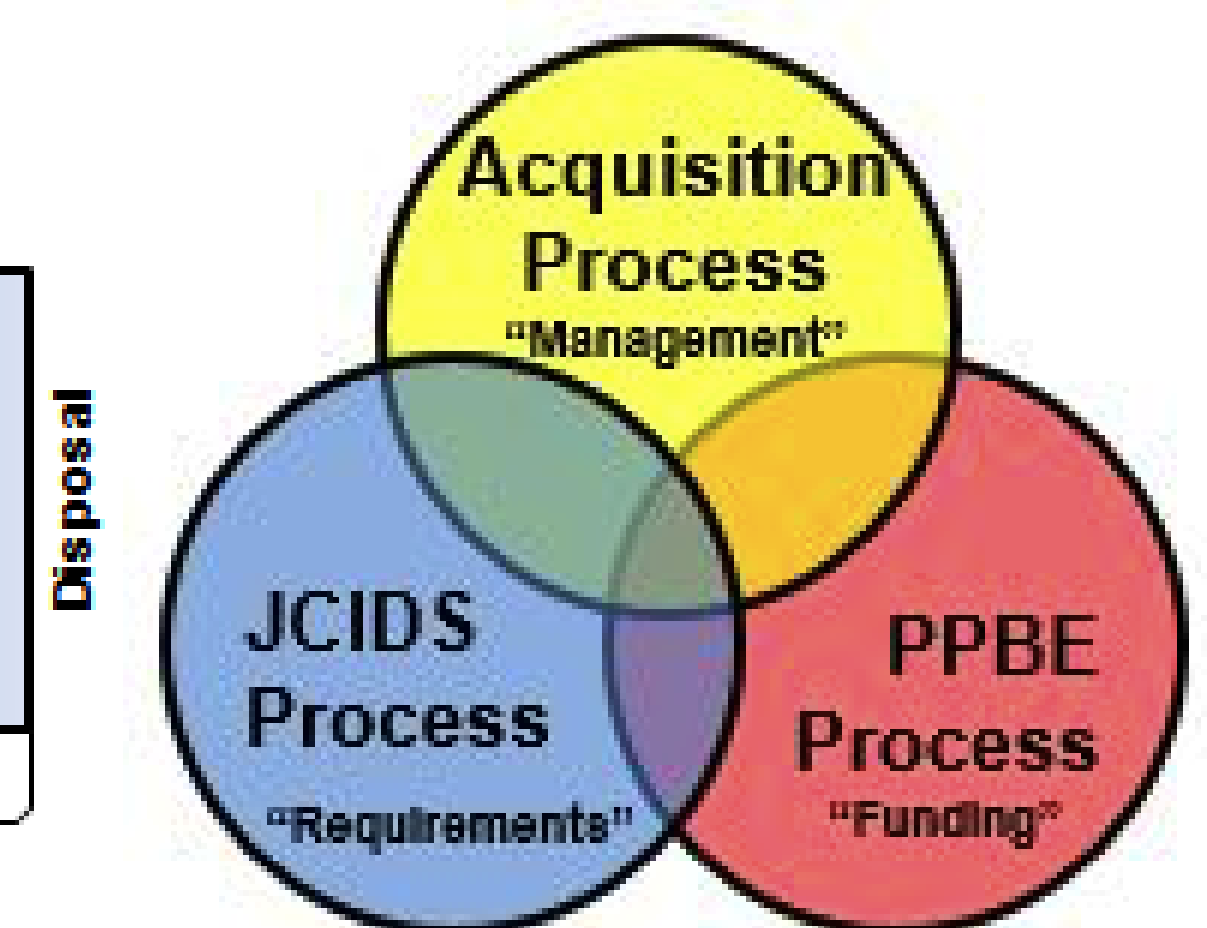
Results

Each COA explored in this thesis represents a viable option to the procurement of a new or updated infantryman combat rifle. GEN Miley, Chief of Staff of the Army, rated Soldier Lethality as one of his top priorities for Army modernization during a recent Association of the United States Army (AUSA) speech. (Lopez, 2017)



Legend = Decision Point = Milestone Decision = Major Review

Acquisition Framework



Defense Acquisition System