

NEW WEAPONS FOR SNIPERS AND SPECIAL FORCES



Two new weapons are to be introduced into the New Zealand Army including the NZSAS – the Barrett M107A1 (Anti-materiel weapon) and the Barrett MRAD (sniper rifle).

Forty M107A1 and forty-two MRAD weapons will be purchased at a cost of NZ\$4M. This cost includes day optics, suppressors and ballistic computer auxiliary equipment to complement a total weapon system.

The 0.50 calibre semi-automatic M107A1 anti-materiel rifle is a new capability providing soldiers with the ability to identify and effectively engage vehicle or installation targets with precision out to 1500m.

The Barrett MRAD .338 Lapua Magnum is proven effective to 1500m and replaces the current AW sniper rifle 7.62mm calibre, effective to 800m, which has reached the end of its service life. This has greatly increased the range of our snipers and with the innovation of new tripods increased their ability to shoot in various positions from prone to standing.

Both weapons will be used by infantry units within NZ Army 1 Brigade (NZ) and the NZSAS, and will be introduced to service from mid-2018.

Chief of Army Major General Peter Kelly says the new weapons provide soldiers with the latest technology and ensure they will be equipped for any battlefield environment they may encounter.

The new weapons were chosen after rigorous testing and feedback from qualified operators. The MRAD was selected after six weeks of testing a number of potential rifles at Waiouru, with over 10,000 rounds fired in a variety of evaluation activities. The M107A1 adopted a sole source procurement approach following detailed market research, engagement with industry as well as with ABCA partners on a suitable AMW solution that meets users needs.

The New Zealand Army's current small arms calibres side by side: 5.56mm (MARS(L), 7.62mm (designated marksman weapon, light machine gun, and current sniper rifle), .338" new sniper calibre and .50" new anti-materiel calibre.



BARRETT M107A1 ANTI-MATERIEL RIFLE



The M107A1 anti-materiel rifle is a new capability providing soldiers with the ability to identify and effectively engage materiel targets with precision out to 1500m.

The M107A1 is a semi-automatic platform designed to fire a range of 0.50 calibre projectiles. The 0.50 calibre projectile is the primary calibre utilised by ABCANZ nations for anti-materiel rifles due to the projectile's ability to penetrate, disable and/or destroy unarmoured and light armoured vehicles.

The high powered optics mounted on the M107A1 provide weapon operators with improved targeting capabilities as well as enhanced situational awareness. At approximately 13 kgs, the M107A1 is easily portable and can be carried by a single weapon operator. A bespoke carry bag has been designed allowing soldiers to ergonomically carry the weapon considerable distances into the field.

The semi-auto M107A1 platform is fed by a 10 round magazine. User feedback during trials noted a significant reduction in recoil compared to previous bolt action anti-materiel rifles some users had been exposed to. As result, rapid engagement of multiple targets is more easily achieved. The M107A1 will provide task elements not only greater protection but also rapid fire power with precision reducing the risk of potential collateral damage.

SPECIFICATIONS

Model:	M107A1
Caliber:	.50 BMG
Operation:	Semi-Automatic
Barrel Lengths:	20" (50.80 cm) 29" (73.70 cm)
Barrel Twist Rate:	1 turn in 15" (38.1 cm)
Overall Length:	48" (122 cm) 57" (145 cm)
Rail Length/MOA:	18" (45.72 cm) 27 MOA
Weight:	27.4 lbs (12.4 kg) 28.7 lbs (13.0 kg)
Magazine Capacity:	10 Rounds
Manufacturer:	Barrett Firearms



BARRETT MRAD (MULTI ROLE, ADAPTIVE DESIGN) SNIPER RIFLE

The NZ Army will be purchasing the MRAD sniper rifle system in 2017. The MRAD is .338 Lapua Magnum accurate out to 1500m targets, making it superior to the current 7.62mm calibre rifle that was effective to 800m. The rifle comes with suppressor which screws onto the muzzle brake, it has a fully adjustable match grade 2 stage trigger, folding stock with adjustable cheekpad and butt stock. It uses an innovative bolt mechanism that runs in a polymer sleeve which reduces the need for lubrication and is less prone to fouling. Operators have the ability to change calibres in less than 3 minutes from .338" to 7.62mm with a single tool.

The MRAD rifle can be fired from standing, sitting, kneeling and prone positions with a new tripod system being introduced as part of the package.



SPECIFICATIONS

Model:	MRAD
Operation:	Bolt Action Repeater
Caliber and Barrel Length:	.338 Lapua Magnum 26" (66 cm)
Barrel Twist Rate:	.338 LM – 1 in 9.35" (24 cm) .308 Win – 1 in 10" (25 cm)
Maximum Length:	26" Barrel – 49.4" (125.5 cm)
Minimum Folded Length:	26" Barrel – 40.75" (103.5cm)
Rail Length/MOA:	21.75" (55.24 cm) 20 MOA
Weight:	Min 11.7 lbs (5.3 kg) Max 13.10 lbs (5.94 kg)
Magazine Capacity:	10 Rounds

The integration of a ballistic computer to the optic sight enables the engagement of multiple targets at various ranges in varying weather conditions to provide quick and accurate fire onto materiel targets.

The MRAD provides an overmatch capability to meet any current battlefield scenario NZDF snipers are likely to

be involved in.

Snipers provide the ability to apply precision fire on high-value targets and reduce the risk of collateral damage in many battlefield scenarios. They are highly trained marksmen who can be effectively deployed across the full spectrum of conflict.

