

Pattern: Modular Assault Rifle System – Light, (MARS-L). Introduced NZ: 2016. Withdrawn: In service.

Maker: Lewis Machine & Tools, Milan, Illinois, USA .

Calibre: 5.56 mm NATO. Bore: 6 groove RH twist, 1 in 177.8mm or 1 in 7 inches.

Barrel length: 400mm (16 in) and 362mm (14.5 in). OA Length: 917.5mm butt extended, 835mm collapsed, for 400mm barrel. Weight: 3.3Kg. Type of Action: gas operated. Magazine: 30rounds. Effective Range: 600 metres.

Sights: Sights, Back up iron sights, Trijicon ACOG 4 power optic with RMR close quarter battle sight.

The MARS – L is based on the direct gas impingement system, rotating bolt design AR 15 assault rifle originally developed by Armalite in the late 1950s. It features many improvements including ambidextrous controls and has an effective range of 600 metres.



Above - the MARS-L has the ability to attach various accessories including day/night vision, grenade launchers, combat torches and sound suppressors.

New Zealand Service

Announced on 12 August 2015 by the Ministry of Defence the MARS –L was chosen from 8 rifles submitted for trials by the New Zealand Defence Force between March and June 2015.

The MARS – L is being introduced into all arms of the New Zealand Defence Force commencing in November 2016 to the following scale of issue: Army 4,343, Navy 425, Air Force 800, plus 3,472 in a pool for spares and repairs and deployments.

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