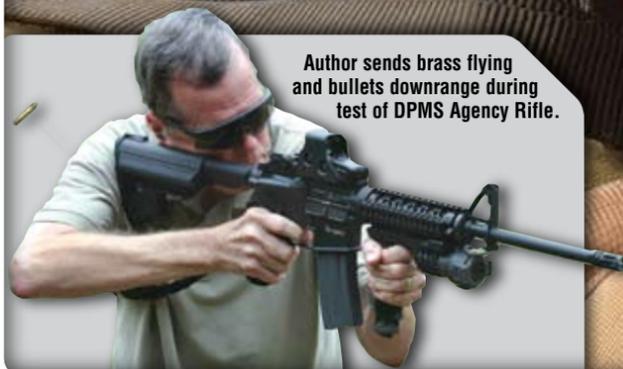


# DPMS 5.56MM AGENCY RIFLE >>>

**Ready for patrol right out of the box — boasting superb accuracy and total reliability!**

DPMS Agency Rifle comes ready for patrol right from the box with L-3 EOTech optic, ERGO Grip and SureFire high intensity light as standard. We substituted SureFire M900 Weapon light and added Vltor Modstock to basic carbine and added Optical Systems Technology AN/PVS-22 night vision optic.

**YOU CAN JUST ABOUT** count on one hand the number of AR producers that manufacture all their own components or control the vendors of those components that aren't made "in house." One of those rare companies is DPMS, which was established as a supplier of AR components and went on to become one of the largest manufacturers of AR-type rifles and carbines in the industry. Not only is DPMS one of the major manufacturers of AR-type rifles, the company manufactures a dazzling array of rifles and carbines in calibers ranging from .204 Ruger to .300 RSAUM, and everything in between. DPMS is a major supplier of special-



Author sends brass flying and bullets downrange during test of DPMS Agency Rifle.

4/C AD

## DPMS AGENCY RIFLE 5.56mm



(Left) Vltor Modstock is a significant improvement over standard collapsible stock, providing nearly ideal eye relief for optics. Storage compartments for spare batteries and small items are accessible without removing stock from carbine. (Below) L-3 EOTech optical sight is standard on DPMS Agency Carbine, as is DPMS Mangonel backup iron sight and SureFire M73 MIL-STD-1913 rail handguard.



ized carbines and rifles to the US military and to law enforcement agencies nationwide. If a potential user cannot find what they need in DPMS' extensive catalog, it probably can't be found anywhere. While DPMS manufactures many different AR-type carbines, most are bare bones with standard handguards and no special features. The problem with selling plain carbines to law enforcement is that most officers and agencies must go to the trouble and expense of adding their own custom features to their duty carbines. The vast majority of law enforcement users will

invariably add handguards with MIL-STD-1913 rails on top, bottom and sides to accommodate accessories such as lights, lasers and pistol grips. Most will also install a CQB optic of some sort, as optics are much faster on target in a CQB environ-

ment where engagement distances are 25 to 50 yards, and where the tempo is extremely dynamic and fast paced.

Most users will also add a high intensity light for low light engagements, which are the norm rather than the exception. If the operation doesn't take place after sundown, it will probably be in a building where ambient light is marginal at best, non-existent at worst. With these dynamics in mind, DPMS developed its "Agency Rifle," so named because it duplicates a carbine used by some government agencies.

### GUN DETAILS

The Agency Rifle is based on DPMS "Panther" carbine series that includes forged upper and lower receivers, both made from 7075-T6 aircraft aluminum. The fit between these two key components on our test carbine was so tight that we initially believed that there was an Accu-Wedge installed, but when we disassembled the carbine for initial cleaning and lubrication with TW-25B prior to testing, we found that there was no Accu-Wedge, just that the upper and lower receivers were fitted to precise tolerances that we usually do not encounter in AR-



SPECIFICATIONS

DPMS AGENCY RIFLE

**Caliber:** 5.56x45mm • **Barrel:** 16 inches • **Weight:** 7.06 pounds (empty)  
**OA Length:** 36.38 inches (stock extended), 32.62 inches (stock collapsed)  
**Sights:** A2 front sight assembly, Mangonel flip-up rear, L-3 EOTech HWS 512  
**Stocks:** AP4 6-position fiber-reinforced polymer • **Operation:** Semi-auto, gas-operated rotating bolt  
**Finish:** Teflon-coated black • **Capacity:** Two 30-shot mags • **Price:** Starts at \$2000

type rifles from other manufacturers. There was absolutely zero "play" between the upper and lower receivers. The aluminum components are hard coat anodized and then coated in black Teflon.

The Agency Rifle comes ready for duty right from the box, with many of the custom features desired by law enforcement already installed, including SureFire M73 Quad rail handguard, SureFire 951P high intensity flashlight, L-3 EOTech Holographic Weapon Sight (HWS), DPMS "Mangonel" backup rear sight and ERGO Sure Grip. Other features include a two-stage match grade trigger and an ambidextrous selector. Of course, the purchaser can opt for other features or omit any of those mentioned. The bottom line is that DPMS will work with the individual officer or agency to build the exact duty carbine they want. In our case, we opted out of the SureFire flashlight because we already had a SureFire M900 combination pistol grip and high intensity light. We also added a couple of other accessories that many tactical officers and military operators frequently add to their weapons that we'll discuss.

SureFire's M73 Quad rail isn't a free-floating system, although it does facilitate mounting accessories, mandatory in today's fast-paced tactical world, whether it is military or law enforcement. What the M73

does is enable the user to mount a variety of accessories or lights with repeatable zero if properly mounted to the rail system. The M73 also dissipates heat much more efficiently than standard handguards.

Another standard feature is L-3 EOTech's HWS, which is in widespread use by the US military and law enforcement tactical teams throughout the United States. The HWS is arguably the fastest sight available because all the shooter has to do is frame the target in the reticle and shoot. The standard reticle consists of a 1-MOA central dot surrounded by a 65-MOA ring to aid in target leads. The L-3 EOTech projects a hologram onto a hardened glass window. The reticle cannot be seen from the front, even in conditions of darkness, and appears as long as there is a clear view through any part of the window. The HWS is fully night vision compatible with IR reticle settings, but with the latest night vision optics, an IR reticle isn't necessary. Although the HWS is extremely fast on target using the reticle, we understand that many L-3 EOTech users in combat zones do not even turn on the reticle for room clearing; all they do is center the target in the optic frame and shoot it.

The reason for the widespread adoption of optics is simple. Sighting a carbine with open iron sights requires aligning three different elements: target, front sight and rear sight. There are two aspects of align-



AAC Omni Suppressor fits over standard "birdcage" flash suppressor without adapters and significantly reduces muzzle blast and flash. Suppressors are considered essential by many tactical teams for clearing buildings where muzzle blast is amplified by interior walls, reducing ability of team members to effectively communicate.

4/C AD

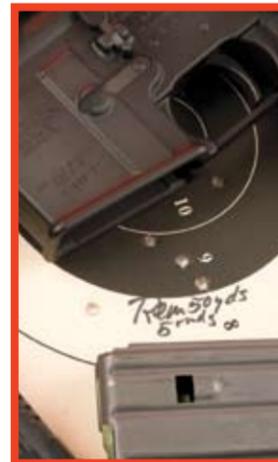
B/W AD

## DPMS AGENCY RIFLE 5.56mm



DPMS Mangonel backup iron sight folds flat and out of the way when not in use, but is exactly the same height as standard rear sight and can be used without removing L-3 EOTech.

ing these three components, sight alignment and sight picture. Sight alignment is the alignment of the front and rear sights as closely as possible to perfection and is the most important element of using iron sights. The target adds a third element, and sight alignment and the target comprise the sight picture. If the sight picture is a bit off, there is still a fair chance of hitting the target, but if sight alignment is off, the chances are that the shot will miss. With optics, there are only two elements, the target and sight. There is no aligning front and rear sights. All that is required with a properly zeroed, optically sighted carbine is to superimpose the optic's reticle on the target and shoot it. Optics also benefit shooters who wear glasses or the author, whose eyes have difficulty focusing on the components that constitute proper iron sight alignment and picture. The military has gone to optical sights for just about every small arm because target engagement is much faster,



Agency Rifle proved reliable and accurate. Best group was slightly over an inch less flyer with Remington ammo. Agency ran with 100 percent reliability with all types of ammo tested.

as are follow-up shots. Another advantage with optics is that all are used with both eyes open so that the shooter can observe and scan for threats while engaging enemy targets. No less is true for law enforcement officers. When the time comes to use their patrol carbine, a police officer is almost certainly in a high threat situation where speed equals survival, not just in maneuver, but also in target engagement.

While the DPMS comes with a collapsible stock, we replaced the DPMS standard collapsible stock with a Vitor Modstock available from Brownells. Why is the Modstock better? The Modstock provides a cheekrest that is superior to even full stock ARs. Unlike the standard stock, the Modstock gives almost perfect eye relief for optics mounted on the flat top upper. The Modstock also provides storage compartments for batteries and other small items that can be accessed without removing the stock from the carbine. The "Clubfoot" Modstock adds a third rect-

angular compartment, which is ideal for storing AA size batteries. A rubber recoil pad completes the latest development in the Modstock line. Recent Modstock can be ordered in either commercial or military spring tube diameters. Earlier Modstocks were available only in MILSPEC diameter. The military tube specification is 1.15 inches in diameter, while the commercial tube that many carbines have is 1.17 inches. Our DPMS carbine came with a MILSPEC tube. Most of our recent test carbines are arriving with MILSPEC tubes, but if the reader wishes to fit a Modstock to their M4-type carbine, measure the tube diameter and order accordingly.

Most building clearing operations are in periods of limited illumination or darkness, virtually mandating some sort of night vision optic. Current state-of-the-night vision art is Optical Systems Technology's AN/PVS-22 Universal Night Sight. Unlike previous night sights, the AN/PVS-22 mounts ahead of the day optic, allowing it to be used without an illuminated reticle and at any magnification. The AN/PVS-22 does not require an adapter, so there are no eye relief issues. It simply clamps to the SureFire M73 handguard's MIL-STD-1913 rail just in front of the day optic. Distance isn't much of a factor and the AN/PVS-22 can even be slightly "off-axis" without affecting function. Most remarkable is the image quality of the PVS-22, which has no "sparkles" or grainy images to interfere with the user's vision. We are receiving more and more test rifles with extended MIL-STD-1913 rail mounts or "rail" handguards like that of the DPMS agency carbine, indicating that more and more law enforcement and military units are adopting the PVS-22. The PVS-22 is only slightly larger than a PVS-14 and can be used as a handheld night vision optic.

We also installed a SureFire M900 Vertical Foregrip Weaponlight with optional infrared (IR) filter. This versatile foregrip/high intensity light has ambidextrous momentary activation pads for the main battle light, a constant on switch and momentary push switch for the two integral low-output LEDs that are used for stealth navigation. This light emits 125 lumens of high intensity focused light for an hour and attaches to the bottom MIL-STD-1913 rail via a LaRue Tactical QD throw lever. All night vision optics work on amplification of ambient light, and while the PVS-22 is arguably the state-of-the-art in current night vision technology, it requires some light and isn't effective in total darkness such as caves or deep inside unlit building interiors. For situations like this, the SureFire IR filter is rotated into place over the lamp lens,

B/W AD

4/C AD

PERFORMANCE						
DPMS AGENCY RIFLE 5.56X45MM						
Load	VELOCITY			ES	SD	Accuracy
	High	Low	Average			
Black Hills 68 HPBT	2737	2676	2699	61	23	2.50
Remington 69 HPBT	2860	2783	2833	77	24	2.00
Winchester 69 HPBT	2939	2855	2899	84	24	2.50

*Bullet weight measured in grains, velocity, ES (extreme spread) and SD (standard deviation) in feet per second (fps) by Oehler 35 Chronograph, accuracy in inches for average of two 5-shot groups from 50 yards. Temperature: 85 degrees.*

## DPMS AGENCY RIFLE 5.56mm

enabling the carbine user to clear using IR light that is invisible to the human eye. Of course, IR can be detected by other night vision optics, but the IR SureFire coupled with the PVS-22 is about as good as it gets. The HWS can be used with this combination either with or without the reticle turned on, but we'd probably use it without the reticle for night ops, which are typically at CQB distance.

Finally, we installed a Laser Devices Dual Beam Aiming Laser-Advanced<sup>2</sup> (DBAL-A<sup>2</sup>). The DBAL-A<sup>2</sup> provides an IR pointer, IR illuminator and red visible laser pointer and probably will eventually replace the larger and less capable AN/PEQ-2. Modes are selected using a rotary switch to select between the visible laser and the various IR modes, including IR pointer only, IR illuminator only or both. A low power engagement mode reduces the IR output for indoor use and CQB. Optical glass generators project different illumination patterns that include



**Disassembled Agency Rifle with accessories reveals that it is standard AR and anyone trained on the basic AR system should instantly find it familiar.**

circle, square, triangle, plus sign or "T" for target designation and pointing. When used with the AN/PVS-22, the DBAL-A<sup>2</sup> enables the shooter to illuminate his target with a laser that is invisible to the naked eye, a major advantage in night operations. Windage and elevation are adjustable in 0.4 milliradi-

an increments. The DBAL-A<sup>2</sup> is provided with optional mounts for MIL-STD-1913 rails, either a thumbscrew or quick detach (QD) throw lever mount. The DBAL-A<sup>2</sup> is constructed of 6061-T6 aircraft aluminum, weighs only 8 ounces, and derives power from a single AA battery.

### SHOOTING IMPRESSIONS

Shooting the Agency Rifle brought no surprises. The little rifle was typical of

what we have come to expect from DPMS, with good accuracy and total reliability. The two-stage trigger broke like the proverbial glass rod at just over 3 pounds. Some may not care for two-stage triggers, but until the advent of the AR, every US 20th century military rifle had a two-stage trigger, so to those who complain about two-stage triggers, our advice is to get used to it. In law enforcement, the initial "slack" in a two-stage trigger is an advantage because the slack gives the *(Please turn to page 95)*

B/W AD

## DPMS 5.56mm AGENCY RIFLE

*Continued From Page 95*

officer a small but positive margin of error before they actually pull the trigger to send a round downrange. There is no tactical advantage to a single-stage trigger; we have used both extensively over the years and if we had to choose, we'd go with the two-stage trigger. The best group of the day came with Remington ammo, but the Agency Rifle performed well with every brand of ammo tested.

In the final analysis, DPMS has developed a patrol carbine that is ready for duty right from the box, incorporating all the basic additional features that most agencies and individual officers add without the expense and extra hassle of having to buy, pay for and install the options. Of course, we added a few extras of our own to suit our particular tastes, but after getting it zeroed, we could have taken the Agency right out on patrol without a second thought. If you are seeking a patrol or tactical carbine that is good to go right from the box without spending time seeking out and buying essential high-quality and functional options, the DPMS Agency Rifle is just about the only act in town.

### For more information:

#### **DPMS, Inc.**

3312 12th St SE, Dept GW/LE  
St Cloud, MN 56304; 800-578-3767  
www.dpmsinc.com

#### **Advanced Armament Corporation**

1434 Hillcrest Rd, Dept GW/LE  
Norcross, GA 30093; 770-925-9988  
www.advanced-armament.com

#### **Brownells**

200 S Front St, Dept GW/LE  
Montezuma, IA 50171; 800-741-0015  
www.brownells.com

#### **EOTech (L-3 Communications)**

1201 E Ellsworth Rd, Dept GW/LE  
Ann Arbor, MI 48108; 734-741-8868  
www.eotech-inc.com

#### **Laser Devices**

2 Harris Ct, A-4, Dept GW/LE  
Monterey, CA 93940; 800-235-2162  
www.laserdevices.com

#### **Optical Systems Technology, Inc.**

110 Kountz Ln, Dept GW/LE  
Freeport, PA 16229; 724-295-2880  
www.omnitechpartners.com

#### **SureFire, Inc.**

18300 Mt Baldy Circle, Dept GW/LE  
Fountain Valley, CA 92708; 800-828-8809  
www.surefire.com

#### **Vitor Weapon Systems**

3735 N Romero Rd, Dept GW/LE  
Tucson, AZ 85705; 520-408-1944  
www.vitor.com

B/W AD