

Jump TO Article



The article on the pages below is reprinted by permission from *United Service* (the journal of the Royal United Services Institute of New South Wales), which seeks to inform the defence and security debate in Australia and to bring an Australian perspective to that debate internationally.

The Royal United Services Institute of New South Wales (RUSI NSW) has been promoting informed debate on defence and security issues since 1888. To receive quarterly copies of *United Service* and to obtain other significant benefits of RUSI NSW membership, please see our online Membership page:

www.rusinsw.org.au/Membership



Jump TO Article

DEFENCE NEWS

New United States Army Rifle XM25

According to media reports, the United States Army recently commenced trialling a new infantry rifle in Afghanistan, the XM25 Counter Defilade Target Engagement System, which uses a radio-controlled 'smart' bullet and can indirectly engage targets behind obstacles. The rifle has a range of about 700 metres; its gun sight uses a laser rangefinder to determine the exact distance to any obstruction, after which the soldier can add or subtract up to 3 metres from that distance to enable the bullets to clear the barrier and explode above or beside the target. Soldiers will be able to target snipers hidden in trenches rather than calling in air strikes. The 25-millimetre round contains a chip that receives a radio signal from the gun sight providing the precise distance to the target.

The XM25 may have special application to fighting in built-up areas. Where an enemy is hiding behind a wall and only breaking cover to fire occasionally, the weapon's laser finder can work out how far away the enemy is and then the operator would add 1 metre using a button near the trigger. When fired, the explosive round would carry exactly 1 metre past the wall and explode with the force of a hand grenade above the enemy.

Each round costs US\$15.50 and has been patented by Alliant Techsystems. The rifle will initially use high-explosive rounds, but its makers say that it might make later use versions with smaller explosive charges that aim to stun rather than kill.