

## **DEFENCE NEWS**

### **M777A2 155mm Lightweight Towed Howitzer**

As a part of Defence's ambitious programme to 'harden and network' the Australian Army, it is replacing the L119 105mm light gun (Hamel) and the M198 155mm medium gun with a new artillery weapons system, the M777A2 155mm Lightweight Towed Howitzer.



This new equipment has a much higher level of digital connectivity allowing more rapid, safe and accurate application of fire effects across the battlespace. It can link with Australian and coalition networks providing accurate and timely responses as required to support ground forces in all weather conditions, day or night.

The M777 provides direct support to combat troops through offensive and defensive fires with conventional and precision-guided projectiles. It can also employ illuminating and smoke projectiles.

The M777 has both tactical and strategic mobility. It can be towed behind the Mack gun tractor or lifted slung below the Army CH-47 Chinook helicopter; and can be carried in the Air Force C-17A Globemaster III and C-130J Hercules aircraft. It is deployable by Navy watercraft and amphibious vessels.

Its characteristics are: calibre - 155mm; weight - 4100kg; length - 10.7 metres in deployed configuration or 9.5 metres in towed configuration; rate of fire - 2 x rounds per minute (sustained) or 5 x rounds per minute (rapid); and effective range - 24km for conventional rounds or 30km for improved rounds.

Infrastructure (vehicle shelters, maintenance facilities, and simulation systems) to support this acquisition is being provided at eight army bases across Australia under Project Land 17 Phase 1B/C.

**Department of Defence**