



Units are still trying to make unauthorized modifications to their M16s and M4s. That will get you in trouble and could endanger you, your unit and your weapon.

The latest unauthorized modification that has reared its ugly head is converting an M16 to something called a squad designated marksman rifle. This involves a different barrel and trigger group. Needless to say, this is NOT authorized.

The only time a weapon can be modified is if the Army has approved a modification work order (MWO). This is spelled out in Para 3-1e of AR 750-10: "Commanders will not allow their equipment to be modified unless there is an official MWO."

MWO 9-1005-319-30-1 authorized units to convert M16A2s to M16A4s. That MWO has expired. No more M16A2s can be converted.

What items can you mount on your M16/M4? Only those listed in TM 9-1005-319-10 and -23&P. The *Small Arms Integration Book* also lists authorized equipment. Download it at: <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/folder/4718898>

If your M16A2 uses the M5 adapter rail system for mounting, remember that the rail system is considered AAL. If the M16A2 is turned in, you need to keep the rail system and reinstall the original handguards.

Do what the M16/M4's TM tells you to and you and your weapon will do fine. Go beyond that and trouble is near.