

Ammo: 5.56x45mm NATO

Technical Guide: 5.56x45mm NATO (RHS: USAF)

Quick Summary: The 5.56x45mm is the standard US intermediate cartridge. In the RHS/ACE3 environment, its effectiveness is entirely dependent on **velocity** and **projectile construction**.

1. Modern Combat Variants

These are the primary rounds found in modern US Army and USMC loadouts (Post-2010).

==== M855A1 EPR (Enhanced Performance Round) ==== * **Visual ID:** Bronze/Silver Exposed Tip * **Best For:** General Purpose Infantry The "EPR" is the current gold standard. It features a hardened steel penetrator that excels at punching through body armor and light barriers (wood/drywall). **Community Note:** This should be your "Default" magazine choice.

==== Mk318 Mod 0 (SOST) ==== * **Visual ID:** Open Tip / Lead Cliff * **Best For:** CQB / Short-Barreled Rifles (Mk18) Designed for "Barrier Blind" performance. It is less likely to deflect when shooting through car glass or plywood compared to the M855A1.

==== Mk262 Mod 1 (OTM) ==== * **Visual ID:** Black Ring / Open Tip * **Best For:** Marksmen / Long-Range Engagements A heavy 77-grain round that maintains its energy at distance. It does not have a steel penetrator, so it relies on raw "Stopping Power" and high damage upon impact.

2. Legacy & Special Purpose

Commonly found in Cold War scenarios or specialized mission crates.

M193 (Ball)

The original 55-grain "Vietnam" round. It has extremely high muzzle velocity but lacks the weight or penetrator to defeat modern armor.

- **Warning:** Almost zero effect against Level III/IV plates.

M855 (Ball)

The classic "Green Tip." It is a Jack-of-all-trades but a master of none. In modern missions, it often

requires multiple center-mass hits to down armored AI.

M995 (AP)

Black-tipped armor-piercing rounds.

- Usage:** Save these for targets wearing heavy "Juggernaut" style vests or light-skinned vehicles.
- 3. Comparison & Ballistics**

Variant	Penetration	Damage	Opt. Range	Muzzle Vel.
M855A1	High	High	450m	915 m/s
Mk318	Medium	Very High	250m	890 m/s
Mk262	Low	Extreme	750m	840 m/s
M193	Very Low	High	200m	990 m/s
M995	Extreme	Low	400m	1010 m/s
- 4. Deployment Recommendations**

Category	Primary	Tracer
Standard Infantry	M855A1 (EPR)	M856A1 (Dim Trace)
Recon / Marksman	Mk262 Mod 1	
Engagement	0 - 400m	300 - 700m
- Updated: DATE Related Guides: 7.62mm NATO | 5.45mm RU

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