



USMC Company and Battalion Mortars Program

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02 Oct 2003





USMC Mortar Programs



- Expeditionary Fire Support System (?) – PM AFSS
- Mortar Ballistic Computer – PM AFSS
- Mortar Ammunition – PM Ammo
- **Company and Battalion Mortars – PM IWS**



USMC Mortars Background



- Marine Corps currently utilizes M252 at rifle battalions (1 platoon of 8 guns in battalion weapons company)
- M224 at every rifle company (1 section of 3 guns per rifle company, 3 rifle companies per battalion)



Background (cont.)



- USMC intends to maintain the *capability* to provide organic indirect fire support at the company and battalion level for the foreseeable future



Mortar Problems



- High tube washout rate:
 - 81s: 18/year
 - 60s: 40/year
- High tube replacement cost
- High cost/low availability of bipod parts
- Aging sight system
- End of life cycle = FY 06/10
- **Anticipate loss of combat effectiveness by FY 04/05 at current rate of consumption**



Program Goal



- USMC planning program for POM 06 to replace current mortar systems
- **Maintain existing USMC infantry battalion and rifle company-level indirect fire capabilities while seeking improvements in weapon system performance and containing total ownership costs**



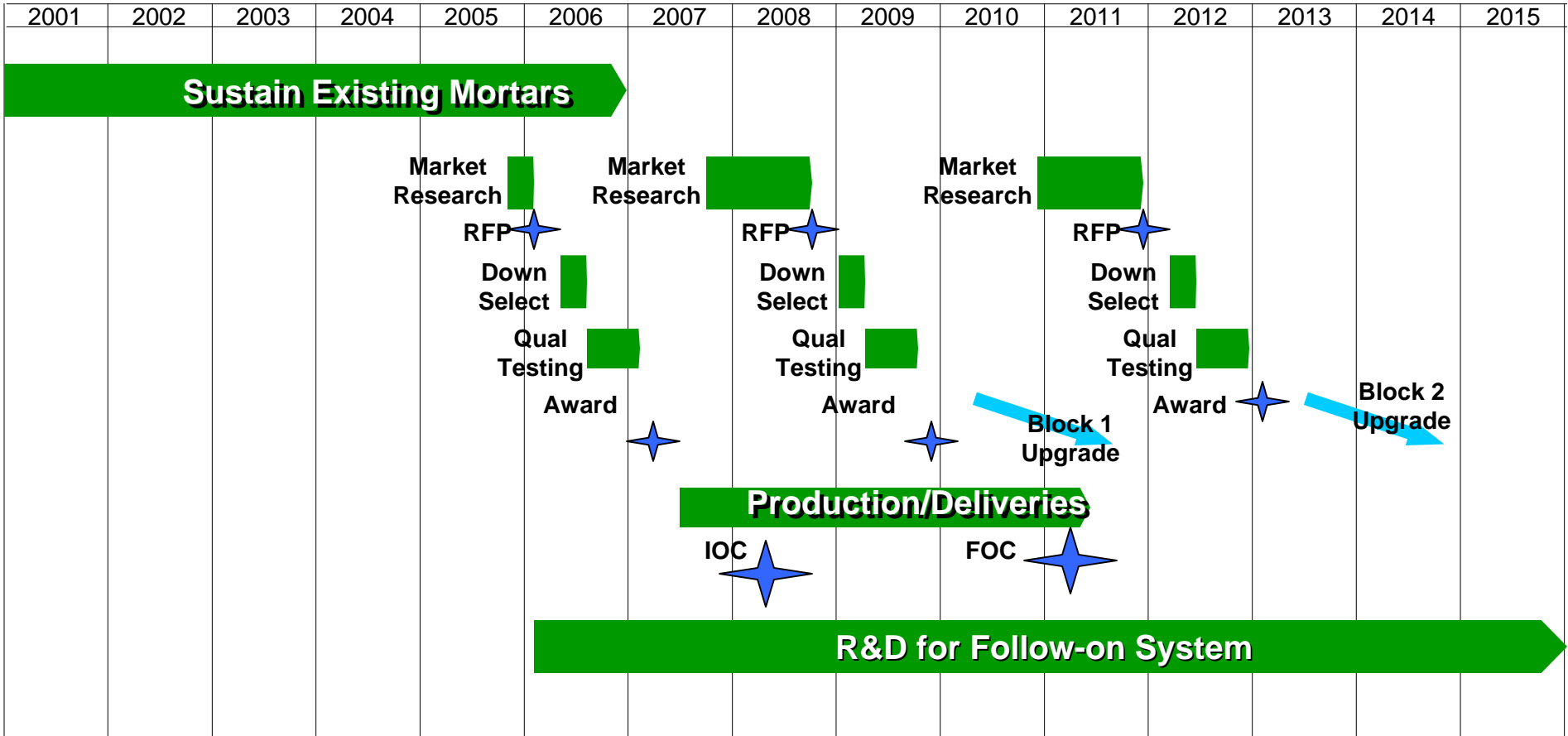
Evolutionary Approach



- Block 1 = Sustain current systems
- Block 1 = NDI System (Interim)
 - R&D Funding: FY 2006
 - PMC Funding FY 2008
- Block 2 = Future System (through 2025)
 - Lighter weight
 - Integrated Fire Control
 - Mortar?
 - R&D Funding : FY 06 and beyond
 - IOC = ?



Planned Program Schedule



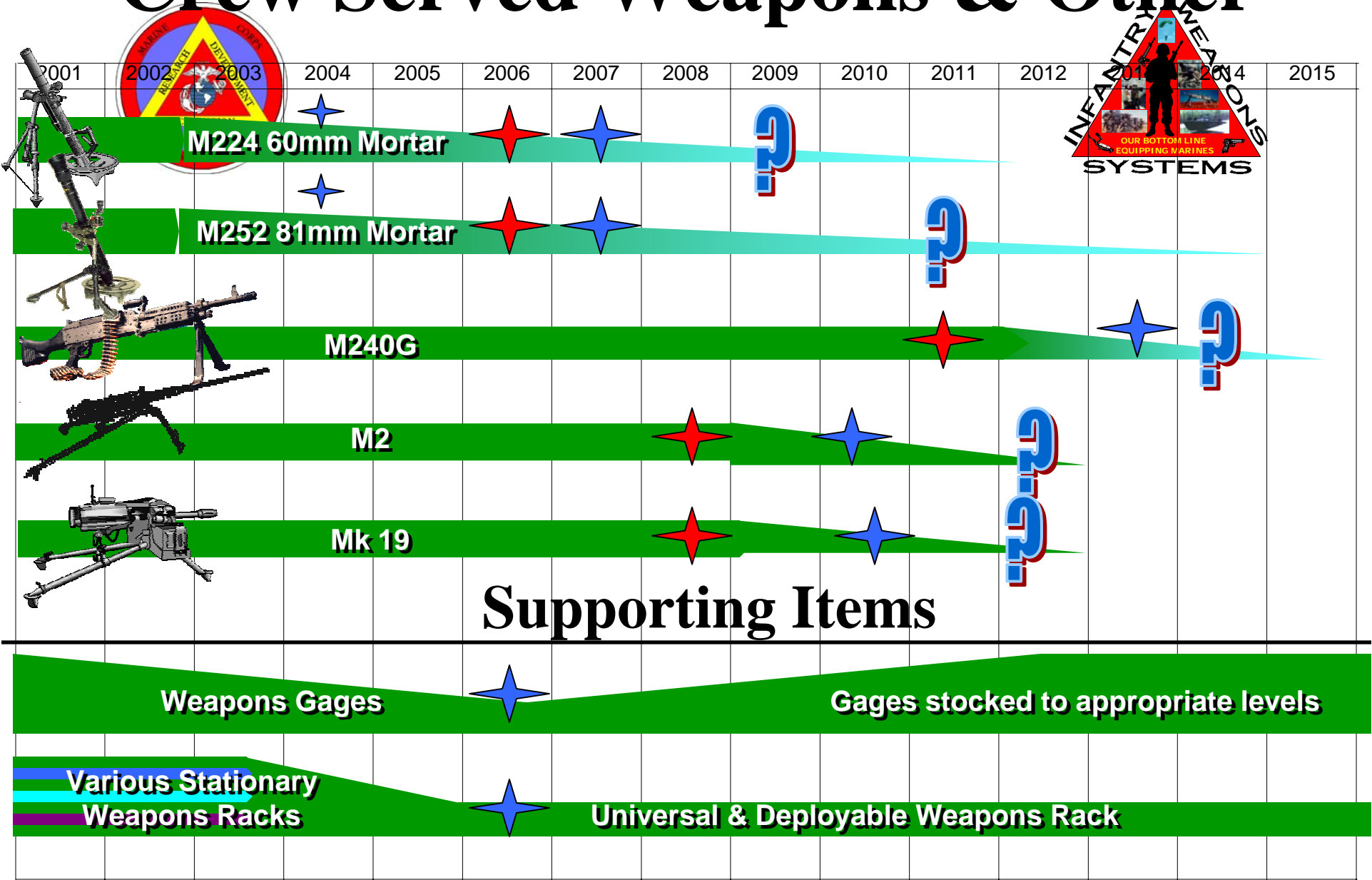


Desired Endstate



**FIELD COMPANY AND BATTALION
MORTAR SYSTEMS THAT ARE
LIGHTER, MORE LETHAL, MORE
SUSTAINABLE, AND MORE
AFFORDABLE BEFORE FY10!**

Crew Served Weapons & Other



 = Yr that RDT&E is to Start
  = Yr that PMC is to Start