

Famous U.S. Military Weapons



The Fairchild Republic **A-10 Thunderbolt II** is an American twin-engine, straight-wing jet aircraft developed by Fairchild-Republic in the early 1970s. It is the only United States Air Force production aircraft designed solely for close air support, including attacking tanks, armored vehicles, and other ground targets with limited air defenses. The A-10 was designed around the **30 mm GAU-8 Avenger rotary cannon** that is its primary armament and the heaviest automatic cannon mounted on an aircraft. The A-10's airframe was designed for durability, with measures such as 1,200 pounds (540 kg) of **titanium armor** to protect the cockpit and aircraft systems, enabling it to absorb a significant amount of damage and continue flying. The A-10A single-seat variant was the only version built, though one A-10A was converted to an A-10B twin-seat version. In 2005, a program was begun to upgrade remaining A-10A aircraft to the A-10C configuration. The A-10's official name comes from the Republic P-47 Thunderbolt of World War II, a fighter that was particularly effective at close air support. The A-10 is more commonly known by its nicknames "**Warthog**" or "Hog". Its secondary Mission is to provide airborne forward air control, directing other aircraft in attacks on ground targets. Aircraft used primarily in this role are designated OA-10. With a variety of upgrades and wing replacements, the A-10's service life may be extended to 2028.



The **Thompson submachine gun** (nicknamed the **Thompson** or **Tommy Gun**) is an American submachine gun, invented by **John T. Thompson** in 1918. The Thompson was favored by soldiers, criminals, police and civilians alike for its ergonomics, compactness, large .45 ACP Cartridge, reliability, and high volume of automatic fire.

The Thompson Submachine Gun was developed by General John T. Thompson who originally envisioned an auto rifle (semi-automatic rifle) to replace the bolt action service rifles then in use. It was found that the only cartridge currently in U.S. service suitable for use with the lock was the .45 ACP round. Thompson then envisioned a "one-man, hand-held machine gun" in .45 ACP as a "trench broom" for use in the on-going trench warfare of World War I. The Thompson first entered production as the M1921. It was available to civilians, although poor sales resulted from the expense of the weapon: the Thompson gun, with one Type XX 20 shot "stick" magazine, was priced at \$200.00 in 1921 (at that time, a Ford automobile sold for \$400.00).

The Marines used their Thompsons in the Banana Wars and in China. It was popular with the Marines as a point-defense weapon for countering ambush by Nicaraguan guerrillas, and led to the organization of four-man fire teams with as much fire- power as a nine-man squad.

The Thompson achieved most of its early notoriety in the hands of Prohibition and Depression-era gangsters, motorized bandits and the lawmen who pursued them, and in Hollywood films about their exploits, most notably in the St Valentine's Day Massacre. It has been referred to by one researcher as the "gun that made the twenties roar." In 1938, the Thompson submachine gun was adopted by the U.S. military, serving during World War II and beyond.