

# SALW Guide

Global distribution and visual  
identification










## The Gambia

Country report

<https://salw-guide.bicc.de>

# Weapons Distribution

The following list shows the weapons which can be found in *The Gambia* and whether there is data on who holds these weapons:

AK-47 / AKM		Lee-Enfield SMLE	
Browning M 2		Sterling L2A3	
FN FAL		Steyr AUG	
FN Herstal FN MAG			

## Explanation of symbols



Country of origin



Licensed production



Production without a licence



*Government:* Sources indicate that this type of weapon is held by Governmental agencies.



*Non-Government:* Sources indicate that this type of weapon is held by non-Governmental armed groups.



*Unspecified:* Sources indicate that this type of weapon is found in the country, but do not specify whether it is held by Governmental agencies or non-Governmental armed groups.

It is entirely possible to have a combination of tags beside each country. For example, if country X is tagged with a G and a U, it means that at least one source of data identifies Governmental agencies as holders of weapon type Y, and at least one other source confirms the presence of the weapon in country X without specifying who holds it.

**Note:** This application is a living, non-comprehensive database, relying to a great extent on active contributions (provision and/or validation of data and information) by either SALW experts from the military and international renowned think tanks or by national and regional focal points of small arms control entities.

## AK-47 / AKM

The AK 47 (Designed 1946-1948) is best described as a hybrid of previous rifle technology innovations: the trigger, double locking lugs and unlocking raceway of the M1 Garand/M1 carbine, the safety mechanism of the John Browning designed Remington Model 8 rifle, and the gas system and layout of the Sturmgewehr 44. There are many variants. The weapons are used by the former Warsaw Pact countries, and they are still in service with numerous armed forces, both regular and irregular. The model and its variants remain the most popular and widely used rifles in the world because of its reliability under harsh conditions, low production costs.



<b>Category</b>	<i>Assault Rifles</i>
<b>Operating system</b>	Gas operated, rotating bolt with 2 lugs
<b>Cartridge</b>	7.62 x 39mm
<b>Length</b>	870 mm
<b>Feeding</b>	Box magazine





*Kalashnikov & variants*  
001/md-01-300w.png  
marking details (RUS)

*Kalashnikov & variants*  
001/md-02-300w.png  
marking details (RUS)

*Kalashnikov & variants*  
001/md-03-300w.jpg  
marking details (EGY)

*Kalashnikov & variants*  
001/md-04-300w.jpg  
marking details (CHN)

001/md-01-b-300w.png

Type: CHN Model 56 (AK47)



weapon specifics

Type: CHN Model 56 (AK47)  
001/ws-02-300w.png

weapon specifics

Type: Former Yugoslavia Zastava M 70  
(AKM)

001/ws-03-300w.png

weapon specifics

Type: Former Yugoslavia Zastava M 70  
(AKM)



weapon specifics

Type: Former Yugoslavia Zastava M 70  
(AKM)



weapon specifics

Type: AMD 65 (HUN)



weapon specifics

Type: PA Model 86 (ROU)



weapon specifics

AK 47



weapon specifics

The following ammunition can be used by the **AK-47 / AKM**:

**7.62 x 39mm**

Bullet diameter	7.92 mm
Case length	38.7 mm
Overall length	56 mm



## Browning M 2

The Browning .50 caliber machine gun has been used extensively as a vehicle weapon and for aircraft armament. The M2 fires from a closed bolt, operated on the short recoil principle. Nearly 5 million items were produced.



<b>Category</b>	<i>Heavy Machine Guns</i>
<b>Operating system</b>	Fires from a short bolt, operated on the short recoil principle
<b>Cartridge</b>	12.7 x 99 mm NATO (.50BMG)
<b>Length</b>	1650 mm
<b>Feeding</b>	Belt

Type: *Browning M2HB-QCB*



left view, Browning M2HB-QCB air-cooled machine gun of current manufacture with quick-change barrel, on M3 tripod

Type: *Browning M2HB*



right view, Browning M2HB air-cooled machine gun on M3 tripod

Type: Browning M2E2



weapon specifics, Browning M2E2 new Browning modification with quick-change barrel

The following ammunition can be used by the **Browning M 2**:

## 12.7 x 99 mm NATO (.50BMG)

Bullet diameter	13 mm
Case length	99 mm
Overall length	138 mm

NO IMAGE

## FN FAL

The FN FAL (Fusil Automatique Léger - Light Automatic Rifle) is one of the most famous and widespread military rifle. Because of its prevalence and widespread usage among the militaries of many NATO and first world countries during the Cold War, it received the title "The right arm of the Free World". It can be found in both, the 7.62x51mm and, very rarely, the 5.56x45mm NATO versions. The furniture may be wood, metal or plastic. There are various barrel lengths. In the UK (L1A1), Canadian, Indian and Netherland versions, there is no automatic fire mode. The gas system is fitted with gas regulator so it could be easily adjusted for various environment conditions, or cut off completely so rifle grenades could be safely launched from the barrel.



<b>Category</b>	<i>Assault Rifles</i>
<b>Operating system</b>	Gas operated, tilting breechblock, select-fire or semi-automatic only
<b>Cartridge</b>	7.62 x 51mm / .308 Winchester
<b>Length</b>	1100 mm
<b>Feeding</b>	Box magazine



Type: ISR FAL "Romat"



left view

FN FAL



left view

FN FAL



right view

FN FAL



right view

FN FAL



right view

FN FAL



right view

FN FAL

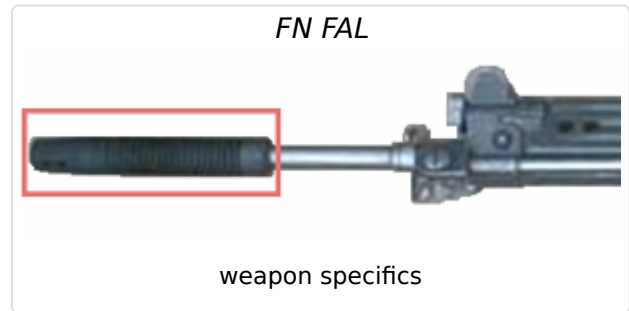


marking details

Type: "Gewehr G1"



Produced for the German armed forces



The following ammunition can be used by the **FN FAL**:

## 7.62 x 51mm / .308 Winchester

Bullet diameter	7.82 mm
Case length	51.18 mm
Overall length	69.85 mm



## FN Herstal FN MAG

The Belgian FN MAG (Mitrailleuse d'Appui Général, meaning general-purpose machine gun) entered into production in 1958. It is one of the most widespread machine gun designs and is used in more than 90 countries around the globe. It is still manufactured in Belgium and produced under license in several countries including Argentina, Egypt, the US and the UK. It can be carried by infantry and is usually fired while mounted on a tripod.



<b>Category</b>	<i>Heavy Machine Guns</i>
<b>Operating system</b>	gas, automatic
<b>Cartridge</b>	7.62 x 51mm / .308 Winchester
<b>Length</b>	1260 mm

<b>Feeding</b>	disintegrating metal link belt
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The following ammunition can be used by the **FN Herstal FN MAG**:

### 7.62 x 51mm / .308 Winchester

Bullet diameter	7.82 mm
Case length	51.18 mm
Overall length	69.85 mm



## Lee-Enfield SMLE

Rifles manufactured in the USA may have "UNITED STATES PROPERTY" on the left side of the receiver. Some of the Indian-made weapons can be found using 7.62 NATO caliber. The Lee-Enfield family of rifles is the oldest bolt-action rifle design still in official service. Lee-Enfield rifles are used by reserve forces and police forces in many Commonwealth countries, particularly Canada, where they are the main rifle issued to the Canadian Rangers, and India, where the Lee-Enfield is widely issued to reserve military units and police forces. Many Afghan participants in the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan were armed with Lee-Enfields (a common rifle in the Middle East and South Asia).



<b>Category</b>	<i>Rifles &amp; Carbines</i>
<b>Operating system</b>	Manually operated, rotating bolt
<b>Cartridge</b>	7.7 x 56mm R / .303 British
<b>Length</b>	1130 mm
<b>Feeding</b>	Box magazine



*Lee-Enfield SMLE*

marking details

*Lee-Enfield SMLE*

marking details

*Lee-Enfield SMLE*

marking details

*Lee-Enfield SMLE*

marking details

The following ammunition can be used by the **Lee-Enfield SMLE**:

## 7.7 x 56mm R / .303 British

Bullet diameter	7.9 mm
Case length	56.4 mm
Overall length	78.1 mm



## Sterling L2A3

Sterling submachine guns , were purchased in more than 70 countries. However, it must be noted that these weapons were rather popular among British troops because of their relatively compact size, adequate firepower and accuracy and good reliability. Special "high power, submachine-gun only" ammunition was procured by British army for Sterling submachine guns. This ammunition was absolutely safe in Sterling submachine guns, but can cause extensive wear to many 9mm pistols designed for commercial 9x19mm ammunition.



<b>Category</b>	<i>Submachine Guns</i>
<b>Operating system</b>	Blowback-operated, select-fire, fires from open bolt
<b>Cartridge</b>	9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)
<b>Length</b>	481 mm
<b>Feeding</b>	Box magazine





Type: FAMAE PAF 9 mm



right view, Chilean copy of the Sterling submachine gun with external differences such as retractable wire stock and missing barrel shroud

Suppressed version L34A1



right view

Sterling MP L2A3



marking details

Sterling MP L2A3



marking details

*Sterling MP L2A3*



marking details

*Sterling MP L2A3*



weapon specifics

The following ammunition can be used by the **Sterling L2A3**:

### 9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)

Bullet diameter	9 mm
Case length	19.15 mm
Overall length	29.69 mm



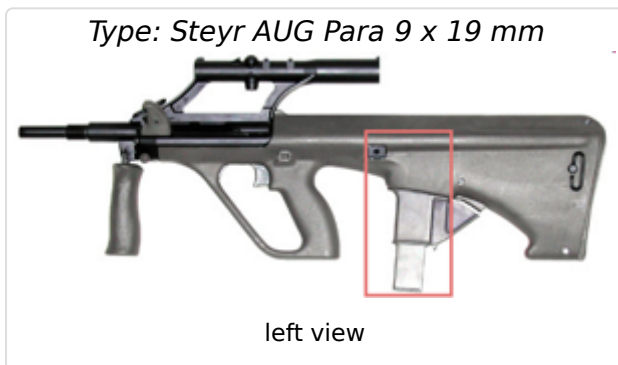
## Steyr AUG

The rifle is fully ambidextrous. It can be configured for use by left-handed shooters by simply changing the bolt for a left-handed one with the extractor and ejector on opposite sides, and moving a blanking cap from the left ejection opening to the right. The housing of the AUG rifles, integral with the pistol handle and trigger guard, is



made from the high impact-resistant polymer, and is usually of green or black color. The Australian Army's modified version of the Steyr AUG A1 is called F88 Austeyr. It is also used by the Falklands Defense Forces.

<b>Category</b>	<i>Assault Rifles</i>
<b>Operating system</b>	Gas operated, rotating bolt
<b>Cartridge</b>	5.56 x 45mm / .223 Remington 9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)
<b>Length</b>	790 mm
<b>Feeding</b>	Box magazine



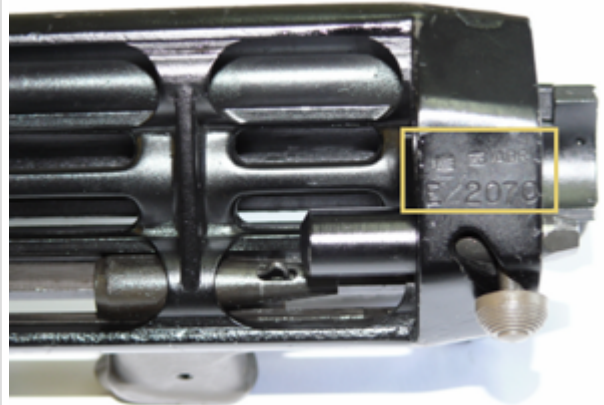


Type: Steyr AUG HBAR, 5.56 x 45 mm



right view

Steyr AUG



marking details

Steyr AUG

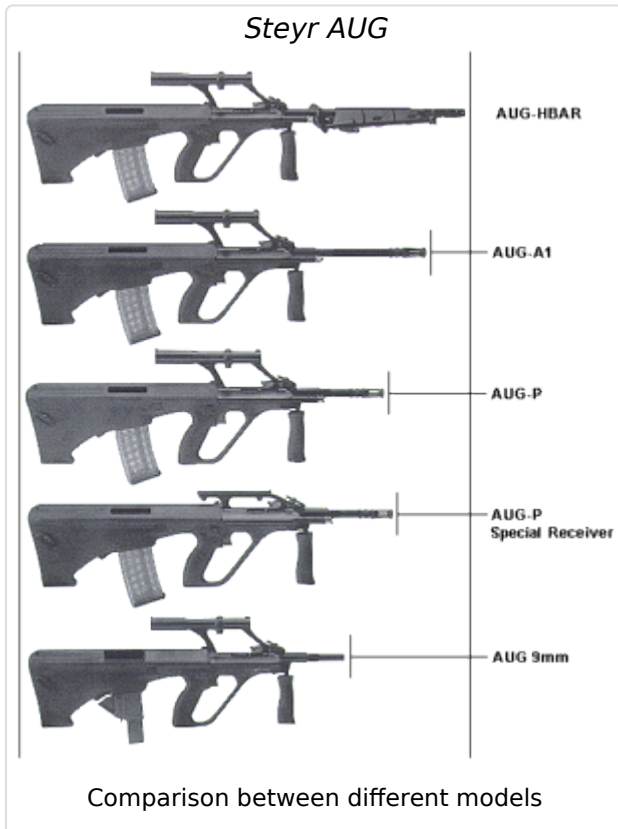


marking details

Steyr AUG



marking details



The following ammunition can be used by the **Steyr AUG**:

### 5.56 x 45mm / .223 Remington

Bullet diameter	5.7 mm
Case length	44.7 mm
Overall length	57.4 mm



### 9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)

Bullet diameter	9 mm
Case length	19.15 mm
Overall length	29.69 mm



## Tagging of Sources

We believe that our Guide should be as transparent as possible without endangering the confidentiality of our sources. Rather than name the exact source for each unit of data, we have created tags so that users can at least know whether the data comes from a primary or secondary source, and by which medium it can or has been found. All incoming data is validated and then tagged by the project team at BICC before it enters our database.

Sources are tagged according to the following criteria:

### 1. Primary Sources:

These are presentations of facts. They are proof of an SALW event (e.g. a transfer, sighting, misuse, etc.) because the source was created at the time of the event itself. Primary sources are usually original documents such as transfer authorizations, firearms legislation, or academic journals presenting results of a study on SALW holdings in a particular country, for example. However, they can also be information offered by a person with direct knowledge of an SALW event or who has documented an SALW event at the time that it happened.

### 2. Secondary Sources:

These are interpretations or evaluation of facts. Secondary sources contain commentary and analysis of SALW events that are documented in primary sources.

Sources are also tagged according to the dominant medium of delivery:

**A. Written** - the source is based on written words.

**B. Oral** - the source is based on spoken words.

**C. Visual** - the source is based on seen events or optical images.

These criteria make our tags two-dimensional. While the process of classifying sources is a primarily subjective one, the project team at BICC has developed the following table to serve as an example of possible sources within each category.

**Table: Examples of sources on SALW distribution**

	Primary	Secondary
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<b>Written</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fact books</li> <li>• Weapons Transfer authorizations</li> <li>• End-user certificates</li> <li>• Transcripts of interviews, legal proceedings, speeches/ presentations, meetings, conferences or symposia</li> <li>• Newspaper articles</li> <li>• Written correspondence (e.g. letters, emails, text messages, etc.)</li> <li>• Blogs</li> <li>• Peer-reviewed journal articles</li> <li>• Treaties, constitution, laws</li> <li>• Records of organizations (e.g. annual reports)</li> <li>• Surveys, questionnaires</li> </ul> <p>Etc...</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wikipedia</li> <li>• Literature reviews</li> <li>• Training or safety manuals on gun control, ammunition, physical stockpile security management)</li> <li>• Minutes of meetings, conferences, symposia</li> <li>• Indexes (e.g. Global Militarization Index)</li> <li>• Newspaper articles</li> </ul> <p>Etc.</p>
<b>Oral</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interviews with experts, including radio or telephone</li> <li>• Legal proceedings</li> <li>• Speeches or interventions by experts or national representatives in government or international meetings</li> </ul> <p>Etc ...</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speeches, panel presentations, etc. on data provided by experts</li> </ul> <p>Etc...</p>
<b>Visual</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Artifacts (e.g. the weapons themselves, ammunition)</li> <li>• Photographs of weapons, ammunition, etc.</li> <li>• Videos (e.g. YouTube, those recorded by mobile phone)</li> <li>• Television documentaries, news reports</li> </ul> <p>Etc ...</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PowerPoint presentations on results found by experts</li> </ul> <p>Etc...</p>

**Table: Example tags**

Source (sample)	Type of source	Medium of delivery
IHS Jane's Weapons Infantry (2015-2016)	primary	written
Panel discussion of weapons use of non-state armed groups	secondary	oral
Documentary on paramilitaries in Colombia	primary	visual

## About the Guide

The Interactive Guide on **Small Arms and Light Weapons** is an open access tool, designed to build knowledge on how to identify different types, makes and models of commonly used SALW in organized violence; to collect data on the global and country-specific spread of these SALW; and to describe some of their visual and technical specifications.

The guide is not an exhaustive list of all SALW that are used around the world.

Global SALW control relies on, among other things, data and knowledge of the weapons themselves. Our aim is that the Guide will be used to support national reporting duties on SALW holdings; facilitate and ameliorate the collection of data on SALW; and increase general knowledge of global distribution of SALW.

The interactive Guide was developed by **BICC** in close cooperation with the **Bundeswehr Verification Center** (BwVC), and with the generous support of the *Federal Foreign Office, Germany*.

## Contact

### **Bonn International Centre for Conflict Studies (BICC) gGmbH**

Joseph Farha  
 Project Coordinator  
 Pfarrer-Byns-Str. 1  
 53121 Bonn  
 Germany

E-Mail: joseph.farha@bicc.de

Internet: www.bicc.de

**Zentrum für Verifikationsaufgaben der Bundeswehr (ZVBw) - Bundeswehr  
Verification Center (BwVC)**

Global Arms- and Proliferation Control Division

Major Laurentius Wedeniwski

Selfkant-Kaserne

Rue de Quimperle 100

52511 Geilenkirchen

E-Mail: LaurentiusWedeniwski@bundeswehr.org

## Overall project coordination

Joseph Farha

Project Coordinator

Bonn International Centre for Conflict Studies (BICC)

**Responsible for all content (including photos):**

Zentrum für Verifikationsaufgaben der Bundeswehr (ZVBw) - Bundeswehr Verification Center.

Major Laurentius Wedeniwski: Small Arms and Light Weapons Guide (2016).

**Responsible for design, editorial and technical implementation:**

Bonn International Centre for Conflict Studies (BICC) gGmbH.

Technical management: Joseph Farha

Programming: Rolf Alberth