

SALW Guide

Global distribution and visual
identification



Cameroon

Country report

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

Weapons Distribution

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

AK-47 / AKM		HK MP5	
AR 15 (M16/M4)		IWI Tavor TAR-21	
Browning M 2		M203 grenade launcher	
DShk		MAS 49/56	
FN FAL		MAT 49	
FN Herstal FN MAG		MBDA MILAN	
FN High Power		RPG 7	
HK 21		RPK	
HK 23		SIG SG540	
HK G3		Steyr AUG	

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 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 variations. The weapons are used by all former Warsaw Pact countries, and they are in service with numerous armed forces, both regular and irregular. They can be found in many countries in Asia and Africa.



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

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



AR 15 (M16/M4)

The heart of the AR-15 is the direct gas system. This system uses no conventional gas piston and rod to propel bolt group back after the shot is fired. Instead, the hot powder gases are fed from the barrel and down to the stainless steel tube into the receiver. Inside the receiver, the rear end of the gas tube enters into the "gas key", a small attachment on the top of the bolt carrier. The hot gases, through the gas key, enter the hollow cavity inside the bolt carrier and expands there, acting against the bolt carrier and the collar around the bolt body. The pressure of the gases causes the bolt carrier



to move back against initially stationary bolt. At least 8 million items were produced. The CQ is a variant of the AR-15 rifle manufactured by the Chinese arms company, NORINCO. The "Terab" rifle is a clone of the Norinco CQ manufactured by the MIC (Military Industry Corporation) of Sudan. The "Armada" rifle is a clone of the Norinco CQ manufactured by S.A.M. - Shooter's Arms Manufacturing, a.k.a. Shooter's Arms Guns & Ammo Corporation, in the Philippines. The CQ/Terab has been observed in South Sudan used by some rebel groups in 2013.

Category	<i>Assault Rifles</i>
Operating system	Gas operated, rotating bolt
Cartridge	5.56 x 45mm / .223 Remington
Length	986 mm
Feeding	Box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **AR 15 (M16/M4)**:

5.56 x 45mm / .223 Remington

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



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

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

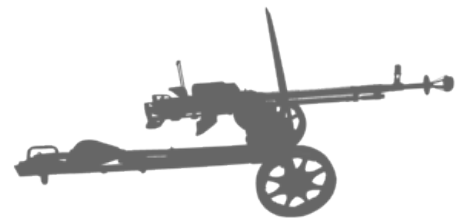
12.7 x 99 mm NATO (.50BMG)

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

NO IMAGE

DShk

The DShk was exported to many countries, and it can be found all over the world because the gun is used in many conflicts. The weapon was in service with several armed forces, both regular and irregular, and it can be found in many countries in Asia and Africa.



Category	<i>Heavy Machine Guns</i>
Operating system	Gas operated, belt fed, air cooled, selective fire
Cartridge	12.7 x 108 mm
Length	1625 mm
Feeding	Belt

The following ammunition can be used by the **DShk**:

12.7 x 108 mm

Bullet diameter	12.98 mm
Case length	108 mm
Overall length	147.5 mm

NO IMAGE

FN FAL

The FN FAL (Fusil Automatique Leger - Light Automatic Rifle) is one of the most famous and widespread military rifle designs of the 20th century. It can be found in both the 7.62



NATO and, very rarely, the 5.56 NATO versions. The furniture may be wood, metal or plastic. There are various barrel lengths. In the UK (L1A1), Canadian, Indian and Dutch versions, there is no automatic fire mode. The gas system is fitted with a gas regulator, so that it could be easily adjusted for various environment conditions, or cut off completely, so that rifle grenades could be safely launched from the barrel.

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

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.



Category	<i>Heavy Machine Guns</i>
Operating system	gas, automatic
Cartridge	7.62 x 51mm / .308 Winchester
Length	1260 mm
Feeding	disintegrating metal link belt

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



FN High Power

The High Power is one of the most widely used military pistols of all time, having been used by the armed forces of over 50 countries. The pistol is often referred to as an HP (for "Hi Power" or "High Power") or as a GP (for the French term, "Grande Puissance"). Technically, the High Power pistol, also known as Browning HP 35, GP 35 or Model 1935, is a recoil operated, locked breech pistol. It uses linkless barrel to slide locking invented by Browning. The trigger is single action, with external hammer. Original HPs featured frame mounted safety at the left side of the frame, that locks both sear and slide. Modern versions, since Mark II, also featured ambidextrous safety levers, that are also more comfortable to operate.



Category	<i>Self-Loading Pistols & Revolvers</i>
Operating system	Short recoil operated, locked breech, single action
Cartridge	.40 S&W 9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)
Length	200 mm
Feeding	Box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **FN High Power**:

.40 S&W

Bullet diameter	10.2 mm
Case length	21.6 mm
Overall length	28.8 mm



9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)

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



HK 21

The basic action of the machine gun, which received the company designation HK 21, was similar to that of the G3 rifle. The HK 21 fired from a closed bolt (not that big issue since its heavy barrel was really quick-detachable) and, unlike most machine guns, its belt feeding module was located below the receiver. Variants: HK11E automatic rifle (magazine fed, 7.62 mm) HK13E automatic rifle (magazine fed, 5.56 mm) HK21E general purpose machine gun (belt feed, 7.62 mm) HK23E light machine gun (belt-fed, 5.56 mm). The "E" stands for "Export" model.



Category	<i>Light Machine Guns</i>
Operating system	Selective fire roller-back blowback
Cartridge	7.62 x 51mm / .308 Winchester
Length	1140 mm
Feeding	Box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **HK 21**:

7.62 x 51mm / .308 Winchester

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



HK 23

The HK (Heckler & Koch) 23 emerged in 1972 from the original HK 21, which explains the optical and technical resemblance between them and their variants. Usually it is fired from a bipod, but it can also be tripod mounted. While the production of the original HK 21 and 23 have officially ceased, there are still models in production. Residual numbers may remain in service. An “E” added to the weapon’s name identifies models for export.



Category	<i>Light Machine Guns</i>
Operating system	Selective fire roller-back blowback
Cartridge	5.56 x 45mm / .223 Remington
Length	1030 mm
Feeding	Box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **HK 23**:

5.56 x 45mm / .223 Remington

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



HK G3

The furniture can be wood or plastic. The plastic stock may be green, sand or black. There is also a collapsing stock. The rifle is hammer fired and has a trigger mechanism with a 3-position fire selector switch that is also the manual safety toggle that secures the weapon from accidentally discharging (fire selector in the “E” or “1” position - single fire mode, “F” or “20” - automatic fire, “S” or “0” - weapon is safe, trigger disabled mechanically). The weapon can be fitted with an optional 4-position safety/fire selector group illustrated with pictograms with an ambidextrous selector lever. The additional, fourth selector setting enables a 3-round burst mode of fire. Around 10 million items have been produced.



Category	<i>Assault Rifles</i>
Operating system	Roller-delayed blowback
Cartridge	7.62 x 51mm / .308 Winchester
Length	1023 mm
Feeding	Box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **HK G3**:

7.62 x 51mm / .308 Winchester

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



HK MP5

Though the Heckler & Koch MP5 was designed in the 1960s, it is still one of the most widely deployed sub-machine guns and has been developed into a family with numerous variants. The gun features either a fixed or a sliding (telescoping) butt-stock. The original MP5 offers a choice of single shot or automatic fire,

whereas later models received a burst-fire device, allowing two or three-round-bursts each time the trigger is operated. Current models remain in (licensed) production in several countries, though The China North Industries Corporation, officially abbreviated as Norinco, manufactures an unlicensed copy, the NR08.



Category	<i>Submachine Guns</i>
Operating system	delayed-blowback; selective-fire
Cartridge	9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)
Length	680 mm
Feeding	detachable box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **HK MP5**:

9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)

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



IWI Tavor TAR-21

The IWI Tavor-21 assault rifle was designed to replace the different M16 variants within the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). In 2009, it was selected as the new standard issue weapon of the Israeli infantry. It is also in service in several other countries, such as India, Thailand and Turkey. Different models have been developed for Special Forces or sporting. Nevertheless, the TAR-21 has not caught up to the M16's success due to its higher price. The bullpup rifle can be either fired in semi-automatic or full automatic fire mode.



Category	<i>Assault Rifles</i>
Operating system	gas, selective-fire
Cartridge	5.56 x 45mm / .223 Remington
Length	725 mm
Feeding	box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **IWI Tavor TAR-21**:

5.56 x 45mm / .223 Remington

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



M203 grenade launcher

The M203 grenade launcher was intended to be used as close fire support for point and group area targets. The round is designed to be effective at penetrating windows, blowing up doors, producing casualties in groups of enemies, destroying bunkers, and damaging or disabling soft-skinned vehicles. Its primary purpose is to engage enemies in dead space that cannot be reached by direct fire. A well-trained M203 gunner can also use his weapon to suppress the enemy, both from movement and sight. M203 were also produced in Egypt, South Korea and Bulgaria (as UBGL-M1, with mount suitable for Kalashnikov AKM and AK-74 type rifles).



Category	<i>Hand-held under-barrel and Mounted Grenade Launchers</i>
Operating system	Single shot, under-barrel, pump-action
Cartridge	40 x 46 mm grenade
Length	380 mm
Feeding	breech-loaded

The following ammunition can be used by the **M203 grenade launcher**:

40 x 46 mm grenade

Bullet diameter	-
Case length	-
Overall length	-

NO IMAGE

MAS 49/56

The MAS 49/56 uses a direct gas impingement system without a gas piston. Instead of the gas piston, the powder gases are fed from the barrel through the gas tube directly to the front face of the bolt carrier. Many MAS-49/56 rifles imported as surplus in the USA, had been rechambered to fire the 7.62x51mm NATO round.



Category	<i>Rifles & Carbines</i>
Operating system	Gas operated, tilting bolt
Cartridge	7.5 x 54mm

Length	1020 mm
Feeding	Box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **MAS 49/56**:

7.5 x 54mm

Bullet diameter	7.8 mm
Case length	54 mm
Overall length	78 mm



MAT 49

For some 30 years, the MAT 49 was widely used by French military and police forces; it was used throughout the Indochinese and Algerian campaigns. The weapon can still be encountered in former French colonies in Africa and Indochina. It should be noted that North Vietnam once produced a local copy of the MAT 49, chambered for 7.62mm TT rounds. MAT 49s manufactured for police forces, had two triggers, allowing use of full-auto fire or single shots, but most were manufactured as full-auto only.



Category	<i>Submachine Guns</i>
Operating system	Blowback-operated, fired from open bolt
Cartridge	7.62 x 25mm Tokarev 9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)
Length	404 mm
Feeding	Box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **MAT 49**:

7.62 x 25mm Tokarev

Bullet diameter	7.8 mm
Case length	25 mm
Overall length	34 mm



9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)

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



MBDA MILAN

The anti-tank weapons system MILAN (Missile d'infanterie léger antichar; English: Light anti-tank infantry missile) is a French / German missile that was designed in the 1960s and entered into production in 1972. The MILAN system, which is usually mounted on a tripod, consists of two units: the ammunition (missile) unit and a combined launching and guidance unit. At a range of 4,000 m, targets can be detected and hit at a range of 2,000 m. The production of MILAN 1 and 2 has ceased, and MILAN 3 is the current production model. The MILAN system remains in widespread service, with reported use in over 40 countries.



Category	<i>Portable Launcher of Anti-tank Missile and Rocket Systems</i>
Operating system	portable anti-tank weapon system
Cartridge	

The following ammunition can be used by the **MBDA MILAN**:

RPG 7

The RPG 7 was made under license by many companies in many countries, it was exported to many countries, and it can be found all over the world because the gun is used in many conflicts. The weapon was in service with several armed forces, both regular and irregular, and it can be found in many countries in Asia and Africa.



Category	<i>Portable Anti-tank Guns</i>
Operating system	Recoilless launch + rocket booster
Cartridge	
Length	650 mm

Feeding	front-loaded, manual reload
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The following ammunition can be used by the **RPG 7**:

RPK

The RPK was made under license by many companies in many countries. It was exported to many countries, and it can be found all over the world because the gun is used in many conflicts. The weapon was in service with several armed forces, both regular and irregular, and it can be found in many countries in Asia and Africa.



Category	<i>Light Machine Guns</i>
Operating system	Gas operated, magazine fed, air cooled, selective fire
Cartridge	7.62 x 39mm
Length	1040 mm
Feeding	Box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **RPK**:

7.62 x 39mm

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



SIG SG540

The Swiss SIG SG540 was designed as a potential replacement for the SG510. It was produced between 1977 and 2002 in Switzerland and remains in production in Chile only. While the SG540 and the SG 543 models are chambered for the 6.56 x 45 mm caliber, the SG542 uses 7.62 x 51 mm NATO cartridges.



Category	<i>Assault Rifles</i>
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Operating system	gas, selective-fire
Cartridge	5.56 x 45mm / .223 Remington
Length	950 mm
Feeding	detachable box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **SIG SG540**:

5.56 x 45mm / .223 Remington

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



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

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

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