

# SALW Guide

Global distribution and visual  
identification



## Eritrea

Country report

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

# Weapons Distribution

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

AK-47 / AKM		Makarov PM	
DShk		PK	
IGLA (SA-16 / SA-18)		RPD	
Lee-Enfield SMLE		RPG 7	
M79		UZI	

## 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

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

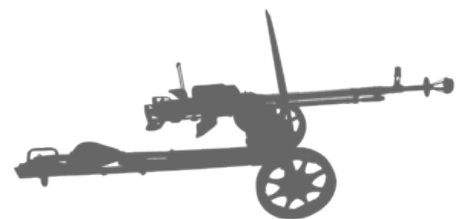
### 7.62 x 39mm

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



## 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.



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

## IGLA (SA-16 / SA-18)

The main differences between the SA-18, the SA-16 and its predecessor Strela-3 (SA-14) included an optional "Identification Friend or Foe"-system to prevent firing on friendly aircraft, an automatic lead and super elevation to simplify shooting and reduce minimum firing range, a slightly larger rocket, reduced drag and better guidance system extend maximum range and improve performance against fast and maneuverable targets, an improved lethality on target achieved by a combination of delayed impact fusing, terminal maneuver to hit the fuselage rather than jet nozzle, an additional charge to set off the remaining rocket fuel (if any) on impact, an improved resistance to infrared countermeasure, and slightly improved seeker sensitivity. Several guerrilla and terrorist organizations are also known to have Iglas.



<b>Category</b>	<i>Portable Launcher of Anti-aircraft Missile Systems</i>
<b>Operating system</b>	MANPAD
<b>Cartridge</b>	
<b>Feeding</b>	front-loaded

The following ammunition can be used by the **IGLA (SA-16 / SA-18)**:

## 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

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



## M79

Many different ammunition types were produced for the M79 (and subsequently for the M203), outside of the smoke and illumination rounds three main types emerged: Explosive, Close-range and Non Lethal Crowed Control.



<b>Category</b>	<i>Hand-held under-barrel and Mounted Grenade Launchers</i>
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<b>Operating system</b>	Break-action
<b>Cartridge</b>	40 x 46 mm grenade
<b>Length</b>	731 mm
<b>Feeding</b>	breech-loaded

The following ammunition can be used by the **M79**:

## 40 x 46 mm grenade

Bullet diameter	-
Case length	-
Overall length	-



## Makarov PM

The PM has a free-floating firing pin, with no firing pin spring or firing pin block. This allows for the possibility of accidentally firing if the pistol is dropped on its muzzle. It is a simple and sound design, which is considered to be one of the best compact self-defense pistols of its time. While not extremely accurate and lethal at ranges beyond 15-20 meters, it is still a formidable and reliable self-defense weapon. In the former Yugoslavia, the Makarov was produced under license as a commercial export-only version also in caliber 9x17mm (.380 ACP) and 7.65x17mm.



<b>Category</b>	<i>Self-Loading Pistols &amp; Revolvers</i>
<b>Operating system</b>	Blowback operated, double action
<b>Cartridge</b>	9mm Makarov (9.2 x 18mm)
<b>Length</b>	161 mm
<b>Feeding</b>	Box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **Makarov PM**:

## 9mm Makarov (9.2 x 18mm)

Bullet diameter	9.27 mm
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Case length	18.1 mm
Overall length	25 mm



## PK

The PK was made under license by many companies in many countries. It was exported to many countries and 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.



<b>Category</b>	<i>Light Machine Guns</i>
<b>Operating system</b>	Gas operated, air cooled, belt fed weapon with a quick-detachable barrel
<b>Cartridge</b>	7.62 x 54mm R
<b>Length</b>	1173 mm
<b>Feeding</b>	(Boxed) belt

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

### 7.62 x 54mm R

Bullet diameter	7.92 mm
Case length	53.72 mm
Overall length	77.16 mm



## RPD

The RPD (Ruchnoy Pulemet Degtyarova - Degtyarov Light MG) was one of the first weapons designed to fire a new, intermediate



cartridge 7.62x39mm. During its service life, the weapon was modernized several times. 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.

<b>Category</b>	<i>Light Machine Guns</i>
<b>Operating system</b>	Gas operated, full auto only
<b>Cartridge</b>	7.62 x 39mm
<b>Length</b>	1037 mm
<b>Feeding</b>	Boxed belt

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

## 7.62 x 39mm

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



## 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.



<b>Category</b>	<i>Portable Anti-tank Guns</i>
<b>Operating system</b>	Recoilless launch + rocket booster
<b>Cartridge</b>	
<b>Length</b>	650 mm
<b>Feeding</b>	front-loaded, manual reload

The following ammunition can be used by the **RPG 7**:



## UZI

The UZI and the Czechoslovakian series Sa 23 to Sa 26 were the first weapons to use a telescoping bolt design, in which the bolt wraps around the breech end of the barrel. This allows the barrel to be moved far back into the receiver and the magazine to be housed in the pistol grip, allowing for a heavier, slower-firing bolt in a shorter, better-balanced weapon. The pistol grip is fitted with a grip safety, making it difficult to fire accidentally. There were built further variants, also as Military variants, such as Mini Uzi, Micro Uzi and Uzi Pistol. Mini- and Micro-Uzi submachine guns were produced either in open-bolt or closed-bolt versions. The Uzi was also copied respectively cloned and spread around the whole world.



<b>Category</b>	<i>Submachine Guns</i>
<b>Operating system</b>	Blowback-operated, fired from open bolt
<b>Cartridge</b>	9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)
<b>Length</b>	470 mm
<b>Feeding</b>	Box magazine

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

### 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

<p><b>Written</b></p>	<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>
<p><b>Oral</b></p>	<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>
<p><b>Visual</b></p>	<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**

<b>Source (sample)</b>	<b>Type of source</b>	<b>Medium of delivery</b>
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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