

SALW Guide

Global distribution and visual
identification



Ghana

Country report

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

Weapons Distribution

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

AK-47 / AKM		HK MP5	
AR 15 (M16/M4)		Lee-Enfield SMLE	
Browning M 2		M60	
Carl Gustav recoilless rifle		RPG 2	
DShk		RPG 7	
FN FAL		RPK	
FN Herstal FN MAG		Sten MP	
FN High Power		Sterling MP L2A3	
HK33		Strela (SA-7 / SA-14)	
HK G3		Webley Mk. IV	

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



Carl Gustav recoilless rifle

The Carl Gustav can be fired from the standing, kneeling, sitting or prone positions. A bipod may be attached in front of the shoulder piece. An operating handle called a "Venturi lock" is used to move the hinged breech to one side for reloading. The weapon is normally operated by a two-man crew, one carrying and firing the weapon, the other carrying ammunition and reloading.

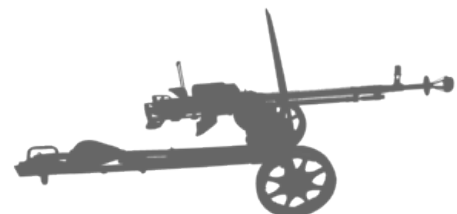


Category	<i>Recoilless Guns/Rifles</i>
Operating system	Recoilless launch
Cartridge	
Length	1130 mm
Feeding	hinged breech

The following ammunition can be used by the **Carl Gustav recoilless rifle**:

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



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>
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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



HK33

The Heckler & Koch HK33 entered into production in 1963. The HK33 is produced in five variants: 1) with a fixed butt; 2) with a retractable butt; 3) fitted with a bipod; 4) as a sniper rifle with telescopic sight; and 5) as the HK22K carbine version. An “E” added to the weapon’s name identifies models for export, while a “K” added to the end of the weapon’s name refers to shortened models.



Category	<i>Assault Rifles</i>
Operating system	delayed-blowback, selective-fire
Cartridge	5.56 x 45mm / .223 Remington
Length	920 mm
Feeding	detachable box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **HK33**:

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



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).

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



M60

The M60 is a family of American general purpose machine guns firing 7.62x51mm NATO cartridges from a disintegrating belt of M13 links. There are several types of live ammunition approved for use in the M60, including ball, tracer, and armor-piercing rounds. The M60 was referred to as "The Pig" during the Vietnam War. The M60's gas operation is unique, and drew on technical advances of the period, particularly the white "gas expansion and cutoff" principle also exploited by the M14 rifle. The M60's gas system was simpler than other gas systems and easier to clean.



Category	<i>Light Machine Guns</i>
Operating system	Gas operated, belt fed
Cartridge	7.62 x 51mm / .308 Winchester
Length	1105 mm
Feeding	Belt

The following ammunition can be used by the **M60**:

7.62 x 51mm / .308 Winchester

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



RPG 2

The RPG 2 design is based on the German Panzerfaust anti-tank weapon developed during World War II. It was made under license by many companies in many countries (e.g. the B-40 in Vietnam), 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 / non rocket booster
Cartridge	
Length	650 mm
Feeding	front-loaded

The following ammunition can be used by the **RPG 2**:

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



Sten MP

In Germany, the STEN models "Potsdam" and "Neumünster" were manufactured during WW II. In late 1944, the Mauser works in Germany secretly started manufacturing copies of British Mk II Sten, apparently for diversion and sabotage purposes. These weapons were intended to duplicate the British original as closely as possible, right down to the markings.



The series was referred to as the „Gerät Potsdam“ and approximately 28,000 weapons were made. Also, during WW II some resistance groups in German-occupied countries (DNK, FRA, NOR, POL) produced significant numbers of Stens.

Category	<i>Submachine Guns</i>
Operating system	Blowback-operated, fired from open bolt
Cartridge	9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)
Length	895 mm
Feeding	Box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **Sten MP**:

9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)

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



Sterling MP L2A3

Sterling submachine guns were widely manufactured for export. More than 70 countries purchased various quantities of Sterling submachine guns. 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 9x19 ammunition.



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

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

9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)

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



Strela (SA-7 / SA-14)

The missile launcher system consists of the green missile launch tube containing the missile, a grip stock and a cylindrical thermal battery. The launch tube is reloadable at depot, but missile rounds are delivered to fire units in their launch tubes. The device can be reloaded up to five times. The Strela and its variants have been widely used in nearly every regional conflict since 1968.



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

The following ammunition can be used by the **Strela (SA-7 / SA-14)**:

Webley Mk. IV

The Webley Mk. IV was in service with the British Forces for 45 years, thus it is widespread in the former British colonies. All Webley top-beak revolvers featured two piece frame, which hinges ("breaks") down at the forward low end for ejection and loading. The ejector is actuated automatically when the frame is broken open, simultaneously removing all six cases from the cylinder. The cartridges then can be inserted by hand. In the case of revolver being rechambered for .45ACP round, half-moon clips are used to load the gun (two clips, each for 3 rounds).



Category	<i>Self-Loading Pistols & Revolvers</i>
Operating system	Double action revolver

Cartridge	.455 British Service
Length	286 mm
Feeding	Cylinder

The following ammunition can be used by the **Webley Mk. IV**:

.455 British Service

Bullet diameter	11.5 mm
Case length	19.6 mm
Overall length	31.2 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>Written</p>	<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>
<p>Oral</p>	<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>
<p>Visual</p>	<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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