

# SALW Guide

Global distribution and visual  
identification



## Guatemala

Country report

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

# Weapons Distribution

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

AK-74		U	HK33		G
AR 15 (M16/M4)		U	IWI Tavor TAR-21		G
Beretta M 12		U	M1919 Browning		G
Browning M 2		G	M203 grenade launcher		G
Colt M1911		U	M79		G
FN Herstal FN MAG		G	MP UZI		G
FN High Power		U	RPG 7		G N
FN P90		G			

## 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-74

The AK 74 is an adaptation of the 7.62mm AKM assault rifle and features several important design improvements. These modifications were primarily the result of converting the rifle to the intermediate-caliber 5.45x39mm cartridge, in fact, some early models are reported to have been converted AKMs, with the barrel re-sleeved to 5.45x39mm. The result is a more accurate and reliable rifle than the AKM. The AK-74 and AKM share an approximate 50% parts commonality (interchangeable are most often pins, springs and screws). 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.



<b>Category</b>	<i>Assault Rifles</i>
<b>Operating system</b>	Gas operated, rotating bolt with 2 lugs
<b>Cartridge</b>	5.45 x 39mm
<b>Length</b>	943 mm
<b>Feeding</b>	Box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **AK-74**:

### 5.45 x 39mm

Bullet diameter	5.6 mm
Case length	39.82 mm
Overall length	57 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.

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



## Beretta M 12

The weapon has three safeties: a manual safety which blocks the trigger; an automatic safety on the rear grip which immobilizes the trigger and blocks the bolt in a closed position; and a safety on the cocking handle locking the bolt in case it does not retract sufficiently. A novel feature is the grip safety which locks the trigger and the bolt in the closed position, thus safeguarding against accidental firing if the grip is not held firmly or if the gun is dropped.



<b>Category</b>	<i>Submachine Guns</i>
<b>Operating system</b>	Blowback operated, selectively-fired, fires from open bolt

<b>Cartridge</b>	9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)
<b>Length</b>	418 mm
<b>Feeding</b>	Box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **Beretta M 12**:

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

Bullet diameter	9 mm
Case length	19.15 mm
Overall length	29.69 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

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



## Colt M1911

Technically, the M1911 is a recoil operated, locked breech semi-auto pistol. It has a single action trigger with frame mounted safety that locks the hammer and the slide. The hammer can be locked either in cocked or in lowered position, allowing the gun to be carried in "cocked and locked" state, with safety on, hammer cocked and round chambered. Additional automated safety is incorporated into the rear of the grip and locks the action, when the gun is not properly held. The Colt M 1911 was manufactured by many companies in many countries, partly in the original form, partly modified, partly under license and partly without a license. It was exported to many countries after WW II, and it was in service with the US forces for 70 years.



<b>Category</b>	<i>Self-Loading Pistols &amp; Revolvers</i>
<b>Operating system</b>	Short recoil operated, closed breech, single action, semi-automatic
<b>Cartridge</b>	.45 ACP
<b>Length</b>	219 mm
<b>Feeding</b>	Box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **Colt M1911**:

### .45 ACP

Bullet diameter	11.5 mm
Case length	22.8 mm
Overall length	32 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

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.



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



## FN P90

A personal defense weapon (often abbreviated PDW) is a compact semi-automatic or fully-automatic firearm similar in most respects to a submachine gun, but firing an (often proprietary) armor-piercing round, giving a PDW better range, accuracy and armor-penetrating capability than submachine guns, which fire pistol-caliber cartridges. The P90 was designed to have a length no greater than a man's shoulder width, in order to be easily carried and maneuvered in tight spaces, such as the inside of an armored vehicle. To achieve this, the weapon's design utilizes the unconventional bullpup configuration, in which the action and magazine are located behind the trigger and alongside the shooter's face, so that there is no wasted space in the stock. The P90's dimensions are also minimized by its unique horizontally mounted feeding system, wherein the box magazine sits parallel to the barrel on top of the weapon's frame. Overall, the weapon has an extremely compact profile.



<b>Category</b>	<i>Submachine Guns</i>
<b>Operating system</b>	Straight blowback, closed bolt
<b>Cartridge</b>	FN 5.7 x 28mm
<b>Length</b>	500 mm
<b>Feeding</b>	n/a

The following ammunition can be used by the **FN P90**:



## FN 5.7 x 28mm

Bullet diameter	5.7 mm
Case length	28.83 mm
Overall length	40.5 mm



The FN 5.7×28mm is a small-caliber, high-velocity cartridge designed and manufactured by FN Herstal in Belgium. It is a bottlenecked centerfire cartridge that is somewhat similar to the .22 Hornet or .22 K-Hornet. The 5.7×28mm was developed in conjunction with the FN P90 personal defense weapon (PDW) and FN Five-seven pistol, in response to NATO requests for a replacement for the 9×19mm Parabellum cartridge. By 2006, FN's 5.7×28mm firearms—the P90 personal defense weapon and Five-seven pistol—were in service with military and police forces in over 40 nations throughout the world. In the United States, 5.7×28mm firearms are currently used by numerous law enforcement agencies, including the U.S. Secret Service.

## 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.



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



## 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.



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



## M1919 Browning

The M1919 is still used by many countries as a vehicle gun, but it is no longer produced in the US. It was originally used as a fixed gun in tanks during the Second World War, but it was also mounted on a tripod and used by infantry. The name affix of the M1919 "BAR" means "Browning Automatic Rifle" and refers to the original designer John M. Browning, not to the actual manufacturer. Variants of the M1919 are the A1; A2; A3; A4; A5; A6; M37 and AN/M2.



<b>Category</b>	<i>Light Machine Guns</i>
<b>Operating system</b>	short recoil, automatic
<b>Cartridge</b>	.30-06 M1 7.62 x 25mm Tokarev
<b>Length</b>	1044 mm
<b>Feeding</b>	250-round belt

The following ammunition can be used by the **M1919 Browning**:

### .30-06 M1

Bullet diameter	7.8 mm
Case length	63.3 mm
Overall length	85 mm



### 7.62 x 25mm Tokarev

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



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

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

### 40 x 46 mm grenade

Bullet diameter	-
Case length	-
Overall length	-



## 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 Crowd Control.



<b>Category</b>	<i>Hand-held under-barrel and Mounted Grenade Launchers</i>
<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	-



## MP 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. It was built in Belgium under license for export to Germany and Iran. Croatia manufactured unlicensed copies of the Uzi and Micro-Uzi called the ERO and Mini ERO respectively. Mini- and Micro-Uzi submachine guns are produced either in open-bolt or closed-bolt versions.



<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 **MP UZI**:

## 9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)

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

## 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
--	---------	-----------

<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**

<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*.

## Contact

**Internationales Konversionszentrum Bonn -  
Bonn International Center for Conversion (BICC) GmbH**

Lars Wirkus  
Head of Data & Geomatics  
Pfarrer-Byns-Str. 1  
53121 Bonn

Germany

E-Mail: [wirkus@bicc.de](mailto:wirkus@bicc.de)

Internet: [www.bicc.de](http://www.bicc.de)

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

Global Arms- and Proliferation Control Division

Captain Laurentius Wedeniwski

Selfkant-Kaserne

Rue de Quimperle 100

52511 Geilenkirchen

E-Mail: [LaurentiusWedeniwski@bundeswehr.org](mailto:LaurentiusWedeniwski@bundeswehr.org)

## Overall project coordination

Lars Wirkus

Head of Data & Geomatics

Bonn International Center for Conversion (BICC)

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

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

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

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

Internationales Konversionszentrum Bonn - Bonn International Center for Conversion (BICC) GmbH.

Technical management: Lars Wirkus

Programming: Rolf Alberth