About these cards

These playing cards are designed to aid visual identification of a selection of the most common small arms in contemporary armed conflict and crime.

Increasingly, humanitarian personnel, peacekeepers, and development workers in violent societies, are exposed to small arms violence.

Inform the international debate on small arms and light weapons by improving the way you report incidents. Accurate reporting is essential for research, analysis, and ultimately policy-making on the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons and effective security sector reform.

If you have information on the types and flows of small arms in your area, please inform the Small Arms Survey.

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The effects

The proliferation of small arms and light weapons represents a grave threat to human security. The unchecked spread of these weapons has exacerbated inter- and intra-state conflicts, contributed to human rights violations, undermined political and economic development, destabilized communities, and devastated the lives of millions of people. To fashion policies to improve human security, one must understand the direct and indirect effects of small arms availability and misuse:

Selected direct effects:
- Deaths and injuries
- Cost of injury treatment
- Psychological trauma

Selected indirect effects:
- Migration and displacement
- Impairment of social services
- Destruction of infrastructure
- Reduced earnings and investment
- Breakdown of law and order
- Higher costs of humanitarian aid
Type 56-1

Type: Assault rifle
Cartridge: 7.62x39mm
Distinguishing features:
Under-folding stock with smooth arms
Type 56-2

Type: Assault rifle
Cartridge: 7.62x39mm
Distinguishing features:
Side-folding stock; ribbed plastic facia on stock
Kalashnikov AK 47

Type: Assault rifle
Cartridge: 7.62x39mm
Distinguishing features:
Long depression above magazine;
no folding bayonet
Kalashnikov AK 74

Type: Assault rifle
Cartridge: 5.45x39mm
Distinguishing features:
Long muzzle brake; plastic magazine; broad grooves in stock
Kalashnikov AKS 74

Type: Assault rifle
Cartridge: 5.45x39mm
Distinguishing features:
Long muzzle brake; plastic magazine; side-folding stock
Barrett 82A1

Type: Anti matérier rifle
Cartridge: 12.7x99mm (0.50)
Distinguishing features:
Large magazine; hand guard hexagonal in cross-section; perforated bipod
Beretta BM59

Type: Automatic rifle
Cartridge: 7.62x51mm
Distinguishing features: Straight magazine; small perforations behind muzzle
Bren Mk III

Type: Light machine gun
Cartridge: 0.303; 7.62x51mm
Distinguishing features: Top-loading, curved magazine
Browning M2 HB

Type: Heavy Machine gun
Cartridge: 12.7x99mm (0.50)
Distinguishing features: Long, smooth barrel; large holes in barrel jacket (rear of barrel); double grips at rear
CETME B/Model 58

Type: Automatic rifle
Cartridge: 7.62x51mm
Distinguishing features:
Straight pistol grip; long ventilation slits in hand guard
Colt M16A1

Type: Assault rifle
Cartridge: 5.56x45mm
Distinguishing features:
Integral carry handle/rear sight;
triangular foresight; black plastic fittings
Dragunov SVD

Type: Sniper rifle
Cartridge: 7.62x54mm
Distinguishing features:
3 ventilator holes in hand guard;
waffle-type magazine; long rubber eye piece
The Small Arms Survey

The Small Arms Survey serves as the principal international source of public information on all aspects of small arms, and as a resource centre for governments, policy makers, researchers, and activists.

The Survey distributes its findings through a series of occasional papers, special reports, a book series, and its annual publication Small Arms Survey.

The project has an international staff with expertise in security studies, political science, international public policy, law, economics, development studies, conflict resolution, and sociology. The staff works closely with a worldwide network of researchers and partners.

www.smallarmssurvey.org
smallarm@hei.unige.ch

A project of the Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva
Type: Assault rifle
Cartridge: 5.56x45mm
Distinguishing features:
Long carry handle/sight;
bipod pivots on hand guard
FN FNC

- **Type:** Assault rifle
- **Cartridge:** 5.56x45mm
- **Distinguishing features:** Tubular folding stock; rounded hand guard with lateral grooves
FN FAL

Type: Automatic rifle
Cartridge: 7.62x51mm
Distinguishing features:
Straight magazine; stock narrows towards angled pistol grip
FN MAG

Type: General purpose machine gun
Cartridge: 7.62x51mm
Distinguishing features: Angular pistol grip; pronounced curve to top of stock; large rivets on body side panels
IMI Galil ARM

Type: Assault rifle
Cartridge: 5.56x45mm
Distinguishing features:
Box-shaped hand guard with horizontal grooves; bipod; folding stock; (non-standard magazine in picture)
Browning High-Power

Type: Self-loading pistol
Cartridge: 9x19mm Parabellum
Distinguishing features:
Tapered and scalloped profile towards muzzle
Heckler & Koch G3

Type: Automatic rifle
Cartridge: 7.62x51mm
Distinguishing features:
Smooth hand guard; rounded, enclosed foresight
Type: Assault rifle
Cartridge: 7.62x39mm
Distinguishing features:
Folding cruciform bayonet;
right side of receiver marked with L and D or Chinese script
Kalashnikov AKM

Type: Assault rifle
Cartridge: 7.62x39mm
Distinguishing features:
Small indentations above magazine; ribs on receiver cover; angled muzzle
AMD 65

Type: Assault rifle
Cartridge: 7.62x39mm
Distinguishing features:
Forward pistol grip; long perforations in hand guard;
T-shaped folding stock
Type: Light machine gun
Cartridge: 7.62x39mm
Distinguishing features:
Cleaver-shaped stock;
ribbed steel magazine
RPK 74

Type: Light machine gun
Cartridge: 5.45x39mm
Distinguishing features:
Cleaver-shaped stock;
plastic magazine
Lee-Enfield No.4

Type: Bolt-action rifle
Cartridge: 0.303; 7.62x51mm
Distinguishing features:
Angular magazine with two broad grooves abuts trigger guard
M1 Garand

Type: Self-loading rifle
Cartridge: 0.30
Distinguishing features:
Upright rear sight housing;
no visible magazine; raised,
rounded foresight guards
M1 Carbine

Type: Self-loading rifle
Cartridge: 0.30
Distinguishing features:
Slim, straight or curved magazine;
large bayonet plug below barrel
Type: Self-loading rifle
Cartridge: 7.62x51mm
Distinguishing features:
Protrusion under barrel; transverse grooves on hand guard
M60

Type: General purpose machine gun
Cartridge: 7.62x51mm
Distinguishing features: Twin rows of holes in bipod; vertical vents in hand guard
Mauser M1898

Type: Bolt-action rifle
Cartridge: 7.92x57mm; 7.62x51mm
Distinguishing features: Slim, full-length, two-piece stock; no visible magazine
Colt M1911A1

Type: Self-loading pistol
Cartridge: 0.45 ACP
Distinguishing features:
Deep cross-hatching on pistol grip; prominent spur under hammer
Makarov PM

Type: Self-loading pistol
Cartridge: 9x18mm
Distinguishing features:
Scalloped underside immediately behind muzzle;
wrap-around pistol grip; small, rounded hammer
Type: Self-loading rifle
Cartridge: 7.5x54mm
Distinguishing features:
Straight magazine; vertical rear end of receiver
FN Minimi

Type: Light machine gun  
Cartridge: 5.56x45mm  
Distinguishing features:  
Square-shaped hand guard;  
fixed carry handle; tubular stock;  
sometimes side-fitting magazine
Mosin-Nagant 1891/30

Type: Bolt-action rifle
Cartridge: 7.62x54mm
Distinguishing features:
Slim magazine profile;
deep grooves in hand guard
Mosin-Nagant 1944

Type: Bolt-action rifle
Cartridge: 7.62x54mm
Distinguishing features:
Deep grooves either side of hand guard; fixed magazine attached to trigger guard
The International Agenda

In 2001, the United Nations adopted the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. It did so in recognition of the threat small arms and light weapons pose to human security in many parts of the world.

The Programme requires member nations, to regulate the proliferation of illicit firearms through a series of national, regional, and global initiatives, including:

- Marking and tracing of weapons
- Enhancing transfer controls
- Managing official weapons stocks
- Destroying surplus or insecure stocks
- Disarming, demobilising and reintegrating former combatants
- Strengthening regional action
- Exchanging information

Type: General purpose machine gun
Cartridge: 7.62x54mm
Distinguishing features: Oval hole in stock; triangular foresight
Type: Light machine gun
Cartridge: 7.62x39mm
Distinguishing features:
Small, bulbous hand guard;
drum-shaped belt magazine
FN SAFN49

Type: Self-loading rifle
Cartridge: 7, 7.65, & 7.92x57mm; 0.30
Distinguishing features:
Curved front of stock
SIG SG 540

Type: Assault rifle
Cartridge: 5.56x45mm
Distinguishing features:
Vertical ribs on hand guard;
bipod folds flush with hand guard;
often grey/green in colour
Simonov SKS

Type: Self-loading rifle
Cartridge: 7.62x39mm
Distinguishing features:
Folding bayonet; vertical profile at rear of receiver
Type 56 Carbine

Type: Self-loading rifle
Cartridge: 7.62x39mm
Distinguishing features:
Vertical rear end of receiver;
fixed triangular magazine
Type: Self-loading rifle
Cartridge: 7.62x39mm
Distinguishing features: Ribbed grenade launcher at muzzle; folding grenade sight above barrel
Steyr AUG

Type: Assault rifle
Cartridge: 5.56x45mm
Distinguishing features:
Folding grip below barrel;
transparent, waffle-type magazine inserted into stock
Tokarev TT33

Type: Pistol
Cartridge: 7.62x25mm
Distinguishing features:
Straight pistol grip with star motif on grip; no external safety catch
IMI Uzi

Type: Sub-machine gun
Cartridge: 9x19mm Parabellum
Distinguishing features: Collapsible, under-folding stock; magazine fits in pistol grip; large, rounded sight guards
Vektor R4

Type: Assault rifle
Cartridge: 5.56x45mm
Distinguishing features:
Square-shaped hand guard with horizontal ribs; bipod; folding, tubular stock
AAT F1

Type: General purpose machine gun
Cartridge: 7.5x54 & 7.62x51mm
Distinguishing features: Telescoping stock; slim forward profile; no plastic fittings
Small arms resources on the web:

www.amnesty.org
www.bicc.de
www.brad.ac.uk/acad/cics/
www.cerac.org.co
www.controlarms.org
www.disarmament.un.org
www.fas.org/asmp
www.grip.org
www.hdcentre.org
www.iansa.org
www.international-alert.org
www.iss.co.za
www.nisat.org
www.oxfam.org
www.ploughshares.ca
www.saferworld.co.uk
www.seesac.org
www.sipri.org
www.smallarmsnets.org
www.smallarmsSurvey.org
www.undp.org
www.unidir.org
www.vivario.org.br