Intelligence and Historical Background on the AK-47 and AK Variants

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Keywords: AK-47, Arabic, Assault Rifle, Cartridge, Crime Scene, Firearms, Forensic Investigators, Identification Marks, Kalashnikov, Mass Atrocity, Military, Post Conflict, Terrorism, War Zone.

**ABSTRACT**

This paper discusses the historical background and development of the Kalashnikov assault rifle. The principal variants are identified and their method of operation briefly described. Details appertaining to the manufacturer markings are illustrated and they provide useful data that could assist in the identification of a particular weapon. Consequently the information in this paper is of use to Firearms investigators in the anti-terrorism and human right fields, as well as in war and post conflict environments.

**Introduction**

“The US exports Coca Cola, Japan exports Sony, Russia exports Kalashnikovs.” Anonymous (Di Maio 1999).

Together with 9mm pistols, Kalashnikov assault rifles are the most likely weapons to be found in the hands of terrorists and illegal armed groups around the world. Manufactured in enormous numbers, actual quantities produced have ranged from 30 to 100 million pieces. The latter source has claimed this is enough to arm all the armies of the world (Gorshkov 2002).

A Kalashnikov assault rifle is relatively easy to use. At the age of 12 the author could disassemble, assemble and fire this rifle. The weapon is robust and can function after total immersion in mud and water. This could not be claimed by most of the other weapons in this class. The Kalashnikov is relatively cheap, the cost depending in any given circumstance on availability. For example £50 in Lebanon during the previous civil war, and as little as £4 in areas of Africa and can be traded for a bag of maize in Mozambique.

**Historical Overview of the Kalashnikov Assault Rifle**

Mikhail Kalashnikov designed the AK-47 “Avtomat Kalashnikova” during a period in hospital after being wounded in the battle of Bryansk in 1941 during the Second World War. The AK-47 was first tested by the Russian Army in 1947, and has officially designated the “7.62 Автомат Калашникова Образцета 1947” which translates to “7.62 Automatic Kalashnikova Model 1947”.

However, it should be noted that in Russian it is referred to as the Avtomat Kalashnikova, or ‘AK’, the designation AK-47 was created by western intelligence agencies on discovering the gun had been adopted for service in that year.

Full scale production began in 1950 at Izhmash, the famous arms factory in the city of Izhevsk. By 1955 the AK-47 was in service as the official assault rifle of the Russian Army, together with the folding-stock variant the AKS-47.

Since then many countries, especially the former “easternblok countries” such as Bulgaria, East Germany, Poland, Romania, Yugoslavia and other allied countries; China, Egypt, Iraq and North Korea produced the Kalashnikov variants under license.

A redesigned version of the AK-47 and AKS, the AKM and AKMS (M stands for modernized or upgraded and S stands for folding-stock) was introduced in 1959. This new model used a stamped sheet metal receiver[1] instead of the receiver of the AK-47 that was machined from a solid steel billet and featured a slanted compensator at the muzzle end of the barrel to reduce muzzle rise under recoil (N.B. the AK especially during automatic firing will rise up and to the right.).

The AKM and AKMS were also lighter than the AK-47 and the AKS. Licensed as well as unlicensed production abroad was more for the AKM than the AK-47. So the AKM is

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[1] Personal communication with Mr. Richard Jones, Editor Jane’s Infantry Weapons
actually the most commonly encountered variant. In spite of this, rifles of either pattern are often referred to as the AK-47.

“Mr. Kalashnikov is alive and well in the city of Izhevsk and he did not receive a penny for his invention as it was to defend the motherland” (Florey 2006).

AK Basic Components

Figure 3 Shows the AKM field-stripped. Names of each numbered part are designated in table 1

Table 1: Nomenclature of the different AK parts
1- Barrel
2- Muzzle compensator
3- Front sight guard
4- Gas chamber
5- Upper hand guard and gas tube.
6- Foreend and lower hand grip
7- Cleaning rod
8- Rear sight leaf
9- Receiver
10- Magazine
11- Trigger and trigger guard
12- Pistol grip
13- Buttstock
14- Bolt
15- Bolt carrier and gas piston
16- Recoil spring and guide
17- Receiver cover

Development and Production of the Kalashnikov

The Kalashnikov assault rifle has been the Soviet / Russian standard assault rifle since the early 1950’s. During the cold war the Soviet Union and the United States of America supplied arms and technical knowledge to numerous countries to promote their political interests. This period from 1947 until 1991 saw the proliferation of the AK by the Soviet Union to pro-communist countries.
The rifle seems to have made a home among countless nations using it to this day and is a favourite among collectors even in the United States, where there are approximately twelve AK manufacturers[2]. The general appearance of the AK-47 is known for its half-wood half-steel construction. The barrel runs under the gun operating system instead of over it and the distinctive curved magazine gives away its identity almost immediately. The fixed front sight block at the muzzle end is another defining feature. Figure 4 shows an AK-47 where the upper hand guard/gas tube, the receiver cover and the recoil spring were removed to explain how the barrel runs under the bolt carrier and the gas piston.

A total of ten countries manufacture the AK/AKM assault rifles. It is worth mentioning that variants intended for the civilian shooter in the United States use a mix of parts produced domestically, or imported from the manufacturing nations, but under US regulations the civilian variant cannot contain any component intended for use with the selective-fire version or indeed such parts as may have been modified to render them self-loading only.

Other countries have copied the basic design principles of the original AK-47 and have produced their own local variants without license under their respective names such as the Israeli Galil and South African R4 (a copy of the Galil). 2013 is the 66th anniversary of the AK-47 and it continues to be used in more modern variants with the Russian Army.

Figures 5 and 6 show the Israeli Galil assembled and disassembled; notice how it has the basic design principle of the AK.

AK Variants

By 1959 the AK-47 was modified and adopted as the AKM

Iraq produced a local version of the AKM under license known as the Tabuk, the People’s Republic of China produces its own local versions, the Type 56 and variations, whilst Egypt produces its own version called Misr and Maadi. Poland also produces many AK-47/AKM variations such as the Kbk AK and the Kbk AKM, as did the German Democratic Republic with versions such as the MPIK and MPIKM. In Bulgaria the AKKM was produced whilst Romania manufactured the AIM. Yugoslavia produced the famous M70 with the grenade launcher and integral grenade sight, North Korea the Type 58A and Hungary the ADM-65.

Figure 4: The barrel runs under the gun system, the UK Defence Academy collection. (photo: author)

Figures 5 and 6: The Israeli Galil assault rifle, NFC collection. (Photo: author)

[2] Personal communication with Firearms & Toolmark Examiner, the late Chet Parks. (06-2007)
The key changes were the stamped receiver instead of the milled one and the improved trigger/hammer unit that introduced a hammer retarder, which imposes a minute resistance on the forward movement of the hammer when firing to help eliminate ‘contact-bounce’ and by default lowering the cyclic rate of fire to make the weapon more controllable during automatic fire. It also made the weapon less prone to firing through being jarred and bumped.

Internally, the mainspring guide was a steel rod for the modernized AK and sometimes constructed of two wires. The receiver cover can feature three vertical strengthening ridges on the AKM. Other changes were made, such as the slightly raised butt stock and the pistol grip. On the AK-47, the furniture which comprises the butt, hand guard and piston cover, is made from wood, apart from the pistol grip which is from a Bakelite material. With the AKM all furniture became laminated. The fore end with the upper hand guard that covers the gas tube was widened and featured two grip rails in order to give the hand better grasp, especially in wet or humid conditions and the removable muzzle compensator was added to the AKM. The removable compensator is screwed onto the muzzle and uses the residual muzzle blast to reduce muzzle jump during automatic fire, the ‘dished-out’ lower section exerting a downward movement to the left countering muzzle-climb (right-handed firers) in sustained automatic fire (burst fire).

Figure 7 shows the difference between the AKS-47 and the AKMS.

Another change from the AK-47 to the AKM was a slightly improved rear sight with settings from 100 to 1000 meters on the latter, instead of to 800 meters on the former. Figure 8 shows the numbering from 1 to 10 on the AKM rear sight vs. the 1 to 8 numbering on the AK-47.

However, it is worth mentioning that both 800 and 1000 meters are not practically used since the effective fire range is limited between 300 – 400 meters. The AKMS is the folding stock version of the AKM; it is intended for Airborne troops and for use in the narrow space of the Armored Combat Vehicle (ACV).

The aforementioned changes from AK-47 to the AKM have passed through sub changes and are described by Joe Poyer in his book ‘The AK-47 and AK-74 Kalashnikov Rifles and Their Variations’. Table 2 shows the Russian AK/AKM Models and Variations it states; model, type, identification characteristics and year of adoption.
Table 2: Russian AK to AKM models sub-changes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Identification</th>
<th>Year of adoption</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.62 AK</td>
<td>1A</td>
<td>Fixed buttstock. Stamped steel receiver. Lacks the indented magazine guide of the later type above the magazine well. pistol grip welded to receiver; buttstock attached with two wood screws, rear sight leaf graduated to 800 meters, no bayonet mount, no flash hider.</td>
<td>1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.62 AKS</td>
<td>1B</td>
<td>Folding buttstock. Identical to 1A except for the rounded back plate and Russian-Pattern folding buttstock. Stock arms machined from steel stock.</td>
<td>1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.62 AK</td>
<td>2A</td>
<td>Fixed buttstock. Receiver machined from steel forging. Large rectangular indentation milled into both receiver sides as magazine guide bolt and bolt carrier guide machined into receiver. Pistol grip attached to receiver with single bolt. Bayonet mount added no flash hider. Magazine sides reinforced with ribs pressed into sheet metal.</td>
<td>1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.62 AKS</td>
<td>2B</td>
<td>Folding buttstock. Identical to type 2A except for the rounded back plate and the Russian-Pattern folding steel stock.</td>
<td>1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.62 AK</td>
<td>3A</td>
<td>Fixed buttstock. Receiver machined from steel bar stock. buttstock attached directly to rear of receiver with three wood screws. Reinforced safety and selector lever.</td>
<td>1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.62 AKS</td>
<td>3A</td>
<td>Identical to 3A type except for the Russian-pattern folding stock.</td>
<td>1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.62 AKM</td>
<td>1A</td>
<td>Receiver made from stamped sheet steel. Magazine guide, oval indentation above magazine well on both sides of receiver instead of the AK large rectangular indentation. Forearm prominent at the bottom, rear. Rear leaf sight graduated to 1000 meters. Laminated wood or plastic furniture.</td>
<td>1959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.62 AKMS</td>
<td>1B</td>
<td>Identical to AKM 1A type except for the Russian-pattern folding stock.</td>
<td>1959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.62 AKM</td>
<td>2A</td>
<td>Identical to AKM 1A type except the addition of the slant cut muzzle compensator.</td>
<td>1960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.62 AKMS</td>
<td>2B</td>
<td>Identical to AKM 2A type except the Russian-pattern folding stock.</td>
<td>1960</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In 1974, the Russian army adopted the AK-74, which was no more than the AK-47, re-chambered for the 5.45x39mm cartridge with other minor modifications such as a large, combination muzzle brake/flash hider and compensator which further reduces the recoil and improves the controllability of the rifle in the automatic mode. The original wooden butt stock was slightly lightened by two oval cuts on the sides, the pistol grip made from plastic and the fore-end from wood. The AKS-74 introduced a new pattern of folding stock adopted later for the AK-100 series. It is similar to the AKMS in that it is intended for airborne troops as well as for its use in the armoured combat vehicle (ACV).

Figure 10 shows the AK-74 with the oval cut on the butt stock and the large muzzle brake. Figure 11 shows the AKS-74 with the new, side folding-stock.

Today the assault rifles from the AK-100 series (manufactured by the Russian arms factory Izhmash) differ from the preceding models of AK-47 and AK-74 through modern manufacturing process i.e. synthetic furniture such as plastic folding stock and hand guard. The main components of the trigger mechanism are made by a high precision method of investment casting.

The AK-74 M and AK-100 series have many component parts produced by investment casting. This involves casting metal into a mould produced by surrounding, or investing an expendable pattern with a heat-resistant slurry coating, that sets at room temperature. Often the suspension, which is a wax or plastic pattern, is removed through the use of heat prior to filling the mold with liquid metal, also called casting or lost wax process.

This method will give a detailed and accurate product with excellent metallurgical properties. The barrels of the currently produced assault rifle are cold hammer forged. These 100 series were developed in three calibres which are 5.56x45mm, 5.45x39mm and 7.62x39mm. They were developed in two main forms, standard and short barrel.

The AK-101 and AK-102 assault rifles are in calibre 5.56x45 NATO, the AK-101 has a long barrel of 415mm the AK-102 is a 314mm short Barrel.

The AK-103 and AK-104 are built around cartridges of 7.62x39 mm calibre, as are the 101 and 102 series. The AK-103 has a barrel length of 414mm and the AK-104 has a barrel length of 314mm.

The AK-74M and the AK-105 are in calibre 5.45x39mm Russian, as with the other 100 series, the AK-74M has a barrel length of 414mm and the AK-105 has a barrel length of 314mm.

The AK-102, AK-104 and AK-105 assault rifles are made especially for the airborne troops, Marines and Special Forces whose combat tactics are of extremely mobile character, and to soldiers who needs a reduced length weapon. This explains why they were made with a shorter barrel than the other models. Figure 12 shows the AK-105 with black synthetic furniture.

The AKS-74U short assault rifle (U stands for Ukorochennyj, or ‘shortened’ in English) was developed in the late 70’s. Despite the introduction of the 100 series after 1990 it is still the weapon of choice of most Special Forces units because of its short barrel length compared to the 100 series (barrel length 210mm). Its calibre is the same as the AK-74, AK-74M and AK-105, over all length 735mm, 490mm with folded stock, which makes it easy to conceal. Its effective range is 200 meters. Unofficially it’s called “Ksewsha” (a girl’s name) in Russia, “Zagharof” in Lebanon and “Krinkov” in the United States. Figure 13 shows the AKS-74U.

Method of operation of The Kalashnikov Assault Rifle

The AK is a gas operated rotating-bolt assault rifle with the gas piston situated above the barrel. The selector allows it to
fire single shots (semi automatic) and burst (full automatic). It is fed from a curved magazine, normally a 30 cartridges capacity, also known as the banana-shaped magazine.

Upon firing an AK, a portion of the propellant gases that are driving the bullet, pass through a port in the barrel into the gas block (1), acting upon the face of the piston (2). The piston with the bolt carrier and the bolt are driven back to the rear position (3). The rearward motion of the bolt carrier rotates the bolt, opening the breech, extracting the fired case rearwards from the chamber until it strikes the fixed ejector and ejects it from the gun. The bolt carrier also compresses the recoil spring (5) and cocks the hammer on its rearward travel. The bolt carrier with the bolt returns to the forward position under the impulse of the return spring mechanism. The cartridge fed lip on bolt drives the next in line cartridge from the magazine into the chamber, as the bolt carrier continues forward it rotates the bolt and locks it in the closed position ready for firing. Locking of the bolt is accomplished by its rotation to the right and engagement of the bolt’s locking lugs with the locking recess of the receiver. If the selector switch is placed on automatic fire (centre position), firing will continue as long as the trigger is held and there are cartridges in the magazine. If the selector switch is placed on single shot (lower position), pressure on the trigger will produce a single shot and in order to fire again it is necessary to release the trigger and press it again.

**Illegal Circulation**

Throughout the world these assault rifles and variants were commonly smuggled and sold to countries, rebels, criminals and civilians with little or no international oversight (Pyadushkin et al 2003).

As it was declared by the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan; “An estimated 50 to 60 per cent of the world trade in small arms is legal- but legally exported weapons often find their way into the illicit market. The task of effective proliferation control is made far harder than it needs to be, because of the irresponsible behaviour on the part of some States and lack of capacity by others, together with the shroud of secrecy that veils much of the arms trade. Member States must act to increase transparency in arms transfer if we are to make any progress.” (UN 2002)

Weapons can often simply be acquired and/or stolen from police and defense forces within the country, bought from private individuals or obtained in battles between small groups of hostile criminal cliques.

**Identification of markings to be found on a Kalashnikov assault rifle.**

The rifle markings will provide some or all of the following information: name of the country of origin and/or factory name or logo and/or calibre of the weapon, serial number and selector markings/symbols. These symbols are mainly situated in two locations; whereas the receiver selector markings are situated under the ejection port, to indicate the weapon firing mode (safe, semi-auto, full-auto, 3-round burst), all or some
of the other symbols are usually found on the opposite side of the receiver.

**Figure 14** shows a picture of the logo on the receiver of an AK-47 which is indicative of a factory in Bulgaria.

**Table 3** shows different logos the author has seen on different AKs from various countries. All those logos were situated on the side opposite to the ejection port, below the receiver cover [3].

![Factory Code](image)

**Figure 14:** Bulgarian AK-47. (Photo: author)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Markings</th>
<th>Producer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Symbol" /></td>
<td>Russia (Izhevsk Factory)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Symbol" /></td>
<td>Russia (Izhevsk Factory)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Symbol" /></td>
<td>Russia (Tula Arsenal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Symbol" /></td>
<td>Russia (Tula Arsenal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Symbol" /></td>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Symbol" /></td>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Symbol" /></td>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Symbol" /></td>
<td>Czechoslovakia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Symbol" /></td>
<td>Yugoslavia Zastava Factory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Symbol" /></td>
<td>People Republic of China (Norinco)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Symbol" /></td>
<td>People Republic of China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Symbol" /></td>
<td>People Republic of China (Suhl Factory)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Symbol" /></td>
<td>E. Germany (Ernst Thaelmann factory)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Symbol" /></td>
<td>On MPIK copy of the AK-47E. Germany Inspection mark</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[3] Information related to logos and selector marks where identified by the author on weapons available in the NFC and authenticated by personal communication with Mr. Richard Jones.
Firearm investigators should make themselves familiar with symbols, words and phrases on weapons to differentiate between manufacturing logos and the army code logo, where the former indicates the manufacturer, the latter indicates the owner.

Many armies around the world add their identifying code to weapons they own, be they imported from foreign manufacturer or made domestically. These markings might be a logo or an actual identifier ‘US Property’.

For example, figures 15 and 16 show a Hungarian AKM, confirmation made by looking at selector symbols (Figure 15). The only marking noticed on the opposite side to the ejection port, on the receiver, an Arabic letter (ج) (that sounds like the French J as in Jean) inside a delta or a triangle which is the Iraqi Army acceptance code of ownership (Figure 16). If there was a Lion inside the delta, this suggests that the weapon was made in Iraq.

Figures 17 and 18 show a M70 Tabuk copy of the Yugoslavian M70ABI variant and Figures 19 and 20 show a type 56 Tabuk copy of the Chinese type 56 variant.

These Iraqi variants were named after the Battle of Tabuk. This battle was a military expedition, which, was initiated by the Prophet Muhammad in 630 AD. The Prophet led his Army north to Tabuk in present day north-western Saudi Arabia, with the intention of engaging the Byzantine army.

Another good indicator of the country of origin is the selector marks or selector symbols, situated as aforementioned in the area in front of the selector. Figure 21 shows selector marks on a Bulgarian AK-47 in Cyrillic alphabet.

Some of the former “eastern block countries” and other countries that manufacture the Kalashnikov variants under license produced assault rifles or supply component parts to each other. For instance Poland had produced AKs for Bulgaria, this is reflected upon the identification markings of both countries on the receiver of the weapon.

Another example; AKM assault rifles have been produced in Russia and assembled in Egypt.
Figures 17 and 18: M70 Iraqi AK variant. From right to left Arabic script reads “Tabuk calibre 7.62x39 mm” (Photo: author)

Figures 19 and 20: Another AK variant: the Type-56 Tabuk (Photo: author)

Figures 22 and 23: Figure 17 Russian selector marks right figure, and left figure; Egyptian ID marks from right to left Arabic script top line reads “Egypt 7.62x39mm” bottom line reads; Made in J M A the Arabic Republic of Egypt. (Photo: author)

Romania had produced for a short period of time a limited quantity of AKs that can deliver a three round burst in addition to its usual firing mode [4]. The weapon has no logo on the receiver but has the Romanian pistol grip below the lower hand guard and has marks similar to that of the Hungarian AK on the actual selector. Figure 24 shows the selector marks of the automatic/semiauto/3 round burst Romanian AK-74.

Some countries use additional marks on weapons, these are called proof marks. These marks are applied by proof houses to the various parts of the weapon after completion of manufacture to show that the weapon is safe to use with the appropriate ammunition.

The Permanent International Commission for Firearms Testing is an organisation composed of thirteen countries whose proof testing is considered reciprocally appropriate. Currently the...
Table 4: Selector symbols detected on AK assault rifles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Producer</th>
<th>Upper or Safe Symbol</th>
<th>Mid or Full Auto Symbol</th>
<th>Lower or Semi Auto Symbol</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>AB</td>
<td></td>
<td>ОД</td>
<td>AK-47, AKS, AKM, AKMS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>ЛР</td>
<td></td>
<td>ОГОНЬ</td>
<td>These symbols are found on machine guns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>AB</td>
<td></td>
<td>ЕД</td>
<td>AK-47 &amp; AKM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China PRC</td>
<td>L</td>
<td></td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Type 56 and 56-1 The later is with the folding stock (usually on weapons manufactured for export)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China PRC</td>
<td>连</td>
<td></td>
<td>单</td>
<td>Selector symbols on weapons for national use. Continuous (Lean) Single (Dan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czechoslovakia</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sometimes factory marking don’t exist only Selector markings SAMOPOL vz 58P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Germany</td>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td>E</td>
<td>Some E. German variation of the AK don’t have a cleaning rod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>Ilа</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ыдр</td>
<td>“Aalee” Arabic for Automatic “Fardee” Arabic for Single</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td>E</td>
<td>MISR manufactured by Maadi Arms Factory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>…</td>
<td></td>
<td>.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Kabbani -- Intelligence and Historical Background on the AK-47 and AK Variants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Producer</th>
<th>Upper or Safe Symbol</th>
<th>Mid or Full Auto Symbol</th>
<th>Lower or Semi Auto Symbol</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>أ</td>
<td>ص</td>
<td>م</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N. Korea</td>
<td></td>
<td>₩</td>
<td></td>
<td>Type 58 (AK47) and Type 68 (AKM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td></td>
<td>C</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>PMK, PMK-DGN, &amp; KBK-AK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>FA</td>
<td>FF</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>No Logo on weapon receiver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yugoslavia</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>J</td>
<td>Zastava M64 (AK47) &amp; M70 (AKM) series</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figures 24:** Selector placed towards three round burst firing mode, NFC collection. (Photo: author)

CIP members are Austria, Belgium, Chile, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Russia, Slovakia, Spain, United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom. Please refer to the C.I.P website to get the latest list of countries and their marks.

It is worth mentioning that trying to cover the source to delude investigators as to the country of manufacture by forging the markings or even without placing any marks or serial number on the weapon for many reasons including clandestine should not be disregarded. This can also occur with ammunition where the manufacturer will mark according to the customers request.

**Acknowledgments:**

In the memory of my Mentor and friend Chester Arthur Parks (Chet). He had left us on August 28th 2010. A man of few words, he used them with such precision and meaning. He loved to read, learn and, most importantly, teach. Rest in Peace my friend, may God bless your soul…

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Mohamed Kabbani and Omar Kabbani from ASHEKMAN Urban design (Beirut-Lebanon) for helping me with the graphics

References

[3] Florey, J. (johncflorey@btconnect.com) 24/04/2006, re: about Mr. Kalashnikov, Email to Author, Author@bradford.ac.uk

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