Further weapons seized from SAF in South Kordofan

The Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) has been battling the Sudan People’s Liberation Army-North (SPLA-N) in South Kordofan for more than a year. Since the SPLA-N officially broke with the SPLA following South Sudan’s independence, it has received some military support from its southern ally, but the majority of its supply derives from the capture of SAF weapons on the battlefield.

Between February and May 2012, the SPLA-N clashed three times with SAF in the area of Tolodi. The Small Arms Survey obtained documentation of weapons seized by the SPLA-N from SAF during battle. While SPLA-N forces frequently move their stockpiles, a significant amount of captured equipment was stored in Jebel Kwo in May. The cache mainly consisted of small arms and light weapons ammunition.

Sample of arms and ammunition

Selection of SAF arms and ammunition seized by the SPLA-N in Jebel Kwo, South Kordofan, May 2012.
QLZ-87 35 mm automatic grenade launcher and grenades

Chinese manufactured QLZ-87 35 mm automatic grenade launcher with High Explosive Dual Purpose armour-piercing grenades. The fuze (top of grenade) bears the marking DRJ/DF J87-35(W) 1-09-9624, the grenade is marked DFJ87-35 HEDP Y111-343 (left photo), and the base of the charge is marked 1, 343, 10, 1 (right photo). SAF supplied QLZ-87 launchers to Chadian armed opposition groups prior to Sudan and Chad’s rapprochement in 2010.
Typical containers of Chinese manufactured 7.62x39 ammunition (top photo). Packaging containing 12.7 mm ammunition with markings consistent with Chinese manufacture (middle and bottom photos). This ammunition appears to have been repackaged in Sudan. The crate, crate label, and black plastic packaging are identical to those that contained 7.62x54R rounds seized from George Athor’s forces in February 2011. The same packaging, with similar varieties of ammunition, has been observed in West Africa.
Mortar bombs

Copies of Russian 82 mm and 120 mm mortar bombs made in 2011 by an unidentified manufacturer. The SPLA-N seized similar 82 mm mortars from SAF in 2011, and the SPLA seized some from the South Sudan Liberation Army in Unity state. The Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) reportedly seized similar 120 mm mortars from SAF in 2009. The SPLA and JEM seized 60 mm mortars with similar markings from SAF forces in Heglig in April 2012. Sudan’s weapons manufacturer, Military Industrial Corporation, features identical mortar rounds on its website, but the Small Arms Survey has yet to verify Sudan’s manufacture of such mortars.1

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