



Weapons in service with David Yau Yau's militia, Jonglei state, February 2013

This report documents weapons and ammunition observed in February 2013 during a reporting trip to the town of Pibor in Jonglei state, South Sudan. The weapons were in possession of a group led by James Kubrin, who defected with his men from David Yau Yau's militia on 4 December 2012. Given that only three months have passed since their defection, it is likely that similar types, relative quantities, and sources of weapons and ammunition remain in the hands of the Yau Yau militia. Also of interest are specifics offered by the Kubrin group about alleged airdrops of weapons from Khartoum, described here for the first time.

Following their defection, Kubrin's forces, numbering more than 100, have resided in temporary housing in the town of Pibor, where they are being cared for while negotiations proceed on their integration into the Sudan People's Liberation Army. During interviews conducted there in February, defecting militia members, including commanders, claimed the primary source of the group's arms and ammunition were airdrops orchestrated by Sudan's National Intelligence and Security Service, which they claim took place between August 2012 and December 2012 (with a further drop reported after the group's defection in January 2013). They further claimed that a fixed-wing aircraft flew direct from Khartoum on the night of each drop. According to the commanders, the militia groups on the ground were in direct contact with the aircraft via satellite phone and marked each drop zone with a line of fires immediately prior to the drop.

Militiamen described the dropped materiel as packed in reinforced wooden boxes of uniform size and shape. Each box was said to be approximately 1.5 m in height and the width (about 2.4 m) of an ISO shipping container. The boxes were reportedly either painted green (containing weapons) or yellow (containing ammunition). Militiamen said all of the boxes were delivered by parachute, falling roughly in a line, the length of the drop zone. The Small Arms Survey did not view such boxes and could not independently confirm the airdrop claims.

Likely Chinese-manufactured Type 56 assault rifle



The weapon bears no manufacturer marks and the serial number has been partially effaced by grinding (image above). Other marks applied to the weapon, including the rear sight mark (below left) and fire selector annotation (below right) are consistent with Chinese-manufactured Type 56 assault rifles. The Small Arms Survey has documented similar rifles in the stocks of various other rebel forces in South Sudan.



7.62x39 mm ammunition loaded in Type 56 assault rifle magazines

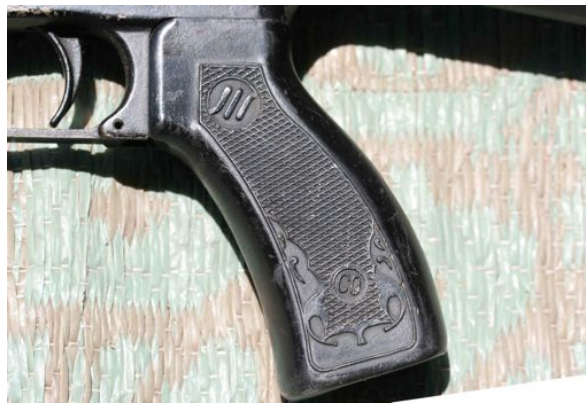
Headstamp markings and cartridge construction indicate that the three cartridges pictured below were produced by (from left to right): 1) the Barnaul Machine Tool Plant, Russia (then USSR) in 1973; 2) the Factory 61, China in 2011 and 3) the Soviet State Factory Lugansk, Ukraine (then USSR) in 1975. These varieties of ammunition are not uncommon in South Sudan.



Chinese CQ (M16-pattern) assault rifle



The weapon features an intact 8-digit serial number, 18001883, stamped into the base of the magazine housing (image above). The model designation, CQ, is moulded into the pistol grip (image below). This type of rifle has been observed in Sudan but not in South Sudan, where its 5.56 calibre is uncommon among assault rifles and their ammunition.



Chinese 5.56x45 mm ammunition



Loaded into the magazine of a CQ assault rifle, this ammunition features a Chinese factory code (71) and three primer crimps, characteristic of recent Chinese-produced brass cased 5.56x45 mm ammunition. Some of the projectiles (above left) feature green painted dots. This type of ammunition has never before been observed in South Sudan.

A30 RPG-pattern rocket launcher



The weapon is identical in construction to rocket launchers that are manufactured at the A30 plant at the Yarmouk Industrial Corporation in Khartoum. Although the serial number is poorly stamped and only partially visible, the format (a two-letter code, followed by two sets of double numerals) is also consistent with A30 weapons. Similar launchers have been observed with rebel forces in South Sudan, Darfur, and in Somali military stocks in Mogadishu.

Chinese Type 80 7.62x54R mm general-purpose machine gun

This weapon bears neither visible factory- or model-designating marks, nor a serial number. These marks would be stamped onto the top cover (image below). However, a number of components are marked with a partial repeat of the serial number (0428), including the barrel and ejection port. Type 80 machine guns are common among state and non-state forces throughout Sudan and South Sudan.



Chinese 7.62x54R mm ammunition

This ammunition is marked with codes indicating production at Chinese Factory 945. Date codes indicate manufacture in the years 2006 (not pictured in the image below), 2010, and 2011. The ammunition was observed loaded into a belt, rather than boxed. There is consequently no further information other than the marks observable on the cartridge headstamps. The Small Arms Survey and UN Panel of Expert groups on Sudan have documented large quantities of Factory 945 7.62x54R mm ammunition with the Sudan Armed Forces in Darfur and South Kordofan as well as in the stocks of former South Sudan rebel leader George Athor.



Sudanese 7.62x54R mm ammunition (brass case)

This ammunition is marked with codes indicating the second part of the calibre designation (54) and a date mark (08), indicating manufacture in 2008. The significance of the numeral '2' is unclear, although it may indicate a specific lot or production run. The cartridge case is made of brass. This is the first time this variety of ammunition has been observed in South Sudan.



Sudanese 7.62x54R mm ammunition (steel case)

The marking format of this ammunition closely resembles the Sudanese cartridge pictured above. Although also Sudanese, this ammunition features a copper-clad steel cartridge case (rather than brass) and the date mark consists of a third digit (011), which probably indicates 2011 manufacture. Although the significance of the '2' (below left) and '3' (below right) is unclear, the numerals may indicate specific lots or production runs. These varieties of ammunition have never before been documented in Sudan or South Sudan.



Sudan Human Security Baseline Assessment (HSBA) for Sudan and South Sudan

Small Arms Survey

47 Avenue Blanc

1202 Geneva, Switzerland

<http://www.smallarmssurveysudan.org>