

Arms and Ammunition Tracing Desk Report

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



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Weapons seized from the forces of George Athor and John Duit

This report documents weapons collected by the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) from the forces of two non-state armed groups operating in South Sudan: those of Major Generals George Athor Deng and John Duit Yiech. It combines the results of new fieldwork conducted in September 2012 with findings previously published by the HSBA Arms and Ammunition Tracing Desk.

In February 2012, South Sudan Democratic Movement/Army (SSDM/A) forces under the command of Kuol Chol Awan, a successor to deceased Major General George Athor, defected to the SPLA. This was one of many SSDM/A defections since Athor's death in Central Equatoria state on 19 December 2011. In April 2012, the SPLA transferred 411 former SSDM/A fighters to Panyiel in Bor county, Jonglei state, for integration into the South Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). The SPLA stockpiled some of the weapons belonging to the fighters in two adjacent military facilities in Panyiel and Paryak; but the army appears to have redistributed some of the materiel to its forces. The remaining stored weapons include assault rifles, general-purpose machine guns, mortar bombs, recoilless rifles, landmines, and ammunition.

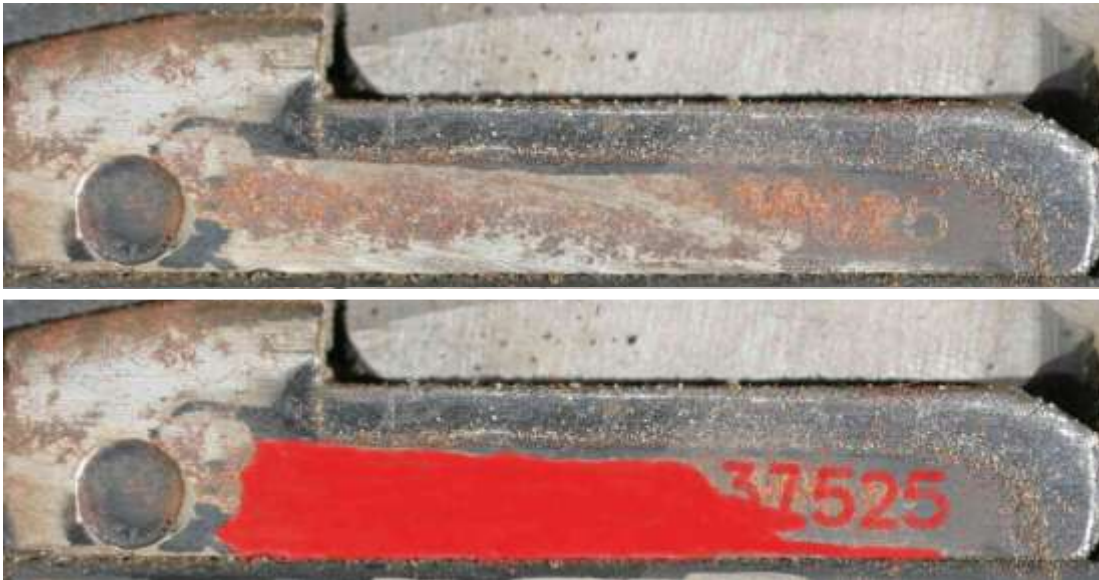
On the morning of 5 May 2012, a Shilluk militia under the command of Major General John Duit crossed the border from Blue Nile State, Sudan, into Upper Nile State, South Sudan. The force, which deployed eight Toyota Landcruisers mounting 12.7 x 108 mm heavy machine guns and a variety of small arms and light weapons, entered the town of Ruffa the same morning. The following day, 215 fighters, including Major General John Duit, peacefully surrendered to the SPLA in the town of Adar, Upper Nile state. The SPLA transferred the fighters to Panyiel for integration into its forces. It later moved some of the weapons—including two of the vehicles—to the Panyiel and Paryak military facilities. The SPLA appears to have redistributed the remainder of the materiel, including six vehicles, to its forces.

On 27 September 2012, a Small Arms Survey field assessment team visited the Panyiel and Paryak facilities to document the recovered weapons and ammunition. Each facility contained a mix of weapons collected from Athor's and Duit's forces. This mixing made it sometimes impossible to distinguish which weapons belonged to which defecting force. Although the types of weapons recovered from Athor's and Duit's forces are consistent with claims of foreign sourcing, the Small Arms Survey continues to analyse this materiel to clarify its origin and full chain of custody.

Weapons recovered from Athor's and Duit's forces



Chinese-manufactured Type 56-1 assault rifles reportedly recovered from John Duit's forces. The serial number and associated factory marks have been removed from each weapon—in some cases only partially (see images below). In all cases, the parties responsible for grinding appear to have paid greater attention to removing the factory marks than to removing the serial numbers. The SPLA seized similar Type 56-1 rifles from George Athor's forces and the South Sudan Liberation Army (SSLA) in 2011. The rifles have also been observed in the hands of the White Army, which they obtained from George Athor's forces in Jonglei.



Upper image: Intentional removal of factory marks and serial number, by grinding, on one example of a Type 56-1 assault rifle. Lower image: Red highlights illustrate the extent of grinding. Three digits (of eight) have been removed.



Unsuccessful attempt at grinding the last five digits of the serial number from the bolt carrier (internal component) of the same Type 56-1 assault rifle pictured in the previous image.



Last five digits of the serial number repeated on the recoil spring guide of the same Type 56-1 assault rifle pictured in the previous image. The marks remain intact.



Chinese manufactured Type 80 machine guns reportedly recovered from John Duit's forces. The weapons bear the serial numbers 268317 and 267782. The Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) reportedly seized similar machine guns from SAF in Darfur.



PPM-2 anti-personnel mines reportedly seized from Athor's forces. Upper image: top surface of the mines. Lower image: underside of the mines, illustrating the model designations ('PPM-2') and lot codes ('18181') in each example. The design, construction, and marking of the mines are consistent with former East German (GDR) manufacture.



Sudanese manufactured RPG-7-type rocket launcher reportedly seized from Duit's forces. The weapon is of quite crude construction and differs from most known models in use in the region (Chinese, Russian, Iranian). The trigger assembly is similar to that of Bulgarian models (there is not a chamfered cutaway to the rear of the aluminium trigger assembly). The plastic heat shield resembles Iranian variants, but differs in colour. Identical launchers have been recovered from George Athor's forces in 2011, from Darfurian rebels in 2010 and from Al Shabaab in Somalia in 2011.



This seemingly identical launcher is featured on the Sudanese Military Industrial Corporation website (Image above from: <http://mic.sd/images/products/wepons/ar/SINARgzf.html>)



Markings from the above RPG launcher. 'A30' denotes a factory plant at Sudan's Yarmouk Industrial Complex (YIC).



RPG-7-type launcher resembling weapons of Iranian manufacture seized from George Athor's forces. The pistol grips are distinct from other RPG-7-type models. The weapon bears no marks. The SPLA seized identical launchers from the SSLA in 2011.

www.diomil.ir



A very similar launcher is featured on Iran's Defence Industries Organization website (image above: <http://www.diomil.ir/images/product/Original/aig/rlantitank.jpg>)



Chinese-manufactured Type 65 recoilless rifle. The marks have been removed by grinding.



Czechoslovakian-manufactured vz. 58 assault rifles from 1972 and 1977. The SPLA seized an additional vz. 58 rifle that was manufactured in 1972 from George Athor's forces in early 2011.



Marks removed by grinding from the receiver and barrel of two Chinese Type 85 12.7 x 108 mm heavy machine guns. The marks on each of the two weapons documented, which were mounted on converted Toyota Landcruiser pick-ups, had been removed in identical fashion. The SPLA seized an identical Type 85 heavy machine gun from the forces of Athor in February 2011, and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) seized one from SAF in South Kordofan in July 2011.

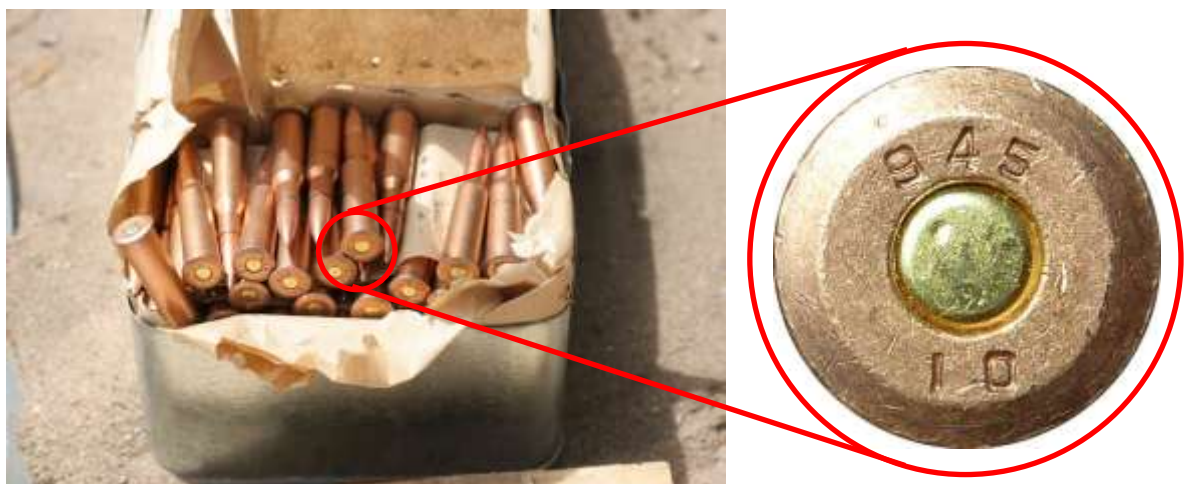
Ammunition recovered from Athor's and Duit's forces



Ammunition box of typical former-Soviet/Chinese construction, containing 1,000 rounds of 7.62 x 54R mm ammunition (contents documented in subsequent images). The contract number suggests that China supplied this box as part of a consignment of ammunition to the Sudan Technical Centre (STC).



Contents of the box pictured in the previous image, showing packing list and two unmarked tins, each containing 500 rounds of 7.62 x 54R ammunition (tin contents documented in subsequent image).



Contents of the tins pictured in the previous image and example headstamp of the cartridges contained within. The headstamp features a Chinese factory code '945' and a date mark '10,' which indicates manufacture in 2010. The Small Arms Survey has documented ammunition with factory code '945' in large quantities throughout Sudan and South Sudan.



Markings on a box containing 1,500 rounds of Chinese-manufactured 7.62 x 39 mm ammunition. The marks on the box indicate, from right to left: factory code (31), date code (74), and lot (90). Cartridge headstamps (inset) feature the factory code '31' and a date code '74,' which indicates manufacture in 1974.



Unmarked box containing 1,300 rounds of 7.62 x 39 mm ammunition. The box is of unusual construction and does not conform to common 7.62 x 39 mm ammunition packaging types (i.e. former Soviet or Chinese).



Contents of the box pictured in the previous image. The metal tin is marked with ammunition quantity, ammunition type, and lot number; but features no marks that might identify either factory or country of origin (contents of boxes documented in subsequent image).



Contents of the boxes pictured in the previous image. Each box contains 20 unmarked cartridges (i.e. no headstamp applied)



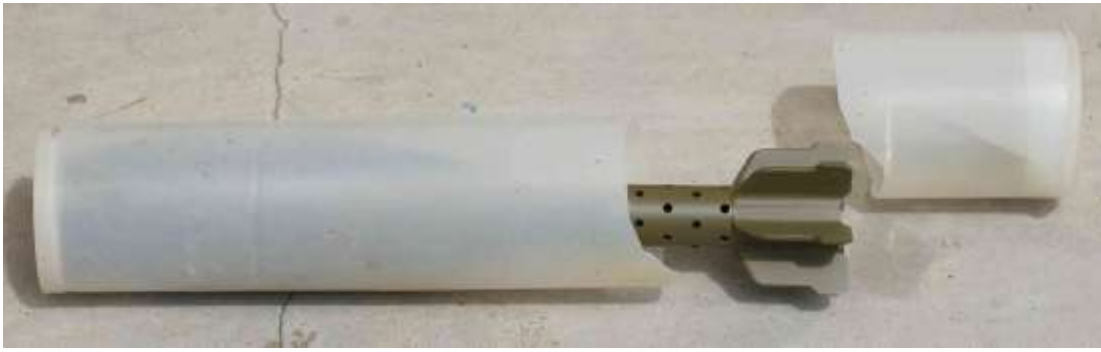
Sudanese-manufactured 7.62 x 39 mm ammunition found loose (unboxed). The ammunition headstamp features three entries: calibre ('39'), date ('10' or '09'), and what appears to be a lot or batch designator ('1' or '3'). Date marks suggest the ammunition was manufactured in 2009 and 2010. For further information, see the HSBA publication 'A Guide to Sudanese Ammunition (1954-present).' The Small Arms Survey has observed similar varieties of ammunition throughout Sudan and South Sudan.



Linked, Chinese-manufactured 12.7 x 108 mm ammunition, found accompanying two vehicle mounted Type 85 heavy machine guns. The ammunition is marked with a factory code ('11') and a date code ('10'), indicating 2010 production.



Chinese-manufactured high explosive anti-tank (HEAT) rockets for use in RPG-7-type weapons. The markings on these items indicate, from right to left: factory code ('73'), date code ('92'), and lot code ('2'). The date code '92' indicates manufacture in 1992. Rounds with the same lot number were seized from the Ethiopian Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF) in September 2010. A similar RPG-7 round with marks '8-91-93' was also seized from George Athor's forces in February 2011, which matched another batch of rounds that were seized from the ONLF during the same action.



Chinese-manufactured 60 mm mortar bomb found inside a sealed tube. Subsequently removed and documented (marks documented in images below).



Left image: Marks designating details of the complete bomb: factory code ('313'), date code ('05'), and lot code ('9'). Right image: Marks designating details of the bomb casing (manufactured earlier in the production process): factory code ('313'), date code ('05'), and lot code ('10').

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