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SMALL ARMS IDENTIFICATION AND OPERATION GUIDE  
—EURASIAN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES

AN ARMY INTELLIGENCE DOCUMENT

**SMALL ARMS IDENTIFICATION AND OPERATION  
GUIDE—EURASIAN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES**

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## Section III. ASSAULT RIFLES

### A. THE 7.62-MM KALASHNIKOV ASSAULT RIFLE (AK-47)

#### 68. General

a. Assault rifles are short, compact, selective-fire weapons that fire a cartridge intermediate in power between submachinegun and rifle cartridges. Assault rifles have mild recoil characteristics and, because of this, are capable of delivering effective full-automatic fire at ranges up to 300 meters.

b. The Soviet-designed Kalashnikov AK-47 assault rifle, (fig 41) a gas-operated, selective-fire, box-magazine-fed weapon, was the major infantry arm for most Eurasian Communist countries. The Warsaw Pact Armies, however, have generally replaced the AK-47 with the similar, but improved, AKM assault rifle (see III B). The AK-47 remains in wide use in Asia and is still used as a substitute standard weapon in most Warsaw Pact Armies. Large numbers of these weapons have also been passed to other nations as military aid, and some have been supplied to insurgent groups. In addition to the Soviet Union, Communist China, East Germany, Poland, Bulgaria, Roumania, North Korea, Hungary, and Yugoslavia have manufactured AK-47's. Finland produces a modified



Figure 41. Typical AK-47 (Hungarian).