

**State of California
Department of Justice
Firearms Division
P.O. Box 163487, Sacramento, CA 95816-0487
INVESTIGATION REPORT**

Subject: DSA Arms		FD Case Number: 01-20041
Investigation Requested by: Dale A. Ferranto Assistant Director		Type of Report: Opening/Closing
Reporting Agent: Ignatius H. Chinn Special Agent Supervisor	Office: Sacramento	Report Number: 1
Type of Assault Weapons Evaluation (12276.1 PC) Case:		Date: 12/10/01

SYNOPSIS:

During December of 2001, I, Special Agent Supervisor Ignatius H. Chinn was requested to evaluate a weapon being developed by DSA Arms Illinois, for sale in California. This report will detail my evaluation as to whether this weapon is or is not an assault weapon as defined under the California Penal Code (PC) section 12276.1.

DETAILS

On 12/07/01, I examined the SA 58 sent to our Division by DSA Arms. It appeared to be a FAL derivative with a clip mounting guide on the top of the receiver, and no magazine release. The magazine appeared to be a shortened twenty round magazine. The serial number on this weapon was DS19042. The fore end, pistol grip, and stock was a finely finished wood and on the muzzle was a fake flash suppressor.

During previous conversations with DSA Arms, we were told that the shortened magazine could be removed for cleaning only. I then disassembled the weapon to locate the point of disassembly for the shortened magazine for cleaning. I observed that there were no rivets or weld marks to secure the magazine. I then observed that the traditional magazine release had been shortened and a hex set screw was machined into the release, placing pressure on the magazine well wall to hold the latch in a fixed position.

I was able to loosen and adjust the hex set screw out enough to release the magazine. Following this procedure, I was able to insert and lock in-place a twenty round magazine for the FN FAL. The magazine was able to withstand the release of the bolt from the locked position without falling out.

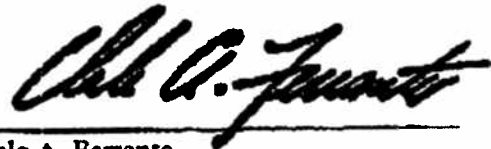
I then took a spring from a pen, modified it to fit between the magazine latch and the magazine well wall, using the hex set screw as a guide. This procedure allowed the shortened magazine latch to now act as the traditional latch, making this weapon into a detachable magazine model rather than a fixed magazine model.

I believe in the AR-15 fixed model which was evaluated earlier. The magazine well was closed, and the insert was fixed with a rivet as suggested by Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. The SA 58 as configured is easily changed into a detachable magazine, with a pistol grip attached and if detected and seized unregistered could be considered by some of our 58 elected District Attorneys as an assault weapon as defined under California Penal Code section 12276.1. thus, placing the customer in jeopardy.

The problem can be remedied if the magazine body was permanently attached to the receiver (welded), and the floor plate of the magazine body modified to accept a hinged type floor plate as in a Remington 700 BDL, or Winchester model 70.



Ignatius H. Chinn
Special Agent Supervisor



Dale A. Ferranto
Assistant Director