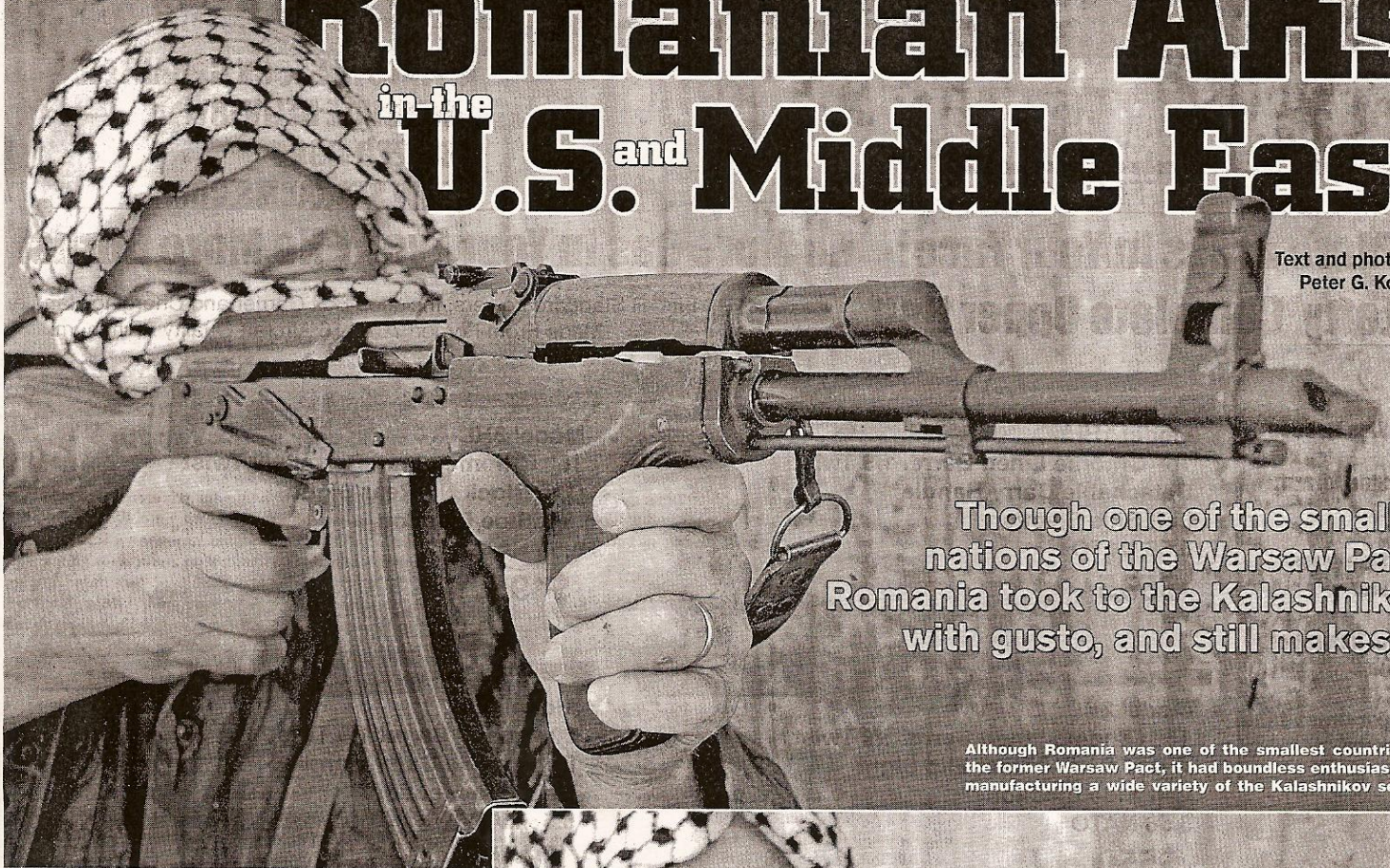


# Romanian AKs

in the U.S. and Middle East

Text and photos by  
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Though one of the smaller nations of the Warsaw Pact, Romania took to the Kalashnikov with gusto, and still makes it.

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**A**lthough Romania was one of the smallest countries in the former Warsaw Pact, its enthusiasm for manufacturing a wide variety of the Kalashnikov series has been almost boundless and they have made a successful venture out of distributing AKs in one form or another throughout the world.

Before the demise of the unmourned Evil Empire, Romanian AKs found their way into the hands of undesirable riffraff from Africa to the Middle East. Romanian AKs are among the most frequently encountered Kalashnikov-type rifles by Coalition troops in Iraq. The Romanian contingent of the Coalition Forces serving in Afghanistan, both an infantry mountain and NBC (Nuclear, Biological, Chemical) company, is armed with Kalashnikovs made at home.

Furthermore, after the Taliban was removed from power in Afghanistan, Romania donated one thousand AKM rifles to the newly formed Afghan National Army, as well as a substantial amount of other material.

In August 1995, India purchased 100,000 AKM rifles from Romania in caliber 7.62x39mm as a result of delays in the production schedule of the INSAS (Indian Small Arms System—a rifle with features taken from the AK, FN FAL, M16 and Heckler & Koch G3). The cost of these Romanian AKs was between US\$85-90 per rifle (just about the same price that the Contras in Nicaragua paid Poland for Polish export model AKs).

Romania's Kalashnikovs—all of the AKM-type now—are manufactured by SN ROMARM SA (Dept. SGN, Calea Victoriei (Pasajul Victoriei) nr 48-50, sector 1 cod 70102, Bucharest, Romania).

The federal assault-weapons ban ended on 13 September 2004. In the more than one year since the ban ended, the FBI has announced that the number of murders nationwide has dropped 3.6%. This is the first drop since 1999. It's also important to note that anti-gun liberals and the mainstream media have been quite successful in corrupting the term "assault rifle."



The 75-round drum originally designed for the RPK squad automatic can be used on the AK, although it is a bit difficult to reach the forearm with the support hand.

Small arms authorities universally concur that an assault rifle (taken from the German term *Sturmgewehr*) incorporates three essential attributes: 1) it is chambered for a so-called intermediate-size cartridge, 2) it is compact in size when compared to the infantry rifles that preceded it, and 3) it has selective-fire capability. Since none of the semiautomatic-only rifles that so terrify the anti-gun left have selective-fire capability, they are most certainly not assault rifles.

However, the federal ban on the importation of so-called assault weapons remains in effect. Rifles must meet certain criteria established by the BATF before they become eligible for importation. Century Arms International, Inc. (Dept. SGN, 430 South Congress Avenue, Suite 1, Del Ray Beach, Fla. 33445, phone: 1-800-527-1252; fax: 561-265-4520, website: [www.centuryarms.com](http://www.centuryarms.com)) is marketing semiautomatic-only AKs that except for the absence of selective-fire capability are