



Violence Policy Center

Research, Investigation, Analysis & Advocacy for a Safer America

On Wednesday, October 25, 2023, Army reservist Robert Card entered a local bar and a bowling alley in Lewiston, Maine. Equipped with a Ruger SFAR assault rifle, he killed 18 victims and wounded 13 others before taking his own life. Days after the attack he was found dead, the result of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

This backgrounder offers information on the Ruger SFAR assault rifle and other assault weapons manufactured by the company, additional mass shootings that have been committed with Ruger firearms (including foreign civilian mass shootings), firearm production data, voluntary “safety alerts” warning of defects in specific Ruger firearms, the company’s financial support of the National Rifle Association, and links to its social media outlets.

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Sturm, Ruger & Company, Inc. (Ruger)

Southport, Connecticut¹

www.ruger.com

What Ruger Manufactures

Assault Rifle	Assault Pistol	Standard Pistol	Standard Revolver	Standard Rifle	Standard Shotgun	High-Capacity Ammunition Magazines	Silencers
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Ruger is a Publicly Held Corporation

Sturm, Ruger & Company, Inc. is one of the few gun manufacturers in the United States that is a publicly held corporation. Ruger’s annual 10-K filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) offer insight into the business operations and profits of the company. See Ruger’s most recent 10-K filing [here](#).

Mass Shootings Involving Ruger Firearms²

Event	Date	Location	Shooter	Casualties	Firearm(s) Recovered at Scene	Large Capacity Ammunition Magazines Recovered
Schemengees Bar and Grille and Just-In - Time Recreation bowling alley	October 25, 2023	Lewiston, ME	Robert Card	19 dead (including shooter) 13 wounded	Ruger SFAR assault rifle	Large capacity magazine
FedEx Facility	April 15, 2021	Indianapolis, IN	Brandon Hole	8 dead 4 wounded	Ruger AR-556 assault rifle, HM Defense HM15F assault rifle	60-round magazine
King Soopers grocery store	March 22, 2021	Boulder, CO	Ahmad Al Aliwi Alissa (alleged)	10 dead	Ruger AR-556 assault pistol	Large capacity magazine, at least 16 rounds
First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs	November 5, 2017	Sutherland Springs, TX	Devin Patrick Kelley	27 dead (including shooter) 20 wounded	Ruger AR-556 assault rifle	15 30-round magazines
Route 91 Harvest music festival	October 1, 2017	Las Vegas, NV	Stephen Paddock	58 dead 489 injured	Ruger AR-10 assault rifle, 12 additional firearms	12 100-round magazines Multiple 25-round magazines Multiple 40-round magazines
Cascade Mall	September 23, 2016	Burlington, WA	Arcan Cetin	5 dead	Ruger 10/22 rifle	25-round magazine
House party in Washington	July 30, 2016	Mukilteo, WA	Allen Christopher Ivanov	3 dead 1 wounded	Ruger AR-15 assault rifle	30-round magazine
Hartford Distributors	August 3, 2010	Manchester, CT	Omar Thornton	9 dead (including shooter) 2 wounded	Ruger SR9 semiautomatic pistol	17- and 15-round magazines
Wedgewood Baptist Church	September 15, 1999	Fort Worth, TX	Larry Gene Ashbrook	8 dead (including shooter) 7 wounded	Ruger P85 9mm semiautomatic pistol, .380 pistol	3 15-round magazines
Thurston High School	May 21, 1998	Springfield, OR	Kip Kinkel	4 dead 22 wounded	9mm Glock semiautomatic pistol, .22 Ruger rifle, .22 Ruger pistol	50-round magazine

Long Island Railroad	December 7, 1993	Long Island, NY	Colin Ferguson	6 dead 19 wounded	Ruger P-89 9mm semiautomatic pistol	4 15-round magazines
California Employment Development Department	December 2, 1993	Oxnard, CA	Alan Winterborne	5 dead (including shooter)	Ruger Mini-14 assault rifle, Smith & Wesson .44 revolver, 12 gauge shotgun	30-round magazine
Regional Postal Center	November 14, 1991	Royal Oak, MI	Thomas McIlvane	5 dead (including shooter) 4 wounded	Sawed-off Ruger 10/22 rifle	4 “banana-style” large capacity ammunition magazines
Luby’s Cafeteria	October 16, 1991	Killeen, TX	George Hennard	24 dead (including shooter) 20 wounded	Ruger P-89 9mm semiautomatic pistol, Glock 9mm semiautomatic pistol	17- and 15-round magazines
Palm Bay Shopping Center	April 23, 1987	Palm Bay, FL	William Cruse	2 officers dead 4 citizens dead	Ruger Mini-14 assault rifle	5 30-round magazines
Mail plane meeting	March 1, 1983	McCarthy, AK	Louis Hastings	6 dead 2 wounded	Ruger Mini-14 assault rifle	2 30-round magazines

Ruger Assault Rifles Legally Exported and Used in Foreign Mass Shootings

In addition to domestic sales, according to December 31, 2022 Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), “Export sales represent approximately 6% of firearms sales.” The form notes, “Currently, 15 distributors service the domestic commercial market, with an additional 25 distributors servicing the domestic law enforcement market and 45 distributors servicing the export market.”

In addition to being used in multiple mass shootings in the United States, Ruger assault rifles have also been used in horrific attacks abroad:

- In July 2011, right-wing extremist Anders Breivik used a legally obtained Ruger Mini-14 assault rifle in a mass shooting at a Labour party youth camp in Norway that left 69 people, most of whom were teenagers, dead.³ In a manifesto, Breivik explained that he selected the Ruger Mini-14 rifle because it was the most “army like” available to him. He wrote, “I have now sent an application for a Ruger Mini 14 semi-automatic rifle (5.56). It is the most ‘army like’ rifle allowed in Norway, although it is considered a ‘poor man’s’ AR-15.”
- A legally imported Ruger AR-556 assault rifle was one of the guns used by white supremacist Brenton Tarrant in attacks on two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand that left 51 worshippers dead in March 2019. The Ruger was fitted with two 40-round detachable ammunition magazines coupled together for greater firepower.⁴

Select Product Information

Ruger currently manufactures assault rifles and assault pistols, as well as standard rifles, shotguns, pistols, and revolvers (including a wide range of handguns designed for concealed carry). Some firearm models come equipped with large-capacity ammunition magazines. The company also manufactures silencers.

Assault Rifles

Assault rifles manufactured by Ruger include the SFAR (Small Frame Auto-Loading Rifle), AR-556, PC Carbine, LC Carbine, and the Mini-14.

SFAR Assault Rifle



In 2022, Ruger announced the planned release of the SFAR and by early 2023 the weapon was available for sale with a retail price of \$1,329.

On its website, Ruger describes the SFAR (Small Frame Auto-Loading Rifle) as “Bigger and Stronger Where It Needs to Be and Remains Smaller and Lighter Than Comparable .308-Sized Rifles.” The webpage also notes that the assault rifle was the 2023 Industry Choice Awards “Rifle of the Year.”⁵

According to Ruger, “A true small-frame autoloading rifle, the SFAR is nearly identical in size to a traditional 5.56 caliber modern sporting rifle [Modern Sporting Rifle—MSR—is the gun industry’s euphemism for assault rifles].”⁶ The company adds, “Chambered in 7.62 NATO/.308 Win., the SFAR combines the ballistic advantages of .308 Winchester with the size of a traditional MSR.”⁷ A promotional video for the gun on its website promises, “The new Ruger SFAR shows that modern sporting rifles, chambered in .308 Winchester, don’t have to be big, heavy, or expensive.”⁸ Or, as a review in *The Firearm Blog* summarized:

Put simply, a small-frame AR-10 actually shares more characteristics with an AR-15 in that it is a far more flexible platform than a full-sized AR-10 rifle. Dimensionally, a small frame AR-10 from the magwell back is identical in size and form factor to a standard AR-15. This also means that everything from the grip, fire control group, charging handle, and dust cover, are interchangeable with standard MIL-SPEC AR-15 parts.⁹

Additional reviews from the gun press consistently focus on the weapons increased firepower in a smaller and lighter rifle design:

- **“Ruger SFAR: Full Review—Ruger 's multi-role Small Frame Autoloading Rifle—SFAR—combines AR-10 power with AR-15 portability,” *Guns & Ammo*, August 4, 2023**

Though no consensus for model or platform yet exists, I’d argue some basic parameters for an all-purpose rifle have emerged. First, we want a magazine-fed semiautomatic for easy ammunition management and firepower. Though we like the AR-15’s trim profile and familiar suite of controls, we’d prefer a chambering with more power and downrange performance than the 5.56 NATO/.223 Rem. Finally, although we don’t necessarily need it to be suppressor-ready, the ability to easily add a can would be nice. Ladies and gentlemen, allow me to introduce Ruger’s Small Frame Autoloading Rifle (SFAR), a definitive contender if you can only have one.¹⁰

- **“Ruger SFAR Powerful .308 Rifle In A .223 Package,” *Firearms News*, May 8, 2023**

The new Ruger SFAR is an honest to God AR-15-size rifle chambered in .308 Winchester which Ruger has the audacity to offer at a price a blue collar working man can actually afford.

The engineers at Ruger have indeed fit the .308 Win cartridge into an AR-15-sized platform. The result is a compact and lightweight 6.8-pound self-loading rifle measuring just 34 inches in length which is easy to carry, fast to the shoulder, and packing the punch of an old school .30-caliber battle rifle. Could it be the grail many long quested for yet, never found?¹¹

- **“Ruger Small Frame Autoloading Rifle (SFAR): A .308 Win. in a .223 Package,” *Rifleshooter*, April 3, 2023**

The Ruger SFAR (Small Frame Autoloading Rifle) cracked the code on producing an AR-10 that's as light as an AR-15. It's essentially a .308 Winchester, packaged in .223 size.

The SFAR ships with a 20-round Magpul PMag detachable box magazine, but it is designed to be compatible with all AR-10/SR-25 mags on the market.

Given the amount of innovation that has taken place in the AR world over the past two decades, I shouldn’t have been surprised by or skeptical of the SFAR, but I was. Just when we assume that we’ve seen it all, a company surprises us. Ruger’s use of modern materials and innovative engineering methods has produced an incredibly capable but portable rifle and carbine. A reliable and accurate semiautomatic .308 weighing less than seven pounds is truly something special.¹²

Additional Ruger Assault Rifles

AR-556 Assault Rifle



On its website, Ruger describes the AR-556, its version of the AR-15 assault rifle as “Affordable, American-made Modern Sporting Rifle with the rugged reliability of that you have come to expect from Ruger.”

LC Carbine



On its website, Ruger describes the LC Carbine as “Ideal for the range, backpacking, small game, or anywhere a versatile and reliable carbine is appreciated.”¹³

PC Carbine



According to Ruger, the PC Carbine is “Built to Excel in a variety of roles, from plinking, competitions, and hunting to home or personal defense.” The assault rifle is chambered in 9mm, and can accept Glock pistol magazines.

Mini-14



The Ruger Mini-14 assault rifle has long been known as “the poor man’s assault rifle.” In his book *Assault Pistols, Rifles and Submachine Guns*, noted gun expert Duncan Long details the Mini-14’s military heritage from the U.S. military’s M14 battle rifle:

The Mini-14 is not just a scaled-down M14; it’s also an improved version....Ruger’s Mini-14, which was aimed at (and for a time, sold only to) the law-enforcement and military markets, was introduced in 1972. Because demand was great in the civilian market, the ‘sporterized’ semiauto version with a 5-round magazine was introduced in 1976. Though no large military sales ever were secured, the rifle was very competitively priced. The public and police markets have made it a commercial success....¹⁴

Long notes, “The Mini-14’s inexpensive price has made it the ‘poor man’s’ assault rifle in many ways.” Its price, he states, is “often only half that commanded by many military-style rifles on the market.” Long concludes, “The Mini-14 is a handy, affordable rifle that is capable of being modified for combat or used as a sporter.”¹⁵

An August 2010 edition of *Gun World* magazine described “Ruger’s Mini-14 Tactical Rifle” as “‘Combat Customized’ From the Factory” in its headline. The enthusiastic article noted:

Ruger’s Mini-14 Tactical Rifle is a version of the well-established Mini-14 incorporating many of the assault rifle features that end users have been [sic] applying themselves for decades, this time straight from the factory.

Being seen over the years as a sort of ‘poor man’s assault rifle’ the Mini-14 has spawned a huge array of after-market parts that may be applied to make it more ‘assault rifle-y.’ Recently Sturm, Ruger & Co. finally decided to get into the act themselves by producing their Mini-14 Tactical Rifles.¹⁶

Assault Pistols

Ruger also manufactures two assault pistols: the PC Charger¹⁷ (top) and the 22 Charger¹⁸ (bottom).



A 2020 *Guns Magazine* review of the PC Charger assault pistol labeled the gun “A really cool tool for defense and fun.” A caption beneath a photo of the pistol states, “Right out of the box, the Ruger PC Charger already looks like something from *The Terminator* movies. This front hand stop...helps keep you from shooting your fingers off.” In the article, the author writes:



It’s tough to quantify the Ruger PC Charger as it defies ready characterization. The government just calls it a pistol. If it had a happy switch and a folding stock it would be a kick-butt submachine gun. If it had a thermonuclear power source and a hardened iridium chassis it

could pass for something from the Terminator. However you choose to classify it, the PC Charger looks cool, runs well and sports scads of real-world utility.

In these uncertain times packing a defensive firearm with 28 rounds onboard that looks like a Star Wars blaster can offer some proper peace of mind.¹⁹

“State Compliant” Assault Weapons to Evade State Regulation

Ruger also designs and markets “state compliant” assault rifles and pistols designed to purposely circumvent specific state bans on assault weapons, including the SFAR, as seen below.²⁰

	
STATE COMPLIANT	STATE COMPLIANT
Model: 5614	Model: 5615
Caliber: 7.62 NATO / 308 Win	Caliber: 7.62 NATO / 308 Win
Capacity: 10	Capacity: 10
Barrel Length: 16.10"	Barrel Length: 20"
Handguard: Lite Free-Float with M-LOK® Attachment Slots	Handguard: Free-Float with M-LOK® Attachment Slots
Stock: Magpul® MOE SL®	Stock: Magpul® MOE SL®
MSRP: \$1329.00	MSRP: \$1329.00
Availability: <i>Available</i>	Availability: <i>Available</i>
Spec Sheet ▶ Buy Now ▶	Spec Sheet ▶ Buy Now ▶

Manufacturing Information

From 2005 to 2021, Ruger manufactured nearly 8.5 million rifles, an unknown percentage of which were assault rifles.

Number of Rifles, Pistols, Revolvers, and Shotguns Manufactured by Ruger 2005-2021

Year	Rifles Manufactured	Pistols Manufactured	Revolvers Manufactured	Shotguns Manufactured
2005	218,180	125,057	58,951	11,467
2006	196,472	100,976	115,293	5,202
2007	222,902	142,017	96,598	2,479
2008	261,663	239,499	96,736	1,304
2009	360,005	408,654	163,825	1,075
2010	236,616	473,479	192,475	1,398
2011	308,282	612,970	193,025	410
2012	534,333	865,671	251,940	31
2013	768,284	1,114,537	295,661	2,298
2014	706,192	722,029	281,430	4,446
2015	662,444	748,364	256,185	827
2016	701,992	1,030,867	248,548	183
2017	661,155	781,623	172,104	16
2018	731,585	704,588	145,534	10
2019	551,244	536,426	184,197	12
2020	617,725	772,382	269,211	6
2021	736,664	1,058,205	276,999	29
Total	8,475,738	10,437,344	3,298,712	31,193

Safety Alerts

Voluntary “safety alerts” warning of defects in specific firearms manufactured by Ruger include the following.²¹

[Ruger-57 Pistols](#)

[Precision Rifle](#)

[SR-556VT Rifles](#)

[American Rimfire® Rifle](#)

[LCP Pistols](#)

[SR9 Pistols](#)

[P85 Pistols](#)

[M77 Rifles](#)

Old Model Revolver – [“Pre-1973”](#) – [“The Empty Chamber”](#) – [“Handle with Care”](#)

[Mark IV Pistols](#)

[American Pistols \(9mm\)](#)

Ruger Financial Support of the National Rifle Association

Ruger has raised millions of dollars for the National Rifle Association of America (NRA). In June 2011, Ruger announced its first “Million Gun Challenge,” pledging to donate one dollar to the NRA’s lobbying arm, the Institute for Legislative Action (NRA-ILA), for each gun sold between the 2011 and 2012 NRA Annual Meetings, with the goal selling a million guns during the period. The announcement was made by Ruger’s then-CEO Mike Fifer, who in 2009 had already received an honorary yellow sports coat from the NRA as a member of its Golden Ring of Freedom for million-dollar donors.²²

In a 2015 interview with then-Ruger Chief Operating Officer (now CEO) Christopher Killoy at the NRA’s annual meeting in Nashville, Cam Edwards, host of the NRA’s now-defunct online show *Cam & Company*, lauded the company’s financial support of the organization, stating, “Ruger is another great partner with the NRA. There clearly are a lot of folks within the industry that understand the importance of the National Rifle Association, but why does Ruger give so much of its money and give so much of its time? Why are so many employees NRA members with Ruger?”

Killoy responded, “Well, for all of us, it's important to give back to the industry we work in. But in particular, just as Americans to protect our freedoms, it's so important to get the word out and get the membership dollars and the membership base energized in this fight to protect our freedoms. For us at Ruger, it's not just a matter of protecting our livelihood, making firearms in the United States, but it's really being leaders and trying to demonstrate that we need to protect our freedoms beyond just our firearms freedoms, all the freedoms that are enumerated in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and just very, very critical.”²³

At the meeting, Ruger added an additional Golden Ring of Freedom yellow sports coat to its corporate wardrobe. In a promotional video for that year’s Golden Ring of Freedom inductees, Tyler Schropp, executive director of the NRA Office of Advancement, told viewers, “We are grateful for Ruger's continued support.” In the video, Killoy told viewers, “The NRA does great work for all of us in, not only just the industry, but more importantly for citizens of United States protecting the Second Amendment and our personal rights. So it's important to make sure that we can perpetuate that great legacy.”²⁴



In 2016, Ruger's executives presented a "big check" totaling four million dollars to then-NRA-ILA Executive Director Chris Cox

By the 2016 NRA annual meeting, Ruger announced that it had raised four million dollars for NRA-ILA. "Ruger's continued commitment to supporting the NRA-ILA is outstanding," said then-NRA-ILA Executive Director Chris Cox. "The funds raised from this program will help us in both our fight to protect the Second Amendment and our effort to educate voters and get them to the polls in this crucial election year."²⁵

Following this, in August 2016, Ruger announced the "\$5 Million Match Campaign," stating that until October 31, 2016, the company would match any donation made to the NRA-ILA affiliated with the campaign, up to a maximum Ruger contribution of five million dollars. All donations would "benefit the NRA-ILA's efforts to protect the Second Amendment in the upcoming November elections." In September 2016, the NRA reported that the campaign had raised \$3.8 million in donations matched by Ruger, for a total of \$7.6 million.²⁶

Social Media

Twitter: None

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Ruger>

Pinterest: <https://www.pinterest.com/rugerfirearms/>

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/RugerFirearms>

Instagram: <https://instagram.com/rugersofficial/>

ENDNOTES

¹ Address is for the company headquarters and does not include additional company sites (manufacturing, etc.). Such information can be found in ATF's *Annual Firearms Manufacturing and Export Report*. Reports for 1992 to 2021 can be found on the Violence Policy Center's website at <https://vpc.org/firearms-production-in-america/>.

² Adapted from Violence Policy Center document [Mass Shootings in the United States Involving Large Capacity Ammunition Magazines](#). Mass shootings are defined as three or more victims killed.

³ "Norway set to ban semi-automatic guns from 2021, 10 years after Utoya shooting," *The Guardian*, February 27, 2018, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/feb/27/norway-guns-ban-semi-automatic-law>, *The Ruger Mini-14 The "Poor Man's Assault Rifle*, Violence Policy Center, July 2011, https://vpc.org/fact_sht/RugerBackgrounderJuly2011.pdf.

⁴ "New Zealand mosque shooter considers appealing life sentence," *Reuters*, November 7, 2021, <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/new-zealand-mosque-shooter-considers-appealing-life-sentence-2021-11-08/>, "New Zealand Marks 2 Years Since Christchurch Mosque Killings," *Associated Press*, March 13, 2021, <https://www.voanews.com/a/east-asia-pacific-new-zealand-marks-2-years-christchurch-mosque-killings/6203260.html>.

⁵ See <https://www.ruger.com/products/sfar/models.html>.

⁶ See <https://www.ruger.com/products/sfar/models.html>.

⁷ See <https://www.ruger.com/products/sfar/models.html>.

⁸ See <https://www.ruger.com/products/sfar/models.html>.

⁹ See <https://www.thefirearmblog.com/blog/2022/12/27/tfb-review-ruger-sfar/>.

¹⁰ See <https://www.gunsandammo.com/editorial/ruger-sfar-full-review/479422>.

¹¹ See <https://www.firearmsnews.com/editorial/ruger-sfar-rifle/473085>.

¹² See <https://www.rifleshooter.com/editorial/ruger-small-frame-autoloading-rifle-sfar/471350>.

¹³ See <https://www.ruger.com/products/lcCarbine/models.html>.

¹⁴ *The Ruger Mini-14 The "Poor Man's Assault Rifle*, Violence Policy Center, July 2011, https://vpc.org/fact_sht/RugerBackgrounderJuly2011.pdf.

¹⁵ *The Ruger Mini-14 The "Poor Man's Assault Rifle*, Violence Policy Center, July 2011, https://vpc.org/fact_sht/RugerBackgrounderJuly2011.pdf.

¹⁶ "Ruger's Mini-14 Tactical Rifle," *Gun World*, August 2010.

¹⁷ See <https://www.ruger.com/products/pcCharger/models.html>.

¹⁸ See <https://www.ruger.com/products/22Charger/models.html>.

¹⁹ "The Ruger PC Charger: A Really Cool Tool for Defense and Fun," *Guns Magazine*, 2020, <https://gunsmagazine.com/discover/the-ruger-pc-charger/>.

²⁰ See <https://www.ruger.com/products/sfar/models.html>.

²¹ See <https://vpc.org/regulating-the-gun-industry/gun-product-safety-notice/>.

²² See <https://www.nraam.org/past-meetings/2009-phoenix-annual-meetings.aspx>.

²³ Originally from <https://www.nratv.com/videos/cam-and-company-2015-chris-killoy-nra-golden-ring-of-freedom> (no longer active). Transcript in files of Violence Policy Center.

²⁴ See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ea8yytxza0E>.

²⁵ See <https://www.nraaila.org/articles/20161007/ruger-answers-the-call-for-freedom>.

²⁶ See <https://www.nraaila.org/articles/20161007/ruger-answers-the-call-for-freedom>.