



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS
WASHINGTON, DC 20226

FEB 23 1999

903050:EMO
3311

Mr. Curtis Debord
American Arms Delta
1469 Greg Street
Sparks, Nevada 89431

Dear Mr. Debord:

This refers to the semiautomatic firearm that was received in this office on February 1, 1999, for classification.,

Examination of the submitted sample, serial number AM0001, indicates that it is a semiautomatic firearm, in caliber .303 British, that is based on the design of the Vickers machinegun. The receiver has been originally designed and manufactured to permit only semiautomatic fire.

The right side plate has been manufactured with two integral steel rails that protrude from the inside of the plate, into the receiver cavity. These rails begin at the rear of the trunion and extend approximately 7 7/8 inches toward the rear of the side plate. The upper rail is approximately 7/16 inch in height, and the lower rail is approximately 1/4 inch in height. The rails protrude approximately .069 inches in to the receiver cavity. The purpose of the rails is to prevent the installation of standard Vickers machinegun recoil plates. The opening for the bolt block in the recoil plates have also been modified to prevent the installation of a standard Vickers machinegun bolt block.

A steel plate approximately 1 21/32 inches in length and approximately 3/16 inch in thickness is pinned and welded to each side plate in the area of the top cover hinge. This plate contains a sliding firing linkage. This plate prevents a standard Vickers machinegun bolt block assembly from being installed into the weapon

Mr. Curtis Debord

A Vickers machinegun bolt block assembly has been redesigned by machining away an area approximately 1 5/8 inches in length by 3/8 inch deep from the front upper area of the bolt block. The bolt slide face has also been reduced in height by approximately 1/4 inch. A pivoting and sliding sear plate has been attached to the sear and is located in the described machined away area of the bolt block. This sear plate is designed to slide under the plate welded between the side plates and tilt upwards to engage the sear linkage. The lugs on the bottom of the bolt block have been reshaped to make them compatible with the altered recoil plates.

The redesigned mechanism incorporates a positive disconnecter that prevents the weapon from firing more than one shot for each function of the trigger. Additionally, standard Vickers machinegun, firing pins, sears and firing pin springs are not compatible with the redesigned weapon.

You also indicated that the side plates will be welded to the trunion in production versions of the weapon. Additionally, the bottom plate will be welded to each side plate.

Based on the above examination, the sample as submitted is classified as a firearm as that term is defined in 18 U.S.C., Chapter 44, section 921(A)(3). Please be advised that this determination is based on a firearm using a newly designed and manufactured right side plate in the above described configuration. If the design, dimensions, method or construction, materials used or configuration are changed, this classification is subject to review.

Mr. Curtis Debord

The sample is being returned under separate cover.

We trust that the foregoing has been responsive to your inquiry. If we can be of any further assistance, please contact us.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edward M. Owen, Jr." with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Edward M. Owen, Jr.
Chief, Firearms Technology Branch