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ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORT CONCERNING
ASSAULT FIREARMS 1997

State of New Jersey
Department of Law and Public Safety
April 1998

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Pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 2C:58-14*, the following information concerning assault firearms was compiled through procedures established by the Office of the Attorney General to report on the Assault Firearms Act.

- . The number and types of firearms surrendered or rendered inoperable.
- . The number and types of criminal offenses involving assault firearms.

While this Annual Report includes the data requested by the Legislature, this information does not serve as a total measure of the benefits derived from the enactment of the assault firearms law. This law serves to protect the people of this state from the dangers presented by firearms designed to rapidly discharge ammunition capable of killing human beings as well as firearms that are ill-suited and infrequently used for legitimate civilian purposes. The purpose of the assault firearms law is two-fold:

- . To prevent the availability and increase of these firearms by limiting future sales.
- . To reduce the number of these firearms in circulation.

This current report provides a compilation of data collected from the effective date of the Act, May 30, 1990, through October 31, 1997. In addition to the narrative highlights presented concerning the number and types of criminal offenses involving assault firearms, detailed data is provided in accompanying tables. Moreover, a brief description of a few of the crimes that contribute to the statistics involving assault firearms is also provided.

Section 1. Firearms Surrendered or Rendered Inoperable

Any person lawfully owning an assault firearm on May 30, 1990, the effective date of the Assault Firearms Act, who was not eligible to register the weapon pursuant to the criteria established, or who chose not to register the weapon, was given one year to take one of three actions:

- . Transfer the weapon to a person or entity lawfully entitled to possess it;
- . Render the weapon inoperable; or
- . Voluntarily surrender the weapon to law enforcement officials.

Since enactment of the Assault Firearms Act, a total of 921 assault firearms were certified to the Division of State Police as rendered inoperable and 40 were surrendered.¹

During the recent report year, November 1, 1996 through October 31, 1997, no additional weapons were surrendered to the State Police.²

An inventory of those firearms rendered inoperable or surrendered since enactment of the Assault Firearms Act is provided in Table 1.

¹ Those persons who disposed of assault firearms through sales to dealers or out-of-state residents were not required to report the sales or transfer of the weapon. Accordingly, there is no way to determine how many assault firearms were eliminated through such lawful sales or transfers.

² Assault firearms are currently surrendered to law enforcement officials pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 2C:39-12*, the voluntary surrender law. Assault firearms surrendered to local law enforcement agencies are not included as this information is not reported to the State Police.

Table 1
Firearms Rendered Inoperable or Surrendered³

<u>Type of Firearm</u>	<u>Rendered Inoperable</u>	<u>Surrendered</u>
AK-47	1	2
Armalite	2	-
Beretta AR-70, BM 59	4	-
BFI Automatic	-	2
Bushmaster	1	-
Calico	3	-
Chartered Industries	3	-
Cobray Semi-Automatic M12	-	1
Colt AR-15, Car 15	109	2
Daewoo	6	-
FN-FAL, FN-LAR, FN-FNC	15	-
Franchi	5	-
Galil	3	-
Heckler & Koch HK 91	39	-
Ingram MAC 11	-	1
Intratec	10	1
Kasnar Import	-	1
M1-A	-	3
M1 Carbine	29	9
M14	-	1
Marlin Mod. 60	-	3
Norinco Automatic Rifle	-	1
Plainfield Machine Co. Carbine	29	-
PWA223	-	1
Remington Mod. 552	-	1
RPG MAC10	-	1
Ruger	57	-
Sears "Ted Williams" 3T	-	3
Springfield Armory	37	-
Sterling	1	-
Steyr	3	-
Street Sweeper	5	-
Striker 12	7	-
Uzi	11	5
Valmet	5	1
Winchester	-	1
Other ⁴	536	-
TOTAL	921	40

³ Based on the Division of State Police accumulative assault firearms data for the period May 30, 1990 through October 31, 1997. Assault firearms surrendered to local law enforcement agencies pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 2C:39-12*, the voluntary surrender law, are not included as this information is not reported to the State Police.

⁴ Other indicates firearms that were not adequately identified in certifications filed by their owners to permit grouping according to brand name.

Table 2

Criminal Offenses Involving
Assault Firearms
by County

May 30, 1990 - October 31, 1997

County	Murder	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Unlawful Possession Weapon	Other	Total
Atlantic	-	2	6	31	-	39
Bergen	2	3	4	30	-	39
Burlington	-	3	1	34	-	38
Camden	2	12	10	56	3	83
Cape May	-	-	1	6	-	7
Cumberland	1	-	4	6	-	11
Essex	3	110	46	95	1	255
Gloucester	-	1	1	15	1	18
Hudson	2	7	1	24	1	35
Hunterdon	-	-	1	6	-	7
Mercer	-	6	3	6	2	17
Middlesex	2	1	4	30	-	37
Monmouth	-	1	1	8	-	10
Morris	1	-	1	6	-	8
Ocean	-	1	2	22	1	26
Passaic	2	1	3	13	1	20
Salem	-	-	1	11	-	12
Somerset	-	2	-	12	-	14
Sussex	-	-	-	5	-	5
Union	1	4	1	28	-	34
Warren	-	-	-	7	-	7
STATEWIDE	16	154	91	451	10 ⁵	722

⁵ Other includes the following offenses: six unlawful sale of assault firearms offenses, two criminal mischief offenses, one conspiracy to commit murder, and one sexual assault.

Table 3
Criminal Offenses Involving
Assault Firearms
by County
November 1996 - October 1997

County	Murder	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Unlawful Possession Weapon	Other	Total
Atlantic	-	2	-	1	-	3
Bergen	-	1	-	3	-	4
Burlington	-	-	-	5	-	5
Camden	-	1	1	1	-	3
Cape May	-	-	1	-	-	1
Cumberland	-	-	2	1	-	3
Essex	-	5	2	7	-	14
Gloucester	-	-	-	1	1	2
Hudson	1	2	-	2	-	5
Hunterdon	-	-	-	1	-	1
Mercer	-	-	1	-	-	1
Middlesex	-	-	2	5	-	7
Monmouth	-	-	-	-	-	-
Morris	-	-	-	1	-	1
Ocean	-	-	-	3	-	3
Passaic	-	1	-	-	-	1
Salem	-	-	1	-	-	1
Somerset	-	-	-	4	-	4
Sussex	-	-	-	-	-	-
Union	-	1	-	5	-	6
Warren	-	-	-	1	-	1
STATEWIDE	1	13	10	41	1 ⁶	66

. During the most recent report year, November 1996 through October 1997, a total of 66 assault firearms offenses were reported statewide: 1 murder; 13 robberies; 10 aggravated assaults; 41 unlawful possession of assault firearms offenses; and 1 unlawful sale of assault firearms offenses (Table 3).

⁶ One unlawful sale of an assault firearm offenses.

- . Two subjects armed with a Tech 9 machine gun and a handgun reportedly committed a carjacking, while two armed companions waited in a nearby automobile. The victims of the carjacking included the driver of the auto and two passengers (his girlfriend and her mother). Victims were also robbed of personal belongings, including their wallets or pocketbooks containing cash, credit cards and personal papers, two diamond rings, and a leather jacket, as well as a car stereo system and a mobile telephone.

- . A store employee and ten patrons were reportedly robbed at gunpoint by five subjects. As police arrived, the subjects were fleeing the store. Police recovered a 9MM Tech 9 semi-automatic handgun with a loaded magazine on the floor of the store and a sawed-off shotgun under a parked van in the path of the fleeing subjects.

