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To the Judiciary Committee,

I would like to share more thoughts before this week's hearing session...

Has anyone thought about why the AR-15 is the most popular “firearm in common use?”

The AR-15 was originally designed by Eugene Stoner, working for a company called ArmaLite Manufacturing. The AR in the model's name comes from the ArmaLite name and has nothing to do with “Assault Rifle.”

The term assault is an action verb describing what a military formation does when attacking an opposing force. By that definition, assault could refer to any rifle, all the way back to a Brown Bess musket. Are any of you as afraid of a musket as you are of an AR-15?

Stoner eventually sold the patent to Colt in 1959, which developed it for the military until it became the M-16 rifle we know today. The M-16 was deployed with troops to Vietnam starting in 1964. This is important because, since its inception until today, over 13,000,000 service men and women have been taught how to use and maintain this weapon. In the case of the Army and Marines, we are taught to disassemble and reassemble until it's almost second nature.

So, I ask you if you had a choice to purchase and use something you were already familiar with or to start over with something different, which would YOU choose? That, in my opinion, is why it is the most popular firearm in the United States, meets the needs of home defense, and is a “firearm in common use.”

I would also like to add that recently, the D.C. Court of Appeals overturned the city's ban on magazines with more than ten rounds as unconstitutional and violating the Second Amendment. This past week, the U.S. Department of Justice warned the Commonwealth of Virginia that they be sued if they pass the current slate of anti-gun bills currently in the legislature. President Trump has been pushing for Constitutional Carry nationwide.

How much time and taxpayer resources will you needlessly waste trying to prove your point?

James Loffler

