U.S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,
Firearms and Explosives

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3311/307960

JAN 1 2 2018

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M. VB Industries, Inc.
510 Goolsby Blvd.
Deerfield Beach, FL 33442

Dear **(b) (6)**

This is in reference to your correspondence, with enclosed sample, to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Firearms Technology Industry Services Branch (FTISB). In your letter, you asked for a classification of an "AR-15 pistol arm brace" as depicted in the accompanying photos. Specifically, you requested a review and determination of the technology for use on pistols as a support brace and not a shoulder stock.

As you may be aware, the amended Gun Control Act of 1968 (GCA), 18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(3), defines the term "firearm" to include: *any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may be readily converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive...[and]...the frame or receiver of any such weapon....*

Also, with respect to the definitions of "handgun" and "pistol" under Federal statutes and regulations, you may be aware that the GCA, 18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(29), defines "handgun" to mean, in part *...a firearm which has a short stock and is designed to be held and fired by the use of a single hand....*

Additionally, 27 CFR § 478.11, a regulation implementing the GCA, defines "pistol" as *...a weapon originally designed, made, and intended to fire a projectile (bullet) from one or more barrels when held in one hand, and having (a) a chamber(s) as an integral part(s) of, or permanently aligned with, the bore(s); and (b) a short stock designed to be gripped by one hand and at an angle to and extending below the line of the bore(s).*
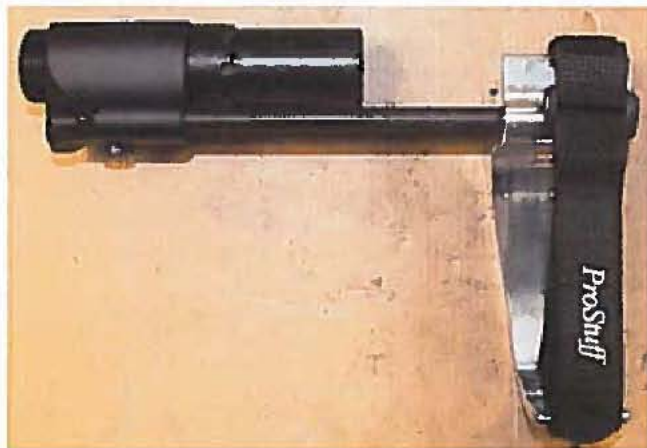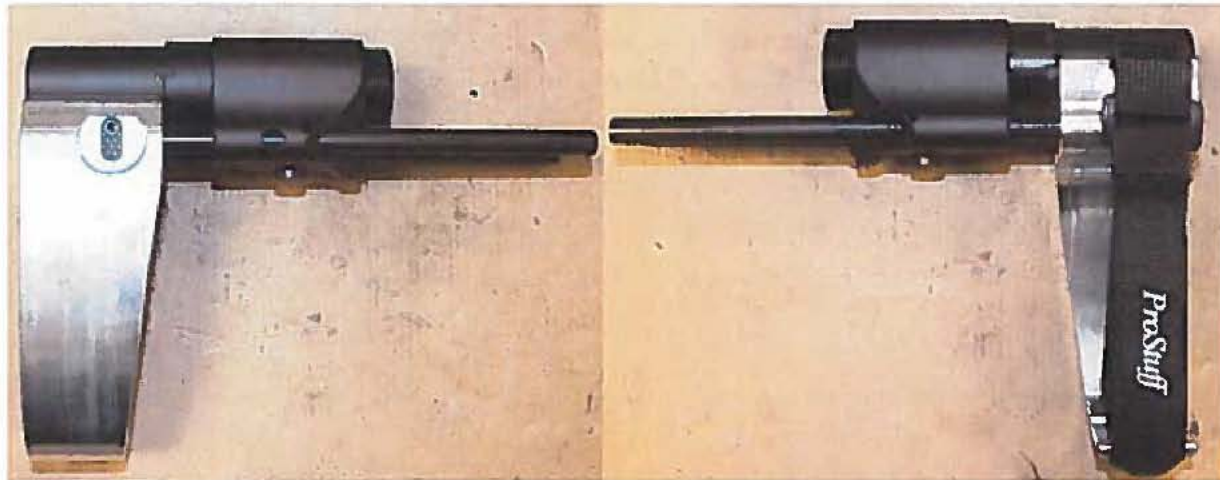
Please note also that the GCA, 18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(7), defines the term "rifle" to include *...a weapon designed or redesigned, made or remade, and intended to be fired from the shoulder....*

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Finally, the National Firearms Act (NFA), 26 U.S.C. § 5845(a)(3), defines "firearm" to include
...a rifle having a barrel or barrels of less than 16 inches in length....

The FTISB evaluation revealed that the submitted components, enumerated below, incorporate the following physical characteristics:

A metallic forearm brace that incorporates a "C" shape forearm piece connected to two guide rods that are adjustable hook and loop strap made by ProStuff. The guide rods are attached to a mounting point held in place by the two piece receiver extension.

The FTISB examination found that when the sample is assembled as submitted; to an AR type pistol, a shooter would open the hook and loop strap of the sample, and place their had between the "C" shape forearm piece and the strap. The strap is then pulled tight over the forearm while gripping the pistol's handgrip. In this configuration, the device provides the shooter with additional support of the firearm while it is held and operated with one hand. However, on your website, FTISB found shoulder stocks that you manufacture using identical parts to the submitted sample. As the submitted sample is based on a stock design, FTISB has determined that it is a shoulder stock.

Based on our evaluation, FTISB finds that the aforementioned submitted forearm brace assembly, when attached to an AR-type pistol, does convert that weapon to be fired from the shoulder and would alter the classification of the subject pistol. The pistol so equipped would be regulated by the GCA, 18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(3), and the NFA 26 U.S.C. § 5845(a)(3).

We caution that these findings are based on the sample as submitted. If the design, dimensions, configuration, method of operation, or materials used were changed, our determination would be subject to review.

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To facilitate return of the submitted sample, please provide FTISB with an appropriate FedEx or similar shipping label within 60 days.

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

Sincerely yours,

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Chief, Firearms Technology Industry Services Branch