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COLONEL
WILLIAM M. PALLOZZI
SUPERINTENDENT

September 06, 2018

Mr. John Lowe
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The Maryland State Police is responsible for reaching its own conclusions with respect to whether particular firearms are copies of enumerated banned firearms. In reaching those conclusions, the Maryland State Police adheres to the process articulated in the Firearms Bulletin, #10-2, dated November 4, 2010, a copy of which may be found on our website. To that end, the Maryland State Police has determined that, for enforcement purposes, a firearm is considered a “copy” if it is both cosmetically similar to and has completely interchangeable internal components necessary for the full operation and function of one of the enumerated banned weapons.

On July 18, 2018, the Maryland State Police Licensing Division received a request from you confirming that you have been unable to determine if the COLT AR-15 MODEL M4A1-SOCOM is a “copy” of an enumerated banned assault long gun, and therefore, unable to make an informed decision regarding its status for legal possession and/or sale in Maryland.

On September 05, 2018, the COLT AR-15 MODEL M4A1-SOCOM was compared against the list of assault weapons, enumerated in the Public Safety Article, Title 5 §101(r) (2). The COLT AR-15 MODEL M4A1-SOCOM was determined to only be cosmetically similar to the Colt AR-15, enumerated as #15 on the assault weapons list.

The COLT AR-15 MODEL M4A1-SOCOM was also compared against the “Copycat weapon” definition, located in the Criminal Law Article, Title 4 § 301 (e). The result of that comparison found the COLT AR-15 MODEL M4A1-SOCOM does not meet the “Copycat weapon” definition.

As a result of the above information, the Maryland State Police Licensing Division accepts the COLT AR-15 MODEL M4A1-SOCOM does not meet the definition of a “copycat weapon” or the definition of a “copy” of an enumerated weapon and as such, exempted from the definition of regulated firearms, pursuant to the enumerated banned assault weapons list. Therefore, the firearm is not subject to Maryland’s Public Safety Article, Title 5, Sub-Title 1. The Maryland State Police has updated its Reviewed Firearms List to account for the COLT AR-15 MODEL M4A1-SOCOM.

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Thank you for your request. Should you have any questions regarding the above-stated determinations or the process associated with our review, please contact me at the telephone number or address below.

Sincerely,
First Sergeant Donald Pickle
First Sergeant Donald Pickle
Maryland Department of State Police
Licensing Division
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cc:: Correspondence File