

The companies were Century Arms and Lionheart Industries, makers of the LH9 Pistol. Century Arms won the bid, but after initial approval, President Obama stopped the return of the M1s by executive order in 2013. As a result, Century Arms is reported to have laid off more than 30 employees.

Next the U.S. Army sought to have the M1 rifles returned in order to give them to the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP), but the Obama Administration continued to prevent any movement to reacquire the M1s.

In June 2015, Wyoming Representative Cynthia M. Lummis introduced HR2611 to allow the historic World War II M1s to be returned to America to be purchased by collectors and competitors. The stalemate continues, with the South Koreans considering the rifles to be a "national treasure."

There are many thousands of M1 Carbines and Model 1911A1s too.

**THE TREASURE TROVE**

Recently, in speaking with D.J. MacLean, President of Lionheart Industries, I learned that he had a number of photographs of the M1 rifles stored in South Korea taken prior to the bidding. He described one of the vaults being recorded as having last been opened in 1953. He allowed me to submit the photos to S.W.A.T.

Mr. MacLean's inspection of the rifles was done randomly, with relatively few M1s examined—probably no more than 100. Even so, he



ABOVE: Crates full of M1 rifles filled more than one storage building, along with M1 Carbines and 1911A1 pistols, most as new.



LEFT: As this label on one of the 10-rifle drums indicates, the U.S. and South Korea were and remain strong allies.



A few M1s see the light of day for the first time in half a century.



Technician gauges muzzle of one of M1 rifles.