Where the Guns Go: US Guns and Homicides in Mexico

*Image from Ciudad Juarez Public Fast, January 2011*

John Lindsay-Poland, Stop US Arms to Mexico
About 180,000 cars and trucks cross from the United States to Mexico every day.
Prohibited but Easy

Border Xing Station

NO FIREARMS OR AMMO
NO ARMAS O MUNICIONES
Gun dealers
In Nogales

Desert Firearms
Builds guns
Up road ->
70% of guns traced from crime scenes in Mexico originate in U.S.
Gun shops traced from crime guns in Mexico 2007-2010

Source: ATF leaked database
Arizona gun sales traced to Mexican crime scenes, 2007-2010

Source: ATF leaked database
Texas gun sales traced to Mexican crime scenes, 2007-2010

Source: ATF leaked database
Arizona gun sales traced to Mexican crime scenes, 2007-2010

Source: ATF leaked database
Homicides in Mexico by Firearms vs. Other Means, 2000-2017

Source: Executive Secretary of the National System of Public Security (Mexico), Criminal Statistics (SESNSP)
“Merida Initiative”
or “Plan Mexico”
or “Military/police aid” to Mexico

First includes aid to Central America; now only Mexico, but excludes DOD, DHS aid
When arms sales increased after 2006, homicides increased in the following years.

Find out what you can do at: afsc.org/stoparms
Mexico has more gun homicides this year than in any year on record.

Map: Diego Valle Data: SESNSP
US Firearm Exports to Latin American Countries in 2016

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, usatrade.census.gov
Colt Industries

Executions in Tanhuato, Michoacán
CNDH: Five of 22 from Blackhawk helicopter of Federal Police
Dillon Aero, M134DH, Gatling Gun
Made in Scottsdale, Arizona
Delivered in 2013 and 2015.
Fires 125 rounds/second
Guns, ammunition, parts, explosives sold by U.S. to Mexico, 2001-2016

Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Sig Sauer: New Hampshire / Germany

In accordance with 22 CFR 123.15 (and/or 124.11), this program was notified to Congress for $265,450,001 on March 25, 2015 under DTC 14-121, as part of the approval process for

1. This authorization expires February 28, 2024.

2. Export or temporary import of hardware in furtherance of this agreement by separate license is authorized. If used, separate license, submitted in accordance with Section 15.1 of the Guidelines for Preparing Electronic Agreements, must reference this agreement and must not exceed $121,350,000. This proviso does not limit the use of separate authorizations for repair and replacement purposes.

3. The authorized sales territory for this MLA is: Mexico
Mexican Army is sole distributor of firearms to federal, state, local police and private parties.
End Users of Sig Sauer Guns: Police in 19 States

Mexican States to which SEDENA Sold Sig Sauer Firearms, 2006-2016

Source: SEDENA
New Hampshire was major exporter of guns to Mexico in 2015.

Sources: ATF; US Census Bureau
Sig Sauer was leading exporter to all nations of pistols from NH, 2015.

Sources: ATF; US Census Bureau
Laredo, TX is major port for exporting ammo to Mexico.

Sources: US Census Bureau; SEDENA (Mexican Army)
AM General produces Humvee armored vehicles: 2,200 sold to Mexican Army in 2014 for $245 million

Delivery of Humvees by rail, 2015, Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas
Photo: El Manana
Source: SEDENA (Mexican Army)
Gun imports (state) and homicides (municipal), 2015

Sources: SEDENA (Mexican Army); Secretario Ejecutivo del Sistema Nacional de Seguridad Pública
Useful frameworks

• Germany’s arms export controls
• Leahy prohibitions on military and police assistance
• Limits on U.S. assault weapons market (California assault weapons ban)
What next?

• Suspend licenses:
  – Exclude units that violate human rights and collaborate with organized crime

• Stop transfer of firearms export licenses from State Dept. to Commerce Dept.
Voluntary Disarmament: Gun Turn-ins

59,355 firearms in Mexico were turned in, 2011-2013
Strategies:
• Make visible human cost of weapons:
  – Tours, advocacy, videos, testimony of victims (especially in border states, DC)
More strategies

• Research to identify end users of weapons.
• Strengthen border state enforcement (including parts and ammo)
More Strategies:

- December 6-8 in Washington: Mobilize to Defense Trade Advisory Group
- Collaborate on research (4 pm workshop)
  - Monitor/Identify weapons used in crimes
- Press Germany re Sig Sauer exports
- Work with Congressional allies
Information Sources

American Friends Service Committee:
   afsc.org/stoparms
Desarma México: desarmamexico.org
Forum on Arms Trade: forumarmstrade.org
Security Assistance Monitor: securityassistance.org

EUROARMASMX·ORG
U.S. firearms export data: usatrade.census.gov

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