The US Gun Trade to Mexico and Those Who Profit

Image from Ciudad Juarez Public Fast, January 2011
John Lindsay-Poland, Stop US Arms to Mexico
“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
U.S. Military/Police Aid and Arms Sales to Mexico, 2000-2017

- Merida Initiative Total
- DOD Aid Total
- Arms Sales Delivered

Source: securityassistance.org
U.S. firearms, parts and munitions sold to Latin America, 2018
U.S. Firearm, Parts and Ammunition Exports, 2002-2018

Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Mexican Army is sole distributor of firearms to federal, state, local police and private parties.

![Graph showing legal firearms sales by the Sedena from 2007 to 2017](image-url)
Firearms legally transferred in Mexico, 2010-2016, by end user

- Army - national production: 18%
- Army - imported: 2%
- State and municipal police: 40%
- Federal agencies and private companies: 17%
- Navy - imported: 1%
- Navy, from Sig Sauer 'kits': 6%
- Sales to public: 16%


Fuentes de armas largas y militares legalmente transferidas en México, por región de producción, todos los usuarios, 2010-2016

Cifras de producción nacional en 2010-2011 y de EUA-Kits son estimados. Fuentes de datos: SEDENA; SEMAR; U.S. International Trade Commission
Weapons Sales Licenses

- Overseen by State Department
- Licenses can prohibit end users
- License applications notified to Congressional Foreign Affairs/Foreign Relations Committees
- Trump administration proposes transfer of firearms export licenses to Commerce Dept.
- Natl. Defense Authorization Act may prohibit this transfer
US gun / ammo exports to Mexico by state, 2012-2017
Sig Sauer: New Hampshire / Germany

License to sell up to $265 million worth of guns and “kits” for semi-automatic pistols and submachine guns.

In accordance with 22 CFR 123.15 (and/or 124.11), this program was notified to Congress for $266,450,001 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 Navy Special Forces equipped with Sig Sauer 516 rifles

- Participated with Sig Sauer weapons in bi-national exercise in Camp Pendleton in July 2018
- Navy Special Forces implicated in forced disappearances in Nuevo Laredo during first half of 2018
End Users of Sig Sauer Guns: Police in 19 States

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

Number of firearms

Source: SEDENA
Mexico had more gun homicides last year than in any year on record, and will have more in 2018 than last year.

Map: Diego Valle Data: SESNSP
Milkor USA in Tucson sold grenade launchers to Mexican special forces, successors to GAFEs, trained by US in 1990s, whose members formed the Zetas.

In 2017, more than $5 million of grenade launchers were exported to Mexico from Texas.
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
Weapons push Central Americans toward the northern border
Prohibited but Easy

Border Xing Station

NO FIREARMS OR AMMO
NO ARMAS O MUNICIONES
70% of guns traced from crime scenes in Mexico originate in U.S.
Gun dealers that sold guns used in crimes in Mexico, 2007-2010
U.S. Assault Weapons in Mexico...

A grieving family in Tijuana, Baja California.

Photo by Guillermo Arias.
High-capacity ammunition magazines:
Over 112,000 recovered in Mexico since 2011
*House to vote on H.R. 1186 to ban high-cap mags*
A sea change on guns
Maria Herrera Magdaleno, mother of four disappeared sons, pleads with United States to stop sending guns to Mexico
Information Sources

Stop US Arms to Mexico / Global Exchange: stopusarmstomexico.org
Forum on Arms Trade: forumarmstrade.org
Security Assistance Monitor: securityassistance.org

U.S. firearms export data: usatrade.census.gov

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