

Alliance Point 6: Identify sources of and deter illegal traffic in firearms.

ACTION	BASELINE As of 1 Feb 98	TARGET	MEASUREMENT	STATUS As of 31 Aug 99
<p>6.1. The Governments of Mexico and the United States will endeavor to increase investigations and the exchange of information, with the objective of detecting and detaining criminals that provide firearms to drug traffickers.</p>	<p>Prior to February 1998, a formal program for the exchange of information did not exist between the governments of the United States and Mexico but the parties met occasionally at the Attaché level for the purpose of exchanging information on illegal firearms trafficking.</p>	<p>Conduct at least bi-weekly meetings between appropriate U.S. Attaches and the members of the Mexican Sub-Committee of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group for the Prevention and Control of Firearms, Ammunitions, and Explosives Traffic (The Sub-Committee) in Mexico City to review their respective reports of investigations started and meetings held.</p> <p>Mexico will deliver a monthly report on drug-related firearms and ammunition seizures in the Northern border.</p>	<p>Meetings held and quality of information exchange improved.</p> <p>Number of new meritorious investigations connected to the diversion of firearms to drug traffickers initiated in each country.</p> <p>Number of weapons seized from illegal cross border smugglers.</p> <p>Number of cases against smugglers investigated jointly and brought to a mutually satisfactory conclusion.</p> <p>Number of meritorious cases successfully prosecuted against firearms traffickers.</p>	<p>Routine biweekly meetings have improved cooperation between the U.S. and Mexico. In 15 of these meetings reports from new investigations were reviewed in addition to reports about arms and munitions seizures.</p> <p>Monthly reports delivered by the Mexican Coordinating Group highlight the fact that 2,642 firearms (1,393 handguns and 1,249 long arms) were seized at the 17 points of entry in the six Mexican Northern border states. Of these, only 721 (27.3%) were tied to drug crimes and 1,921 (72.7%) were linked to other types of crimes. From February 1998 to August 1999, 723,620 rounds of ammunition of different caliber have been seized, of which 41,523 (5.7%) were related to drug crimes.</p> <p>Data from the USCS shows seizures of 2,180 firearms and 34,959 rounds of ammunition at Ports of Entry and from San Ysidro, California to Brownsville, Texas from February 1998 – August 1999. Since February 1999, there were 18 arrests, 10 indictments and 9 convictions on weapons charges. Registrations of relevant cases of</p>

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6.1. (Con't)		<p>Increase the number of meritorious investigations by generating new ones that will lead to prosecutions of weapons smugglers and facilitators who provide firearms to drug criminals.</p> <p>Increase the number of firearms traffickers who are identified and arrested.</p>		<p>meritorious investigations were initiated: In Culiacan, Sinaloa, on January 12, 1999, 23 AK-47s were seized; one individual was arrested and sentenced to 17 years and 6 months in prison.</p> <p>The Coordinating Group is investigating 13 suspected domestic cases in Chiapas, Chihuahua, Michoacan, Morelos, Puebla, Sinaloa, and Tamaulipas.</p> <p>Based on the results of successful trace requests for firearms in the states of Sinaloa, Michoacan and Baja California, 26 firearms purchasers were arrested, mainly in the states of California and Arizona, and these make up an initial list of suspected traffickers.</p>

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<p>6.1.1 Both Governments will initiate a program to exchange strategic information on trends, routes and methods of criminal organizations linked to firearms trafficking.</p>	<p>Prior to the baseline period no formal program was in place between the two countries for the exchange of information on trends, routes and methods of criminal organizations linked to firearms trafficking.</p>	<p>Conduct at least bi-weekly meetings between appropriate U.S. Attaches and members of the Mexican Sub-Committee in Mexico City to exchange strategic information on trends, routes, and methods linked to illicit firearms trafficking.</p>	<p>Meetings held and quality of information exchanged improved.</p>	<p>In five of the bi-weekly meetings strategic information was exchanged.</p> <p>Mexico has reported recurring cases of arms and/or ammunition detection on flights originating from Chicago, Atlanta, San Antonio, Dallas and Los Angeles.</p>

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<p>6.2. The Governments of Mexico and the United States will initiate a coordinated effort to identify and prosecute individuals who illegally traffic firearms between the two countries.</p>	<p>Appropriate agency liaisons were established in key border cities such as Tijuana, Nogales, Ciudad Juarez and Nuevo Laredo for the purpose of initiating a coordinated effort to identify and prosecute individuals who illegally traffic firearms between the two countries.</p>	<p>Develop a baseline to record the number of illegal cross-border firearms traffickers identified and prosecuted.</p> <p>Representatives of the United States of America residing in Mexico and the Technical Sub-Committee will meet at least bi-weekly to exchange information on detected attempts by traffickers to illicitly move weapons, ammunition and explosives across the common border on either direction, particularly repeat offenders.</p> <p>Inform cross-border travelers of the danger of engaging in the unlicensed transportation of these items across the border in order to avoid unwitting violations.</p>	<p>Periodic reports by the Parties of new cross-border firearm traffickers identified since the baseline period and of the number and results of prosecutorial processes started during the same time frame, once concluded.</p> <p>Number of firearms traffickers identified, arrested, and successfully prosecuted.</p> <p>Steps taken by the Parties to alert cross border travelers of the danger of transporting firearms or ammunitions across the common border without the proper licenses or authorizations.</p>	<p>3,589 individuals had firearms seized from them at entry points into Mexico for violation of the Federal Law of Firearms and Explosives. Of these individuals, only 328 (9.1%) were U.S. citizens. This figure comprises an initial baseline of suspected arms traffickers who have been identified and processed.</p> <p>Officials of the U.S. and Mexico met 15 times to exchange information about attempts to traffic illegally. U.S. Custom's representatives in Mexico City keep the Coordinating Group informed about monthly border seizure reports.</p> <p>ATF and Customs have been working with the Coordinating Group in specific firearms smuggling investigations, providing information which has identified U.S. citizens who send firearms to Mexicans.</p> <p>Warning signs are posted at the entry points into Mexico which indicate the prohibition against introducing, carrying or possessing arms and ammunition in Mexico. A study to update and strengthen the project was initiated. There is also an internet page</p>

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6.2. (Con't)				<p>(http://www.paisano.gob.mx) with the same warning information.</p> <p>The U.S. has posted several signs in entry/exit points across the border to alert travelers of the danger of transporting illicit firearms and ammunition into Mexico. Additionally, the USCS has a web site (www.customs.treas.gov) that lists travel advisories world wide regarding travel with firearms and ammunition.</p> <p>Currently, the United States has legislation pending that if approved could further strengthen registration and background check requirements for firearms bought and sold at gunshows.</p>

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<p>6.3. The United States will provide training to Mexican Customs and other appropriate police officials relating to interdiction of illegally trafficked firearms.¹</p>	<p>During the baseline period the United States conducted a “Firearms and Explosives Identification” course and an “Identification Techniques and Smuggling Methods” course involving 42 Mexican students.</p>	<p>Subject to the availability of funds, during the target period the United States plans to train no less than 100 Mexican students at no less than 3 training courses held both in Mexico and the United States of America.</p> <p>The Mexican Sub-Committee will propose what courses will be needed and propose names of candidates to attend them. U.S. counterparts will suggest a list of courses available to meet these needs and make suggestions concerning candidates to attend them. Both parties will seek agreements regarding courses to be provided and attendees.</p> <p>The U.S. will ensure that trainers are qualified. The Mexican Sub-Committee will ensure that personnel trained will apply the knowledge acquired to combat illicit trafficking in firearms.</p>	<p>The percentage increase in the number of students trained and courses held since the baseline period.</p> <p>Quality of training, as monitored by the training provider, is adequate or better.</p> <p>Evaluation by the Mexican Sub-Committee of personnel trained in the discharge of their duties.</p>	<p>During 1998, the U.S. gave 3 basic courses and an advanced course for the identification of firearms and explosives. With these courses, 109 individuals from Mexico’s Coordination Group agencies were trained.</p> <p>Two basic courses are being programmed for the current year. These courses will be about International Trafficking and Identification of Firearms, and will be prepared jointly. The goal is to train approximately 60 individuals in the Fiscal Year 2000. Funds for this program were made available in July 1999.</p> <p>The courses are scheduled to be given after October 1, 1999. In Mérida from November 15-19, training approximately 30 individuals; in Guadalajara from February 18 through March 3rd, 2000, training approximately 30 individuals.</p> <p>Mexico sent a Diplomatic note to the U.S. requesting specialized training. ATF and Customs are working with Coordinating Group representatives to determine appropriate training for said</p>

¹ Mexico notes the creation as of 5 January 1999 of the Federal Preventive Police that will assume the functions of the Federal Fiscal Police.

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6.3. (Con't)				<p>group's agencies.</p> <p>There is also advanced training that will be held in Washington, D.C. from July 24-28, 2000, that will involve Mexicans and representatives of other nations.</p> <p>Mexico has also begun development of a training program (Programa Integral de Capacitacion). In 1999, Mexico provided 5 courses in basic firearms identification and trace request form completion in the states of Sinaloa and Baja California, as well as for the PFF, FEADS and PGJDF, all in Mexico City. These courses trained a total of 121 Mexican Government employees.</p> <p>In addition, a "train the trainer" course was developed, made up of 35 trainers from different constituent parts of the Coordinating Group.</p> <p>These instructors are members of the Coordinating Group who have been trained by U.S. Agencies.</p> <p>A high percentage of the personnel trained by the United States and Mexico are in positions where they apply the skills they learned.</p>

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<p>6.4. The Parties will exchange relevant information, in conformity with their respective domestic laws, on domestic actions taken against those involved in illegal international firearms trafficking, and implement coordinated actions in each nation's respective territory among agencies involved in the fight against illegal firearms trafficking.</p>	<p>During the baseline period the Parties met occasionally to share information on domestic actions taken against cross-border firearms traffickers.</p> <p>A Program on Coordinated Actions in the Northern Border was being designed and would include agencies represented in the Mexican Sub-Committee as well as ATF and USCS.</p>	<p>Carry out new coordinated actions involving appropriate agencies of both countries against arms traffickers in the border area.</p> <p>The Parties also agree to plan and carry out domestic operations within their own borders against cross-border traffickers.</p> <p>Representatives of the United States of America and of the Mexican Sub-Committee resident in Mexico City will meet at least bi-weekly to exchange information on the areas hereby covered and to review domestic actions in their respective countries taken against cross-border traffickers.</p>	<p>The number of coordinated actions in the border area carried out by appropriate agencies of both countries.</p> <p>The number of domestic operations within their own borders against cross-border traffickers.</p> <p>The number of new prosecutions of cross-border firearms traffickers begun by the Parties.</p>	<p>From December 16-23, 1998, a coordinated action exercise was performed along the border, in order to improve information flow and coordination between the Coordinating Group and their U.S. liaisons. The results were satisfactory.</p> <p>ATF has provided case specific information regarding firearms traffickers from the U.S. to Mexico and also identified a trafficker arrested in Mexico for violating Mexican Arms trafficking and explosives law.</p> <p>From February 1998 – August 1999 ATF has reported that over 620 Federal Firearms Dealers have gone out of business for several reasons in the states of Texas, California and Arizona.</p> <p>Mexico- as part of the ongoing campaign - designs internal operations against traffickers, for which Mexico has 26 fixed inspection points at the border and along roads that enter Mexican territory.</p> <p>Biweekly meetings have improved the cooperation between both countries. In 8 of them information about actions taken up against suspected traffickers has been exchanged.</p>

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<p>6.5. The Governments of Mexico and the United States will work to enhance the process of tracing firearms recovered at Mexican crime scenes.</p>	<p>There is a permanent exchange of information regarding firearms tracing.</p>	<p>Establishment of the Mexican Sub-Committee as the point of contact for all firearms trace requests through CENDRO.</p> <p>Increase significantly the number of tracing requests containing precise and accurate information after the requests are submitted by the Sub-Committee.</p> <p>Increase the number of responses to trace requests.</p>	<p>Number of Trace requests with complete information submitted by the Mexican Sub-Committee through CENDRO.</p> <p>Number of useful ATF responses to trace requests.</p>	<p>The Sub-Committee (Coordination Group via CENDRO) properly requested the trace of 3,558 firearms. Of these requests, 2,434 (70%) were answered.</p> <p>In an effort to increase the number and quality of trace requests, as well as requests derived from the seized firearms identification program, ATF has been requested to trace 1,948 firearms. Of the 1,948 traces, 1,344 were answered (69%), 700 of which contained accurate substantive information (52%).</p> <p>Despite the high quantity of trace requests submitted to ATF by the subcommittee, responses to traces have been timely.</p> <p>Given the information provided, the subcommittee and ATF have been able to obtain information to assist in future investigations and the charging of traffickers.</p>

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<p>6.5.1 The United States will provide training and technical assistance to the appropriate Mexican authorities in crime gun tracing, serial number restoration and firearms trafficking investigative techniques.</p>	<p>During the baseline period the United States provided “Trafficking Investigative Training and Firearms and Explosives Identification” training to 42 Mexican officials.</p>	<p>Subject to the availability of funds, the United States will attempt to increase the number of training courses as well as its technical assistance to the government of Mexico to enhance its ability to combat the illicit trafficking of firearms.</p> <p>The Sub-Committee will suggest what courses will be needed and propose names of candidates to attend them. U.S. counterparts will suggest a list of courses available to meet these needs and propose candidates to attend them. The Parties will seek agreement on the courses to be provided and the candidates to attend them. The U.S. will ensure that trainers are qualified. The Sub-Committee will ensure that personnel trained will apply the knowledge acquired to combat illicit trafficking in firearms.</p>	<p>The percentage increase in the number of students trained and courses held since the baseline period.</p> <p>Quality of the training as monitored by the training provider, is adequate or better.</p> <p>Evaluation by the Mexican Sub-Committee of personnel trained in the discharge of their duties.</p>	<p>During the stated period, no training courses were held.</p> <p>See 6.3. Status paragraph 4.</p> <p>ATF and Customs will instruct Basic courses on International Trafficking and Identification of Firearms to approximately 65 individuals during FY 2000. Funds for this program were made available in July 1999.</p> <p>These training programs are scheduled to occur in Mérida (November 1999) and Guadalajara (February 2000).</p> <p>There is also an advanced course scheduled for July 2000 in Washington, D.C. Course will include Mexicans as well as representatives from other nations.</p>

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<p>6.5.2 Both governments will take steps to enhance the scope of training and technical assistance through mechanisms such as “train the trainer” programs and materials to supplement instructor training.</p>	<p>During the baseline period the United States conducted 2 “train the trainer” programs and provided the necessary materials to supplement instructor training.</p>	<p>Subject to the availability of funds, the United States of America will endeavor to conduct at least 4 “train the trainer” programs, and to provide the necessary materials to complement the training.</p> <p>The Government of Mexico will conduct at least one course to share the knowledge acquired by the “trained trainers.”</p>	<p>The number of “train the trainer” programs held since the baseline period.</p> <p>The number of courses offered by “trained trainer” to share the knowledge acquired with appropriate Mexican personnel.</p>	<p>See 6.3 Status paragraph 4.</p> <p>The Government of Mexico started its Training Program on “Basic Identification of Firearms” and “Filling Out Forms”. A specific course directed at instructors, called “Train the Trainer” was given. ATF and Customs were informed the GOM has trained 35 individuals from various agencies within the CG (Grupo de Coordinacion).</p> <p>The instructors in charge of aforementioned training are members of the CG, and have received appropriate training from U.S. Agencies.</p>

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<p>6.5.3 Both governments will work to improve the process through which crime gun traces are requested. Such efforts may include using software developed by the ATF that allows Mexico to send more accurate crime gun trace requests, and if possible send them electronically.</p>	<p>No formal process to submit trace requests existed prior to February 1998.</p> <p>The United States contracted for development of software to allow Mexico to send more accurate crime gun trace requests. The contractor was replaced and the project had to be re-initiated.</p>	<p>The United States will begin to develop on or about the Spring of 1999 the promised software.</p> <p>Mexico will endeavor to significantly increase the number of correctly filed firearms trace requests before submitting them to the ATF through the subcommittee.</p>	<p>Delivery of the promised software.</p> <p>Percentage of correctly filed firearm trace requests.</p>	<p>The software promised is still being developed, and will be released when technologically possible.</p> <p>47% of the complete and accurate trace requests provided by the Sub-Committee to ATF were successfully traced.</p> <p>During this time period, ATF answered 72% of trace requests submitted by the CG.</p>

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<p>6.5.4 Both governments will establish a program for the periodic exchange of information on the tracing of firearms.</p>	<p>Prior to February 1998 no formal program was in place between the United States and Mexico for the periodic exchange of information on the tracing of firearms.</p>	<p>The Parties will collaborate to ensure that tracing requests contain the necessary information to be processed quickly and accurately.</p> <p>The Parties will meet at least bi-weekly to exchange information concerning the status of submitted trace requests.</p>	<p>Meetings held and quality of information exchanged improved.</p>	<p>In Mexico the CG started the development of a program to verify technical data on firearms seized, visiting several military facilities where firearms are stored. This operation provided improved information for firearm traces.</p> <p>ATF provided trace request results in a timely manner, and upon request has returned trace results within 24 hours on urgent cases.</p> <p>USG and GOM met on 12 occasions to exchange information and discuss firearms traces, trace requests and their quality.</p>

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<p>6.6. The Governments of Mexico and the United States will work to enhance information exchange and coordination in joint investigations.</p>	<p>Prior to the baseline period no formal program was in place between the two countries for the exchange of information and coordination in joint investigations. However, some information was exchanged and investigative coordination took place on an informal basis between the Parties.</p>	<p>The United States and Mexico will continue the working group meetings and informal exchanges, to be augmented by a joint report of progress on information exchange and coordination in joint investigations that will be submitted to the plenary session of the U.S./Mexico High Level Contact Group for Drug Control.</p>	<p>Improved information exchange. Improved coordination in joint investigations.</p>	<p>Both parties met on 20 occasions to exchange information, and have regular telephonic coordination. This exchange has strengthened coordination in joint investigations. Additionally, other meetings were held between the U.S. and the GOM to maintain a steady exchange of intelligence and information on specific cases. Both parties have responded to information requirements on time. There are six case investigations in process in the states of Baja California, Coahuila, Michoacan, Sinaloa, Sonora and Tamaulipas.</p>

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<p>6.7. The Firearms Trafficking Working Group of the High Level Contact Group will study whether firearms being legally exported are being diverted to black markets, including use by drug traffickers.</p>	<p>In February 1998 there was no study.</p>	<p>In order to carry out the study during the target period, the Mexican Government will provide the United States with sufficient data to determine if drug traffickers possessed seized weapons when recovered.</p>	<p>Number of reports concerning the final recipients of weapons seized that may have been legally imported.</p> <p>The Study will be completed in a timely fashion once information is received.</p>	<p>To date, the GOM reports that there is no record of imported legal firearms that have been illegally diverted to, or found in possession of, drug dealers.</p>
<p>6.8. The United States Government agrees to reduce the period for export licenses for firearms and munitions from four years to one year.</p>	<p>As of February 1998 the validity period of export licenses for firearms was 4 years.</p>	<p>The U.S. side will formally inform the Mexican government of the revision of the period for export licenses to one year.</p>	<p>The implementation of the one year license period.</p>	<p>The U.S. Government has reduced the period of firearms export licenses from four years to one year.</p>