



U.S. - Mexico At a Glance

Reducing Trafficking in Arms

“But I will not pretend that this is Mexico's responsibility alone. The demand for drugs in the United States is what is helping to keep these cartels in business. This war is being waged with guns purchased, not here, but in the United States.”

*Barack Obama
President
United States of America
April 16, 2009*

In support of the goals of the Merida Initiative, the ATF Mexico Country Office is working closely with CENAPI, PGR, SSP and SEDENA in an effort to disrupt the flow of firearms, ammunition, and explosives being trafficked from the United States and Central American countries to Mexico. Key programs focusing on training improvements and the sharing of information/intelligence are having an impact.

- Three bilateral arms trafficking workshops in 2009 resulted in established protocols that clarified roles and responsibilities for weapons tracing procedures. In addition, new working group structures were created to better share information and intelligence.
- CENAPI reported that 80,000 firearms were seized by the Government of Mexico from December 2006 to February 2010. ATF statistics for that same time frame indicate that over 87% of these weapons were traced. ATF is working with all Government of Mexico and U.S. law enforcement agencies that assist in tracing firearms to ensure there is a trace for every firearm seized in Mexico.
- A plan for the full implementation of eTrace in Spanish is underway. This initiative will be supported by an extensive ATF-sponsored training program which will help achieve the goal of one trace for each firearm seized in Mexico. Real-time firearms tracing will provide lead information to ATF and U.S. law enforcement agencies in the United States to disrupt firearms trafficking cells operating in the U.S.
- ATF is also working with Central American countries to provide Spanish eTrace training and guidance to help stem the flow of firearms, ammunition, and explosives that are trafficked to Mexico from Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.”
- The availability of Integrated Ballistics Identification Systems (IBIS) will be expanded throughout Mexico to allow the tracing of bullets across our mutual borders.



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