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***The NRA and its corporate partners:
US shipments of small arms ammunition by sea***

By Sergio Finardi and Peter Danssaert



Transport Services under an Arms Trade Treaty Series
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Title: **Pinocchio Ltd** - *The NRA and its corporate partners: US shipments of small arms ammunition by sea*

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Antwerp and Chicago, March 18, 2013

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1. The NRA and the Arms Trade Treaty

The National Rifle Association (NRA) claims to have monitored in the last 20 years all United Nations activities that could impact Second Amendment rights.

Its latest target is the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), an international treaty to establish common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms presently under discussion at the United Nations. The international community has been calling for the inclusion of ammunition and civilian arms within the scope of the ATT. This reasonable call is used by the NRA to claim that the ATT could restrict the lawful ownership of firearms in the United States: "*The new [July 2012 ATT] draft, like previous ones, was wholly incompatible with the Second Amendment rights protected by our Constitution. The proponents of the treaty have goals that are clearly at odds with the American Constitution. Their refusal to remove civilian arms from the treaty was one major issue that led to the breakdown in negotiations*".¹

How the ATT would be able to infringe upon the Second Amendment² rights of US citizens is not clear. First of all the ATT is clearly aimed at the international trade in arms and is not concerned with domestic trade. Moreover, the preamble of the present treaty draft in discussion at the United Nations unambiguously states: "*Reaffirming the sovereign right and responsibility of any State to regulate and control transfers of conventional arms that take place exclusively within its territory, pursuant to its own legal or constitutional systems... Taking note of the legitimate trade and use of certain conventional arms, inter alia, for recreational, cultural, historical and sporting activities and lawful ownership where such ownership and use are permitted and protected by law*".

The United Nations has no jurisdiction over the manufacture, sale and possession of firearms. In February 2013, the Center for Human Rights (American Bar Association) issued a White Paper³ on Second Amendment implications of the proposed ATT. The conclusion of the White Paper is that "*U.S. ratification of the treaty would not infringe upon rights guaranteed by the Second Amendment*".⁴

Another objection put forward by the NRA is that the ATT would interfere with the lawful international commerce in civilian firearms, claiming that "*a manufacturer of civilian shotguns would have to comply with the same regulatory process as a manufacturer of military attack helicopters*".⁵

As a matter of fact the US already regulates the export, import and sale of conventional weapons, including civilian firearms. It should be noted that US

¹ NRA-ILA: "*NRA Stops U.N. Arms Trade Treaty*", July 27, 2012 at <http://www.nra.org/news-issues/articles/2012/nra-stops-un-arms-trade-treaty.aspx>

² We do not address the issue of whether the Second Amendment actually grants US citizens the right to keep and bear arms.

³ American Bar Association/Center for Human Rights: White Paper on Arms Trade Treaty and the Second Amendment, 26 February 2012 (http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/individual_rights/aba_chr_white_paper_att_final.pdf)

⁴ The argument used is that (a) the Second Amendment does not apply to most weapons addressed by the ATT, (b) the Second Amendment does not apply to exports, and (c) import restrictions are constitutionally valid.

⁵ NRA: "No Compromise: NRA Takes On United Nations", undated at <http://www.nrapublications.org/index.php/11466>

legislation does not mention “civilian shotguns”. Shotguns are distinguished based on barrel length. Shotguns with a barrel length less than 18 inches are considered “combat shotguns”. Shotguns with a barrel length of 18 inches or longer are considered sporting shotguns.⁶

In addition, most countries already enforce more or less strict regulations on the import and export of conventional arms (including ammunition), but there are no internationally-agreed common standards and rules that cover the arms trade at a global level. The ATT would create a level playing field for everyone. Therefore one needs to ask why the NRA is so strongly opposed to an ATT regulating the international trade in conventional arms.

A report published by the Violence Policy Center (VPC) - Blood Money: How the Gun Industry Bankrolls the NRA (April 2011) – demonstrates how the NRA receives millions of dollars directly from domestic and foreign gun manufacturers and other members of the firearms industry through an organized corporate outreach program, Ring of Freedom: *“The depth and breadth of gun industry financial support for the National Rifle Association makes clear that the self-proclaimed “America’s oldest civil rights organization” is, in fact, the gun industry’s most high-profile trade association. While the NRA works to portray itself as protecting the “freedoms” of its membership, it is, in fact protecting the gun industry’s freedom to manufacture [and sell, ed.] virtually any gun or accessory it sees fit to produce”*⁷.

The study concludes: *“The mutually dependent nature of the National Rifle Association and the gun industry explains the NRA’s unwillingness to compromise on even the most limited controls over firearms or related products and its support of legislation that clearly favors gunmakers over gun owners (such as legislation limiting the legal rights of gun owners killed or injured by defective firearms). The NRA claims that its positions are driven solely by a concern for the interests of gun owners, never mentioning its own financial stake in protecting the profits of its gun industry patrons”*⁸.

As Amnesty International has pointed out in reference to the NRA position on the ATT, *“...spreading misinformation may be a good tool for raising money and gaining converts. But these distortions only give credence to allegations that the NRA, by*

⁶ The Department of State’s Directorate of Defense Trade Controls has jurisdiction over the export of combat shotguns and military attack helicopters. Sporting shotguns fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Commerce’s Bureau of Industry and Security. The exceptions are the South African-manufactured Strike-12 and Streetsweeper shotguns. These nearly identical 12-gauge shotguns have a barrel of 18 inches, and are considered non-sporting shotguns, specifically designed and manufactured for law enforcement/military purposes, by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF). In the US a shotgun with a barrel less than 18 inches in length (or a non-sporting shotgun having a bore of more than one-half inch in diameter) is subject to the National Firearms Act. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) has ruled that “[T]he Striker-12/Streetsweeper is a shotgun with a bore of more than one-half inch in diameter which is not particularly suitable for sporting purposes. The weight, size, bulk, designed magazine capacity, configuration, and other factors indicate that the Striker-12/Streetsweeper is a military-type shotgun, as opposed to a shotgun particularly suitable for sporting purposes. Accordingly, the Striker-12/Streetsweeper is a destructive device as that term is used in 26 U.S.C. § 5845(f)(2). Pursuant to section 7805(b), this ruling is applied prospectively effective March 1, 1994, with respect to the making, transfer, and special (occupational) taxes imposed by the NFA. All other provisions of the NFA apply retroactively effective March 1, 1994.” (<http://www.atf.gov/regulations-rulings/rulings/atf-rulings/atf-ruling-94-2.pdf>)

⁷ Violence Policy Center: “Blood Money: How the Gun Industry Bankrolls the NRA”, April 2011.

⁸ Violence Policy Center, quoted April 2011.

drawing a false connection between the arms trade treaty and the Second Amendment, has another more troubling motive -- to protect the lucrative weapons industry that bankrolls the organization and benefits immensely from the current free-for-all in the global trade in weapons and ammunition".⁹

This statistical account shows that the position of the NRA and its corporate partners in the US gun industry on the ATT may in fact have less to do with the Second Amendment than with the refusal to submit the lucrative US international trade in small arms and ammunition to the ATT criteria (27 July 2012 draft), including "*the duty to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law and to respect and ensure human rights*".

The US exports of small arms and small arms ammunition is in effect substantial in value, involves more than 70 trade partners annually, as well as hundreds of arms manufacturers, dealers, shipping agents and transport companies. Last but not least, it includes grey areas and several destinations known as tax havens and revolving doors, as well as countries with high rates of firearms homicides or ongoing armed conflicts.

2. The Report

This report deals with the transport of small arms ammunition from US ports to 70 countries and territories between December 2010 and January 2013, as reported in 780 bills of lading. Data clearly indicate that the export of small arms ammunition is big business for US arms manufacturers and dealers.

The report further compares data obtained from the maritime transport of small arms ammunition with data from the US Customs statistics at the 10-digit level, for both small arms ammunition and small arms, military and civilian.

Trade data refer to all means of transportation and are based on documents that are partially different from the shipping documents. However, the comparison shows that shipping documents include destinations not listed in trade data and vice versa, allowing for a troubling insight on the problems entailed in arms trade statistics, problems that the authors of this report illustrated in their previous work on common standards for reporting to the ATT, "*Transparency & Accountability*" (2012).

⁹ AIUSA, *Amnesty International USA Rejects National Rifle Association "Distortions" About Arms Trade Treaty*, New York, Press Release, July 11, 2012.

2. Transport statistics: US shipments of small arms ammunition by sea

Transport documents, including bills of lading, often indicate the logistics company or the freight forwarder charged with the task of organizing the transport as “shipper”. The real shippers, i.e., manufacturers and dealers, are instead named in other documents, such as, for example, the orders received by carriers and logistics companies or the letters of credit. Therefore, the bills of lading we analyzed mostly mention as shipper the “facilitators”, not the companies that owned the cargo.

Thus, out of 780 bills of lading we analyzed – covering the period December 2010/January 2013 – only a small percentage explicitly lists as shippers the arms manufacturers or dealers, such as Alliant Techsystems Inc, American Ordnance, Browning Arms Co, Combined Systems Inc, Federal Cartridge Co (subsidiary of Alliant TS), Fiocchi of America Inc, General Dynamics Ordnance, Remington Arms Company Inc, Winchester Ammunition (Olin Corp.), Century Arms Inc, National Gun Inc, and Palmetto State Armory.

Instead, the shippers listed in the vast majority of bills of lading are shipping agents (freight forwarders and logistics companies), for a total of 120 different companies. These companies hired 203 different vessels, managed or owned by 49 carriers, often among the most important groups of the shipping industry, such as American President Lines, AP Moller Maersk, CMA-CGM, Hamburg Sud, Hapag Lloyd, K Line, Mediterranean Shipping Company, Oriental Overseas Container Lines, Yang Ming Line, and Zim Container.

Tab. 1 – Shipments of small arms and tear gas ammunition from US ports

Period	# of Bills of Lading	KG	Value in US\$
December 2010	3	224,517	16,180,242
2011	134	2,128,328	46,201,573
2012	634	13,760,257	185,916,358
January 2013	9	85,615	1,069,090
Total	780	16,198,717	319,367,263

Source: TransArms-IPISvzw database - Bill of Lading from US Ports 2010-2013. The total value includes US\$70 million in estimated (but not declared) value for 3,876,490 kg of ammunition.

Tab. 2 - US exports of small arms cartridges– World total 2011-2012 – US\$

HS Code	Item	2011	2012
930621	Shotgun Cartridges	11,582,510	20,781,509
930629	Air Gun Pellets And Parts Of Shotgun Cartridges	42,767,601	41,303,344
9306304110	Cartridges For Rifle Or Pistols .22 Caliber (no)	7,362,186	7,595,753
9306304120	Cartridges For Rifle Or Pistols, Nesoi (no)	255,551,567	339,342,153
9306304130	Cartridges Containing A Projectile, Nesoi (no)	47,201,597	7,791,679
9306304140	Empty Cartridges Shells For Rifles Or Pistols (no)	14,750,114	19,670,261
9306304150	Empty Cartridges Shells, Nesoi (no)	6,750,606	4,594,380
9306304160	Cartridges Not Containing A Projectile & Nt Empty	3,454,042	6,117,497
9306308000	Parts Of Cartridges, Nesoi (x)	13,634,980	37,257,678
	Total	403,057,214	484,456,266

Source: Elaboration on data by USA TradeOnline.

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Over a 26-month period, US companies and foreign entities based in the US shipped by sea – both abroad and to overseas territories – a total of 16,200 tons of small arms ammunition, for an estimated value of about US\$320 million.

For comparison, Table 2 above reports the world total value of US exports of small arms ammunition. It should be noted that trade data are based on Customs declarations and therefore refer to all means of transportation used by shippers to export their goods, whereas data presented in Table 1 only refer to shipments by sea.

The bills of lading collectively list 70 different destinations - countries, overseas territories or dependencies- for US shipments of small arms ammunition by sea.

Tab. 3 - Countries listed as destination in the US bills of lading

Country	Country	Country	Country
Algeria	Dominican Republic	Japan	Republic of China
Andorra	Egypt	Jordan	Republic of Korea
Anguilla	El Salvador	Kenya	Saudi Arabia
Argentina	Fiji	Kuwait	Singapore
Aruba	Finland	Latvia	Spain
Australia	French Pacific Is	Leeward Isl.	Surinam
Bahamas	Germany	Malta	Sweden
Barbados	Greece	Mexico	Thailand
Belarus	Greenland	Morocco	Trinidad & Tobago
Belgium	Guyana	Namibia	Tunisia
Belize	Honduras	Nicaragua	Turkey
Brazil	Hong Kong	Norway	Turks & Caicos Is
Cameroon	Iceland	Oman	United Arab Emirates
Cayman Islands	Indonesia	Pakistan	United Kingdom
Chile	Ireland	Panama	Vietnam
Cook Islands	Israel	Peru	Virgin Island
Costa Rica	Italy	Philippines	
Denmark	Jamaica	Puerto Rico	

Source: TransArms-IPISvzw database - Bill of Lading from US Ports 2010-2013.

In Customs data (USA TradeOnline), the indication of the country of final destination may differ – for many reasons¹⁰ - from the destination country indicated in transport documents. Moreover, the bills of lading list as destinations free trade zones and territories (including US dependencies) that Customs data record under the country they belong to or do not record these destinations at all because they are considered “internal” transfers or trans-shipment points. When the destinations listed in transport documents are compared with the destinations listed in US trade data for the same period, several differences emerge. Those differences are sometime hard to understand and may indicate problems of timing in recording and identifying the destination country. Whatever the reasons, Customs data (USA TradeOnline) only record 39 countries as destinations of US export of small arms ammunition in 2012.

As shown in Tables 3 and 4, differences between bills of lading and trade statistics include lack of data for Japan in trade statistics as well as lack of data for Russia in the

¹⁰ See *Transparency & Accountability*, quoted, 2012

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transport documents.¹¹ In 2012, according to the transport documents, Japan was the destination in 34 bills of lading, for a total of **373,386 kg** of small arms ammunition and a value of US\$6.5 million. Conversely, according to Customs data, Russia was the main US trade partner for imports of small arms ammunition in both 2011 and 2012, for a total US\$72 million and **US\$102 million**, respectively.

Tab. 4 – US exports of small arms cartridges (HS codes of table 4) – US\$, by Country

Country	2011 \$	Country	2012 \$
Russia	72,009,572	Russia	101,893,710
Korea, South	67,206,349	Korea, South	87,318,762
Spain	31,556,348	Serbia	30,772,393
Czech Republic	28,117,835	Spain	29,695,344
Canada	28,044,809	Brazil	29,593,765
Taiwan	19,810,278	Czech Republic	28,175,424
Italy	19,026,995	Italy	23,200,136
Israel	18,753,820	United Kingdom	21,008,207
Serbia	15,449,280	France	13,455,220
Brazil	15,129,924	Germany	13,419,423
United Kingdom	13,262,901	China	12,799,731
China	12,213,135	Canada	11,236,230
Ukraine	7,393,806	Belgium	10,307,517
Germany	7,266,922	Israel	9,822,005
Peru	6,982,603	Mexico	9,584,596
Sweden	5,384,316	Ukraine	7,206,482
Hungary	5,227,916	Sweden	6,505,934
France	5,069,430	Peru	6,166,112
Finland	4,624,529	Finland	5,352,478
Mexico	4,538,150	Hungary	5,320,907
Bosnia Herz.	3,061,123	Philippines	3,640,537
Argentina	2,337,004	Argentina	3,227,005
Philippines	1,442,131	Norway	2,260,276
Australia	1,219,690	Taiwan	1,994,418
Bulgaria	1,045,010	Romania	1,929,736
Norway	986,116	Switzerland	1,741,125
Turkey	853,100	Australia	1,691,356
Greece	844,193	Vietnam	1,388,191
Croatia	708,461	Denmark	1,155,185
Netherlands	649,014	South Africa	991,186
Switzerland	620,465	Bulgaria	642,860
South Africa	603,368	Turkey	257,991
Malaysia	546,594	Bosnia and Herz.	224,582
Belgium	421,752	Poland	145,136
Romania	204,783	Portugal	135,185
India	173,432	India	78,784
Pakistan	151,900	Greece	67,716
Hong Kong	53,462	Singapore	37,500
Denmark	34,371	Netherlands	11,109
Singapore	30,316		
Total	403,057,214		484,456,266

Sources: Elab. on USA TradeOnline and TransArms-IPISvzw database – B/L from US Ports.

¹¹ The reasons for the absence of Russia as destination of US shipments of military equipment by sea may include confidentiality clauses between trade partners.

It is worth noting that out of the 39 trade partner listed in Customs data, the countries that ranked in the first 15 positions accounted for about 89% of the total value in 2012, with Russia and South Korea in the first two positions, followed by Serbia, Spain, Brazil, Czech Republic, Italy, the UK, France, Germany, China, Canada, Belgium, Israel, and Mexico. Exports to Russia and South Korea increased by 42% and 30%, respectively over the respective 2011 values. Other countries – such as Denmark, Belgium and Romania – significantly increased their share, but most worrying was the increase in the values of exports to the **Philippines** (152%), **Mexico** (111%) and **Brazil** (96%), three countries with a mounting level of armed violence. In 2011, Mexico reported one of the world highest rates of homicides by firearms per 100,000 population (23.7), for a total of 27,199 deaths.

Some examples from the 780 bills of lading we examined cast a light on the difference between data from trade statistics and data from shipping documents.

3.1. Andorra. Trade data do not report imports of small arms ammunition by Andorra in the concerned period. Andorra (population 78,000 in 2012) is one of the European Union’s “revolving doors” and free-trade zone. The Principality has no defense budget and its “external security” is assured by Spain and France. Its police is assisted alternately by the French Gendarmerie or the Barcelona police. Notwithstanding, Andorra was the destination of 31 different shipments of small arms ammunition in 2011 and 2012, for a total of **2,509,994 kg** and a value of **US\$37.7 million**. The French Office of Defense Cooperation attached to the French Embassy in Washington, DC, was the shipper of the vast majority (84%) of the ammunition exported to Andorra in the concerned period. The ports of destination mentioned in the shipping documents were mainly Le Havre and Cherbourg, a notorious military port and a destination of thousands of tons of military equipment shipped from the US every year. The Andorra police could not use 2,500 tons of ammunition in a whole century, and certainly not in a few months. One of the ammunition types mentioned in the Andorra bills of lading is, for example, the 5.56x45mm, whose weight is about 12 grams. Even considering heavier cartridges (such as the 7.62x51, 25 grams) and the packaging, the total weight shipped to Andorra could approximately entail between 100 and 150 million rounds.

Map 1 – From left to right, location of Andorra (between Spain and France); Anguilla (East of Puerto Rico); and Cook Islands (North-East of New Zealand).



Source: CIA – The World Factbook online.

3.2 Anguilla. Anguilla, a British dependency with 16,000 inhabitants and a territory of 91 sq km (part of the Leeward Islands near Puerto Rico), was the destination of 56 shipments, some very small, others quite substantial, for a total of **8,557 kg** of small arms ammunition. Anguilla is an offshore banking and tax haven. Hunting is

understandably limited, if it exists at all, in a limestone island whose highest point is 65 meters.

3.3 Cook Islands. A self-governing group of sparse islands (235 square km) freely associated with New Zealand, the Cook Islands had a total population of 10,000 in 2012. Notwithstanding, the Cook Islands were the indicated destination in 8 bills of lading, for a total of 85,347 kg of small arms ammunition. Neither the Cook Islands nor New Zealand are mentioned in trade statistics as recipients of US exports of small arms ammunition.

Photo 1 – Antigua & Barbuda-flagged Kaya Scan (IMO 9570620), owned by Concord Shipping, Germany. On December 21, 2012, the ship departed Wilmington (NC) and arrived in Casablanca, Morocco on January 5, 2013. The cargo destined to **Morocco** included **3,127 tons of cartridges**.



Credit: The Kaya Scan in the Kiel Canal, February 27, 2013, by Juergen Braker

3.4 Honduras and Nicaragua. These Central American countries were the destinations listed in 3 (Honduras) and 19 (Nicaragua) bills of lading, for a total of **36,991 kg** (Honduras) and **79,078 kg** (Nicaragua) of small arms ammunition. In 2010, Honduras had one of the highest rates of homicides by firearms in the world (68 per 100,000 population, for a total of 5,201 deaths)¹². Nicaragua has been plagued for decades by armed violence and death squads, and has a homicide rate by firearms of 12.6 per 100,000 population in 2011 (for total 738 deaths). Neither Honduras nor Nicaragua is mentioned in trade statistics as a recipient of small arms ammunition.

¹² UNODC, Homicides statistics 2012, "Percentage of homicides by firearm, number of homicides by firearm and homicide by firearm rate per 100,000 population".

3.5 Israel. Ravaged by armed violence and armed conflicts since decades. Israel was listed as destination in 16 bills of lading, for a total of **249,780 kg** of small arms ammunition and a value of US\$2.6 million. Haifa and Ashdod were the main ports of destination.

3.6 Jamaica. This Caribbean island has one of the highest rates of homicides by firearms in the world (39.4 per 100,000 population in 2010, for a total of 1,080 homicides by firearms). It was the destination in 13 bills of lading, for a total of **23,477 kg** of small arms ammunition and more than US\$600,000 in value. Jamaica is not mentioned in trade statistics as a recipient of small arms ammunition.

3.7 Panama. This Central American country was the destination in 11 bills of lading, for a total weight of **88,943 kg** of small arms ammunition and tear gas ammunition, for nearly US\$700,000 in value. Panama is not listed in the US trade statistics as a recipient of small arms ammunition.

3.8 The Philippines. This country was the destination in 16 bills of lading, for a total **512,950 kg** of small arms ammunition and a value of US\$8.8 million. In 2009, the Philippines had a 5.5 rate of homicides by firearms per 100,000 population, for a total of 4,947 deaths.¹³

Photo 2 – Zim Tarragona (IMO 9471214), owned by the Israeli company ZIM Integrated Shipping, transported 117,585 kg of small arms ammunition (including tear gas ammunition) in 8 voyages in 2012, from New York to Haifa.



Credit: The Zim Tarragona, photographer Danny Dao, www.containership-info.com

¹³ See Amnesty International Amnesty, How an Arms Trade Treaty can help prevent armed violence, 2 March 2011;

4. The US exports of small arms

Exports of ammunition are not, of course, the only items that the US gun industry and the NRA would like to be excluded by the main scope of the ATT. The following tables report Customs data for a variety of small arms, both military and civilians. USA TradeOnline¹⁴ indicates the exports of commercially-traded small arms at the 10-digit level (the UN Comtrade reports data at the far broader 5-digit level)¹⁵ and it is presently updated to January 2013. From these data it is easy to understand that the value and quantity involved are substantial and that the business is growing.

Tab. 5 - US exports of military small arms – World total 2009 and 2012

Item		2009	2012	% change
Military Rifles	Value in \$	41,388,279	75,442,791	82.3
	Quantity	47,738	74,651	56.4
Military Shotguns	Value in \$	1,574,707	3,187,243	102.4
	Quantity	11,913	21,160	77.6
Machine Guns, Mil.	Value in \$	40,370,346	46,481,443	15.1
	Quantity	28,460	48,586	70.7

Source USA TradeOnline for HS codes 9301903000, 9301906000, 9301909030.

Data show that in 2012 the value of commercial exports – excluding government-to-government transfers - of **military rifles** (HS code 9301903000) reached **US\$72.4 million**, with an increase of 82% compared to the 2009 values. The value of **military shotgun** exports reached **US\$3.2 million** in 2012, an increase of 102% over 2009. The value of exports of **military machine guns** (HS 9301909030) reached **US\$46.5 million** in 2012, an increase of 15% over 2009. The value of **non-military** revolvers and pistols (HS code 930200) exports reached **US\$85.2 million** in 2012, an increase of 31% over 2009.

Tab. 6 - US exports of non-military revolvers and pistols – World total 2009-2012

Item		2009	2012	% change
Revolvers and Pistols	Value in \$	64,996,440	85,211,482	31.1
of which:				
Revolvers	Value in \$	12,581,440	8,709,091	-30.78
	Quantity	29,094	16,198	-44.33
Pistols, Semiautomatic	Value in \$	30,398,351	55,959,288	84.09
	Quantity	86,169	153,334	77.95
Pistols	Value in \$	22,016,649	20,543,103	-6.69
	Quantity	47,862	51,189	6.95

Source USA TradeOnline for HS codes 930200 (9302000020, 9302000040, 9302000090).

¹⁴ USA TradeOnline at <https://www.usatradeonline.gov/>

¹⁵ See: Finardi, S., P. Danssaert, *Transparency & Accountability - Monitoring and Reporting Methods Under An Arms Trade Treaty*, IPIS/TA, February 2012, at http://www.ipisresearch.be/search_publications.php

In 2012, “sport” **shotguns and rifles** (HS 9303) exports reached **US\$172.6 million** in 2012, with an increase of 51% over 2009. So-called “**non-military**” **centerfire rifles** (HS 9303307025) exports reached **US\$47 million**, with an increase of 60% over 2009. Exports of centerfire **autoloading rifles** (HS 9303307010) reached **US\$13.3 million** in 2012, an appalling 267% increase over the 2009 value.

The following table provides details on the exports of various categories of sport shotguns and rifles at the HS 10-digit level.

Tab. 7– US exports of non-military sport shotguns and rifles – US\$

Item	2009	2012	% change
Sport Shotguns & Rifles	114,346,030	172,646,179	50.99
of which:			
Muzzle-loading Firearms	3,055,303	2,307,883	-24.46
Shotguns, Pump Action	7,543,354	8,510,494	12.82
Shotguns, Nesoï (no)	21,726,198	27,715,701	27.57
Combination Shotgun-rifles	1,260,513	6,716,485	432.84
Centerfire Rifles	541,014	419,350	-22.49
Rimfire Rifles	553,792	248,501	-55.13
Rifles, Centerfire Autoloading	3,620,310	13,272,803	266.62
Rifles, Single Shot Centerfire Bolt Action	3,245,333	3,875,567	19.42
Rifles, Centerfire Bolt Action,	16,139,753	23,786,784	47.38
Rifles, Centerfire	29,422,263	46,994,876	59.73
Rimfire Rifles	11,089,900	15,443,092	39.25
Pistols & Revolvers Fire Blank Cartridge	285,060	111,785	-60.79
Firearms & Similar Devices	15,863,237	23,242,858	46.52

Source USA TradeOnline for HS codes 9303 (9303100000, 9303200030, 9303200035, 9303200080, 9303303020, 9303303030, 9303307010, 9303307012, 9303307017, 9303307025, 9303307030, 9303904000, 9303908000)

Photo 3 - A Bushmaster, similar to the one used in the Sandy Hook elementary school shootings (Newtown, CT) that left 20 children and 6 adult staff members dead on December 14, 2012



Credit:: Lodester.com

5. Conclusions

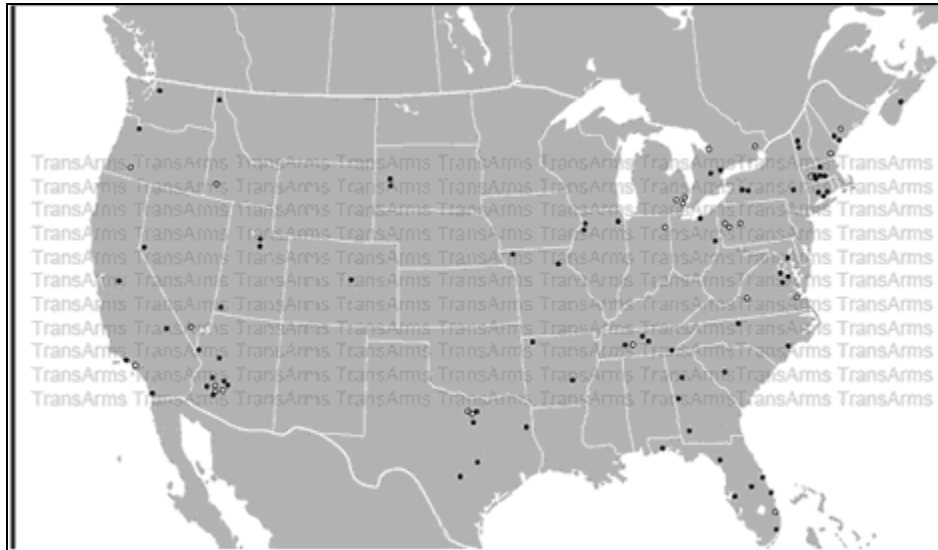
The following excerpts from the popular website "Ammoland.com"¹⁶ clearly illustrate the intellectual honesty and vision of some of the staunch opponents of the ATT and could fairly serve as a conclusion to our report.

"... If the UN has its way, all humans on this planet, except perhaps the political elite in both democracies and dictatorships, and members of the criminal class, will be defenseless against armed thugs, greedy, genocidal governments and worldwide organized crime syndicates."

*"...If we don't pay attention to current events and speak up loudly, clearly and forcefully, the day may soon come when **blue-helmeted forces of the UN, assisted by our own US government**, will come knocking on our doors, 'politely' asking for our guns, our ammo, and our God-given right to protect ourselves, our families, and our country."*

Pinocchio Ltd is back (or never went away).

Map 2 - Location of US small arms and ammunition manufacturers: a nation-wide business with influence on dozens of electoral constituencies.



Source: Le Strade delle Armi, 2002¹⁷

¹⁶ <http://www.ammoland.com/2013/03/un-arms-trade-treaty-2013-its-back/#axzz20HczUSkm>, March 13, 2013. "UN Arms Trade 2013 – It's Back".

¹⁷ Finardi, S., C. Tombola, *Le Strade delle Armi*, Milan, Jaca Book, 2002.

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