Investigative and prosecutorial approaches in countering illicit firearms trafficking and related forms of crime within and across jurisdictions
Investigation and International Cooperation

Requirements:

• proper legislation / harmonization with the international standards (or go further)
  ➢ Special Investigative Techniques

• understand our country’s “illicit firearm market”
  ➢ RECORD KEEPING OF ALL SEIZED FIREARMS
  ➢ TRACING OF ALL SEIZED FIREARMS
Illicit Firearms Trafficking New Patterns

- increasing parts and components trafficking
- internet commerce

✓ lack of regulation and controls (markings/record keeping)
✓ ease of purchase, transport and international shipping
✓ “do-it-yourself” and homemade segment growing
✓ old stockpile dismounts, parts exports for civilians
✓ ease to turn non-firearms into real firearms (airsoft and blank firearms)
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- Strategies adopted by Brazilian Federal Police:
  - cooperative and reliable relationship with foreign investigative bodies
  - information sharing on illicit firearms trafficking sources
  - engage firearms source countries to promote a fast response upon each seizure in Brazil
  - Request a parallel investigation in the firearm source country (enabling future cooperation)
  - Use of the ”spontaneous information transmission” mechanism for international cooperation
Remarks

✓ A cross-check “BI” system developed by Federal Police to identify patterns and coincidences on Brazilian Postal Service shipments is almost ready to use (500 seizures of parts and components in Rio de Janeiro Airport / per year)

✓ Untraceable condition of most parts and components, force practitioners to learn "how to trace" the origin, itinerary, ways and means of the used trafficking method - field investigation is mandatory now

✓ There is a need for revisions to the protocol and other international legislation to revive provisions like record keeping, marking at the time of manufacture and marking of the importer’s name for parts and components
• **Operation Lord of the Guns**: hundreds of firearms spare parts and ammunition purchases through internet and dispatch to Brazil via express delivery shipments.

*Rifle parts and components seized in São Paulo Viracopos Airport.*
X-Ray of the box dispatched in Miami Airport

Unknown content = 01 unmounted rifle and parts
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➢ Southern Connection Operation: cooperation Brazil/Bolívia/USA on immediate tracing of firearms seized in Bolivia (hidden in container floor and in machinery) and identification and conviction of the firearms traffickers

Note: some of the operations have not finalised
• **Operation “Miami Heat”**: investigation started after a seizure of 60 rifles hidden in pool heaters in Rio de Janeiro Int. Airport, and aimed to identify a criminal group involved in firearms trafficking by air through the Int. Airport

*Note: some of the operations have not finalised*
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- **Operation Iron Package**: firearms parts and components, and high capacity round magazines for AK-47, sent through postal/fast deliveries services from USA to Rio de Janeiro Airport.

- Camera images indicated packages used to hide objects and being dispatched...

*Note: some of the operations have not finalised*
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- more than 17 shipments identified
- 09 fingerprint fragments collected in magazines, plastics and tapes used to attach the material. DNA collected in a hair fragment in a round magazine.

Note: some of the operations have not finalised
• A list of 3,000 firearms seized in Brazil and traced was sent to Paraguayan authorities to start investigations on diversion and illicit trafficking. Store inspections were performed by a country task force.

• In coordination with Paraguayan prosecution services, Federal Police sent inquiries documents, via Central Authorities, to be used as evidences of diversion, through “Spontaneous Information Transmission” mechanism.

Note: some of the operations have not finalised
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