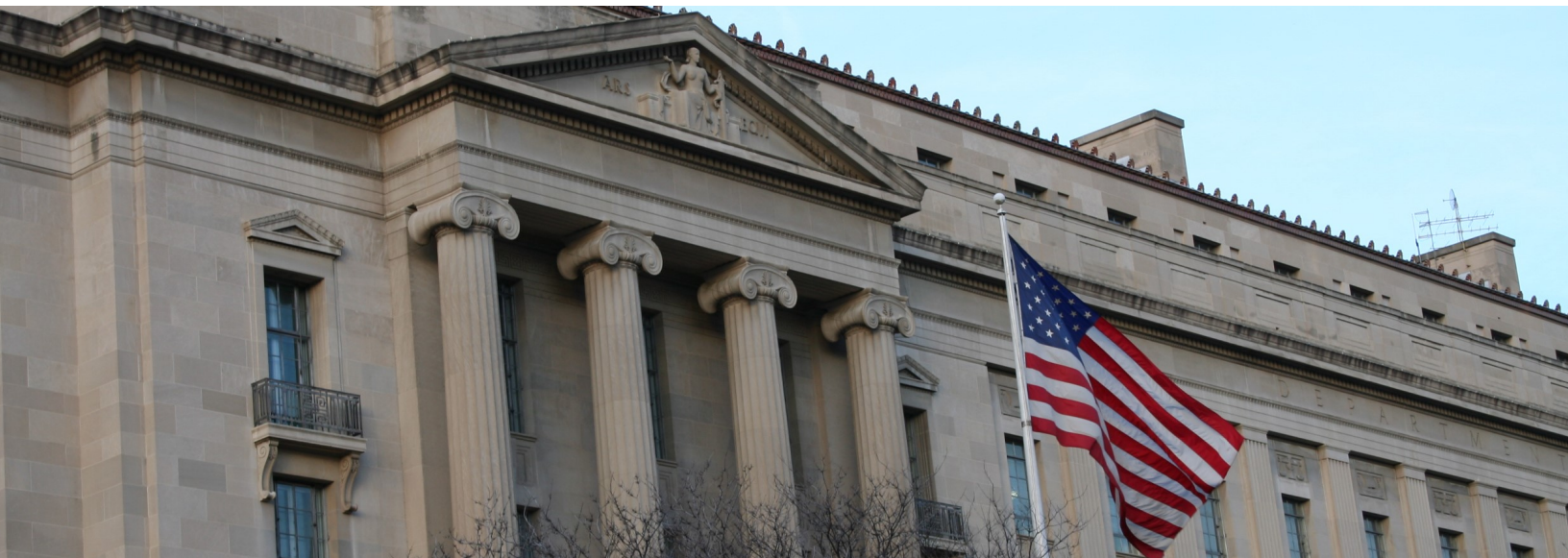




# Office of the Inspector General U.S. Department of Justice

**OVERSIGHT ★ INTEGRITY ★ GUIDANCE**



## **Audit of the United States Marshals Service's Controls over Weapons, Munitions, and Explosives**



# Executive Summary

## *Audit of the United States Marshals Service's Controls over Weapons, Munitions, and Explosives*

### Objectives

The objectives of this audit were to evaluate: (1) the U.S. Marshals Service's (USMS) controls over weapons, munitions, and explosives; (2) the USMS's compliance with policies governing weapons, munitions, and explosives; and (3) the accuracy of the USMS's weapons, munitions, and explosives inventories.

The audit covers the USMS's weapons, munitions, and explosives inventories, including firearms, Tasers, ammunition, chemical agents, diversionary devices, and explosives from fiscal year (FY) 2015 through June 2018. To accomplish our objectives, we interviewed USMS personnel; evaluated USMS's policies governing weapons, munitions, and explosives; analyzed select data fields in the property management system; and reviewed firearms purchases. We also reviewed documentation related to firearms that were reported as lost or stolen during the scope of our audit to determine whether USMS took appropriate action. Finally, we assessed compliance with USMS policy and conducted physical inventories at 19 USMS sites.

### Results in Brief

We found that the USMS has strong physical controls over its weapons, munitions, and explosives. We also found that the USMS has strong inventory controls over its explosives. However, we identified significant deficiencies related to tracking weapons, ammunition, and less lethal munitions, as well as noncompliance with ammunition policy requirements. We also identified areas where the USMS's policies should be strengthened to improve the safeguarding of its weapons and munitions.

### Recommendations

Our report contains seven recommendations to improve the USMS's controls over its weapons, ammunition, less lethal munitions, and explosives. We requested a response to the draft audit report from the USMS, which can be found in Appendix 2. Our analysis of that response is included in Appendix 3.

### Audit Results

As of June 2018, the USMS reported 28,364 firearms, Tasers, and other weapons in its inventory. The USMS also maintains large quantities of ammunition for duty use, training, and periodic firearms qualifications. In addition, the USMS's tactical unit—the Special Operations Group (SOG)—uses a variety of specialty weapons, less lethal munitions, and explosives.

**Weapons Inventory** - We found that the USMS has strong physical controls over its weapons, including firearms and Tasers. The USMS tracks its weapons using the Property Asset Control Enterprise Solution (PACES), its electronic property management system. During our physical inventory we were able to locate all weapons selected for our sample and trace a sample of weapons back to PACES. However, we found that one office had unauthorized firearms in its inventory.

**Weapons Purchases** - We identified 110 firearms purchased during FYs 2017 and 2018 that were in the USMS's possession for as long as 16 months but not recorded in its property management system. This creates a risk that the firearms may be lost, misplaced, stolen, or otherwise compromised without detection.

**Lost and Stolen Firearms** - We noted that between FY 2015 and April 2018, the USMS reported 23 lost or stolen firearms. We also identified a concern related to the USMS not tracking if the firearms are recovered after the completion of a USMS Internal Affairs investigation.

**Ammunition** - The USMS has strong physical controls over ammunition. However, we found that of the 18 USMS sites included in our audit that had ammunition inventories, 16 did not fully comply with the USMS's ammunition tracking and inventory requirements. Most significantly, we identified nearly 2.45 million rounds of ammunition that were not tracked prior to the initiation of our audit. Four of the five sites that were not tracking ammunition prepared ammunition registers in anticipation of our site work. We also found that ammunition tracking requirements are not explicitly stated in the USMS's existing policy, and the USMS does not currently assess whether its



# Executive Summary

## *Audit of the United States Marshals Service's Controls over Weapons, Munitions, and Explosives*

districts and divisions are complying with the ammunition tracking requirements.

***Less Lethal Munitions*** - We found that the USMS has strong physical controls over its less lethal munitions and diversionary devices, almost all of which are located at the SOG Tactical Center. We also found that SOG had strong controls for tracking its Noise Flash Diversionary Devices, commonly referred to as flash bang grenades. The USMS does not require that less lethal munitions and diversionary devices be tracked and inventoried. As a result, with the exception of flash bang grenades, these items were not being tracked prior to the initiation of our audit. However, SOG began tracking its less lethal munitions inventory in anticipation of our fieldwork.

***Explosives*** - The SOG Tactical Center is the only USMS site that maintains explosives. We found that SOG had strong physical, tracking, and inventory controls over its explosives. We also physically verified all explosive materials in our inventory sample.

**AUDIT OF THE UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE'S  
CONTROLS OVER WEAPONS, MUNITIONS, AND EXPLOSIVES**

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# AUDIT OF THE UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE'S CONTROLS OVER WEAPONS, MUNITIONS, AND EXPLOSIVES

## INTRODUCTION

As of April 2018, the United States Marshals Service (USMS) had over 3,500 Deputy U.S. Marshals and Criminal Investigators, and approximately 5,200 contracted Court Security Officers. USMS operations include its headquarters' divisions, training facilities, 94 districts consisting of approximately 310 offices and sub-offices, and 3 foreign field offices. In support of its operations, the USMS maintains weapons, munitions, and explosives, including firearms, Tasers, ammunition, chemical agents, diversionary devices, and explosive breaching charges.

USMS's Deputy U.S. Marshals and Criminal Investigators are required to carry a primary-duty handgun, and may also carry supplemental handguns, rifles, shotguns, and submachine guns.<sup>1</sup> USMS staff also have the option to carry a Taser or oleoresin capsicum spray, commonly known as 'pepper spray'. The contracted Court Security Officers are also issued handguns for duty use, but are not authorized to carry USMS-issued firearms off duty.<sup>2</sup> As of June 2018, the USMS reported 28,364 firearms, Tasers, and other weapons in its inventory, which are tracked through its official automated property management system—Property Asset Control Enterprise Solution (PACES).<sup>3</sup> The USMS also maintains large quantities of ammunition for duty use, training, and periodic firearms qualifications, which are required to be tracked on handwritten logs.

The Special Operations Group (SOG), the USMS's tactical unit, uses a variety of specialty weapons, munitions, and explosives, including fully-automatic machine guns; projectile launching devices and less lethal projectiles; chemical agents; Noise Flash Diversionary Devices, commonly referred to as flash bang grenades; and explosive breaching charges. However, the USMS does not have any requirements for tracking chemical agents, diversionary devices, other less lethal munitions, and explosives.

The USMS is designated as the custodian of all assets seized for forfeiture by DOJ's investigative agencies, including seized weapons and ammunition. However, in March 2017 the USMS and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding, which states that ATF assumes responsibility for storage, custody, and final disposition of firearms

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<sup>1</sup> USMS employees have the option of using USMS authorized personally owned firearms for duty use, including a primary handgun, secondary handgun, rifle, and shotgun.

<sup>2</sup> When Court Security Officers are not on duty, their handguns are kept in secure storage areas, such as gun lockers, at the judicial facilities where they provide security services.

<sup>3</sup> Other weapons include less lethal electronic control devices, such as stun guns and stun belts, training weapons and systems, and projectile launching devices that fire less lethal munitions.

and ammunition seized for forfeiture on behalf of all DOJ investigative agencies. During this audit, the USMS transferred physical custody of its remaining seized firearms and ammunition inventories to ATF. As a result, we did not assess the USMS's controls over seized weapons and ammunition.<sup>4</sup>

## **OIG Audit Approach**

Our objectives were to evaluate: (1) the USMS's controls over weapons, munitions, and explosives; (2) the USMS's compliance with policies governing weapons, munitions, and explosives; and (3) the accuracy of the USMS's weapons, munitions, and explosives inventories. The scope of our audit generally covers the USMS's weapons, munitions, and explosives inventories, including firearms, Tasers, ammunition, chemical agents, diversionary devices, and explosive breaching charges from fiscal year (FY) 2015 through June 2018.

To accomplish our objectives, we interviewed USMS personnel, including officials from the Asset Forfeiture Division, Management Support Division, Office of Professional Responsibility, and Training Division. We evaluated the USMS's policies governing weapons, munitions, and explosives. We reviewed documentation related to firearms purchased in FYs 2017 and 2018 to ensure that acquisitions were properly recorded. We also reviewed documentation related to firearms that were reported as lost or stolen during the scope of our audit to determine whether the USMS took appropriate action. Finally, we conducted site work at 19 USMS sites, as shown in Table 1.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> We assessed ATF's controls over seized weapons and ammunition in a prior audit, in which we identified concerns related to safeguarding seized weapons and ammunition while stored outside of ATF's evidence vaults, which creates a risk that the evidence may be lost, misplaced, stolen, or otherwise compromised. See U.S. Department of Justice, Office of the Inspector General, *Audit of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Controls over Weapons, Munitions, and Explosives*, Audit Report 18-21 (March 2018).

<sup>5</sup> We selected a broad range of USMS offices and functions for our site work, including large district offices; smaller district offices and sub-offices; SOG's Tactical Center; the USMS's Training Academy; the Justice Prisoner and Alien Transportation System's (JPATS) Air Fleet Operations Center; and other headquarters functions, including those within the Investigative Operations Division, Judicial Security Division, Program Operations, and Tactical Operations Division.

**Table 1**  
**USMS District and Division Offices Selected for Audit**

USMS District Offices	Weapons
District of Colorado (D/CO)	
Denver Office	161
District of Oregon (D/OR)	
Portland Office	192
Eugene Sub-Office	47
Medford Sub-Office	16
Southern District of Texas (S/TX)	
Houston Office	309
Corpus Christi Sub-Office	124
Victoria Sub-Office	26
Western District of Oklahoma (W/OK)	
Oklahoma City Office	162
USMS Division Offices (Location)	Weapons
Investigative Operations Division (IOD)	
Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force (CARFTF) (Washington, D.C.)	71
Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) (Houston, TX)	8
Judicial Security Division (JSD)	
Office of Protective Operations (OPO) (Arlington, VA)	31
Court Security – Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals (Denver, CO)	11
Justice Prisoner and Alien Transportation System (JPATS)	
Air Fleet Operations Center (Oklahoma City, OK)	177
Program Operations	
Southwest Region	82
Mountain Region	51
Tactical Operations Division (TOD)	
Special Operations Group Tactical Center (SOGTC) (Pineville, LA)	1,110
Office of Security Programs (OSP) (Arlington, VA)	61
Strategic National Stockpile Security Operations (SNSSO) – West (Denver, CO)	18
Training Division	
Training Academy (Glynco, GA)	1,428

Source: USMS's PACES as of June 2018

The purpose of our site work was to assess the USMS's compliance with policies regarding its weapons, munitions, and explosives, as well as the effectiveness of those policies. As applicable, we also conducted a physical inventory of a sample of weapons and explosives, as well as a 100-percent inventory of ammunition, less lethal munitions, and diversionary devices.<sup>6</sup> Appendix 1 contains a more detailed description of our audit objectives, scope, and methodology.

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<sup>6</sup> The Southern District of Texas' Victoria sub-office does not maintain any ammunition on site. Additionally, chemical agents were only maintained at three sites, and other less lethal munitions, diversionary devices, and explosives are only maintained by SOG.



## **AUDIT RESULTS**

We found that the USMS generally had strong physical controls over its weapons, munitions, and explosives, as well as strong inventory controls over explosives. However, we identified significant deficiencies related to the USMS's inventory controls over its weapons, as well as controls over tracking its ammunition, less lethal munitions, and diversionary devices, which, in our judgment, create a risk that sensitive items may be lost, misplaced, or stolen without detection. Most significantly, we identified 110 firearms purchased in FYs 2017 and 2018 that were not recorded in the USMS's property management system. We also found that of the 18 USMS sites included in our audit that had ammunition inventories, 16 did not fully comply with the USMS's ammunition tracking and inventory requirements. Additionally, we identified nearly 2.45 million rounds of ammunition that were not tracked prior to the initiation of our audit. Finally, we found that the USMS does not have tracking requirements for its less lethal munitions and diversionary devices; as a result, the majority of these items were not being tracked prior to the initiation of our audit.

### **Controls over Weapons**

The USMS tracks its weapons using PACES, its electronic property management system. The USMS also conducts an annual physical inventory of all USMS accountable property in PACES, including all weapons. We found that the USMS has strong physical controls over its weapons. During our physical inventory we were able to locate all weapons selected for our sample and trace a sample of weapons back to PACES, although we noted some data errors in PACES. However, we noted that one office had unauthorized firearms in its inventory. Additionally, we identified 110 firearms purchased in FYs 2017 and 2018 that were not recorded in PACES. Finally, between FY 2015 and April 2018, the USMS reported 23 lost or stolen firearms but did not track whether these firearms were recovered after the completion of an Internal Affairs investigation.

#### *Physical Security of Weapons*

We found that the USMS had strong physical controls over firearms, Tasers, and other weapons. Deputy U.S. Marshals and Criminal Investigators are responsible for properly safeguarding their USMS-issued weapons at all times. Additionally, the district and division offices have designated staff who are responsible for all weapons that are not issued to an employee. When weapons are not in the personal custody of Deputy U.S. Marshals, Criminal Investigators, and Court Security Officers they must be stored in an appropriate locked container, such as a safe, vault, or weapons locker. At the 19 USMS sites we visited, we found that all of the weapons in our sample were either in the custody of the assigned Deputy U.S. Marshal, Criminal Investigator, or Court Security Officer, or stored in an appropriate locked container.

### *Accuracy of the USMS's Property Management System*

As of June 2018, the USMS reported 28,364 firearms, Tasers, and other weapons in its inventory. We selected a sample of 467 weapons from PACES, the USMS's automated property management system, including firearms, Tasers, and other weapons, to ensure they were physically accounted for and accurately tracked in PACES. We selected an additional 248 weapons while on site to ensure the field sites' PACES records were complete and accurate. During our physical inventory, we located all 467 weapons in our sample and traced the additional 248 weapons back to PACES.

However, we identified concerns with the accuracy of some of the PACES records. Each PACES record includes the weapon's make, model, serial number, current location, and the employee to whom the weapon is currently assigned. During our testing, we found that at least one field in the PACES record was incorrect for 20 of the weapons in our sample. We determined that these errors stemmed from data entry errors at the time the weapon was first entered into in PACES or from not updating PACES when a weapon is reassigned or moved to a different location. While the PACES errors ultimately did not impact our ability to locate the weapons included in our sample and USMS staff corrected the errors we identified, it is important that the USMS maintains current and accurate records reflecting the location of each of its weapons and the personnel responsible for safeguarding them.

### *Unauthorized Firearms*

We found that Court Security for the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver had two firearms that were not authorized in accordance with USMS's firearms policy. This included a machine gun that was capable of fully-automatic fire, as shown in Figure 1.

**Figure 1**



Source: OIG photo of a machine gun capable of fully-automatic fire

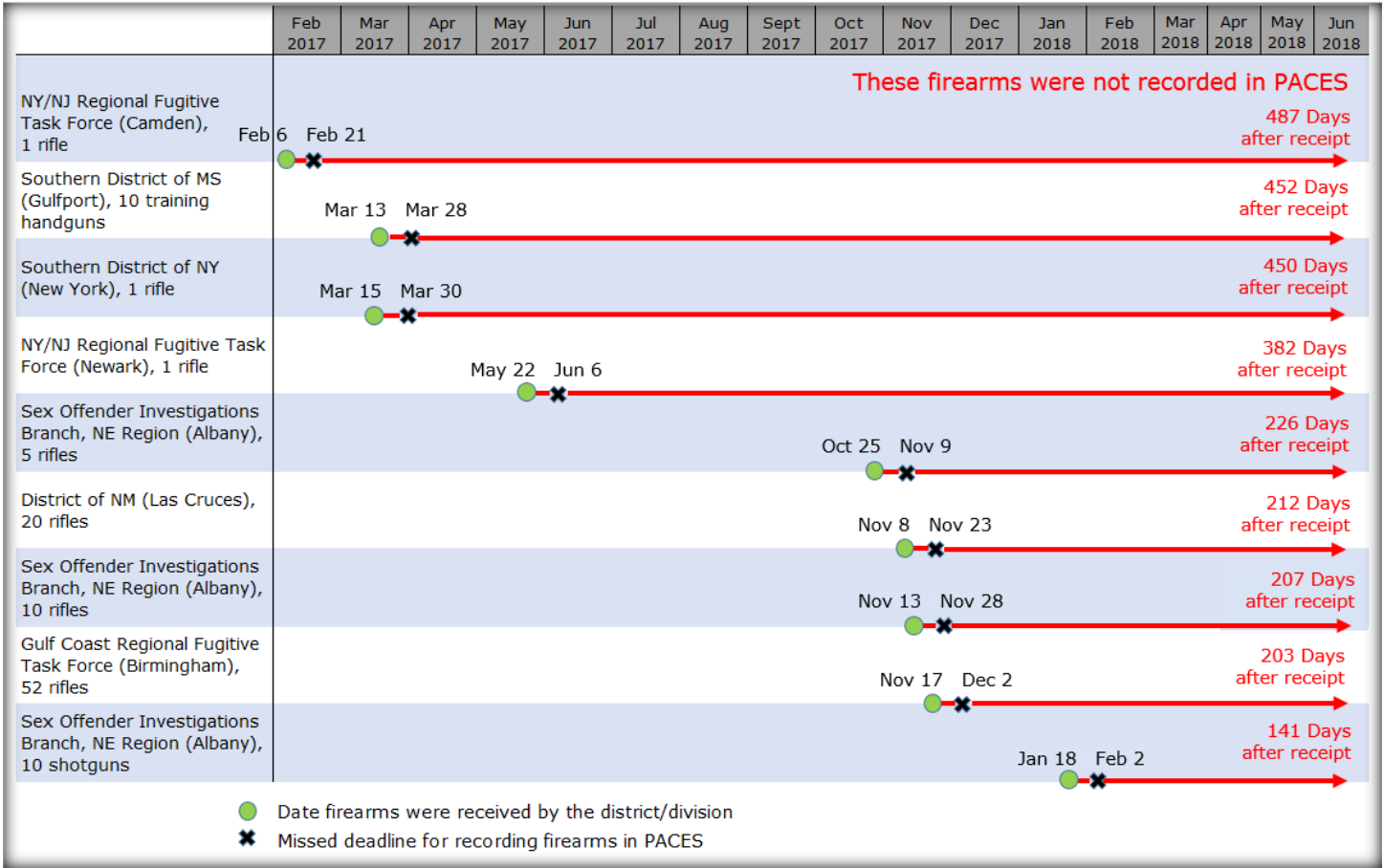
According to USMS policy, weapons capable of fully automatic fire may not be used by districts or divisions with the exception of SOG. The office also had a SIG Arms P220 handgun that is not currently included in USMS's list of authorized firearms. USMS policy states that all excess USMS-owned firearms, including those that are not authorized, may be transferred to the Training Division. Subsequent to our site work, the unauthorized firearms were transferred to the Training Division; as a result, we are not making a recommendation related to this issue.

### *Firearms Purchases*

According to USMS policy, districts and divisions are not authorized to procure weapons. To acquire new weapons, the district or division must submit a request to the Training Division. The Training Division orders the weapons and the weapons are then shipped directly from the vendor to the district or division. Upon receipt of the weapons, the district or division is required to send a copy of the shipping and receiving documents to the Training Division and notify the Property Management Office. USMS policy also requires either the district's or division's property officer or the Property Management Office to enter the newly acquired weapons in PACES within 15 days of receipt.

We reviewed firearms purchases during October 2016 through May 2018 to determine if new firearms were entered into PACES in accordance with USMS policy. During the 20-month period included in our analysis, the USMS purchased 872 firearms that were received at 69 different sites. Based on our analysis, we found that 110 of the 872 firearms (13 percent) were not entered into the USMS property management system after they were received, which creates a risk that the firearms may be lost, misplaced, stolen, or otherwise compromised without detection. The 110 firearms were received at 7 different USMS sites but had not been entered into PACES as of June 8, 2018, which was between 141 and 487 days from the time they were received, as detailed in Figure 2.

**Figure 2**  
**Purchased Firearms Not Recorded In PACES**  
 (as of June 8, 2018)



Source: OIG analysis of USMS’s purchasing documentation and PACES

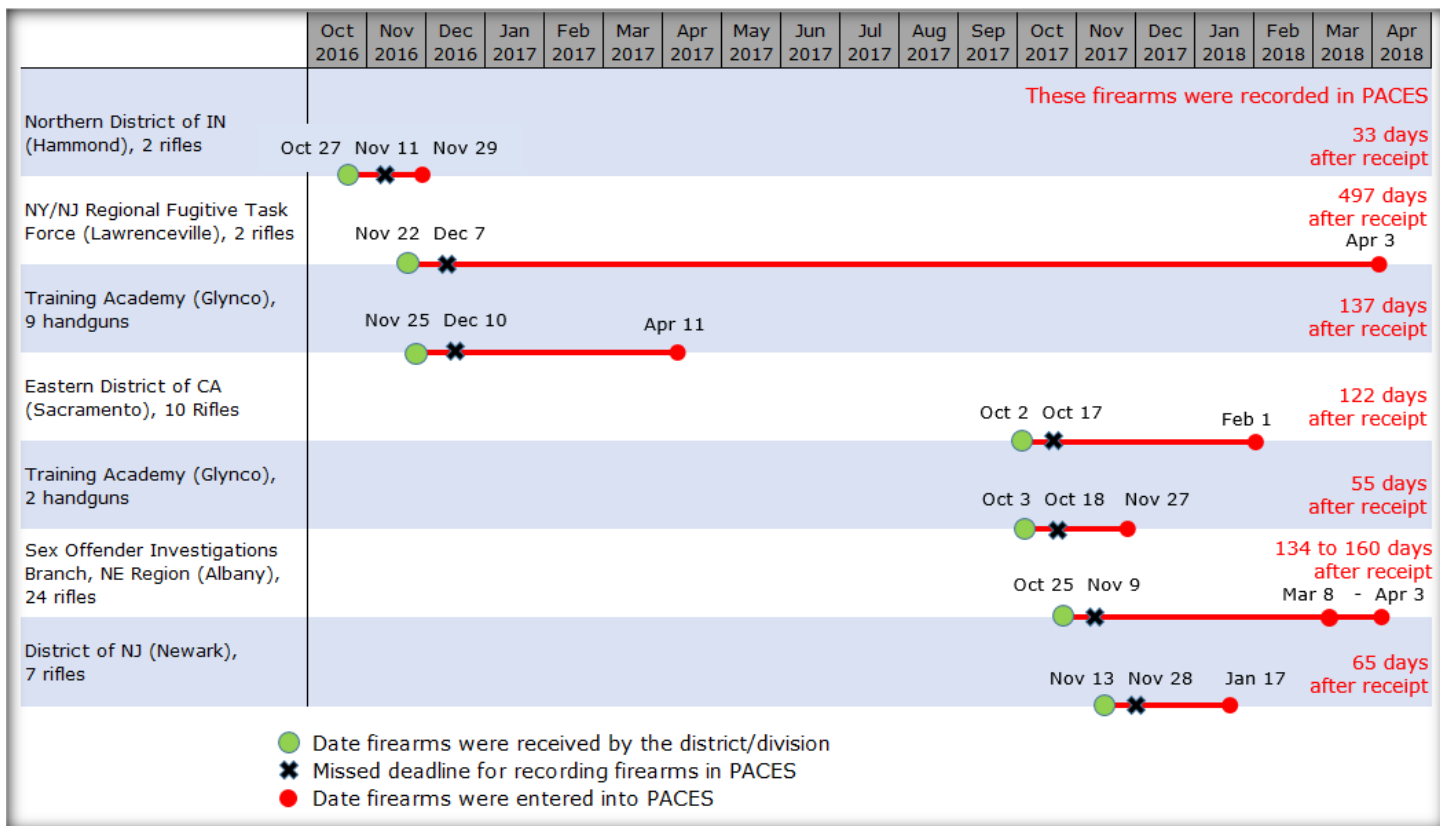
We requested photos, including serial numbers, of all 110 firearms and verified that all of the firearms were in the USMS’s control. We also confirmed that all 110 firearms have now been entered into PACES.

We contacted all 7 sites to determine why the 110 firearms had not been entered into PACES. Staff from one site stated that the firearms were not entered into PACES because they were not yet in use. For the remaining six sites, staff indicated that some or all of the firearms had been issued but were not recorded in PACES due to an oversight. Particularly concerning was the fact that the District of New Mexico’s property officer informed us that she was unaware of the fact that the Las Cruces office had received 20 firearms in November 2017, until she conducted the annual property inventory in March 2018. At that time, Deputy U.S. Marshals, who were already assigned the rifles, showed her the firearms along with the other property assigned to them. However, she did not record the new firearms in PACES

at that time because her role as the property officer is a collateral duty and she did not know how to enter new property into the system.<sup>7</sup>

We also found that an additional 56 firearms were entered into the property management system more than 15 days after they were received. Six USMS sites took between 33 days and 497 days after receiving the firearms to enter them into PACES, as shown in Figure 3.

**Figure 3**  
**Purchased Firearms Recorded in PACES More Than 15 Days After Receipt**



Source: OIG analysis of USMS's purchasing documentation and PACES

Finally, we found that the USMS does not have any controls in place to ensure that the receiving district or division notifies the Property Management Office that the weapons have been received, as required by USMS policy. Additionally, there is no control in place that requires the Property Management Office to confirm that the weapons are recorded in PACES. This is particularly concerning, given that PACES is the primary means by which the USMS tracks and inventories its weapons. Therefore, we recommend the USMS implement a centralized procedure to ensure that all acquired weapons are entered into the property management system in a timely manner.

<sup>7</sup> Given the significance of this issue, we contacted USMS headquarters staff to make them aware of it prior to the issuance of this report.

### *Lost and Stolen Firearms*

Between FY 2015 and April 2018, USMS's Deputy U.S. Marshals and Criminal Investigators reported 23 lost and stolen firearms resulting from 18 separate incidents. USMS Internal Affairs is responsible for investigating the loss or theft and imposing disciplinary action. USMS Internal Affairs reported that 9 of the 23 lost or stolen firearms were recovered, none of which is known to have been involved in an unrelated crime. The details related to the 23 lost and stolen firearms included in our analysis are shown in Table 2.

**Table 2**  
**Lost and Stolen USMS Firearms**

Type of Loss	Type of Firearm	Firearm Recovered	Synopsis	Recovery Facts	Disciplinary Action
Stolen	Handgun		Firearms inside stolen government vehicle		Pending
Stolen	Rifle				
Stolen	Handgun		Safe stolen during home burglary		Cleared by Internal Affairs
Stolen	Shotgun	Yes	Theft from a government vehicle	Recovered by local police during search warrant	2-day suspension
Stolen	Shotgun	Yes			
Stolen	Shotgun	Yes		Recovered by local police	
Stolen	Shotgun				
Stolen	Handgun		Theft from a government vehicle		2-day suspension
Stolen	Handgun		Firearm inside stolen personal vehicle		Pending
Lost	Handgun	Reactivated in PACES	Missing after last property inventory		3-day suspension
Lost	Handgun	Yes	Left in restroom at federal courthouse	Found by custodial staff	4-day suspension
Stolen	Handgun	Yes	Firearms inside stolen government vehicle	Vehicle and firearms recovered	None, employee left agency
Stolen	Shotgun	Yes			
Lost	Handgun		Lost shoulder bag containing firearm		4-day suspension
Stolen	Rifle	Reactivated in PACES	Theft from a government vehicle		5-day suspension
Stolen	Rifle		Theft from a government vehicle		Cleared by Internal Affairs
Stolen	Handgun		Missing from gun safe inside residence		1-day suspension
Stolen	Handgun	Yes	Theft from a government vehicle	Recovered by local police	2-day suspension
Stolen	Handgun		Theft from a personal vehicle		9-day suspension
Lost	Handgun		Missing from a government vehicle		2-day suspension
Stolen	Handgun		Theft from a government vehicle		5-day suspension
Lost	Handgun	Yes	Missing from a government vehicle	Recovered by local police supervising probationary inmate road work crew	5-day suspension
Lost	Handgun	Yes	Left in restroom at federal courthouse	Found by courthouse employee	1-day suspension

Source: USMS's Internal Affairs, Office of Professional Responsibility

As shown above, much of the information related to whether lost or stolen firearms were recovered is missing because USMS Internal Affairs does not continue to track this information after the conclusion of the employee misconduct

investigation. USMS Management Support Division staff explained that it is possible to determine if firearms are recovered after the investigation is closed, since the firearms are required to be reactivated in PACES. We reviewed the PACES records for the 23 lost or stolen firearms and found that an additional 2 firearms were recovered and reactivated in PACES after the Internal Affairs investigation was closed, which are shown as “Reactivated in PACES” in Table 2. Although it is possible to use PACES to identify lost or stolen firearms that have been recovered, this information is not readily available or monitored by the USMS. Therefore, we recommend that the USMS implement a centralized procedure for tracking the status of lost and stolen firearms for as long as they remain missing.

We assessed the monthly rate of loss of USMS firearms over a 43-month period from FY 2015 through April 2018 to determine how it compared to the loss rate identified in a prior 2002 OIG audit.<sup>8</sup> We found that the loss rate doubled since our 2002 audit, from 0.26 firearms per month to 0.53 per month. However, while the number of firearms lost per month nearly doubled since the prior audit, it is difficult to draw a conclusion as to whether the increase is significant since our prior audit was conducted over 15 years ago. Additionally, since that time, the number of USMS staff and contractors has substantially increased, and most significantly, the USMS weapons inventory has doubled. While we are not drawing any conclusions based on this comparison, the USMS must continuously work towards reducing its firearms’ loss rate.

We also reviewed USMS Internal Affairs records to determine whether the USMS took disciplinary action in response to the lost or stolen firearms. We found that in 13 of the 18 incidents, the USMS’s Office of Professional Responsibility, Discipline Management implemented disciplinary actions, including suspensions ranging between 1 day and 9 days. For the remaining five incidents, two cases are still pending; two cases did not result in disciplinary action because the Internal Affairs investigation determined that the employees complied with USMS policy for storing firearms and no misconduct was found; and in one case the employee left the agency prior to the closure of the investigation.

## **Controls over Ammunition**

We found that the USMS had strong physical controls to ensure that ammunition is stored in secure locations with limited access. However, we found that of 18 USMS sites included in our audit that maintained ammunition inventories, 16 did not fully comply with the USMS’s ammunition tracking and inventory requirements. Most significantly, nine USMS sites were not tracking nearly 2.45 million rounds of ammunition prior to the initiation of our audit. In our judgment, the issues we identified resulted from the fact that the USMS’s ammunition tracking requirements are not explicitly stated in the USMS’s existing policy, as well as the fact that the USMS does not currently assess whether its districts and divisions are complying with its ammunition tracking requirements.

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<sup>8</sup> U.S. Department of Justice, Office of the Inspector General, *The U.S. Marshals Service’s Control Over Weapons and Laptop Computers*, Audit Report 02-29, (August 2002).



### *Physical Security of Ammunition*

We found that the USMS had strong physical controls over ammunition. USMS policy requires that ammunition be protected using secure storage and access controls, including limiting access to specified employees. At all 18 sites included in our audit that maintained ammunition inventories, we found that all of the ammunition was in a vault, safe, or other secure storage area. We also found that the sites limited access to specified USMS employees.

### *Ammunition Tracking*

Strong controls over ammunition, which in our judgment is a sensitive item, requires an inventory management system that maintains accurate, current, and historical data. This includes tracking product movement—increases and decreases in inventory and the reason for the changes in quantity—over time. USMS policy requires that an ammunition inventory be conducted annually and provides a link to the Ammunition Inventory Register (ammunition register), which is used to document the inventory. The ammunition register lists the tracking requirements, including a requirement that separate ammunition registers be kept for each type of ammunition and retained for a period of 36 months after the end of the fiscal year in which the entry is posted, as well as a requirement that an entry be made each time ammunition is received or issued, along with the reason for the change. We found that of the 18 USMS sites included in our audit that maintained ammunition inventories, 16 did not fully comply with the USMS's ammunition tracking and inventory requirements, as shown in Table 3.

**Table 3**  
**Ammunition Tracking Issues**

<b>USMS SITE</b>	<b>No Inventory Records</b>	<b>No Inventory Records for Certain Ammunition</b>	<b>Inventory Records Not Retained for Required Period</b>	<b>Inconsistent Record-Keeping</b>	<b>Annual Inventory Not Documented</b>
<b>District Offices</b>					
D/CO, Denver	x				
D/OR, Portland		x	x	x	x
D/OR, Eugene		x			x
D/OR, Medford	No issues identified.				
S/TX, Houston		x		x	
S/TX, Corpus Christi					x
W/OK, Oklahoma City					x
<b>Division Offices</b>					
IOD – CARFTF, D.C.	x				
IOD – OCDETF, Houston			x		
JSD – OPO, Arlington	x				
JSD – Ct Security, Denver			x	x	
JPATS Air Fleet, OKC			x		
Program Ops, Southwest	No issues identified.				
Program Ops, Mountain					x
TOD - SOGTC, Pineville	x				
TOD – OSP, Arlington				x	x
TOD – SNSO, Denver	x				
Training Academy, Glynco		x	x	x	

Source: OIG analysis of the USMS's ammunition registers and inventories

Specifically, we found that five USMS sites did not track ammunition prior to the initiation of our audit, and an additional four sites did not track one or more types of ammunition in their inventory. For the sites that were using ammunition registers prior to the initiation of our audit, we found that five sites did not properly retain the ammunition registers; five sites did not consistently document additions or withdrawals of ammunition on the ammunition registers, meaning that there were unexplained changes in the inventory balances; and six sites did not document the completion of an annual ammunition inventory. We believe these are control weaknesses that increase the risk of ammunition being lost, misplaced, or stolen without detection.

In our judgment, the issues we identified related to tracking ammunition resulted, in part, from the fact that the USMS's tracking requirements are not explicitly stated in the USMS's existing policy. The only mention of ammunition inventories appears in USMS Policy Directive 14.12, Authorized Ammunition Purchases. The primary purpose of this policy is to provide ordering information for purchasing ammunition, not to outline requirements to ensure that ammunition is

properly safeguarded. The policy briefly mentions the annual ammunition inventory requirement, stating that the annual ammunition inventory is to be verified for accuracy using the ammunition register, which is provided as a link. However, the policy does not include specific requirements for tracking ammunition; rather, the tracking requirements are only stated on the ammunition register. While we believe the requirements on the ammunition register are in and of themselves effective controls, the absence of this language in the policy itself increases the likelihood that a USMS office will not follow its ammunition tracking requirements. Therefore, we recommend that the USMS update its policy to include specific language regarding its ammunition tracking requirements.

We also found that the USMS Office of Professional Responsibility, tasked with conducting internal compliance reviews, does not currently assess whether its districts and divisions are complying with the USMS's ammunition tracking requirements. An Office of Professional Responsibility official stated that they do not look at ammunition during self-assessments or on-site compliance reviews because the ammunition policy is vague, an issue we outlined above. Staff from several sites that did not have ammunition registers indicated they were familiar with the forms, but opted not to use them because USMS headquarters does not assess compliance with the requirements. Additionally, staff from the District of Colorado's Denver office informed us that a former U.S. Marshal instructed the office to stop using the ammunition registers because they were not included in self-assessments. We believe that these statements point to the impact of excluding ammunition tracking requirements from USMS's internal oversight. In our judgment, the absence of oversight related to compliance with USMS ammunition tracking requirements increases the likelihood that its offices will not comply with one or all of the ammunition tracking requirements. Therefore, we recommend that the USMS implement an oversight procedure to ensure that districts and divisions are complying with the USMS's ammunition tracking requirements.

Finally, given that half of the offices where we completed site work either did not have ammunition registers or did not have ammunition registers for at least one type of ammunition, we believe that in addition to the recommendations above, the USMS needs to take more immediate action to ensure that all its districts and divisions are tracking ammunition. Therefore, we recommend that the USMS issue a memorandum reminding all USMS districts and divisions that they are required to use ammunition registers to track all ammunition.

### *Ammunition Inventory*

In order to assess the accuracy of the USMS's ammunition inventories, we conducted a 100-percent physical inventory of ammunition at 18 sites. As previously stated, five sites were not tracking their ammunition inventories and four sites were not tracking one or more types of ammunition. As a result, we identified nearly 2.45 million rounds of ammunition that were not accounted for prior to the initiation of our audit, as shown in Table 4.

**Table 4**  
**Unaccounted for Ammunition**

USMS Location	No Inventory Records	No Inventory Records for One or More Types of Ammunition	Untracked Quantity On Hand
<b>District Offices</b>			
D/CO, Denver	x		259,801
D/OR, Portland		x	3,100
D/OR, Eugene		x	7,200
S/TX, Houston		x	8,050
<b>Division Offices</b>			
IOD – CARFTF, D.C.	x		19,104
JSD – OPO, Arlington	x		79,064
TOD - SOGTC, Pineville	x		1,982,784
TOD – SNSSO, Denver	x		32,449
Training Academy, Glynco		x	55,351
<b>Total</b>			<b>2,446,903</b>

Note: SOG's staff pointed to the size of SOGTC's ammunition inventory and the volume of movement in an out of the ammunition inventory as variables that make tracking SOGTC's ammunition particularly challenging.

Source: OIG analysis of the USMS's ammunition inventories

Four of the five sites that were not tracking ammunition created ammunition registers in preparation for our site work, which included the current balance of most types of ammunition in their inventory. The Training Academy also prepared ammunition registers for all the ammunition not tracked prior to our site work. However, the Office of Protective Operations in Arlington did not have any ammunition registers at the time of our site work. According to Office of Protective Operations staff, they are not responsible for tracking this ammunition because the ammunition is shared among the five Judicial Security Division offices that operate out of the same location. The Judicial Security Division subsequently designated one of those offices, the National Center for Judicial Security, as responsible for tracking and inventorying the shared ammunition. As a result, prior to the issuance of this report, the National Center for Judicial Security prepared ammunition registers for the shared inventory.

For the 13 sites that maintained ammunitions registers prior to our audit, we compared the balances listed on the ammunition registers to the quantities on hand. Based on our physical inventories, we found that the ammunition registers at 6 of the 13 sites were inaccurate by between 5 and 2,650 rounds. In total, the ammunition registers were understated by 3,265 rounds. This represents a variance of one tenth of one percent of the 2.5 million rounds that were tracked using ammunition registers. As such, we identified the differences as immaterial.

## **Controls over Less Lethal Munitions and Diversionary Devices**

We found that the USMS has strong physical controls over its less lethal munitions and diversionary devices, almost all of which are located at the SOG Tactical Center. We also found that SOG had strong controls for tracking its flash bang grenades. However, the USMS does not require that less lethal munitions and diversionary devices be tracked and inventoried. As a result, with the exception of flash bang grenades, these items were not being tracked prior to the initiation of our audit.

### *Physical Security of Less Lethal Munitions and Diversionary Devices*

We found that the USMS has strong physical controls over its less lethal munitions and diversionary devices. USMS policy states that pepper spray must be stored in an appropriate locked container. USMS policy also includes a more general requirement that dangerous materials should be protected using secure storage and access controls, including limiting access to specified employees. Three USMS offices where we conducted site work had less lethal munitions and diversionary devices inventories, the large majority of which were located at the SOG Tactical Center. At all three sites, the less lethal munitions and diversionary devices were stored in vaults and other secure storage areas with access restricted to select USMS personnel.

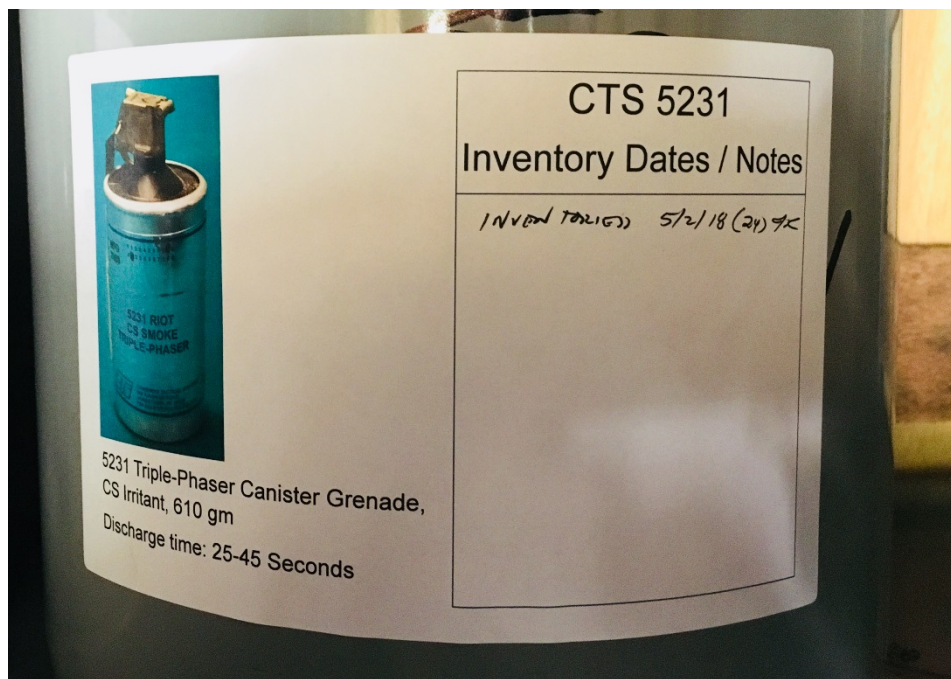
### *Tracking Less Lethal Munitions and Diversionary Devices*

SOG's flash bang grenade inventory is tracked by serial number and recorded on a running inventory log. Additionally, SOG personnel maintain a spreadsheet that tracks the dates the flash bang grenades are expended by serial number.

Conversely, we found that SOG did not track any of its other less lethal munitions, including 2-chlorobenzalmalononitrile (tear gas), oleoresin capsicum (pepper spray), smoke grenades and sprays, and various impact baton projectiles. We also noted that the District of Oregon's Portland office and the Training Academy had handheld pepper spray that was not tracked. The USMS does not require that less lethal munitions and diversionary devices be tracked and inventoried. We believe that this is a control weakness that increases the risk of these items being lost, misplaced, or stolen without detection.

In anticipation of our audit, SOG began tracking all of its less lethal munitions using a two part system. SOG started using ammunition registers to track all less lethal munitions by type and location. Additionally, SOG labeled individual storage canisters with an inventory log to track movement in and out of each canister, as shown in Figure 4.

Figure 4



Source: OIG photo taken on site at the SOG Tactical Center

In our judgment, SOG's existing procedures for tracking flash bang grenades and its newly implemented procedures for tracking its less lethal munitions provides adequate controls over these inventories. However, these practices, or ones that are substantially similar, need to be formalized through policy to ensure that less lethal munitions and diversionary devices throughout the USMS are tracked consistently. Therefore, we recommend that the USMS update its policy to include a requirement to track and inventory less lethal munitions and diversionary devices.

The District of Oregon's Portland office and the Training Academy had 120 and 76 handheld pepper spray canisters, respectively, all of which had expired. Training Academy staff stated that pepper spray was no longer included as part of the training curriculum and they intend to dispose of it. District personnel stated that the office has no plans to use the pepper spray; however, they were not sure how to properly dispose of it, so it remains in the office. Therefore, in lieu of tracking unwanted or expired pepper spray, we recommend that the USMS issue guidance for disposing unwanted or expired pepper spray.

#### *Less Lethal Munitions and Diversionary Devices Inventory*

We conducted a 100-percent physical inventory of the SOG's less lethal munitions and diversionary devices, including its flash bang grenades. For the flash bang grenades, we compared the inventory log balance to the quantity on hand. We located all 47 flash bang grenades included on the log. For the less lethal munitions, we compared the newly created ammunition registers' balances, totaling 3,202, to the quantities on hand. Based on our physical inventory, we identified two discrepancies between the balances recorded on the ammunition registers and

the quantities on hand. Specifically, there were four fewer tear gas grenades and four fewer white smoke grenades than what was listed on the ammunition registers. SOG personnel determined that the discrepancies were the result of an employee not logging the removal of these items on the newly created tracking forms. SOG staff provided evidence of this activity and updated the forms.

## **Controls over Explosives**

The SOG Tactical Center is the only USMS site that maintains explosives. We found that SOG had strong physical, tracking, and inventory controls over its explosives. We located and verified the quantities of all explosive materials in our inventory sample.

### *Physical Security and Tracking of Explosives*

We found that SOG had strong physical and tracking controls over its explosives. The storage locations we saw mainly consisted of free-standing, dual-locked magazines, access to which was restricted to select SOG staff. While the USMS does not have any requirements for tracking explosives, SOG uses an explosive magazine inventory form to track each type of explosive. The form is a running log that shows the date, quantities added or removed, the balance, and remarks. The form also documents the completion of periodic inventories, as noted in the remarks section of a number of entries on the forms that we reviewed. In our judgment, SOG's procedures for tracking explosives provides adequate controls over its inventories. Additionally, we found that the explosives inventory was stored, tracked, and inventoried in accordance with federal regulations for explosive materials.<sup>9</sup> However, similar to our conclusion related to SOG's less lethal munitions and diversionary devices, requirements for tracking explosives are not formalized through USMS policy. While we offer no recommendation related to this issue because federal guidance already exists for tracking explosives, the USMS may want to reinforce the requirements laid out in federal regulations by including the explosive magazine inventory form in USMS policy.

### *Explosives Inventory*

To verify the accuracy of SOG's explosive magazine inventory forms, we selected a sample of 16 explosive materials from the forms and physically verified the quantity on hand. We were able to locate and verify the quantities of all 16 explosives materials in our sample.

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<sup>9</sup> 27 C.F.R. §§ 555.125, 555.127, 555.201 - 555.211 (2018).

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The USMS has strong physical controls over its weapons, munitions, and explosives, as well as strong inventory controls over its explosives. However, the USMS needs to improve its controls over weapons, ammunition, and less lethal munitions and diversionary devices. The USMS also needs to improve compliance with its requirements for tracking ammunition. Without sufficient controls over this sensitive property, the USMS cannot be assured that its inventories of weapons and munitions are adequately safeguarded. Most significantly, the deficiencies we identified increase the risk that the USMS's weapons and munitions can be lost, misplaced, or stolen without being detected. As a result, we make seven recommendations to improve the USMS's controls over weapons and munitions.

We recommend that the USMS:

1. Implement a centralized procedure to ensure that all acquired weapons are entered into the property management system in a timely manner.
2. Implement a centralized procedure for tracking the status of lost and stolen firearms for as long as they remain missing.
3. Update its policy to include specific language regarding its ammunition tracking requirements.
4. Implement an oversight procedure to ensure that districts and divisions are complying with the USMS's ammunition tracking requirements.
5. Issue a memorandum reminding all USMS districts and divisions that they are required to use ammunition registers to track all ammunition.
6. Update its policy to include a requirement to track and inventory less lethal munitions and diversionary devices.
7. Issue guidance for disposing unwanted or expired pepper spray.



## STATEMENT ON INTERNAL CONTROLS

As required by the Government Auditing Standards, we tested, as appropriate, internal controls significant within the context of our audit objectives. A deficiency in an internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to timely prevent or detect: (1) impairments to the effectiveness and efficiency of operations, (2) misstatements in financial or performance information, or (3) violations of laws and regulations. Our evaluation of the USMS's internal controls was not made for the purpose of providing assurance on its internal control structure as a whole. The USMS's management is responsible for the establishment and maintenance of internal controls.

As noted in the Audit Results section of this report, we identified deficiencies in the USMS's internal controls that are significant within the context of the audit objectives and based upon the audit work performed that we believe adversely affect the USMS's ability to adequately track weapons, ammunition, and less lethal munitions and diversionary devices. As a result, the USMS cannot ensure that these sensitive items are properly safeguarded.

Because we are not expressing an opinion on the USMS's internal control structure as a whole, this statement is intended solely for the information and use of the USMS. This restriction is not intended to limit the distribution of this report, which is a matter of public record.

## **STATEMENT ON COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS AND REGULATIONS**

As required by the Government Auditing Standards we tested, as appropriate given our audit scope and objectives, selected transactions, records, procedures, and practices, to obtain reasonable assurance that the USMS's management complied with federal laws and regulations for which noncompliance, in our judgment, could have a material effect on the results of our audit. The USMS's management is responsible for ensuring compliance with applicable federal laws and regulations. In planning our audit, we identified the following laws and regulations that concerned the operations of the auditee and that were significant within the context of the audit objectives:

- 27 C.F.R. §555

Our audit included examining, on a test basis, the USMS's compliance with the aforementioned laws and regulations that could have a material effect on the USMS's operations, through interviewing USMS personnel, assessing internal control procedures, and conducting a physical inventory of a sample of the USMS's explosives. Nothing came to our attention that caused us to believe that the USMS was not in compliance with the aforementioned laws and regulations.

**OBJECTIVES, SCOPE, AND METHODOLOGY**

Our objectives were to evaluate: (1) the USMS's controls over weapons, munitions, and explosives; (2) the USMS's compliance with policies governing weapons, munitions, and explosives; and (3) the accuracy of the USMS's weapons, munitions, and explosives inventories.

We conducted this performance audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives.

Our audit covers the USMS's weapons, munitions, and explosives inventories, including firearms, Tasers, ammunition, chemical agents, diversionary devices, and explosive breaching charges from fiscal year (FY) 2015 through June 2018. To accomplish our objectives, we interviewed personnel responsible for the USMS's inventory of firearms, ammunition, less lethal munitions and diversionary devices, and explosives at 19 USMS sites throughout the United States, as well as officials at USMS headquarters. This included officials from the Asset Forfeiture Division, Management Support Division, Office of Professional Responsibility, and Training Division. We evaluated the USMS's policies governing weapons, munitions, and explosives. Our primary references were USMS Policy Directive 7.1, Management of Personal Property; USMS Policy Directive 7.1.2, Property Acquisition, Utilization, and Disposal; USMS Policy Directive 14.11, Firearms; USMS Policy Directive 14.12, Authorized Ammunition Purchases; USMS Policy Directive 14.16, Less-than-Lethal Devices; and USMS Policy Directive 17.10, Vaults, Safes, and Secure Storage Areas. Additionally, we evaluated USMS Form USM-335, Ammunition Inventory Register. We also reviewed federal explosives regulations.

During our audit, we obtained information from the USMS's property management system, PACES. We did not test the reliability of the system as a whole. However, we assessed the reliability of the data provided by the USMS by conducting physical inventories of a sample of weapons, which allowed us to test for completeness and accuracy. We determined that the data were sufficiently reliable for the purposes of this report.

We conducted site work at 19 USMS district and division offices, as shown in Table 1. These sites were judgmentally selected in order to examine a broad range of USMS offices and functions, including large district offices; smaller district offices and sub-offices; SOG's Tactical Center; the USMS's Training Academy; the JPATS Air Fleet Operations Center; and other headquarters functions, including those within the Investigative Operations Division, Judicial Security Division, Program Operations, and the Tactical Operations Division.

The purpose of our site work was to assess the USMS's compliance with policies regarding its weapons, munitions, and explosives, as well as the effectiveness of those policies, and to determine if the USMS's weapons, munitions, and explosives inventories were accurate. We interviewed officials at each location, including supervisors, firearms instructors, weapons custodians, and property officers. We observed the physical security of the sites' weapons, munitions, and explosives inventories. We also reviewed PACES records for weapons and supporting documents, such as certificates of disposal, hand receipts, and repair and transfer requests; ammunition registers; and less lethal munitions, diversionary devices, and explosives tracking forms. Next, we conducted a physical inventory of USMS-owned weapons, munitions, and explosives. This included verifying the existence of a sample of weapons at all of the sites and explosives at the SOG Tactical Center, which were selected from PACES and SOG's explosive magazine inventory forms. We also selected a sample of weapons while on-site and traced those items back to PACES, in order to determine if the inventory records were complete. We then analyzed select data fields in PACES in order to assess the accuracy of those fields. In addition, we conducted a physical inventory of 100-percent of the sites' ammunition on hand to determine if all of the rounds were properly accounted for on ammunition registers. Similarly, we conducted a physical inventory of 100-percent of the sites' less lethal munitions and diversionary devices, as applicable. For weapons and explosives, we employed a judgmental sampling design, which focused on sensitive items stored at locations throughout the institution. However, this non-statistical sample design does not allow a projection of the test results for the entirety of its physical inventory.

We reviewed documentation related to firearms purchases over a 20-month period to verify the firearms were added to PACES in accordance with USMS policy. This included reviewing invoices and receiving documents for firearms received by the USMS between FY 2017 and May 2018. We also spoke with and collected photographic evidence from officials from seven sites that were in possession of firearms that were not recorded in PACES.

Finally, we reviewed data provided by USMS Internal Affairs related to firearms that were reported as lost or stolen between FY 2015 and April 2018 to determine whether the USMS took appropriate action. We reviewed select case file information, including investigation reports, police reports, and decision letters, in order to verify the accuracy of the data provided. We interviewed an official from USMS Internal Affairs regarding the details of individual cases. We also compared the lost and stolen firearms data to the associated records in PACES.

THE USMS'S RESPONSE TO THE DRAFT AUDIT REPORT




U.S. Department of Justice  
United States Marshals Service  
*Office of the Associate Directors*

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Washington, DC 20530-0001

September 18, 2018

MEMORANDUM TO: Jason R. Malstrom  
Assistant Inspector General for Audit  
Office of the Inspector General

FROM: Derrick Driscoll   
Associate Director for Operations

SUBJECT: Response to Draft Audit Report: Audit of the United States  
Marshals Service's Controls Over Weapons, Munitions, and  
Explosives

This memorandum is in response to correspondence from the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) requesting comment on the recommendations associated with the subject draft audit report. The United States Marshals Service (USMS) appreciates the opportunity to review the Report and concurs with the recommendations therein. Actions planned by the USMS with respect to OIG's recommendations are outlined in the attached response.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this response, please contact External Audit Liaison Krista Eck at 202-819-4371.

Attachment

Memorandum from Associate Director for Operations Driscoll Page 2  
Subject: Response to Draft Audit Report: Audit of the United States Marshals Service's  
Controls Over Weapons, Munitions, and Explosives

cc: David Sheeren  
Regional Audit Manager  
Office of the Inspector General

Bradley Weinsheimer  
Associate Deputy Attorney General  
Department of Justice

Matthew Sheehan  
Counsel to the Deputy Attorney General  
Department of Justice

Richard P. Theis  
Assistant Director, Audit Liaison Group  
Internal Review and Evaluation Office  
Justice Management Division

John Kilgallon  
Chief of Staff  
United States Marshals Service

**USMS Response to OIG Draft Report  
Audit of the United States Marshals Service's Controls over Weapons,  
Munitions and Explosives**

**Recommendation 1: Implement a centralized procedure to ensure that all acquired weapons are entered into the property management system in a timely manner.**

**USMS Response (Concur):** The United States Marshals Service (USMS) concurs with this recommendation and will take several steps to implement the recommendation which will ensure that firearm purchases are properly recorded in the Property Asset Control Enterprise Solution (PACES). The new procedure will provide timely notification of firearms purchases to the Property Management Office (PMO), and include controls to ensure that the notification and proper recordation occurs.

**Recommendation 2: Implement a centralized procedure for tracking the status of lost and stolen firearms for as long as they remain missing.**

**USMS Response (Concur):** The USMS concurs with this recommendation. The USMS will leverage the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), a new tracking log, and monthly crosschecks of existing systems to establish a centralized procedure that ensures all lost and stolen firearms are tracked until final disposition.

**Recommendation 3: Update its policy to include specific language regarding its ammunition tracking requirements.**

**USMS Response (Concur):** The USMS concurs with this recommendation. The Training Division will update Policy 14.12, *Authorized Ammunition Purchases*, to include specific language regarding its ammunition tracking requirements.

**Recommendation 4: Implement an oversight procedure to ensure that districts and divisions are complying with the USMS' ammunition tracking requirements.**

**USMS Response (Concur):** The USMS concurs with this recommendation. Once ammunition tracking requirements are adopted in USMS Policy 14.12, *Authorized Ammunition Purchases*, the Office of Professional Responsibility - Compliance Review will develop test questions to assess Agency compliance with the established requirements.

**Recommendation 5: Issue a memorandum reminding all USMS districts and divisions that they are required to use ammunition registers to track all ammunition.**

**USMS Response (Concur):** The USMS concurs with this recommendation. The Training Division will draft this memorandum to remind all USMS districts and divisions that they are required to use ammunition registers to track all ammunition.

**Recommendation 6: Update its policy to include a requirement to track and inventory less lethal munitions and diversionary devices.**

**USMS Response (Concur):** The USMS concurs with this recommendation. The Tactical Operations Division Special Operations Group (SOG) is authorized to deploy and use specialized weapons, optics, ammunition, and ordnance not mentioned in Policy Directive 14.11, *Firearms*, or Policy Directive 14.16, *Less-than-Lethal Devices*. SOG currently tracks less-than-lethal munitions and diversionary devices on Form USM-335, *Ammunition Inventory Register*. SOG will enhance Policy 17.13, *Special Operations Group*, to ensure all stored less-than-lethal munitions and diversionary devices are properly accounted for and tracked each time they are removed and/or returned to inventory.

**Recommendation 7: Issue guidance for disposing unwanted or expired pepper spray.**

**USMS Response (Concur):** The USMS concurs with this recommendation. The Training Division has contacted the manufacturer of pepper spray for disposal guidance. The Training Division will issue a memo to the USMS with guidance for disposing unwanted or expired pepper spray and will update Policy 14.17, *Oleoresin Capsicum*, with disposal instructions.



**OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL  
ANALYSIS AND SUMMARY OF ACTIONS  
NECESSARY TO CLOSE THE REPORT**

The OIG provided a draft of this audit report to the USMS. The USMS's response is incorporated in Appendix 2 of this final report. In response to our audit report, the USMS concurred with our recommendations and discussed the actions it will implement in response to our findings. As a result, the status of the audit report is resolved. The following provides the OIG analysis of the response and summary of actions necessary to close the report.

**Recommendations for the USMS:**

- 1. Implement a centralized procedure to ensure that all acquired weapons are entered into the property management system in a timely manner.**

Resolved. The USMS concurred with our recommendation. The USMS stated in its response that it will take several steps to implement this recommendation, including a new procedure that will provide timely notification of firearms purchases to the Property Management Office, as well as controls to ensure that the notification and proper recordation occurs.

This recommendation can be closed when we receive evidence that the USMS has implemented a centralized procedure to ensure that all acquired weapons are entered into the property management system in a timely manner.

- 2. Implement a centralized procedure for tracking the status of lost and stolen firearms for as long as they remain missing.**

Resolved. The USMS concurred with our recommendation. The USMS stated in its response that it will leverage the National Crime Information Center, a new tracking log, and monthly crosschecks of existing systems to establish a centralized procedure that ensures all lost and stolen firearms are tracked until final disposition.

This recommendation can be closed when we receive evidence that the USMS has implemented a centralized procedure for tracking the status of lost and stolen firearms for as long as they remain missing.

- 3. Update its policy to include specific language regarding its ammunition tracking requirements.**

Resolved. The USMS concurred with our recommendation. The USMS stated in its response that the Training Division will update existing policy to include

specific language regarding its ammunition tracking requirements.

This recommendation can be closed when we receive evidence that the USMS has updated its policy to include specific language regarding its ammunition tracking requirements.

**4. Implement an oversight procedure to ensure that districts and divisions are complying with the USMS's ammunition tracking requirements.**

Resolved. The USMS concurred with our recommendation. The USMS stated in its response that the Office of Professional Responsibility will use the USMS's updated policy from Recommendation 3 to develop test questions to assess the agency's compliance with the established requirements.

This recommendation can be closed when we receive evidence that the USMS has implemented an oversight procedure to ensure that districts and divisions are complying with the USMS's ammunition tracking requirements.

**5. Issue a memorandum reminding all USMS districts and divisions that they are required to use ammunition registers to track all ammunition.**

Resolved. The USMS concurred with our recommendation. The USMS stated in its response that the Training Division will draft a memorandum reminding all USMS districts and divisions that they are required to use ammunition registers to track all ammunition.

This recommendation can be closed when we receive evidence that the USMS has issued a memorandum reminding all USMS districts and divisions that they are required to use ammunition registers to track all ammunition.

**6. Update its policy to include a requirement to track and inventory less lethal munitions and diversionary devices.**

Resolved. The USMS concurred with our recommendation. The USMS stated in its response that the Special Operations Group will enhance existing policy to ensure all stored less lethal munitions and diversionary devices are properly accounted for and tracked each time they are removed and returned to inventory.

This recommendation can be closed when we receive evidence that the USMS has updated its policy to include a requirement to track and inventory less lethal munitions and diversionary devices.

**7. Issue guidance for disposing unwanted or expired pepper spray.**

Resolved. The USMS concurred with our recommendation. The USMS stated in its response that the Training Division has contacted the pepper spray manufacturer for disposal guidance. The Training Division will issue a memorandum with guidance for disposing pepper spray, as well as update existing policy with disposal instructions.

This recommendation can be closed when we receive evidence that the USMS has issued guidance for disposing unwanted or expired pepper spray.



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