

# The Militarization of America. Non-Military Federal Spending on Guns and Ammunition

Non-Military Federal Agencies Purchases of Guns, Ammunition and Military Style Equipment Fiscal Years 2006 – 2014: Oversight Study

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[Open the Books](#)

Region: [USA](#)

Theme: [Militarization and WMD](#), [Police State & Civil Rights](#)

We bring to the attention of Global Research readers the Key Findings of a recently released report by Open The Books

To read the full 50 pages report [click here](#)

## KEY FINDINGS (FY2006-FY2014)

1. Sixty-seven non-military federal agencies spent \$1.48 billion on guns, ammunition, and military-style equipment.
2. Of that total amount, 'Traditional Law Enforcement' Agencies spent 77 percent (\$1.14 billion) while 'Administrative' or 'General' Agencies spent 23 percent (\$335.1 million).
3. Non-military federal spending on guns and ammunition jumped 104 percent from \$55 million (FY2006) to \$112 million (FY2011).
4. Nearly 6 percent (\$42 million) of all federal guns and ammunition purchase transactions were wrongly coded. Some purchases were actually for ping-pong balls, gym equipment, bread, copiers, cotton balls, or cable television including a line item from the Coast Guard entered as "Cable Dude".
5. Administrative agencies including the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Small Business Administration (SBA), Smithsonian Institution, Social Security Administration, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, United States Mint, Department of Education, Bureau of Engraving and Printing, National Institute of Standards and Technology, and many other agencies purchased guns, ammo, and military-style equipment.
6. Since 2004, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) purchased 1.7 billion bullets including 453 million hollow-point bullets. As of 1/1/2014, DHS estimated its bullet inventory-reserve at 22-months, or 160 million rounds.
7. Between 1998 and 2008 (the most recent comprehensive data available) the number of

law enforcement officers employed by federal agencies increased nearly 50 percent from 83,000 (1998) to 120,000 (2008). However, Department of Justice officer count increased from 40,000 (2008) to 69,000 (2013) and Department of Homeland Security officer count increased from 55,000 (2008) to 70,000 (2013).

8. The Internal Revenue Service, with its 2,316 special agents, spent nearly \$11 million on guns, ammunition and military-style equipment.

9. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) spent \$3.1 million on guns, ammunition and military-style equipment. The EPA has spent \$715 million on its 'Criminal Enforcement Division' from FY2005 to present even as the agency has come under fire for failing to perform its basic functions.

10. Federal agencies spent \$313,958 on paintball equipment, along with \$14.7 million on Tasers, \$1.6 million on unmanned aircraft, \$8.2 million on buckshot, \$7.44 million on projectiles, and \$4 million on grenades/launchers.

11. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) spent \$11.66 million including more than \$200,000 on 'night vision equipment,' \$2.3 million on 'armor - personal,' more than \$2 million on guns, and \$3.6 million on ammunition. Veterans Affairs has 3,700 law enforcement officers guarding and securing VA medical centers.

12. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service spent \$4.77 million purchasing shotguns, .308 caliber rifles, night vision goggles, propane cannons, liquid explosives, pyro supplies, buckshot, LP gas cannons, drones, remote controlled helicopters, thermal cameras, military waterproof thermal infrared scopes, and more.

To read the full 50 pages report click here

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**1 What is the proper level of federal law enforcement power and how does it reconcile with our understanding of the Second Amendment and civil liberties?**

**2 Should this power vary by the 'public purpose' of the agency?**

**3 Is there a more efficient and better way to promote federal law enforcement?**

Whether the federal agency is a federal law enforcement agency or a rank-and-file administrative agency, transparency is vital to a robust public policy debate and an understanding of the need for and limitations on federal law enforcement power and armament.

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