

or fuel local lawlessness or violence. Information may therefore be sought — from our embassies abroad and from other sources — about the end user as well as about destination countries' firearms control laws and procedures. We want to know not only what protection local laws offer, but also how strict enforcement is, and whether these requirements are open to corruption.

All applicants seeking export permits for firearms are now required to produce an import permit, or some equally valid assurance, that their shipment will be allowed into the destination country. This ensures that firearms do not leave Canada without an assurance that they will be allowed into their country of destination and that the recipient will, indeed, be permitted to take possession of them. It is also in keeping with the spirit of the OAS convention on firearms and explosives.

Military Export Statistics

The statistics on military exports in the following tables are obtained from reports filed by exporters on the actual shipments they have made against each of the permits issued to them under the Export and Import Permits Act (EIPA). These reports list the country of destination and describe the goods and their value. Further information from the original permit application, including the identities of the potential exporter and consignee and details of transactions, is commercially highly sensitive and is provided to DFAIT in confidence. This information is protected to ensure compliance with reporting requirements. Last year, however, the exporting community agreed that the level of detail in this report could be expanded to include the uses and generic types of goods involved. The exporting companies concurred that greater transparency would help eliminate misunderstandings about the nature of these exports.

As noted above, permits are not required for the export of Group 2 items to the United States. This has been a long-standing policy arising from the integration of the North American defence industry during World War II. Statistics on military exports to that country are therefore not readily available and cannot be included in this report.

Certain types of statistics on a wide range of Canadian exports to military users may be available from other sources, such as Statistics Canada or the Canadian Commercial Corporation. These, however, may include non-military goods such as food rations, commercial computers, building materials or other civilian equipment. Since there is no direct correlation between the commodity codes used by Statistics Canada and the ECL item numbers, and since each source uses different methods of compilation, no meaningful comparison can be drawn between the data from these sources.

The internationally recognized standard for statistics on worldwide military trade is the above-mentioned United Nations' Register of Conventional Arms. It confines itself to specific categories of weapons systems and does not include parts and components or the wide array of non-lethal support systems such as radar equipment, aircraft simulators