

control measures; and

4. The monitoring and physical inventory of government arsenals through counter-intelligence operations are conducted to address pilferage of military/police supply depots.¹¹⁵

In addition, Firearms and Explosives Offices (FEO) have been established at the NAIA and the Central Post Office. Other government units such as the Bureau of Customs (BOC), the AFP, the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), and the Department of Finance monitor the port areas,. Provincial PNP units monitor the port areas in Mindanao.

The relinquishing of heavy and light weapons on the part of the military rebels during the height of their rebellion ended in November 1996.¹¹⁶ The firearms still in their possession are now considered "illegally possessed" and thus subject to law-enforcement. Allegedly, some ten thousand firearms are still in the military rebels' hands. There are also reports that some of these firearms have been sold to armed groups. However, since no extra effort is exerted to recover these firearms and military officers (retired or active) or individuals for that matter cannot be searched without due process, these firearms will be added to the statistics on loose firearms, if at all.

There is also the concern of a resurgence of illegal gun making activities in Danao as its 3,000 skilled gunsmiths struggle to earn a living while DAMANCOR and WORLD reportedly go out of business.

Despite the government efforts to curb the illegal possession of firearms and gun running, the proliferation of loose firearms still persist.

The PNP attributes this prevalence of gun smuggling activities to:

1. The prospects of huge profits;
2. The increased connivance among gun running syndicates something encouraged by corrupt law enforcement efforts;
3. The persistent involvement of political families and other influential personalities either to beef up their private armies or as instruments in the conduct of their nefarious activities; and
4. the Filipinos' yearning for guns which provides a ready market for smuggled firearms.¹¹⁷

¹¹⁵ PCTC Paper, pp. 19-21.

¹¹⁶ "Six-Year Accomplishment Report", p. 16.

¹¹⁷ PCTC Paper, p. 59.