



AR/105

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SEESAC ACTIVITY REPORT – AR/105

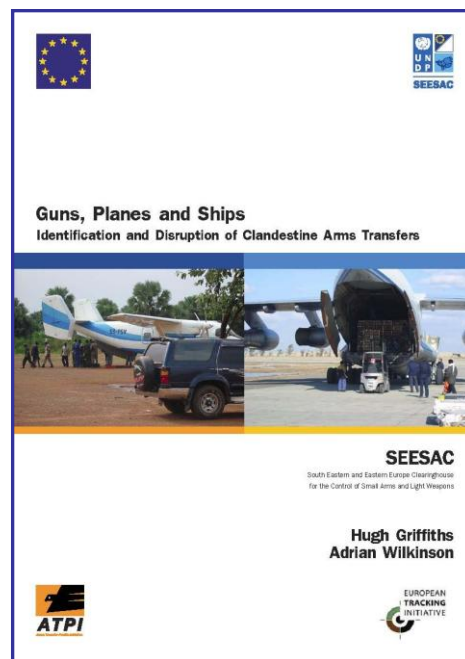
‘GUNS, PLANES AND SHIPS’ – IDENTIFICATION AND DISRUPTION OF CLANDESTINE ARMS TRANSFERS

SEESAC FUNCTIONAL AREA	FA 1 – Cross Border Controls FA 2 – Legislative and Regulatory Issues FA 3 - Management Information
SEESAC OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY	OA 1 – Capacity Building OA 3 - Information Management and Exchange Activities OA 6 – Technical Support and Assistance OA 8 - Operational Research Activities

SEESAC liaises directly with governments, international organizations and civil society, providing project development support, technical advice and support, information exchange, co-ordination functions and resource mobilization assistance for a wide range of SALW projects and activities. The regional activities of SEESAC include sensitizing governments and civil society on small arms issues, support the formulation of national strategies for SALW control and providing technical support to programmes. This includes technical advice on counter-proliferation activities. SEESAC have received numerous requests for training support to customs and border guard agencies on arms trafficking, and this has resulted in the development of this report and guide.

Controlling the supply of illicit weapons is vital in preventing their knock-on effects. New methods in the fight against the illicit arms trade need to be developed and deployed. Arms control agreements, weapons destruction, stockpile management and weapons storage site security have all helped this process to date. Yet large flows of weapons still occur. These unofficial movements of weapons remain undetected due to a combination of inefficiency, lack of resources and a degree of high-level complicity and corruption. The detection and disruption of the supply chain should be a priority for governments and international agencies. However, relatively few illicit shipments have ever been intercepted in transit, and the systematic analysis and detection of clandestine arms shipments remains in its infancy. Current control systems have little practical impact on the operations of arms dealers, who are adept at disguising corporate infrastructures, adjusting financial flows and forming new companies. Professional arms traffickers find it comparatively easy to hide aircraft and companies by taking advantage of the shortcomings of the international aircraft regulation system and by registering aircraft in small, compliant and or remote nations, where controls and legislation are ineffective.

The need for systematic detection and disruption mechanisms is made greater because current business practices have changed modern warfare and conflict. Illicit weapons and ammunition are now easily procured and delivered through an infrastructure of front companies, shell companies, corporate structures, off-shore brokers, use of non-



cash payment methods such as diamonds, gold and capital-intensive assets. The exploitation of legislative loopholes and elements of corruption only worsens the situation.

This report explains in detail how arms traffickers 'exploit the system', contains many case studies, develops principles, and then advances the illicit arms control agenda through the introduction of new detection, analysis and monitoring systems.

The report was written as part of the EU funded Western Balkans SALW Control Support Plan 2007, although it has wider geographical application than just the Western Balkans. This is a widely available abridged version of the full report. The full report will be on limited distribution as it contains techniques that may be of potential benefit to arms traffickers; organizations wishing a copy of the full report should apply in writing or by E Mail to SEESAC.

An abridged version of the report will be available for download from the SEESAC website on 02 October 2007. For further information, or to obtain an electronic copy on 02 October 2007, please contact Ms. Ana Martinovic, SEESAC Communications Officer, ana.martinovic@undp.org.



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