



SEESAC

South Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons

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SEESAC ACTIVITY REPORT 15 SALW AMMUNITION DETECTION STUDY

SEESAC FUNCTIONAL AREA	FA 1 - Cross Border Control
SEESAC OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY	SG 3 - Information Management SG 8 - Research Activities

Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro, 02 September 2003. SEESAC has a responsibility within its mandate to advise on border control measures and to provide support to projects relating to the control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) within the South Eastern Europe region. Discussions with a number of individuals and organisations led to the development of a hypothesis that ammunition may be easier to detect than the weapons themselves at border crossing points and during 'search and seize' operations targeted against stockpiles. Yet these discussions also indicated that little formal open source research had been conducted in this area; hence the commissioning of a study into Ammunition Detection.

The research for the study was conducted by Threat Resolution Limited (UK) (www.trltd.com), who consulted widely with police, customs, national security agencies, military units and other appropriate international organisations. This initial research examines the basic design and manufacture of weapons and ammunition to determine if and why weapons can be more easily concealed than ammunition and what constituent parts are common or exclusive to one particular commodity. Further analysis was conducted to determine if ammunition and weapons are consistently transported together and examples of occurrences are provided.

The result is a study, which supports the hypothesis that ammunition should, in theory, be easier to detect than the weapons themselves. Yet it also identifies that further research is required in order to develop this hypothesis into a tactical doctrine for the interdiction and location of concealed ammunition. There are obvious security implications in the publication of some of the material identified during this study, and this information has therefore had to be omitted; but this omission does not detract from the findings of the study. The study will very shortly be available in PDF format on the SEESAC website (www.seesac.org) and full printed versions will be available in Autumn.

The next stage will be to conduct further research to develop and evaluate the tactical doctrine, and SEESAC will endeavour to identify a donor and appropriate organisation to continue this work. SEESAC will therefore continue to consult widely within the region in order to identify future requirements in this area, thereby continuing to contribute to the reduction of illicit SALW movements.

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