

# SALW Control Strategy Progress and Challenges

**5<sup>th</sup> SALW Commissions Meeting  
Skopje**

Colonel Ardian LILO  
Director of Strategic Policies  
Albanian MOD

## Outline

- **National SALW Commission**
- **SALW Control Capacities**
- **Background**
- **Current Situation**
- **Demilitarization activities**
- **Challenges of SALW Control**
- **Way Ahead**

# National SALW Commission

**Leading** Ministry of Foreign Affairs vs Ministry of Interior

**Support:** Ministry of Defense,  
Ministry of Interior  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
National Agency on Exports Control,  
Ministry of Local Issues and Decentralization,  
Ministry of Finance,  
Ministry of Education, etc.

# SALW control capacities

## Comprehensive approach addressing SALW Issues

- **The MOD has the responsibilities of:**
  - Production of SALW
  - Surplus SALW and ammunition management
  - SALW and ammunition destruction capacity
  - The import and export control system (MEICO & SECA)
  - State Agency on Exports Control
- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs:**
  - Channeling information
  - Representing Albania

## SALW control capacities (Cont)

- **Ministry of Interior**
  - Weapons licensing;
  - SALW collection and law enforcement (violent crime, organized crime and arms trafficking);
  - Monitor and publish the impacts of SALW (Firearms fatalities, Firearm-related homicides/ Suicides/ accidental deaths/injuries/ Armed robbery and intimidation);
  - Border management – tackle illicit trafficking;
- **Ministry of Local Affairs and Decentralization,**
  - Local authorities;
  - Community – rising public awareness;
- **Ministry of Finance,**
  - The General Directorate of Customs
- **Ministry of Education,**
  - culture of peace (public awareness)

# Background

The SALW Control has gone through the phases:

- During communism all SALW were registered and controlled
- After 1997 the arms were:
  - Voluntarily surrendering
  - Development projects in exchange of SALW collection
- New laws on SALW control (*10/7/2014*)
- SALW destruction facilities
- Law enforcement on the illegal possession of SALW and ammunition

## Current Situation

- **SALW Control according to the law 74/2014 “On Weapons”**
- **Demilitarization**
  - Albanian National Action Plan (authority and coordination)
  - Securing resources
  - Coordination of International support
  - Development of existing facilities
  - Ammunition stockpiles reduction
  - Destroyed a big quantity of blasting cups
- **Replace the existing light infantry weapons**
  - "AK47-Kalashnikov" is being replaced with "M4“
  - Mortars



## Current Situation

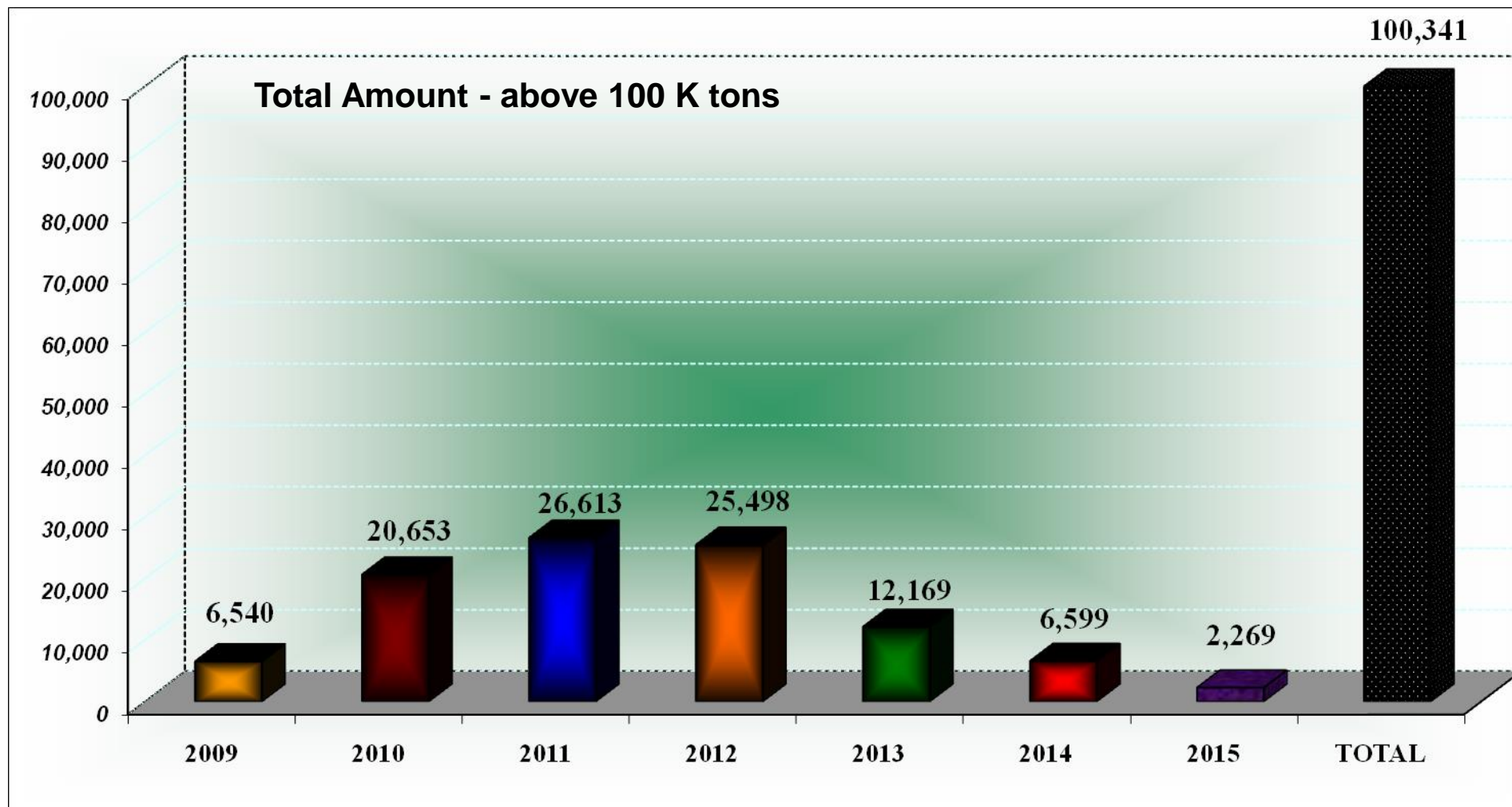
- A lot of SALW on the civilians' and criminals hands
- State Police has intensified the efforts to stop illegal SALW possession or trafficking.
- During an anti cannabis operation in South Albania (Lazarat)

June-July 2014 were seized:

- 580 pieces of SALW,
- 270,000 pieces of ammunition and cartridges of SAL
- 800 pieces of Hand grenades
- 150 kg explosives
- 250 pieces of RPG and Mortars grenades



# Ammunition Demilitarization Progress 2009-2015



## The Methodologies Utilized

- Industrial Demilitarization (3 Military Plants) - **55,575 ton**
- Open Detonation (11 Ranges – 2 active ) - **27,232 ton**
- Sale and Export - **17,533 ton**



# Surplus Weapons and Ammunition

## SALW:

- a) About 110,000 Excess SALW Remain
- b) About 70,000 SALW is destroyed during 2014
  - 4,500 - remaining to be destroyed
  - 82,000 Categorized for “Sale” (MEICO) or "donation“
  - 10,000 SALW weapons and millions of cartridges donated to Afghanistan Police and the government of Iraqi during last years
  - 850 Tons – SALW Repair Parts

## AMMO:

- a) The total surplus ammunition - 7,383 ton
- b) 2,269 tons destroyed (January - September 2015)



# Challenges of SALW Control

- Comprehensive Response
- Completion of the legislation with the bylaws and SOP
- Clearly defined responsibilities among different agencies
- National recording of all the SALW related operations
- Enhancement of:
  - Border control
  - SALW Stock Security
  - SALW registration and tracking
  - Law enforcement
  - Regional cooperation to stop trafficking
- Regional approach

## Addressing the Issues

- Adequate legislation approved on July 2014, by the Parliament:
  - "On Weapons"
  - "For the use of Firing Weapons"
- SALW registration is required and regulated by law
- Improvement of the SALW stockpiles security
  - Plan to use the SEESAC approved funds
- SALW Collection (from civilians) and proliferation is a priority of Law enforcement agencies
- SALW Registration and Tracing
  - Ministry of Interior is implementing a SALW electronic registration (SEESAC)

## Regional Cooperation

- SALW control can be better addressed, through a regional approach
  - Albania support demilitarization through defense cooperation and regional initiatives
    - expertise, information and best-practices exchange
    - avoid possible duplications in our efforts
    - facilities available
    - appropriate legal framework
- Ready to support other countries
  - Pilot project with BiH for destruction of 20 tons of ammunition
- Cooperating with Regional Initiatives regarding SALW,
  - RACVIAC
  - SEESAC/UNDP
- Albania Supports the Regional Demilitarization for Industrial Activities
  - Sound capacities are developed over the past five years



Thank You