

U.S. Department of Justice  
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

OMB No. 1140-0043

### National Tracing Center Trace Request

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Phone: 1-800-788-7133      Martinsburg, WV 25405      Fax: 1-800-578-7223

FOR NTC DATA ENTRY ONLY      **Page 1 of 2 - Trace Request Information**

NOTE: \* - Required Entry Field (Must be completed for trace processing)  
\*\* - Required Entry With Listed Data Response (See back for codes and options)

**Part I - Trace Initiation Information**

1a. Date of Request \_\_\_\_\_ 1b. Priority\*\*    Routine     Urgent (Justification required)     For NTC Data Entry Only

Justification \_\_\_\_\_

1c. Special Instructions \_\_\_\_\_

**Part II - Crime Code Information**

2a. NCIC Crime Code\*\* \_\_\_\_\_ 2b. Project Code, Project Title, or other Initiative (If you wish to obtain a Project Code, contact the Chief, Firearms Tracing Branch, ATF National Tracing Center)\*\*: \_\_\_\_\_

**Part III - ATF Agent Requesting Trace**

3a. Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ 3c. ATF Special Agent's Name (Last, first, middle) \_\_\_\_\_  
 3b. E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
 3d. ATF Case Number \_\_\_\_\_ 3f. Field Office \_\_\_\_\_

**Part IV - Other Agency Officer Requesting Trace**

4a. Agency Name \_\_\_\_\_ 4b. Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ 4c. Other Agency Officer's Name (Last, first, middle) \_\_\_\_\_  
 4d. Department/Unit \_\_\_\_\_

**Part V - Trace Information**

5a. Serial Number \_\_\_\_\_ 5c. Firearms Manufacturer\* \_\_\_\_\_  
 5d. Type\* \_\_\_\_\_ 5g. Country of Origin\* (Importer required if other than U.S.) \_\_\_\_\_  
 5h. Importer\* \_\_\_\_\_

**Part VI - Possessor Information**

6a. Name (Last, First, Middle, Suffix) \_\_\_\_\_ 6c. Alias Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
 6b. Alias (If given) (Last, First, Middle, Suffix) \_\_\_\_\_

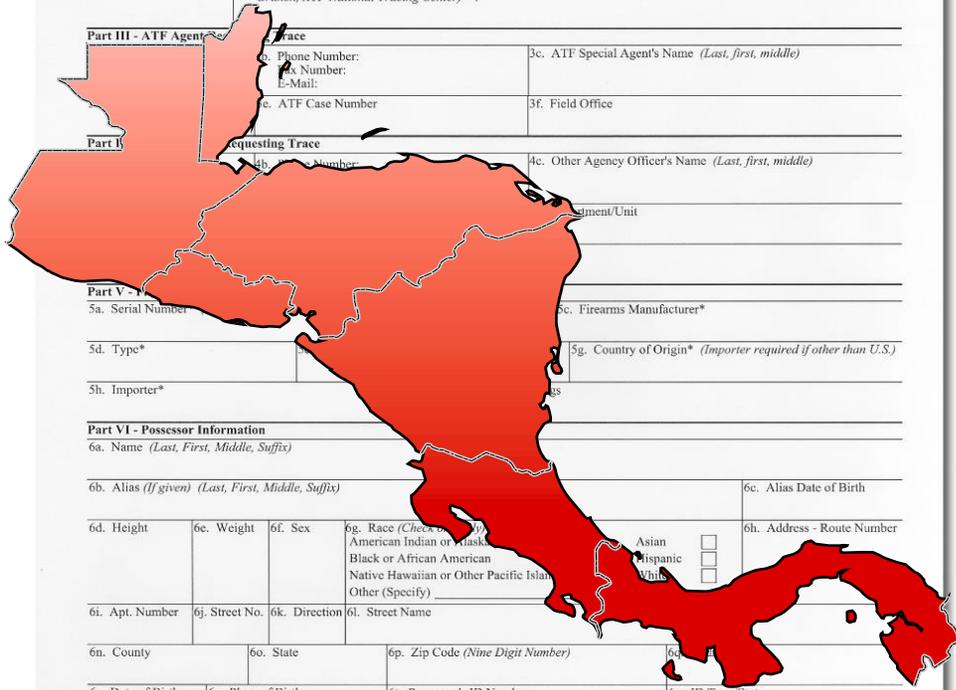
6d. Height \_\_\_\_\_ 6e. Weight \_\_\_\_\_ 6f. Sex \_\_\_\_\_ 6g. Race (Check one) \_\_\_\_\_ 6h. Address - Route Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 American Indian or Alaska Native   
 Black or African American   
 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander   
 Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_ Asian   
 Hispanic   
 White

6i. Apt. Number \_\_\_\_\_ 6j. Street No. \_\_\_\_\_ 6k. Direction \_\_\_\_\_ 6l. Street Name \_\_\_\_\_

6m. County \_\_\_\_\_ 6n. State \_\_\_\_\_ 6o. Zip Code (Nine Digit Number) \_\_\_\_\_ 6p. \_\_\_\_\_

6r. Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ 6s. Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ 6t. Possessor's ID Number \_\_\_\_\_ 6u. ID Type/State \_\_\_\_\_

ATF E-Form 3312.1  
Revised January 2007



# Central America

**Department of Justice**  
**Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,**  
**Firearms and Explosives**  
 Office of Strategic Intelligence and Information  
 Data Source: Firearms Tracing System

**Calendar Year 2016**  
 (As of March 10, 2017)



## ***ATF Firearms Trace Data Disclaimer***

- (1) Firearm traces are designed to assist law enforcement authorities in conducting investigations by tracking the sale and possession of specific firearms. Law enforcement agencies may request firearms traces for any reason, and those reasons are not necessarily reported to the Federal Government. Not all firearms used in crime are traced and not all firearms traced are used in crime.**
  
- (2) Firearms selected for tracing are not chosen for purposes of determining which types, makes or models of firearms are used for illicit purposes. The firearms selected do not constitute a random sample and should not be considered representative of the larger universe of all firearms used by criminals, or any subset of that universe. Firearms are normally traced to the first retail seller, and sources reported for firearms traced do not necessarily represent the sources or methods by which firearms in general are acquired for use in crime.**





## *Introduction*



The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) National Tracing Center (NTC) is the nation's only crime gun tracing facility. As such, the NTC provides critical information that helps domestic and international law enforcement agencies solve firearms crimes, detect firearms trafficking and identify trends with respect to intrastate, interstate and international movement of crime guns. For calendar year (CY) 2011, the NTC traced more than 319,000 firearms; for CY 2012, more than 332,000 firearms; for CY 2013, more than 336,000 firearms; for CY 2014, more than 351,000 firearms; for CY 2015, more than 364,000 firearms; and for CY 2016, more than 364,000 firearms. Over this time period, the NTC has traced firearms for the United States and 129 other countries.

Firearms tracing is the systematic tracking of the movement of a firearm from its first sale by a manufacturer or importer through the distribution chain in an attempt to identify the first retail purchaser, in order to provide investigative leads for criminal investigations. After the firearm is recovered and the identifiers are forwarded to the NTC, ATF contacts the manufacturer or importer to ascertain the sale or transfer of the firearm. ATF will attempt to contact all ensuing Federal Firearms Licensees (wholesale/retail) in the distribution chain until a purchaser is identified or the trace process cannot continue due to a lack of accurate or complete information on the trace request or in the Federal Firearms Licensee's records. The success of a trace result, whether domestic or international, relies upon the accuracy of the supplied firearm identifiers. The necessary identifiers for a trace include manufacturer, importer (if applicable), model, caliber and serial number.

This report relates only to firearms recovered in Central America and traced by ATF. The firearm trace results are based upon the supplied firearm identifiers on the Central America trace requests. The Central American trace data in this report is organized by the calendar year in which the firearm was recovered, not the year in which the trace was initiated. For example, if a firearm was recovered in 2016 but the trace was not initiated until 2017, the data will be organized in the year of recovery, 2016. Organization by recovery date provides valuable investigative leads as well as more specific trend data. Therefore, using this example, if a firearm for which a trace is initiated in later years is determined to have been recovered in 2016, the raw trace numbers for 2016 will increase in subsequent trace data reports. As a result, the trace numbers for each calendar year may fluctuate, necessitating changes to prior years' trace numbers in future reports. If a recovery date is not provided for a firearm, trace data for that firearm is organized by the calendar year in which the trace was entered into the Firearms Tracing System by ATF.



## ***Analytical Criteria Used to Compile the Central America Trace Statistics***

All of the attached trace statistics had the following selection criteria in common:

- Traces with a recovery country in Central America were included.
- Traces with a recovery date between January 1, 2016, and December 31, 2016 were included.
  - If a recovery date was not provided, traces with an entered date between January 1, 2016, and December 31, 2016 were included.
    - In CY 2016, 99.9% of all Central America traces listed a recovery date.
- Duplicate traces were not included. A duplicate is a trace request for the same recovery of a firearm that was previously traced.
- All traces may not have been submitted or completed at the time of this analysis.
- Statistics are based on a query of the Firearms Tracing System on March 10, 2017.

## **Firearms Recovered in Central America and Submitted to ATF for Tracing Calendar Year 2016**

Country Name	Belize			El Salvador			Guatemala			Honduras			Panama		
	# of Traces	% of all Traces	% by Category	# of Traces	% of all Traces	% by Category	# of Traces	% of all Traces	% by Category	# of Traces	% of all Traces	% by Category	# of Traces	% of all Traces	% by Category
<b>Category - U.S. Sourced Firearms</b>															
Manufactured in the United States	22	41.5	60.4	1,238	45.6	48.9	512	23.5	28.6	249	40.0	46.2	48	31.6	39.5
Imported into the United States	10	18.9		91	3.3		112	5.1		39	6.2		12	7.9	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>32</b>			<b>1,329</b>			<b>624</b>			<b>288</b>			<b>60</b>		
<b>Category - Undetermined Source Country for Firearms</b>															
Non-U.S. Manufacturer	20	37.7	39.6	1,347	49.6	51.1	1,555	71.3	71.4	329	52.8	53.8	88	57.9	60.5
Undetermined Country of Origin	1	1.9		42	1.5		3	.1		6	1.0		4	2.6	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>21</b>			<b>1,389</b>			<b>1,558</b>			<b>335</b>			<b>92</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,718</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,182</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

This chart is based upon firearms recovered in Central America in a particular year and submitted to ATF for tracing. In CY 2016, seven firearms recovered in Costa Rica were submitted to ATF for tracing; there were no firearms recovered in Nicaragua that were submitted.

The category "U.S. Sourced Firearms" refers to those firearms that were determined by ATF to be manufactured in the U.S. or legally imported into the U.S. by a Federal firearms licensee.

"Manufactured in the United States" refers to those firearms that were determined by ATF to be manufactured in the U.S. by a Federal firearms licensee (manufacturer).

"Imported into the United States" refers to those firearms that were determined by ATF to be legally imported into the U.S. by a Federal firearms licensee (importer). Foreign manufactured firearms that are legally imported into the U.S. require that the importer name be stamped (impressed) on the firearm (27 C.F.R. Section 478.92). The firearm is traced by ATF through the U.S.-based importer, not the foreign manufacturer.

The category "Undetermined Source Country for Firearms" refers to those firearms in which the trace request did not provide sufficient information in order for ATF to determine a source country.

"Non-U.S. Manufacturer" refers to those firearms in which the trace request indicated a non-U.S. (foreign) manufacturer and a U.S. firearms importer was either not listed (possible omission of the trace requestor) or not required (a foreign manufactured firearm that never legally entered U.S. commerce and therefore would not bear the identifying stamp of a U.S. firearms importer). ATF is unable to determine if these non-U.S. (foreign) manufactured firearms were imported directly into Central America, or if the firearms were legally imported into the U.S. or went to another country and then made their way to Central America by legal or illegal means.

"Undetermined Country of Origin" refers to those firearms in which the trace request was unclear as to the manufacturer, country of origin and the importer. ATF is unable to determine the firearm's manufacturer, or if the firearms were imported directly into Central America, or if the firearms were legally imported into the U.S. or went to another country and then made their way to Central America by legal or illegal means.

"Total" refers to all firearms recovered in Central America in a particular calendar year and submitted to ATF for tracing.

Please note, changes to the trace data will occur in the future as a result of the statistics being based upon the recovery date of the firearm.

## **U.S. Sourced Firearms Recovered in Central America and Submitted to ATF for Tracing Calendar Year 2016**

Country Name	Belize		El Salvador		Guatemala		Honduras		Panama	
	# of Traces	% of U.S. Sourced Traces	# of Traces	% of U.S. Sourced Traces	# of Traces	% of U.S. Sourced Traces	# of Traces	% of U.S. Sourced Traces	# of Traces	% of U.S. Sourced Traces
<b>Category - U.S. Sourced Firearms</b>										
Traced to a Retail Purchaser	8	25.0	122	9.2	146	23.4	89	30.9	10	16.7
Traced to a Foreign Country	15	46.9	673	50.6	262	42.0	80	27.8	36	60.0
Unable to Determine a Purchaser	9	28.1	534	40.2	216	34.6	119	41.3	14	23.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,329</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>

This chart is based upon the **U.S. sourced firearms** from the page entitled "Firearms Recovered in Central America and Submitted to ATF for Tracing". The total does not include trace numbers from the category "Undetermined Source Country for Firearms".

The category "U.S. Sourced Firearms" refers to those firearms that were determined by ATF to be manufactured in the U.S. or legally imported into the U.S. by a Federal firearms licensee.

"Traced to a Retail Purchaser" refers to those traces in which ATF could determine the first retail purchaser, that is, a sale executed on an ATF Firearms Transaction Record (ATF Form 4473) from a U.S. Federal firearms licensee to a purchaser in the U.S. (As a comparison, for firearms recovered in the U.S. and traced to a retail purchaser, the average percentage for firearms traced for the time period CY 2016 is approximately 73%.)

"Traced to a Foreign Country" refers to those firearms that were determined by ATF to be transferred from a U.S. Federal firearms licensee to a foreign government, law enforcement, dealer or entity.

"Unable to Determine a Purchaser" refers to those firearms that were manufactured in / imported into the U.S. but ATF was unable to determine the first retail purchaser through the trace process.

- Common reasons ATF is unable to identify a purchaser:

- Incomplete firearms identifying data on the trace request form
- Incomplete or never received out-of-business Federal firearms licensee records (upon discontinuance of business by a Federal firearms licensee, the records shall be delivered within 30 days to ATF or other Attorney General stipulated location (Title 18 U.S.C. 923(g)(4))
- Altered or obliterated firearm serial numbers
- The firearm is considered to be too old to trace
- Current Federal firearms licensee records are incomplete or missing, or the Federal firearms licensee was unresponsive to ATF's request for trace information

Please note, changes to the trace data will occur in the future as a result of the statistics being based upon the recovery date of the firearm.

**Types of Firearms Recovered in Central America and Submitted to ATF for Tracing  
Calendar Year 2016**

Country Name	Belize		El Salvador		Guatemala		Honduras		Panama	
	# of Traces	% of all Traces	# of Traces	% of all Traces	# of Traces	% of all Traces	# of Traces	% of all Traces	# of Traces	% of all Traces
<b>Category - Types of Firearms</b>										
Pistols	40	75.5	1,299	47.8	1,468	67.3	327	52.5	83	54.6
Revolvers	7	13.2	660	24.3	387	17.7	199	31.9	50	32.9
Rifles	0	0.0	340	12.5	115	5.3	47	7.5	9	5.9
Shotguns	5	9.4	313	11.5	186	8.5	29	4.7	6	4.0
Other	1	1.9	106	3.9	26	1.2	21	3.4	4	2.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,718</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,182</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>100</b>

This chart is based upon firearms recovered in Central America in a particular year and submitted to ATF for tracing.

The "Other" category refers to machineguns, destructive devices, derringers, tear gas launchers, combination guns, flare guns, receivers/frames, silencers, any other weapons and unknown types (to include trace requests that do not annotate a firearm type).

Please note, changes to the trace data will occur in the future as a result of the statistics being based upon the recovery date of the firearm.