

Re: Andrzejewski - Forbes request for comment, feedback, and context

Williams, Tesia D (OIG/IO) <Tesia.Williams@oig.hhs.gov>

Fri 2/22/2019 1:28 PM

To: Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>;

Following is a statement for your use. It can be attributed to me, HHS OIG spokeswoman. We have nothing further to add at this time.

"Our investigations often involve undercover work, surveillance, as well as arrest and search warrants. Our special agents have confiscated hundreds of firearms and arrested individuals who had direct access to firearms and other weapons. In order to keep our agents safe and allow them to do their jobs effectively, we use typical law enforcement equipment, including firearms and ballistic vests.

It is imperative that our agents have the appropriate training, equipment, and weapons to ensure their safety as well as the safety of those around them. Providing our agents with these law enforcement tools is an essential requirement for a position that exposes them to potentially dangerous criminals. Without firearms and protective equipment, our agents would be at serious risk."

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From: Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2019 1:14 PM
To: OS Media (HHS/ASPA) <media@hhs.gov>
Cc: Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>
Subject: Fw: Andrzejewski - Forbes request for comment, feedback, and context

TO THE PRESS OFFICE OF HHS:

Just called the press office and following up to reach out to you for any comment, feedback, or context regarding the HHS Office of Inspector General (OIG) purchase of guns, ammunition, and military-style equipment as delineated in the December 2018 GAO report linked below. What is the public purpose for HHS to own five submachine guns, a shotgun, and 189 fully automatic firearms? And, please describe the automatic firearms in more detail.

I am a senior contributor at Forbes and published a piece on this topic a couple of hours ago. We will update the piece or do a follow up piece if you choose to respond on the record.

Here is a link to the GAO report:

<https://protect2.fireeye.com/url?k=05de6c7b-598b65ab-05de5d44-0cc47a6a52de-703d3e9b8c62a197&u=https://www.gao.gov/assets/700/695984.pdf>

Here is a link to our Forbes piece published a few hours ago:

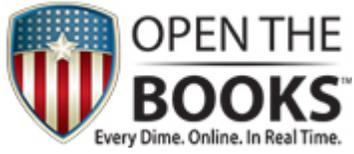
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/adamandrzejewski/2019/02/22/why-have-president-trumps-regulatory-agencies-stockpiled-so-much-firepower/#563212763c18>

Thank you.

Adam

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