

## Adam Andrzejewski

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**From:** Noller, Randal <Randal.Noller@va.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2016 2:48 PM  
**To:** 'Adam Andrzejewski'  
**Cc:** Noller, Randal; West, Walinda  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Media Request: Please clarify VA guns, ammo, and other equipment purchases since FY2006-FY2014

Adam,

I've both coordinated and spoken with my contacts with the VA Police. They've provided the information below, which I think does provide the context you were seeking. They verbally walked me through how much ammunition is expended when a new VA police officer is hired and run through training, and then meets the required quarterly qualifications. As you'll see in the last line, they have no weapons that would use the larger calibers (30-125mm).

I wanted to get something for you on this today as we'd agreed, and I think this does provide the background and context.

Thanks.

Randy

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"VA employs over 3700 police officers, who provide uniformed patrol and law enforcement services to VA facilities. These officers are armed with 9mm semi-automatic pistols, in addition to batons and pepper spray. VA trains its officers in our own Law Enforcement Training Center, and officers expend an extensive number of rounds developing and sustaining their skills with these weapons. Once trained and in the field, our officers fire a minimum of 800 rounds annually for in-service training and qualification. They also train on a regular basis with the required expandable police baton and pepper spray canister to ensure safe and effective use.

With a turnover rate of slightly over 9% annually, and new police positions being created and filled, initial and sustainment training needs do increase. VA Police officers, being the front line response forces for our facilities, also receive extensive training in active threat response.

At a VA Medical Center, the VA Police Service are the initial responders to any active threat incident. While VA police work very closely with Federal, local and state law enforcement partners, VA police will be the first to have to deal with any active situation, and are well trained accordingly.

In 2008, VA began switching all officers over from their existing service pistol to a different firearm system. This change has taken place over time in a phased approach. VA facilities began replacing the older pistol as funds became available and pistol service life limits are reached. Most of VA facilities have completed the transition to the new contracted firearm, with several still in that process.

Night vision and other countermeasure equipment is purchased by the field facilities to meet their local security and law enforcement needs, and personal armor is, of course, a necessary equipment item for any uniformed police officer.

VA is not aware of any higher caliber ammunition (30 MM through 125 MM and above.) There is no system in VA's police and security inventory that uses such ammunition. "

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**From:** Adam Andrzejewski [mailto:[adam@openthebooks.com](mailto:adam@openthebooks.com)]

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 16, 2016 1:55 PM

**To:** Noller, Randal

**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Media Request: Please clarify VA guns, ammo, and other equipment purchases since FY2006-FY2014

Thank you, Randal. I appreciate touching base... just keep me updated as to time-frame. I know that the last couple of days were holidays. We are getting close to release, but tomorrow is fine for response. We really want accuracy of information, and also as much context as possible. Thank you, Adam

**Adam Andrzejewski** (say: Angie-f-ski)

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**From:** Noller, Randal [mailto:[Randal.Noller@va.gov](mailto:Randal.Noller@va.gov)]

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 16, 2016 12:47 PM

**To:** 'adam@openthebooks.com' <[adam@openthebooks.com](mailto:adam@openthebooks.com)>

**Cc:** Noller, Randal <[Randal.Noller@va.gov](mailto:Randal.Noller@va.gov)>; West, Walinda <[Walinda.West@va.gov](mailto:Walinda.West@va.gov)>

**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] Media Request: Please clarify VA guns, ammo, and other equipment purchases since FY2006-FY2014

Adam,

I wanted to touch base and let you know I'm working on your inquiry. I'm pushing, but to be honest, I doubt we'll be able to make the 5 p.m. deadline today. There's quite a bit of info to work through and we do want to make sure we provide an accurate response. Some of what I'm seeing in the info you provided just doesn't seem to make sense, so we're working through it.

I'll continue working and get you something as soon as I possibly can.

Randy

Randy Noller

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*VA ceased to be named the Veterans Administration on March 15, 1989 when President Ronald Reagan elevated it to a Cabinet level department.*

*At that time, VA became the Department of Veterans Affairs.*



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**From:** VA Public Affairs <[VAPublicAffairs@va.gov](mailto:VAPublicAffairs@va.gov)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 13, 2016 12:53 PM  
**To:** 'adam@openthebooks.com'  
**Cc:** Hutton, James; West, Walinda  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Media Request: Please clarify VA guns, ammo, and other equipment purchases since FY2006-FY2014

Adam,

Acknowledging receipt of this email. The federal government is closed on Monday, and we will need to better understand this issue before responding, which I am sure you'd want.

We will connect with you on Tuesday to further discuss.

Walinda West

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**From:** Adam Andrzejewski [<mailto:adam@openthebooks.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 12, 2016 04:09 PM Eastern Standard Time  
**To:** VA Public Affairs  
**Cc:** [adam@openthebooks.com](mailto:adam@openthebooks.com) <[adam@openthebooks.com](mailto:adam@openthebooks.com)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Media Request: Please clarify VA guns, ammo, and other equipment purchases since FY2006-FY2014

#### MEDIA RELATIONS

Please respond by Tuesday, 5PM EST, February 16, 2016

My name is Adam Andrzejewski. I am a journalist and contributor at Forbes. I work very closely with former U.S. Senator Dr. Tom Coburn who is the Honorary Chairman of American Transparency – an organization I founded.

We are putting together a report on the VA purchase of guns, ammunition, and other equipment as disclosed by *Public Law 109-282, 109<sup>th</sup> Congress*. (It was a signature piece of Coburn's legislative legacy.)

My direct dial phone number is 312.320.1867. We have some questions regarding the self-reported VA spending data.

Thank you for beginning the process to help clarify these transactions. My inquiries for your feedback and our background summary charts are copied below.

From FY2006 – FY2014, **Veterans Affairs (VA)** disclosed spending of \$11.66 million on guns, ammunition, and other equipment. Here is the year-by-year chart of annual spending:

3600: VETERANS AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF	\$	11,661,552.47
2006	\$	712,582.58
2007	\$	398,844.55
2008	\$	1,207,920.70
2009	\$	1,255,366.82
2010	\$	1,504,193.04
2011	\$	2,024,487.22
2012	\$	1,911,452.15
2013	\$	1,577,763.48
2014	\$	1,068,941.93

**On a portion of the total spending, please clarify the purchases by VA during FY2006-FY2014:**

A amount of money (over \$287,000) of the \$11.661 million was spent out of fund accounts 1010: Guns, Over 30MM up to 75MM; 1315: Ammunition, 75MM through 125MM; and 1310: Ammunition, over 30MM up to 75MM.

We find it hard to believe that the VA would purchase weapons of war (guns and ammo larger than 30MM) . Please clarify what the products were procured and if necessary, were the internal accounting-control issues fixed at VA?

Also, please give context to the large jump in purchasing starting in FY2008. Any other contextual feedback – either on-the-record or on background – of the gun, ammunition, and equipment transactions would also be appreciated.

**VA purchases by Product Code FY2006-FY2014:**

3600: VETERANS AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF	\$	11,661,552.47
1005: GUNS, THROUGH 30 MM	\$	1,554,610.63
1005: GUNS, THROUGH 30MM	\$	631,968.13
1010: GUNS, OVER 30 MM UP TO 75 MM	\$	263,206.14
1010: GUNS, OVER 30MM UP TO 75MM	\$	11,790.00
1040: CHEMICAL WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT	\$	26,089.02
1090: WPNS ASSY INTERCHANGE BETWN 2/MORE	\$	8,002.48
1095: MISCELLANEOUS WEAPONS	\$	206,484.04
1105: NUCLEAR BOMBS	\$	1,304.48
1305: AMMUNITION, THROUGH 30 MM	\$	1,875,735.74
1305: AMMUNITION, THROUGH 30MM	\$	1,690,335.94
1315: AMMUNITION, 75 MM THROUGH 125 MM.	\$	6,207.98
1320: AMMUNITION, OVER 125 MM	\$	6,720.00
1365: MILITARY CHEMICAL AGENTS	\$	97,040.43
1367: TACTICAL SETS, KITS, AND OUTFITS	\$	577,884.22
1377: CARTRIDGE & PROPELLANT DEVICES	\$	228,997.95
1395: MISCELLANEOUS AMMUNITION	\$	204,988.93
1398: AMMUNITION HANDLING & SERVICING EQ	\$	11,484.00
4933: WEAPONS MAINT EQ	\$	89,801.05
5855: NIGHT VISION EQ	\$	146,306.94
5855: NIGHT VISION EQUIPMENT, EMITTED AND REFLECTED RADIATION	\$	52,389.85
5865: ELEC COUNTERMEASURE & QUICK REAC EQ	\$	344,638.15
5865: ELECTRONIC COUNTERMEASURES, COUNTER-COUNTERMEASURES AND QUICK REACTION CAPABILITY EQUIPMENT	\$	96,543.46
6920: ARMAMENT TRAINING DEVICES	\$	1,205,603.08
8470: ARMOR, PERSONAL	\$	2,265,881.18
1010: MAINT-REP OF WEAPONS	\$	39,538.65
X151: LEASE-RENT OF AMMUNITION FACILITIES	\$	18,000.00

\* Source: data is disclosed by federal government under Public Law 109-282, 109<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Any feedback, clarity, and justification of public purpose for any procurement of guns, ammunition and other military-style equipment totaling \$11.66 million from FY2006-FY2014 would be very helpful to our transparency report.

Adam

**Adam Andrzejewski** (say: Angie-f-ski)

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