



April – June 2023

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

XXXIV MSAG Symposium Stockholm



GICHD-AMAT participated in the Multinational Small Arms and Ammunition Group's Annual Symposium which took place in Stockholm from 29 May until 1 June. Similar to previous symposia, the principal objective of this event was to exchange information and experiences in the field of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), and conventional ammunition. This year, special attention was given to the ongoing armed conflict in Ukraine. GICHD-AMAT delivered a presentation on related plans and activities.

New Implementation Support Tools for the IATG



On 5-9 June, GICHD-AMAT participated in the fourth substantive session of the United Nations (UN) Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) on Conventional Ammunition held at the UN Headquarters in New York, USA. On 6 June, GICHD-AMAT co-organised a hybrid side event, to officially launch three new tools to support the implementation of the International Technical Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG). These tools include: the Digitalised IATG for International Use, the Comprehensive IATG Training Programme, and the Standardised Assessment Methodology designed to be applied by States and UN entities, as well as international, regional, and non-governmental organisations.

NATO Building Integrity



On 26-27 June, GICHD-AMAT participated in a workshop with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Building Integrity (BI) programme to develop a work plan for finalising the "NATO Building Integrity handbook" on incorporating BI principles into the best practices of SALW and ammunition management.

Ammunition Inventory Management System



GICHD-AMAT held an ad-hoc IATG Technical Review Board (TRB) virtual discussion on the ammunition inventory management system project. A brief background on the project, update on the status and user requirements were presented and discussed. The IATG TRB provided comments and feedback on the user requirements.

ASSISTANCE TO STATES AND PARTNERS

MOLDOVA



On 3-7 April, GICHD-AMAT participated in the conduct of a study visit for six Moldovan ammunition managers to the Defence Munitions (DM) Kineton facility in Warwickshire, UK. The visit was financed by the UK and two representatives from the British Embassy in Moldova participated. It was organised by the US European Command (EUCOM), with support from Golden West Humanitarian Foundation (GWHF). DM Kineton is the largest ammunition depot in Europe and as such is a good example of all the different aspects of ammunition management, storage, handling and training. The aim of the visit was to increase the participants' knowledge on good practices in managing ammunition facilities in view of transferring and implementing some of them in Moldova.



In response to the assistance request from Moldova, GICHD-AMAT travelled to Chisinau for a 2-week mission, from 14 until 26 May 2023. Together with the Ministry of Defence and the National Army of Moldova, and in coordination with US EUCOM/GWHF, GICHD-AMAT conducted three parallel activities: 1) Explosive Safety Cases for six Ammunition Storage Areas; 2) training needs and barriers assessment; and 3) the 3rd international high-level conference on Physical Security and Stockpile Management of SALW and Conventional Ammunition in the National Army.



PERU



The US Department of State's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement signed a grant contract with the GICHD to implement a new project in Peru. The goal of the project is to strengthen Peruvian institutions responsible for overseeing the through-life management of ammunition, to enhance long-term safety and security in the country and the region. Within the project, the following activities are expected to take place: high-level policy seminars for senior policy leaders and policy-developers, train-the-trainer courses for Peruvian officers, safety and security assessments of ammunition storage areas, and reviewing the national regulations and standing operational procedures on through-life management of ammunition.

UKRAINE



On 26-29 June, GICHD-AMAT conducted an informal coordination workshop with the Ammunition Safety Regulator (ASR) of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) of Ukraine. The workshop had two main objectives. Firstly, internal discussions were held to refine and tailor the support provided by GICHD-AMAT to ASR. This involved considering GICHD-AMAT's role, available resources, and adhering to humanitarian principles. Secondly, the workshop served as a trusted platform for ASR and international stakeholders, including donor states, international and regional organisations. The aim was to generate ideas and make critical preparations to mitigate risks to the local population in the post-conflict period, specifically addressing the issues arising from unsafely and insecurely managed conventional ammunition stockpiles.



WAM in UN Peace Operations



On the 6-16 June, GICHD-AMAT, along with the UNMAS Mobile Training Team, conducted the pilot of the 'Weapons and Ammunition Management (WAM) in UN Peace Operations Training of Trainers Course'. This was held at the United Nations Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda. The course consisted of a one-week technical training based on the UN Manual of Ammunition Management and IATG. The second week concentrated on adult learning techniques and provided the participants with the skills required to deliver the two-week WAM on UN Peace Operations Course.



AAMVS / Arms & Ammunition Management Validation System

Funded by:

PHASE III

Meeting with ECOWAS

On 24-26 April, three members of the Arms and Ammunition Management Validation System (AAMVS) project team travelled to Abuja, Nigeria to meet the Economic Community of West African States' (ECOWAS) Arms division to discuss potential for collaboration under the European Union (EU) AAMVS project. GICHD-AMAT and ECOWAS will co-organise a regional workshop for the SALW National Commissions to discuss the latest international policy initiatives relating to ammunition management including the policy developments towards the creation of an international initiative on ammunition and a European Union initiative to create an AAMVS.



IRSEM annual SALW Conference

The EU AAMVS project manager was invited to participate as panellist at the French Institute for Strategic Research (IRSEM) Annual conference on “Prevention and fight against trafficking in conventional arms” which took place in Paris on 15 May. During the conference, the project manager presented the AAMVS and met with French MoD and Ministry of Interior (MoI) officials to discuss their potential engagement in the AAMVS project. They expressed interest in holding a meeting with relevant French ministries and the AAMVS project team to learn more about the project and how it could fit within the arms control processes conducted by the French government.

Briefing to COARM

On 16 May, two members of the project team briefed the EU Council's Working Party on Conventional Arms Exports on the latest updates and status of the project. A questionnaire was circulated for feedback on the AAMVS and its tools. GICHD-AMAT will follow to receive feedback on the questionnaire.

Pilot of the Pilot (Austria and Germany)



On 29-31 May, the AAMVS project manager and dedicated team travelled to Vienna and Geilenkirchen. The purpose of the visits was to present and discuss the Arms and Ammunition Validation System (AAMVS) project, the self-assessment tool and governance options.

During the visit, the team had the privilege of engaging with esteemed representatives and experts from the Austrian MoD International Cooperation unit and the German Armed Forces' Verification Unit. The team presented the latest updates on the project, along with the most recent version of the self-assessment tool. This opportunity allowed to set the stage for the upcoming pilot phase.

The interactions proved to be immensely beneficial. The team received insightful feedback and gained a deeper understanding of the stakeholders' needs and expectations. With this critical feedback, the team is determined to enhance the AAMVS and its self-assessment tool, ensuring they align with the requirements of stakeholders.

2nd Project Team Meeting

The project team met in Geneva for the second time during Phase III on 13-14 June 2023. The aim of the meeting was to ensure all team members report on progress made in regard to the project's workplan developed in the last meeting in March 2023. The meeting was successful in updating the workplan 2023-2025 and reaching further clarity and consensus on key issues surrounding the AAMVS and its self-assessment tool.



RECSA Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

The AAMVS project manager was invited to participate in the 14th Ordinary Meeting of the Regional Center on Small Arms (RECSA) Technical Advisory Committee in Kinshasa, DRC, from 19 until 21 June 2023. This was an opportunity to kick off collaboration with RECSA's National Small Arms Commissions in regard to the implementation of international standards and best practices, and the potential development of an AAMVS for RECSA states and their import control.