



TRACKING THE ILLICIT SUPPLY OF WEAPONS

A PRESENTATION TO THE WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANISATION, BRUSSELS
BY CONFLICT ARMAMENT RESEARCH MANAGING DIRECTOR, MARCUS WILSON
23 JUNE 2017



OUR MISSION

TO GENERATE UNIQUE EVIDENCE ON WEAPON SUPPLIES INTO
ARMED CONFLICTS TO INFORM AND SUPPORT EFFECTIVE
WEAPON MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL

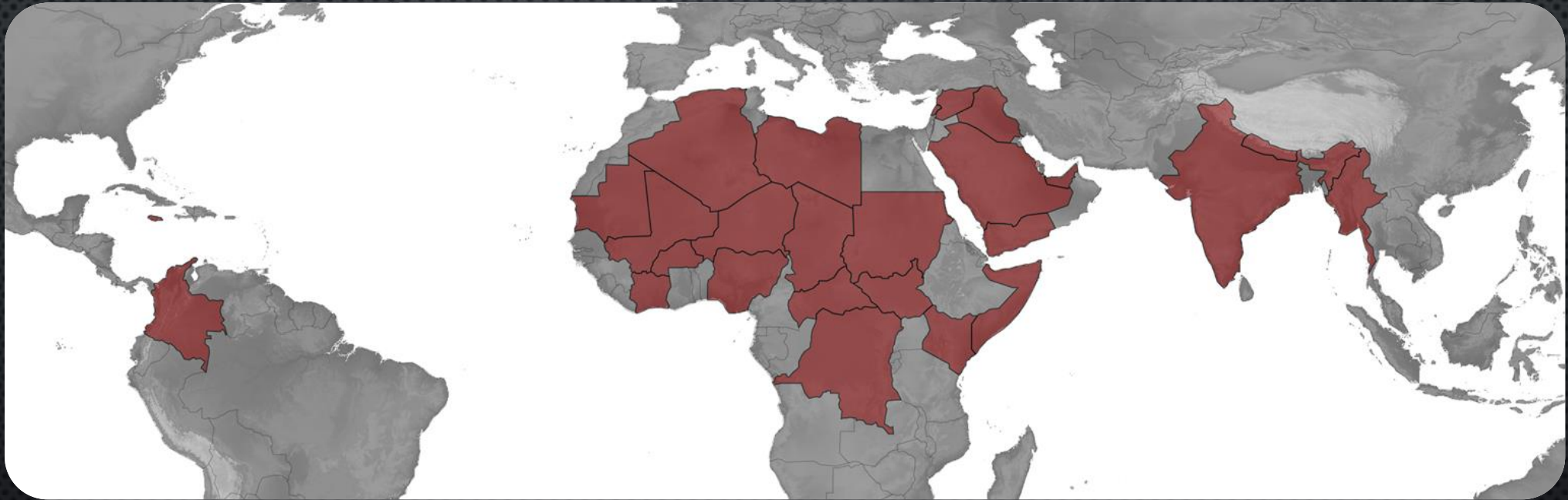


CONFLICT ARMAMENT RESEARCH



ABOUT CONFLICT ARMAMENT RESEARCH

- OPERATIONS IN **27** COUNTRIES
- MANDATED UNDER EU COUNCIL DECISIONS 2013/698/CFSP & 2015/1908/CFSP



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WHAT WE DO

- GLOBAL FIELD-BASED COUNTER-DIVERSION INVESTIGATIONS
- PROVIDE PRECISE, VERIFIED EVIDENCE TO INFORM ALL ASPECTS OF WEAPON MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL



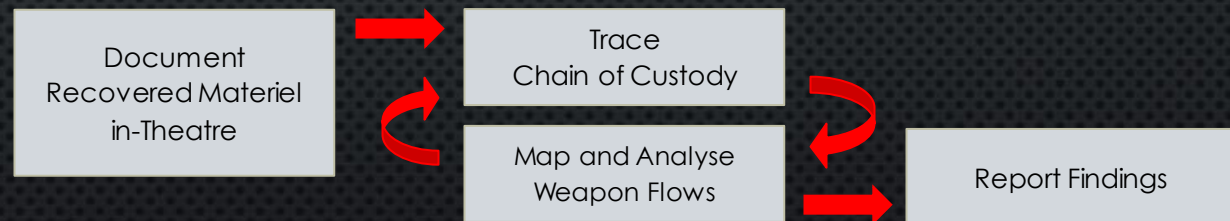
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METHODOLOGY



- **EMBED** WITH NATIONAL SECURITY AND DEFENCE FORCES
- **PHOTOGRAPH** ALL MARKINGS AND DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS
- **GPS-RECORD** ALL RECOVERY SITES
- **UPLOAD** ALL DATA ONTO ITRACE SYSTEM
- **GENERATE** TREND AND LINK ANALYSIS
- **ISSUE** FORMAL TRACE REQUESTS TO MANUFACTURERS, GOVERNMENTS AND TRANSPORT COMPANIES
- **YIELD** SYSTEMATIC DATA – IDENTIFY KEY TRENDS
- **CAR NEVER** BASES INVESTIGATIONS SOCIAL MEDIA OR UNVERIFIABLE SECONDARY SOURCES



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FIELD DOCUMENTATION

- CAR WORKS WITH DEFENCE AND SECURITY FORCES OPERATING IN CONFLICT ZONES
- CAR IDENTIFIES AND DOCUMENTS ILLICIT WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION – CAPTURED IN BATTLE, SEIZED FROM ARMED GROUPS, OR COLLECTED IN DISARMAMENT PROGRAMMES

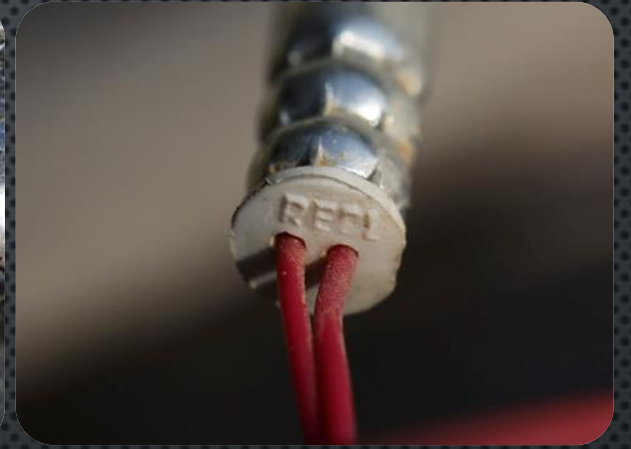


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IN-FIELD WEAPON DOCUMENTATION

- TECHNICAL CATEGORIZATION AND FORENSIC IDENTIFICATION OF WEAPON SYSTEMS
- WEAPON TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE TO IDENTIFY TERRORIST SOURCING, STATE SPONSORSHIP, AND TRANSNATIONAL GROUP INVOLVEMENT



IDENTIFYING CROSS-BORDER TERROR LINKS

ANALYSIS OF WEAPONS USED DURING THE 2015-16 HOTEL ATTACKS IN WEST AFRICA, BY AL-QAEDA-ALIGNED GROUPS.



CAR'S ANALYSIS UNIQUELY REVEALED THAT THE WEAPONS USED IN ATTACKS IN ALL FOUR COUNTRIES DERIVED FROM THE SAME VERY SMALL BATCH OF NEWLY-MANUFACTURED WEAPONS, 'SANITISED' IN THE SAME WAY.

CAR ALSO DOCUMENTED TWO WEAPONS FROM THE SAME BATCH IN THE HANDS OF IS FIGHTERS IN NORTHERN SYRIA IN EARLY 2015.

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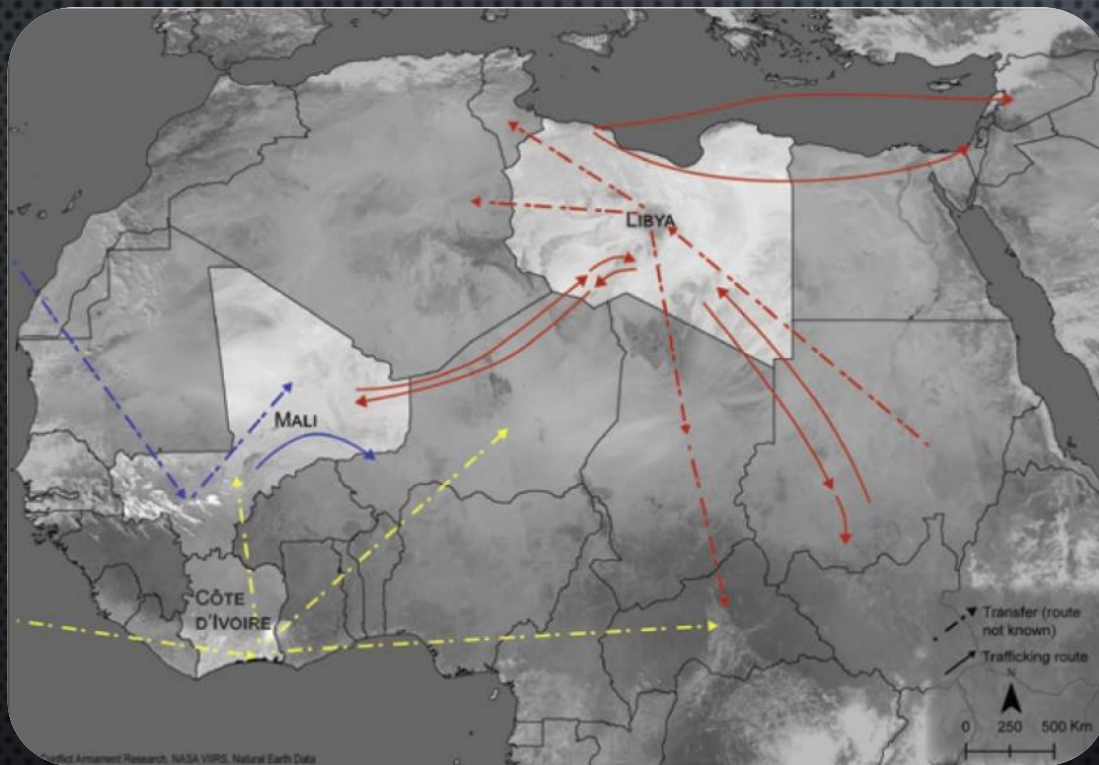
itrace
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CROSS-REGIONAL WEAPON FLOWS

IN 2016, CAR CONDUCTED THE FIRST CROSS-REGION INVESTIGATION OF ILLICIT WEAPON STOCKS AND FLOWS BETWEEN THE WESTERN SAHEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST.

CONDUCTED INVESTIGATIONS IN **CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC**, **CHAD**, **LEBANON**, **LIBYA**, **MALI**, **NIGER** AND **SYRIA**.



CONFIRMED:

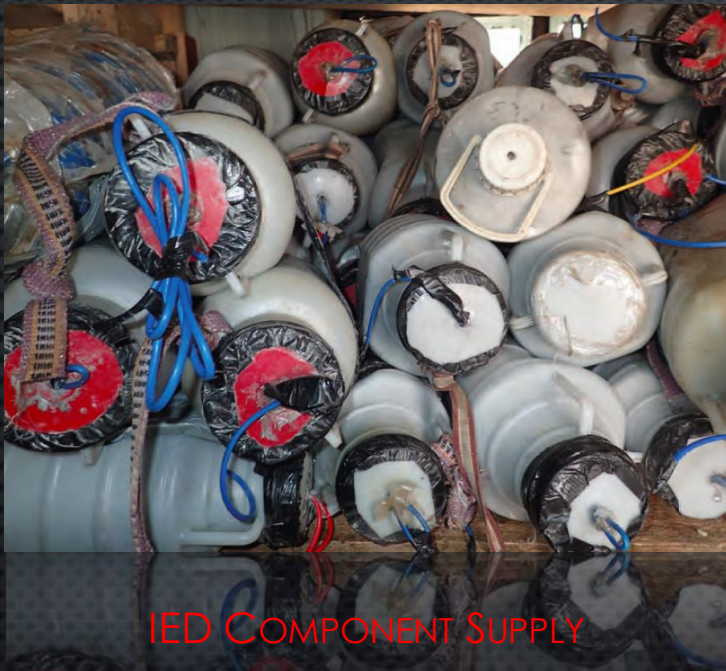
- WIDESPREAD DISPERSION OF QADDAFI-ERA STOCKS;
- SPECIFIC TRAFFICKING ROUTES ACROSS THE REGION, INTO MIDDLE EAST;
- MULTIPLE FLOWS TO FEED LIBYA DEMAND; AND
- FIRST EVIDENCE OF THE REGIONAL DIVERSION OF IVOIRIAN AND MALIAN WEAPON STOCKS.

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ISLAMIC STATE WEAPON MANUFACTURING CAPACITY

SINCE 2014, CAR FIELD TEAMS HAVE DOCUMENTED ISLAMIC STATE WEAPON ACQUISITION AND PRODUCTION IN IRAQ AND SYRIA.



IED COMPONENT SUPPLY



MULTI-ROLE IEDs



MASS PRODUCTION

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TRACING SUPPLY CHAINS



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CAR-TC-15-67

15 April 2015

ATTENTION: H.E. MR. LIU JIEYI
AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY
FAX: +1 212 634 0042
EMAIL: CHINESEMISSION@YAHOO.COM

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR TRACE INFORMATION

Excellency,

I am writing to request the assistance of the Government of the People's Republic of China in tracing the origins and supply routes of the materiel listed in the enclosed trace requests, which we believe to be of Chinese manufacture.

European Union Council Decision 2013/698/CFSP of 25 November 2013 directs Conflict Armament Research (CAR) to conduct weapon identification and tracing operations in armed conflicts across the world. CAR verifies and uploads its findings onto the iTrace Global Weapon Reporting System, which is an EU-funded online platform to track illicit supplies of conventional weapons into armed conflicts (itrace.conflictarm.com).

I respectfully submit the enclosed information request for transmission to your arms export licensing authorities, customs authorities, or other relevant government departments. This request is in no way intended to suggest any wrongdoing on the part of your government or its agents. Our working hypothesis is that these items have been diverted to unauthorised users either through theft, battlefield capture, or deliberate re-transfer.

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of this request, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Meredith Horne, Administration Officer, via e-mail at home@conflictarm.com or telephone on +44 207 833 58 31.

We would appreciate a response from your government by 13 May 2015.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration,

James Bevan
DIRECTOR, CONFLICT ARMAMENT RESEARCH

ENCL: 1. TRACE REQUEST 2015/04-6
2. TRACE REQUEST 2015/04-7
3. EUROPEAN UNION COUNCIL DECISION 2013/698/CFSP

CAR-TC-15-67

2/11



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London, United Kingdom

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TRACE REQUEST – 2015/04-6

ISSUED TO: The Government of the People's Republic of China
ISSUED BY: Conflict Armament Research
DATE OF ISSUE: 15 APRIL 2015
FOR REPLY BY: 13 MAY 2015

1. CONTEXT

Between September 2014 and January 2015, Kurdish People's Protection Units captured the item listed below from Islamic State forces, in Kobane, Northern Syria (GPS: 36.892334, 38.352662). A CAR field investigation team documented the weapon in Kobane on 22 February 2015 (GPS: 36.892334, 38.352662). CAR understands that the materiel concerned may have been subject to an authorised export/transfer from the territory of China.

2. ITEM DESCRIPTION

Model: PG-7 round
Manufacturer: Factory 23
Country of manufacture: China
Calibre: 40 mm
Date of manufacture: 2013

Our reference: 165E21F1F00C734

Quantity: One (1)

Lot/batch/serial No.: 2 - 13 - 23

Additional marks (warhead): 40 HEAT
2 - 13 - 23

3. PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

Please see two (2) images overleaf.

4. INFORMATION REQUESTED

- To which recipient(s), if any, has your Government authorised the export/transfer of materiel of this type and manufacture year? If possible, please provide the recipient name, title, agency, address, state and contact person, information, and a copy of any associated end-user certificate(s).
- What was the date and circumstances of the aforementioned export(s)/transfer(s)? If possible, please include the dates of export/transfer, carrier details, brokerage, mode of transfer, and the date of delivery.
- What was the total number and nature of items exported/transferred to the aforementioned recipient(s)? Where possible, please advise the model designation of items, lot/serial/batch numbers, quantity exported/transferred, dates of export/transfer and dates of delivery.
- Any further information regarding whether the authorised recipient subsequently re-transferred the materiel to third parties.

5. REPLY TO

Ms. Meredith Horne, Administration Officer
home@conflictarm.com
Fax: +44 207 278 3091



CONFLICT ARMAMENT RESEARCH
London, United Kingdom

admin@conflictarm.com
www.conflictarm.com



TRACE REQUEST – 2015/04-6

Image 1 / 2



Image 2 / 2



—Request ends—

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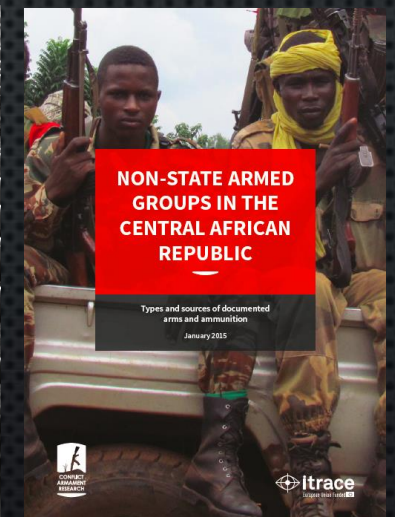
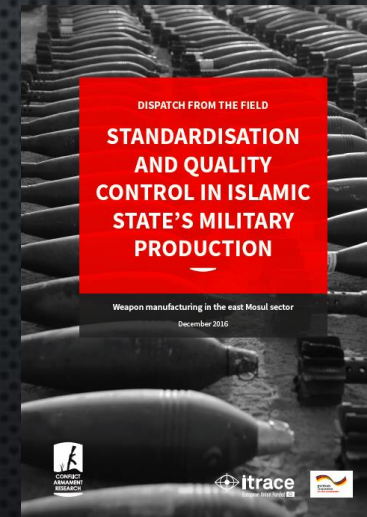
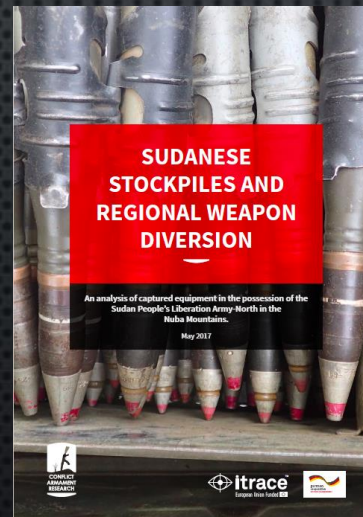
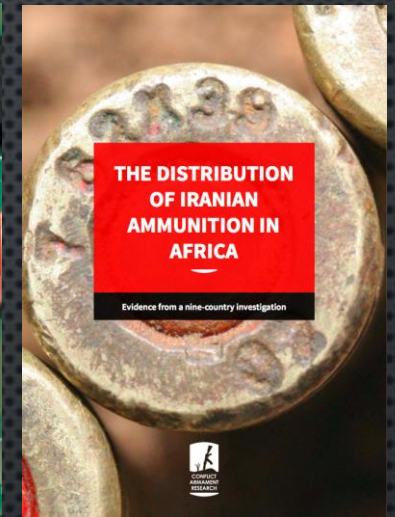
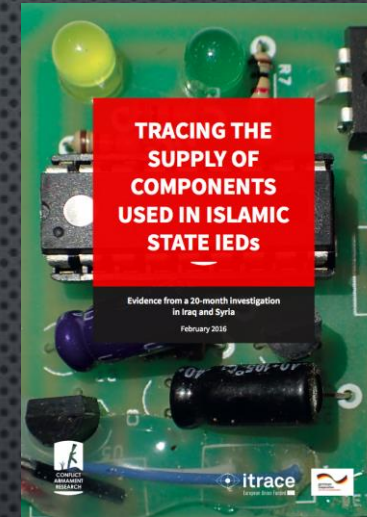
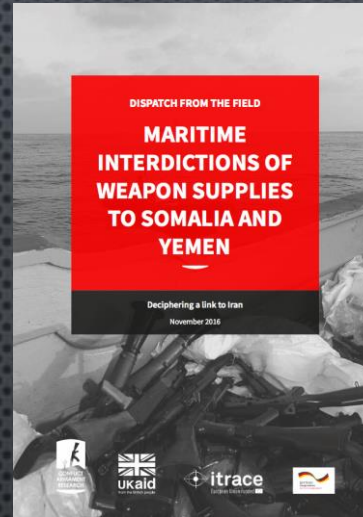
ITRACE GLOBAL WEAPON REPORTING SYSTEM

- MORE THAN **75,000** WEAPON, AMMUNITION, AND RELATED MATERIEL ENTRIES
- GENERATE TREND ANALYSIS TO **MAP WEAPON FLOWS** AND POINTS OF DIVERSION
- IDENTIFY CORRELATIONS AND TRENDS TO ASSIST **COUNTER-DIVERSION** AND **ANTI-TRAFFICKING** POLICIES

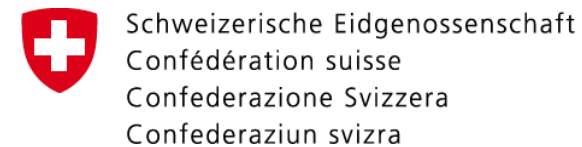


REPORTS & PUBLICATIONS

- CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS ON THE SOURCES, SUPPLY VECTORS, AND ACTORS INVOLVED IN THE ILLICIT SUPPLY OF WEAPONS
- PUBLIC REPORTS TO INFORM AND INFLUENCE DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL POLICY-MAKERS



PARTNERS



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THANK YOU

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WILSON@CONFLICTARM.COM



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