

Senate Bill 140

LEGISLATIVE REPORT NUMBER ONE – CALENDAR YEAR 2014

Armed and Prohibited Persons System

Pursuant to Penal Code section 30015, the Department of Justice shall address the backlog in the Armed and Prohibited Persons System and the illegal possession of firearms by those prohibited persons. This is the calendar year 2014 Armed and Prohibited Persons Systems report due to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee by March 1, 2015.



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Armed and Prohibited Persons System

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report summarizes the accomplishments of the California Department of Justice, Bureau of Firearms during the reporting period of January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014.

The State of California is the first and only state in the nation to establish an automated system for tracking firearm owners who might fall into a prohibited status.

The Armed and Prohibited Persons System (APPS) came online in 2007 and cross-references firearm owners across the state against criminal history records, mental health records, and restraining orders in order to identify individuals who have been, or will become, prohibited from possessing a firearm subsequent to the legal acquisition or registration of a firearm or assault weapon.

In July 2013, twenty-four million dollars (\$24,000,000) was appropriated to the Department of Justice to address the APPS backlog over the next three years.

In January 2014, the APPS database included 21,249 prohibited persons associated with 41,842 handguns and 1,990 registered assault weapons. An additional 7,031 persons were added to the database in 2014 due to new firearms prohibitions. Without any action the database would have grown to 28,280 persons. In 2014, 3,922 persons were removed from the database due to warrants being cleared, restraining orders being vacated by a judge, and subjects becoming deceased. The automated filtration of the system would have still kept the system at 24,358 persons. As a result of investigations in 2014, a total of 6,879 prohibited persons were cleared from the APPS database. By December 31, 2014, the APPS database contained 17,479 prohibited persons associated with 34,868 firearms, including long guns, and 1,419 registered assault weapons.

The APPS enforcement teams completed the investigation of 7,573 cases, resulting in the seizure of 3,286 firearms (1,378 APPS firearms and 1,908 non-APPS firearms). Other significant seizures included 277,325 rounds of ammunition, 1,888 magazines, 300 high-capacity magazines, 210 destructive devices, and 137 arrests. Additional reports were filed with the respective California District Attorney offices in the event the subject was not present when the firearms, ammunition, and/or magazines were seized.

Senate Bill 140 (2013) requires the Department of Justice to submit an annual report for the prior calendar year to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee by March 1. The following statistical requests were included in Senate Bill 140:

1. *The degree to which the backlog in the APPS database has been reduced or eliminated:*
 - The backlog in the APPS database was reduced by 17.74% in 2014.
2. *The number of agents hired for the enforcement of APPS:*
 - As of December 31, 2014, there were a total of 18 agents hired for the enforcement of the APPS program.
3. *The number of people cleared from APPS in calendar year 2014:*
 - 6,879 prohibited persons were cleared by APPS investigations.
 - An additional 3,922 prohibited persons were removed from the APPS database through attrition (deceased or no longer prohibited).
4. *The number of people added to APPS in calendar year 2014:*
 - 7,031 newly-prohibited persons were added.
5. *The number of people in the APPS database before and after the relevant reporting period, including a breakdown of why each person in the APPS database is prohibited from possessing a firearm:*
 - 21,249 people were in the APPS database at the beginning of 2014.
 - 17,479 people were in the APPS database at the end of 2014, a net reduction of 3,770.
6. *The number of firearms recovered due to APPS enforcement:*
 - ✚ 3,286 firearms seized,¹ of which 1,378 were APPS firearms and 1,908 were non-APPS firearms.
 - Additional related statistics on seizures and arrests:
 - ✚ 277,325 rounds of ammunition,
 - ✚ 235 rounds of tracer ammunition,
 - ✚ 1,888 magazines,
 - ✚ 300 high-capacity magazines,
 - ✚ 210 destructive devices, and
 - ✚ 137 arrests.

¹ The number of firearms recovered may not correlate with the number of firearms reported in the APPS database due to the continuing influx of people being added and removed from the database.



7. *The number of contacts made during the APPS enforcement efforts:*

- 7,573 APPS investigations were conducted.

8. *Information regarding task forces or collaboration with local law enforcement in an effort to reduce the APPS backlog:*

- The Department of Justice collaborated with a number of local law enforcement agencies, whose participation included investigative assistance and the presence of patrol officers and marked patrol vehicles. The following agencies were instrumental in the reduction of the APPS backlog:

Alameda County Sheriff's Department
Anaheim Police Department
Brea Police Department
California Highway Patrol
Campbell Police Department
Concord Police Department
Contra Costa County Probation Department
Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department
Daly City Police Department
Elk Grove Police Department
Fairfield Police Department
Foster City Police Department
Fresno County Sheriff's Department
Fresno Police Department
Hanford Police Department
Hayward Police Department
Los Angeles Police Department
Marin County District Attorney's Office
Marin County Probation Department
Monterey County Sheriff's Department
Monterey Police Department
Morgan Hill Police Department



Napa County Sheriff's Department
Oakland Police Department
Ontario Police Department
Orange County Sheriff's Department
Pacifica Police Department
Palo Alto Police Department
Pittsburg Police Department
Pleasanton Police Department
Redlands Police Department
Redwood City Police Department
Ridgecrest Police Department
Riverside County Sheriff's Department
Rohnert Park Police Department
Sacramento County Sheriff's Department
Salinas Police Department
San Benito County Sheriff's Department
San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department
San Bernardino Police Department
San Bruno Police Department
San Diego Police Department
San Diego County Sheriff's Department
San Francisco Police Department
San Joaquin County Sheriff's Department
San Jose Police Department
San Mateo County Sheriff's Department
San Mateo Police Department
Santa Ana Police Department
Santa Clara County Probation Department



Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department

Santa Clara Police Department

Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Department

Santa Rosa Police Department

Solano County Sheriff's Department

Sonoma County Sheriff's Department

South San Francisco Police Department

Suisun Police Department

Sunnyvale Police Department

Vacaville Police Department

Vallejo Police Department

Walnut Creek Police Department

Windsor Police Department

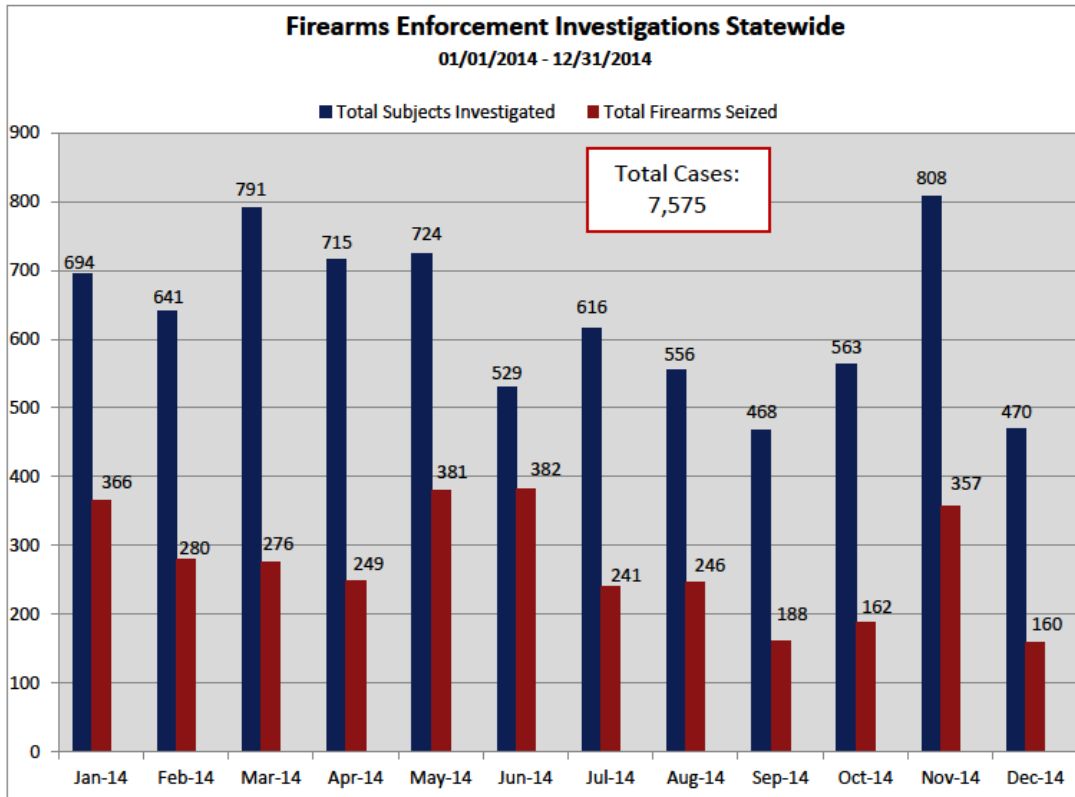
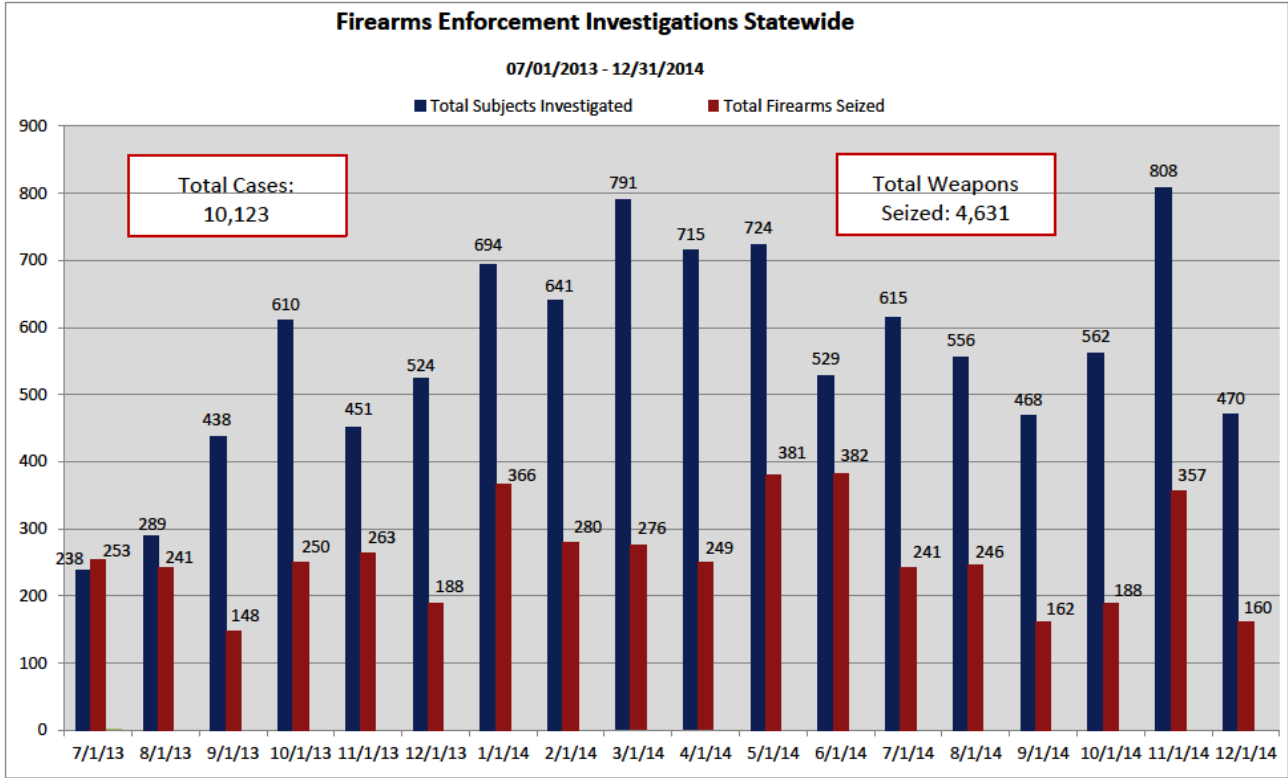
- The following task forces also assisted with the APPS database backlog:

San Mateo County Narcotics Task Force

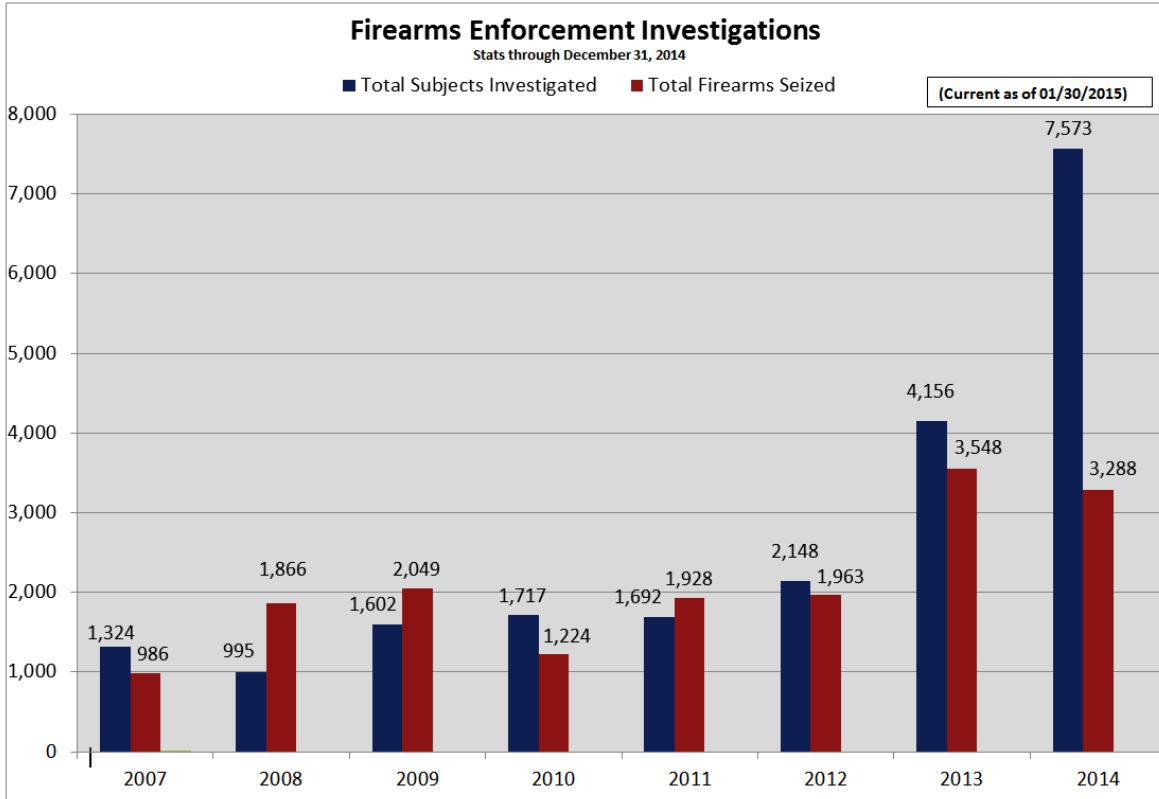
Santa Clara County Special Enforcement Team

Tulare Area Regional Gang Enforcement Team

Unified Narcotics Enforcement Team



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The Department of Justice achieved the goals set forth in the Senate Bill 140 mandate. Despite hiring challenges, the request to complete 7,000 APPS cases was accomplished and exceeded expectations by 573 cases. Recruitment shortcomings will be mitigated with the Department of Justice Special Agent Academy scheduled for Spring 2015 and additional personnel are expected to be employed. The APPS enforcement efforts are integral to the safety of the people of California. The success of the APPS program will continue due to the commitment of the Department of Justice to fulfill the obligations set forth in Senate Bill 140. Looking ahead to 2015, the California Department of Justice, Bureau of Firearms is on pace to continue to exceed the expectations and goals set forth in Senate Bill 140.