

ARMED FOR VIOLENCE

ICE AND CBP'S MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR SURGE TO AMASS WEAPONS AND MUNITIONS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Government data reveals that, over the past year, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has procured large volumes of weapons and munitions, including for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) Border Patrol agents. During the first year of President Trump's second term, **ICE and CBP committed to spending more than \$144 million on weapons, ammunition, and related accessories**, according to uncovered records.

In just one year, ICE's spending commitments on weapons, ammunition, and accessories surged fourfold – an increase of over 360 percent – when compared to ICE's contracts in 2024. In 2025, CBP's contracts for weapons, ammunition, and accessories doubled when compared to CBP's 2024 contract totals. This new spending in 2025 includes contracts by ICE and CBP for:

- **Tens of millions of dollars to buy lethal weapons**, including thousands of AR-style rifles, pistols, and large quantities of accessories, such as optical sights for firearms and suppressors;
- **More than \$30 million for ammunition**; and
- **More than \$25 million to purchase significant quantities of so-called "less-lethal" weapons and crowd control devices**, such as TASERs, pepper sprays, tear gas canisters, and canister launchers.

This massive surge in contracts to procure lethal and "less-lethal" weapons has coincided with DHS's active deployment of thousands of agents around the country and the department's drive to rapidly recruit and hire thousands of new ICE and CBP agents, which has reinforced serious concerns about DHS's vetting and training standards for these agents. **Moreover, records show that DHS's procurement of weapons at immense scale is just beginning**, as these contract awards contemplate even greater spending moving forward.

The uncovered data compiled in this report serves as a stark warning to the American public. **The heavily armed nature of immigration enforcement endangers all of us** and heightens the risk that federal immigration agents resort to using weapons when escalation and lethal force are unwarranted and avoidable. As Americans across the country have already witnessed, and media footage and crowd-sourced photographs and videos have documented, federal agents have brandished and used such weapons with increasing frequency in communities across the country, including against peaceful observers and protestors – with tragic consequences.

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