Who and how exported Bulgarian weapons to Ukraine: documents

By Dilyana Gaytandzhieva - March 28, 2022

Freight Infor	mation
Buyer	Дп Дгзп Спецтехноекспорт
Supplier	Arm Techsp.Zo.O.
Trade Date	2021/02/03
Purchase	ukraine
Origin	other
Product	
HS Code	9306901000
Product	1. ТВП. 40 ММ ПОСТРІЛ ВОГ-25 ДО ГП-25 (40 ММ ПОСТРІЛ RLV-HEF) NSN: 1310-50-000-0285 - 51000 ШТ ТОРГІВЕЛЬНА МАРКА - ARSENAL;ВИРОБНИК - ARSENAL;КРАЇНА ВИРОБНИЦТВА ВС
Weight	12750.0 KG
Container qty	12750.0 OTHER
Total Amount	1921150.89(Dollar)
Unit Price	150.68

51,000 pcs. of RLV-HEF rounds, manufactured by the Bulgarian arms factory Arsenal, were exported to Ukraine by the Polish company Arm Techsp. Zo.O., in 2021

Documents reveal that tons of Bulgarian weapons were exported to Ukraine via Poland and the Czech Republic in 2021 and 2020. Bulgaria officially denies that Bulgarian weapons were exported to Ukraine, although the use of Bulgarian weapons was well documented on the front line in Ukraine.

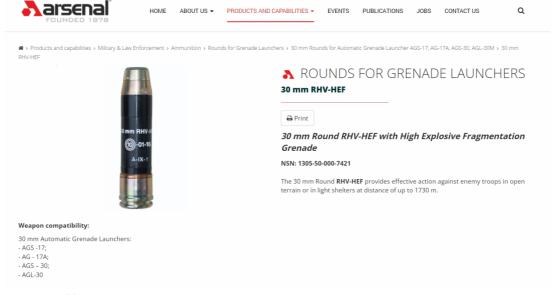
Weapons originating from the Balkans are often seen in war zones including in the hands of terrorists in Syria and Yemen. Although local governments have always denied such exports documents prove otherwise.

Weapons from the Balkans have been used for years for illicit arms supplies to war zones around the world. Documents revealed that 350 diplomatic flights carried weapons to terrorists in Syria. Leaked documents also exposed a secret US Special Operations Command unit code named Task Force Smoking Gun. It had been deployed in Croatia since 2017 and tasked with diverting tons of arms and ammunition from Europe to Syria.

Bulgarian weapons in Ukraine



This 30 mm high-explosive fragmentation grenade RHV-HEF (HE FRAG) for automatic grenade launchers, manufactured by the Bulgarian military plant Arsenal, was used by the Ukrainian army during the shelling of residential buildings in Zaitsevo, Donetsk. Photo: Press office of DPR army



Source: arsenal-bg.com

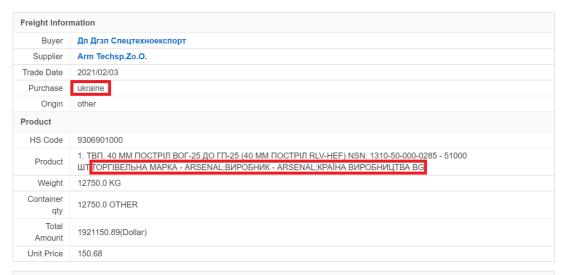
By law, re-export of weapons to a third country can only take place with the permission of the exporting country, in this case Bulgaria. It is not known whether Bulgaria allowed re-export via Poland and the Czech Republic to Ukraine or whether these weapons were smuggled into Ukraine. Bulgarian officials deny that Bulgarian weapons were exported to Ukraine.

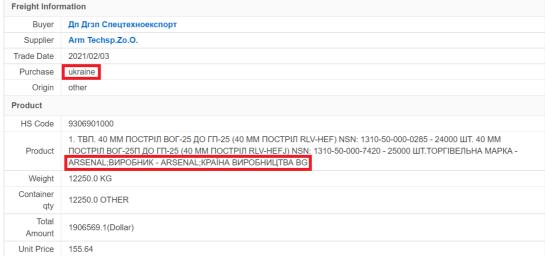
I tracked these Bulgarian weapons from Bulgaria to the front line in Ukraine, using data from the international trade database Great Export Import. Bulgarian weapons, manufactured by Arsenal, VMZ, Arcus and Emco military plants, were imported into Ukraine. The exporters were two Polish companies: Arm Techsp. Zo.O and Vismag Jacek Jakubczyk, and the Czech company Excalibur Army Spol.S.R.O.

Import via Poland

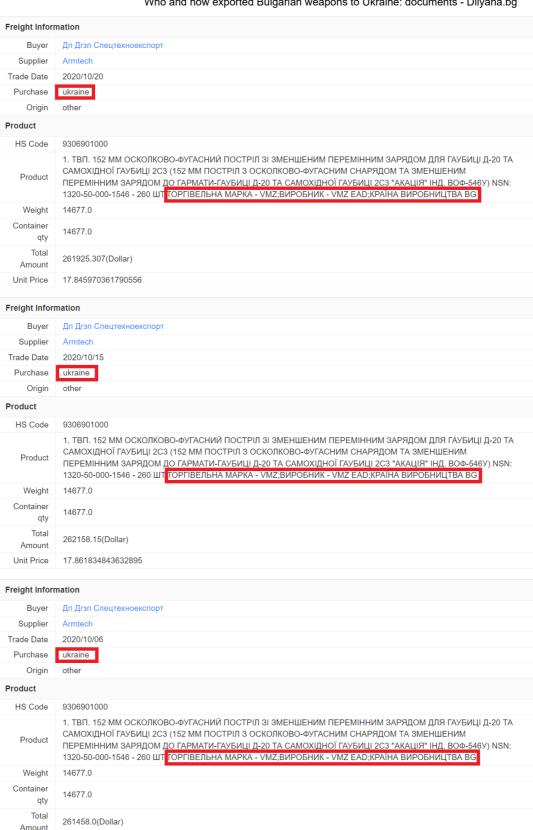
The Ukrainian company Dp Dzzp Spetstechnoexport imported Bulgarian weapons from Arsenal and VMZ-Sopot in 2021, 2020 and 2019, and the export was carried out by the Polish company Arm Techsp. Zo, according to information obtained from Great Export Import. The Ukrainian company Dp Dzzp Spetstechnoexport purchased 40 mm rounds RLV-HEF for grenade launchers, manufactured by Arsenal, and 152 mm high-explosive fragmentation grenades for howitzer D-20

and 2C3, manufactured by VMZ-Sopot. The database lists eleven imports made in 2021, 2020 and 2019. Bulgaria is indicated as the manufacturer of the weapons.



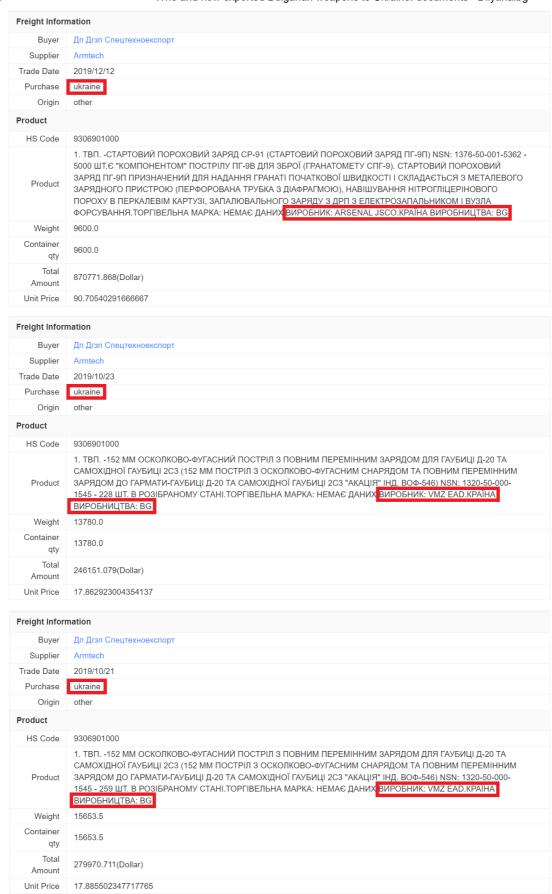


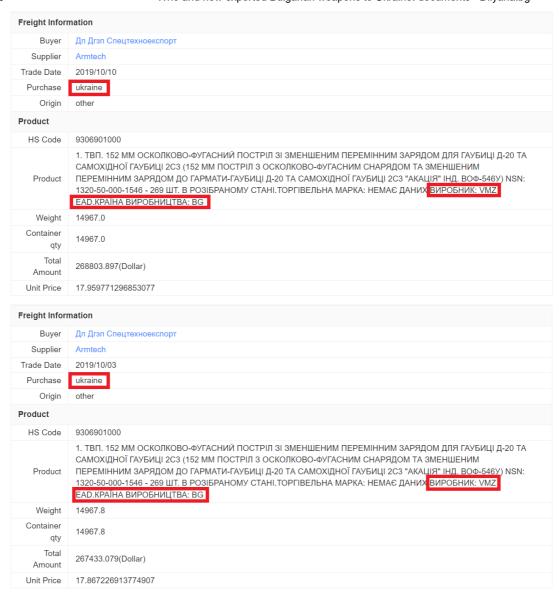
Freight Information		
Buyer	Дп Дгзп Спецтехноекспорт	
Supplier	Armtech	
Trade Date	2020/10/21	
Purchase	ukraine	
Origin	other	
Product		
HS Code	9306901000	
Product	1. ТВП. 152 ММ ОСКОЛКОВО-ФУГАСНИЙ ПОСТРІЛ ЗІ ЗМЕНШЕНИМ ПЕРЕМІННИМ ЗАРЯДОМ ДЛЯ ГАУБИЦІ Д-20 ТА САМОХІДНОЇ ГАУБИЦІ 2C3 (152 ММ ПОСТРІЛ З ОСКОЛКОВО-ФУГАСНИМ СНАРЯДОМ ТА ЗМЕНШЕНИМ ПЕРЕМІННИМ ЗАРЯДОМ ДО ГАРМАТИ-ГАУБИЦІ Д-20 ТА САМОХІДНОЇ ГАУБИЦІ 2C3 "АКАЦІЯ" ІНД. ВОФ-546У) NSN: 1320-50-000-1546 - 260 ШТ <mark>ТОРГІВЕЛЬНА МАРКА - VMZ;ВИРОБНИК - VMZ ЕАD;КРАЇНА ВИРОБНИЦТВА ВС</mark>	
Weight	14677.0	
Container qty	14677.0	
Total Amount	261925.307(Dollar)	
Unit Price	17.845970361790556	



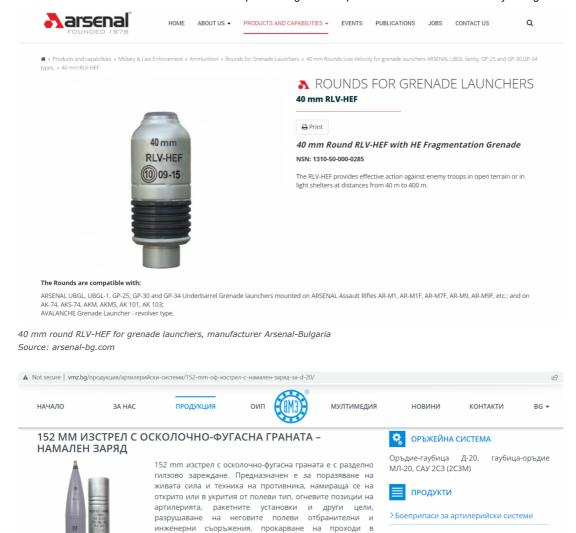
17.81413095319207

Unit Price





According to the documents, Ukraine imported the following weapons manufactured by the Bulgarian arms factories Arsenal and VMZ-Sopot:



152 mm high-explosive fragmentation grenade for howitzer D-20 and 2C3, manufacturer VMZ-Sopot. Source: vmz.bg

заграждения и минни полета.

Such 40 mm RLV-HEF rounds for grenade launchers, manufactured by Arsenal-Bulgaria, were discovered by DPR forces in trenches used by the Ukrainian army.

▶ Боеприпаси за РСЗО

> Боеприпаси за ръчна противотанкова гранатохвъргачка РПГ-7В

> Реактивни гранати с гранатохвъргачка за еднократно ползване

In addition to the weapons from VMZ and Arsenal, Bulgarian rounds manufactured by the Bulgarian arms factory Arcus also appeared on the front line in Ukraine.











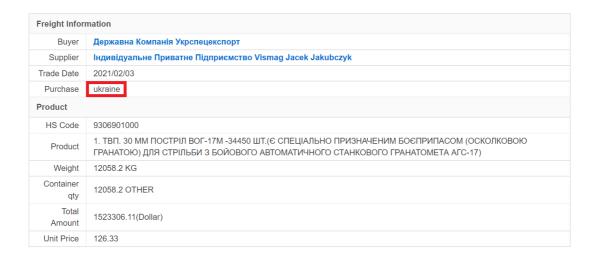


Source: Dmitry Astrakhan

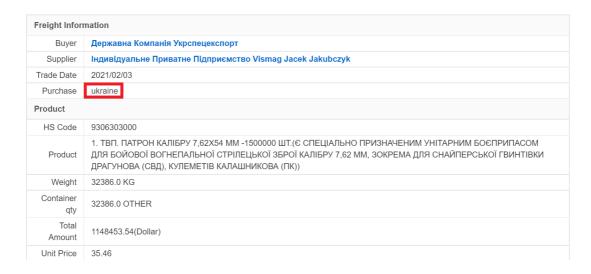
The manufacturer of VOG-17M is the Bulgarian arms factory Arcus.



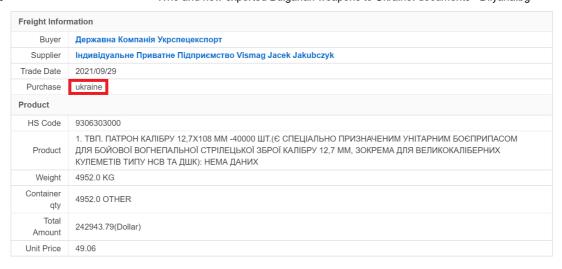
The Ukrainian state company Ukrspetsexport purchased such 30 mm VOG-17M rounds (34,450 pcs.) in 2021 from the Polish company Vismag Jacek Jakubczyk, according to information obtained from the international database Great Export Import.



The same day, February 3, 2021, Ukrspetsexport purchased from the same Polish company Vismag Jacek Jakubczyk 1.5 million pcs. of 7,62×54 mm bullets:

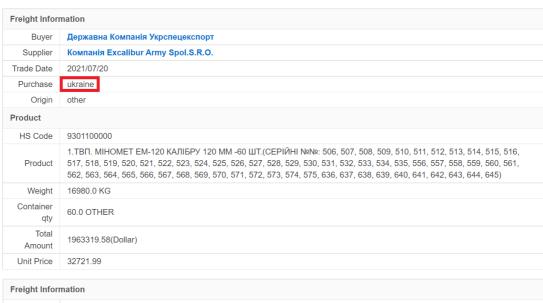


On September 29, 2021, the Polish company Vismag Jacek Jakubczyk exported 40,000 pcs. of $12,7 \times 108$ mm bullets to Ukraine.



Import via the Czech Republic

On June 20, 2021, the Ukrainian state company Ukrspetsexport purchased a total of 140 pcs. of EM-120 mortars from the Czech company Excalibur Army Spol.S.R.O., according to the international trade database Great Import Export. EM-120 is manufactured by the Bulgarian arms factory Emco. Emco's owner Emilian Gebrev denied that his company had exported weapons to Ukraine. Over the last years he has been involved in a number of international scandals, one of which his poisoning in 2015.



Freight Information		
Buyer	Державна Компанія Укрспецекспорт	
Supplier	Компанія Excalibur Army Spol.S.R.O.	
Trade Date	2021/07/20	
Purchase	ukraine	
Origin	other	
Product		
HS Code	9301100000	
Product	1.TBП. MIHOMET EM-120 КАЛІБРУ 120 MM -80 ШТ.(СЕРІЙНІ №№: 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635)	
Weight	22640.0 KG	
Container qty	80.0 OTHER	
Total Amount	2617759.44(Dollar)	
Unit Price	32721.99	

On June 20, 2021, the Ukrainian state company Ukrspetsexport purchased a total of 140 pcs. of EM-120 mortars from the Czech company Excalibur Army Spol.S.R.O. These weapons are manufactured by Emco in Bulgaria.

The Krusik scandal



British NLAW, American Javelin, Bulgarian 30 mm VOG-17M manufactured by Arcus in 2020 and a Serbian 60 mm M73 mortar shell manufactured by Krusik in 2016 seized by the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) forces on the front line in Donetsk.

Serbia officially has not exported weapons to Ukraine. Documents show that these Serbian 60 mm M73 mortar shells manufactured by Krusik in 2016 were exported on papers to Poland.

Serbian president Alexander Vucic denied that Serbia knew about Serbian weapons being exported to Ukraine. According to Vucic, this particular lot of weapons (15,000 pcs.) was sold by Krusik to the private Serbian company Tehnoremont which exported the weapons to the Polish company Natan via Cyprus. However, Ukraine was not indicated as the end user of these Serbian weapons.

The scandal that Serbian arms were being trafficked to war zones broke in September 2019 after I published an investigation into who armed ISIS terrorists in Yemen. Documents from the Serbian arms factory Krusik revealed that Serbian weapons manufactured by Krusik and sold to Saudi Arabia had ended up with Islamic State terrorists in Yemen. Three days after the story was published, on 18 September, Serbian prosecutors arrested the Krusik whistleblower Alexander Obradovich.

Instead of investigating the arms trafficking to terrorists in Yemen, the Serbian prosecutors launched an investigation into the leak from Krusik and charged the whistleblower Alexander Obradovich with revealing trade secrets. His arrest caused a wave of protests in Serbia and he was released from prison under house arrest. Yet Alexander Obradovich is under investigation for exposing arms trafficking and corruption in Serbia and the court case against him has not been dropped while those who traffic arms go free. The full 3-part investigation into who has armed terrorists you can read here:

Islamic State weapons in Yemen traced back to US Government: Serbia files (part 1)

US Task Force Smoking Gun smuggles weapons to Syria: Serbia files (part 2)

Leaked arms dealers' passports reveal who supplies terrorists in Yemen: Serbia files (Part 3)

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Dilyana Gaytandzhieva

https://armswatch.com/

Dilyana Gaytandzhieva is a Bulgarian investigative journalist, Middle East correspondent and founder of Arms Watch. Over the last years she has published a series of revealing reports on weapons supplies to terrorists in Syria, Iraq and Yemen. Her current work is focused on documenting war crimes and illicit arms exports to war zones around the world.

