• In 1996 the Minister for Safety and Security, appointed a Special Task Team to investigate the legislation regulating firearms, the administration of the Central Firearms Register (CFR) and the policy on issuing of firearm licences.
• The Firearm Control Bill was drafted to replace the Arms and Ammunition Act, 1969 (Act 75 of 1969)
• In 2000, Parliament passed the Firearm Control Act, 2000 (Act 60 of 2000)
• The firearm control Regulations were drafted and promulgated on 1 July 2004 to give effect to the new Act.
• Subsequent developments were as follows:
  o Firearms Control Amendment Act, 2003 (Act 43 of 2003)
  o Firearms Control Regulations, 2004
  o Firearms Control Amendment Act, 2006 (Act 28 of 2006)
  o Firearms Control Amendment Regulations, 2007
  o Firearms Control Amendment Regulations, 2010
...INTRODUCTION...

- Additional to the call by then Minister, the African Union Member States, in terms of the Bamako Declaration, share a common position on the measures to control the circulation, transfer and use of small arms and light weapons (SALW).
- A draft AU Strategy was adopted to support implementation by Member States
- Member States undertook to identify, seize and destroy illicit weapons, hence the recognition of a common firearm destruction day
- In order to address the need for legislation in this environment, the FCA was developed with the following objectives:
  - To reduce firearm related crimes in South Africa.
  - To effectively control all legally possessed firearms in South Africa.
  - To prevent the proliferation of illegally possessed firearms.
  - To maintain a reliable firearms control and management system.
INTRODUCTION

- Licences issued in terms of the previous act (arms and ammunition) remained valid for a period of five years from the date on which the firearms control act came into operation.
- Firearms that exceeded limitation in terms of the Firearms Control Act had to be disposed of.
- Internal processes and procedures were put in place to facilitate the replacement of old licences and the disposal of excess individual firearms.
- Legal possession of firearms in South Africa is centred around the following entities:
  - Private Owners (Individuals)
  - Institutions (Parastatals, Security companies and others) e.g. In-house security, game ranchers, training providers, associations, etc.
  - Commercial Agents (Dealers, Gunsmiths and Manufacturers)
  - Government Departments (National and Provincial)
RESOURCES ALLOCATED FOR IMPLEMENTATION IN 2004

• Once-off budget to implement the FCA, no dedicated or ring-fenced budget
• Inventories, Equipment & Professional and Specialised Services to the value of R 39 908 000:
  o **Vehicles** 458
  o **Computer Equipment** (figures after roll-out of Final Procurement):
    ✓ Desktops – 1 153
    ✓ Scanners – 728
    ✓ Printers – 573
    ✓ Fax Machines – 367
    ✓ Include Network Connectivity and e-mailing
    ✓ Licence Printers X 14 (2 100 000.00)
    Total Value of Computer Equipment – R 23 291 956.00

    Total Allocation for initial rollout = **R 63 199 956.00**
• No dedicated Maintenance Plan in place
IMPLEMENTING THE DESIGNATED FIREARMS OFFICER (DFO) CONCEPT

- As Part of the implementation of the Firearms Control Act, **two DFO concepts** were introduced and ran parallel:
  - Establishment of two Implementation Models: FRC Model and EPS Model
  - Firearm Registration Centre Model was implemented in Gauteng province as a Pilot Project (now defunct).
  - Enable Police Station Model was implemented in all other Provinces: Gauteng is now using the same model.

- Designated Firearm Officer **Training**, based on the Training Guideline:
  - Firearms Control Legislation
  - Practical Approach
  - Enhanced Firearms Register System
  - Evidence Management
  - IBIS Testing
MEMBERS TRAINED AS DFOs SINCE INCEPTION (under the FCA)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
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<td>HEAD OFFICE</td>
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<td>97</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td>33</td>
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<tr>
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<td>41</td>
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<td>KWAZULU-NATAL</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>111</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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<td>598</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>344</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>279</td>
<td>383</td>
<td>341</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>3441</td>
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</table>
IMPLEMENTATION RELAPSE – MINISTERIAL INTERVENTION

- First audit identified a total of 1,048,341 outstanding applications in February 2010.
- Second follow-up audit found additional 32,355 outstanding applications at various provinces.
- Dedicated teams of officers from various provinces were assembled to assist with the consideration of the applications.
- These teams worked extended hours and additional funds were secured for overtime purposes for officers considering the applications.
- All outstanding categories of applications were finalised during August 2011 was 1,080,696.
- The huge flow of applications, insufficient administrative capacity and late submission of applications contributed to the implementation relapse.
Amnesty was declared by the Minister of Safety and Security in 2005 and in 2010 by the Minister of Police.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Firearms</th>
<th>Ammunition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>33,246</td>
<td>608,794</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>11,712</td>
<td>129,101</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTALS</td>
<td>44,958</td>
<td>737,895</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## FIREARM APPLICATIONS: 1 JULY 2004 – TO DATE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>Received</th>
<th>Finalised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual applications</td>
<td>602 682</td>
<td>581 266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competency applications</td>
<td>1 420 280</td>
<td>1 391 697</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business licences</td>
<td>99 042</td>
<td>95 730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renewal licences</td>
<td>904 113</td>
<td>879 012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Import/export individual applications</td>
<td>130 622</td>
<td>127 256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Import/export commercial applications</td>
<td>11 909</td>
<td>11 334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporary authorisation</td>
<td>21 213</td>
<td>20 143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total applications</strong></td>
<td><strong>3 189 861</strong></td>
<td><strong>3 106 438</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### ACTIVE LEGAL FIREARMS

#### Legal Firearms in South Africa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Owners</th>
<th>Firearms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual owners</td>
<td>1,749,034</td>
<td>3,081,173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Official institutions</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>1,270,405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-official institutions</td>
<td>8,937</td>
<td>136,259</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## INACTIVE FIREARMS (LEGAL AND ILLICIT)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Firearms</th>
<th>Ammunition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Voluntarily surrendered</td>
<td>126,849</td>
<td>1,629,487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confiscated firearms</td>
<td>143,160</td>
<td>1,802,763</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destructed firearms since</td>
<td></td>
<td>676,599</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Section 102 (declared unfit to possess a firearm): 8,605 individuals accounting for 10,611 firearms
## GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Internal stakeholders</th>
<th>External stakeholders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Communications</td>
<td>DEALERS ASSOCIATION (certification of members)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology Management Services</td>
<td>HUNTERS ASSOCIATION (certification of members)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Record Centre</td>
<td>COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION (certification of members)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Supply Chain Management</td>
<td>PSIRA (authentication of security companies)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Services</td>
<td>DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS (deceased owners)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (section 103) (estate firearms)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COMMUNICATION PREPARATORY PHASE

- Development of a SAPS corporate identity for firearms
- Development, design and printing of posters relating to the generic elements of firearms control (47 000)
  - License fees
  - Safe keeping of firearms
  - Safety and children
- Development, design and printing of brochures (590 000)
  - Safe keeping of firearms
  - Safety and children
  - Generic issues relating to firearms control legislation i.e. Accreditation
- Placement of firearms control legislation on inter- and intranet of the SAPS as well as government website
ADDRESSING ASSOCIATED CORRUPTION

The following steps have been implemented to deal with issues relating to corruption:

- Access to the system user codes have been changed
- Quarterly anti corruption work sessions are conducted
- Limited access on certain user functions
- Restrictions placed on member user group (e.g. GP to GP)
- Vetting of regional commanders, Management Information Centre officials and secretaries by crime intelligence
- Constant job rotation of members within regions
- Quality assurance by commanders
CURRENT PLANS AND PROPOSALS

• Central Firearm Register Turnaround Strategy:
  - Acquisition of a building for CFR personnel
  - Review processes and procedures for firearm applications
  - The upgrading of the enhanced firearm registration system
  - The streamlining of the firearm registration system
  - Revision of the CFR, provincial and station structures
  - Revision of the application forms for the possession of firearms
  - Review policies regulating estate firearms
  - Upgrading the current printing machines and print in-house at the provincial level
CHALLENGES

• Inadequate storage facilities for files and insufficient accommodation for personnel
  o Turn around time to finalise applications is negatively affected.
  o Distance between Veritas Building situated in the Pretoria CBD and archives situated at Silverton is also affecting the turn around time to finalise the applications.
  o The incomplete implementation of the Firearms Control System.
  o The inability of the Firearms Control System to process firearm applications electronically (e-applications).

• Legislative Gaps
  o Incongruence in the lifespan of the licence to posses a firearm and a competency certificate
  o No clear directive on the “fit and proper” attribute of the applicant
  o No competency on the part of the DFO to assess the mental and physical state of the applicant.
CONCLUSION

• The Central Firearms Register Turnaround Strategy and Action Plan were developed and are being implemented to improve service delivery, combat corruption and ensure quality assurance.

• The South African Police Service management and personnel are committed and dedicated to ensure effective and efficient implementation of the Firearms Control Act.