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## White Paper on DHS Ammunition Procurement

The Department of Homeland Security has many law enforcement and security related missions.

- DHS has approximately 72,000 agents and officers<sup>1</sup> that carry one or more firearms in the conduct of their missions, including Border Patrol Agents, Customs and Border Protection Officers, Secret Service Agents, Federal Air Marshals, Federal Protective Service Officers, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agents.
- Each of these agents and officers is required to qualify four times each year on any weapon issued to him or her. Typically agents and officers qualify on pistol as well as rifle or shotgun. Agents and Officers typically are allotted 200 rounds for qualification and preceding practice. Some specialized agents or teams will also participate periodically in advanced firearms training.
- The United States Coast Guard, a component of DHS, consists of over 41,000 uniformed members of the military.
- DHS also houses four training sites that comprise the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC), which trains over 60,000 Federal, State, Local and Tribal law enforcement personnel every year.
- DHS Components have some of the most stringent qualifying requirements in the federal government or compared to the military or state and local law enforcement. This can be attributed in part to the nature of its missions such as the Secret Service protection of the President, Federal Air Marshals operation on airplanes, and the rugged conditions that members of the Border Patrol face.

DHS purchase of ammunition has remained relatively constant since 2006.<sup>2</sup>

- DHS buys approximately 120 million rounds of ammunition per year of all calibers and types and fires approximately the same number of rounds per year, almost exclusively in training. In FY2012 DHS ordered 103,178,200 rounds and used 116,227,781 rounds.<sup>3</sup>
- Budget for FY2013 and spending data for FY2013 to date indicate DHS is on pace to buy roughly the same amount this fiscal year as in previous years.<sup>4</sup>
- The Department has had only minor fluctuations to its buying patterns, with an increase in purchases due to the addition of over 2000 Border Patrol Agents each year from FY2006-FY2009. Purchases peaked in FY2010, and have since decreased and leveled off.<sup>5</sup>
- DHS has a roughly two-year supply of ammunition on hand in order to manage training and operational posture needs, due to the fact that delivery from manufacturers can take 6 months to a year. At the beginning of FY2013, DHS had 263,733,362 rounds on hand.<sup>6</sup>

DHS has a variety of contracts that it uses to purchase ammunition in an efficient manner. DHS utilizes its size to drive down the cost of goods and services by combining its requirements across the Department for everything from computer equipment to ammunition. DHS has saved \$1.7 billion dollars under its Strategic Sourcing Program since 2005. By combining the requirements of the entire department, DHS has been able to leverage its buying power and secure very competitive prices from manufactures.

- DHS has strategically-sourced contracts for .40 caliber, .38 caliber, 9mm Luger, .223 Remington, and 12ga shotgun ammunition. Each contract is an Indefinite-Delivery/Indefinite-Quantity (IDIQ) type contract with various contract ceilings and periods of performance of up to 5 years. These contracts are not purchases, but rather lock in the price, specifications, delivery costs and other requirements for the period of performance. DHS only orders off the contracts as needed and pays for the ammunition on delivery. Total orders may not exceed the negotiated ceiling of rounds. DHS is only required to buy a minimum that represents about one month of the projected DHS requirement.
- The largest of the contracts are the .40 caliber and the .223 Remington contracts. These contracts have lifetime (5 years) ceilings of 450 million and 165 million rounds, respectively.

- DHS has used similar contract vehicles in the past. In 2008 and 2009, DHS competed and awarded three contracts for .40 caliber ammunition of varying grains with ceilings totaling 466 million rounds over five years. DHS has moved almost exclusively to 180gr bullets for its .40 caliber ammunition, so these contracts have been allowed to expire and their requirements combined to the single vehicle referenced above.
- The price per round under the current DHS .40 caliber duty ammunition contract is \$0.243, which represents more than an 80% savings over prevailing retail prices.
- The ammunition that is procured is of extremely high quality, and is lot-tested to monitor quality.
- Field Offices, Border Patrol Stations, and training facilities order off of these contracts for delivery directly to the field based on their needs. Components may also set up smaller contracts for specialized or unique needs.
- Shelf life of the ammunition is not of particular concern as there is an effort to rotate training ammunition (oldest-ordered first) and to cycle ammunition issued to officers in the field for use in one out of their four required practice and qualifying sessions each year.

DHS uses its duty rounds for training in most cases.

- DHS officers and agents are engaged in work around the country at remote border locations and small field offices. Delivering and storing different types of ammunition for training and operational use creates complex logistical challenges, and could potentially create an officer safety issue if the wrong ammunition is used in the field. Given the low price that DHS is able to negotiate on its ammunition contracts, officers and agents generally use the same types of rounds for both purposes.
- DHS uses hollow-point pistol ammunition in most duty situations, which is standard practice in law enforcement, to limit potential collateral damage. DHS agents and officers have a variety of less than lethal weapons, and only use firearms when use of deadly force is required and legally authorized.
- At FLETC, all the ammunition used is for training purposes and they order specific training ammunition such as Commercial Leaded Training Ammunition, low-lead or “green” ammunition, and closely monitor it to make sure it is not removed from their facilities and accidentally used for operational purposes.
- DHS is also investigating whether industry can make an even less expensive training round, but it will also need to be readily identifiable (i.e. a different color) so that there is little chance of confusing the rounds.
- DHS has also considered ways to use less ammunition without jeopardizing officer preparedness. All training expenses are being closely scrutinized given the current budget sequestration.

DHS has been transparent about its activities.

- Every contract solicitation and award has been advertized on [www.fedbizopps.gov](http://www.fedbizopps.gov) with a full description of the contract vehicle and details about the ceilings and period of performance.
- In limited cases, procurement sensitive information such as proprietary information and bid information has been redacted in accordance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation.
- The DHS Office of Legislative Affairs (OLA) and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office of Congressional Relations have responded to inquiries from over 100 Congressional offices by phone and email.
- To date, DHS has received 19 letters from Members of Congress and has responded to 14 of those letters; the remaining 5 have all been received in the last month and DHS is actively working to respond to them.
- DHS OLA has provided extensive information on this topic to the Congressional Research Service, the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigation.

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<sup>1</sup> National Finance Center Job Series data from 2/9/2013 71,998 employees includes Series 0083 (police), 1801 (General Inspection, Investigation, Enforcement and Compliance– ICE, TSA, and FPS only), 1811 (Criminal Investigating), 1895 (Border Patrol Enforcement) 1896 (Customs and Border Protection), and 0080 (Security Administration, FPS only)

<sup>2</sup> FPDS.gov Spending Data retrieved 2/22/2013

<sup>3</sup> DHS Data call to components November 20, 2012.

<sup>4</sup> FPDS.gov Spending data retrieved 3/21/2013, Budget data retrieved in DHS November 20, 2012 data call.

<sup>5</sup> FPDS.gov Spending Data retrieved 2/22/2013

<sup>6</sup> DHS Data call to components November 20, 2012.