



**Homeland
Security**

April 12, 2013

The Honorable Billy Long
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Long:

Thank you for your March 13, 2013 letter to Secretary Napolitano concerning the recent announcement about the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) strategic sourcing solicitation for ammunition.

DHS routinely establishes strategic sourcing contracts that combine the requirements of all its Components for commonly purchased goods and services, which helps to leverage the purchasing power of the entire Department to efficiently procure equipment and supplies at significantly lower costs. With approximately 72,000 law enforcement agents and officers and more than 40,000 United States Coast Guard uniformed military personnel, significant quantities of ammunition are used to support law enforcement operations, routine qualifications, and training.

The procurement figures for ammunition referenced during federal procurements reflect the maximum ceiling for which the contract allows over a multi-year time period. The referenced round totals are simply a ceiling. It does not mean that DHS will buy, or require, the full amounts. The actual amounts ordered and delivered are much less because DHS only purchases ammunition from contracts on an as-needed basis. Since 2009 the number of rounds purchased annually through DHS Strategic Sourcing contracts has remained relatively steady. During Fiscal Year (FY) 2012, DHS purchased 103,178,200 rounds of ammunition. During the same period, DHS used 116,227,781 rounds, the majority of which was for training. The usage figure is greater due to the fact that DHS maintains about a two-year supply of ammunition on hand at its various training facilities and geographically dispersed field offices and Border Patrol stations, as it can often take up to one year for delivery from manufacturers.

The enclosure summarizes DHS's ammunition usage and purchase history from FY 2010–2012, as well as an estimated inventory figure broken down by each DHS Component. Due to the recent sequestration, DHS currently does not have an estimated acquisition budget for ammunition for FY 2014.

Thank you once again for your letter. I look forward to working with you in the future. Should you need additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 447-5890.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nelson Peacock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Nelson Peacock
Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs

Enclosure