

# Congressman: DHS Refuses to Answer to Congress on 1.6 Billion Bullet Purchase

By Kyle Becker, March 19, 2013

A U.S. Congressman was asked about the Department of Homeland Security's purchase of 1.6 billion rounds of ammunition that the agency will stockpile over the near future, as **confirmed** by the Associated Press.

According to the video description posted by WeAreChange:

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<iframe width="640" height="360"
src="http://www.youtube.com/embed/HbfjxjpKoR8?feature=player_embedded" frameborder="0"
allowfullscreen></iframe>
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***“At CPAC, Luke Rudkowski interviewed Congressman Timothy Huelskamp on his decision to vote against the NDAA which was due to the unconstitutionality of the indefinite detention provision. They also discussed Obama’s Disposition Matrix and the large ammunition purchases made by the DHS.”***

Militarization of domestic police forces is not permissible under U.S. law; and specifically **posse comitatus** (mentioned during Rand Paul’s filibuster). DHS has some explaining to do and there will be plenty of people analyzing if its stockpiling of weapons and ammunition passes muster.

It is irrelevant whether one is suspicious or trusting of the federal government when it comes to enforcing the law. It is the executive branch’s obligation to report to Congress what activities it is undertaking in order to be in legislative compliance and to receive funding.

If the DHS can’t handle being under the supervision of Congress, it should be defunded without an apology to the administration or to the mainstream media. Such matters are extremely serious and fall outside the realm of partisan bickering.

***Next: Forbes Magazine article;***

## 1.6 Billion Rounds Of Ammo For Homeland Security?

### It's Time For A National Conversation

Ralph Benko, March 11, 2013.

NRA Winning the Influence Battle Over Gun Control **Bruce Rogers** Forbes Staff



Obama's Gun-Control Laws Would Limit, Not Destroy \$32B Firearm Industry **Abram Brown** Forbes Staff



Armored Personnel Carriers in Baghdad. (Photo credit: Wikipedia)

The *Denver Post*, on February 15<sup>th</sup>, ran an Associated Press article entitled *Homeland Security aims to buy 1.6b rounds of ammo*, so far to little notice. It confirmed that the Department of Homeland Security has issued an open purchase order for 1.6 billion rounds of ammunition. As reported elsewhere, some of this purchase order is for hollow-point

rounds, forbidden by international law for use in war, along with a frightening amount specialized for snipers. Also reported elsewhere, at the height of the Iraq War the Army was expending less than 6 million rounds a month. **Therefore 1.6 billion rounds would be enough to sustain a hot war for 20+ years. In America.**

Add to this perplexing outré purchase of ammo, DHS now is showing off its acquisition of heavily armored personnel carriers, repatriated from the Iraqi and Afghani theaters of operation. As observed by “paramilblogger” Ken Jorgustin last September:

The Department of Homeland Security is apparently taking delivery (apparently through the Marine Corps Systems Command, Quantico VA, via the manufacturer – Navistar Defense LLC) of an undetermined number of the recently retrofitted 2,717 ‘Mine Resistant Protected’ MaxxPro MRAP vehicles for service on the streets of the United States.”

**These MRAP’s ARE BEING SEEN ON U.S. STREETS all across America by verified observers with photos, videos, and descriptions.”**

Regardless of the exact number of MRAP’s being delivered to DHS (and evidently some to POLICE via DHS, as has been observed), why would they need such over-the-top vehicles on U.S. streets to withstand IEDs, mine blasts, and 50 caliber hits to bullet-proof glass? In a war zone... yes, definitely. Let’s protect our men and women. On the streets of America...?”

**“They all have gun ports... Gun Ports? In the theater of war, yes. On the streets of America...?”**

**Seriously, why would DHS need such a vehicle on our streets?”**

Why indeed? It is utterly inconceivable that Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano is planning a *coup d’etat* against President Obama, and the Congress, to install herself as Supreme Ruler of the United States of America. There, however, are real signs that the Department bureaucrats are running amok. About 20 years ago this columnist worked, for two years, in the U.S. Department of Energy’s general counsel’s office in its procurement and finance division. And is wise to the ways. The answer to “why **would DHS need such a vehicle?**” almost certainly is this: it’s a cool toy and these (reportedly) million dollar toys are being recycled, without much of an impact on the DHS budget. So... *why not?*

Why, indeed, should the federal government not be deploying armored personnel carriers and stockpiling enough ammo for a 20-year war in the homeland? Because it's wrong in every way. President Obama has an opportunity, now, to live up to some of his rhetoric by helping the federal government set a noble example in a matter very close to his heart (and that of his Progressive base), one not inimical to the Bill of Rights: gun control. The federal government can (for a nice change) *begin practicing what it preaches by controlling itself.*

**Remember the Sequester?** The president is claiming its budget cuts will inconvenience travelers by squeezing essential services provided by the (opulently armed and stylishly uniformed) DHS. Quality ammunition is not cheap. (Of course, news reports that DHS is about to spend \$50 million on new uniforms suggests a certain cavalier attitude toward government frugality.)

Spending money this way is beyond absurd well into perverse. According to the AP story a DHS spokesperson justifies this acquisition to “help the government get a low price for a big purchase.” Peggy Dixon, spokeswoman for the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center: “The training center and others like it run by the Homeland Security Department use as many as 15 million rounds every year, mostly on shooting ranges and in training exercises.”

At 15 million rounds (which, in itself, is pretty extraordinary and sounds more like fun target-shooting-at-taxpayer-expense than a sensible training exercise) ... that's a stockpile that would last DHS over a century. To claim that it's to “get a low price” for a ridiculously wasteful amount is an argument that could only fool a career civil servant.

Meanwhile, Senator Diane Feinstein, with the support of President Obama, is attempting to ban 100 capacity magazine clips. Doing a little apples-to-oranges comparison, here, 1.6 billion rounds is ... 16 million times more objectionable.

**Mr. Obama has a long history of disdain toward gun ownership.** According to Prof. John Lott, in *Debauch*, a book he co-authored with iconic conservative strategist Grover Norquist,

“When I was first introduced to Obama (when both worked at the University of Chicago Law School, where Lott was famous for his analysis of firearms possession), he said, ‘Oh, you’re the gun guy.’”

I responded: 'Yes, I guess so.'

**'I don't believe that people should own guns,' Obama replied.**

I then replied that it might be fun to have lunch and talk about that statement some time.

He simply grimaced and turned away. ...

Unlike other liberal academics who usually enjoyed discussing opposing ideas, Obama showed disdain."

Mr. Obama? Where's the disdain now? Cancelling, or at minimum, drastically scaling back — by 90% or even 99%, the DHS order for ammo, and its receipt and deployment of armored personnel carriers, would be a "fourfer."

- The federal government would set an example of restraint in the matter of weaponry.
- It would reduce the deficit without squeezing essential services.
- It would do both in a way that was palatable to liberals and conservatives, slightly depolarizing America.
- It would somewhat defuse, by the government making itself less armed-to-the-teeth, the anxiety of those who mistrust the benevolence of the *federales*.

If Obama doesn't show any leadership on this matter it's an opportunity for Rep. Darrell Issa, chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, and Rep. Michael McCaul, chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security, to summon Secretary Napolitano over for a little national conversation. Madame Secretary? Buying 1.6 billion rounds of ammo and deploying armored personnel carriers runs contrary, in every way, to what "homeland security" really means. Discuss.