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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

RICHARD J. KESSLER, STAFF DIRECTOR
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April 12, 2013

Via Electronic Transmission

The Honorable Janet A. Napolitano
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Napolitano:

Thank you for your February 4, 2013, response to my questions regarding the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS/Department) ammunition procurement plans.¹ The response was helpful to Congress and the American people who were seeking answers regarding the amount of rounds of ammunition purchased by the Department.

The Department's response indicates that from 2010 through 2012 DHS's seven component agencies purchased over 360 million rounds of ammunition at a cost of nearly \$123 million. Of the seven DHS components, Customs and Border Protection purchased the largest amount of rounds of ammunition, averaging a little over 50 million rounds per year since 2010. Further, as of November 2012, DHS components had approximately 264 million rounds of ammunition in its inventory and for fiscal year 2013, the Department plans to acquire around \$37 million in ammunition.

I understand this ammunition is used by the over 100,000 armed law enforcement personnel for training and operational purposes. To continue to help Congress better understand the Department's process of acquiring ammunition and firearms used by DHS personnel, I request that you provide answers to the following questions:

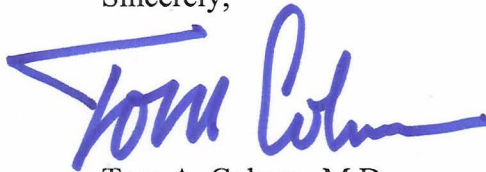
- 1) Provide a breakdown of the type of ammunition purchased by the Department during each of the last three fiscal years.
- 2) Has the Department purchased hollow-point bullets? If so, how many? In what situations does the Department use this type of ammunition?

¹ <http://www.hsgac.senate.gov/media/minority-media/dr-coburn-releases-correspondence-with-dhs-regarding-ammunition-purchases>

- 3) Provide a list of all current DHS ammunition procurement contracts, including the contract number and when necessary task order number, vendor, and dollar value of the contract. Please also provide a copy of all current contracts used to purchase ammunition.
- 4) Have ammunition levels ever dropped so low that Department personnel could not complete their training and/or mission? If so, what actions were taken by the Department?
- 5) Why is the Department continuing to purchase millions of rounds of ammunition when there is approximately 264 million in stock?
- 6) How many rounds of ammunition have been stolen, lost and/or unaccounted for during each of the last three fiscal years?
- 7) How many firearms has the Department acquired during each of the last three fiscal years? How much did these firearm acquisitions cost? Provide a breakdown by agency component of the type of firearm purchased.
- 8) Does the Department plan to purchase more firearms in the current fiscal year? How much is budgeted for firearm acquisitions?
- 9) Provide a list of all current DHS firearm procurement contracts, including the contract number and when necessary task order number, vendor, and dollar value of the contract. Please also provide a copy of all current contracts used to purchase firearms.
- 10) How many DHS firearms have been stolen, lost and/or unaccounted for during each of the last three fiscal years?
- 11) How does the Department dispose of firearms no longer being used and/or not functional?

Please provide a response to this letter by no later than April 26, 2013. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Brian Downey of my Committee staff at (202) 224-4751 or brian_downey@hsgac.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Tom A. Coburn, M.D.
Ranking Member