

would merely create confusion and would be too easily manipulated.

6. The question of critical components received varied responses. Some thought that brass casings were the most difficult element as it required heavier equipment to produce. This was also the view of a Canadian explosives expert and SAAMI. Others thought that primers and propellant were the key, largely on the basis of safety and quality. One respondent said that quality re-loading tools and a local metal industry could easily manufacture cases and bullets. It was also noted that brass casings were reusable many times over while the other components were not. An observation was made that a scare over a proposed shelf life on primers in 1994 drove the price from US\$12 to \$30 per thousand. A similar scare regarding primer availability was also noted on a "Michigan Militia" Internet site.

7. No respondent seemed to be aware of any sources that gave the lists of states and commercial producers on a global basis. One said that Jane's was not that good while most had never heard of DMS. SAAMI noted that Forensic Ammunition Service, 4512 Nakoma Drive Okemo, Missouri had headstamp guides that might indicate the scope of ammunition production.

8. Several other observations and comments were supplied that are worthwhile noting. Most believed that the technology and capability was so diffused that very little could be done to control it on a global basis, particularly concerning north-south differences. Several respondents thought there were already enough onerous controls on producers and distributors. If there were illicit activities conducted using their products it was the fault of the state and not their fault. Governments should put more effort into dealing with illegal, not legal activities. One respondent noted how easy it is to smuggle and that there are far too few resources devoted to it. One provided the following anecdote:

"Israel, 1948: Faced with embargos against the shipment of ammunition to Israel (then under British rule, but about to become independent and be invaded by Arab armies from every direction), made the smuggling of ammunition into Israel a major priority for the Jewish government that was waiting for the British to leave. One of the most successful gambits was buying ammunition openly in the US, and warehousing it there. Then they bought huge, used electrical transformers that had been discarded by power line companies. They opened the transformers, and gutted them internally. Then they cleaned only the INTERIOR and filled it with cartridges. When shipped to Israel (consigned to the Jewish electrical power corporation), no Customs officer wanted anything to do with huge, filthy, oily metal boxes with chopped-off wires dangling randomly from broken fittings. No doubt other gambits were as successful, but that one I happen to know about.

I invite you to speculate on whether or not a similar gambit would work with today's Customs officer in his neat blue suit."