

production.<sup>36</sup> However, the steps to manufacture a casing are not particularly daunting either technically or financially for most states.<sup>37</sup>

### Bullet

Bullets can be purchased in bulk. Of all the ammunition components a bullet is probably the easiest item to produce providing lead or a lead product is available. It requires very few tools -- a ladle, a lead melting pot, a bullet mold and some bullet lube -- to produce bullets in quantity.<sup>38</sup> Cottage industry or home-made production is not uncommon.

### Propellant (powder)

There are only a few major producers of propellant powder in North America. Some of these are Expro Chemical Products Inc in Canada, and in the USA; IMR, Winchester, Alliant, Accurate and Primex<sup>39</sup>. These sources provide most of the propellant to North American distributors. Powder can be purchased in bulk for home re-loading. It is subject to controls in most countries with regards to amounts sold, transportation and storage. For the most part these controls are aimed at explosive safety -- not restrictions for other reasons. See Annex C for a synopsis of Canadian controls. Controls notwithstanding, gunpowder or guncotton of the type used in modern ammunition can be produced as a cottage industry. The materials needed are cotton (cellulose), concentrated nitric acid, concentrated sulfuric acid and distilled water.<sup>40</sup> While the components to produce powder are easily obtainable, safety hazards, skill requirements and quality control make this a potentially dangerous task. Generally speaking, the quality of home made propellant is no way near as reliable as high grade commercial product. Cottage industry production appears to be relatively rare.

### Primer

Primers may be a useful focus for closer control. As noted in Annex B the perception of shortages appeared to be of real concern to the USA domestic home ammunition market at one time.<sup>41</sup> That said, primers like powder can be produced as a cottage industry using anything from match heads to toy caps. It would appear that using home made primers may be somewhat less

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<sup>36</sup> Private correspondence with author. Also see Annex B.

<sup>37</sup> Traister, 28.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid, 462

<sup>39</sup> Traister and source at Canadian Explosives Research. Also see <http://www.westernpowders.com/>

<sup>40</sup> For additional details on this see <http://www.dodgenet.com/~kwantam/ac/198.doc>

<sup>41</sup> For additional details see [http://www3.10pht.com/pub/tezcat/Martial\\_Law/Feds-Stocking-Ammo.txt](http://www3.10pht.com/pub/tezcat/Martial_Law/Feds-Stocking-Ammo.txt)