

ammunition sources may be less connected to North-South flow than light weapons are alleged to be.

### State, Commercial and Private Production

It is not within the purview of this study to list and analyze all state, large and small commercial, and private production facilities and capabilities. A few examples will serve to demonstrate the magnitude of such production and the challenge in tracking and controlling production, particularly small producers within the context of global constraints.

Pakistan is an interesting case in point.<sup>22</sup> While the evidence presented here applies to light weapons and not necessarily ammunition, it is of all the more concern because of the likelihood that ammunition production facilities might be equivalent to or in excess of the number of firearms licensed producers. By far the most significant ammunition producer in Pakistan is Pakistan Ordnance Factories (POF). However, there are 23 licenced firearms manufacturers in Pakistan although only about eight seem to be operating on a regular basis.<sup>23</sup> According to Ayesha Siddiqa-Agha the quality and quantity of ammunition produced by public and private sources appears to be of a standard below that acceptable to many countries.<sup>24</sup> His sources suggest that the ammunition manufactured is inefficient and not competitive enough in price for export.<sup>25</sup> Be that as it is, there appears to be a significant potential for producing ammunition, even if on a relatively limited basis, and one must wonder how effective government regulation, controls and enforcement is under the circumstances. There is no indication of how many unlicensed ammunition producers there may be with regard to hand loading in small village workshops or family homes. In view of the weapons manufacturing activities so widely recorded regarding the infamous gun village of Darra, there is no reason to believe such activities are rare.

The USA has a tremendous ammunition production capability and distribution net. The military alone is responsible for overseeing some 23 very large ammunition plants producing a wide variety of ammunition, explosives and explosive devices.<sup>26</sup> The primary plant for small arms ammunition is in Lake City Missouri. Many of the army ammunition plants are in fact run on a

---

<sup>22</sup> Most of this information on Pakistan can be found in. Ayesha Siddiqa-Agha. *Light Weapons Manufacture in the Public and Private Sectors: A View from Pakistan*. British American Security Information Council (BASIC) Project on Light Weapons Working Paper #2, February 1996.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid 12. It appears that these weapons are of the non-rifled shotgun variety but it is not clear.

<sup>24</sup> Tara Kartha in her study makes the same claim. The author fired several hundred rounds of 7.62 mm from a Pakistani made HK-G3 while in Pakistan in 1977 and experienced no misfires or jams and a good degree of accuracy. It is not known whether the ammunition originated from the POF, but there is no reason to believe it did not.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid 3

<sup>26</sup> Details on locations and product can be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.pica.army.mil/ardec/advocate/aaps.htm>.