

Another potential solution is to design a new military caliber for a new military assault/personal weapon unlike any present caliber and restrict this to military and security forces only. Again, it is highly improbable that most countries would agree to this. A common global round is not to the liking of some states. As well, many military forces have adapted the 5.56 mm round over the past decade and are unlikely to want to switch to a new weapon unless it is demonstrably better than current models. Such a change would be extremely expensive to initiate. It would still not address the large number of 7.62 mm, 5.56 mm and 9 mm firearms and ammunition still at large and still being produced. And, like the previous solution, it would do nothing to control the misuse of small arms by states, either through redistribution to non-military groups or through misapplication of force.

## CONCLUSIONS

### Observations

From the perspective of dealing with "excessive and destabilizing accumulation and transfer" or "the "misuse of " military light weapons (particularly small arms), ammunition does not appear to be a significant choke point that can be easily addressed with improved controls. There is a dispersed and diffused ammunition production capability that is significantly larger than the arms manufacturing industry. More countries produce ammunition than small arms, and by and large, there are more ammunition producers, particularly small scale ones in a given country, than there are weapons manufacturers. State-to-state controls, at least, may have more applicability to cartridge components, particularly primers and propellant than to the cartridge itself.

Most advanced states such as Canada have reasonably tight controls on the export and import of ammunition. The problem is that ammunition is expendable and small arms in general are not. Ammunition can be accumulated over time with no record and can be stolen or pilfered with less chance of attracting attention or being caught, primarily because it is an expendable commodity and much less susceptible to meaningful inventory checks. Ammunition can be claimed as having been used -- verification is often difficult. Small arms ammunition can be manufactured legally at home in many countries. Overall small arms cannot, and even if manufactured at home are inferior in quality to commercial products and probably dangerous to the user. In short, ammunition is much more difficult for enforcement personnel to deal with in comparison with firearms, particularly in small quantities.

While ammunition is susceptible to degradation under poor storage conditions, experience has shown that ammunition can fire after many years, even many decades, unless exposed to extreme dampness or other corrosive elements. Any attempt to establish a shelf life that would involve a built-in expiry date for powder or primer would not be acceptable to most security or military forces and could result in injury or death to a small arms user due to the difficulty in controlling powder deterioration. As well, such a move would, unless every major small arms