

## **DHS Responds to Questions You #AskJeh**

### **Where did all the ammo that DHS bought, go?**

The DHS purchased over \$19 million in ammunition. Secretary Johnson was unable to answer why this purchase was necessary or what caliber bullets were bought. I can't comprehend why DHS would need such a high volume of ammunition, and agency officials, like Secretary Johnson, have done little to appease my concerns or provide any legitimate reasons for purchasing such a vast amount. This is why I'm a cosponsor of legislation to rein in excessive ammo purchases by the government and require public disclosure of any federal agency purchases of ammunition, as well as its impact on the supply of ammunition available to the public for purchase. The "AMMO Act" will also prevent government agencies from obtaining any additional ammunition for a six-month period if the agency's current ammo stockpiles are higher than its monthly averages prior to the Obama Administration. My Texas colleague, Congressman Randy Weber, noted that Secretary Johnson was preventing transparency in the DHS. I agree. DHS, just like all agencies in the federal government, needs to provide transparency to the Americans it serves. I'm working with my colleagues to examine the details of these purchases and will continue pursuing answers.

### **Why does DHS have mine proof vehicles?**

The DHS has 32 Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles that that were donated by the Department of Defense in 2008, out of the Army's inactive stock. 16 MRAPs are used by Customs and Border Patrol for border security operations that will likely require cover from gunfire. The remaining 16 MRAPs are used by Immigration and Customs Enforcement for high-risk counter-criminal operations, such as the execution of search or arrest warrants against known drug cartels or breaking into heavily armed drug cells. DHS has no plans to acquire any more, and no authorization or funding requests for additional MRAP vehicles have been submitted to or approved by Congress. Claims that DHS purchased several thousand 'armored' vehicles are false and came from fabricated media reports.

### **Why has DHS built internment camps?**

The DHS has built more detention facilities because their current facilities are full. Secretary Johnson admitted that there is a backlog in deporting illegal aliens who are ordered for deportation. If DHS can decrease the backlog, it will open room in current detention facilities and prevent the need for new facilities to be built. More importantly, it will prevent DHS from releasing detainees because of space issues - like the release of 2,228 detainees last year under Secretary Janet Napolitano, where more than 1/3 of the detainees were released from detention centers in Texas.

### **Does the DHS support deporting illegal alien gang members?**

Secretary Johnson was unable to answer questions about whether the DHS inquires if an individual is in a gang before they are released. ICE agents claim to have informed Sec. Johnson about problems leading to the release of illegal immigrant gang members. DHS is tasked with keeping our nation safe, and it's clear the agency has made troubling decisions that have come

at the expense of Americans' safety. I'm committed to conducting sound oversight over the DHS to ensure its enforcement methods are in the safety interests of the Americans it serves.