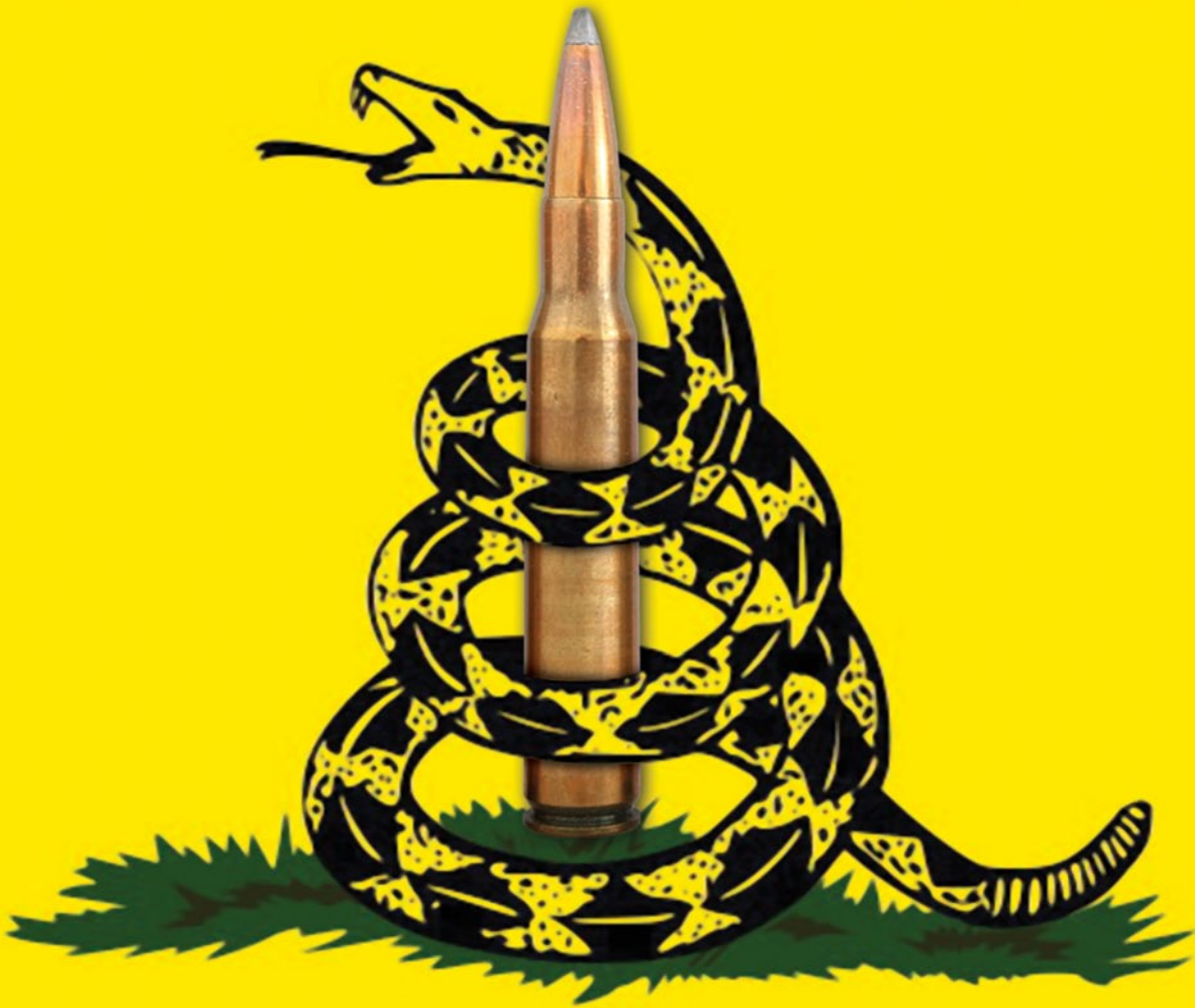


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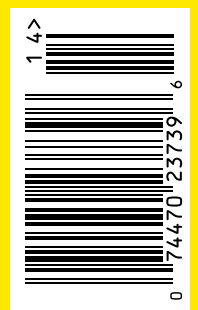
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POLITICS WITH AN EDGE



DON'T TREAD ON ME

**3 Steps to Tyranny • The Truth About Gun Control
True Homeland Security • Well-Regulated Militia
Microstamping Ammunition • An Attack on Your Rights
Where do Guns Rank? • Real Killers in America
Second Amendment • Friends and Foes**



AARON RUSSO'S

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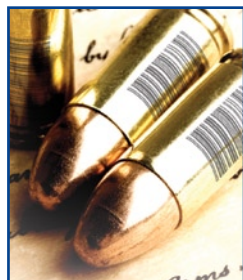
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EARLE BELLE

GARY S. FRANCHI JR.

From the Editor

In Adam Sandler's classic comedy Happy Gilmore the character "Mr. Larson", played by Richard Kiel, who was made famous by playing "Jaws" in the James Bond films, wears a t-shirt that states "Guns don't kill people, I do!" While the comedy film takes us on a roller coaster of laughs, the subtle t-shirt makes a lasting statement. Who do guns kill? No one. He who holds the gun chooses to pull the trigger. Will criminals always own guns? Yes. Do unsafely stored guns find their way into children's hands? Yes. Do guns save lives every day? Yes. Should we be good and responsible stewards of our guns if we choose to own them? Yes. Should there be restrictions on gun ownership. NO.

The founders included the right to keep and bear arms in our bill of rights because they knew the lengths that a tyrannical government will go to control their people. Whether or not you are pro-gun, the fact is this nation would not be here and you would not be able to cherish the blessings of freedom without them. If King George placed ten day waiting periods, restricted felons, and required registration of all guns in the fledgling colonies we would still be taking a break for tea daily.

The truth is never reported by ANY media source about the real reason for increased gun laws. Over the past 100 years freedoms for the average American have been slowly eroded. We are slipping from a free state to a state where compliance with the law is not met with reason but by increased force. This is evidenced by the use of deadly tasers for non-violent crimes at traffic stops, and Peace Officers referred to as Law Enforcement. The Revolutionary War resulted when government force became so great it could only be met with force. Politicians know this as they pass restricting laws. They then work simultaneously to remove the people's ability to react and organize with the force that was advocated by the founders.

The founders knew that gun ownership and the people's militia would ensure the security of the Free State, NOT the empty promises and regulations of politicians who live above the law and their oaths. Let me be clear that we seek peaceful measures to reach our goals of a restored republic, but we ask you to remember why the founders gave us the 2nd Amendment in this, your 14th issue of *Republic Magazine*.



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Constitutional Discipline

THE SECOND AMENDMENT. WHAT DOES IT MEAN? WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

"We hold these truths to be self-evident" says the often-quoted Declaration of Independence. Of course, that depends on whom you mean when you say "We".

Self-evident truths are only obvious to those that have already discovered those truths. It seems to be part of the human condition to assume that if one knows something, then others must know too. Clearly, this is not always true.

If someone asks, "Why would you jump out of a perfectly good airplane?" I am absolutely certain that they've never made a skydive before. Anyone who has experienced the exhilaration of "flying" wouldn't need an answer to that question. It would already be "self-evident". "We" [skydivers] already know many reasons to jump, yet in this example, "We" are a very small subset of the population.

"We" [Americans] are fond of parades and picnics on July 4th. "We" [Texans] proudly celebrate March 2nd. "We" [Badnariks] always pose on the sofa for a holiday family portrait. Each of these traditions is self-evident, yet only to the group of people that are included in the editorial "We".

To whom was Thomas Jefferson referring to when he wrote "We" hold these truths? I am certain that "We" included the fifty-six signers who dedicated their lives, fortunes, and honor to defend what they thought must surely be obvious to anyone who contemplates the truths outlined in the document. It's possible that many of the people living in the thirteen colonies at the time, were also familiar with the fundamental concept of Liberty, and by necessity, with the importance of being skilled with firearms. Regrettably, many in today's society are woefully ignorant on the topic of Liberty, and openly hostile to guns and the Second Amendment's significance.

Let's begin with a few assumptions. You are reading these words, which means that you are alive and possess at least some level of intellect. You have a strong desire to stay alive, and you hope to postpone your inevitable mortality until the last possible moment. This general tendency is known as the survival instinct. Every living creature is born with it. Go without

water, food, or sleep for longer than you are used to, and these things automatically become higher priorities.

All animals are biologically designed to respond to perceived danger using a sympathetic nervous system that we commonly refer to as a "fight or flight" reaction. When all avenues of escape are blocked, even the most timid creature is capable of responding with fearsome violence in order to fend off a larger predator. This automatic reaction is generally a surprise to both attacker and victim.

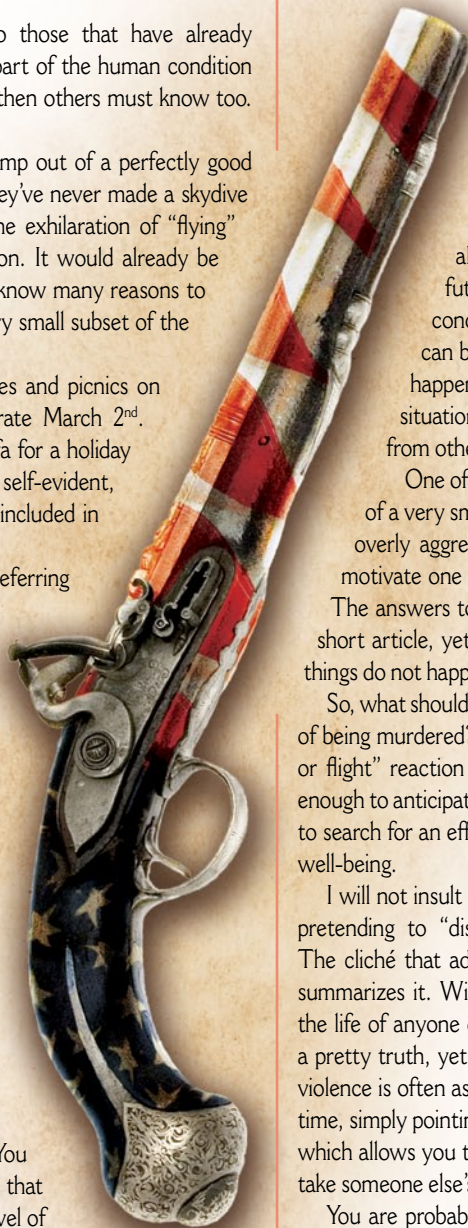
Some individuals possess a level of intellect that allows them to remember the past and anticipate the future. These individuals have pondered the human condition long enough to realize that future danger can be minimized or avoided by anticipating what could happen, and plan courses of action appropriate for the situation. This might be loosely categorized as "learning from other people's mistakes".

One of the dangers mankind faces is the aberrant behavior of a very small minority of our own population. Why are some overly aggressive and downright mean? What could possibly motivate one person to severely harm or even murder another? The answers to those questions are far beyond the scope of this short article, yet it would be irrational to argue that these terrible things do not happen.

So, what should a rational person do when faced with the possibility of being murdered? We have already mentioned the automatic "fight or flight" reaction that is hard-wired in each of us. Anyone smart enough to anticipate a physical confrontation, will also be wise enough to search for an efficient method of neutralizing a threat to his or her well-being.

I will not insult your intelligence by concocting a phony paragraph pretending to "discover" the best tool for stopping an attacker. The cliché that advises that you "never take a knife to a gunfight" summarizes it. Without a doubt, a handgun is the best way to end the life of anyone determined to put a premature end to yours. Not a pretty truth, yet it is indisputable. Fortunately, a credible threat of violence is often as effective as the violence itself. About 90% of the time, simply pointing a gun at someone will put a stop to their assault, which allows you to protect your own life without being obligated to take someone else's.

You are probably familiar with the Preamble to the Constitution that begins, "We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union..." You may have been required to memorize that paragraph. However, I want to draw your attention to the Preamble to the Bill of Rights. Did you know there was one? The Bill of Rights was



added to the Constitution "...in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers..." Misconstruction is defined as "a kind of misinterpretation resulting from putting a wrong construction on words or actions, often deliberately" [emphasis, mine].

The Second Amendment refers to "a well regulated militia", which opponents of your right to life insist refers to the National Guard. This idea is preposterous! The Bill of Rights was ratified in 1791, however the National Guard was created by the Militia Act of 1903.¹ If the Second Amendment refers only to the National Guard, then the Founding Fathers were able to predict the future, and the Amendment stood meaningless for 112 years until Congress finally filled in the blanks. This argument is so outrageous, that it does not deserve the dignity of a response.

Others insist that the Second Amendment only grants a "collective right" to keep and bear arms. This is a blatant oxymoron. The only types of rights that exist are INDIVIDUAL rights! (Read Chapter 3 of my book for a lengthy dissertation on this topic). We do not share a "collective right" to freedom of speech that is exercised "for us" by the mainstream media. Each of us has an individual right to say what is on our minds, and government is explicitly forbidden from making ANY law abridging our freedom of expression. Each of us has an individual right to life that is certainly not respected simply because some subset of the population is still alive. How would you respond if you were told, "Yes, you have a right to life, but the community is going to exercise that right in your absence. You will be sorely missed." As utterly insane as that may sound, that is essentially what the anti-gun people are telling you. Being anti-gun is the same as being anti-life.

So far, my examples have imagined threats to your life from one or two individuals. What if a large group of people organized themselves specifically

for the purpose of threatening your life? What if this organization enjoyed the public's perception of legitimacy? How would you feel knowing that this organization spends nearly a billion dollars of our tax money to prosecute innocent people, simply for the purpose of generating widespread fear and compliance? I refer, of course, to the Federal Department of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF, a.k.a. BATF, a.k.a. BATFE). This organization is the only one explicitly tasked with eliminating one of the Bill of Rights!

If Dante were still alive, he would have to create another level of hell specifically for the social miscreants who have the unmitigated gall to swear an oath to protect and defend the Constitution, and then go to work daily to assiduously violate that oath! How dare they? This is the department that staged an early morning raid on the Branch Davidians for the sole purpose of creating a video to document how earnestly they were protecting us from "dangerous people". If you have not yet watched the JPFO² documentary about the (B)ATF(E) called "The Gang",³ then you owe it to yourself to do so.

The Founding Fathers knew about government oppression first-hand. They had already experienced the irksome and capricious laws conceptualized by King George III and enforced by his aggressive army and navy. They understood at a visceral level why men must join together to overthrow tyranny. The Declaration of Independence states that, "When a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security." The only way to "throw off" a government that has grown tyrannical is by killing, or credibly threatening to kill, the people who are violating your rights, and by extrapolation threatening your life.

THAT is why the Second Amendment was written! It has nothing whatsoever to do with hunting. It really has very little to do with defending yourself from common street thugs. It has everything to do with forcing our public servants to respect the Constitution they so eagerly and superficially swear an oath to protect. To put it more bluntly, the Second Amendment is our "emergency cut-off switch" for a government run amok.

Patrick Henry said, "Guard with jealous attention the public liberty. Suspect anyone who approaches that jewel. Unfortunately, nothing will preserve it except downright force. Whenever you give up that force, you are ruined."

Thomas Jefferson said, "The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government."

I don't know about you, but I stand on principle with Henry and Jefferson. The Second Amendment means that we are justified in using deadly force to resist slavery. I refuse to be a slave to anybody. That's how much I love my Liberty, and that's why I will never voluntarily relinquish my guns.

So? What's the problem? Why is there so much controversy surrounding the Second Amendment? I think John Wayne explains it best during his portrayal of a dying gunslinger in *The Shootist*. He says, "It isn't always being fast, or even accurate, that counts. It's being willing. I found out early, that most men, regardless of cause or need, aren't willing. They blink an eye, or draw a breath, before they pull the trigger. I won't." Most Americans are fully aware of the threats to our Liberty. I think the problem with most Americans is that they don't have the courage to do what it takes to protect their Liberty. I certainly hope I'm wrong. Of course, only time will tell.

1 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_National_Guard

2 <http://www.jpfo.org> (*Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership*)

3 <http://www.thegangmovie.com>

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President Obama has many people literally up in arms over the possibility of his administration stripping our country's citizens of our Second Amendment rights to legally own firearms. Obama is on record saying he will, "uphold the constitutional rights of law-abiding gun-owners, hunters, and sportsmen." Yet, the nervousness of the American public can clearly be seen within the internet community as well as in the FBI's records of its National Instant Criminal Background Check System - the system used to do background checks on citizens buying weapons within the United States. When compared to the numbers from November 2007, background checks are up 42% in November of 2008 and up 24% in December.

Attorney General Eric Holder stated on February 25th of this year, that President Obama will be attempting to reinstitute the currently expired (as of 2004) Assault Weapons Ban. He also mentioned that this would be a good move not only for the United States, but also for Mexico, as they are dealing with extreme violence pertaining to drug cartels along the border. Apparently, many firearms are making their way across the border into the hands of these cartels and are contributing to this violence. This may be the case - however, people peddling drugs who want weapons will procure those weapons in any manner possible. It is doubtful that banning assault weapons in the United States will prevent violence from taking place among drug cartels in Mexico. Drug dealing is intrinsically violent, as it is an illegal activity. Making certain weapons illegal in the US would most likely only add to violent activities, as people would turn to black markets to acquire them.

Attorney Holder has made it clear, in several statements, that he is in favor of banning assault weapons from legal sale, and he is not alone in his stance. Carolyn McCarthy, a New York Representative, sponsored a bill called H.R. 1002: Assault Weapons Ban and Law Enforcement Protection Act of 2007. The ban during the Bush Administration identified assault weapons by two features, whereas, this bill identified them by only one; adding several types of firearms to the list of those to be banned. This bill had sixty-seven co-sponsors including Representative from Ohio, Dennis Kucinich, and Representative from Massachusetts, Barney Frank, as well as several other Representatives from California, Florida, and New York.

Another bill which did not see law entitled H.R. 6257: Assault Weapons Ban 2008, was deferred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, on July 28, 2008, and never saw Congress, as it was still in subcommittee when their 110th session ended. H.R. 6257 was introduced by Representative Mark Kirk of Illinois and was co-sponsored by Rep. Michael N. Castle of Delaware, Rep. Mike Ferguson of New Jersey, Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Florida, and Rep. Christopher Shays of Connecticut.

Although, there are several legislators who agree with Attorney Holder, there are, also, several who oppose the Assault Weapons

Ban. One of which is Alaskan Senator Mark Begich, who boasts that he is a lifetime member of the NRA (National Rifle Association), and "firmly believes that responsible gun ownership is a fundamental right guaranteed by our Constitution and no government can take that right away."

Bill Frist and Lamar Alexander, both Senators from Tennessee, openly oppose the ban as well. Alexander states that he also is a member of the NRA and whole-heartedly opposes the ban. Senate Majority Leader, Harry Reid,

as well as Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California, also stated that they would speak out in opposition of any effort to reinstitute the ban. Senator John Barrasso of Wyoming vehemently speaks out against the ban on his web site: <http://www.barrasso.senate.gov>; and has made appearances on Lou Dobbs, voicing his opinions. He

states that people have good reason to be alarmed about Attorney General Holder's intentions, because of his record regarding the Second Amendment. In the past, Holder has given the impression, in his writings and as Deputy Attorney General, that he believes the Amendment does not apply to individuals, but to well regulated militia. Barrasso says that he fundamentally disagrees with this; and that the people of the US need to know that what they believe the Second Amendment to mean, is actually what it means; also, that it does apply to all citizens; and that a ban concerning this should not be made into law, once again; and should not be made permanent, as Holder is attempting to do.

Although violent crime in the United States is definitely a problem that needs solving, 75% of violent crimes in the US are not gun-related. Instead, one might look at people's quality of life: how many millions of people are living without health insurance and even health care? How many live in poverty and without basic necessities? How many people are bombarded by advertising and television, telling them what they need to be happy, what they need to be fulfilled? Most people will never be able to afford what they are told they need. They will never make enough money to take those beautiful vacations to Barcelona or to buy a speedboat. Most people don't need the drugs being sold to them, and, their lives won't improve, if they take them. Most people work over forty hours a week and can hardly survive. Most people are unhappy because of these things - because of the way we live here in America. When people work and struggle the majority of their lives and never receive what they're working toward or for, they become desperate. Desperate people do desperate things, which many times end up being violent acts. The United States doesn't need a ban on assault weapons; it needs an improvement in citizen's quality of life and a sense of community that has long been lost.

2ND AMENDMENT FRIENDS & FOES

BY SADIE NORLIN



Microstamping Ammunition Is Problematic



By
**Joseph
Mael**

There is not much time to take notice of recent developments coming from Washington D.C. that will affect your rights to own guns. Laws that impact licensing, registering, fingerprinting, inspecting and cataloging every firearm, firearm owner, and firearm transfer in the United States are coming at us in various forms and attacking the second amendment at every step of the process. The Obama anti-gun team, who made a pledge to not take your guns, has taken a different path by focusing their radar on ammunition microstamping. Rather, new legislation is focusing on putting your ammunition in a tracking database. Attempting to quietly creep its way into mainstream America by microstamping our ammunition, is a continuous movement toward gun control which is unconstitutional and a caustic attempt to impede on your freedom of choice. Besides being costly for the consumer, the technology is not precise, is discriminatory, and easily circumvented.

Going back to 2006, the California Million Mom March Chapters and Women against Gun Violence both initiated support for Assembly Bill 352, which was to mandate microstamping on new semi-automatic handguns. Microstamping is a technology that would replace the incidental markings made on bullet casings with serial numbers. Stamps are to be 25 microns in depth, with a micron being 1/1000 of a millimeter, or just the fraction of the size of a strand of hair. In short, "microstamping (ammunition) is a patented process that laser engraves the firearm's make, model, and serial number on the tip of the gun's firing pin, so that, in theory, it imprints the information on discharged cartridge cases," says pro-gun advocate Ted Novin. The bill became California law in September of 2007, when Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger approved the Crime Gun Identification Act of 2007 (AB 1471), requiring all

semi-automatic pistols to have microstamping technology included by 2010. AB 1471, an amended bill; outlines the would-be requirements which place heavy tolls on manufacturers, merchandisers, and gun buyers. In 2007, this bill was introduced 9 times (in 5 states), yet currently, the amended bill is being introduced 31 times (in 18 states). (6) The big picture indicates this proposed legislation should help speed up the data analysis process and eliminate the long process of image analysis in crimes, and initially focuses on handgun and "assault rifle" ammunition. (1, 2)

COSTLY, UNSTABLE TECHNOLOGY

The California Hunting Industry is dealing with recent political setbacks, having lost the battle against the ban of lead ammunition, also signed by Schwarzenegger. As of July 1, 2008, lead bullets are banned in some hunting districts despite the lack of scientific evidence to prove lead ammunition actually causes harm to wildlife, in this case, the condor. Sixty-eight percent of the hunters in California opposed this mandatory ban of lead bullets, resulting in an anticipated loss of 25% of the game hunting in those key areas where the ban is enforced. It also serves as a potential loss of over 2,000 jobs and a net loss of state revenues of over \$225 million. A big reason would be that the cost of copper headed bullets is double the cost of lead bullets. When the cost-to-benefit ratio is so high on bills like the ban on lead bullets which is compounded with the AB 1471, and many other bills that anti-gun legislatures are urging, there is a lack of merit in such a system that is supposed to be protected by the Constitution's Second Amendment. (3)

The business of guns is a precise one in every aspect. There are many laws and regulations for all parties involved and the engineering behind the machinery cannot be flawed or the results would spell disaster. In a state funded study at UC Davis, experts concluded that this technology, originally developed by Todd Lizotte in the 90s, in its current phase of testing, is far from precise. In wear-testing performed with Smith & Wesson, 40% of the firing pins showed wear after 2,500 rounds. Though proponents of microstamping say it will help law enforcement trace bullets to the guns that fired them, no conclusive evidence suggests microstamping will provide consistent results. Additionally, regulating these laws would be another cost passed down to the taxpayers. Similarly, mandating microstamping under AB 1471 would not only raise the cost per bullet, yet for a gun to meet new standards under these regulations, costs to the gun owner could exceed \$200 per gun. Moreover, an estimated 240 million boxes of cartridges per year will be required to be tracked. This is an amazing task, especially for a sole-source technology that is immature in proven independent testing. (4)

Long term effects of this legislation will impact society by not only cost, but also by creating easily beatable restrictions. Consider the multitude of methods to defeat this technology in the court system - using a stolen gun, filing off the microstamp with a fingernail file (diamond coated files are easily accessible and inexpensive), scattering decoy casings at a crime scene and barrels, firing pins, slides and bolts can easily be altered or replaced. Of the 250 million guns (according to DOJ data) that will be required to meet this technology, still, only a small fraction of these weapons will be used in criminal acts, rendering a massive percentage of the information irrelevant data.

"Drag marks" are created by certain semi-automatic pistols which obliterate, or at very least, obscure the case when fired. Yet this is only one of several variables found from one gun to another that override the true intention of microstamping.

There are many questions that remain unanswered in the regulation of AB 1471, and the many bills just like it presented across the country. What would happen in the case of stolen or lost ammunition used in crimes? How would regulation on imported ammunition work? With the billions of casings produced each year, how can misidentification be ensured? What about hand-loaded ammunition, which can't be accurately tracked? Ammunition Accountability (.org) and the Brady Campaign do not offer legitimate facts, particularly in evaluation of the true burden of costs to gun manufacturers and gun owners.

California has been a leader in adopting bills that destroy some of America's greatest constitutional freedoms. Panels discuss diverse topics including federal and state legislative affairs, right-to-carry issues, firearms litigation, new communication technologies, microstamping, and ammunition bans. Yet gun owners, who prepare for the worst, while different from hunters and general enthusiasts, should not be promoted as societal outcasts, as anti-gun coalitions would like us to believe. Law abiding gun owners have the right to maintain supplies of ammunition, yet this legislation could damage gun owners to do this, which is why many consider this a de facto ban on gun ownership.

Many bills that limit or otherwise alter the power of gun owners get struck down every year in the U.S. by simple education. When a bill contains faults that do not improve the right to bear arms, and in fact work against that freedom they claim to protect, they easily fall flat. Fortunately, people have resources and many ways to get the facts. Also consider the fact that, as in AB 1471, law enforcement is strictly exempt from microstamping ammunition.

This is, as many suggest, an easily defended legislation, but it is up to individuals to educate and to understand what is at stake. Stamping out violence is a positive, yet doing so at a major cost, in unproven terms, would do more harm than good.

* Refers to all semi-automatic pistols that are not already listed on the roster pursuant to Section 12131.

1 <http://www.saf.org/gt/gt155.pdf>

2 http://www.fogcityjournal.com/news_in_brief/ca_gun_laws_060313.shtml

3 <http://www.nraa.org/Issues/Articles/Read.aspx?id=311&issue=100>

4 <http://ammunitionaccountability.org/Legislation.htm>

5 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AB_1471

6 <http://www.bradycampaign.org/chapters/california/ab1471faqs.pdf>

“

Once it's implemented, further research would be warranted.

”

—Todd Lizotte,
*Developer of the
Microstamping
Ammunition
Technology.*

New Haven Register,

March 18, 2008



A Well Regulated Militia: True Homeland Security

ARE YOU DOING YOUR CONSTITUTIONAL DUTY FOR “HOMELAND SECURITY”?

Dr. Edwin Vieira, Jr., Ph.D., J.D.

What is the fundamental constitutional institution for “homeland security”? The answer to this question may depend on the continued independence and freedom of the United States.

Obviously, such an institution must exist, because, as the Preamble states, one important goal of the Constitution is to “provide for the common defense”. Just as obviously, however, this institution is not the recently birthed Department of Homeland Security or even the more pedigreed Department of Defense. For the Constitution mentions neither of them.

The fundamental constitutional institution for “homeland security” is not even the Army or Navy. America’s Founding Fathers profoundly distrusted standing armed forces under the control of any government as potential enemies of liberty, not least of all because of their own experiences with the British Army’s attempts to suppress freedom in the Colonies and independent States. So, in the Constitution, the Founders refused to adopt any pre-existing army or navy, or to create new ones, as permanent establishments for the United States.

True, the Constitution delegates to Congress the powers “[t]o raise and support Armies” and “[t]o provide and maintain a Navy”. Article I, Section 8, Clauses 12 and 13. And with such powers comes a duty to exercise them, when necessary and proper. Compare *United States v. Marigold*, 50 U.S. (9 Howard) 560, 567 (1850), with Article I, Section 8, Clause 18. Otherwise, though, Congress need never “raise and support”, and need not continuously “provide and maintain”, an army or a navy. Furthermore, the Constitution requires that, even when Congress does “raise” an army, “no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years”. Article I, Section 8, Clause

12. This enables the House of Representatives--the House of Congress electorally closest to the people and most wary of their lives, liberties, and property--to prevent an army from continuing in existence when it serves no purpose that justifies its expense, or when it threatens Americans’ freedoms.

In addition, the Constitution provides that “[n]o State shall, without the Consent of Congress, * * * keep Troops, or Ships of War, in time of Peace”. Article I, Section 10, Clause 3. So, nowhere in the federal system does the supreme law of the land treat an army or navy as an inevitable, indispensable, permanent, or perpetual institution.

Where, then, should Americans look for constitutional “homeland security”? The Second Amendment to the Constitution provides the first giant steps towards the answer:

“A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”

By definition, “the security of a free State” is “homeland security” (the “homeland” being, not simply a geographical area, but a special political conception rooted in freedom). The Amendment describes “[a] well regulated Militia” as “necessary” (not simply useful) for such “security”. And, the Amendment singles out “the right of the people to keep and bear Arms” as so important to the existence of such a “Militia” that “the right * * * shall not be infringed”. Therefore, the fundamental constitutional institution of “homeland security” must be “[a] well regulated Militia” based upon “the right of the people to keep and bear Arms”.

Perhaps more importantly, the body of the Constitution itself is not silent on this matter, either. To be sure, the Constitution does not create any “well regulated Militia”. It delegates no power to Congress

to “raise and support” (as with an army), to “provide and maintain” (as with a navy), or in any other words to fashion from whole cloth any “well regulated Militia”. And, it does not even define what constitutes such a Militia. That is because it did not have to. In the late 1700s, every adult American knew that “well regulated Militia” had existed in the Colonies and independent States from the mid-1600s, and were established in every State of the Union even as the Constitution was being drafted and ratified. For that reason, the Constitution simply acknowledged “the Militia of the several States” as already in existence, adopted, and incorporated them according to the historical legal principles by which they had long and even then operated, and thereby perpetuated them in that form. See Article I, Section 8, Clauses 15 and 16; and Article II, Section 2, Clause 1.

The denotation “Militia of the several States” recognizes that the Militia lies largely outside the jurisdiction of the General Government. Thus, “[t]he President shall be Commander in Chief * * * of the Militia of the several States”, yet only “when [they] are called into the actual service of the United States”. And, Congress is empowered “[t]o provide * * * for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States”, yet not otherwise. Moreover, these powers are to be exercised only when Congress “provide[s] for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions”. For example, see Title 10, United States Code, Sections 331 to 333. Self-evidently, if Congress and the President may govern and command the Militia only when “such Part of them” are in fact “call[ed] forth” for certain defined and limited National purposes, during all other times the Militia must remain within some other legal and territorial jurisdictions from which they may be “call[ed] forth”, and therein must be subject to other governance and command: namely, that of “the several States”.

By recognizing, adopting, incorporating, and perpetuating “the Militia of the several States” as they historically existed, the Constitution immunizes them from fundamental changes in their legal composition and characteristics through mere legislative acts. The Constitution does impose certain new National duties on the Militia when they are “call[ed] forth * * * to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions”. This, however, also empowers them in these particulars, both when “call[ed] forth” according to laws that Congress “provide[s]”, and in those situations in which the Militia ought and need to be “call[ed] forth”, yet Congress refuses, fails, or is unable to do so. Even more important, by incorporating “the Militia of the several States” with no other additions to, subtractions from, or modifications of, their historical legal composition and characteristics, the Constitution preserves in all other respects the fundamental rights, powers, privileges, duties, and immunities, that the Militia exercised and enjoyed throughout the period from the mid-1600s through the late 1700s.

Because the Constitution itself empowers “the Militia of the several States” for National purposes, the Militia are not optional, discretionary, or disposable for Congress, the President, the Judiciary, the States, or even, We the People. First, because the Militia are “the Militia of the several States”, Congress lacks authority to create or to dissolve them. Congress also lacks authority to disregard, neglect, or impede the Militia, with respect either to their performance of their constitutionally mandated services to the Nation, or to their practical ability to perform those services. Instead, Congress’s powers and duties are “[t]o provide for calling forth the Militia” for particular National purposes, and to make them fully effective for those purposes by “provid[ing] for, organizing, arming, and disciplining the[m]”. Article I, Section 8, Clauses 15 and 16. The President “shall be” their “Commander in Chief”, “when [they are]

called into the actual Service of the United States”. Article II, Section 2, Clause 1. And, the Judiciary lacks authority to absolve either Congress or the President of these responsibilities.

Second, although “the Militia of the several States” are State institutions, the States cannot dispense with them, either, because the Constitution presupposes their permanence, and the Constitution is “the supreme Law of the Land”. Article VI, Clause 2. Obviously, if the States could dissolve their Militia at will, they could erase Congress’s power to “call [] forth the Militia”. They could render unfulfillable the duty of the United States to “guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government” and to “protect each of them against Invasion; and * * * against domestic Violence”. Article IV, Section 4. And, they could even disarm themselves from “engag[ing] in War” when “actually invaded, or in such imminent Danger as will not admit of delay”, because (absent dispensation from Congress) they would have no other armed forces to deploy. Article I, Section 10, Clause 3.

Third, because the Militia are State institutions, the Constitution reserves to the States an exclusive power and duty to “govern [] such Part of them as may [not] be employed in the Service of the United States”, and a concurrent power and duty to provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining their Militia if Congress refuses, fails, or is unable to do so, in whole or in part. See Article I, Section 8, Clause 16; Amendment X; Amendment XIV, Section 1; and *Houston v. Moore*, 18 U.S. (5 Wheaton) 1 (1820). Indeed, if a negligent or criminal Congress, by shirking its duties or conspiring to defeat the Constitution, could render the Militia impotent and thereby put the Nation and States in peril, and the States nevertheless could do nothing to correct the situation, it would be absurd to speak of “the Militia of the several States” at all.

Fourth, because the Militia are composed of We the People in arms, all Americans retain the right, and reserve the power, to array themselves in “the Militia of the [ir] several States”, should Congress and the States completely fail, neglect, or refuse to perform their duties in that particular. This right and power derives from:

- We the People’s explicit adoption, incorporation, and empowerment of the Militia in the Constitution, which cannot be defeated by inaction, incompetence, negligence, or criminality on the part of their mere agents;
- the mandate of the Second Amendment, which recognizes (i) “[a] well regulated Militia” as “necessary to the security of a free State”, (ii) “the right of the people to keep and bear arms” as the precondition for such a Militia, beyond the power of public officials to “infringe []”, and therefore (iii) the right of the people to form themselves into constitutional Militia when “the security of a free State” is at risk; and, in the final analysis,
- in the case of a criminal conspiracy among public officials to deprive Americans of their lives, liberties, or property, the overarching principle of the Declaration of Independence, that “when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a design to reduce the [people] under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security”.

Concomitant with this right and power, furthermore, is the personal constitutional duty of every American to serve in the Militia in some capacity, unless excused by immaturity, senility, physical disability, or other proper legal exemption or disqualification. If Congress and the States fail or refuse to exercise their powers and to fulfill their duties with respect to the Militia, each and every American must fill the gap

True Homeland Security

by exercising his own duties within the boundaries of the law. This cannot be emphasized too strongly, because constitutional duties typically apply only to public officials or public offices. "[T]he Militia of the several States", though, are critically important components of constitutional government; and every American (not properly excused) is a working constituent of the Militia.

From their permanence, and the situations which may cause them to be "call[ed] forth", "the Militia of the several States" leap off the parchment of the Constitution as the primary, and in some circumstances the only available or desirable, constitutional force for "homeland security". With their usual perspicacity, the Founding Fathers designated the Militia to defend against every salient danger, foreign and domestic, including: "execut[ing] the Laws of the Union, suppress[ing] Insurrections and repel[ling] Invasions" (Article I, Section 8, Clause 15); "guarantee[ing] to every State * * * a Republican Form of Government" and "protect[ing] them all against "Invasion" and "domestic Violence" (Article IV, Section 4); and even enabling the States to "engage in War" when "actually invaded, or in such imminent Danger as will not admit of delay" (Article I, Section 10, Clause 3). Notable is that, because the Constitution is "the supreme Law of the Land" (Article VI, Clause 2), the Militia may be "call[ed] forth" to "execute the [Constitution]" itself. And, because usurpation and tyranny by public officials constitute the gravest possible violations of the Constitution, the Militia are empowered by the Constitution to suppress them--and, in extremis, may even "call [themselves] forth" for that purpose, as they did at Lexington and Concord in 1775. For, as a constitutional institution, "the Militia of the several States" are a governmental institution. So, the true "federal government" of this country consists of six parts: We the People (the political body, empowered to vote),

Congress, the President, the Judiciary, the States, and the Militia (the armed body, empowered to fight).

Yet when and where, in all the strident propaganda and agitation, hoopla, and orchestrated paranoia about the need for "homeland security" to defend America against "terrorism", has anyone in political prominence pointed this out? Or, suggested that "homeland security" be based on it? Or, proposed a comprehensive revitalization of "the Militia of the several States" as the central focus of "homeland security"? Why, instead, is "homeland security" being used as a cover-story to rationalize the construction of a centralized national police state, for which the Constitution provides no justification whatsoever, yet disallows in every particular?

Why have all the worldly wise and powerful, the self-styled "best and brightest", in Washington, D.C., as well as in State capitals throughout the country, ignored the point that stands out on the face of the Constitution with as much prominence and character as Karl Malden's nose? Can they not read the Constitution? If they can read it, can they not understand it? If they can understand it, can they not speak out? Or, is their silence the very best evidence that Americans could have of the need to revitalize "the Militia of the several States"?

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the second amendment

by michael lemieux

Over the years, I have heard countless politicians and gun rights activists defending our Second Amendment right as being for hunting, target shooting, or some other recreational activity.

When considering the true purpose of the Second Amendment, they could not be further from the truth. To prove this point, let's consider the words of the Second Amendment itself: "A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."

How many times was a recreational activity mentioned in this Amendment? None. The reason is stated upfront-- for the security of a free state.

Security from what? Many of you reading this may be shocked; it is security from invasion, insurrection, or a tyrannical central government!

Our Forefathers knew through history what power does to government and also its natural tendency to expand its power. This American experiment was to provide a union of independent nations (states) with a balance of power between the federal, states, and the people. The right of arms is the ultimate security, providing people with the means to withstand oppression.

In 1833, Justice Story, a Supreme Court Justice appointed by James Madison in 1811, penned "Commentaries on the Constitution of the United States." Regarding the Second Amendment, he wrote: "The militia is the natural defence of a free country... The right of the citizens to keep and bear arms has justly been considered, as the palladium of the liberties of a republic."

He went on to relate of a growing indifference to any system of militia discipline, much as we see today. Almost prophetically, he stated: "There is certainly no small danger, that indifference may lead to disgust, and disgust to contempt; and thus gradually undermine all the protection intended by this clause of our national Bill of Rights."

In this same vein, Representative Ron Paul stated in 2006: "The Second

Amendment is not about hunting deer or keeping a pistol in your nightstand. It is not about protecting oneself against common criminals. It is about preventing tyranny. The Founders knew that unarmed citizens would never be able to overthrow a tyrannical government, as they did. They envisioned government as a servant, not a master, of the American people. The muskets they used against the British Army were the assault rifles of that time. It is practical, rather than alarmist, to understand that unarmed citizens cannot be secure in their freedoms."

It is my belief the lawmakers know this. The excuse of fighting crime or limiting weapons to only recreational use is only the "reason" to pass the law, not the desired end effect. The desired end effect is the removal of the capability of the citizenry to resist government. Once this is accomplished, the country is helpless against abusive rulers. Another means of checks and balances, the final means, is abolished.

The last seventy years have been a continual neutering of the American patriot. When all is said and done, the wresting of our God-given rights from the communist or collectivist and the power-hungry government bureaucrats may come down to one thing: our Second Amendment Right.

Michael LeMieux is a retired U.S. Army intelligence and imagery analyst, and has served combat tours in Kuwait and Afghanistan with the 19th Special Forces. He is a Purple Heart recipient for injuries received in Afghanistan. Mr. LeMieux is the author of Unalienable Rights and the denial of the U.S. Constitution, published by Publish America and a regular writer for Republic Magazine. You can contact Mr. LeMieux via his website at: www.constitutiondenied.com.

THREE STEPS TO TYRANNY

BY MICHAEL LEMIEUX

Every advanced culture in the history of the world has utilized intelligence in one form or another to determine the current conditions of its adversaries, or to predict future actions of other nations. Knowing a nation's history will provide indicators of when something may happen in the future.

For instance, an example of an indicator that a neighboring country is preparing for a space launch is that preparations are being made at a space flight center. Rocket fuel is being positioned on the launch pad, support vehicles show up, a rocket capable of space flight is positioned on the pad, and large groups of observers watch.

At this point, no launch has occurred, no big smoke cloud can be seen, they have not told us they are launching a rocket, and the rocket is still sitting on the earth. If all the indicators from above are presented, would you think there is a potential for a space launch in the immediate future? I think we could all agree, it is more likely than not.

Taking this same type of logic to the political arena; if a government says to the people that their only interest is the rights and safety of the people; and yet, time and time again, we see indicators and warnings of the opposite, what do we believe?

I do not pretend to be psychic in any shape or form; however, we must look at history as an indicator to a potential course of action. Remember the adage by George Santayana: "Those who cannot learn from history are doomed to repeat it."

Knowing past indicators is not a guarantee that the next step is inevitable; it is only an indicator of a possible course of action out of a number of possibilities. In the foregoing example of a possible space launch, this may have been solely an exercise to train those personnel involved in the launch. Yet, there are also indicators that cross a point of no return. In the above example, just having fuel vehicles present may indicate an intention, yet does not pass the threshold of impending action.

As any chemist can tell you, rocket fuel is very corrosive and once loaded into a rocket, the countdown starts as to when it must be used, or they must scrub the launch. So, an indicator of impending action is the actual loading of the fuel into the rocket. At this point, it crosses the threshold from potential to probable.

One of the indicators for determining the actions of a rising tyrannical government are to look at indicators that have allowed governments in the past to become tyrannical. One indicator that appears to be universal, is for governments to remove the ability of the population to defend themselves against a tyrannical government.

In 1911, while Samuel Colt was producing the venerable 1911 semi-automatic pistol, Turkey established gun control and started disarming the population. With looming involvement in the First World War, the Constantinople government did not trust Armenians living in their country. Many of the Armenians were learned men of professional stature; doctors, professors, and businessmen, thought to be a threat to the new regime. In 1915, with a new defenseless citizenry, they rounded up as many as 1.5 million Armenians and exterminated them.

In 1929, the Soviet Union, with the rise of Stalin, established its version of gun control. Stalin introduced to the Soviet landscape, what would become known as "forced collectivization." Stalin began to take land from millions of small peasant farmers, consolidated it into large farms, and forced the former owners to work or die. The Russian intelligentsia of the time had a belief that the only meaning of life lies in the conscious participation in something greater than the individual. From 1929 to 1953, Stalin rounded up 20 million political dissidents and exterminated them. I look back at the stump speeches of our current leader and recall a similar intelligentsia belief that we must hang our star on something greater than ourselves, some "collective" vision that suddenly takes on a somber tone.

In the midst of the Chinese civil war, 1935, China established gun control as a means to control the masses from rebellion. Mao Zedong's Communist Party victory laid the foundation for unprecedented class struggles. As in the Soviet Union; Mao redistributed farmland and suppressed former land owners. From 1948 until 1952, Mao exterminated



Muammar Qaddafi



Mao Tse Tung

anti-communists, Christians, and political dissidents. By the time they were through, they killed over 20 million of their own citizens. In total, over 70 million deaths are attributed to the Maoist thought. Mao Zedong believed in the duty of the individual to support the state and the duty of the state was to care for the people.

In 1938, Germany established gun control, and in the following year, 1939, started killing Jews, Gypsies, handicapped, and other peoples who had "mongrel" traits. This continued until 1945 with a total of over 13 million deaths. It is important to note that each government listed, Hitler included, passed laws to make this possible, before turning around and murdering millions of unarmed civilians.

In 1956, Cambodia established gun control and disarmed the general population. In 1975, the Khmer Rouge, after overthrowing the government, set out to cleanse the country of anyone opposing the regime. It was assumed that all intellectuals would be in opposition and therefore were killed. Entire districts of the nation were relocated and any refusing to leave, or were too slow, were killed. The Khmer Rouge, under Pol Pot's leadership, followed the Maoist model of collectivism.

In 1964, the Guatemalan government, under civil war, established gun control to remove firearms from the general population. More than a million people were forced from their homes. The 3 decade "civil war" resulted in the deaths of over 200,000 with over 83% being unarmed Mayan Indians.

In 1970, Uganda established a new gun control law to replace the former British Firearms Ordinance, thus prohibiting any person not politically connected to the Obote dictatorship from having a modern firearm. In 1971, Idi Amin, in a military coup, took over Uganda and began a murderous genocide against a now disarmed populace. In total, the Amin regime murdered over 300,000 Ugandans.

Most every American reading these statistics would not believe this could ever happen here at the hands of our government. And, for the most part, I would agree, yet only for one reason, we still have our guns.

In each instance listed above, a trend was followed, indicators if you will, as to the intent of the government. First; were the gun laws that registered firearms, so the government would know where they were. Second; came confiscation to disarm those to whom the government is targeting. And third; tyranny, oppression, and extermination at the hands of the government, or others, that take advantage of the now weak populace.

Before I progress further, let me sidetrack for a minute to cover a point dealing with rights. There seems to be a misunderstanding in America today, about what role the Constitution and "Bill of Rights" play regarding the American citizen. Many believe that this venerable document grants our individual freedoms and rights. We often hear people talking about their "Constitutional Rights" or "rights guaranteed by the Constitution"; however, they are mistaken. The rights enjoyed by all Americans are derived from one source, our creator. You were endowed with these rights when you came into the world and they do not come from the government.

The Declaration of Independence also tells us the role the government should play in the lives of its citizens by stating: "That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed..." So here we see, that the primary reason for us to have a government is to "secure these rights." Meaning they are to protect, as a primary function of government, the rights of its citizens from any encroachment upon these unalienable rights.

The remainder of this article examines how well our government is looking after the rights of the people to keep and bear arms.

In 1833, Justice Story, a Supreme Court Justice appointed by James Madison in 1811, penned "Commentaries on the Constitution of the United States." Regarding the Second Amendment, he wrote: "The next Amendment is: 'A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.'"

"The importance of this article will scarcely be doubted by any persons, who have duly reflected upon the subject. The Militia is the natural defence of a free country against sudden foreign invasions, domestic



Fidel Castro



Kim Jong Il



Idi Amin Dada



Adolf Hitler



Pol Pot



Joseph Stalin

THE EXPERTS AGREE...GUN CONTROL REALLY WORKS!

THREE STEPS TO TYRANNY

insurrections, and domestic usurpations of power by rulers. It is against sound policy for a free people to keep up large military establishments and standing armies in time of peace, both from the enormous expenses, with which they are attended, and the facile means, which they afford to ambitious and unprincipled rulers, to subvert the government, or trample upon the rights of the people. The right of the citizens to keep and bear arms has justly been considered, as the palladium

of the liberties of a Republic; since it offers a strong moral check against the usurpation and arbitrary power of rulers; and will generally, even if these are successful in the first instance, enable the people to resist and triumph over them. And yet, though this truth would seem so clear, and the importance of a well regulated militia would seem so undeniable, it cannot be disguised, that among the American people there is a growing indifference to any system of militia discipline, and a strong

disposition, from a sense of its burdens, to be rid of all regulations. How it is practicable to keep the people duly armed without some organization, it is difficult to see. There is certainly no small danger, that indifference may lead to disgust, and disgust to contempt; and thus gradually undermine all the protection intended by this clause of our national Bill of Rights."

This commentary came at a time when there were absolutely no federal firearms laws on the books. It was understood that the right of citizens could not be infringed upon. If you must ask permission to do something, then it is a privilege, not a right. He also warned that the gradual indifference would lead to an undermining of the protection intended by the Second Amendment.

The enactment of "firearms laws" is a relatively recent occurrence for the federal government. The Federal Firearms Act in 1938, was the first act by Congress to regulate firearms. This act was based upon the perceived need to regulate the firearms industry and license the dealers, manufacturers, and gunsmiths, within the firearms trade. It was based upon the Interstate Commerce Clause of the Constitution. Appropriately, it was codified under Title 15 of the US Code - "Commerce and Trade". The new "laws" under the Act included the creation of a Federal Firearms License (FFL), for anyone doing business in the firearms trade. One of the primary goals was to prohibit FFL holders from selling firearms to convicted felons. It required FFL holders to keep records of all firearms sales, and for the first time, it made any alteration of firearm serial numbers a crime. Some felt this was an infringement on state jurisdiction by enacting a law that reached past the state boundary, in violation of the Constitution.

From 1938 to 1968, everything went along fairly well until the government decided to play a little shell game, and they switched the Firearms Act from Title 15 to Title 18. Title 18 is entitled "Crimes and Criminal Procedures." Why would the government switch the code section from Title 15 to Title 18 after having been codified under Title 15 for thirty years? The only rational reason is jurisdictional obfuscation, or hiding what would otherwise be apparent as to the limits the government could act upon us, the citizens. You see, under Title 15, the government was within its rightful jurisdiction of "Commerce and Trade". However, if you are bound by "Commerce and Trade", you cannot enact laws on normal citizens who are not acting in the "trade." Therefore, the government changed, with the stroke of a pen, their Constitutional powers from commerce to crime.

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Shortly after President Kennedy's assassination in 1963, the "Gun Control Act" was passed. It was an attempt, by the government, to justify broad-sweeping firearms control. The finesse, with which the government's lawyers crafted and pushed this bill through, can be seen right from the opening lines. The bill is entitled: "An Act to Amend Title 18, United States Code, to provide for better control of the interstate traffic in firearms." Doesn't that title sound like Chapter 15? In fact, even though there is much overlap between Title 15 and Title 18, Title 15 was never repealed.

This was done to provide better control of "interstate" traffic in firearms. However, the stated purpose of the act is as follows:

Title I – State Firearms Control Assistance PURPOSE

"Sec. 101. The Congress hereby declares that the purpose of this title is to provide support to Federal, State, and local law enforcement officials, in their fight against crime and violence..."

To support State, and local law enforcement! Where does the Constitution say anything about the federal government assisting law enforcement? Remember, the federal government cannot legally do anything that is not specifically enumerated by the Constitution. So, where is its justification? It has none; any federal law that falls outside the enumerated powers of the Constitution is repugnant and is void. That does not stop the jack-booted thugs from kicking in your door and enforcing unjust and unconstitutional laws; it just makes them wrong with a gun.

The following text comes from the conclusion of the "Right to Keep and Bear Arms" Senate Report. This report may be found, in its entirety, on the GAO web site. For brevity's sake, only certain highlighted points are included here.

ENFORCEMENT OF FEDERAL FIREARMS LAWS FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE SECOND AMENDMENT

- "Federal involvement in firearms possession and transfer was not significant prior to 1934... the Act was adopted under the Revenue Powers... the identification of the parties to the transfer indirectly accomplished a registration purpose."
- "The 1934 Act was followed by the Federal Firearms Act of 1938, which placed some limitations upon sale of ordinary firearms."
- "The Omnibus Crime and Safe Streets Act

was passed on June 5, 1968, and extended to rifles and shotguns the controls which had been imposed solely on handguns."

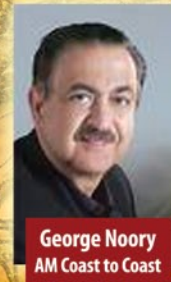
- It is apparent that enforcement tactics made possible by current federal firearms laws are constitutionally, legally, and practically, reprehensible. The BATF stated that 55 percent of its gun law prosecutions, overall, involve persons with no record of a felony conviction and a third involve citizens with no prior police contact at all.
- BATF has primarily devoted its firearms enforcement efforts to the apprehension, upon technical malum prohibitum charges, of individuals who lack all criminal intent and knowledge. Agents of the Bureau have generally confiscated the entire collection of the potential defendant upon the grounds that he intended to use it in that violation of the law. In several cases, the agents have refused to return the collection even after acquittal by jury."
- In these and similar areas, the Bureau has violated not only the dictates of common sense, but of 5 U.S.C. Sec 552, which was intended to prevent "secret lawmaking" by administrative bodies. The Bureau has disregarded rights guaranteed by the Constitution and laws of the United States."
- "It has trampled upon the Second Amendment by chilling exercise of the Right to Keep and Bear arms by law-abiding citizens."
- "It has offended the Fourth Amendment by unreasonably searching and seizing private property."
- "It has ignored the Fifth Amendment by taking private property without just compensation and by entrapping honest citizens without regard for their right to due process of law."
- 75 percent of BATF gun prosecutions were aimed at ordinary citizens, who had neither criminal intent, nor knowledge, yet were enticed by agents into unknowing technical violations.
- The Bureau's vague claims, both of focus upon gun-using criminals, and of recent reforms, are empty words."
- "In light of this evidence, reform of federal firearms laws is necessary to protect the most vital rights of American citizens."

The revelations into the inner workings of the BATF and its total disregard for the Constitution and the rights of U.S. citizens, leaves no doubt that the position of the federal government is its willingness to go to any lengths to defeat the citizens' Second

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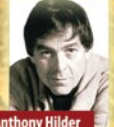
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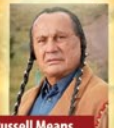
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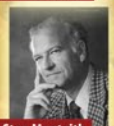
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THREE STEPS TO TYRANNY

Amendment right. As with any revelation, the full truth is never totally revealed. Most importantly, until the American people are willing to stand up to tyranny and oppression, the depths of that oppression will grow deeper. If the BATF, under the Treasury, is willing to lie to Congress, falsely imprison citizens, entrap and coerce honest citizens into unknowingly committing infractions, and then ravage their lives and make them criminals, when there was never any criminal intent; what makes us think the IRS or any other government agency is any different? They are just another branch on the same tree.

I cannot say this enough, the birth rights we have, as American Citizens, are higher than the Constitution. They exist by virtue of our creation, and are bestowed at birth, and these rights cannot be taken by any government, unless we give them away. The Second Amendment is paramount to all other rights, because without this right, we cannot defend other rights. I have come to understand that those without a means of defense, become victim to those who will force their will upon them. I have personally seen this in Somalia, Pakistan, Kuwait, the Philippines, and Afghanistan. In most cases, the only reason we received respect from the enemy was because we had the means to remove them from the face of the earth. Make no mistake, if it were not for the Second Amendment, this nation would not be here today. Our future still depends on the willingness of "We the People" to stand up and fight to keep this right.

The last seventy years have been a continual neutering of the American Patriot. When all is said and done, the wresting of our God-given rights from the Communists and Collectivists and the power-hungry government bureaucrats may come down to one thing: our Second Amendment Right.

*Michael LeMieux is a retired U.S. Army intelligence and imagery analyst, and has served combat tours in Kuwait and Afghanistan with the 19th Special Forces. He is a Purple Heart recipient for injuries received in Afghanistan. Mr. LeMieux is the author of *Unalienable Rights* and the denial of the U.S. Constitution, published by Publish America and a regular writer for Republic Magazine. You can contact Mr. LeMieux via his website at: www.constitutiondenied.com.*

*Information for this article was derived from multiple sources to include: www.preventgenocide.org, www.gao.gov, www.keepandbeararms.com, Book: *Unalienable Rights and the Denial of the U.S. Constitution*.*

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Buying a Gun

If you've been thinking of purchasing a firearm, there are several things you must consider before doing so. First of all, pin-point what your plans are for the weapon; hunting, target practice, or strictly for self-defense in your home or on the street. This process, due to over-regulation, will take much longer than 60 seconds.

For the latter, you want to make sure, before even researching what type of gun will suit you, that you are comfortable owning a gun and someday possibly having to fire it at another human being. In a heated situation, you won't have the time to think on the question of whether or not you could take another human being's life. You must feel certain, that in desperation, you could do so. If, in the end, you are discontent with this concept, it would be a better idea for you to purchase a can of pepper spray or a taser to suit your needs.

Considering you come to the conclusion that you are comfortable with a gun in your home or on your person, you must then see that you apply for a carry permit (depending on which state you live in) as those may take quite some time to obtain. Whether or not you choose to carry your firearm with you or to keep it at home, a handgun is the best option for purchase. There are several different models ranging in price and size, all of which would fit easily

in a dresser-drawer or hip-holster. The following are excellent choices when searching for a self defense firearm: Smith & Wesson Model 60 at \$560, Kel-Tec P32 at \$320, Kahr MK40 at \$680, or a Kimber 1911 Compact at \$710.

For hunting, you will want to choose something that you feel at ease using and that is somewhat multi-purpose. Of course, your decision of firearm depends on what type of hunting you plan to do. For large mammals, such as deer, elk, moose, or bear, a 30-06 is a good decision. They can be purchased from a few different makers such as Savage, Remington, or Mossberg, and if a "package rifle" can be found, it will come with the scope that you will need. When looking to hunt smaller game such as; birds, rabbit, or squirrel, a Mossberg 500 slide-action shotgun in 12 gauges should work well. This model is fairly inexpensive and very reliable.

If buying a firearm specifically for target shooting, a .22LR is a good choice because the ammunition is fairly cheap in comparison to other target shooting guns. With the economy the way it is, one of these may be a good idea: Ruger Mark II at \$300, Browning Buckmark at \$400, or a Browning Sig Trailside Target at \$600.

Owning a firearm is a hefty responsibility and should not be taken lightly. Needless to say, all firearms can be deadly and must always be handled with extreme caution. If children are present in your home, have your guns and ammunition in a locked and out of reach case at all times.

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Real Killers In America: Where Do Guns Rank?

BY FRANK MEYER

Guns kill people, yet so do cars, bathtubs, legal drugs, and swimming pools. Putting aside emotions and subjective prejudices, what are the facts? Why the great effort to ban guns?

There is no question that Americans are divided over the gun issue. On the one side are those who view guns as a prime reason people suffer violence and premature death. They believe that the gun itself is the perpetrator of death when in reality it is merely a tool in the user's hand.

On the other side are people who value guns for many positive reasons. In America's early history, the musket was a means of providing nourishment and protection. For young frontier boys, being entrusted with a weapon became a rite of passage. To women throughout the Wild West, a pistol or double barrel shotgun were "the great equalizers."

While few people still use guns to provide food, around 15 million choose to put their money and time into the sport of hunting. Over forty million engage in competitive shooting. As our society becomes more violent, many citizens carry a concealed weapon for self-defense. Others enjoy the beauty of a well-crafted weapon. So, why the strong desire to deny our history and take away the right of the private ownership of guns?

The answer seems easy for the anti-gun people: Guns kill people. Think of the innocent students at Columbine High School and Virginia Tech.

While statistics can be manipulated to prove nearly any point you want to make, they provide some objective comparisons in evaluating who the real killers are. In researching statistics for this article, I came to the strong conclusion that we need to be very careful in the interpretation of statistical numbers. It is said that statistics don't lie, yet the people who use them do.

Consider these facts. The most emotionally loaded charge against guns is the number of children killed by them. While the death of every child is tragic, it is obvious that we need to ask; why the disproportioned outcry against guns, when minor, compared to other causes? (See Table 1)

While the actual number of guns owned by Americans can only be estimated, it turns out to be similar to the number of motorized vehicles in this nation, somewhere in the range of 250 million, almost one per person. In an average year, over 3 million people are injured in automotive accidents, and slightly more than 40,000 are killed (Table 2).

Now compare these numbers to the estimated

25,000 people killed by guns, with well over fifty percent being suicides. Since the registration and licensing of both vehicle and driver have little or no effect on the death rate, where is the logic of registering guns to reduce their wrongful use?

Here is another area where comparisons can help place the bigger picture in perspective. There is a movement called Doctors for Gun Control. While it is understandable that an emergency physician who regularly deals with the carnage of gunshot wounds may come to hate what guns do to people, also realize that his profession creates a conflict.

These are general statistics wherein subjective, emotional convictions do not match harsh realities.

According to Harvard Medical School, physicians kill an estimated 96,000 patients a year through malpractice. Larry Pratt of Gun Owners of America, points out that we are nine times as likely to be killed by our doctors, than by someone murdering us with a gun.

Now, compare this to the statistics for medical deaths in hospitals. In July 2000, Mercola.com carried an article "Doctors Are The Third Leading Cause of Death in the US, Killing 225,000 People Every Year". This was based on a piece published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) in December 1999 (Table 3). The author was Dr. Barbara Starfield of the John Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health.

The author admitted that these are estimates based on the self-reporting of doctors and hospitals. One cannot help wondering, how many additional deaths were attributed to other causes? Doctors often joked with me during our pastoral relationship that I got to bury their mistakes.

As we have seen with automotive deaths, doctors, nurses, and medical specialists are highly educated, licensed, and heavily regulated, yet despite their best efforts, they still make mistakes. Does it make sense to shut down hospitals or pass more laws to regulate them?

What's the comparison with the wrong or accidental use of guns? Accidental gun deaths are minor by comparison. This conclusion leads to other pertinent factors.

Do guns cause people to commit suicide, or, are they simply an effective means to achieve a predetermined end? Statistics vary here as well, yet generally about 50 percent of gun deaths result from people using them to end their

TABLE 1

Fact Sheet: The Real Story On Kids' Deaths

Cause	Number (Ages 0-14)	Number (Ages 0-4)
Motor-vehicle	2,591	819
Drowning	943	568
Fires and flames	593	327
Mechanical suffocation	601	508
Ingestion of food, object*	169	169
Firearms	86	19

Source: Figures are for 2000. National Safety Council, Injury Facts: 2003 Edition, at 10-11, 129.

*The "Ingestion of food, object" category is underreported in the first column since the NSC did not include death rates for "5 to 14 Years."

TABLE 2

1995 Fatal Accident Totals

Motor-vehicle	43,900
Falls	12,600
Poisonings	10,600
Drownings	4,500
Fires	4,100
Choking	2,800
Firearms	1,400*

* Accounts for 1.5% of fatal accidents.

Source: The National Center for Health Statistics

lives. Some argue that reducing the availability of guns would lower the number of suicides. While there is no sure way to disprove their theory, people can choose any number of ways to commit suicide. If this is a prime reason for banning guns, do we also ban knives, razors, sleeping pills, and the multiple methods used to end one's life?

This line of thinking attempts to find workable ways to reduce crime. The statistics coming out of Australia and England provide positive evidence that the expensive confiscation and destruction of nearly all privately held guns have not reduced gun-associated crimes. Trends in both nations show that gun use in criminal actions has increased. The facts are that disarming law-abiding citizens has simply made the criminal's actions safer.

What about arming private citizens? John Lott's book, "More Guns, Less Crime", provides exhaustive evidence that what the title says is true. This has been confirmed by a number of American towns that passed laws requiring homeowners to own at least one gun. In every case, home thefts declined, and there was no evidence that homeowners used their weapons criminally.

However, there are statistics indicating that guns in the home may lead to a higher possibility of accidents, or of use in family disputes. These statistics are highly suspect, due to the uncertain variables in gathering accurate data.

What is clear is that private citizens do use their guns to prevent or stop crimes. Again, the exact numbers are impossible to determine, because people do not report all the incidents, and law enforcement agencies have different reporting standards. However, estimates range from 800,000 to 2.5 million times a year. Yet, the mass media seldom reports on these events. The NRA's magazine has a standard page reporting real situations where gun owners have taken positive, lawful actions in their self-protection.

Here's another statistic that adds positive evidence for the private ownership and responsible use of guns. "Armed citizens kill more crooks than do the police. Citizens shoot and kill at least twice as many criminals as police do every year (1,527 to 606)." Readers of Newsweek; in George F. Will's "Are We a Nation of Cowards?" (15 November 1993), learned that "only 2 percent of civilian shootings involved an innocent person mistakenly identified as a criminal. The 'error rate' for the police, however, was 11 percent, more than five times as high."

This leads to the issue of the growing trend for citizens to endure the expensive process of obtaining a permit to carry a concealed weapon. The anti-gun lobbies predicted blood in the streets, yet facts are; that it is rare to nonexistent, for a permit-holder to use his weapon in an unlawful manner. In states or counties that grant concealed permits, there is always a reduction in the crimes committed via guns.

This then raises the question, what is the real motive behind the grab for guns? Here is another fact to consider. "Death by Government", a book by R. J. Rummel, examines a subject often ignored. Over 150,000,000 people were killed in the 20th century, not in wars, but by their own governments.

Genocidal purges by statist and totalitarian regimes claimed lives of their own citizens, most noted were under Stalin, Hitler, and Mao in China. Could this trend continue in America?

Conclusion: Blaming guns as the killers, leads to a cry for registration of all weapons.

TABLE 3
1999 Accidental Medical Deaths

Unnecessary Surgery	12,000
Medication Errors	7,000
Other Errors	20,000
Infections	80,000
Negative Effect of Drugs	106,000
Total Deaths	225,000

Source: Journal of the American Medical Assoc.

History shows that gun registration is a major step toward eventual confiscation. One of our Founding Fathers foresaw the next step. "To disarm the people is the best and most effectual way to enslave them." George Mason, 1788.

At our very best, we are imperfect and live in a flawed world. At our worst, man is a killer. Violence is a reality in human history. Before guns existed; swords, arrows, spears, and knives were the main instruments of violence. Weapons have always had two basic functions: self-protection or forceful assertion of one's will over another. In either case, the weapon is simply a tool, a means to an end that must be used by a human. Thus, the root cause for the wrong use of any instrument cannot be laid to the weapon, but on the person using it.

Therefore, as you grapple with the social/political issues surrounding guns, you will be wise to look for the facts. Don't get carried away with someone's emotional pitch to get your vote, donation, or a notch on their coup stick, by convincing you to side with them and their cause, no matter how noble it appears.

Guns will continue to be a major factor in life's realities in the 21st century. Their misuse will also perpetuate despite the best efforts of well-intentioned law enforcement and the law-abiding population. The vital question is, will they also remain available for their positive use by all responsible citizens in the lawful pursuit of our God-given rights to our lives, liberty, and the protection of our property?

Frank Meyer is a USAF veteran of the Korean War era, a retired Evangelical Presbyterian pastor, and a published writer whose novels deal with social/political issues of the day, reflecting lessons learned from 30 years of social activism. His books can be reviewed at: www.freedom-loving-books.com.



MONTHLY PAUL

Dedicated to restoring Constitutional government to the United States of America

~ The Founders' Original Intent of the Second Amendment ~

BY MICHAEL NYSTROM

Ron Paul's position on the Second Amendment is very clear. He supports it, and he understands the original intent for which it was drafted. In 2003, Dr. Paul introduced HR 153, the Second Amendment Protection Act (reintroduced in 2005 and 2007), which intended to "reverse the steady erosion of the right to keep and bear arms by repealing unconstitutional laws."¹

The Founding Fathers were clear about the rationale for the Second Amendment. It went without saying that guns were necessary for hunting, yet the right of individuals to own guns was enshrined in the Constitution for different purposes. The Second Amendment is the original (and Constitutional) homeland security.

"A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

In a YouTube video produced during his 2008 presidential bid,² Dr. Paul states that "the Second Amendment was provided, ironically – and a lot of people don't understand this – to protect against abusive government."

The drafters of our Constitution were not citizens of a free state, they were residents of a colony, and therefore were subjects of the despotic King George III of England. As a result, they witnessed the importance of firearms to an individual's ability to secure and protect his God-given rights. Most Americans today have forgotten this original intent, if they ever knew it at all.

Dr. Paul has not forgotten it. In a weekly Texas Straight Talk Column from 2003³, arguing against the Federal "Assault Weapons" Ban, he writes:

The Second Amendment is not about hunting deer or keeping a pistol in your nightstand. It is not about protecting oneself against common criminals. It is about preventing tyranny. The Founders knew that unarmed citizens would never be able to overthrow a tyrannical government, as they did. They envisioned government as a servant, not a master, of the American people. The muskets they used against the British Army were the assault rifles of the time. It is practical, rather than alarmist, to understand that unarmed citizens cannot be secure in their freedoms. It's convenient for gun banners to dismiss this argument by saying "That could never happen here, this is America" – yet history shows that only vigilant people can keep government under control. By banning certain weapons today, we may plant the seeds for tyranny to flourish ten, thirty, or fifty years from now.

In fact, we can already see the seeds of tyranny beginning to take root. The right to keep and bear arms is the one right that protects all others. A general public ignorant to this fact will no doubt eventually learn, the hard way, of the Founders' Original Intent.

¹ Ron Paul speech to Congress "Restoring the Second Amendment":

<http://www.ronpaullibrary.org/document.php?id=662>

² You Choose '08 Spotlight: Ron Paul on the Second Amendment:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xdxTg9x3Mbg>

³ Assault Weapons and Assaults on the Constitution:

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GUN SAFETY



Several years ago, a group of moose hunters had just returned to camp. Suddenly, a rifle shot rang out and one of the hunters fell to the ground shot through the pelvic area with an exit wound that tore away half his buttocks. 300 Win Mags will do that to you.

The other hunters went into shock; fortunately, the one who was shot, did not. He dragged himself over to a hammock, pulled up the hanging flap, and was able to apply pressure to his back-side to staunch the bleeding. His own actions saved his life, as it took nearly 4 hours for medical help to arrive. When last I saw him, he was still walking with a limp, yet at least alive to tell the tale.

In the foregoing incident, the person responsible broke at least three different safety rules: 1] He carried a loaded gun back into camp. 2] The safety was off. 3] The gun was pointing in an unsafe direction. Had he just followed one of those rules, this incident would never have happened.

Now, let's look at gun safety. What is gun safety? It is a set of procedures, rules if you like, that allow individuals to operate firearms without endangering others or themselves. Pretty basic you say, and yet we continue to have accidents involving firearms.

There are four main areas where firearm safety comes into play. They are: 1] Storage 2] Transportation 3] On the Range 4] In the Field

STORAGE:

All firearms should be stored in a secured and locked gun cabinet, a locked gun room or lockable container. Handguns should be further secured with a trigger, or other mechanism, lock, as well. Most, if not all, new handguns come supplied with them. Ammunition also needs to be secured, ideally, under lock and key. In some jurisdictions, the preceding comments are law; and in all jurisdictions, they make good sense.

All firearms should be stored empty, that is, without ammunition.

But wait you say, what about defense against predators, both the four-legged, as well as, two-legged variety. With respect to the four-legged variety, you need ready access to a firearm and ammunition. The two

should be kept separate and readily available for this purpose, yet out of the reach and view of others, particular young children. Even in jurisdictions where firearms are heavily regulated, there is provision for people living in a rural area to adopt this approach.

The approach to defense against the two-legged predator will vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Staying within the law, is a good practice. Where right to carry laws are applicable, your handgun is under your control at all times. Where these rules don't apply, you may wish to consider a keyed lock-box which would provide you with reasonably quick access.

TRANSPORTATION:

Generally applies to vehicles and requires that firearms be transported unloaded, out of sight, i.e. in the trunk of a car or out of sight in a van or pick up. In some jurisdictions, all firearms also require trigger locks. Unless the owner has a concealed carry permit, handguns should also be in the trunk or out of sight, locked in a case and stored. Ammunition should be stored separately. Owners should check with public transportation companies, to determine their requirements prior to travel.

ON THE RANGE:

Most ranges will have a clearly defined set of rules and regulations for all to follow. These regulations are likely to be posted in a prominent location. Here are some general guidelines that will ensure all your shooting activities are safe and enjoyable.

The first group is covered under the acronym ACTS:

- **A**ssume all firearms are loaded until you prove otherwise
- **C**ontrol the muzzle direction at all times
- **T**rigger – keep your finger off the trigger and out of the trigger guard
- **S**ee that the firearm is unloaded – prove it safe

The second set of guidelines comes under the acronym PROVE:

- **P**oint the firearm in the safest available direction
- **R**emove all ammunition
- **O**bserve the chamber
- **V**erify the feed path
- **E**xamine the bore, each time you pick up a firearm.

These guidelines will definitely keep your shooting on a solid foundation of safety.

An incident that happened to me will serve to highlight the importance of these guidelines. My son, who was well versed in gun safety, was target shooting with me one weekend. At some point, he said okay, I have finished; so, he boxed his pistol and moved away from the line. A week later, I took that same pistol to the range, unboxed it, and went through ACTS, PROVE. You can imagine my surprise when I discovered a blocked barrel. Closer examination revealed a round stuck in the barrel.

Two factors, the first being that regardless of my son's firearm experience, he did not realize he had fired a squib load, and secondly being that he failed to follow procedure in checking the firearm prior to putting it away. Fortunately, I did or I might not have been writing this article.

By David Burke

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IN THE FIELD:

Most of the guidelines, rules, and procedures outlined above, apply in the field along with a few other important factors.

Perhaps, the most important is to know what's behind your target. Rifle rounds will carry for long distances, so you need to be aware of what is downrange from your intended target.

Another factor, is to be sure of your target before you shoot. Movement or sound is not sufficient data on which to base firing a round; you need a clear view of your intended target and knowledge of what's behind it before you fire.

We talked earlier about keeping your finger off the trigger and out of the trigger guard. Whether on the range, or in the field, this probably is one of single most important safety actions you can take. Guns don't shoot by themselves, people shoot them by applying pressure to the trigger.

Something often overlooked, is just a periodic check of your firearm. Look for anything that might affect its operation like cracks, loose parts, screws that have become loose. All of these can affect your gun's operation and safety.

This brings to mind an incident from a few years ago. Having just finished an IPSC match, I was packing my pistol away when a friend and gunsmith asked to see my pistol. It seemed a little unusual, and of course, I agreed. I thought it was just because I had it set up a little different. Maybe not. Within a few seconds of examining it, he remarked that the slide was cracked. Closer examination revealed that the slide was cracked on both sides, just at the front of the recoil spring housing. My immediate question was to ask how serious that might be. The response made me think a lot, because apparently a few more rounds through the gun would have resulted in the slide flying backwards and burying itself in some part of my anatomy. Not a pleasant thought. Since then, I do periodic inspections on all my firearms.

The same applies to ammunition, especially reloaded ammo. Inspect and look for cracks, improperly seated primers, and bulges. They will all affect the operation and safety of your firearm.

In summary, probably the best advice I can offer, is to get some formalized training by either a competent training group or an experienced and knowledgeable friend. Shoot safe, shoot straight, have fun.

David Burke is a long time instructor for the Canadian Shooting Sports Association, teaching their Handgun Safety Course to other potential instructors. He has also taught the IPSC Black Badge Course for many years and currently teaches the CDP Shield Course and is the Chief Instructor for CQB Firearms Training Associates. He may be reached at: www.cqb-training.com.



NO SMALL TARGET: Gun Ownership Organizations You Should Know

Here are some active pro-gun website links with some background on what they offer to a public that is constantly being bombarded with falsehoods and misinterpretations of the reality of what it means to be a proud, responsible gun owner in America.

<http://gunowners.org/>

- Gun Owners of America, founded in California by Bill Richardson, is riding high for its role in the narrow defeat of a bill intended to expand gun control. The Omnibus Public Lands Act of 2009, S. 22, was a bill that would have expanded the National Park Service control to a massive amount of land and subjecting these areas to anti-gun regulators. Robert E. Duggar, the public liaison for GOA Gun Owners of America (GOA) discussed the non-profit lobbying organization's mission statement with Republic Magazine this week. "Gun Owners of America was formed in 1975 to preserve and defend the Second Amendment rights of gun owners. GOA sees firearms ownership as a freedom issue."

There are several organizations associated with Gun Owners of America which include: Political Victory Fund, Gun Owners of California, and Gun Owners Foundation. From state legislatures and city councils to the United States Congress and the White House, GOA represents the views of gun owners whenever their rights are threatened.

GOA has never wavered from its mission to defend the Second Amendment. As an example, GOA fought for and won, the right of gun owners to sue and recover damages from the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF) for harassment and unlawful seizure of firearms.

Among the activities sponsored by GOF, the research arm of GOA, are seminars that inform the public, the media, and government officials about key issues affecting the Second Amendment. GOF also publishes books and articles concerning gun issues as they affect people throughout the world, and GOA supports the election of pro-gun candidates at all levels of government.

<http://www.nraila.org/>

- The "big name" in pro-gun, pro-second amendment discussion is the National Rifle Association (NRA), which rose to prominence under their high profile leadership of Charlton Heston, who stepped down in 2003. The NRA is active in all gun legislative action, and they do a great job in covering all the latest breaking news. The NRA website is filled with the latest developments in gun control measures from across the country, 24 hours a day. From rifles to semi-automatic weapons, emergency powers laws, background checks, gun shows, hunting updates, local and international gun control issues, it is tough to believe there is a more informative site about guns on the internet.

The NRA, more than any other gun organization, offers safety programs, such as the "Eddie Eagle" program (which educates children how to react when around firearms), grassroots shooting support and education,

instruction, and open communication with local organizations to promote safe use of all firearms.

The NRA has figure-headed several responses to gun-bans, including their success in 2004, when they opposed renewal of the Federal Assault Weapons Ban of 1994, which banned several features of semi-automatic rifles (ended in 2004), and Disaster Recovery Personal Protection Act of 2006, working with President Bush to end the Federal Government's right to "confiscate legal firearms from citizens in a state of emergency or anyone receiving Federal funds."

<http://www.nssf.org/>

- The National Shooting Sports Foundation's (NSSF) mission statement reads: "To promote, protect, and preserve hunting and the shooting sports." In March, 2009, the NSSF got a mention on the LA Times' blog with an article that addressed the accuracies in information about semi-automatic rifles and the economic effects of bans placed on rifles. The NSSF website is full of helpful information on hunting news, legislative action, shooting, and national and local retailers. NSSF utilizes social networking methods to get their word out, and they have done a thorough job of keeping law makers on their toes with their detailed system of checks and balances in regards to helping maintain 2nd Amendment standards in gun control.

<http://www.jpfo.org/> • <http://www.thegangmovie.com/>

- One of the more interesting gun law resources you might find on the web is Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership (JPFO). The site name is almost campy, yet the website boasts a massive following and is nearing the 2 million hits mark. The organization has well over 4,000 members. Founded by a former arms dealer, Aaron Zelman, in 1986, it has an aim "to encourage Americans to understand and defend all of the Bill of Rights for everyone" and to help create awareness that gun-control facilitates genocide. While membership is open to anyone, the only requirement is full support of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. The organization is controversial in nature and takes objection with the goals of the Anti-Defamation League, which has been outspoken in attempts to sway Jewish opinion by saying JPFO is a self-serving organization to "manipulate the fear of anti-Semitism toward their own end." Perhaps their biggest claim was that their assertion that the Gun Control Act of 1968, was ended with Nazi legislation at the core.

Despite their controversial position, the JPFL stands strong with their members and has strong web presence, to go along with well-received DVD releases, including the documentaries "Bill of Rights or Bust", "Innocents Betrayed", and their most recent release, "The Gang".

<http://www.armedfemalesofamerica.com/>

- Armed Females of America's mission statement could not be more straightforward: "To proudly represent all patriotic, strong, intelligent people who believe that to compromise sovereignty, liberty, birthrights, or honor goes

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against the Constitution. To compromise (especially without getting anything in return) is surrender." AFA is dedicated to protection of the right to keep and bear arms in the purist sense and submission to our government is the highest form of infringement on our lives. Keeping a no-compromise stance towards any gun control is fundamental principle of a website focused on educating women across America what it means to stand up for your liberty.

<http://www.2asisters.org/>

• "Gun-free zones equal killing zones" is the message sent to readers of the Second Amendment Sisters' website. With current news flashes scrolling across the middle of the page and links to videos, stories, and gun legislation from across the country and great links, this is a group with another clear message – don't mess with gun owner's rights. Though this site does not come off as militant as Armed Females of America, the emphasis is set on our basic rights as Americans and self-defense is a basic human right.

<http://www.concealedcampus.org/>

• Without hesitation, Concealed Campus must be named in the most controversial of gun-control conversations. The ongoing dispute over teacher/professor and student right to bear legal arms on campuses across the country is a hotbed of debate. Over 37,000 college students, professors, college employees, parents of college students, and concerned citizens, participate in Concealed Campus. In the aftermath of historical campus tragedies such as Columbine and the Virginia Tech shootings, and any of the other 40+ school shootings since the year 2000, Concealed Campus stands behind formations of new legislation that helps students and employees at post-secondary learning institutions with the right to bear arms on campus. CAMPUS PERSONAL PROTECTION ACT is such an act that is backed by this organization seeking to protect the rights of citizens, without discrimination. The Concealed Campus site has an "Arguments" section that answers the many questions that are asked in response to the position held by those who feel gun-control laws, as they apply to campuses across the country, must be changed.

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Within the Bill of Rights was the Second Amendment, the provision that guaranteed the right of the people to keep and bear arms. No provision in the Constitution has been more trampled upon, more abused, and more "infringed", by today's politicians. Some of our "leaders" would have us believe that the Founders only intended the "right to keep and bear arms" to be for our military personnel. In other words, when the delegates to the Constitutional Convention met in Philadelphia, they promulgated a First Amendment to the Bill of Rights, which included freedom of religion, freedom of the press, free speech, and the right to peaceably assemble and to file grievances against government. Then, the Founders all agreed, that a timeout should be called, and that the rights of the people should be put on the back burner, while they guaranteed the rights of the army to keep and bear arms! Does this not strike you just a little bit odd? Does this not seem rather redundant? The American patriots refused to disarm and would have laughed at an amendment to protect the right of the army to keep and bear arms. The Founders did not even support the idea of a standing army and certainly were not concerned about the right of the Continental Army to keep and bear arms. They were already armed and an infringement against soldiers having guns was never an issue.

Let's make no mistake here; all the thousands of "laws" in America that infringe the rights of the citizens to keep and bear arms are U-N-C-O-N-S-T-I-T-U-T-I-O-N-A-L! The statutes that require the registering of guns, safety locks, waiting periods, background checks, limits on ammunition, or the amounts of guns you're allowed to purchase, or how you keep a gun in your car, or mental health evaluations for soldiers returning from combat, or prohibition of gun ownership by those convicted of domestic violence 25 years ago, (which is an ex post facto law, also disallowed by the Constitution) and YES, concealed carry permits, are likewise, unconstitutional! Asking government for permission to do that which is already guaranteed by the Constitution is wrong, and we should not be doing it. Furthermore, we should not have national gun rights' organizations claiming victory because we achieved "success" in getting governments to license our right to carry a gun. Vermont and Alaska have no permits, you can carry concealed or open



with Sheriff Richard Mack (RET)
On The Record

in both states and you needn't ask "mother may I?". Did the crime rates go up or down in Vermont and Alaska? Quite frankly, it does not matter. I have the right to keep and bear arms, crime statistics notwithstanding.

Therefore, anything or any statute or any bureaucratic policy which creates any type of infringement, would be against the supreme law of the land and is a violation of the Bill of Rights. These infringements from the feds got a huge boost pursuant to the assassination of President John Kennedy and have been continuing ever since. Of course, our Congress used JFK's death to promote gun control.

Randy Weaver lost his wife and son to federal snipers at Ruby Ridge in 1992, all because the federal government was hell-bent on enforcing more "infringements". Weaver's tragic loss is a typical example of gun control consequences. The point here is as clear as the crosshairs on a Zeiss 3x9 rifle scope. If you give regulatory authority to government over rights guaranteed by the Constitution, you may as well throw the Constitution out the window.

"I ask sir, what is the militia? It is the whole people, except for a few public officials. To disarm the people is the best and most effectual way to enslave them" (George Mason). Slaves have never owned guns and subjects must ask permission from their government to possess firearms. I will be neither!

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A QUICK PRIMER TO

By Nguyen Nguyen

Why reload ammunition? The reasons are manifold. To most reloaders, it is a means to squeeze more shooting enjoyment for their money's worth. To others, reloading offers the possibility to invent, customize, or to accuratize their cartridge. Nonetheless, we should not forget the very basic reason for loading our own ammunition, one that links to our security and survival.

Imagine having a firearm and no factory loaded ammunition is available! It's hard to believe, yet that's what's currently happening. Factory stocks are vanishing from retail stores shelves faster than they can be replaced. Yet, scarcity is not the only problem. Whenever ammunition is available, it is expensive because of the desire by everyone to stock up. A few years ago a "brick" of .22 rim fire cost around \$12 dollars, nowadays, the same "brick" could run as high as \$35 to \$40. Then, if you were to factor in economic and political turmoil to the mix... you get the picture.

This is when knowing how to reload and having the equipment, could prove to be an advantage. For example, let's just say that ammunition becomes so scarce that there isn't any available for your .308 Winchester rifle, yet you have used brass for it. You then happened to come across a box of Russian 7.62 x 39mm. These cartridges won't fit your .308 rifle per se, yet their bullets are the same caliber as your rifle's. Therefore, you could perform a recovery to take the bullets, powder, and depending on the way the Russian cases are primed, perhaps even the primers. Reload all these components into your spent .308 cases and you have ammunition. You could then sell or use the left-over Russian cases as barter for something else.

If you have never reloaded ammunition and are now convinced that reloading is something that you would like to invest in, then your next logical step is to look for a kit. Reloading companies such as RCBS, Lee Precision, Dillon, Hornady, Lyman, and Redding, offer numerous kits and reloading components. Their prices range from \$35 dollars for simple hand-press kits, to hundreds of dollars for elaborate progressive presses. Knowing what you wish to accomplish with your reloading equipment, could make the selection easier. If volume and speed is your requirement, then a progressive reloader may be your solution. Yet if pricing is a factor, while volume and speed are not a concern, then perhaps a single stage press is the answer. Whatever your choice may be, at a minimum, you will need the following to start your reloading: 1. Reloading Manual (data), 2. Reloading Press, 3. Case/Shell

Holder, 4. Sizing Lubricant, 5. Resizing Die, 6. Bullet Seating Die, 7. Collet or Inertia/Impact Bullet Puller, 8. Priming Tool, 9. Brass Trimmer, 10. Scale, 11. Reloading Block, 12. Caliper, 13. De-burring Tool, 14. Bullets, 15. Powder, 16. Primers.

All the reloading components in the list can be found at your local sporting good retailer or directly from internet websites such as: www.Midway-USA.com, www.Wideners.com, www.Gamaliel.com, or www.MidSouthShootersSupply.com, to name a few. Yet, your search need not stop at retail or internet sources. Alternative places that you may be able to find reloading equipment could be at your neighborhood yard sale, the local recycler, bulletin boards at the local gun range, or gun shows. You may also want to try your searches at internet bulletin boards such as: www.GunsAmerica.com, or in forums such as: www.TheFiringLine.com. What is mentioned here is by no mean exhaustive, it may take a little creativity on your part to find components, especially in a bind.

RELOADING STEPS

Safety first! Wear protective gear, such as glasses. Keep any and all possible ignitions sources away from your reloading area. Keeping a clean and organized work area will help your workflow and prevent mistakes. When in doubt, fall back to your reloading manual for instructions. Take your time and enjoy making your ammunition.

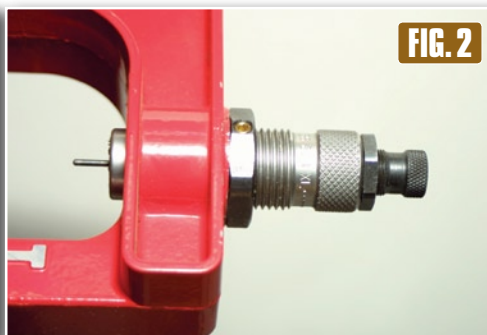
Proceed to set aside the number of cartridges that will be reloaded in the coming lot. As you're doing so, inspect and discard cases that have irregularities, such as cracks and bulges. Note: you should choose only cases that have single flash holes (these can be seen when looked down the case mouth) since these are the only cases that could be de-primed.

Next, mount the reloading press, if not already set up. It is preferable to fasten the press onto a workbench or on something sturdy, via bolts and/or clamps. (Figure 1)

Screw the appropriate caliber resizing/de-priming die onto the press and insert the correct caliber case holder on the reloading press rod. Make sure the de-priming pin in the die extends no shorter than 1/4 inch past the end of the die. (Figure 2)

Place your cases into a reloading block and spray on lube, or, grease cases, individually. Be sure to lube lightly inside the case mouth, also. (Figure 3)

Insert a cartridge into the case holder and ram it fully into the re-sizing die.



RELOADING

Near the end of the up-stroke, the used primer will be pushed out of the primer pocket. The neck will be resized on the downward return stroke. (Figure 4)

Once through, wipe the cartridge clean of lube, or you could optionally purchase a tumbler for this task. The advantage in using a tumbler, is that you could clean a large resized lot and it's relatively hands free.

Next, you will need to check your case length and trim them. Use the Lee Precision Case Length and Trimmer Tool to cut the case to its proper length. Fasten the cartridge to the case holder and insert the rod/cutter into the cartridge and turn clockwise. (Figure 5)

Once trimming is done, the cases will have small burrs left inside and outside of the case mouth. These can be easily removed with the de-burring tool. (Figure 6)

Next, use a primer pocket uniformer/cleaner to cut and clean the primer pocket. (Figure 7)

Priming is accomplished by a hand or automatic priming tool. Make certain that you have the correct primer size and type. Then, expose the primer container partially and invert a number of primers onto the primer tray. Be sure the anvil-side of the primers is facing up. Load a cartridge in the case-holder tilt to let a primer into the priming slot, then squeeze the lever on the tool to seat a primer, making certain that the primer is completely seated at the bottom of the primer pocket. (Figure 8)

If you haven't consulted your loading manual to find a powder type for your load, now is the time to do so. Next, adjust your scale to the desired weight, then use a graduated measuring cup to load the scale. (Figure 9)

Once the correct amount is weighed, use a powder-funnel to trickle it into the primed case and set it back into the reloading block to prevent spillage. (Figure 10)

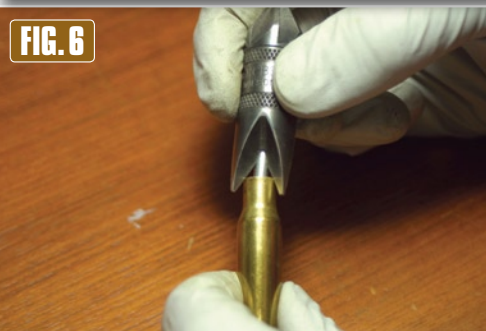
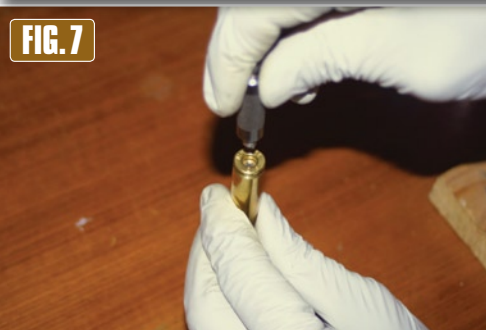
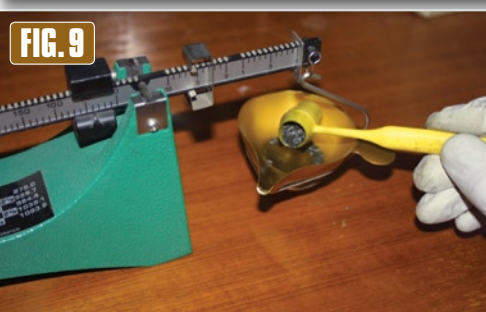
Set the seating die's bullet seating depth for your cartridge, as instructed in your reload manual. Once done, insert a charged/primed cartridge into the case holder and place a bullet into the case mouth. Raise the empty case into the die to seat the bullet.

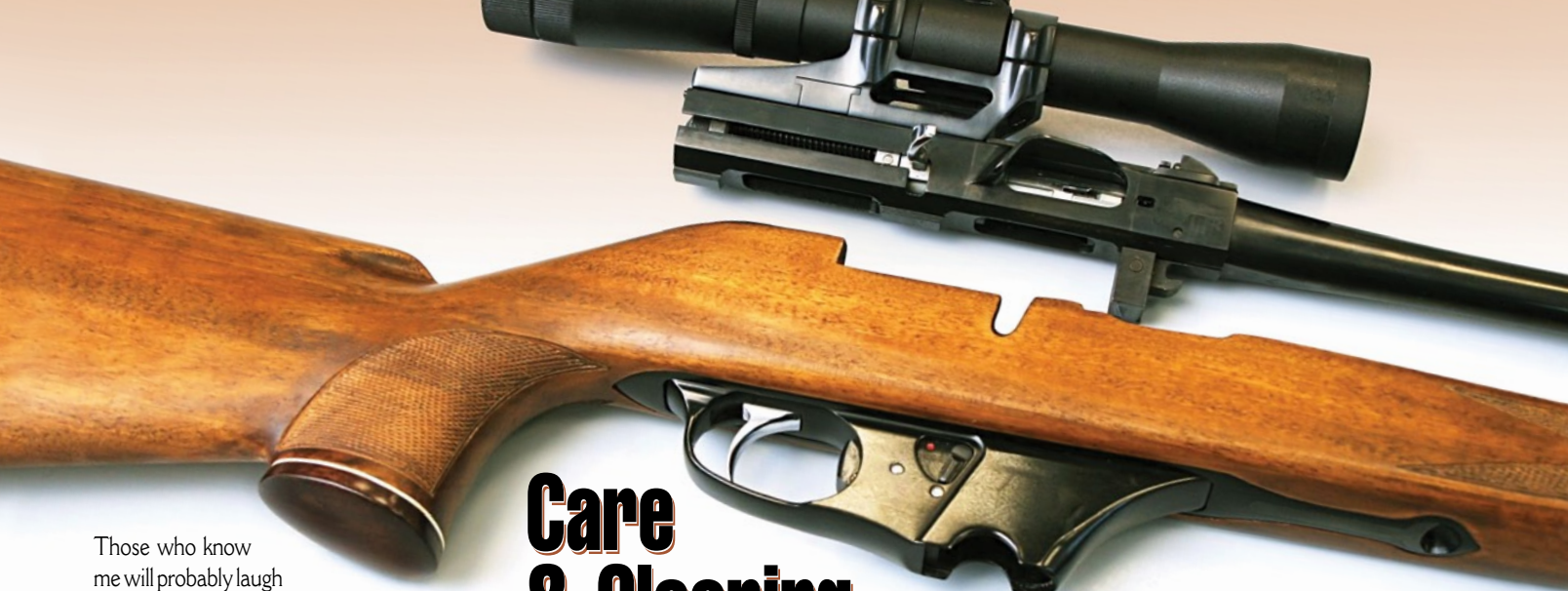
You have now completed a full reloading cycle, and you have created your own ammunition. (Figure 11).

RECOVERING FROM MISTAKES

If you made a mistake or later desire to disassemble a cartridge, use a collet puller die. Cartridge recovery is accomplished by screwing the collet die into place, raising the cartridge into the die, tightening the collet to grip the bullet, then raising the press lever. As the case is lowered, the bullet is unseated from the case mouth. Loosen the collet to take the bullet out. You could then recover the powder. To recover the primer, replace your collet die with your resizing/de-priming die and push the primer out with the de-capping pin.

For additional information on ammunition reloading, please visit: www.ammunitionreloadingsecrets.com.





Care & Cleaning of Your Firearm

By David Burke

Those who know me will probably laugh at the idea of my writing an article on cleaning and care of firearms. My idea of cleaning is to apply some of our oil to the moving parts of a gun, work the action a few times, and return to shooting. Yes, our company produces gun oil that works for lazy shooters, like me. This article is for those of you who approach gun cleaning more seriously, as it can be very serious if your life depends on your firearm's functionality.

All guns have one thing in common: they are made of metal. Even the polymer guns have some metal in them. Unfortunately, metal tends to rust, especially in wet or humid conditions, so one of your first considerations should be to avoid this.

We will address how to keep your firearm from rusting, a little further along in the article, yet first let's approach the cleaning aspect. Ensure that the firearm is empty. Point the firearm in a safe direction (one where an accidental discharge would do the least damage) and take the following steps: 1] Remove box magazines, 2] Open action, 3] Check for bullets in chamber, remove if present, 4] Check to verify that you can see follower in lever and pump actions, work action to clear bullets from internal rotary actions. Open loading gate on single action revolvers and rotate cylinder 2 to 3 complete turns.

Once you have confirmed your firearm is truly empty, it's time to begin cleaning. You want to disassemble the firearm. How far, will depend on the degree of cleaning you intend. Most firearm manufacturers will advise on the recommended level of disassembly.

That reminds me of a time one of my pistols, a Colt 45, malfunctioned. A good friend offered to help me diagnose the problem. We felt it was important to totally disassemble the pistol, as it had gone full-auto on me. Once we had all the parts spread out on the bench my friend said "sorry Dave, but I have to catch a plane, see you later". Fortunately, his wife was still there and said "no worries Dave, we'll just disassemble his gun and sort of reverse engineer reassembling yours". Mission accomplished, but I don't recommend that level of disassembly.

At this point, we should consider what we need, by way of materials, to complete the cleaning process.

Basics are: Cleaning rod or pull through; Patches or swabs; Toothbrush; Cleaning oil; Bore cleaner; Lubricating oil; Cleaning rags. Added items can include: Bench mat, soft material to avoid marring gun surfaces; Racks for guiding cleaning rods in rifles/shotguns; Bore lights; CO2 cleaning systems.

Apply a cleaning solution that will facilitate the removal of carbon, grease, dirt, and powder residue, from the action of the firearm. Let it sit for awhile.

Now, focus on the barrel.

Use a bore cleaner or copper remover swab on the barrel. Apply cleaner, leave for a few minutes, and then using clean patches, swab until patches come out clean. Immediately apply a thin coat of oil to the inside of the barrel to avoid any rusting or corrosion. *NOTE: Excessive amounts of oil will change the point of impact on your first few shoots.*

Back to the action, using a clean rag, remove all the dirt carbon and buildup. For hard to reach areas, use the toothbrush. Once all moving parts are clean, apply a light coat of oil and start the reassemble process. You can now coat the entire firearm with a light coat of oil and the job is done. It's ready for use or storage. Be mindful to keep oil or oily rags away from scope lenses.

Let's take a look at additional possibilities. Bore guides are an excellent accessory that will help avoid scratches and scores on the rifling of your barrel. In my opinion, a snake or non-metallic pull-through are equally good. Bore lights are very helpful in determining the condition of your bore and are economical. CO2 cleaning systems operate on a CO2 cartridge that forces a relatively soft foam wad through your barrel. The wad can be coated with bore cleaner or oil; the advantages are no bore scoring and a fairly quick process. The disadvantages are the amount of kit and CO2 cartridges that you need.

No discussion of cleaning firearms would be complete without considering lubricating oils. Clearly there is no shortage of products on the market. Many of the available products have a tendency to attract grit and dirt. Avoid them. You also want a product with a thin consistency. Thick oils gum up your action. Consistency has nothing to do with lubricity. The lubricating film and lubricating toughness is based on the product formulation and not on how thick the product is. You also want a product that performs well under a variety of temperature ranges. A product that performs well at 100° – 80° F is preferable.

Bore cleaners are another item you may want to consider. Again, there are many on the market. Those using ammonia seem to work best at removing copper. Test them with pennies. Our company will be introducing one shortly.

This article wouldn't be complete without a brief discussion of storage. I am reminded of a friend's story about how his firearms were stored in a closet under the back stairway. The stairway leaked and his guns got wet. Don't let that happen to you. Give serious consideration to how and where you store your firearms.

David Burke is president and owner of Burke's Gun Oil. He may be contacted at (800) 721-3109 or through his web site at: www.burkesgunoil.com.

ARE GUN GRABBERS ABOUT TO SHOW THEIR HAND?

BY EARLE BELLE

The current 111th Congress and Administration has certainly been suspect, by some, as being "Gun Grabbers". According to the following information that we just obtained, and depending on the next actions we see, this may be starting to receive solid verification. Although the following list is of grave concern to all Americans, the final list may be even more extensive. All freedom-loving Americans should be energized to take every action possible, to put the pressure on, to insure no list of guns, like this one, ever gets any traction in Congress. This is the current gun-ban-list proposal to Congress at the time of this issue (#14) going to press:

Rifles (or copies or duplicates): M1 Carbine, Sturm Ruger Mini-14, AR-15, Bushmaster XM15, ArmaLite M15, AR-10, Thompson 1927, Thompson M1; AK, AKM, AKS, AK-47, AK-74, ARM, MAK90, NHM 90, NHM 91, SA 85, SA 93, VEPR; Olympic Arms PCR; AR70, Calico Liberty, Dragunov SVD Sniper Rifle or Dragunov SVU, Fabrique National FN/FAL, FN/LAR, or FNC, Hi-Point Carbine, HK-91, HK-93, HK-94, HK-PSG-1, Thompson 1927 Commando, Kel-Tec Sub Rifle; Saiga, SAR-8, SAR-4800, SKS with detachable magazine, SLG 95, SLR 95 or 96, Steyr AU, Tavor, Uzi, Galil and Uzi Sporter, Galil Sporter, or Galil Sniper Rifle (Galatz).

Pistols (or copies or duplicates): Calico M-110, MAC-10, MAC-11, or

MPA3, Olympic Arms OA, TEC-9, TEC-DC9, TEC-22 Scorpion, or AB-10, Uzi.

Shotguns (or copies or duplicates): Armscor 30 BG, SPAS 12 or LAW 12, Striker 12, Streetsweeper.

Catch-all category (for anything missed or new designs): 1.

A semi-automatic rifle that accepts a detachable magazine and has (i) a folding or telescoping stock, (ii) a threaded barrel, (iii) a pistol grip (which includes ANYTHING that can serve as a grip, see below), (iv) a forward grip; or a barrel shroud. 2. Any semi-automatic rifle with a fixed magazine that can accept more than 10 rounds (except tubular magazine .22 rimfire rifles). 3. A semiautomatic pistol that has the ability to accept a detachable magazine, and has (i) a second pistol grip, (ii) a threaded barrel, (iii) a barrel shroud or (iv) can accept a detachable magazine outside of the pistol grip, and (v) a semiautomatic pistol with a fixed magazine that can accept more than 10 rounds. 4. A semiautomatic shotgun with (i) a folding or telescoping stock, (ii) a pistol grip (see definition below), (iii) the ability to accept a detachable magazine or a fixed magazine capacity of more than 5 rounds, and (iv) a shotgun with a revolving cylinder. 5. Frames or receivers for the above are included, along with conversion kits. For more information regarding this proposal go to: <http://www.gunlaws.com/GunLawUpdate3.htm>.



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preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms. The remedy is to set them right as to the facts, pardon and pacify them. What signify a few lives lost in a century or two? The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time, with the blood of patriots and tyrants. It is its natural manure." —Thomas Jefferson

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