

# POINT BLANK

**STRAIGHT TALK  
ABOUT WHAT YOU  
CAN DO TO  
PRESERVE YOUR  
RIGHT TO KEEP AND  
BEAR ARMS**



**May 2011**  
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## **CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS**

*(a non-profit corporation)*

National Headquarters:  
1250 N.E. Tenth Place  
Bellevue, Washington 98005

Capitol Hill Office:  
1250 Connecticut Ave, N.W. #200  
Washington, D.C. 20036

## **CCRKBA SUPPORTS ISSA ATF SUBPOENA**

CCRKBA supports the latest move by Congressman Darrell Issa (R-CA) to “get to the bottom of the ‘Project Gunrunner’ scandal.”

Congressman Issa is chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

In April, Rep. Issa issued a subpoena to the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives for documents relating to the Gunrunner probe. ATF Acting Director Kenneth Melson had ignored a deadline to provide the information.

CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb said the subpoena “underscores the seriousness of the investigation.” Earlier, Gottlieb had called for an investigation of the Gunrunner operation and for cuts in ATF funding if the government agency did not cooperate.

“I don’t know what Mr. Melson was thinking when he blew off Rep. Issa’s earlier request,” Gottlieb said. “If he believed that this probe simply is going to disappear if he just ignores it, the subpoena clearly demonstrates that isn’t going to happen.”

Gottlieb recalled some recent history surrounding this developing issue.

The Obama administration spent weeks in 2009 trying to blame Mexican drug cartel violence on gun dealers and gun shows in the southwest states of the United States.

Attorney General Eric Holder, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and others asserted at the time that weak American gun laws were responsible for allowing a flood of firearms to flow south into the hands of cartel gunmen.

However, it now appears that Project Gunrunner, and its “Operation Fast-and-Furious” in Phoenix, Arizona allowed hundreds, perhaps thousands of guns to be taken to Mexico.

Two of these guns were recovered at the murder scene of Customs and Border Control Agent Brian Terry in December 2010, igniting the current investigation.

“Gun shops and our gun rights were blamed for the violence in Mexico,” Gottlieb observed.

He said that, “Recent revelations about Project Gunrunner clearly indicate the real culprits are officials in the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and Department of Justice who knew about this and were warned about potential problems by their own field agents, but let it happen, anyway. And then they concealed it from the Mexican government.

“We hope Congressman Issa can get to the bottom of this and that people will be held accountable.”

# ATF SCANDAL UNDERSCORES GOVERNMENT UNRELIABILITY

The fast developing scandal surrounding the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives validates distrust of government and shows that high government officials may misuse their authority in an attempt to create the appearance of reasons for new anti-gun public policies.

It raises the question of whether Obama administration officials have participated in the attempt to create this appearance.

In the developing Gunwalker Scandal, accusations against ATF and Department of Justice officialdom have been made by ATF whistleblowers and others working in the federal government.

One allegation is that officials instructed United States firearm dealers to proceed with questionable and illegal sales to suspected gunrunners.

Another is that they allowed or even assisted in the crossing of those guns from the United States to Mexico. They apparently did this to "boost the numbers" of American civilian market firearms seized in Mexico. This in turn arguably would provide justification for more firearm restrictions on American citizens and more power and money for ATF.

Still another allegation is that American government officials intentionally kept Mexican officials in the dark about the operation, even over objections of their own agents.

It is thought weapons ATF officials let "walk" to Mexico in this way were involved in the deaths of U.S. Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Agent Jaime Zapata, as well as at least "hundreds" of Mexican citizens.

Many think that, at least since the

death of Brian Terry last December, the Obama administration is engaged in a cover-up. This is a full-press cover-up of the facts behind what now is known as the Gunwalker Scandal.

As an example of the administration cover-up, there is the unresponsiveness of Obama's Secretary of State, Hillary Rodham Clinton, to formal requests from two key congressional sources regarding Project Gunrunner.

Both Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa, the Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and Rep. Darrell Issa, Chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, have written Clinton on the matter.

Clinton's refusal to respond to Grassley, wrote Issa, "stands in stark contradiction to the promise of transparency promised by President Obama. During Sunshine Week last year, the President stated that he had 'recommended his administration to be the most open and honest ever.'

"Given the gravity of this matter, this refusal is simply unacceptable. Therefore, I am joining Senator Grassley's request for any and all records relating to a meeting involving the then-U.S. Ambassador to Mexico Carlos Pascual with Assistant Attorney General Lanny Breuer, Mr. Breuer's deputy, and other officials in Mexico City in the summer of 2010 regarding 'on-going investigations' related to Project Gunrunner and its 'Fast and Furious' component. The records sought include meeting minutes, briefing notes, e-mails and cables relating to any such meeting or meetings that may have occurred from June through September 2010.

Additionally, please explain in detail the reasons behind your refusal to answer the Senator directly."

Grassley wrote in a recent column that, "If the U.S. government has allowed countless guns to 'walk' into the hands of violent criminals, the American public deserves to know. What's more, those responsible for the shocking violation of ethics and federal law must be held accountable."



## POINT BLANK

*"Straight talk about what you can do to preserve your right to keep and bear arms."*

**Editor** John M. Snyder  
**Publisher** Alan M. Gottlieb  
**Managing Editors** J. H. Versnel  
 Dave Workman  
**Associate Editors** Tom Gresham  
 Merrill Jacobs  
 Herb Stupp  
 Peggy Tartaro  
 Joe Waldron

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# GUNS SAVE LIVES MESSAGE BROUGHT TO CAPITOL HILL

The "Guns Save Lives" message came to Capitol Hill in a project CCRKBA cosponsored with the Second Amendment Foundation (SAF).

A billboard truck carrying the message toured Washington, D.C. The billboard proclaims Americans use firearms 2,191 times every day for legitimate defensive purposes.

As the billboard truck parked on Capitol Hill beneath the dome of the U.S. Capitol, four gun rights activists spoke at a press conference.

The spokesmen were John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director and SAF Treasurer, Joe Waldron, CCRKBA Legislative Director and former Executive Director, Philip Van Cleave, President of the Virginia Citizens Defense League (VCDL), and Robert Culver, Co-Chairman of Montgomery Citizens for a Safer Maryland (MCSM).

Snyder noted Americans use guns for defensive purposes daily at least 61 times more than the 34 times New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Mayors Against Illegal Guns (MAIG) say they are used in criminal homicide.

One of the purposes of the CCRKBA/SAF multi-city billboard campaign is to uncover and reveal the false impression created by the Bloomberg/MAIG proclamation. They state firearms are used 34 times a day in murder in the United States without reference to other facts.

According to various estimates, including those based on U.S. Justice Department statistics, Americans use firearms between 800,000 and 2.5 million times a year for legitimate defensive purposes. That works out to between 2,100 and 6,800 times a day, or between 61 to 206 times the

criminal homicide figure Bloomberg and company are so fond of bandying about.

The four activists constituted a "truth squad," said Waldron. "We're here to ensure you get the other side of Bloomberg's story. Like the fact that three-fourths of those gun deaths are committed by career criminals – and half of their 'victims' are criminals, too.

"Guns Save Lives. Most Americans know that. Based on their ever-present security staff, so do Mayor Bloomberg and friends."

Van Cleave said "gun control simply does not work. States that have implemented it tend to have higher crime rates as a result. Disarming citizens only benefits criminals and no one else.

"Bloomberg's reference to the 34 figure is a small number compared to deaths due to a drunk behind the steering wheel, and miniscule

compared to the number of lives that are saved by the defensive use of firearms."

"There is a difference between needs and wants," commented Culver. "If it ever occurs that you need a firearm to defend yourself, you have to have prepared by acquiring the proper tools and training in advance.

"Self-defense is just that. You should be exercising it regularly or you will lose that liberty."

At CCRKBA national headquarters in Bellevue, WA, Alan Gottlieb, CCRKBA Chairman and SAF Founder, said "Bloomberg's anti-gun truck billboard campaign tells less than half of a story, so we're setting the record straight with the help of outstanding American gun rights activists."

In addition to Washington, D.C., the CCRKBA/SAF gun rights billboard truck already has appeared in Chicago, Los Angeles, Milwaukee, Phoenix, Pittsburgh and Miami.



Gathering near the U.S. Capitol with the gun rights truck were, left to right, John Snyder, Phil Van Cleave, Joe Waldron, and Bob Culver.

# CCRKBA HITS BLOOMBERG FOR HIS ASSAULT ON TIAHRT

CCRKBA is continuing its attack on New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg for his phony assault on the Tiahrt Amendments.

"Bloomberg and Mayors Against Illegal Guns (MAIG) are taking a lead in the gun control lobby's assault on the gun rights of all Americans," said John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director.

One of the ways in which these gun grabbers assault Second Amendment rights is by their continuing assaults on the Tiahrt Amendments, designed to protect law-abiding Americans' gun rights.

"Bloomberg and MAIG claim falsely that the Tiahrt Amendments restrict law enforcement in its fight against crimes committed with firearms," Snyder said. "They say the Tiahrt Amendments 'are provisions attached to federal spending bills that make it harder for law enforcement officers to aggressively pursue criminals who buy and sell illegal guns.' That is not true.

"The Tiahrt Amendments do prevent Bloomberg, MAIG and other anti-gun local officials from getting their hands on certain firearms trace data held by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

The Tiahrt Amendments do prevent Bloomberg and others from using that data for political purposes. The Tiahrt Amendments do provide that the data may be used only for certain law enforcement purposes."

The Tiahrt Amendments are named for Todd Tiahrt, who was a U.S. Representative from Kansas. He now heads up a consulting firm in Wichita. He continues to defend the importance and validity of the amendments in public against attempts to gut them.

The first Tiahrt Amendment was followed in subsequent fiscal years by restatements of the original and some began referring to the Tiahrt Amendments.

Recently, Tiahrt wrote his legislation "was designed to protect those who protect us. Already on the web you can find lists of undercover agents and informants who cooperated with law enforcement to keep our streets safe.

"In 2003, when the ATF supported the Tiahrt Amendment, it was rightfully concerned that its undercover officers and their straw-man firearms dealers would be exposed through the release of trace data on firearms, which would result in some website placing the officers and their families in jeopardy. This is also why the Tiahrt

Amendment had the support of the Fraternal Order of Police, the largest police organization in the country. Simply said, it wanted to protect its officers."

Tiahrt noted that, "As a side benefit, the Tiahrt Amendment is protecting the privacy of all Americans who choose to purchase a firearm to protect themselves and their families."

He wrote that trial lawyers, gun control groups and others "would love to use the protected information for their own purposes, none of which would make Americans safer. Instead it would provide them with a self-serving means to make money. Why not ask for bank records, health care data or other personal private information?"

"Those who take the time to read the law placed in statute by the Tiahrt Amendment will find that whenever a crime is committed, trace data is immediately available to law enforcement, prosecutors and the court system. The Tiahrt Amendment's chief clarification language in 2008 confirms that trace data was available for crimes committed outside the United States."

Tiahrt noted that now some want Americans to trust ATF to accumulate data and make it available to them. "This is the same ATF that allegedly has allowed firearms to be sold to drug cartels in Mexico, according to CBS reports, under an operation called 'Fast and Furious.' In the report, John Dodson, ATF agent, tells how the ATF allowed guns to 'walk' across the Mexican border to drug cartels through a program that was approved by the Justice Department."

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## BLOOMBERG SUED

"Led by the New York State Rifle & Pistol Association as well as the Second Amendment Foundation, a group of New York City residents have sued Mayor Michael Bloomberg over what they say is the Big Apple's excessive \$340 fee for a handgun permit there," reports the Albany, New York *Times Union*. "The Rifle and Pistol Association's Tom King says most counties outside of the city charge \$50 or less for a permit. He said Bloomberg awhile back reportedly mentioned the high fee, acknowledging half in jest that the city could potentially face a legal challenge over the cost. 'He's always on the offensive and we decided to get on the offensive a little bit,' King said, referring to Hizzoner's high profile campaign for tighter handgun controls."

# CCRKBA SUPPORTS BATFE REFORM ACT

"We're right behind a current move in Congress to bring about much-needed reform of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives," John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, said.

"We hope CCRKBA Members and Supporters will join us by urging their own U.S. Representatives to support this bi-partisan proposal, H.R. 1093, introduced by Reps. Steve King (R-IA) and Jason Altmire (D-PA)," he added.

H.R. 1093 is titled the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Reform Act of 2011. With over 55 cosponsors, it has been referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

Rep. King indicated the proposed legislation would reform badly broken regulations which currently allow the BATFE to place unnecessary burdens on firearms dealers, law-abiding gun owners, and federal

agents.

"Modernizing federal firearms regulations is necessary because the existing regulatory scheme undermines our Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms," said Congressman King. "H.R. 1093 makes significant improvements to BATFE's enforcement regulations that will allow the agency to perform its mission in a manner that upholds the constitutional rights of Americans."

Today, for most violations, BATFE has only two choices for reprimanding a Federal Firearms License (FFL) holder: issue a warning or revoke his or her license. H.R. 1093 would provide greater flexibility to this system by allowing fines or license suspensions for less serious violations, while permitting license revocation for serious violations.

H.R. 1093 would direct that the

number of warnings, suspensions, revocations, or amounts fined shall not be a factor in firing, promoting or transferring agents,

It would clarify the standard to be used for determining willful violations of law.

H.R. 1093 would end definitively the BATFE regulation requiring border state gun dealers to report the sale of multiple firearms over .22 caliber with a removable clip.

It would direct that a suspension or fine be vacated if a court determines a licensee did not willfully violate the law with attorney's fees awarded to cleared defendants.

It would ease the restrictions on the importation of replacement parts for semiautomatic rifles.

It would ban the creation of a centralized electronic database out of business dealers' records.

## CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

Our "friends" on Capitol Hill are playing bait & switch again. Using the attempted assassination of pro-gun Arizona Rep. Gabrielle Giffords as the excuse, premier gun-grabbing Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) has filed S. 436, titled the Fix Gun Checks Act of 2011. While one section of the bill does call for improvements in mental health reporting into the National Instant Criminal Background Check (NICS) System, it's the parts they're NOT talking about that conceal the real intent and impact of the bill.

One section would lower the level of those "adjudicated as a mental defective" to include people who simply receive counseling for certain mental health issues. Current law requires a commitment or judicial finding. Another section extends the federal background check requirement to ALL transfers of firearms, whether the seller is a federally-licensed dealer or a private individual. A third section adds to the prohibited category not only individuals convicted of some drug offenses, but also those ARRESTED for such offenses, even if there was no finding of guilty. What happened to due process?

Schumer's bill was filed more than two months ago, and still has only two co-sponsors (Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Sen. John Kerry (D-MA)). Talk on the Hill is that NY Democrat Representative Carolyn McCarthy may soon file a House counterpart to S. 436.

NOW is the time to write to your Senators and ask them to OPPOSE this unnecessary, unwarranted, intrusive and probably unconstitutional bill. Contact with your Senators via the "Senator" link at <http://senate.gov>, or from the "Contact your Senator" link under "Congressional Information in the left margin at <http://www.ccrkba.org>

# CHUCK NORRIS THE CCRKBA DEFENDER

Chuck Norris is the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month for May.

In nominating the celebrity for the award, John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, indicated reasons for selecting Norris.

"Chuck has distinguished himself in a variety of fields," said Snyder. "He has become a stalwart and incisive defender of the individual Second Amendment civil right to keep and bear arms in print and electronic media. He is an articulate and popular proponent of gun rights. He surely deserves a CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Award."

In a recent column, Chuck Norris wrote, "I am a strong Second Amendment advocate. I believe in protecting our fundamental rights, including our Second Amendment rights, through the political process."

In trying to operate through that political process, Norris issued a warning. He warned that now, "Obama Triangulates on Gun Control."

In elucidating his meaning, Norris noted that, "The 2012 election now looms large for this administration. Even while the president's top aides are deserting the White House to staff up his campaign office, those left behind seem to be working from a mandate to begin patrolling the divided Democratic base.

"Up until now, the Obama White House had given a wide berth to the gun control debate, abandoning campaign promises to pursue new restrictions on gun rights. This avoidance does not reflect any shift in position; it is merely recogni-

tion of the political reality that most members of his party have no interest in having yet another political loser of an issue crammed down their throats."

This situation is undergoing a change, Norris thinks. "Those in Obama's liberal base have grown restless and rancorous over his first two years in office because he hasn't done everything they've wanted, at least regarding more restrictions on our Second Amendment rights. They resent the president's avoidance of fulfilling his campaign rhetoric.

"Gun control groups have thrown tantrums for months that Obama wouldn't champion their agenda, with one group resentfully awarding him an F. So only now is Obama sticking his toes into the swirling currents of the Second Amendment debate."

Norris noted the Obama "campaign kicked off in the Arizona Daily Star, with a subtle op-ed that was intentionally vague. The words could be read as a broad endorsement of proposed gun control measures; they also could be read as embracing the mantra that enforcement of current laws is what's needed. But Obama's attempt to place himself at the center of an ideological divide over guns is pure political positioning, and it comes with the rank odor of cold, crass calculation. One can almost hear the tearing of another page from the Clinton playbook.

"One thing he definitely got wrong, however, was his arrogant statement that he had 'expanded' the rights of gun owners. The Bill of Rights is guaranteed and can't be 'expanded' by government, as it contains fundamental natural rights. Those rights can, however, be restricted by illegitimate

government fiat, which is why the clear language of the Second Amendment prohibits even 'infringement' upon it. But infringement is clearly on the agenda, despite Obama's rhetorical vacillations."

Chuck Norris felt that intended future Obama infringement was evident. He wrote, "Implementation of the goals set forth in his article came via phone calls from Justice Department operatives seeking to arrange a series of 'active listening' meetings for groups on both sides of the gun control debate, as well as industry companies and groups. The proposed meetings were intended to develop an agenda of new legislative and regulatory proposals for the White House to embrace and push in Congress."

Norris has starred in more than 20 major motion pictures. His television series "Walker, Texas Ranger," which completed its run 10 years ago after eight full seasons, was the most successful Saturday night series on CBS since "Gunsmoke."

He starred in such films as "Delta Force" and "Missing in Action."

He is a New York Times best-selling author of two books, including the 2004 autobiographical "Against All Odds."

Chuck Norris first made his mark as a renowned teacher of martial arts. He was a six-times undefeated world middleweight karate champion. He is the first man from the Western Hemisphere in the more than 4,500-year tradition of tae kwon do to be awarded an eighth-degree black belt grand master ranking.

He thinks "our Founders ratified a Second Amendment as a right and defense for all Americans."



# QUICK SHOTS

In the U.S. House of Representatives, over 170 Republican and Democratic members have become cosponsors of H.R. 822, by Reps. Cliff Stearns (R-FL) and Heath Shuler (D-NC), the proposed National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act of 2011. Make sure your Representative is or becomes a cosponsor of this important measure.



Brady Campaign President Paul Helmke has revealed his intentions to push for an expanded ban on sport-utility rifles. Writing in his blog on the Opposing Views forum about his meeting with Obama administration officials, Helmke outlined his wish list. It includes “increasing the number and type of military-style weapons, including ‘assault clips,’ that should not be readily available to civilians.” “So, this is Paul Helmke’s definition of a ‘new discussion’ that President Obama mentioned in his Op-Ed column,” observed CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb. “Sounds like the same old rhetoric to us. Helmke wants to ban a larger number of commonly-owned firearms, and he has invented a new term to demonize a commonly-owned shooting accessory. Maybe that’s what Helmke thinks Obama meant.”



The March 2011 National Shooting Sports Foundation adjusted NICS figure of 990,840 is an increase of 15 percent over the NSSF adjusted NICS figure of 861,408 in March 2010. For comparison, the

unadjusted March 2011 NICS figure of 1,437,709 is an increase of 11.3 percent over the NSSF-adjusted NICS figure of 1,291,618 in March 2010. The adjusted NICS data was derived by NSSF by subtracting out all NICS purpose-code checks used by several states as Kentucky, Iowa and Utah for CCW permit application checks as well as checks on active CCW permit databases.



“A beauty queen used her pink handgun to take the life of a burly ex-convict who attacked her and her fiancé in their ritzy home,” the National Enquirer recently reported. “I had my gun drawn, focused in on him – as he moved, my gun moved. I waited for my shot and when I saw an opening, I fired,” said pretty 25-year-old Meghan Brown. Meghan claims she thought a friend was looking for a place to stay when career criminal Albert Hill, 42, knocked on the door of her mansion in Terra Verde, Florida, at 3 a.m. on March 12. When Meghan – Miss Terra Verde 2009 answered the door, Hill grabbed the petite brunette and dragged her screaming toward the master bedroom. The commotion woke her fiancé, Bobby Planthaber, Jr., who quickly came to her rescue. Bobby, 43, attacked the tattooed 250-pound intruder, and Meghan broke free. She ran to the bedroom and grabbed her loaded pink .38-caliber handgun, a weapon she’d only used at a shooting range. As the two men fought, smashing a dining room table and chairs, Meghan decided to save her fiancé by shooting Hill. ‘The way I see it, the guy was a really bad guy

and if it wasn’t my bullets, it probably would have been the police officer’s bullets,’ she said later.”



CCRKBA announced its support for H.R. 1444, by Rep. Paul Broun (R-GA), to require that hunting activities be a land use in all management plans for federal land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture to the extent that such use is not clearly incompatible with the purposes for which the federal land is managed. It was referred to two committees, Natural Resources and Agriculture.



Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli advised “that carrying a weapon for personal protection constitutes a good and sufficient reason under (state law) to carry a weapon into a place of worship while a meeting for religious purposes is being held there. It is further my opinion that places of worship can restrict or ban firearms from their premises.”



CCRKBA announced its support for H.R. 1445, by Rep. Paul Broun (R-GA), to prohibit the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from regulating, based on material composition, any type of firearm ammunition or fishing tackle. Referred to Energy and Commerce Committee.

