

POINT BLANK

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



**September
2011
Volume XXXVI No. 9**

IN THIS ISSUE

ATF Scandal Underscores Corruption	1
Student CCW Gathering	2
Gun Rights Needed in Norway	3
ATF Scandal Is International	4
Gun Stops Invasion of Rep.'s Home	5
Citizen Action Project	5
Defender of the Month	6
Quick Shots	7

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**

ATF SCANDAL UNDERScores CORRUPTION IN GOVERNMENT

"The ongoing scandal involving the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and its bureaucratic parent Department of Justice highlights the government corruption centered in Washington, D.C.," John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, opined.

"The ATF's Project Gunrunner and in particular its Operation Fast and Furious certainly is generating a significant amount of congressional investigation and media criticism," he added. "Second Amendment supporter are well aware of the major factors involved in the government operation. It allowed and even encouraged guns to be obtained and transferred illegitimately across the border to Mexico. Some of the guns then were used in the perpetration of crimes in Mexico and the United States, including the murder of American federal law enforcement agents.

"What generally may not have been considered thoroughly up to this point is that the responsibility for this state of affairs rests with the chief executive officer of the government, Barack H. Obama, President of the United States. Remember when Obama was trying to place the blame for a faltering economy on banks and major corporations? Remember how he attempted to blame corporate chief executive officers for their companies' policies? Taking Obama's very own measuring rod, he himself must be held responsible for the current, ongoing government gun scandal."

The reverberations of the scandal have reached as far as Obama's Attorney General, Eric H. Holder, Jr., head of the United States Department of Justice.

In a *Business Insider* account of the scandal developments, Grace Wyler wrote that, "Investigations into a gunrunning sting gone horribly wrong are creeping closer to the top of the U.S. Justice Department and its head, U.S. Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr. A congressional report released last month revealed that top DOJ officials knew about the sting, known as Operation Fast and Furious, in which U.S. ATF agents allowed more than 2,000 firearms to 'walk' across the U.S. border to Mexico and into the hands of Mexico drug cartels.

"As many as 1,700 of those weapons have since been lost, and more than 100 have been found at bloody crime scenes on both sides of the border, including the murder of a U.S. Border Patrol agent in Arizona last December. In a letter obtained by the *Los Angeles Times* yesterday, Justice Department officials acknowledged that Fast and Furious weapons have been linked to at least 11 other crimes in the U.S."

DOJ officials have stonewalled efforts by congressional investigators seeking information regarding the scandal.

These allegations, if true, wrote Wyler "could taint the entire Justice Department.

GUN RIGHTS STUDENTS GATHER IN WASHINGTON

Hundreds of college students who favor the right to carry concealed on campus gathered last month at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. and heard students and others recount their experiences.

Hosting the conference were Students for Concealed Carry on Campus (SCCC) and the Second Amendment Foundation (SAF), a CCRKBA sister organization. SAF sponsored the event.

SCCC's president, Daniel Crocker, stated that over the past three years the number of colleges that permit people to carry concealed firearms on their grounds has doubled.

Crocker said victories in state legislatures and the courts have chipped away at campus gun bans in states like Colorado and Wisconsin.

Constitutional attorney Alan Gura, who won pro-gun Supreme Court decisions in the *DC v. Heller* and *McDonald v. Chicago* cases, addressed the group.

Gura cautioned the group that pro-gun advocates should concentrate first on developing a public foundation of support for concealed carry more broadly throughout the country.

Featured at the conference was a debate between John Lott, author of *More Guns Less Crime*, and Colin Goddard, a survivor of the infamous 2007 Virginia Tech slayings. Goddard now is assistant director of legislative affairs of the anti-gun Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence.

Professor Lott said analysts should focus on the net effect of the policies regarding concealed firearms in reducing campus violent attacks. He cited murder rate statistics from

Washington, D.C. and Chicago, two cities whose broad restrictions on gun ownership have been overturned by Supreme Court decisions.

Dr. Lott said gun bans do not correspond to a lower incidence of violent crime. He indicated traditional law enforcement techniques do not deter individuals from committing multiple-victim public shootings.

"Rather than repelling crime by having these bans, you actually make it more attractive for criminals to commit these crimes because they have less to worry about," Lott stated.

Goddard recalled his experience when he was shot during the 2007 mass shooting at Virginia Tech. He said that instead of pinpointing the moment when violence begins, "we need to broaden our perspective. We need to look past that last second... when we could have intervened."

Goddard called for what he called "preventive measures," such as stricter gun licensing requirements, mental-health checks, and improved campus security and emergency planning."

James Purtilo, a professor of computer science at the University of Maryland, said campus-carry legislation would be a "hard sell," but that gun rights advocates in the long run can win public favor with appropriate, focused message campaigns.

Dr. Purtilo served on an academic panel with Professor Nelson Lund of George Mason University and Professor Bob Cottrol of George Washington University.

Idaho State Rep. Erik Simpson told students in the audience to "expect that the university administration

will be your biggest opponents, but encourage your students and faculty to support your side."

Simpson was joined on a panel by Texas State Sen. Jeff Wentworth and Wisconsin State Rep. Evan Wynn.

Glen Caroline, director of the grassroots division and the National Rifle Association Institute for Legislative Action, warned that, "This fight is not going to be easy." He said it will require a concerted effort between national gun rights groups and continuous engagement on and off college campuses.



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
 Herb Stupp
 Peggy Tartaro
 Joe Waldron
 Malia Zimmerman

POINT BLANK is published monthly by Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, Liberty Park, 12500 N.E. Tenth Place, Bellevue, Washington 98005.

Copyright © 2011 CCRKBA

Address Change: Write new address, city, state, and zip code on a plain piece of paper. Attach mailing label from an issue of POINT BLANK and send to CCRKBA, 12500 N.E. Tenth Place, Bellevue, Washington 98005. Please allow four to six weeks for change to become effective.

U.S. GOVERNMENT ARMED DRUG CARTELS IN MEXICO

The revelations coming out of congressional hearings on the Fast and Furious scandal perpetrated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives are outrageous. They show that, “essentially, the U.S. government was now arming the very drug cartels that it was supposed to be helping Mexican officials fight,” stated Kevin Ferris of *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. Ferris is the assistant editor of the newspaper’s Editorial Page.

“The fact that such a conclusion has been reached by a source not affiliated with a pro-gun rights organization shows the extent to which the scandal has permeated the thinking of the general public,” commented John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director.

“As the chief enforcement agency of America’s federal gun control laws, the ATF’s behavior, or misbehavior, gives some clear indication to everyone of at least one reason why gun rights activists oppose many gun control laws,” Snyder added. “The attempted enforcement of gun control laws leads to the opposite of legitimate crime fighting.”

When the Obama administration came into office in January 2009, CCRKBA and other organizations regarded incoming government officials with wariness and trepidation.

In February, 2009, the new Attorney General, Eric Holder, announced that, “As President Obama indicated during the campaign, there are just a few gun-related changes that we would like to make, and among them would be to reinstate the ban on assault weapons.”

Holder’s comment seemed to confirm some of the worst fears of gun rights activists. As Attorney General,

Holder is in charge of the Justice Department, of which ATF is a part.

While the Obama administration has not yet pushed publicly for a reinstatement of the ban, what has happened was Fast and Furious, which Ferris terms “a new operation out of the Justice Department’s Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives that turned the world of fighting gun trafficking upside down.”

The Philadelphia Inquirer editor explained that before Fast and Furious, “ATF routinely busted straw purchasers – usually people with clean records who are paid to buy guns and pass them along to others with criminal records – and confiscated any weapons found. But straw purchasers are the bottom feeders in the gunrunning food chain. ATF officials, understandably, wanted to get closer to the cartel bosses running the smuggling operations.

“Fast and Furious was supposed to make that happen. The plan was to allow straw purchasers to make their deliveries, and then the ATF would trace the flow of the weapons. But one huge detail was left unaddressed. The ATF made no provisions to actually trace the guns once they crossed the border.”

The ATF, wrote Ferris, “wasn’t attaching electronic-tracking devices to the guns, and agents were not pursuing them into Mexico. They were forced to stop and watch the weapons ‘walk.’ Maybe Mexican authorities could have picked up the trail – but the ATF never told its counterparts across the border about the operation.

“So, essentially, the U.S. government was now arming the very drug

cartels that it was supposed to be helping Mexican officials fight.”

Some of the ATF agents were disgusted.

This came out in hearings before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, chaired by Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA), a CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month.

In one of the hearings, ATF Special Agent Carlos Canino told the Committee that ATF Fast and Furious “goes against everything we’ve been taught.”

One of the House Committee’s members, Rep. Patrick Meehan (R-PA), said with regard to ATF’s Fast and Furious behavior that, “You’ve got the highest-level local and regional people from ATF who are taking a fall for the team.”

However, Rep. Meehan also said, “it’s clear they were operating with authority from above, certainly in collaboration with the prosecutor’s office and, one would believe, with approvals right on up to the highest level at the Department of Justice.”

Ferris wrote that Holder “needs to explain how the administration went from wanting to ban assault weapons to supplying them to drug lords.”

Another publication, *The Weekly Standard*, proclaimed in an headline that the “White House Knew About ATF Gunrunning Scandal.”

Mark Hemingway reported that “a key ATF manager told Congress he discussed the case with a White House National Security staffer as early as September 2010. The communications were between ATF Special Agent in Charge of the Phoenix office, Bill Newell, and White House National Security Director for North America Kevin O’Reilly.”

OSLO MURDERS SHOW CITIZENS NEED GUNS

By John M. Snyder,
Editor, Point Blank

The recent mass murder in Oslo, Norway demonstrates that decent citizens need to be able to acquire and use firearms for the defense of their lives and the lives of their loved ones.

When Anders Brevik allegedly murdered about 70 civilians, he used a Ruger Mini-14, modified to full auto, according to a police reports, even though Norway generally has restrictive firearms laws and prohibits private possession of automatic firearms. People cannot obtain firearms without government authorization, and even then only after stating a government-approved reason for such acquisition and possession.

After the reports to police of the killing rampage, it took an hour and a half for law enforcement officials to arrive at the scene. Brevik apparently continued the killing spree until he ran out of ammunition.

What all this tells us is that the strict Norwegian gun control laws did not prevent the mass murder. They did make it virtually impossible for a prospective armed Norwegian legally to have the gun which he or she could have used to take down the violent criminal perpetrator anytime during the 90-minute horror.

As readers of Point Blank realize, citizens with guns can prevent or interrupt crimes. Public policies that prevent the acquisition and use of guns prevent citizens from being able to stop crime. That is true here in the United States as it is elsewhere.

Other incidents indicate the same truth about citizens and guns.

A couple of years ago, on November 11, 2009, Maj. Nidal Malik

Hassan allegedly killed 13 people at Fort Hood, Texas and wounded many others before being stopped heroically by local police. Even though this occurred at a military base, service men and women were prevented from having the guns they could have used to stop Hassan because of a Clinton-era policy preventing American military personnel from being armed at bases in the United States.

On April 16, 2007, Seung-Hui Cho murdered 32 people and then himself at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. Even though the Commonwealth of Virginia has a law allowing individuals with a state-issued permit to carry a concealed firearm, VA Tech policy prohibits professors and students from carrying guns on campus even if they have such a permit. The policy did not stop Cho, but it did prevent anyone from being able legally to stop Cho.

Just last fall, the Al-Qaeda linked Internet magazine Inspire encouraged lone wolf militant Islamist terrorists to go into restaurants in downtown Washington, D.C. during the lunch hour, and fire away at diners in the hopes of killing a number of people, including federal employees. Washington, D.C. prohibits even law-abiding citizens from carrying firearms. The powers-that-be there render law-abiding citizens defenseless in the face of a potential mass-murdering terrorist.

Contrast these incidents with the January 16, 2002 incident at the Appalachian Law School in Grundy, Virginia when two students with guns stopped what could have been a mass murder when they tackled a culprit after he had killed three people.

Consider, too, the October 1, 1997 incident in Pearl, Mississippi, when an assistant principal at a high school

went to his car, got his gun and shot the murderer of two students.

Recall the April 24, 1998 time in Edinboro, Pennsylvania when a bystander pointed a shotgun at the murderer of a teacher when he stopped to reload.

The message is clear. Gun laws do not stop mass murder. Citizens armed with guns do. Guns save lives.

As a matter of fact, citizens with guns stop crime two and a half million times a year, according to Professor Gary Kleck, Ph.D. of the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Florida State University in Tallahassee.

Fortunately, federal legislators are beginning to realize that guns can be used to stop crime. Over 240 Congressmen have cosponsored H.R. 822, the proposed National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act of 2011 by Rep. Cliff Stearns (R-FL).

H.R. 822 would allow people with permits to carry concealed firearms issued by a state to carry in other states. It would find specifically that our Second Amendment "protects the fundamental right of an individual to keep and bear arms, including for purposes of individual self-defense." It would find also that, "The right to bear arms includes the right to carry arms for self-defense and the defense of others."

Sen. John Thune (R-SD) says he'll introduce a national reciprocity bill in the near future.

The word is getting around. Gun laws do not stop crime. Citizens with guns do. Guns save lives. Support national right to carry reciprocity.

CONGRESSMAN'S HOME INVASION SHOWS VALUE OF GUN OWNERSHIP

"The recent thwarting of the home invasion of a Congressman by his armed grandson underscores the value of firearms ownership," John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, said in Washington, D.C.

An armed intruder broke into the Iowa farm home of Rep. Leonard Boswell (D-IA) on a Saturday night in mid-July. The perpetrator attacked Boswell's daughter, Cindy Brown, and demanded money, reported the Huffington Post. Boswell, 77, heard her scream. He came towards the front door entryway. He tried to disarm the male intruder.

The grandson, Mitchell Brown, 22, got a shotgun. He pointed it at the intruder, who then fled.

Congressman Boswell's wife, Cindy

Boswell, 75, also was home during the attack. The Congressman's spokesman, Grant Woodward, said the whole family was safe and unharmed, aside from some scrapes and bruises.

"It's fortunate the family had a firearm in the house," commented Snyder. "Its mere presence enabled the young grandson to thwart what could have been a real tragedy.

Congressman Bosley is one of over 240 cosponsors of H.R. 822, by Rep. Cliff Stearns (F-FL), the proposed National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act of 2011. It would authorize a person who is carrying a government-issued photographic identification document and a valid permit to carry a concealed firearm in

one state to carry a concealed handgun in another state in accordance with the restrictions of that state.

Rep. Boswell years ago voted for the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act. It prohibits third-party liability lawsuits from being brought against gun manufacturers and dealers based on the criminal misuse of firearms.

According to the NACOP poll, 79 percent of America's command officers think general recognition throughout the nation of CCW permits issued by a state, in the way divers' licenses are recognized throughout the country, facilitate the violent crime-fighting potential of the professional law enforcement community.

CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

Most states have passed laws prohibiting the possession of firearms on K-12 school grounds or at school-sponsored events. These are known as Gun Free School Zone (GFSZ) laws. In 1990, Congress passed a federal Gun Free School Zone law. Unlike most of the state laws, the federal law creates a 1,000 foot diameter exclusion zone around the schools, with limited exceptions. The federal law was overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1995, but reenacted by Congress a year later with language to evade the Supreme Court's 1995 decision.

Almost all prosecutions under GFSZ laws are state prosecutions. Even the test case that caused the original version to be overturned, *United States v. Lopez*, was originally a Texas state case that the U.S. Attorney stepped in and asked to prosecute as a test of the federal law. The issue of guns and schools is rightfully made at the state level, not by Congress.

In July, BATFE agents circulated a letter at a gun show in Phoenix, Arizona warning attendees that they would enforce the federal 1,000 foot gun exclusion zone wherever and whenever they found violations. It's almost impossible to drive through any urban area and NOT come within 1,000 feet of a school. Individuals who hold a concealed pistol license issued by that state are exempt, but persons traveling in another state under reciprocal privileges are not.

Rep. Ron Paul (R-TX) has introduced a bill, H.R. 2613, the Citizens Protection Act of 2011 that repeals the federal Gun Free Schools Zone Act. Please ask your Representative to sign on to H.R. 2613 as a co-sponsor, and to support the bill. Contact information can be found on the internet at <http://house.gov> or on the left margin at <http://cckba.gov> under "Congressional Information." Local contact information may also be found in the blue "government listings" pages of your local telephone directory.

CCRKBA DEFENDER HITS ATF CORRUPTION HISTORY

In an examination of the history of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), writer Kathryn M. DeLong concludes that, "Like many aspects of the federal government, ATF has a long history of corruption."

Ms. DeLong is the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month for September.

In nominating her for the Award, John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, noted she "writes regularly in a pithy fashion in defense of the individual Second Amendment civil right to keep and bear arms. She works to expose to public view the various fallacies of anti-gun owner arguments, and deserves this Award for her efforts."

Ms. DeLong is a student at the State University of New York at Buffalo. She is a political science major preparing for law school and writes a weekly column for the Guns and Politics section of HumanEvents.com.

In a recent statement, Ms. DeLong noted that while the facts revealed about ATF's Operation Fast and Furious have been the source of a great amount of public scrutiny, "this is only one of the many instances when ATF has acted recklessly and irresponsibly."

She recalled the famous case of Randy Weaver when he and his family became the targets of a federal investigation after the FBI and Secret Service reportedly found out about what was allegedly Weaver's involvement in the white supremacist movement.

"In 1990," Ms. DeLong wrote, "Weaver was approached by an ATF informant, Kenneth Fadeley.

Fadeley convinced Weaver to shorten the barrels of two shotguns and sell them to him. Once in possession of the firearms, ATF brought charges against Weaver, citing that the length of the guns did not comply with federal law. ATF tried to cut a deal with Weaver, saying that if he became an informant, the charges would be dropped. Weaver denied the truth of the charges and rejected ATF's proposal.

"Weaver's refusal to cooperate prompted ATF to report false information about him to other agencies involved, leading to label him as an extremely dangerous criminal. Because of this information, Weaver was summoned to court, which he missed due to a U.S. Probation Officer mistakenly telling him the wrong date. This resulted in a violent confrontation between the Weaver family and the U.S. Marshals and FBI, leaving four dead – a U.S. Marshal, Weaver's 14-year-old son Samuel, his wife Vicki, and his pet dog."

Ms. DeLong declared that, "Had it not been for ATF's dishonesty, the bloody siege at Ruby Ridge would not have occurred."

She noted that, "In a similar display of irresponsibility, ATF's failure to execute a search warrant at the Branch Davidian ranch in Waco, Texas led to a 50-day siege, which ultimately led to the deaths of 76 people – more than 20 of which were children."

Ms. DeLong stated "there have been many reports of ATF directors and agents behaving badly. In 2002, the chief of the ATF Iowa Field Office was arrested for public intoxication after threatening a group of teenagers with a loaded gun. More recently, in 2008, an ATF special agent was

charged with hitting a woman with his vehicle and leaving the scene of an accident. Also in 2008, an audit was released in which the Department of Justice reported that 76 firearms were lost, stolen, or missing from ATF between 2002 and 2007.

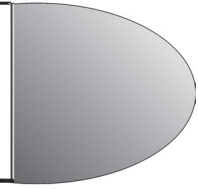
"In 2009, the director of industry operations at ATF in Houston was arrested after a trip to New Orleans for official business. According to reports, Russell Vander Werf disabled a hotel fire alarm and replaced a bedroom door with a piece of plywood containing a 'glory hole.' Instead of firing Vander Werf, ATF simply reassigned him to the field office in Washington."

Just last year, reported Ms. DeLong, "an agent was charged with second-degree murder after he emptied his gun on a neighbor in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Also in 2010, an agent was convicted of stealing money from a house during a drug raid. Another agent was charged with conspiracy to distribute and possession of illegal drugs, money laundering, and possession of a firearm during a drug trafficking offense.

"If we cannot trust these people to abide by the law, how can we trust that they will ensure others are abiding by the law? Now, in the wake of yet another ATF scandal, it is especially clear that we need to take action to reform the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The number of negative incidents involving ATF agents seems to be growing; yet the agency itself is still expanding. Expansion means increased regulation, which is a concern – especially in regards to firearms."



QUICK SHOTS



In Washington, D.C., CCRKBA announced its support for H.R. 2616, the proposed Anti-Terrorism Act of 2011, introduced by Rep. Ron Paul (R-TX). It would prohibit the federal government from prohibiting any pilot, copilot, or navigator of an aircraft, or any law enforcement personnel specifically detailed for the protection of that aircraft, from carrying a firearm. H.R. 2616 has been referred to the Transportation and Infrastructure and to the Homeland Security committees.



In Bellingham, Washington, an attempted home burglary ended abruptly one morning in late July when the intruder was confronted by the resident with a gun, reported *The Bellingham Herald*. Bellingham police spokesman Mark Young said that a man used a burglary tool at around 5:40 a.m. to open a ground-level window at a house owned by a couple. The lights were on and a car was parked in the driveway. The husband heard the burglar breaking in. Pointing his handgun, he ordered the suspect to freeze. The burglar fled through the same window he had entered. "No shots were fired, nobody was injured and nothing was stolen," noted the Herald.



Anti-gun Rep. Carolyn D. Maloney (D-NY) with a number of original cosponsors introduced H.R. 2554, the proposed Stop Gun Trafficking and Strengthen Law Enforcement Act of 2011. It would prohibit any-

one from receiving, or transferring, or otherwise disposing of to one or more individuals, two or more firearms, knowing or having reasonable cause to believe that such conduct will result in the disposing of one or more such firearms to an individual whose possession or receipt of the firearm would be unlawful, or who intends to or will use, carry, possess, or dispose of the firearm unlawfully. H.R. 2554 was referred to the House Judiciary Committee.



CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Howard Nemerov reported in late July that, "Gun store owners in Texas just stopped a terrorist attack in progress. Pfc. Naser Jason Abdo, an AWOL soldier from Fort Campbell in Kentucky, was arrested by the Killeen, Texas Police Department near Fort Hood and remains in custody at the Killeen jail. When arrested, Abdo possessed 'weapons, explosives and jihadist materials.' His bomb-making setup came 'straight out of Inspire (a terrorist magazine) and an Al Qaeda explosives course manual.' Abdo went into Guns Galore to buy smokeless powder and ammunition, but Guns Galore thought he acted suspiciously, so they called Killeen Police Department. (Guns Galore was where Nidal Hassan went before committing mass murder at Fort Hood.) On July 4, Abdo went AWOL from Fort Campbell in Kentucky, after receiving conscientious objector status from the Assistant Deputy Secretary of the Army review board. Authorities believe he was targeting

a restaurant near Fort Hood that is popular with base personnel. He wasn't so non-violent after all."



Rep. Ron Paul (R-TX) introduced H.R. 2615, the proposed Second Amendment Protection Act of 2011. H.R. 2615 would repeal the 1993 law providing for a waiting period before the purchase of a handgun, and the establishment of a national instant criminal background check system to be contacted by firearms dealers before the transfer of a firearm. H.R. 2615 also would repeal the Child Safety Lock Act of 2005 and eliminate the "sporting use" requirement for firearm imports. H.R. 2615 was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means.



In the Gold Coast region of Queensland, Australia, the number of new gun licenses issued has risen 36 percent in the past two years, nearly double the increase across all of Queensland, with one criminologist attributing the rise to fears over home invasions, reports the Brisbane Times. There currently are more than 155,000 license-holders in Queensland, 14,622 of whom are in the Gold Coast region. The Queensland Weapons Licensing Branch issued 1,294 new firearms licenses for the Gold Coast, Coomera and Logan in the 2009/2010 financial year, an increase of 36 percent on the 948 licenses issued in 2007/2008.

