



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



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ANTI-GUNNER MAGAW FORCED OUT!

Despite attempts to portray his departure as a resignation for health reasons, John Magaw was, in truth, suddenly forced out as the under secretary for Transportation Security July 18 days after the House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed CCRKBA-supported legislation that would have forced him to accept guns in the cockpit.

Magaw has been a stubborn opponent of armed pilots on commercial airplanes, a proposal that had first been made by CCRKBA last Sept. 11 just hours after the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington. The anti-gun Magaw was a career bureaucrat who previously headed the Secret Service and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

His successor is retired Coast Guard Commandant Admiral James Loy, who had been serving as Magaw's chief operating officer.

Magaw's resignation as head of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) came on the same day that Ellen Saracini, widow of Capt. Vic Saracini – the pilot of United Flight 175, which was crashed into Tower 2 of the World Trade Center by terrorists last Sept. 11 – spoke at a Capitol Hill press conference in support of armed pilots legislation.

Even before he was murdered along with thousands of other American citizens that day, Capt. Saracini had favored arming pilots. He was reportedly outspoken on the issue ever since the Federal Aviation Administration began prohibiting pilots from having guns in the cockpit in 1987.

CCRKBA Executive Director Joe Waldron stated, "While Mr. Magaw has had a long and distinguished career in federal law enforcement, it is clear from his position on arming pilots that he was out of step with both Congress and the American people."

Waldron suggested that President Bush has been reluctant to support the concept of armed pilots based on Magaw's opposition.

"Congress overwhelmingly supports the idea," Waldron noted, "as demonstrated by the recent House vote on armed pilots legislation. The traveling public wants armed pilots, and so do heads of various pilots' associations and the overwhelming majority of pilots surveyed in recent polling."

After CCRKBA called for armed pilots, some members of Congress quickly followed that lead, introducing legislation that became the Airline Security Act, which included a provision for arming pilots. Magaw was opposed to the measure, and stubbornly refused to implement it.

Both Homeland Security Chief Tom Ridge and Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta also oppose the concept. Mineta and Magaw are both veterans of the anti-gun Clinton administration. Despite those ties, Mineta had asked Magaw to resign.

(Continued on page 2)

GUN CONTROL MAKES CITIES DANGER

Crime statistics released in late June by the FBI suggest strongly that tough gun control laws do little to curb violent crime.

The number of major crimes in the United States increased last year for the first time in a decade, bringing an end to a decline in violence that had resulted in the lowest crime levels in a generation, according to FBI statistics.

The latest FBI Uniform Crime Reports say the U.S. murder rate jumped 3.1 percent while forcible rapes inched up 0.2 percent. Overall, the crime rate climbed two percent.

Cities having strict gun control laws saw their respective crime rates jump well in excess of the national

average, according to an analysis provided CCRKBA and others by the Illinois State Rifle Association (ISRA), a CCRKBA affiliate.

In Boston, Mass., for example, where the state legislature recently imposed what ISRA termed the "most oppressive gun laws in the nation," the murder rate went up a whopping 67 percent in 2001. Likewise, the rate of forcible rapes climbed 11 percent.

Buffalo, NY also saw a 67 percent increase in its murder rate and a 30 percent increase in its forcible rape rate in 2001. New York politicians boast routinely about having some of the toughest state gun control laws in the country.

Chicago, Ill., not only outpaced the

national average by posting a five-percent increase in its murder rate, noted ISRA, "but the city remains the odds-on favorite to capture the title of "Nation's Murder Capital." In Chicago, it's illegal for citizens to own defensive handguns.

On the flip side, the gun control movement has long criticized Florida for having "lax" gun control laws – including concealed carry. But, unlike cities in the "gun control belt," Miami's murder and rape rates remained stable for 2001.

MAGAW GONE!

"Clearly, public sentiment supported our position and certainly guided the House vote," Waldron observed.

He accused Magaw, Mineta and Ridge of "erecting artificial roadblocks that amounted to little more than a flimsy sham, disguising their animosity toward firearms and armed self defense."

"We're hopeful," Waldron said, "that Admiral Loy, who replaces Magaw, will adopt a more reasonable position, and consider armed pilots as a key element in a comprehensive airline security program."

Magaw's opposition to guns in the cockpit enraged pilots' groups, including the Airline Pilots Security Alliance (APSA). APSA Chairman Capt. Tracy Price told the pro-gun publication *Gun Week*, "We're glad to see him go."

He accused the TSA of "squandering billions of taxpayer dollars" under Magaw's leadership, and hav-

Continued from page 1

ing "nothing to show for it" except continued failures of airport security procedures.

"His remarks about how pilots really need to concentrate only on flying the plane were really inane," Price added.

Magaw had come under intense pressure over a variety of issues, ranging from his opulent spending simply to furnish his office – reported to cost \$418,000 – to the slow process of hiring sky marshals.

His agency also came under fire for enacting rules that intensified security screening for ordinary passengers, while not concentrating on those who fit certain profiles. Embarrassments built on one another, with stories of grandmothers, children and even one ranking member of Congress being subjected to outrageous searches.



POINT BLANK

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

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HOUSE PASSES ARMED PILOTS LEGISLATION, SENATE NEXT

Calling it a “tremendous victory for airline passenger safety,” CCRKBA hailed last month’s 310-113 vote by the U.S. House of Representatives to arm commercial airline pilots, and called upon the Senate to quickly pass the legislation.

“Against incredible pressure from the airline industry and opposition from Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta, Homeland Security Chief Tom Ridge and former Transportation Security Administration Chief John Magaw, the House acted in the best interests of the flying public,” said CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb.

CCRKBA was first to recommend that airline pilots be armed, just hours after the despicable terrorist attacks in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C. last Sept. 11. Over

the past few months, many others followed CCRKBA’s lead, including the Air Line Pilots Association, Air Travelers Association and Airline Pilots’ Security Alliance.

Under the House bill, any of the Nation’s estimated 70,000 airline pilots will be allowed to undergo training and background screening in order to carry a gun in the cockpit. It directs the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to designate armed pilots as federal Flight Deck Officers. Under the program, those volunteers will be authorized to use force, including lethal force, when they judge the security of their aircraft is at risk.

A provision that would have limited the number of armed pilots to just two percent of the total number of pilots and created a two year

“trial program” was deleted under an amendment by Rep. Peter A. DeFazio.

DeFazio said ongoing terrorist threats show the need for fast action, rather than a two-year delay. He also said eliminating the two percent limit would create a greater deterrent for terrorists.

“We’re going to create the element of uncertainty for these people,” DeFazio said.

“Our hats are off to courageous leaders in the House, specifically Congressmen Don Young, Chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and John Mica, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Aviation, for pushing this legislation, and to Rep. DeFazio for his key amendment,” said CCRKBA Executive Director Joe Waldron. making any decision on what action the

CCRKBA LAUDS 18 ATTORNEYS GENERAL

Eighteen state attorneys general have sent a letter to Attorney General John Ashcroft, supporting his interpretation of the Second Amendment, earning quick applause from the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms.

Led by Alabama Attorney General Bill Pryor, the state attorneys general noted in a July 8 letter to Ashcroft, “We agree that this is the proper reading of the Second Amendment, and that this policy best protects the fundamental interest of Americans in security and self-preservation.”

Joining Pryor in saluting Ashcroft for his “efforts to uphold the Constitution, including the Second Amendment” were the following attorneys general: Jane Brady, Delaware; Thurbert E. Baker, Georgia; Alan Lance, Idaho; Ben Chandler,

Kentucky; Mike McGrath, Montana; Don Stenberg, Nebraska; Wayne Stenehjem, North Dakota; Drew Edmondson, Oklahoma; Mike Fisher, Pennsylvania; Charlie Condon, South Carolina; Mark Barnett, South Dakota; Paul Summers, Tennessee; John Cornyn, Texas; Mark Shurtleff, Utah; Jerry Kilgore, Virginia; Darrell McGraw, West Virginia, and Hoke MacMillan, Wyoming.

“These attorneys general understand the Constitution,” said CCRKBA Executive Director Joe Waldron, “but I am stunned that their colleagues, most of whom represent states with state constitutional provisions affirming an individual right to keep and bear arms, have not rushed to go on record supporting that right. Does this mean that these attorneys

general do not support the individual right, and will they pretend that this provision does not exist in their state constitutions?”

“Our question to these attorneys general,” Waldron said, “is will they now send their own letters to Mr. Ashcroft, endorsing the letter from Mr. Pryor and their other colleagues? With the nation’s renewed interest in homeland security – which truly defines the Second Amendment and each one of those state constitutional provisions – it seems only reasonable that they would join with their colleagues in support of such a basic and fundamental civil right.”

CCRKBA SEES WAL-MART GOING BEYOND GUN LAW

Wal-Mart apparently now is going beyond what federal law requires with regard to sales of firearms, said CCRKBA Public Affairs Director John Michael Snyder.

"It appears the new Wal-Mart policy well may be an attempt to appease the demands of one of the country's anti-gun groups," Snyder stated. "We certainly hope Wal-Mart management will reconsider its position. We encourage CCRKBA members and supporters to urge their local Wal-Mart store managers to pass this word on to Wal-Mart district supervisors and national headquarters personnel."

Wal-Mart has quietly ordered its stores to adopt a tougher policy on gun sales that "goes beyond the requirements of the federal government," according to a *Los Angeles Times* report.

Wal-Mart executives told store managers in an internal memorandum this spring to stop selling firearms in cases in which authorities were not able to determine definitively whether or not potential buyers should be banned from owning the gun.

Under federal law, though, if authorities cannot complete a criminal background check on a potential gun buyer within three business days, retailers may hand over the firearm to that buyer.

"By going beyond what federal law now requires with regard to background checks," said Snyder. "Wal-Mart executives in effect are caving in to demands that the time limit for background checks be extended. These checks under the Brady Law were supposed to be instantaneous but the gun grabbers have been trying for years to string them out for longer and longer periods. It is a shame to see Wal-Mart executives

apparently giving in to these people. Under federal law, people who are not prevented from buying guns in fact are able to do so in a timely manner.

He continued, "By its policy, Wal-Mart is undercutting the matter of timeliness for an untold number of legitimate purchasers. It would be good to see a massive grass roots reaction against this policy on the part of the buying public which has made Wal-Mart the retail giant it has become."

"We will not proceed with any gun sale if we do not have an approved background check," said Jessica Moser, a Wal-Mart spokeswoman.

Gun rights activists objected to the new Wal-Mart policy and discussed organizing a boycott.

In the vast majority of the more than eight million criminal back-

ground checks each year, authorities determine the potential buyer's status in a matter of minutes, indicating if he or she has a felony record, has been institutionalized or otherwise is prohibited from purchasing a firearm. If no disqualifying factors turn up, the gun dealer may complete the sale.

In about five percent of sales, the buyer's legal status cannot legally be determined, often because of similar names, lost paperwork or poor record keeping.

Wal-Mart's decision came after the anti-gun Americans for Gun Safety (AGS) wrote a letter urging the Bentonville, AR discounter and other retailers to close what it called the three-day "legal loophole" that it alleged could fall into the hands of criminals or even terrorists.

CITIZEN ACTION

Summertime is rerun time on television, and this summer we're "rerunning" a We're about to enter a very dangerous period right now. Congress will reconvene appropriations bills. It was in the Omnibus Appropriation Act of September 1996 that the Lautenberg amendment along with the Kohl amendment reenacting the federal gun free school zone law ended.

The appropriations bills are convenient "catch-alls" for all manner of deal-making pressure to sign by the Oct. 1 start of the new federal fiscal year. A lot of bills that are appropriations bills as amendments or riders.

Most gun rights restrictions are likely to come from the Senate, led by anti-gun committed, and more capable, than their House counterparts.

What could find its way into an appropriations bill? Almost anything, but likely restrictions on ".50 caliber terrorist sniper weapons," and a requirement for further investigations." The common excuse here, or course, is "terrorist."

The principal bills to be wary of are the appropriations bills for the Treasury Department and the terrorist threat – the Defense appropriation bill, H.R. 5010.

What can one person do? In 1996, many legislators claimed they had no knowledge to know these provisions were buried in a 4,000-page bill. Call your Congressperson. They won't accept that kind of excuse this year. Ask them to be on the lookout for these provisions and to tell their leadership WHY they're voting no.

An alert citizenry remains the best guardian of liberty.

CCRKBA URGES McCAIN TO QUIT!

His third term in the United States Senate scheduled to end in two years, the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms has called upon Arizona Sen. John McCain to retire from public service, rather than seek reelection in 2004.

Citing McCain's increasingly anti-gun political philosophy and activities on behalf of gun control groups like Americans for Gun Safety, CCRKBA leaders said it is time for the senator to go. Last year, McCain appeared in an anti-gun advertising campaign that was screened in the nation's theaters and financed by AGS.

"John McCain began his congressional career as a genuine war hero, running on a solid platform representative of the views of his Arizona constituents," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb. "However, the past few years have seen Sen. McCain

increasingly turn his back on virtually every one of those principles, to the point that he not only no longer appears to be working with his own party caucus, he does not represent the interests of voters in his state.

"He has especially attacked the rights of gun owners, who are a major source of the voters in Arizona," Gottlieb stated. "He has either sponsored or embraced virtually every recent liberal anti-gun proposal. Clearly, Sen. McCain has developed his own agenda, assaulting rather than safeguarding the firearm civil rights of the very people who elected him."

Added CCRKBA Executive Director Joe Waldron, "McCain hasn't simply lost touch with the people who elected him, he has abandoned their free speech and gun rights to become a media darling. He enjoys hobnobbing with beltway elitists and the Far Left fringe. This may make

him popular with the Sunday morning network talk shows, but it does not translate to serving the voters of Arizona."

McCain's attacks on the First Amendment rights of various interest groups, combined with his assaults on the Second Amendment rights of gun owners, not only in Arizona but across the Nation, convince Gottlieb and Waldron that it will be high time for McCain to step down at the end of his current term.

"Sen. McCain has steadily distanced himself from the programs and pledges that earned Republicans control of Congress in 1994," Gottlieb said. "His current views, as demonstrated by the legislation he advocates, are shared by a shrinking minority of career politicians who are out of touch with the interests and needs of most Americans."

TION PROJECT

ning" a Citizen Action Project from last September, with a few updates. reconvene the day after Labor Day to take final action on the FY 2003 appropriation. The Lautenberg domestic violence misdemeanor firearms disability was hidden, the law earlier declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. Deal-making because they are "must pass" bills that the President is under great pressure to sign. Bills that never would have survived on their own get attached to the appropriate

by anti-gun Sen. Tom Daschle. Senate gun control extremists tend to be more

but likely candidates include some form of "gun show terrorist loophole" legislation for the Justice Department to retain NICS approval data "to facilitate terrorist

asury Department, the Commerce/Justice/State departments, and – because of

o knowledge of the Lautenberg and Kohl amendments, and couldn't be expected to be a spokesperson and your two Senators NOW. Tell them in firm, polite terms that you are not voting for these back-door shenanigans, and if they see them, to vote NO on that bill

SAFE STORAGE?

A recent scholarly study finds no support for the idea that safe storage laws reduce either juvenile accidental gun deaths or suicides.

In their Yale Law School, Law & Economics Working Paper No. 237, John R. Lott, Jr, of the American Enterprise Institute and John E. Whitley of the University of Adelaide School of Economics, find that, "during the first five full years after the passage of the safe storage laws, the group of 15 states that adopted these laws faced an annual average increase of over 300 more murders, 3,860 more rapes, 24,650 more robberies, and over 25,000 more aggravated assaults."

CAPA CHIEF EARNS CCRKBA AWARD

Captain Michael P. Cronin, founder and executive director of the Coalition of Airline Pilots Associations (CAPA), is the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Award winner for August.

Cronin, a Vietnam war combat pilot and former prisoner of war, has been a leader in uniting commercial airline pilots in support of legislation authorizing guns in the cockpit. CCRKBA was first to call for the arming of pilots just hours after the Sept. 11 terrorist strike, when it was revealed the perpetrators had been armed only with box cutters. Since then, Cronin has worked tirelessly with CAPA member organizations – including the Airline Professionals Association Teamsters Local 1224, the Allied Pilots Association, the Independent Pilots Association, the National Pilots Association, and the Southwest Airlines Pilots Association – to push the legislation.

“Since last September’s terrorist attacks,” said John Michael Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs director, “pilots generally are demanding the right to be armed in the cockpits as a means of protecting themselves, their flight crews, their passengers

and their airplanes. This position underscores in general the validity of the right to keep and bear arms for the purpose of self-defense, for the purpose of defending the lives of the innocent against terrorists. Capt. Cronin is one of the leaders in this fight, and a strong defender in general of the individual Second Amendment civil right to keep and bear arms.”

Capt. Cronin emphasized to *Point Blank* that CAPA members are all airline pilots. Better than anyone else, they know what the situation is or could become in the skies. They support the individual right of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms.

“There are no risks to arming pilots that are unique,” Cronin said. “Armed personnel often are aboard flights and none of them are better qualified than trained pilots to handle a gun aboard an aircraft. Also none of these are as well aware of the unique hazards that might exist in using a gun aboard an aircraft.”

Arming pilots, he also notes, “has broad public support. There are still known weaknesses in airline security that won’t be solved for some time.

Arming pilots is a measure that can be taken fairly quickly and cheaply, even with all the sensible precautions that must be observed. In spite of that, the Administration has done nothing even though they have been given ample money and the authority to act.”

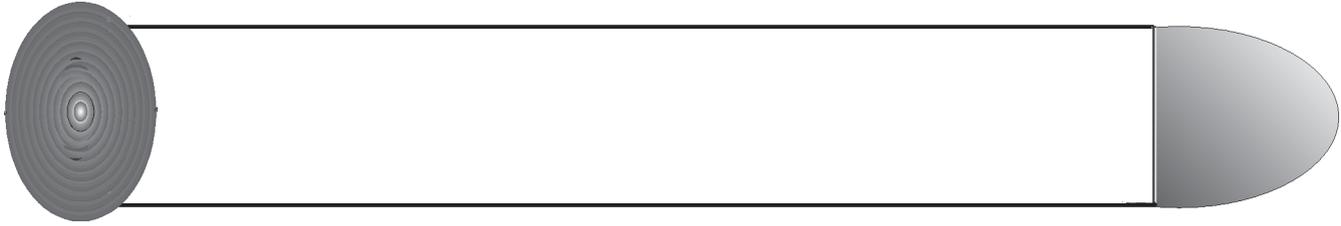
CAPA officers include Capt. Bob Miller of the Independent Pilots Association as president and Capt. Mickey Mellerski of the Allied Pilots Association as vice president. Directors include Captains Rob Boyd of the Airline Professionals Association, Sean Sullivan of the National Pilots Association, John Darrah of the Allied Pilots Association, and John Weeks of the Southwest Airlines Pilots Association.

Cronin graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1963, and Georgetown University Law Center in 1994.

As a naval aviator, Cronin flew 175 combat missions in Vietnam while attached to VA-23 aboard the U.S.S. Midway and the U.S.S. Coral Sea. He was a prisoner of war in Hanoi, 1967-1973. He retired from the Naval Reserve in 1993.

His decorations include the Legion of Merit with combat V, the Silver Star with combat V (2), the Bronze Star with combat V (4), the Distinguished Flying Cross with combat V, the Air Medal (15) with combat V, the Navy Commendation Medal with combat V (2), the Purple Heart (2), the Navy Unit Citation with combat V (2), and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

Cronin has served with American Airlines (1976 – 2001), as chairman for Legislative Affairs of the Allied Pilots Association (1994-1998), and as chairman of CAPA (1996-1999).



Black BATF agents want Treasury Secretary Paul H. O'Neill held in contempt for failing to implement reforms ordered in a 5.9 million dollar settlement involving accusations of racial discrimination. The agents, in a motion filed in U.S. District Court in Washington, D. C., said the Treasury Department, which oversees BATF, has not made required personnel reforms, provided promised monitoring information, made offers of equitable relief or paid attorneys' fees as promised in the 1996 settlement.

"The most important features of the settlement agreement were those which required the Department to reform its personnel systems and ensure that equal employment opportunity existed for all employees," said the agents in the suit, filed by attorneys David J. Shaffer and Ronald A. Schmidt. ♦ ♦ ♦

"I am pleased that the Bush Administration has recognized that the Constitution protects individual rights to keep and bear arms," said Congressman Ronnie Shows of Mississippi. "But we must always remain vigilant against efforts to strip us of our rights. I vigorously oppose any gun control efforts that violate our constitutional rights, such as national registration of law-abiding gun owners or misguided lawsuits against gun manufacturers." ♦ ♦ ♦

The recorded number of small arms around the world rose 16 percent last year, to 639 million, according to the newly-released Small Arms Survey conducted by the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva, Switzerland. Civilians owned 377 million of those firearms, including handguns and rifles, said the study. The school said that number represented a 25 percent jump from the year before but that much of the rise probably reflected improved data gathering after its first ever survey last year. Arms manufacturers around the world make about eight million small arms yearly, the survey found. Figures show that more than 1,000 companies in some 98 countries around the world produce small arms and ammunition. ♦ ♦ ♦

Some officials in the United States Department of the Treasury are bracing to retain control of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, reports *The Wall Street Journal*. It has been rumored that BATF could end up in the Department of Justice, under Attorney General John Ashcroft, or in the proposed Homeland Security Department. The Fraternal Order of Police, which endorsed George W. Bush for President in 2000, supports moving BATF to the new department. ♦ ♦ ♦

In Maryland, supporters of a rival candidate in the Eighth District congressional race accused State Delegate Mark K. Shriver early last month of misstating his legislative record by claiming a leadership role in the effort to pass the state's man-

datory trigger lock handgun bill two years ago. The real leader, according to Carole Price, president of the anti-gun Marylanders Against Handgun Abuse, was State Sen. Christopher Van Hollen, Jr. ♦ ♦ ♦ Some of Shriver's opponents in the hard-fought primary nomination to face Rep. Constance A. Morella in November. Price said Shriver's claim of leadership in the trigger lock fight was "untrue."

In Illinois, a recent report that homicides are on the rise came as no surprise to CCRKBA, which blames the state's anti-self defense laws for the increasing bloodshed. "Illinois lawmakers have stubbornly refused, time and time again, to reform the state's law on concealed carry of firearms for self defense," noted CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb. "Because they have failed their responsibility to provide adequate law enforcement, while consistently preventing law-abiding citizens the means to defend themselves, the blood of every one of those crime victims is on the hands of Illinois legislators." ♦ ♦ ♦

In Germany, the upper house of Parliament ratified new anti-gun laws aimed at curbing gun ownership even further. The gun law raises the legal age for carrying sports weapons to 21 from 18 and bans pump shotguns. Gun buyers under 25 must present certificates of medical and psychological health. Owners of illegal weapons have a five-month amnesty period to hand over their arms before the law takes effect.

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