

POINT BLANK

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



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2004**

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IN THIS ISSUE

CCRKBA Commends Bush	1
Kennedy Hypocrisy	2
RKBA Survey	2
Police Magazines	3
Narcissism & Gun Control	4
Brady Center Fined	5
Citizen Action Project	5
Defender of the Month	6
Quick Shots	7

CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS

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CCRKBA COMMENDS BUSH ON ARMED CARGO PILOTS

"We commend President George W. Bush for signing into law a measure to provide for the arming of cargo pilots against terrorism," John Michael Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, said.

The measure appears as Section 609 of H.R. 2115, the Vision 100 Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act, which the President signed in mid-December.

Section 609 is designed to close the loophole in the law, enacted last year, which allows commercial airline passenger pilots, but not cargo pilots, to carry guns in the cockpit if they volunteer for a federal program which includes a week of specialized training.

Implementation of the program is supposed to take effect 90 days after the bill becomes law. Certain spokesmen for the air cargo industry opposed the idea, saying weapons in the cockpit would increase danger, according to the Associated Press.

Snyder, named Dean of gun lobbyists by national media, noted that, "our country is at war with militant, radical Islamist terrorists. Just last month, according to reports, the Homeland Security Department issued warnings to police that Al-Qaeda may be conspiring to fly cargo planes into American nuclear plants, bridges, dams or other targets. With the recent capture of Saddam Hussein by our Armed Forces, it is possible the more fanatic extremists will be more determined than ever to attack American targets.

"When push comes to shove, there's nothing quite like a handgun for self-defense. Our pilots need to be able to protect themselves and their aircraft from the terrible terrorist threat. The President did the proper thing when he signed this measure. We applaud his action in this regard."

Now, added Snyder, "we encourage both the Administration and Congress to light a fire under the Transportation Security Administration so that TSA will proceed more expeditiously than in has up to the present in implementing the armed pilots program. As Sen. Jim Bunning of Kentucky, a CCRKBA Congressional Advisor, has noted, people at TSA have 'been dragging their feet big time.' Our airline pilots, both passenger and cargo, need this program not only for their own safety but for the safety of airline users. Our country demands that the TSA get on the stick, quit fooling around and, literally, get with the program!

"Otherwise, why not take the program entirely out of the hands of TSA?"

According to Section 609, "it is the sense of Congress that members of a flight deck crew of a cargo aircraft should be armed with a firearm and a taser to defend the cargo aircraft against an attack by terrorists that could result in the use of the aircraft as a weapon of mass destruction or for other terrorist purposes."

CCRKBA RIPS INTO KENNEDY HYPOCRISY

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts was "once again epitomizing Democrat hypocrisy" for ranting about an anti-gun bill being bottled up in the Senate, while he and his cronies continued to block confirmation of federal judges nominated by the Bush Administration, CCRKBA noted late last year.

Kennedy was quoted by the Associated Press complaining that a bill to ban non-existent plastic guns was being anonymously blocked by a Republican Senator. "That's unacceptable," Kennedy reportedly stated, "and the Senate leadership has a responsibility to act...An undetectable Republican Senator cannot be permitted to embarrass the entire Senate by blocking action..."

CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb observed that, "if Ted Kennedy wants to find someone who has frequently embarrassed the Senate, he should rush to the nearest mirror.

There he will find a political buffoon who would rather waste valuable time passing laws against guns that don't exist instead of doing the people's business, and allow the Senate to vote up or down on several important judicial nominations."

Somebody, added Gottlieb, "should remind Ted Kennedy that his cronies in the Senate have become masters of the blockade. If anyone deserves criticism for creating gridlock in the United States Senate, it is Kennedy and his partisan colleagues who have been blocking systematic confirmation of nominees to the federal bench for months. These nominations are important, because we need to fill vacancies on federal courts. Yet, because these nominees may believe that all 10 amendments in the Bill of Rights should be enforced, and that the Constitution should not be rewritten through judicial activism, the

Kennedy crowd is deliberately stalling the process.

"Kennedy is whining about holding up a bill aimed at a problem that does not exist. Before Ted Kennedy starts wringing his hands over some unidentified Senator embarrassing the entire Senate, maybe he should think about the mounting embarrassment that is being created visibly by obstructionists like Sens. Pat Leahy of Vermont, Dianne Feinstein of California, and Patty Murray of Washington."

SURVEY SHOWS RKBA SUPPORT

Eighty-four percent of the respondents to an interactive Harris weekly internet poll agree strongly with the gun lobby's position that the government should not be dictating how citizens choose to protect themselves or infringe on responsible recreational firearms ownership. That percentage represents 8,518 votes out of a total 10,132 cast.

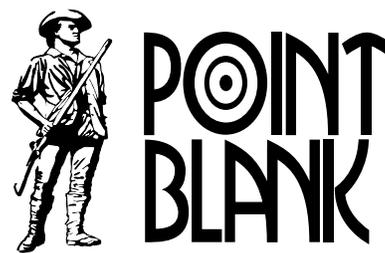
Four percent, or 499, somewhat agree, opining that we need to be careful about restricting rights that are protected under the Constitution.

One percent, or 167, is undecided, not being sure what the proper balance is between the Constitution and public safety.

Four percent, or 487, said they somewhat disagree, believing that some reforms, such as background checks for handgun applicants or bans on armor-piercing bullets, for instance, make good sense.

Another four percent, 461, said they strongly disagree, saying the gun lobby has distorted the intent of the Second Amendment and has "helped foster a gun culture that is irresponsible and dangerous."

Harris states that "this poll is a voluntary survey for our users, and is not scientifically projectable to any other population. We present these surveys to give our users an opportunity to share their opinions on particular topics."



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

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POLICE MAGAZINES SUPPORT GUN RIGHTS

The official magazines of two major national police organizations recently published full-page articles supporting the individual, Second Amendment civil right of law-abiding American citizens to keep and bear arms.

In Washington, D.C., John Michael Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, said, "the nearly simultaneous publication of these two articles by these two publications puts the public clearly on notice that the law enforcement community in the United States generally supports our traditional freedom, the traditional American right to keep and bear arms. This development should serve to underscore, once again, the fallacy of those who argue that the police generally support restrictive gun control. That simply is not true, and these two articles demonstrate this."

The magazines are *Police Times*, *The Voice of Professional American Law Enforcement*, October/November/December 2003, the official voice of the American Federation of Police and Concerned Citizens, Inc. (AFP&CC), and *The Chief of Police*, September/October 2003, The Official Publication of the National Association of Chiefs of Police (NACOP).

The national headquarters of both organizations is located in Titusville, Florida. Jim Gordon is the Executive Editor of both publications. Snyder is a Vice President of both organizations.

In *Police Times*, Deputy Dennis Wise, AFP&CC President, wrote that, "I am a staunch supporter of the Second Amendment and have been just about all my adult years. History has shown the need for honest

law-abiding citizens to own firearms for the protection of themselves, their families and property. Even today the need is there with the rise of crime and the ever increasing threat of terrorism. This great country of ours was founded and has been defended by 'citizen soldiers' who answered the call. When I was in high school, a long time ago, my civics teacher one day asked the class, 'Why do you think the United States would never be invaded?' There were a lot of 'whys,' but not one correct answer. The answer was: 'America has the Second Amendment' which guarantees the right of the people to own firearms. An enemy would lose too many troops fighting not only the armed forces, but the armed citizens who outnumber armed forces!"

Deputy Wise wrote also that, "If you still think that 'Gun Control' is the answer, check with the citizens of Australia who were forced to give up their guns. Check with their government law enforcement agencies and find out how their crime rate has risen. Oh, by the way, now only the bad guys have guns. (I guess they didn't want to obey the law - what a shock!) What the government did in actuality was make EVERY citizen an easy target for criminals, with their blessing. Did they really think that the bad guys were going to obey the law? FIGHT and DEFEND the Second Amendment each and every time it is attacked!"

In *The Chief of Police*, Chief Steven J. Newton (Ret.), Third Vice President of NACOP, noted that, "there have been 2.5 million protective uses of firearms every year in the United States. For many years, we have been telling the public to help us and

to assist where they can. I have also seen a lot of talking heads on the news who try to convince people to, 'be alert and remain aware of your surroundings,' when it comes to terrorism, but they can't seem to really be able to tell people what to do. Well, in my opinion, an armed citizenry already knows what to do. They protect themselves when we cannot. There simply are not enough of us.

"Now, I am not arguing for vigilantism, but I am arguing that people need to take responsibility for themselves. We seem to be side stepping the issue when we speak about enemies of the United States and we are afraid to let law-abiding citizens protect themselves. The Founding Fathers of this country provided for the right to keep and bear arms and I can think of no other time in history where it is more important to do so than right now. As a police officer, I would actually feel safer knowing we had trained civilians who could help me when I needed it."

Chief Newton wrote also that, "I trust the American people with weapons and I trust that they have the sense to know when, or even if, to use them...One of the founding principles of NACOP is protecting the people's right to bear arms. It seems to me that the only people who do not trust the citizens are some politicians and a few people who want to infringe on our rights."

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THERAPEUTIC NARCISSISM UNDERLIES GUN CONTROL

"An important result of registering weapons and restricting ownership is to make advocates feel good about themselves," writes Barry Cooper in the National Post of Canada, "a kind of therapeutic narcissism for the timid."

Barry is a professor of political science at the University of Calgary.

His comments are especially significant as we in the United States begin the Second Session of the 108th Congress. This is the year during which gun grabbers in Congress will be making a determined push to extend the ban on certain semiautomatic firearms beyond its mandated sunset later this year.

This also is the year during which gun grabbers in Congress will be working as hard as they can to prevent legislation prohibiting certain third party lawsuits against gun manufacturers from becoming law.

One of the major arguments the gun grabbers will be using is one that they almost always use. That is that the United States is behind other industrialized countries of the world in its gun control policies and should look to these other countries as leaders in this regard and emulate them.

That's why Professor Cooper's comments are so important to us in the United States. He lives in one of these "other" countries and knows whereof he writes.

"Every time the Canada Firearms Centre is in the news," he states, "its credibility diminishes. Whether it is an expose of bureaucratic incompetence at managing the computer system leading to the permanent extinction of the records of thousands of registered guns or the sending of an angry letter to a dead man, rebuking him for failing to register

hunting rifles that had long been sold by his family, nearly every story about this billion dollar fiasco provides another reason to scrap the project."

Cooper notes that advocates of the Canadian gun control system argued that a comprehensive gun registry would help cut crime. They argued that the availability of guns contributes to increases in violent crime, and that restricting access will reduce it.

He notes further that a recent, comprehensive study of gun regulations in Britain and Australia as well as Canada demonstrates that "confiscating, prohibiting and registering guns are all expensive failures. The only beneficiaries of this perverse policy are criminals who can more easily prey on an unarmed citizenry and their bureaucratic accomplices whose jobs have the effect of harming the same populace."

The study to which Cooper refers is *The Failed Experiment: Gun Control and Public Safety in Canada, Australia, England and Wales*, by Professor Gary A. Mauser, Ph.D. of Simon Fraser University.

(See article on Gary Mauser on page six of *Point Blank*.)

According to *The Failed Experiment*, restrictive firearm legislation has failed to reduce gun violence in Australia, Canada or Great Britain. The policy of confiscating guns has been an expensive failure, according to the new paper.

The new study examines crime trends in British Commonwealth countries that recently have introduced firearm regulations. Mauser notes that the widely ignored key to evaluating firearm regulations is to examine trends in total violent crime,

not just firearm crime.

Our own United States provides a valuable point of comparison for assessing crime rates as the USA has witnessed a dramatic drop in criminal violence over the past decade. For example, the homicide rate in the United States has fallen 42 percent since 1991. This is particularly significant when compared with the rest of the world. In 18 of the 25 countries surveyed by the British Home Office, violent crime increased during the 1990s.

The justice system in the USA differs in many ways from those in the British Commonwealth. Perhaps the most striking difference, according to Mauser, is that qualified citizens in the United States can carry concealed handguns for self-defense. During the past few decades, he points out, more than 25 states in the United States have passed laws allowing qualified citizens to carry concealed handguns. As of last year, he notes, there are 35 states where citizens can get such a permit.

Disarming the public has not reduced criminal violence in any country examined in the study. In all these cases, disarming the public has been ineffective, expensive, and often counter productive. In all cases, the effort meant setting up expensive bureaucracies that produce no noticeable improvement to public safety and have made the situation worse.

"It is an illusion that gun bans protect the public," writes Mauser. "No law, no matter how restrictive, can protect us from people who decide to commit violent crimes. Maybe we should crack down on criminals rather than hunters and target shooters?"

GOTTLIEB BLASTS BRADY CAMPAIGN

"When they aren't trying to steal our gun rights, they're trying to steal our elections, but this time they got caught," said Alan M. Gottlieb, CCRKBA Chairman, following an official report on the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence.

Gottlieb's comments came on the heels of a report from the Federal Election Commission (FEC) that the Brady Campaign agreed recently to pay a \$26,000 fine for failing to properly disclose more than \$200,000 it spent in attempts to unseat two Members of Congress during the 2000 election.

"According to the FEC," Gottlieb noted, "the Brady Campaign's so-called Voter Education Fund didn't report \$111,777 it spent opposing Kentucky Rep. Ernest Fletcher, or the \$99,731 it spent trying to beat Rep. Pat Toomey in Pennsylvania.

Can you imagine the outrage anti-gunners would be spewing if a gun rights organization failed to report more than \$211,000 in campaign expenditures, especially if the money was spent to unseat some gun control fanatic?

"If nothing else, this disclosure certainly bares one more hypocrisy of the extremist gun control movement. Anti-gunners traditionally complain that firearm civil rights organizations spend truckloads of money on elections.

"Here is a case where the Brady Campaign's own expenditures on two specific races suggest that the gun control lobby deserves the same level of scrutiny it demands for gun right groups."

Gottlieb pointed out that, "In just two races, the anti-gun lobby spent more than \$200,000, and then didn't

properly report it. What did they spend elsewhere around the country, what are they spending now, and is that being properly reported?

"The public deserves to know about this money, where it comes from, and where it's going. Of course, we all know why such money gets spent.

"The gun control lobby wants its puppets in public office at all levels working to erase the firearm civil rights we all enjoy, whether we choose to exercise those rights or not.

"Now there's proof that the extremist gun control lobby spends enormous amounts of money to steal elections the way they would steal our guns, by defeating candidates and veteran lawmakers who are dedicated to protecting all of our civil rights."

CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

Happy New Year! 2004 promises to be an exciting year for gun owners!

While the presidential election campaign will dominate the news this year, it is only one of many critical activities that will take place between now and the end of the year. At the same time we elect the President, we also elect the entire United States House of Representatives and one third of the United States Senate.

The United States Senate departed for its Christmas-New Year holiday recess with some unfinished business, most notably the proposed Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, S. 659/S. 1806. The House passed its version of the bill, H.R. 1036, last spring with a resounding 285-140 bipartisan vote. Unfortunately, the Senate version of the measure stalled with the Democrats, under the leadership of such anti-gun politicians as Sen. Charles E. Schumer of New York and Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts, threatening a filibuster. The threatened filibuster held through the holiday recess, despite the fact that the bill has 54 Senate cosponsors. Many Democrats crossed the line to cosponsor the bill, most notably the Minority Leader, Sen. Tom Daschle of South Dakota.

S. 659/S. 1806 would give much needed relief to firearm manufacturers and retailers who otherwise are in compliance with the law, but who are sued for producing a legal, constitutionally-protected product. The purpose of these "nuisance" lawsuits is not to win a big award, but to bleed manufacturers and dealers dry with continuing legal costs, a "death of a thousand lawsuits." If this isn't stopped, within a few years there will be no gun manufacturers or dealers left in our country.

America needs and wants this measure enacted into law. When the Roper Center for Public Opinion Research asked Americans if they agreed with the statement that, "companies that make guns should be held financially liable if judges or juries find that their products were used to commit a crime," 78 percent disagreed.

Now is the time to write or call your two United States Senators and ask them to support S. 659/S. 1806.

MAUSER TO GET CCRKBA AWARD

Gary A. Mauser, Ph.D. is the designated recipient of the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Award for January.

In nominating Professor Mauser for the Award, John Michael Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, said that "Dr. Mauser has spent a good deal of time and effort in intellectual pursuits the effect of which is to undermine, if not outright eviscerate, many of the pragmatic arguments advanced for more restrictive gun control public policies. One of his most recent publications, *The Failed Experiment: Gun Control and Public Safety in Canada, Australia, England and Wales*, devastates the position that the experience of these countries demonstrates the advisability of more restrictive gun control laws in the United States. He's done the cause of freedom and gun rights a world of good. He certainly is most deserving of this Award."

Gary Mauser is a Professor at the Faculty of Business Administration and the Institute for Canadian Urban Research Studies at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada. The Fraser Institute published *The Failed Experiment* in the November 2003 issue of Public Policy Sources,

Professor Mauser earned his doctorate, in social psychology, from the

University of California at Irvine, California in 1970. He had received his B.A., also in psychology, from the University of California at Berkeley, in 1964. He has dual American and Canadian citizenship. He and his wife, Ede Wong, have five children and live in Coquitlam, BC.

Mauser was born in California in 1942 and moved to Canada in the mid-1970s.

He tells Point Blank that, "When I came to Canada, I didn't own any guns. I got interested after I turned 40. At that point, I decided to pick up the rifle, a K-98, my father gave me when I turned 21." He said he had been "a know-it-all student at the University of California, Berkeley, and I'd refused to accept it.

"I wasn't familiar with guns at the time, and I didn't know what I'd do with it. When I picked it up, I asked him to explain it to me. As he told me how it worked, I inadvertently saw how happy he looked. He was flattered that I'd asked him. I suddenly realized that my high school dropout father was proud that he knew something his educated son did not."

Commenting on that experience, Gary said that, "sometimes eating crow tastes good.

"Anyway, when I got that gun back to Canada I wanted to know more about the history of that old gun. That got me hooked on researching firearms. Now I'm a history buff and gun collector. Soon I went to the range to shoot it. That got me started in target shooting, and later hunting."

The interest that began with curiosity about "that old gun" led Gary, who is a survey researcher, to begin "to develop surveys so that I could do studies of attitudes towards gun

control. I published my first article on guns and crime in 1990. I've been busy at it ever since. I take groups of students to the range every semester in order to introduce them to shooting."

Dr. Mauser has published two books, *Political Marketing: An Approach to Campaign Strategy*, (1983), Praeger Publishers, New York NY, and *Manipulating Public Opinion: Essays on Public Opinion as a Dependent Variable*, (March 1989), Brooks/Cole, Pacific Grove, CA, and more than 20 articles. For the past 15 years, he has conducted research on the politics of gun control, the effectiveness of gun control laws, and the use of firearms in self-defense.

In *The Failed Experiment*, described elsewhere in this issue of Point Blank, Gary notes that restrictive firearms legislation has failed to reduce gun violence in Australia, Canada or Great Britain. The policy of confiscating guns has been an expensive failure, according to his paper.

"What makes gun control so compelling for so many," he states, "is the belief that violent crime is driven by the availability of guns and, more importantly, that criminal violence in general may be reduced by limiting access to firearms." He demonstrates clearly that myth, rather than reality, underlies the belief.

Last May, Gary Mauser was an invited participant for the International Symposium on the Legal, Economic and Human Rights Implications of Civilian Firearm Ownership and Regulation. It was sponsored by the World Forum on the Future of Sport Shooting Activities, held at the Tower of London Conference Centre in London, England.

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QUICK SHOTS

Rep. Peter King of New York introduced H.R. 3614, which would provide that NICS preserve all records of the system with respect to individuals named in the Violent Gang and Terrorist Organization file who attempt to purchase firearms and the prospective transaction until the system has provided the records to the FBI. It was referred to the House Judiciary Committee. King's action followed a report that a dozen individuals on the government's main terrorist watch list had bought firearms during an eight-month period last year. Under new rules issued by the Justice Department, the FBI has as long as three days to run additional checks on prospective gun purchasers listed on the file, a database of more than 10,000 names that include al Qaeda operatives and "other militants," according to a November memo from acting Deputy Attorney General Robert McCallum, Jr.



In a finding that could affect thousands of criminal cases, reports the Associated Press, the National Academy of Sciences has concluded that some techniques the FBI has used for decades to match bullets to crimes are flawed or imprecise. The study urges FBI chemists to stop a practice known as data chaining, which chemists have used to match bullets to a crime. In data chaining, FBI chemists can match two dissimilar bullets if they can find a third, from a manufacturer as an example, that matches both. The

FBI most commonly identifies bullets recovered from a crime by firing new bullets from the suspect's weapon and comparing the markings left by the gun barrel on the test bullet with the crime scene bullet. The method works only when the crime scene bullet is in good shape and if police have a suspect's weapon.



In Wisconsin, Joe Waldron, CCRKBA Executive Director, called Gov. Jim Doyle's veto of a reasonable concealed carry bill an act of political demagoguery that should be answered with a legislative override. The veto "is an insult to every law-abiding Wisconsin gun owner who believes in the right of self-defense," said Waldron. "At a time when Democrats nationwide are laboring to present themselves and their party as more friendly to firearm civil rights, along comes Jim Doyle to strip away the façade and demonstrate that the Democrat philosophy is still one locked in paranoia about guns and mistrust for gun owners."



The U.S. Supreme Court early last month declined to hear a challenge to a California appellate court ruling that U.S. citizens have no Second Amendment right to own a gun. In refusing to hear the case, *Silveira v. Lockyer*, the Court let stand a ruling by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco in a lawsuit challenging California's ban on "assault weapons," saying the intent of the Second Amendment

was not to protect the gun rights of individuals, but of militias. The decision not to hear the case leaves the question of Second Amendment gun ownership rights up in the air.



Looking ahead, the Second Amendment Sisters (SAS) announce that they plan to hold the SAFER, of Second Amendment Freedoms for Everyone Rally on Mother's Day this year. The SAFER event will be held on Sunday, May 9 in Washington, D.C. at Freedom Plaza from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. "Mothers are the backbone of this Nation," says Dianne Sawyer, SAS President. "Increasingly, more women are arming themselves. Women are realizing that they personally have to take steps to assure their own safety, and often the safety of their children. By far, the safest means of self-defense is a firearm." For further information, check the special SAFER page on the SAS website at www.2asisters.org/SAFER or call 877-798-2828.



Ohioans for Concealed Carry announces the formation of a coalition to call upon Governor Taft, the Ohio General Assembly and the Ohio Republican Party to enact into law an acceptable CCW measure. Representing one quarter of a million Ohioans, the Civil Defense Rights Coalition is comprised of five Second Amendment-related groups. Ohioans for Concealed Carry (OFC) brought together the Coalition.

