



LAW ENFORCEMENT WHO SUPPORT GUNS

The
Washington
Times



Sponsored by

NRA

What cops really think about firearms restrictions

Officers overwhelmingly reject the left's gun ban efforts

By David A. Keene

In the wake of the Obama administration's attempt last year to use the tragic shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School to restrict and limit firearms ownership in this country, I was invited to speak on the subject at Harvard University. Several hundred undergraduate and graduate students attended and after being interviewed for about 20 minutes by CNN's John King, I took questions from the audience for perhaps another hour.

The organizers of the program must have feared the worst because in addition to me, Mr. King, a gaggle of reporters and the audience, several dozen Harvard and Boston police ringed the room. Gun rights advocates and National Rifle Association (NRA) officers aren't as highly regarded or as warmly received as they might be in, say, Texas, but while asking tough questions, the audience listened more respectfully to my arguments in support of Second Amendment rights than I expected them to going in.

I think it would be fair to say that the bulk of the audience favored stronger gun control measures, tended to blame gun crime and mass shootings more on the firearms used than those using them, rejected the idea that guns in private hands might actually reduce crime, and believed our streets, homes and schools would be far safer places if gun ownership could be eliminated or severely restricted.

Imagine their surprise when at the end of the program as they were milling around congratulating each other on the rightness of their views, the law enforcement officers who had attended either to protect me from the audience or the audience from me, lined up to shake hands with or have their pictures taken with the president of the NRA. What the students didn't realize is that most law enforcement officers — even in places like Cambridge and Boston — don't buy the arguments the president and New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg were peddling. In fact, most of those lining up for photos were NRA members and most were NRA certified firearms instructors.

As I was about to leave, a senior officer came up, introduced himself as an NRA member, thanked me for my service as NRA president and "for coming up here to try to talk some common sense to these kids." He clearly wasn't one of Mr. Bloomberg's guys even though he was part of a department headed by a man

who had stood with his mayor and Mr. Bloomberg to demand more gun control in the name of crime reduction. Even his own officers knew the proposals their boss was supporting didn't make sense, wouldn't work and might prove counterproductive.

Big-city police chiefs, however, hold their jobs thanks to big-city mayors, who tend to be almost exclusively liberal Democrats who believe almost as an article of faith that gun control, like higher taxes, is good for their constituents. America's sheriffs are a different

story. They are elected and tend to more accurately reflect the views of

their constituents. Some of them are liberal and agree with Mr. Bloomberg,

but most do not and they are all prone to saying what they believe rather than what some politician might want them to say.

In addition, they, like the cops on the street in bigger cities, know that the problems they face day and night won't be solved by stricter gun control measures, but by prosecuting and locking up criminals, providing

treatment to the dangerously mentally ill, and protecting the right of law-abiding private citizens to own and learn how to use firearms should they ever need them to protect themselves, their homes and businesses and their families.

The image of a law enforcement community united in its opposition to the private ownership of firearms and marching in lockstep with politicians like Mr. Bloomberg, California Sen. Dianne Feinstein and President Obama has been breaking down in recent years. Detroit's police chief suggested last year that what his city needs is more honest citizens with firearms and permits that will let them carry them concealed to help his officers take the city back from the gangs and thugs that have taken it over, and in Wisconsin's Milwaukee County, Sheriff David Clark has publicly urged citizens to learn how to use firearms to protect themselves and their families.

As last year's debate raged and California Sen. Dianne Feinstein announced that she knew for a fact that her gun control efforts had unanimous law enforcement support, PoliceOne.com, surveyed more than 15,000 active duty and retired cops from all over the country. They represented jurisdictions large and small with the average respondent serving in a police or sheriff's department with something like 500 officers. The findings tell us more about the real feelings of the men and women who protect us than MSNBC, The New York Times or The Washington Post.

Seventy-one percent of those responding said Mrs. Feinstein's proposed ban on what she calls "assault weapons" would do nothing to improve officer safety and another 20 percent thought the ban would make things worse. When asked what would work, they supported actually arresting and punishing gun crime over restricting firearms ownership by a large margin, and 76.6 percent agreed that trained and armed school teachers and administrators would help deter school shootings.

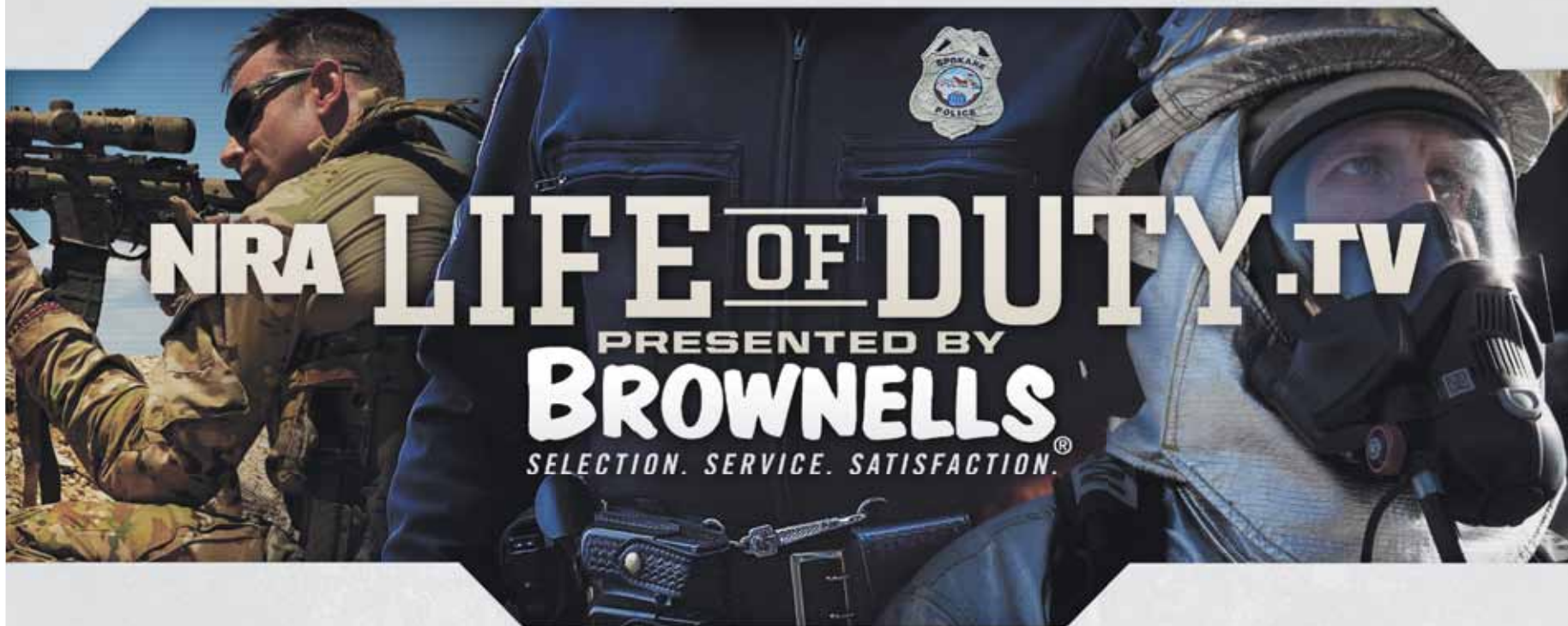
More than a hundred-thousand law enforcement officers are NRA members and many distinguished officers have served on the NRA board over the years. Cops, in short, are far more likely to be found at an NRA event than sharing a stage with Michael Bloomberg or his cronies.

David A. Keene is opinion editor of *The Washington Times*.

FROM OUR OPINION WRITERS



ILLUSTRATION BY LINAS GARSYS



NRA Life of Duty presented by Brownells is the National Rifle Association's premier online video channel devoted to honoring the brave men and women of our nation's military, law enforcement and first responder communities. In addition to offering a special class of NRA membership, the NRA Life of Duty channel tells the stories the mainstream media often ignores through original video programming and a digital magazine.

PATRIOT PROFILES
SPONSORED BY
Smith & Wesson®

Honoring our nation's finest through long-form, high-production value documentaries. From tributes to those who have sacrificed it all to eye-opening explorations into fields you may not even know existed, the Patriot Profiles library will make you proud to live in the land of the free.

DEFENDING OUR AMERICA
SPONSORED BY
SIGSAUER®

Bringing together eight Americans for the first time to talk about what it truly means to keep our country safe. No scripts; no prompts; no retakes. This is America's reality show.

FRONTLINES
SPONSORED BY  **F&N USA**

Follow NRA Life of Duty correspondents **LtCol Oliver North** and **Chuck Holton** as they bring you investigative reports, interviews and never-before-seen footage from current events around the globe.

NRA American Warrior PRESENTED BY 

Packed with interactive media, countless videos and page after page of the latest tactics and technology of interest ... all designed for those who truly wake up every day to live a life of duty.

DON'T WAIT! JOIN OR RENEW NOW!

Visit www.NRALifeofDuty.TV to watch countless hours of riveting stories and tributes or download the NRA Life of Duty channel on your **ROKU** streaming device to watch from the comfort of your home entertainment center.

© 2014 National Rifle Association of America

As concealed-carry applications flood Illinois PD, Chicago sees crime rate drop

By **KELLY RIDDELL**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

An 86-year-old Illinois man with a concealed carry permit fired his weapon at an armed robbery suspect fleeing police last month, stopping the man in his tracks and allowing the police to make an arrest.

Law enforcement authorities described the man as “a model citizen” who “helped others avoid being victims” at an AT&T store outside Chicago where he witnessed the holdup. The man, whose identity was withheld from the press, prevented others from entering the store during the theft.

Police said the robber harassed customers and pistol-whipped one.

Since Illinois started granting concealed carry permits this year, the number of robberies that have led to arrests in Chicago has declined 20 percent from last year, according to police department statistics. Reports of burglary and motor vehicle theft are down 20 percent and 26 percent, respectively. In the first quarter, the city’s homicide rate was at a 56-year low.

Since Illinois started granting concealed carry permits this year, the number of robberies that have led to arrests in Chicago has declined 20 percent from last year, according to police department statistics. Reports of burglary and motor vehicle theft are down 20 percent and 26 percent, respectively. In the first quarter, the city’s homicide rate was at a 56-year low.

“It isn’t any coincidence crime rates started to go down when concealed carry was permitted. Just the idea that the criminals don’t know who’s armed and who isn’t has a deterrence effect,” said Richard Pearson, executive director of the Illinois State Rifle Association. “The police department hasn’t changed a single tactic — they haven’t announced a shift in policy or of course — and yet you have these incredible numbers.”

As of July 29, the state had 83,183 applications for concealed carry and had issued 68,549 licenses. By the end of the year, Mr. Pearson estimates, 100,000 Illinois citizens will be packing. When Illinois began processing requests in January, gun training and shooting classes — which are required for the application — were filling up before the rifle association was able to schedule them, Mr. Pearson said.

“The temperature would be 40 below and you’d have these guys, out on the range, having to crack off the ice from their guns to see the target,” Mr. Pearson said. “But they’d do it, because they were that passionate about getting their license.”

The demand has slowed this summer, but Mr. Pearson expects the state to issue about 300,000 concealed carry permits when all is said and done.

Chicago became the 50th state in the nation to issue concealed weapons permits. An individual permit costs about \$600 and requires at least 16 hours of classes.

The Chicago Police Department has credited better police work as a reason for the lower crime rates this year. Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy noted the confiscation of more than 1,300 illegal guns in the first three months of the year, better police training and “intelligent policing strategies.”

The Chicago Police Department didn’t respond to a request for comment from The Washington Times.

However, the impact of concealed carry can’t be dismissed. Instead of creating more crimes, which many gun control advocates warn, increased concealed carry rates have coincided with lower rates of crime.

A July study by the Crime Prevention Research Center found that 11.1 million Americans have permits to carry concealed weapons, a 147 percent increase from 4.5 million seven years ago.

Meanwhile, homicide and other violent crime rates have dropped by 22 percent.

“There’s a lot of academic research that’s been done on this, and if you look at the peer-reviewed studies, the bottom line is, a large majority find a benefit of concealed carry on crime rates, and at worst, there’s no cost,” said John Lott Jr., president of the Crime Prevention Research Center based in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. “You can deter criminals with longer prison sentences and penalties, but arming people with the right to defend themselves with a gun is also a deterrence.”

Within Illinois, Cook County, which encompasses Chicago, has the state’s largest number of concealed carry applications with 28,552 requests, according to the county’s website. Accounting for population, however, less than 1 percent are carrying.

Mason County has the top per-capita rate in Illinois with 14 percent of its residents holding concealed carry licenses, followed by Shelby County with 9 percent.

“When I talk to folks that are supporters of concealed carry here, a lot of them want to get their permits so they can keep a gun in the car just so they have it when they travel to bigger towns and cities,” said Shelby County Sheriff Michael Miller.

Shelby County is in southwestern Illinois, about an hour and 45 minute drive from St. Louis. Its crime rate is low, and the majority of charges are domestic-related, Sheriff Miller said. He doesn’t anticipate concealed carry to change the statistics much.

“These are folks who just want to exercise their Second Amendment rights,” Sheriff Miller said. “Luckily, we don’t have a gang problem or any serious violent crime. Our types are just rednecks that like to hunt and fish.”

Mason County Sheriff Paul Gann said it’s too early to tell whether an increased carry rate will have an influence on crime rates.

“What I can tell you is we haven’t seen a spike in crime,” said Mr. Gann. “We haven’t seen a spike in anything that’s gun-related — brandishing a firearm, shootings, robberies, nothing. These are law-abiding individuals.”

From a national perspective, Florida has the most active concealed carry permits at nearly 1.3 million. Texas is second, with just over 708,000. Hawaii, at 183, has the fewest of states whose data were available.

At 300,000 concealed carry licenses, Illinois would compare with Virginia, which has 363,274, and Alabama, with 379,917.

GUN
Goddess

Women's Shooting Accessories & Gifts

Gun Cases • Purses • Apparel
Move over, boring black!

 Facebook.com/GunGoddess

www.GunGoddess.com
(866) 957-1117

“...the **Right of The People** to Keep and Bear Arms **Shall Not** be Infringed.”

– Bill of Rights, SECOND AMENDMENT
The Constitution of the United States



K&AHR Firearms Group



Auto-Ordnance



Websites: www.kahr.com | www.auto-ordnance.com | www.magnumresearch.com  www.facebook.com/KahrArms

Taking down a giant

Goliath Bloomberg's anti-gun scheme is no match for the Second Amendment

By David A. Clarke Jr.

Billionaire Michael R. Bloomberg could learn a thing or two from the biblical story about an Israelite soldier named David, who went up against Goliath, a giant of a man and a powerful foe. Using just a sling and a stone, David brought Goliath down to his knees and destroyed him.

Mr. Bloomberg, the former mayor of New York, made a huge political miscalculation when he sauntered into my territory of Milwaukee County, Wis. — a solid-blue county that overwhelmingly votes Democrat — expecting an easy signature win for his failing crusade to disarm law-abiding Americans.

Willing to spend up to \$50 million of his wealth to help defeat any pro-gun candidate, he focuses his aim on those running for state legislative and congressional offices. His plan is to enact gun-control legislation state by state, since he realizes there is no appetite in Congress to enact federal gun-control legislation, not even for the misleading idea called universal background checks.

Two years ago, I ran a series of self-defense local radio ads advising residents that they are the first line of defense in their own safety.

I told them to consider taking a firearms-safety course so they could defend themselves and their families from imminent attack. In April, I spoke at the National Rifle Association's convention in Indianapolis, and that brought me into Mr. Bloomberg's cross hairs.

According to one Democratic Party source, Mr. Bloomberg said of his attempt to knock me off in my re-election primary for sheriff, "This one is personal with me." That is a sign of desperation. Yes, even billionaires can be greedy. Surely, Mr. Bloomberg saw me as an easy win that he could parade around the country as a warning to other pro-gun candidates to either get in line with his anti-gun movement or face defeat at the polls. He saw picking off a big-city, pro-gun sheriff as a prize worth landing.

So in parachuted billionaire Mr. Bloomberg, dropping \$150,000 on my opponent in a weekend TV blitz that depicted me as a gun nut, hell-bent on arming every law-abiding citizen

in Milwaukee County. The TV ads he financed depicted me telling residents to forgo calling 9-1-1 and to handle local policing themselves, which is as contorted a view of my personal-defense radio ads as one could imagine.

Mr. Bloomberg's plan didn't work.

People here are smarter than he thought, and they did not like this outsider rolling into town

trying to oust Wisconsin's only black sheriff.

Had Mr. Bloomberg done his homework, he might have decided to go elsewhere in search of his signature gun-control win. Wisconsin happens to be a state where shooting sports are popular and deer hunting is sacrosanct. State law allows people with a permit to carry concealed weapons. The fatal mistake he made was not doing his due diligence

before betting on what he either thought or heard was my certain electoral demise Aug. 12. His hubris doesn't require him to assess the political climate before he puts his money on the table.

Another liberal, radical attack interest group, the Greater Wisconsin Committee, had just committed \$400,000 toward a final two-week TV ad blitz, excoriating me and building up my opponent. This attack was financed by Milwaukee's liberal millionaire county executive, Chris Abele, and spent an unprecedented amount of outsider money for a local sheriff's primary election anywhere.

At this point, I truly felt like David in the Bible's Book of Samuel (17:49), outgunned and overmatched by a millionaire and a billionaire.

There was no way I could match them dollar for dollar.

The rock I used to slay these two giants was conservative talk radio.

I was provided daily support via program segments, which criticized the outside influence of Mr. Bloomberg's money in Milwaukee to take down the conservative, pro-gun sheriff. Talk radio was the get-out-the-vote mechanism that drove conservatives to vote for me in record numbers. Together with the support of the black vote, Goliath Bloomberg went down to defeat 52 percent to 48 percent. He was last seen taking a beating from national liberal and conservative blogs and editorial comments that followed our win.

This was no ordinary defeat for Mr. Bloomberg's "Mayors Against the Second Amendment" group. Losing to a local sheriff in a county dominated by Democratic Party voters just might have set his futile movement back to a point of no recovery.

Some people might generally be in support of changes that make it more difficult for criminals to acquire guns, but they also recognize and reject the true objective of Mr. Bloomberg, which is to obliterate the right to keep and bear arms. Here in Milwaukee County, you cannot buy votes; you have to earn them.

David A. Clarke Jr. is sheriff of Milwaukee County, Wisc.

FROM OUR OPINION WRITERS



ILLUSTRATION BY LINAS GARSYS

By Asa Hutchinson

Safety in arms

Evidence shows that crime drops where gun ownership grows

While I served as administrator of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, I worked with the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). I observed that chiefs in small towns across America and the rural county sheriffs had a different view about guns and the Second Amendment than did the chiefs of the larger urban areas.

Law enforcement in rural America understood that citizens needed access to firearms for their own protection and private ownership prevented crime. When a criminal realizes that the homeowner, rancher or farmer owns and understands how to use a firearm, then the bad guy generally stays away for his own preservation.

However, the chiefs in larger cities and the more urban areas of our country had an opposite view. They saw an armed citizenry as a danger and potential risk for law enforcement. Larger city chiefs mostly favored more gun control while smaller and more rural city chiefs opposed government regulations that interfere with citizens Second Amendment rights.

Individual police officers in our larger cities have never really shared the hostility of their superiors to firearms ownership, but in today's world their superiors too are realizing in increasing numbers that the

evidence suggests there is little real connection between gun ownership and crime. The numbers they see every day tells them that as gun ownership has increased in

recent decades, violent crime has gone down in those jurisdic-

tions that allow honest citizens to not only own firearms for their own protection, but permit them — after training and a background check — to carry them concealed.

The re-evaluation of this historic division by at least some larger city chiefs is evidence-based rather than ideological. They see the empirical evidence, evaluate it and realize that some long-held assumptions may have been wrong. Their job is to protect the citizens within their jurisdiction. As they realize that job may be easier rather than more difficult to do if honest citizens are allowed to own firearms for the defense of their homes, families and community, more chiefs can be expected to change their thinking.

Detroit is a good example of this change. According to the Detroit News, the city has experienced a drop in crime, including 37 percent fewer robberies in 2014

than in the previous year, 22 percent fewer break-ins of businesses and homes, and a 30 percent reduction in carjackings. The chief of police, James Craig, attributed the drop to better police work and criminals being reluctant to risk challenging citizens who may be carrying guns.

As Chief Craig noted in the Detroit News article, "Criminals are getting the message that good Detroiters are armed and will use that weapon." Chief Craig has often asserted that armed citizens deter crime, and he recognizes the obvious: that a criminal will be less likely to confront a citizen or enter a home when the criminal understands there is a likelihood that the citizen is armed.

While Chief Craig's views may still represent the minority of major city chiefs, his outspoken views and the results should cause other large city leaders to reconsider their traditional position that more gun control is the solution to crime.

In addition to the Detroit experience, our urban leaders should consider the violence in south of the U.S. border. Mexico has some of the most burdensome restrictions on private ownership of firearms, and this has not proven a barrier to the

cartels or other criminal organizations. The citizens are disarmed, but the result is that citizens are victims and the criminal element acts with impunity and little risk.

In this country, a deciding factor in this debate over the wisdom of firearms ownership for self-protection may be the increasing desire and willingness of women to take responsibility for their own protection. Faced with the growing threat from violent rapists, home invaders and the like, more and more women are insisting on the right to own what was once known as the great "equalizer."

In recent years, women have been buying guns in increasing numbers, they can be seen at the ranges and in training courses, and they are seeking concealed-carry permits in jurisdictions that allow them.

Between rural and urban America, the voices of women will be heard.

In an earlier day, men and women in rural areas and smaller cities were more familiar with firearms and far more willing to take responsibility for their own protection. That is changing in today's world. Residents of our biggest cities know as well as the police sworn to protect them that simply dialing "911" often isn't enough.

Asa Hutchinson is a former administrator of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

FROM OUR OPINION WRITERS

Come shoot at the Nation's Most Advanced Indoor Shooting Range

Opening October 2014

Located off I-66 and Prince William Pkwy



In honor of your service Law Enforcement receives a \$ 50.00 discount on annual memberships.



Follow US!

www.eliteshootingsports.com

A Special Report Prepared By The Washington Times Advertising Department

Shooters welcome at 'guntry clubs'

Virginia location will even host feds

By DAVID SHERFINSKI
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

A shooting range consultant is opening a 65,000-square-foot indoor facility in October — the latest in a number of shooting clubs that have been popping up in places from gun-friendly Colorado and Texas to Miami's Wynwood Arts District.

Greg Wodack, the owner and operator of Elite Shooting Sports LLC, and his team broke ground on the location just off of Interstate 66 in Gainesville, Virginia, in April and have been working at a breakneck pace to open on schedule in October.

The facility will house two 25-yard ranges, a 50-yard range and a 100-yard range, a 1,600-square-foot, two-story live-fire shoot house for law enforcement training, a cafe, a lounge and a 5,000-square-foot retail area — a contrast to the image of musty rifle or hunting clubs.

"[We] kind of look at it as the new golf clubs," Mr. Wodack said. "It's a destination range. It's for everybody."

Elite Shooting Sports also will have its own gunsmith and a dojo for law enforcement training. It also will feature Ti training — an experience like a video game that adjusts its scenarios based on real-time outcomes.

"Elite Shooting Sports is going to be another one of these 'guntry clubs,'" said Zach Snow, manager of shooting promotions at the National Shooting Sports Foundation, the trade group for the guns and ammunition industry. "I wouldn't say these kinds of facilities are trying to compete [with country clubs], but in many cases there's a lot of overlap with a golfer who is also an avid shooter and vice versa."

Indeed, the Frisco Gun Club in Texas sold more than 2,400 founding memberships even before it opened in December. The 43,000-square-foot complex includes an indoor gun range with 40 shooting lanes, a 7,000-square-foot retail shop and a members-only VIP club featuring private lanes and lounge areas complete with a fireplace.

In Florida, Lock & Load



Ground was broken in April for Elite Shooting Sports just off Interstate 66 in Prince William County, Virginia, and crews have been working to open it on schedule in October.



An art rendering shows plans for Elite Shooting Sports, which will house several shooting ranges, a cafe, a lounge and a retail area.

Miami, a short drive from South Beach, boasts 24 air-conditioned lanes and offers a VIP room for parties of up to two dozen that includes six lanes, two flat-screen TVs and private instruction.

"The monster facilities — 40,000 to 60,000 square feet

— is a new trend," Mr. Snow said. "Will it continue? I think only time will tell. In most cases, they're put in markets that are fairly affluent, as well as places with significant populations."

Mr. Wodack said his range will be different. It will not cater to special or VIP memberships,

he said, but will focus instead on recreational shooting.

"There are shooters in Northern Virginia that don't have a place to go, and they're not going to go wait in line for two hours to shoot," he said. "The range is a high-quality facility, but we're going to try to make it affordable for everyone."

It also will cater to the teeming sprawl of federal government.

"We're in a different demographic," he said, referring to the significant number of law enforcement agencies in the area.

Six federal agencies already have indicated their interest in training at Elite Shooting Sports, though Mr. Wodack said with a grin that he is not at liberty to disclose which ones.

Such crossover services often amount to "more of a community-relations builder than a profit center," Mr. Snow said.

After a slight downtick in the latter half of 2013, year-over-year federal gun purchase background checks increased in March, April and May, and four

of the top 10 single-highest days were in February and March.

Although the correlation of gun sales and purchases is not direct, National Instant Criminal Background Check System records are used as an imperfect proxy for gun sales.

Each of the top 10 highest weeks for background checks were in the wake of the December 2012 shooting deaths of 20 children and six adults in Newtown, Conn. The tragedy gave way to a national debate over firearms, the Second Amendment and tightening the background check system.

Federal legislation has since stalled, and the industry is reporting solid sales.

Home simulators often attract purchasers, who might want guns for self-protection, Mr. Snow said.

"The individuals who were going and buying these were also wanting to get properly trained," he said. "You see a lot of individuals using these to better prepare themselves for a home invasion."

Beretta leaves Maryland over gun laws, heads for Tennessee

By DAVID SHERFINSKI
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Citing Maryland's recently enacted firearm laws and the prospect of more restrictions, the U.S. arm of legendary Italian gunmaker Beretta announced Tuesday that it would move its manufacturing operations to Tennessee next year.

The move makes Beretta the latest maker of guns or ammunition to move all or part of its operations to another state because of tightened gun control laws.

General Manager Jeff Cooper said an early version of a statute passed last year by the Maryland state Senate would have prohibited the company from manufacturing or storing products in the state.

"While we were able in the Maryland House of Delegates to reverse some of those obstructive provisions, the possibility that such restrictions might be reinstated in the future leaves us very worried about the wisdom of maintaining a firearm manufacturing factory in the state," Mr. Cooper said.

A number of states, especially those that are conservative and gun-friendly, approached the Italian company last year

after officials expressed concern about strict gun laws in liberal-leaning Maryland.

Maryland and a number of other states enacted restrictions on certain models of military-style, semi-automatic weapons and ammunition magazine sizes in response to the Connecticut school shootings in December 2012 that killed 20 children and six educators.

Beretta isn't the first firearms manufacturer to seek a friendlier political climate. Magpul Industries Corp., which makes firearms accessories, announced in January that it would relocate from Erie, Colorado, to Texas and Wyoming. Its move was a response to sweeping gun control bills signed by Gov. John Hickenlooper, a Democrat.

Another Colorado company, HiViz Shooting Systems, revealed in May 2013 that it would move its operations from Fort Collins to Laramie, Wyoming.

Connecticut Gov. Dan Malloy, a Democrat, signed tougher gun control legislation in April 2013, prompted firearms manufacturer PTR Industries Inc. of Bristol to announce a relocation.

Colt Competition, which manufactures high-end AR-15 rifles, announced in April

2013 that it would move from Oregon to North Texas.

In Beretta's case, the company said it had no plans to relocate its office, administrative and executive support functions from its facility in the Prince George's County community of Accokeek.

Beretta originally planned to use the Gallatin, Tennessee, facility only for new equipment and production of new product lines.

Beretta employs some 400 people and expects to create another 300 jobs at the Tennessee plant, slated for completion in the middle of next year. Investment in construction and equipment is expected to be \$45 million.

A spokesman for Prince George's County expressed disappointment about Beretta's decision but said the county would continue to pursue business and job opportunities for all residents, including more than \$4.3 billion of development in the pipeline.

"If there were any issues that the county could have addressed to keep Beretta here, you can be sure that we would have addressed them immediately," spokesman Scott Peterson said.

A spokeswoman for Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley also expressed disappointment but said "the common-sense gun safety law we passed, which includes licenses for handgun purchases, is keeping schools, families and law enforcement personnel safe."

"We will keep investing in schools, innovation and infrastructure so that we can continue to create jobs and ensure that our children have more opportunity rather than less," spokeswoman Nina Smith said.

Mr. Cooper said no employees in Maryland would face changes for months and that the company would have discussions with those whose jobs might be affected.

The company, which manufactures firearms ranging from hunting shotguns to the M-9 pistol used by the U.S. armed forces, began its search for a location outside Maryland in March 2013.

The transition to a new facility will not begin until next year, and production of the U.S. military's M-9 will continue at the Accokeek facility until all current orders are filled, the company said.

• Andrea Noble contributed to this report.



Our Mission

The Virginia Citizens Defense League is a non-profit, non-partisan, grassroots organization dedicated to advancing the fundamental human right of all Virginians to keep and bear arms as guaranteed by both the U.S. and the Virginia Constitutions.

Because of our record of success, other grassroots gun organizations across the nation have modeled themselves after VCDL.

Standing With Law Enforcement to Make a Safer Virginia VCDL.ORG

What Others Are Saying About Us

"Virginia Citizens Defense League...is on a mission to root out every nugget of gun control it can detect in Virginia. It has been behind campaigns to make sure concealed weapons are allowed in local government buildings, even civic centers, and fought to open up state and local parks to concealed weapons."

[The Daily Press - Nov 27, 2006](#)

"...the Virginia Citizens Defense League, the commonwealth's dominant gun lobby."

[Roanoke Times Metro Columnist Dan Casey - Jan 6, 2013](#)



Join Us!

Keep on top of what's happening with your gun rights - from news to tracking key legislation by subscribing to VCDL's free email alert system:

vcdl.org/StayAlert

To become a member:

vcdl.org/JoinNow

Questions? Call us at: 703-372-3285

Field agents shouldn't be blamed for the ATF's misadventures

Debacles like Fast and Furious come from the top, not the streets

By Frank Minitier

Sometimes, someone steps forward to say something so true, yet dangerous to themselves, you are left in awe. By definition such people are heroic, as they are sacrificing themselves for something greater than themselves.

This is exactly what Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Agent John Dodson did. Agent Dodson, and the other ATF whistleblowers who found they couldn't stomach what their superiors had set in motion with Operation Fast and Furious, stood before Congress to inform the American people they'd been ordered to tell gun storeowners to sell guns to those who they knew were illegally buying the guns on behalf of criminal gangs in Mexico. The ATF wanted these guns to go to Mexican drug cartels as part of some kind of crime-fighting scheme that no one has ever been able to give a rational explanation for and that the Obama administration has used executive privilege to shield from public scrutiny.

As they were exposing a scandal that certainly goes to Attorney General Eric Holder's desk and possibly to the White House, much of the media treated them as political spoilers, not heroes. I remember sitting at a press table in one of the congressional hearings investigating Operation Fast and Furious and after Agent Dodson spoke, asking the mainstream news reporters around the table what they would write about him. I wanted to know what they'd say about a man who'd

put his own career in jeopardy after one of the guns from Operation Fast and Furious had been used to murder a U.S. Border Patrol agent.

The reporters shrugged. One actually said, "He just hates Obama." I wrote articles for Forbes and National Review and watched to see if those journalists would write about any part of the dramatic things Agent Dodson said or the moving

in Milwaukee where the ATF allegedly used mentally disabled people to help in undercover operations and then arrested

them — the ATF's overseers must have thought the ATF could use some good press,

so they invited me into their New York City offices.

I met the agents on the 35th floor of a high rise in lower Manhattan.

Agent Charles Mulham, John Curtis

FROM OUR OPINION WRITERS

Just outside the boardroom we met in I'd stopped to look at a small glass display case holding a heavy metal plate cast with the ATF's emblem. This plate was once set in concrete, but is now bent and charred, as it was unearthed from the remains of the former ATF offices at Six World Trade Center.

things the mother of the murdered Border Patrol agent, Brian Terry, had said with emotion in her voice.

They didn't report on a thing they'd seen and heard.

I wrote so much about Fast and Furious that a few years later, when I was working on my book "The Future of the Gun," I expected to be ignored when I officially asked the U.S. Department of Justice — the ATF is a branch of the U.S. Department of Justice — for permission to interview ATF agents. As it turned out, after a series of misadventures leading to congressional hearings — including a strange sting operation

and Jason Zamaloff gave me insights into their the never-ending battle to disarm bad guys. They explained how they work with gun dealers as partners to keep criminals from getting guns.

Just outside the boardroom we met in I'd stopped to look at a small glass display case holding a heavy metal plate cast with the ATF's emblem. This plate was once set in concrete, but is now bent and charred, as it was unearthed from the remains of the former ATF offices at Six World Trade Center. Agent Mulham told me it would be donated to the museum at the 9/11 memorial.

Next to the metal plate were a

partially melted pistol and revolver; both were ATF agent's guns dug from the building's remains. This was a sobering reminder that cops put their lives on the line for us.

After answering my questions, they gave me a tour of what they call "The Bubble," the operations-control center of this New York City office. When guns need to be traced fast in New York City and State, this room comes to life with technicians analyzing data and making calls to track down information on particular guns.

The windowless room looks like one of the operational rooms in the Jason Bourne movies — desks with phones and computers circle the room where someone in charge can pace about leading the team. In this way, this ATF office assists the New York Police Department and other law-enforcement agencies in ongoing investigations.

Later, as he walked me out of the ATF's Manhattan office, Agent Mulham said, "I don't care if a guy like you has a million guns. What I'm after are the bad guys and their guns."

There is a lot more to this story, but I was reminded that since Vietnam the American people have largely learned not to blame soldiers for their elected leaders sometimes politically flawed decisions.

In my experience the same can be said of the ATF.

.....
Frank Minitier is the author of "The Future of the Gun" (Regnery, 2014).

Detroit police chief "No question in my mind" legal gun ownership deters crime

By JESSICA CHASMAR

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Detroit has experienced 37 percent fewer robberies than it did last year, and Police Chief James Craig is crediting armed citizens for the drop.

"Criminals are getting the message that good Detroiters are armed and will use that weapon," said Chief Craig, who has been an open advocate for private gun ownership, the Detroit News reported. "I don't want to take away from the good work our investigators are doing, but I think part of the drop

In addition to the drop in robberies, Detroit has seen 22 percent fewer break-ins of businesses and homes and 30 percent fewer carjackings in 2014 than during the same period last year, the Detroit News reported.

in crime, and robberies in particular, is because criminals are thinking twice that citizens could be armed.

"I can't say what specific percentage is caused by this, but there's no question in my mind it has had an effect," he added.

In addition to the drop in robberies,

Detroit has seen 22 percent fewer break-ins of businesses and homes and 30 percent fewer carjackings in 2014 than during the same period last year, the Detroit News reported.

Chief Craig said, however, that he doesn't believe gun ownership deters criminals from attacking other criminals.

"They automatically assume another criminal is carrying," he said. "I'm talking about criminals who are thinking of robbing a citizen; they're less likely to do so if they think they might be armed."

Detroit News reports that resident Al Woods, a self-described former criminal who is now an anti-violence activist, said he agrees that criminals are thinking twice about targeting innocents.

"If I was out there now robbing people these days, knowing there are a lot more people with guns, I know I'd have to rethink my game plan," the 60-year-old told the paper.

A Special Report Prepared By The Washington Times Advertising Department

By John R. Lott Jr.

Americans have suddenly become very interested in carrying concealed handguns. And the number of permits is increasing dramatically.

In 1999, there were roughly 2.7 million people legally permitted to carry a concealed handgun. Eight years later in 2007, there were 4.6 million. But with President Obama election, it soared to 8 million in December 2011, and over 11.1 million by June 2014, and then to over 11.6 million by July 2014. Actually, there are even more than this as we don't count people in the six states where no permit is required.

Nor are recent numbers available for all states.

Police have generally been very happy with this trend. PoliceOne, the largest organization of police officers in the country with 450,000 members, polled its members in March 2013. It found that 91 percent supported letting civilians carry permitted concealed handguns with only minimal requirements. They supported people carrying as long as the are not convicted of a felony or deemed psychologically or medically incapable, similar to the rules for Americans to legally own a gun.

Similarly, according to a 2010 survey by the National Association of Chiefs of Police, 77 percent of managerial officers supported letting concealed handgun permits from one state being honored across the entire nation. These officers also

Carrying and law-abiding

Concealed-carry permit-holders bear their firearms responsibly

agreed with the statement that concealed carry would "facilitate the violent crime fighting potential of the professional law enforcement community."

Detroit Police Chief James Craig goes so far as crediting the rise of concealed handgun permits in his city with helping combat robberies in a major way. "Criminals are getting the message that good Detroiters are armed and will use that weapon," said Chief Craig.

"I can't say what specific percentage is caused by this, but there's no question in my mind it has had an effect."

Permit-holders are extremely law-abiding. Much of the criticism of permit holders in the media involves reports by the Violence Policy Center. Unfortunately, that report contains many inaccuracies as it often double- or triple-counts cases. It also counts cases that don't even involve guns as well as legitimate self-defense cases.

Consider the two large states often discussed in current debate, Florida and Texas. Both states provide easy web access to detailed records of permit-holders. During over two decades, from Oct. 1, 1987 to May 31, 2014, Florida has issued permits to more than 2.6 million people,

with the average person holding a permit for more than a decade. Few — 168 — have had their permits revoked for any type of firearms related violation (this data is reported up through 2011), the most common revocations have been for accidentally carrying a concealed handgun into a gun-free zone, such as a school or an airport, rather than threats or acts of violence. This means an annual rate revocation rate for firearm violations of

0.0003 percent.

For all revocations, the annual rate in Florida is 0.012 percent.

The problems are similarly rare in Texas. In 2012, the latest year that crime data are available, there were 584,850 active license-holders. Out of these, 120 were convicted of either a misdemeanor or a felony, a rate of 0.021 percent, and only a few of these crimes involved a gun.

Compare these revocations to data on firearms violations by police officers during the three years from Jan. 1, 2005 through Dec. 31, 2007. Police were convicted of firearm violations at an annual rate of 0.007 percent — twice the rate of Florida permit-holders. The rate of all crimes committed by police is 0.124 percent — a number about six times higher

than the rate for in Texas and about 10 times higher than for Florida.

As to the effect of concealed handguns on crime, the data surely suggestive — violent crime has fallen as the number of permits has soared.

Between 2007 and the preliminary estimates for 2013, murder rates fell from 5.6 to 4.4 per 100,000 — a 22 percent drop in the murder rate at the same time that the percentage of the adult population with permits soared by 130 percent. Overall violent crime also fell by the same percentage, 22 percent, over that period of time.

About two-thirds of peer-reviewed research by economists and criminologists find that right-to-carry laws reduce violent crime. No one finds higher murder, rape or robbery from concealed handgun laws.

With all the states allowing permitted concealed handguns, the debate is largely over. Only Washington, D.C. remains as the last large area without permitted concealed handguns, and it was telling that no problems arose during the three days that anyone who legally possessed a gun could carry in the city. If that experiment had played out a little longer, people would have seen that D.C. is no different than the rest of the United States.

John R. Lott Jr. is the president of the Crime Prevention Research Center and the author of the third edition of "More Guns, Less Crime" (University of Chicago Press, 2010).

FROM OUR OPINION WRITERS

No More Waiting!

The Washington Times National Digital Edition

Now get *The Washington Times'* groundbreaking news and conservative commentary right on your mobile device of choice with our new National Digital Edition. The "living newspaper" is updated all day long on your tablet or smartphone with the best articles and op-eds written by *The Washington Times'* staff plus exclusive columns and features only available to NDE subscribers.

Sign up today! A one-year subscription is just \$39.99.
That's less than 11¢ a day!



Subscribe at nde.washingtontimes.com

A Special Report Prepared By The Washington Times Advertising Department

Just when did police officers become the ‘bad guys’?

Law enforcement critics undermine success in making America safer

By James F. Albrecht

As someone who had proudly worn a police uniform for 25 years, I continue to wonder how and why the police have been portrayed as the “bad guys” over the last few years. With crime rates plummeting over the last two decades, and incarceration levels continuing their decline, America in general and most of the nation’s largest cities have become astonishingly safe.

A number of factors have contributed to this success, and the police and their proactive policies and practices that commenced in the mid-1990s have played major roles in these impressive accomplishments.

Yet, when one opens up a newspaper or listens to many of the most recent media reports, law enforcement officers in America have been depicted as a racially biased and abusive team of bullies who should not be trusted by the citizenry of our great nation.

My personal experiences and observations, however, paint a different picture. I have witnessed police officers repeatedly run into harm’s way when common sense would tell one to turn around and move to safety. The most heroic act I personally observed was watching hundreds of police officers and other rescue personnel run into the burning World Trade Center towers with one goal in mind: evacuate as many persons as possible — regardless of how precarious the circumstances.

I do not think that any one of them thought about race, religion or ethnicity when they undertook those perilous measures. I have witnessed the same honor and heroism by police at residential fires, serious vehicle accidents, and more often while apprehending serious criminals, often when under the threat of gunfire and assault. Even when police personnel are involved in routine activities, their primary goals have been and continue to be ensuring public safety and the maintenance of a peaceful community environment.

I have worked in a variety of communities, from those that can be described as violence-, drug- or gang-prone, to quiet and relatively safe residential neighborhoods or industrial regions. In each of these police stations, I have found colleagues to be reasonable and committed, and all possessing the same goals: get the job done properly and get home safely at the end of the workday. In addition, I have visited and observed many law enforcement officials across the country and they all seem to have that same level of

dedication and concern.

I can honestly state that I have not heard a police supervisor or agency head, or read any organizational policy and procedures that advocate abusive, unconstitutional or unprofessional conduct. Yet, certain elements of the media and many community advocates routinely take the position that the police are the real “bad guys.”

Let’s take a look at the proactive approaches implemented by the New York City Police Department and other county and municipal law enforcement agencies across the United States during the last two decades. When William Bratton first took office as the NYPD’s police commissioner in 1994, he advocated a corporate-management-oriented leadership model with the expectation that local police station commanders would be held accountable to undertake initiatives to reduce crime and disorder. The strategy ap-

that had implemented similar policies. Yet, today’s police officers are routinely portrayed as the “bad guys.”

We can take a specific look at the recent criticism of the NYPD’s proactive and highly successful initiatives that have drawn significant media attention. When a federal judge ruled in a 2013 civil case against the New York Police Department and condemned many proactive police encounters as being unconstitutional and racially biased, many community advocates, civil libertarians and some media representatives were quick to scrutinize the agency’s leadership and policies. The same judge ruled that punitive action could be taken against police officers if suspects that they had encountered believed that they had been specifically targeted because of their race or ethnicity.

Astonishingly, many of the policies that government and law enforcement leaders herald and continue to implement have been tarnished by these de-

uninformed politicians, and many community activists have jumped to unsupported conclusions without waiting for investigative and judicial steps to be taken or for significant factual information and findings to be conveyed.

However, the criticism of the “militaristic” police response to the violent riots in Ferguson that has since followed have only added to the reported “bad guy” image of the police that some have portrayed. I think those critics should put themselves in the police officers’ shoes. Imagine that you request a crowd to peacefully disperse and the response you receive involves flying rocks, bottles, Molotov cocktails, sporadic gunfire, looting, arson and widespread vandalism.

Shouldn’t the community expect a properly equipped and controlled police response to quell these violent and criminal actions? Or do some view police officers as merely being “expendable”? The United States loses approximately 150 police officers in the line of duty each year. It is my belief that even one is too many.

Today’s police officer has, unfortunately, been forced to take a deep look into the mirror every day. Are the sacrifices that they have and continue to make worth it? Are they really the “bad guys” or merely

the victims of the uninformed, the manipulative and the opportunistic?

How has a profession that is so honorable and, quite honestly, special, now been turned into one that questions personal integrity and professionalism? How has today’s police officer become the “bad guy”? Should society allow those with selfish agendas to handcuff the police and cause them to hesitate in addressing crime, disorder and suspicious illegal behavior? Everyone is entitled to their opinion, but I will continue to acknowledge and appreciate the hard work and commitment of law enforcement officers across the country. I believe that they are not the “bad guys,” but rather, with their selfless fire-fighting and first-responder colleagues, should be recognized and respected as true American heroes.

.....
James F. Albrecht is a retired New York Police Department captain who has worked on global police reform projects for the United Nations and the U.S. State Department. He is a professor of criminal justice at Pace University in New York, and is the co-author of the forthcoming “Policing Major Events: Perspectives from around the World” (CRC Press).

FROM OUR OPINION WRITERS

The goal was obvious. If the police can keep the criminals and chronic violators off the streets, the communities would become safer and the quality of life of the neighborhood residents would be dramatically improved. The results of these initiatives were almost immediate.

peared practical enough. By evaluating crime trends and deploying resources where the crimes and community concerns were located, the police could make a difference.

And the use of a “zero tolerance” approach, in line with the “broken windows” doctrine, would permit police personnel to address both low-level violators and serious criminals alike.

The goal was obvious. If the police can keep the criminals and chronic violators off the streets, the communities would become safer and the quality of life of the neighborhood residents would be dramatically improved. The results of these initiatives were almost immediate.

Crime rates declined sharply throughout New York City and continue to do so more than 20 years later. Neighborhoods that had faced decay and neglect are now prospering. Comparable results have been observed in other large cities and jurisdictions across the United States

velopments. Eventually, that same judge was removed from the case for judicial misconduct by a panel of higher level justices, but the damage to the image and positive accomplishments of the NYPD had already been done. However, the truly negative consequences have been the effect on the reputations and morale of the hardworking and committed members of the NYPD and other law enforcement agencies across the nation. First, the notable successes of the continued crime reduction have come under scrutiny, and second, each police officer may be prone to hesitate in taking proper legal action while fearing that their lawful actions could lead to unwarranted judicial and civil punishment.

I refrain from significantly expressing my opinion on the recent incidents in Ferguson, Mo., and Staten Island, N.Y., since the entire facts of both events have still not been revealed. Unfortunately, certain elements of the media, a number of apparently

COMPENDIUM OF STATE LAWS GOVERNING FIREARMS

The following chart lists the main provisions of state firearms laws as of the date of publication. In addition to the state provisions, the purchase, sale, and, in certain circumstances, the possession and interstate transportation of firearms are regulated by the Federal Gun Control Act of 1968 as amended by the Firearms Owners' Protection Act of 1986. Also, cities and localities may have their own gun ordinances in addition to federal and state restrictions. Details may be obtained by contacting local law enforcement authorities or by consulting your state's firearms law digest compiled by the NRA Institute for Legislative Action.

STATE	GUN BAN	EXEMPTIONS TO NICS ₂	STATE WAITING PERIOD - NUMBER OF DAYS		LICENSE OR PERMIT TO PURCHASE		REGISTRATION		RANGE PROTECTION LAW
			HANDGUNS	LONG GUNS	HANDGUNS	LONG GUNS	HANDGUNS	LONG GUNS	
Alabama	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Alaska	—	RTC ₃	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Arizona	—	RTC	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Arkansas	—	RTC ₃	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
California	X ₁	—	10 ₅	10 _{5,6}	X _{10,11}	—	X ₁₂	X ₁₃	X
Colorado	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Connecticut	X ₁	—	14 _{5,6}	14 _{5,6}	X _{9,11}	—	—	X ₁₃	X
Delaware	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Florida	—	—	3 ₆	—	—	—	—	—	X
Georgia	—	RTC	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Hawaii	X ₁	P, RTC	—	—	X _{9,11}	X ₉	X ₁₂	X ₁₂	—
Idaho	—	RTC	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Illinois	X _{1,7}	—	3	2	X ₉	X ₉	X ₁₄	X ₁₄	X
Indiana	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Iowa	—	P, RTC	—	—	X ₉	—	—	—	X
Kansas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Kentucky	—	RTC ₃	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Louisiana	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Maine	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Maryland	X ₁	—	7 ₅	7 _{4,5}	X _{10,11}	—	—	—	X
Massachusetts	X _{1,7}	—	—	—	X ₉	X ₉	—	—	X
Michigan	—	P, RTC	—	—	X _{9,11}	—	X	—	X
Minnesota	—	—	7 ₉	X ₉	X ₉	X ₉	—	—	X
Mississippi	—	RTC ₃	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Missouri	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Montana	—	RTC	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Nebraska	—	P	—	—	X	—	X ₇	—	X
Nevada	—	RTC	7	—	—	—	X ₇	—	X
New Hampshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
New Jersey	X ₁	—	—	—	X ₉	X ₉	—	X ₁₃	X
New Mexico	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
New York	X ₁	—	—	—	X _{9,11}	X ₉	X	X ₁₅	X
North Carolina	—	P, RTC	—	—	X ₉	—	—	—	X
North Dakota	—	RTC ₃	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Ohio	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Oklahoma	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Oregon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Pennsylvania	—	—	—	—	X ₉	—	—	—	X
Rhode Island	—	—	7 ₅	7 ₅	X ₁₁	—	—	—	X
South Carolina	—	RTC	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
South Dakota	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Tennessee	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Texas	—	RTC	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Utah	—	RTC	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Vermont	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Virginia	X ₁	—	—	—	X ₁₀	—	—	—	X
Washington	—	—	5 ₈	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Virginia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Wisconsin	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	X
Wyoming	—	RTC	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
District of Columbia	X ₁	—	10	10	X	X	X	X	X

COMPENDIUM OF STATE LAWS GOVERNING FIREARMS

Since state laws are subject to frequent change, this chart is not to be considered legal advice or a restatement of the law.

All fifty states have passed sportsmen's protection laws to halt harassment.

STATE	STATE PROVISION FOR RIGHT-TO-CARRY CONCEALED	CARRYING OPENLY PROHIBITED	RIGHT TO CARRY RECIPROCITY AND RECOGNITION	OWNER ID CARDS OR LICENSING	WORKPLACE PROTECTION LAW	STATE FIREARMS PREEMPTION LAWS
Alabama	M	X ₁₈	TR	—	—	X
Alaska	R ₁₆	—	OR	—	X	X
Arizona	R ₁₆	—	OR	—	X	X
Arkansas	R	19	CR	—	—	X
California	L	X ₂₀	N	—	—	X
Colorado	R	X ₂₁	TR	—	—	X ₂₁
Connecticut	M	X	N	—	—	X ₂₃
Delaware	L	—	CR	—	—	X
Florida	R	X	TR	—	X	X
Georgia	R	X	TR	—	X	X
Hawaii	L	X	N	X	—	—
Idaho	R	—	OR	—	X	X
Illinois	D	X	N	X	—	—
Indiana	R	X	OR	—	X	X ₂₄
Iowa	R	X	OR	—	—	X
Kansas	R	—	CR	—	X	X
Kentucky	R	—	OR	—	X	X
Louisiana	R	—	TR	—	X	X
Maine	R	—	CR	—	—	X
Maryland	L	X	N	—	—	X
Massachusetts	L	X	N	X	—	X ₂₃
Michigan	R	X ₁₈	OR	—	—	X
Minnesota	R	X ₁₈	CR	—	X	X
Mississippi	R	—	TR	—	X	X
Missouri	R	—	OR	—	—	X
Montana	R	—	CR	—	—	X
Nebraska	R	—	TR	—	—	X
Nevada	R	—	CR	—	—	X ₂₃
New Hampshire	R	—	TR	—	—	X
New Jersey	L	X	N	X	—	X ₂₃
New Mexico	R	—	CR	—	—	X
New York	L	X	N	X	—	X ₂₃
North Carolina	R	—	TR	—	—	X
North Dakota	R	X ₂₀	TR	—	—	X
Ohio	R	17	CR	—	—	X
Oklahoma	R	X ₂₀	OR	—	X	X
Oregon	R	—	N	—	—	X
Pennsylvania	R	X ₁₈	CR	—	—	X
Rhode Island	L	X	N	—	—	X
South Carolina	R	X	CR	—	—	X
South Dakota	R	—	OR	—	—	X
Tennessee	R	19	OR	—	—	X
Texas	R	X	CR	—	—	X
Utah	R	X ₂₀	OR	—	X	X
Vermont	R ₁₆	19	OR	—	—	X
Virginia	R	—	CR	—	—	X
Washington	R	X ₂₂	CR	—	—	X
West Virginia	R	—	CR	—	—	X
Wisconsin	D	—	N	—	—	X
Wyoming	R	—	CR	—	—	X
District of Columbia	D	X	N	X	—	—

COMPENDIUM OF STATE LAWS GOVERNING FIREARMS

With extensive gun control laws on the books in America, there are two challenges facing every gun owner. First, you owe it to yourself to become familiar with the federal laws on gun ownership. Only by knowing the laws can you avoid innocently breaking one.

Second, while federal legislation receives the most media attention, state legislatures and city councils make many more decisions regarding your right to own and carry firearms. NRA members and all gun owners must take extra care to be aware of anti-gun laws and ordinances at the state and local levels.

Concealed carry codes:

- R: Right-to-Carry "Shall issue" or less restrictive discretionary permit system (Ala., Conn.) (See also note #19.)
M: Reasonable May Issue; the state has a permissive may issue law, but the authorities recognize the right to keep and bear arms.
L: Right-to-Carry Limited by local authority's discretion over permit issuance.
D: Right-to-Carry Denied, no permit system exists; concealed carry is prohibited.

Reciprocity and Recognition codes:

- OR: Outright Recognition
CR: Conditional Reciprocity
TR: True Reciprocity
N: No recognition

Notes:

- "Assault weapons" are prohibited in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York. Massachusetts: It is unlawful to sell or transfer handguns not on the Firearms Roster. The City of Boston has a separate "assault weapons" law. Some local jurisdictions in Ohio also ban "assault weapons." **Hawaii** prohibits "assault pistols." **California** bans "assault weapons", .50BMG caliber firearms, some .50 caliber ammunition and "unsafe handguns." **Illinois**: Chicago, Evanston, Oak Park, Morton Grove, Winnetka, Wilmette, and Highland Park prohibit handguns; some cities prohibit other kinds of firearms. **Maryland** prohibits "assault pistols"; the sale or manufacture of any handgun manufactured after Jan. 1, 1985, that does not appear on the Handgun Roster; and the sale of any handgun manufactured after January 1, 2003 that is not equipped with an "integrated mechanical safety device." **Massachusetts**: It is unlawful to sell, transfer or possess "any assault weapon or large capacity feeding device" [more than 10 rounds] that was not legally possessed on September 13, 1994 and the sale of handguns not on the Firearms Roster. The City of Boston has a separate "assault weapons" law. The **District of Columbia** bans "assault weapons", .50BMG caliber firearms and ammunition, "unsafe firearms," and "large capacity" (more than 10 rounds) ammunition feeding devices. **Virginia** prohibits "Street Sweeper" shotguns. (With respect to some of these laws and ordinances, individuals may retain prohibited firearms owned previously, with certain restrictions.) *The sunset of the federal assault weapons ban does not affect the validity of state and local "assault weapons" bans.*
- National Instant Check System (NICS) exemption codes:**
RTC-Carry Permit Holders Exempt From NICS
P-Holders of state licenses to possess or purchase or firearms ID cards exempt from NICS.
- NICS exemption notes:** **Alaska**: Permits marked "NICS Exempt". **Arkansas**: Those issued on and after 4/1/99 qualify. **Kentucky**: Permits issued after 7/12/06 qualify. **Michigan**: Licenses to Purchase a Pistol and Concealed Pistol Licenses (CPLs) issued on or after 11/22/05 qualify. **Mississippi**: Permits issued to security guards do not qualify. **North Dakota**: Those issued on or after 12/1/1999 qualify.
- Maryland** subjects purchases of "assault weapons" to a 7-day waiting period.
- Waiting period for all sales. **California**: 10 days; sales, transfers and loans of handguns must be made through a dealer or through a sheriff's office. **Maryland**: 7 days; purchasers of regulated firearms must undergo background checks performed by the State Police, either through a dealer or directly through the State Police. **Rhode Island**: 7 days; private sales can be made through a dealer or the seller must follow the same guidelines as a sale from a dealer.
- The waiting period does not apply to a person holding a valid permit or license to carry a firearm. In **Connecticut**, a certificate of eligibility exempts the holder from the waiting period for handgun purchases; a hunting license or a permit to carry exempts the holder for long gun purchasers. **California**: transfers of a long gun to a person's parent, child or grandparent are exempt from the waiting period. Persons who are screened and cleared through the Personal Firearms Eligibility Check are still subject to the 10-day waiting period and background check provisions.
- In certain cities or counties.
- May be extended by police to 30 days in some circumstances. An individual not holding a driver's license must wait 60 days.
- Connecticut**: A certificate of eligibility or a carry permit is required to obtain a handgun and a carry permit is required to transport a handgun outside your home. **Hawaii**: Purchase permits are required for all firearms. **Illinois**: A Firearm Owner's Identification Card (FOI) is required to possess or purchase a firearm, must be issued to qualified applicants within 30 days, and is valid for 5 years. **Iowa**: A purchase permit is required for handguns, and is valid for one year. **Massachusetts**: Firearms and feeding devices for firearms are divided into classes. Depending on the class, a firearm identification card (FID) or class A license or class B license is required to possess, purchase, or carry a firearm, ammunition thereof, or firearm feeding device, or "large capacity feeding device." **Michigan**: A handgun purchaser must obtain a license to purchase from local law enforcement, and within 10 days present the license and handgun to obtain a

certificate of inspection. **Minnesota**: A handgun transfer or carrying permit, or a 7-day waiting period and handgun transfer report, is required to purchase handguns or "assault weapons" from a dealer. A permit is valid for one year, a transfer report for 30 days. **New Jersey**: Firearm owners must possess a FID, which must be issued to qualified applicants within 30 days. To purchase a handgun, a purchase permit, which must be issued within 30 days to qualified applicants and is valid for 90 days, is required. An FID is required to purchase long guns. **New York**: Purchase, possession and/or carrying of a handgun require a single license, which includes any restrictions made upon the bearer. New York City also requires a license for long guns. **North Carolina**: To purchase a handgun, a license or permit is required, which must be issued to qualified applicants within 30 days. Persons with a Right-to-Carry license are exempt. **Pennsylvania**: No private sales. All handgun purchases must go through a licensed dealer or the county sheriff.

- A permit is required to acquire another handgun before 30 days have elapsed following the acquisition of a handgun. In **Virginia**, those with a permit to carry a concealed weapon are exempt from this prohibition.
- Requires proof of safety training for purchase. **California**: Must have Handgun Safety Certificate receipt, which is valid for five years. **Connecticut**: To receive certificate of eligibility, must complete a handgun safety course approved by the Commissioner of Public Safety. **Hawaii**: Must have completed an approved handgun safety course. **Maryland**: Must complete an approved handgun safety course. **Michigan**: A person must correctly answer 70% of the questions on a basic safety review questionnaire in order to obtain a license to purchase. **New York**: Some counties require a handgun safety training course to receive a license. **Rhode Island**: Must receive a state-issued handgun safety card.
- Registration/Licensing requirements. **California**: A person moving into California has 60 days to file a registration form with the Department of Justice. **Hawaii**: Must register any firearm(s) brought into the State within 3 days of arrival of the person or firearm(s), whichever occurs later. Handguns purchased from licensed dealers must be registered within 5 days. **Illinois**: A new resident must obtain FOI card as soon as possible when moving to the State. **Massachusetts**: A new resident has 60 days to obtain a FID card. **Michigan**: After establishing residency, a new resident must obtain a license to purchase and certificate of inspection for each handgun. **Nebraska**: **Omaha** handgun owners must register their firearms with the local police. **Nevada**: **Clark County**: A resident must register their handguns after being in the county for more than 60 days. **New York**: A license must be obtained before acquisition and relocation.
- "Assault weapon" registration. **California** had two dates by which assault weapons had to be registered or possession after such date would be considered a felony: March 31, 1992 for the named make and model firearms banned in the 1989 legislation and December 31, 2000 for the firearms meeting the definition of the "assault weapons in the 1999 legislation. In **Connecticut**, those firearms banned by specific make and model in the 1993 law had to be registered by October 1, 1994 or possession would be considered a felony. A recent law requires registration of additional guns by October 1, 2003. In **New Jersey**, any "assault weapon" not registered, licensed, or rendered inoperable pursuant to a state police certificate by May 1, 1991, is considered contraband.
- Chicago only. No handgun not already registered may be possessed. Must get FOID card after receiving drivers' license.
- New York City only.
- Vermont, Alaska and Arizona** law respect your right to carry without a permit. Alaska and Arizona also have permit to carry systems to establish reciprocity with other states.
- A person with a concealed handgun license may transport a loaded handgun in a vehicle if it is in a holster.
- Carrying a handgun openly in a motor vehicle requires a license. **Minnesota**: Persons with a CCW permit can carry openly.
- Arkansas** prohibits carrying a firearm "with a purpose to employ it as a weapon against a person." **Tennessee** prohibits carrying "with the intent to go armed." **Vermont** prohibits carrying a firearm "with the intent or purpose of injuring another."
- Loaded.
- Municipalities may prohibit open carry in government buildings if such prohibition is clearly posted.
- Local jurisdictions may opt of the prohibition.
- Preemption through judicial ruling. Local regulation may be instituted in **Massachusetts** if ratified by the legislature.
- Except Gary and East Chicago and local laws enacted before January 1994.



INCLUDES **FREE** \$25,000 LINE
OF DUTY INSURANCE BENEFITS

- + \$10 OR MORE OFF REGULAR NRA MEMBER RATES
- + YOUR CHOICE OF ONE OF NRA'S MEMBER MAGAZINES
- + SUBSCRIPTION TO AMERICAN WARRIOR DIGITAL MAGAZINE
- + UP TO 45% OFF IN EXCLUSIVE GEAR DISCOUNTS
- + \$7,500 IN INSURANCE FOR YOU AND YOUR GUNS

JOIN **NRA**

SERVE. PROTECT. DEFEND.

NRA LIFE OF DUTY . TV