

POINT BLANK

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



**December
2009**

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CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS

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CCRKBA Analysis:

INTELLIGENCE REPORTS SHOW NEED FOR FIREARMS

Recent reports of intelligence concerns indicate the continuing need for law-abiding American citizens to be able to obtain and use the firearms and ammunition they may have to use for the protection of themselves, their families and their property from terrorist attacks.

With the threat of terrorist anti-American activity ever present, it is obvious that the ability of Americans to get and use the guns they need to counter the possible implementation of the threat also is ever-present.

This reality was brought home with reports indicating that terrorist forces are about to diversify their selection of targets in the hopes of increasing the possibility of avoiding detection and thus succeeding in their attacks.

These reports possibly were underscored by developments in Fort Hood, Texas. There, Major Nidal Malik Hasan, is reported to have shouted "Allahu Akbar," a phrase used by extremist Islamists, and opened fire in the Soldier Readiness Center, killing 13 people and wounding 30 others. The murderous rampage was stopped when local police officers shot the perpetrator.

Given this situation, it is more incumbent than ever for law-abiding American civilians to be ready, willing and able to resist such attacks.

That means armed citizens.

"After disrupting two recent terrorist plots, American intelligence officials are increasingly concerned that extremist groups in Pakistan linked to Al Qaeda are planning smaller operations in the United States that are harder to detect but more likely to succeed than the spectacular attacks they once emphasized, senior counterterrorism officials say," wrote David Johnston and Eric Schmitt in *The New York Times*.

Johnston and Schmitt wrote that, "The two cases – one involving two Chicago men accused of planning an attack on a Danish newspaper that published cartoons of the prophet Mohammed, the other a 24-year-old Denver shuttle bus driver indicted in a plot to use improvised explosives – are among the most serious in years," the officials said.

In an additional indication of the diversified terrorist attacks American citizens face, there came an insight from Jarret Brachman, author of *Global Jihadism* and a consultant to the United States about terrorism.

"For years now Al Qaeda has been calling their movement to arms – sowing seeds across the global movement," he stated. "What is clear, however, is that the seeds are now starting to sprout."

Given this state of affairs, Americans must continue to battle against politicians who work to undermine our gun rights. CCRKBA will continue to be in the forefront of this fight. We need your continuing support.

NIH STUDY CAN BE USED TO REGULATE GUN RIGHTS

The Obama administration and its supporters are using every trick in the book to undermine the gun rights of law-abiding American citizens.

As a case in point, the National Institutes of Health announcement that it's studying the health consequences of gun ownership may display the administration's ingrained opposition to average Americans' possession of firearms.

These people will try anything they can to undermine the armed citizen. They'll say guns are bad for your health, even though private citizens use firearms defensively over a million times a year to keep themselves and their families from harm.

Just a few years ago, Congress voted to cut gun health research by the Centers for Disease Control. It was viewed as one-sided and based on flawed assumptions that all gun use was bad, including the use that saved lives and deterred crime.

Now, Obama's NIH gang is taking up the anti-gun health cudgel. NIH spokesman Don Ralbovsky said that, "Gun-related violence is a public health problem – it diverts considerable health care resources away from other projects and, therefore, is of interest to NIH."

It's not only with the NIH announcement that the Obama gang shows its true colors.

The current attempt to take over the American health care system by ramming government controls through Congress may be a back door attempt to get after Americans' guns. Just last month, the House of Representatives passed narrowly a bill to take over American health care and sent it to the Senate.

The plans sought by Obama and

congressional leaders could be used by bureaucrats to deny health insurance coverage to citizens who possess firearms. Under plans considered in Congress, people could be denied health coverage simply because they owned guns. Bureaucrats could determine that gun ownership constituted a health hazard.

The anti-gun political elite know it cannot attack American gun rights directly. Gun ownership is too popular. A hundred million Americans own 200 million rifles, shotguns and handguns. Americans buy over a million firearms a month. Citizens have purchased 10 million since Obama became president.

Public opinion polls show Americans are becoming less enchanted with gun control laws and more and more opposed to them. A recent Rasmussen Reports survey indicated that 50 percent are opposed to stricter gun controls and only 39 percent say stricter gun controls are needed. A Gallup Poll finds a new low of 44 percent says laws on firearm sales should be stricter. That's down five points from last year and 34 points from the high of 78 percent in 1990.

So, some anti-gun rights people may reason, let's undermine the Second Amendment through government-run health care.

Actually, public opinion polls show Americans oppose government-controlled health care. Rasmussen shows well over half of the people oppose it. But that hasn't stopped gun-grabbing politicians. They don't care what the people think.

Public office is a public trust, but Obama and other politicians use public office to trash the public interest. People are on to them, though.

Rasmussen surveys of voter attitudes show Obama's approval ratings have gone into the double digit minus category. Elected officials who support Obama's policies well may face public rejection. Rasmussen surveys of voter attitudes show Obama's approval ratings have gone into the double digit minus category.

**By John M. Snyder, Editor,
Point Blank**



POINT BLANK

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

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CCRKBA ADVISOR BLASTS OBAMA ON UN GUN POLICY

When the Obama administration announced recently that it was changing the Bush administration opposition to United Nations sponsored international gun control to one in favor of such control, former Congressman Bob Barr of Georgia, a CCRKBA Distinguished Advisor, ripped into the policy change.

"The folks at United Nations headquarters in New York City, and our 'allies' at Number 10 Downing Street in London, must be rubbing their hands with glee," declared the 2008 Libertarian Party presidential candidate in a recent column. Barr was a speaker at the 2009 Gun Rights Policy Conference, cosponsored by CCRKBA and the Second Amendment Foundation.

Barr wrote that, "Gun control groups here and abroad likewise are at least quietly cheering. Why? After a decade and a half of pushing unsuccessfully to secure America's support for a legally-binding, international instrument to regulate the marketing, transfer and brokering in firearms, they are now on the brink of success. The process of formally negotiating an Arms Trade Treaty ('ATT') now has Washington's seal of approval; announced October 14th by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton."

Noting that it was not always like this, Barr recalled in the *Atlanta Journal Constitution* that, "in the summer of 2001 the UN formally launched its multi-year effort to institutionalize its role as regulator of international transfers of firearms; something it had coveted openly since the mid-1990s. In July 2001, John Bolton had been serving as President George W. Bush's undersecretary of state for arms control and international security affairs

for barely two months. It is this office at the state department that is responsible for issues ranging from nuclear disarmament to land mine eradication. When the UN began its foray into 'small arms and light weapons' (a term that incorporates virtually every type, size and model of firearm), the issue fell into the lap of whoever occupied that office.

"In one of his first public addresses after being sworn in as undersecretary, Bolton delivered the opening statement for the United States at the UN arms conference on July 9, 2001. His blunt words shocked many of the delegates present. The message he delivered made crystal clear, with reference to our constitutionally-guaranteed 'right to keep and bear arms,' that the United States would not be a party to any international effort that would directly or indirectly infringe that fundamental right."

Barr pointed out that, "Over the next five years, in meeting after meeting, the United States was true to the words Bolton delivered in 2001. Refusing to bow to intense pressure from many of our 'allies,' including most notably the United Kingdom, the United States opposed and even vetoed numerous efforts to afford the United Nations any legally-binding power to regulate the 'international' trafficking in firearms. The Bush Administration realized that doing so would tie United States policy makers' hands in supporting certain arms transfers in our own national security interests. Moreover, and more relevant for Second Amendment purposes, a legally-binding instrument purporting to regulate illicit international transfers of firearms, would necessarily touch

domestic activities. For example, in order to know and regulate international transfers, the UN folks would have to know what firearms were being manufactured, stocked, and purported to be transported within each country."

With the Obama administration's announcement, Barr stated, "the playing field now has changed dramatically. We have a president, a secretary of state, and an undersecretary philosophically in synch with the UN and its member nations who have been clamoring for the US to join the march to an ATT. In her statement of October 14th announcing Washington's reversal on this issue, Clinton made not even passing or indirect reference to our Constitution, much less the Second Amendment; a position so clearly and forcefully employed by Bolton when defending our interests against the international 'community.'"

"The irony in all this is that the US maintains the most rigorous and consistent legal controls on the export and import of firearms of any nation. If those nations pushing for an international arms trade treaty were sincerely concerned with tightening such controls internationally, all they would have to do would be to adopt regulations and laws as we have in the US already."

That's not their true agenda, Barr charged.

"The real agenda of these folks at the UN, and in London, Tokyo, Brasilia, and the other capitals around the world or nations pushing the US to 'come on board,' is not international regulation, but limiting the freedom we enjoy within the United States to keep and bear arms," Barr concluded.

CCRKBA RIPS OPPONENTS OF AMTRAK GUN MEASURE

"The attempt by certain U.S. Representatives to undermine a pro-gun measure approved by the U.S. Senate shows a disregard for the right of law-abiding citizens to transport firearms securely on railroad trains," said John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director.

The measure in question would allow the carrying of checked firearms aboard Amtrak.

"The Representatives' attempt evidences also a lack of appreciation for the ability of armed citizens to protect themselves and others from violent criminals of various types, including terrorists, who may try to use trains for nefarious purposes," continued Snyder.

"Obviously, we oppose this attempt and support the Senate measure."

Earlier, the Senate voted 68-30 for an amendment by Sen. Roger Wicker of Mississippi to H.R. 3288, the proposed Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development Act, which amendment would allow Amtrak passengers to transport handguns in their checked luggage provided the passengers complied with certain stipulations. The Senate then voted for H.R. 3288, a transportation appropriations bill, and sent it back to the House of Representatives, from which it had originated.

When H.R. 3288 returned to the House, two anti-gun Representatives sent out a letter calling for Representatives to reject the section, section 157, which contains the Wicker amendment.

The gun-grabbers who wrote the letter were Reps. Bennie Thompson of Mississippi, the Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, and Peter King of New York, the

Committee's Ranking Member.

They addressed the letter to Reps. David Obey of Wisconsin, Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, Jerry Lewis of California, the Committee's Ranking Member, John Oliver of Massachusetts, Chairman of the Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Tom Latham of Iowa, the Subcommittee's Ranking Member.

Reps. Thompson and King sent copies of the letter to Sens. Daniel Inouye of Hawaii, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Thad Cochran of Mississippi, the Committee's Ranking Member, Patty Murray of Washington, Chairman of the Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Christopher Bond of Missouri, the Subcommittee's Ranking Member.

In their letter, Reps. Thompson and King admitted that, "Amtrak permitted firearms in checked baggage at one time; weapons had to be separately secured in baggage or containers."

"However," the two Congressmen continued, "following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, Amtrak began to restrict the carriage on its trains. In an effort to further enhance the security of its passengers and employees, Amtrak subsequently reviewed and re-evaluated numerous security measures in response to the March 11, 2004, bombing of passengers in Madrid. The November 2008 terrorist attacks in Mumbai included 'commando-style' raids of railway stations, revealing a significant, firearm-specific threat.

"Against this deadly backdrop and faced with unique security vulner-

abilities, Amtrak has implemented a total weapons prohibition, including firearms. Currently, only sworn law enforcement personnel of the Amtrak Police Department, Office of Security Strategy and Special Operations, and federal, state, and local police officers on official business are permitted to carry firearms on Amtrak trains. To reverse this policy by legislative fiat – in the absence of full congressional examination – would abruptly dismantle nearly a decade of conscientious efforts by Amtrak to developing terrorist threats and trends."

Snyder said "it is absolutely ridiculous for Reps. Thompson and King to think that allowing citizens to carry firearms in checked luggage could have a negative impact on the safety of Amtrak crew and passengers. Terrorists would not comply with anti-firearms regulations. In fact, the current Amtrak policy actually could increase the jeopardy of innocents in the face of terrorist attack as citizens would have no possibility of having access to their guns in such a situation."

As Jim Harper of the CATO Institute observed, "The risk of a commando-style raid does not support – in fact it undermines – the authors' argument that weapons should be banned on passenger trains. With law-abiding citizens fully disarmed, any terrorist raiders would know they are more free to cut a deadly swath through an innocent population."

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PASTORS USE HANDGUNS TO PROTECT WORSHIPPERS

In an interesting development for right to keep and bear arms supporters, word is beginning to get around the country about pastors in various churches carrying handguns in order to protect themselves, their parishioners and their church property from perpetrators of criminal acts, including violent criminal acts.

In Detroit, for instance, Rev. Lawrence Adams of the Westside Bible Church wears a handgun under his clerical robe, reports Corey Williams of the Associated Press. Adams is a 54-year-old retired police lieutenant.

"As a pastor," said Adams, "I'm referred to as a shepherd. Shepherds have the responsibility of watching over their flock. Do I want to hurt somebody? Absolutely not!"

Adams responded to a break-in at his church on a Sunday evening. The pastor surprised a burglar carrying out a bag of loot and shot the man in the abdomen after the man swung the bag at him.

"The burglar survived," reported AP, "for which Adams is grateful, but the pastor said he could have been hurt or killed if he had not been armed."

Claude Wiggins, a former pastor and current assistant at the Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary, pointed out that, "In our country, it says in due process that you may bear arms to protect yourself. While we should be committed to trusting God, that doesn't prevent us or command us to be fully passive."

Rev. William Revely, who according to AP sometimes wears his caliber .357 handgun while preaching at the Holy Hope Heritage Church in Detroit, does not worry whether it might be wrong for a man of God to carry a firearm in church.

"I've always felt that the only way to handle a bear in a bear meeting is to have something you can handle a bear with," said the 68-year-old pastor, who practices at a gun range with another pastor. "We have to be realistic. I know too many people who've been shot, carjacked."

Adams said that most, if not all, of the Westside Bible Church's 50 members has supported his actions after encountering and shooting the burglar.

CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

December is normally a time when thoughts turn to home, to family and to the holiday season. And for gun owners, it's time for a little respite, a sigh of relief as another year closes with no new gun controls. Or not.

The major focus on Capitol Hill remains health care reform. Health care reform has nothing to do with gun control, right? Wrong.

As with omnibus spending bills, major multi-thousand-page bills addressing health care reform are potential vehicles for mischief. At least three separate health care reform bills are under consideration by the House and Senate. Even in early November, no one truly knows what the final bill (or bills) will contain. Hundreds of amendments may be offered before final passage of one or more health care bills.

Keep in mind that many health care professionals or professional organizations also support radical forms of gun control, ranging from "lock-up-your-safety" mandates to outright bans on many different types of guns or ammunition. Language in these bills may open those doors under the guise of regulating "high risk behavior."

Now is the time to call, e-mail or write your Congressperson and Senators and remind them that exercise of our Constitutionally-affirmed right to keep and bear arms is NOT a health care issue. House and Senate contact information is available in the left margin of the CCRKBA web site at <http://www.ccrkba.org> or the SAF web site at <http://www.saf.org>. Local Congressional office telephone numbers and addresses are also available in the "blue pages" at the front of your local telephone directory.

Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.

SCHOLAR OPPOSING ARMS TREATY NAMED CCRKBA RIGHTS DEFENDER

When the Obama administration announced it was reversing U.S. policy and would back launching talks on a treaty to regulate arms sales as long as the talks operated by consensus, the scholarly work of Gary Mauser took on increased significance.

The Obama decision overturns the Bush administration opposition to such a treaty because it felt national controls were better and obviated the possibility of international interference with Americans' Second Amendment rights.

Professor Mauser has written extensively on the inadvisability of certain international restrictions on gun ownership. "When I heard Gary speak at our recent Gun Rights Policy Conference, I knew that this was the time to nominate him for the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Award," said John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Director of Public Affairs.

Mauser speaks out publicly against the United Nations Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. He and others know the Program is a scam for an international body to curtail citizens' gun rights by declaring certain of their activities "illicit." He attacks the phony rationale used to advance the Program.

"It is a myth that more civilian guns mean more murders," writes Mauser, Professor Emeritus at Simon Fraser University in Canada. "My analysis of a United Nations survey of 33 nations found no meaningful relationship between homicide rates and gun ownership. It is utterly

false that most murderers are ordinary people who went wrong because they had guns. The overwhelming majority of murderers have life histories of violence, restraining orders, substance abuse problems, or psychopathology. It is generally illegal for such people to have guns, but unlike good people, they ignore gun laws – just as they ignore laws against violence.

"In Europe, there are very few instances of nations with high gun ownership having higher murder rates than neighboring nations with lower gun ownership. If anything, the reverse seems to be true. For example, though Norway has one of the highest rates of firearm ownership per capita in Western Europe, it nevertheless has the lowest murder rate. And Luxembourg, despite its total handgun ban, has a higher murder rate than Norway or Austria."

Mauser, who has dual American and Canadian citizenship and earned his doctorate from the University of California at Irvine, declares "bans are rarely effective. In nations where guns are less available, criminals get them anyway. After decades of ever-stricter controls, Great Britain banned nearly all handguns in 1997 and forced permit holders to turn them in. Yet from 1997 to 2005, both total homicides and gun homicides had increased by more than 25 percent. Despite the enforced collection and destruction of almost all legally owned handguns, the Metropolitan Police are reported as saying, 'Gun crime is out of control.'

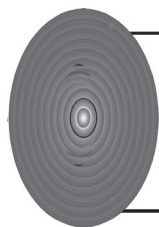
"Even if gun bans did work, many alternative weapons are available to would-be murderers. Eight decades of police-state enforcement of handgun prohibition have kept Russian gun ownership low, resulting in few gun

murders. Yet Russia's murder rates have long been four times higher than those in the United States and 20 times higher than rates in countries such as Norway."

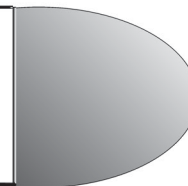
Married to Edeline Mauser-Wong, M.D., Gary declares "the 'more guns mean more murders' mythology flies in the face of history. Europe had low murder rates before World War I despite high gun ownership and virtually no controls. Severe European gun laws appeared for political reasons in the tumultuous post-World War I era. Despite ever stricter gun laws, both political and apolitical violence has increased apace in Europe.

"A review of the European experience demonstrates more guns correlating with less murder. Nine European nations, including Germany, Austria, Denmark and Norway, have high rates of civilian firearm ownership. Nine others, including Luxembourg, Russia and Hungary, have virtually disarmed their civilians. But the aggregate murder rates of those nine low-gun-ownership nations are three times higher than those of the nine high-gun-ownership nations."

Mauser states flat-out "the reason that nations or regions with more guns tend toward lower violence is political rather than criminological. Gun ownership generally has no effect on how much violence a society has. Politicians often think that banning guns will be a quick fix. But gun bans don't work; if anything, they make matters worse. They disarm the law-abiding, yet are ignored by the violent and the criminal. Nations with severe violence problems tend to have severe gun laws."



QUICK SHOTS



Felons are learning “hard lessons” from armed citizens, according to the *News Tribune* of Jefferson City, Missouri. During a home invasion in early October, one of the intruders was shot and killed by one of the occupants of a mobile home. About a week later, an armed assailant was recovering from wounds after he was shot by one of the people he was attempting to herd into a building. In the first case, the firearm was kept in the home for traditional defense of people and property. In the second incident, the assailant was shot by someone who qualifies under the concealed carry law, enacted in 2003. It requires people to obtain a standard of proficiency with firearms before they are permitted to carry a concealed gun. The paper, which had been harboring some reservations about the concealed carry law, now admits its fears were unfounded. “The message being sent to felons is don’t bring a weapon to a crime unless you’re prepared to accept the risk,” the paper now states.



In Washington, D.C., the House of Representatives approved a conference report for Department of Homeland Security appropriations including language preventing the Department from classifying spring-assisted knives as switchblades. Reps. Walt Minnick of Idaho and Bob Latta of Ohio were two of the chief congressional sponsors of the legislative language. “Like most Idahoans, I carry a pocketknife,”

said Minnick. “That shouldn’t make me a criminal. Passage of this bill means that the kinds of knives we use while rafting Idaho rivers or fishing its streams or hunting its mountains – or even just to open a stubborn package at the office – will remain legal and free of regulation.”



CCRKBA joined with the NRA, Second Amendment Foundation, Washington Arms Collectors and five Seattle residents in filing a lawsuit challenging a new Seattle parks regulation that bans firearms, arguing that the ban violates Washington State’s long-standing preemption statute. The lawsuit filed in King County Superior Court names the City of Seattle, Mayor Greg Nickels and Timothy Gallagher, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, as defendants. Seattle attorney Steve Fogg with the Seattle law firm of Corr, Cronin, Michelson, Baumgardner & Preece, LLC represents the plaintiffs. “This ban violates Washington State’s 26-year-old model preemption statute,” noted CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb.



In New York State, the Venison Donation Coalition called upon hunters, farmers and citizens generally to help feed the hungry by helping to pay for the processing of venison. The Food Banks of New York offered to assist in funding the processing fees. The Food Banks also pick up the processed venison and distribute

it to soup kitchens and food pantries throughout the Empire State. Since 1999, the Venison Donation Coalition has processed 337.51 tons of highly nutritious venison or the equivalent of 2,700,800 meals served. Interested *Point Blank* readers could call 866-862-DEER for information.



In Grove City, Ohio, police said that a robbery victim acted in self-defense when he shot a man who was trying to rob him late one Monday morning in October behind a Wendy’s restaurant. Investigators told 10TV’s Glenn McEntyre that a man was walking his dog when another man approached him with a gun and demanded his wallet. The victim complied and then pulled out his own gun, shooting the robber, police said. The accused robber ran to a nearby neighborhood where he collapsed. He underwent surgery at Grant Medical Center in Columbus, Ohio, McEntyre reported.



In Washington, D.C., CCRKBA announced its support for H.R. 3749/S. 1770, the proposed Recreational Fishing and Hunting Heritage and Opportunities Act. Proposed in the House by Rep. Dan Boren of Oklahoma and cosponsors and in the Senate by Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and cosponsors, the bill would provide federal land managers with the authority to designate specific areas for recreational shooting.

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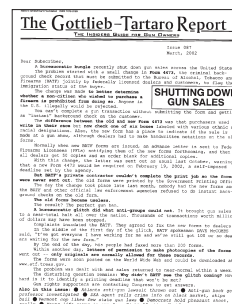
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