

# POINT BLANK

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



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## **TIME FOR HOLDER EXIT, SAYS CCRKBA**

CCRKBA is calling for the resignation of Eric Holder as Attorney General of the United States.

The call came following days of Capitol Hill hearings in which Holder professed little or no knowledge about the controversial Project Gunrunner.

"For the second day in a row, Attorney General Holder has stated on the record that he didn't know about one of the most egregious government scandals in memory," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb. "This country cannot afford the luxury of having its top law enforcement officer confess ignorance of an operation that may have allowed thousands of guns to be exported to Mexico. This operation happened on his watch, and apparently right under his nose, and apparently cost the life of at least one law enforcement officer."

Gottlieb said it was an "outrage" that Holder has been unable to answer critical questions about the bungled operation, conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. ATF whistleblowers have told Sen. Charles Grassley (R-IA) and Congressman Darrell Issa (R-CA) that Project Gunrunner, and its off-shoot, Operation Fast and Furious, apparently funneled nearly 2,000 guns into the illicit gun trafficking pipeline to Mexican drug cartels.

"It is simply unbelievable that the attorney general can act as though he never heard of an operation that has been exposed on national television by CBS News," Gottlieb stated. "How could he not know, almost six months after the slaying of Border Patrol agent Brian Terry, that guns recovered at the scene are linked directly to the Gunrunner sting?"

"Holder is either monumentally stupid or he is telling a monumental lie. Either way, it is obvious that Holder is either hiding something or he is hiding from something. For the attorney general to not know about Gunrunner and its direct link to the Terry slaying is a sign of gross incompetence."

Gottlieb said, "It's time for Eric Holder to go home and write his memoirs."

Actually, CCRKBA opposed Holder's appointment as attorney general and his confirmation from the get-go.

"Obama's selection of Eric Holder as attorney general threatens to place in charge of the U.S. Department of Justice and its administration of federal gun laws the most anti-gun politician in the history of that department," noted CCRKBA on page 1 of the January 2009 of *Point Blank*.

# SECOND AMENDMENT SCHOLARS FORSEE GLOBAL GUN DATABASE

A trio of Second Amendment scholars is charging that the creation of a global firearms database is a goal of promoters of a United Nations Arms Trade Treaty.

They are Paul Gallant, Alan Chwick and Joanne D. Eisen, research fellows at the Independence Institute in Golden, Colorado.

"A legally binding, global Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) is being prepared in the back rooms of the United Nations," they note in the current Blue Press, published by Dillon Precision Products. "One goal of the Treaty's proponents is to create national weapons databases, leading to regional databases, and then to an eventual global database."

John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, commented that, "For some time we have known what gun grabbers are up to. We've been aware that gun grabbers are trying to work through the United Nations to circumvent and undermine Americans' Second Amendment rights. It's important for us to reiterate this to our U.S. Senators."

Gallant, Chwick and Eisen write that, "Countries will be charged with the duty to keep track, not only of all transfers, but also of the locations of all arms and ammunition, from manufacture to destruction. A UN discussion paper states 'the advent of modern information technology...promises to be a boon to the establishment of an effective tracing system in many States.' But it will take a 'global harmonized system of electronic registers' before the firearm-prohibitionists are satisfied."

The three state that under the contemplated UN ATT, "We will need hardware and software that has the

capability to deal with the estimated world stockpile of 875 million firearms. The first task on the path to a global database is the marking of weapons and weapon parts. Most major manufacturers already do so. But many weapons are not marked."

Gallant, Chwick and Eisen charge that, "In the firearm-prohibitionists' zeal to create a peaceful world through total weapons control, they are determined that the 875 million small arms must be marked on at least three – and in many cases – six parts: the frame, barrel, firing pin, ejector, extractor and magazine. And some firearm-prohibitionist groups suggest that the slide should be marked, as well.

"As each weapon – or each part – crosses a national border, an additional marking would need to be added. 'Secondary markings' will add another level of complexity. In Canada, the attempt to institute the UN's proposed import marking scheme 'met with serious setbacks.' Postponed several times since 2004, it is currently scheduled for completion in 2012. If Canada had such difficulties how could a country such as Nigeria accomplish this?"

They note "it becomes even more confusing when parts are replaced or transferred. The paperwork that would be required, should one wish to replace the barrel or a worn-out firing pin, would be costly, time-consuming and error-ridden. Imagine the expense to us of changing a barrel, or replacing a firing pin, should our laws be harmonized with the UN's 'best practices.'"

The Second Amendment scholars write that international gun-prohibitionists would have to develop

interoperability for their gun control system to work. This means that "one database can be merged with another, and yet another and yet still another. While this occurs in simple compatible systems, lack of such a capability is much more common. Technically, a global weapons computer database might be possible, regionally and even globally. But the practical ability to implement such a system lies off the horizon."



## POINT BLANK

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

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# MEXICO TROUBLE USED TO HIT U.S. GUN RIGHTS

"It's become clear to many that gun grabbers are using criminal troubles in Mexico as an excuse to argue for greater restrictions on Americans' gun rights," John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, observed.

"One of the anti-gun charges over the years has been that Mexican drug cartel lords are getting their hands on American firearms through American straw purchasers," he continued. "The Mexican criminals then allegedly use these guns in crimes, including murder.

"A number of reports have disputed the percentages cited as figures indicating the numbers of American guns seized in these gun crimes. Now, however, it's even coming to be known that American law enforcement personnel may have been complicit in the illegal cross-border transfers of firearms. A number of these may have been used in crimes, including murder, including murder of American law enforcement agents."

Snyder said, "The whole thing is one big mess. We hope and believe congressional investigators will get to the bottom of this. This likely will have to involve a full scale investigation of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the agency responsible for this whole rotten scandal. It also will have to include the Department of Justice, of which the Bureau is a part. There should be public hearings as part of the investigation.

"Despite the Gunrunner scandal, though, domestic and international gun grabbers persist in trying to use the criminal troubles in Mexico as a base for attacking American gun rights. What colossal gall these

people have!"

In late April, the American Bar Association Journal reported the Mexican government had hired a New York law firm to explore possible civil suits against gun makers and distributors "over the weapons used by drug cartels."

Meanwhile, CBS identified the firm as Reid Collins & Tsai. It reported the firm was hired last November and is considering a civil RICO suit.

The firm reportedly is a boutique trial firm that handles complex commercial litigation.

Christopher Renzulli, who has represented gun makers, said the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, enacted in 2005, would bar the kind of lawsuit Mexico is considering. Lawyers at Reid Collins & Tsai reportedly disagreed with that assessment.

The National Shooting Sports Foundation felt disappointed that President Felipe Calderon of Mexico "would seek to hold law-abiding American companies responsible for crime in Mexico. This is especially troubling given investigative reports that show more than 80 percent of the firearms recovered in Mexico do not come from the United States. The most recent of reports, from the independent research group STRATFOR, determined that less than 12 percent of the guns Mexico seized in 2008 came from the United States.

"Furthermore, according to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, firearms traced in Mexico were originally sold at retail not recently, but, on average, 14 years earlier. This is completely inconsistent with any notion that a flood of newly purchased firearms

are being illegally smuggled over the border. And let's not forget that no retail firearm sale can be made in the United States until after an FBI criminal background check of the purchaser has been completed."

NSSF noted also that "ATF conducted more than 2,000 inspections of firearms dealers along the border. The result? Not a single dealer was charged with committing any crime and only two (or 0.01%) had their licenses revoked for unknown reasons that could have nothing to do with the cartels illegally obtaining firearms from retailers in the United States."

On the international political front, the Obama administration's Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, met with Patricia Espinosa, the Mexican Secretary of Foreign Relations, in late April. Clinton congratulated Espinosa for the Mexican government's "leadership in the struggle against cartels," according to a report from the Council of the Americas.

CCRKBA sees the attempt to concentrate attention on high-level talks with Mexican officials as a possible attempt to cover up the Gunrunner scandal and to refocus attention against Americans' gun rights.

"If the Obama administration has nothing to hide, the White House would immediately order the Justice Department and ATF to open their files to these investigations," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb.

"Barack Obama told a Univision reporter that neither he, nor Attorney General Eric Holder approved Project Gunrunner," Gottlieb continued, "but that doesn't mean they didn't know about it. His statement amounts to plausible deniability and nothing more."

# CCRKBA DEFENDER SEES FUTURE OBAMA GUN GRAB

Former Ambassador John R. Bolton suggested in a speech at the NRA convention that President Barack Obama is laying the foundation to push a multi-faceted gun control agenda if he is reelected in just about 17 months.

Bolton is a former CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month.

Bolton was U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations and Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security during the Bush Administration. Bolton fought successfully against attempts to circumvent Americans' Second Amendment rights through international agreements.

In his speech Bolton accused the Obama administration of trying to use its own failures in the struggle against Mexican drug cartels as an excuse or pretext for promoting more restrictive gun control on law-abiding American citizens.

"We can understand that, as he (Obama) likes to say, he's playing the long game, and that 'leading from behind' means waiting until he's elected to a second term when he faces no further political constraints and his true agenda can come to the floor," declared Bolton. "And I believe

right at the top of it is (to) increase gun control at the federal level and at the international level."

Bolton discussed the collapse of public order in Mexico. He fears that may spread across our southern border. He referred to estimates of 35,000 to 40,000 drug-related homicides in the last five years in Mexico. He noted how dangerous tourist areas have become. He noted also recent State Department tourist warnings.

"If it weren't for our demand," he opined, "the supply wouldn't be there and the drug cartels wouldn't be there. But the (Obama) administration is as cynical a political move as I think we've seen in Washington in a long time—and that's saying something—is using this crisis in Mexico and the use of drugs in our own country not to combat the illicit narcotics but to use it as a foundation to argue for stricter gun controls at the federal level in our country."

He said that, "When they do talk about what's happening in Mexico, our White House follows the Mexican line by saying that the real problem of drug-related violence in Mexico is caused by guns that have come illegally across the United States-Mexican border."

He said, "This is something that is music to the ears of gun control advocates in this country, because they can say, 'See, actually, it's our lack of gun controls, our lack of enforcement, that's the real cause of the problem. So stiffer gun controls in the United States will solve the problem of drug violence in Mexico and prevent it from coming here.'"

While admitting that some guns used by the Mexico gangs come from the U.S., Bolton said "the bulk of those guns" come from corrupt police and military officials or from the international weapons market.

"The idea that what's going on in Mexico is somehow our fault because of lax gun control laws here is exactly the kind of subterfuge that the Obama administration would like to carry forward in the near future to get stronger gun control laws here," Bolton said. "It will provide a foundation for their argument (on) why the United States will have to enter into, in short order, the United Nations-negotiated small arms treaty."

Bolton said there's a draft circulating of that treaty. He said gun control advocates for years have wanted the U.S. to become party to it.

"This particular draft is a lot less onerous than it could be," Bolton said. "It just raises the question of whether they want to hurry this draft through to completion by the Senate before the next election or whether they're putting it out as a placeholder for negotiations to be concluded after President Obama wins his next term in office because that's what they're looking for."

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## BREAKING NEWS

The new chairwoman of the Democratic National Committee wants more gun control. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz of Florida spoke at a Miami rally sponsored by Mayors Against Illegal Guns. She's proposing that current screening requirements for commercial firearm purchases be extended to private purchases. "It is outrageous that gun buyers evade the background check system every day, even in broad daylight," she said. "While we likely cannot end all gun violence, we certainly can do much, much better... We just need to close the loopholes and improve the information available to law enforcement."

# TOP POLICE FAVOR CCW RECIPROCITY

America's command law enforcement officers favor national CCW reciprocity.

That's the conclusion from an analysis of a 2011 survey of sheriff and police chief opinion conducted by the National Association of Chiefs of Police (NACOP).

NACOP questioned all American command officers via postal survey and received answers from over 12 percent of the recipients.

Seventy-nine percent said general recognition throughout the nation of CCW permits issued by a state, in the way drivers' licenses are recognized throughout the country, would facilitate the violent crime-fighting potential of the professional law enforcement community.

Seventy-four percent said quali-

fied, law-abiding armed citizens can be of assistance to the professional law enforcement community in promoting justice and reducing criminal activity.

A staggering 98 percent said any law-abiding citizen who is not a former felon, or a drug addict or has been adjudicated mentally defective should be able to purchase a firearm for sport or self-defense.

NACOP and the American Federation of Police and Concerned Citizens (AFP&CC) support the American Police Hall of Fame (APHF), located in Titusville, Florida.

Recently, APHF named School Resource Officer Carolyn Gudger of Blountville, Tennessee the Law

Enforcement Officer of the Year.

Last August, Officer Gudger put her own safety in jeopardy to protect the Sullivan Central High School principal and 1,200 students. When an armed suspect threatened lethal violence, Gudger kept her sidearm leveled at the perpetrator until other police officers arrived at the school, relieved Gudger, and shot and killed the perpetrator.

John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, participated in the APHF ceremony honoring Gudger. He serves on the NACOP and AFP&CC boards.

"Gudger's action shows that handguns can be used to protect the innocent," said Snyder. "Guns save lives."

## CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

For the last several months we have focused on activities in Washington, D.C.: the seating of the new, 112th Congress and plans by the Obama administration to use agency regulatory power in place of Congressionally-passed public law.

Most state legislatures are part-time bodies and hold their sessions in the first half of the year. Thirty-six state legislatures have either adjourned for the year, or will end their 2011 sessions this month. Most gun laws in the United States are made and enforced at the state level. June is a good time to reevaluate what has been happening in YOUR state legislature as far as the rights of gun owners are concerned.

Florida has passed a bill putting teeth into state preemption and fining counties or municipalities with regulations more restrictive than state law. Virginia now allows lawful possession of firearms in state forests. Arizona has strengthened its "Castle Doctrine" law. And on the other side, Illinois has once again defeated concealed carry license legislation despite strong support downstate and Montana's Democrat governor vetoed a bill allowing "constitutional carry" (concealed carry by law-abiding citizens without a license to carry) -- but he claims to be pro-gun.

Write, e-mail or call your state legislators, your Senators and Representatives, Delegates or Assembly members and ask them what changes have been made in state firearm regulation. And be sure to confirm WHEN the effective date of the new laws. In most cases there is a lapse of a few months between the time the governor signs a bill until the law takes effect. State legislator contact information may be found in the blue "Government" pages of your telephone directory or at <http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>

# REP. DARRELL ISSA THE CCRKBA GUN DEFENDER

Congressman Darrell Issa of California is the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month for June.

John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, nominated the U.S. Representative from the Golden State's 49<sup>th</sup> Congressional District for the CCRKBA Award. He said that, "Rep. Issa has been a defender of Second Amendment rights since he's been in Congress. Recently, he has taken a firm lead in trying to get to the bottom of the Gunrunner scandal perpetrated by officials of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. He certainly deserves recognition, thanks and this award from CCRKBA."

Congressman Issa is chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and has been trying to obtain ATF documents relevant to the Gunrunner project.

He's been ignored or rebuffed by ATF and Obama administration officials at every turn finally writing, "If you do not comply with the subpoena," Rep. Issa wrote ATF officials, "the Committee will be forced to commence contempt proceedings."

In late March, Chairman Issa issued a subpoena for documents to ATF.

The ATF did not produce the requested documents.

Rep. Issa then criticized ATF Acting Director Kenneth E. Melson for failing to produce the materials.

Congressman Issa said he issued the subpoena after ATF and Department of Justice officials failed to cooperate in good faith with the committee investigation.

ATF is part of the Department of

Justice.

Reports by Gun Rights Examiner and other media personnel have repeatedly raised questions involving gun trafficking into Mexico.

The salient allegation here is that ATF has had a policy of permitting, and even encouraging, the movement of firearms into Mexico by straw purchasers.

"This practice may have contributed to the deaths of hundreds on both sides of the border, including federal law enforcement agents," wrote Jim Kouri of the National Association of Chiefs of Police, a former police chief at a New York City housing project.

The Justice "Department's internal policy to withhold documents from what it labels pending criminal investigations may not deprive Congress from obtaining those same documents if they are pertinent to a congressional investigation – particularly in a matter involving allegations that reckless and inappropriate decisions by top Justice Department officials may have contributed to the deaths of both U.S. and Mexican citizens," wrote Chairman Issa. In his letter, he included references to Supreme Court precedents and previous congressional investigations.

"Let me be clear," emphasized Rep. Issa, "we are not conducting a concurrent investigation with the Department of Justice, but rather an independent investigation of the Department of Justice – specifically, of allegations that the reckless and inappropriate decisions of Department officials have created a serious public safety hazard. We are asking for documents that relate to decisions such officials made. Congress is legally entitled to all of these documents."

Congressman Issa pointed out that the Committee's request for documents has been pending since mid-March. He noted a request from Sen. Chuck Grassley (IA), also a CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month, Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, has been pending since January.

As of this writing, the Department of Justice has not produced any documents. In his letter to Melson, Rep. Issa included several documents obtained elsewhere by the Committee. This evidence indicated the Justice Department knew the public danger created by the operation.

"Efforts by the Department of Justice and ATF to stonewall the Committee in its investigation by erroneously, but matter-of-factly, citing an internal department policy as a preventative measure for denying access to documents have only enhanced suspicions that such officials have played a role in reckless decisions that have put lives at risk," stated Rep. Issa. "The Committee continues to pursue this matter vigorously, in part, because concerned individuals have indicated they do not have confidence in the Department's ability to review the actions of its own top officials."

Although Congressman Issa has become highly noticed as an investigator of ATF most recently, his record in support of Americans' gun rights has a good history. For instance, he voted to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages, injunctive or other relief resulting from the misuse of their products by others.



# QUICK SHOTS

Over the last few months, CCRKBA and the gun rights movement lost two statesmen. They were most stalwart congressional supporters and promoters of Americans' gun rights. Former Sen. James A. McClure of Idaho died in February. Former Rep. Harold A. Volkmer of Missouri died in April. Sen. McClure was a Republican. Rep. Volkmer was a Democrat. The two were indefatigable in sponsoring, promoting and finally seeing through to enactment the Firearm Owners Protection Act in 1986. It is known appropriately as the McClure-Volkmer Act.

Rep. Peter T. King (R-NY) introduced H.R. 1506, the proposed Denying Firearms and Explosives to Dangerous Terrorists Act of 2011. The bill would grant the Attorney General the authority to deny the transfer of firearms or explosives to any individual he has found to be engaged in terrorist activities. It would permit the Attorney General to withhold information in firearms and explosives license denial revocation suits if he determines that the disclosure of such information would likely compromise national security. It also would authorize the Attorney General to revoke firearms and explosives licenses and permits held by individuals determined to be engaged in terrorism. It was referred to the House Judiciary Committee. An attempt to add its main provision as an amendment to another bill was shot down by the Committee last month.

CCRKBA announced its opposition to H.R. 1781, the proposed Fix Gun Checks Act of 2011 introduced by Rep. Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY). It's a companion to S. 436, by Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY), described in detail in Point Blank for April.

In Syracuse, New York, a robber who was shot by a gun owner defending himself and his store with a licensed handgun pleaded guilty to three charges. The robber, Rayshawn Johnson, threatened Los Amigos convenience store employee Ruben Colon with a large knife. Colon pulled his gun out to defend himself. Johnson tried to grab the gun away from Colon. A round was fired into Johnson's side during a struggle over the handgun. Assistant District Attorney Kari Armstrong said Colon did nothing wrong in defending himself against Johnson.

In Washington, D.C., CCRKBA announced its support for S. 570, by Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT). This would prohibit the Department of Justice, including the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, from tracking and cataloguing the purchases of multiple rifles and shotguns. It would prohibit the use of federal funds to require a person licensed to deal in firearms to report information to the Justice Department regarding the sale of multiple rifles or shotguns to the same person.

S. 570 is similar to an amendment proposed in the House by Reps. Denny Rehberg (R-MT) and Dan Boren (D-OK). The amendment was approved by the House. S. 570 was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. It has over 20 cosponsors.

"For every dollar spent on ammunition, pistols, shotguns and rifles, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) pockets between 10 and 11 cents," notes The Washington Times. "According to ATF's books, the gun industry made over one billion dollars in extra revenue thanks to the president's 2009 inauguration – a 45 percent increase. Since then, prices have fallen, so tax receipts are down – but gun sales are not. The FBI keeps track of the number of background checks made when someone buys a gun. Although a check does not correlate directly with a sale – a single check could involve the sale of multiple firearms, for example – the figure is a reliable indicator of trends. Last year's 14.4 million checks represented an all-time high. In fact, the numbers have increased year after year since 2002, and there is no sign of slowing down. Checks are up 11 percent this year."

Over 225 Republicans and Democrats have become cosponsors of H.R. 822, the proposed National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act of 2011. Make sure your Congressman is or becomes a cosponsor.

