POINT BLANK

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



July 2012 Volume XXXVII No. 7

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CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS

(a non-profit corporation)

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CCRKBA SLAMS FAST & FURIOUS, CALLS FOR TRUTH IN NEW AD

The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms has released a powerful video call on American citizens to demand full disclosure on the deadly Operation Fast and Furious.

The 1-minute video message asks viewers to imagine their child grew up to be a Border Patrol agent who was gunned down in the line of duty, and then imagine learning that the federal government had supplied the guns to Mexican drug cartel killers. Then comes an image of Attorney General Eric Holder, being sworn in to testify before Congress, with the caption "I knew nothing."



CCRKBA released the video just hours after Congressman Darrell Issa, chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, announced that the committee would vote on whether to hold Holder in contempt.

Holderhasbeen reluctant to provide tens of thousands of documents relating to the investigation of

Operation Fast and Furious, even after they were subpoenaed last October. "What's happened with Operation Fast and Furious is a travesty," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb. "I wanted our message to be powerful, so that viewers understand who is claiming ignorance on this, and why the investigation has been dragging on so long.

"I'm delighted that Chairman Issa brought the contempt citation up for a vote," he continued, "but I want the public to hold Congress' feet to the fire. We deserve to know who is responsible for Fast and Furious, and they deserve to be held accountable.

"Eric Holder needs to come clean and provide every bit of evidence to the Oversight Committee," Gottlieb stated. "The notion that he can continue stonewalling Congress on this scandal, perhaps hoping it will fade from public attention after the election must be stopped.

"People have been killed because of this inept operation," he concluded. "Border Patrol agent Brian Terry's family deserves answers, and we need to make some examples so that this kind of thing never happens again. Our promotional video will keep this issue in the public eye until we get to the bottom of this case."

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OBAMA ADMINISTRATION TRYING TO HIDE BLOOD ON ITS HANDS

President Obama's claim of executive privilege to prevent Congressional access to documents relating to Operation Fast and Furious smacks of monumental hypocrisy and looks like an attempt to cover blood on the administration's hands, the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms said.

It did not prevent the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform from voting 23-17 to hold Attorney General Eric Holder in contempt of Congress. Nor did it stop the entire House of Representatives from voting to place Eric Holder in contempt of Congress by a 255 to 67 vote margin.

"In a March 2007 interview with Larry King on CNN, then-Senator Barack Obama complained about a 'tendency' on the part of the Bush administration to 'hide behind executive privilege'," CCRKBA Chairman

Alan Gottlieb recalled. "Now we must find out what is in those documents that the White House wants to hide from the American public."

The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform has been investigating Fast and Furious since March 2011. Guns linked to the operation are also linked to the murder of Border Patrol agent Brian Terry, and untold numbers of Mexican citizens.

"The action by the White House creates the strong suspicion that the Obama administration is trying to hide from the fact that they have blood on their hands," Gottlieb observed. "That's not rhetoric; we're talking about the deaths of countless Mexican citizens and especially a dead federal officer. Fast and Furious has given us a verifiable body count.

"There is evidence that those involved in Fast and Furious thought it could bolster calls for additional gun control," Gottlieb said. "If that's accurate, it demonstrates a callousness that goes beyond the limits of human decency. It is imperative that the American public knows all the facts of this case prior to the election. The people responsible for this disaster must be held accountable, and that will not happen so long as the administration continues to stonewall, and hiding behind executive privilege suggests that Holder and the president have no intention of coming clean."



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

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CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

It seems you hear this same line every election cycle: the next election is critical, the future of gun ownership depends on your participation in the political process, most critically by voting. But that statement has never been more true than it is in 2012.

Last month we urged you to check and ensure your voter registration information is correct and up to date. There is still time to do that. Visit your Secretary of State's web site, or call your local county elections office (sometimes in the auditor's office) to determine if changes are necessary and how to accomplish this.

There is one more giant step you can take in helping pro-gun, profreedom candidates get elected this November. Volunteer to assist one or more candidates in their election campaign. Walking neighborhoods doorbelling, stuffing envelopes, staffing telephone banks... All of these rely on volunteer work.

And when you visit your favorite candidates' offices to perform that volunteer work, wear an item of clothing -- a cap or t-shirt -- or pin your gun organization or club membership badge to your shirt to show that gun owners support that candidate. That gets OUR message out at the same time it gets the candidate's message out.

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CONTEMPT VOTE AGAINST HOLDER NECESSARY FOR JUSTICE

The historic 255-67 vote by the House of Representatives to hold Attorney General Eric Holder in contempt of Congress for refusing to provide documents relating to the investigation of Operation Fast and Furious was "necessary for justice to be served," the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms said.

Holder repeatedly did not comply with a subpoena issued last October by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Instead, he successfully appealed to President Barack Obama to claim executive privilege at the last minute in an attempt to shield the documents from Congressional review.

"As the highest ranking law enforcement officer in the nation, the attorney general is not above the law," CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb declared. "It should not have come to this. Eric Holder should have complied with the subpoena. If he had cooperated fully with the Fast and Furious investigation from the outset, none of this would have been necessary and he knows it.

"The only conceivable reason that Holder and the Obama administration do not want to turn these documents over," he said, "is that they contain damning evidence of either incompetence or complicity, or both.

"We are disappointed, but not surprised," Gottlieb continued, "that Holder's Democrat cheerleaders tried to portray this as a witch hunt, and tried to blame the Bush

administration, but their arguments do not wash. This is about the rule of law and finding the truth about a horribly mismanaged gun trafficking operation, the murder of an American Border Patrol agent and what appears to have been a cover-up by the Department of Justice."

"The only conceivable reason that to contact their congressional representation do not want to turn these centarives in support of the contempt vote.

"We are proud," Gottlieb noted, "of the 17 Democrats who joined the Republican majority on this vote. This was not about partisanship, but accountability and transparency. Fast and Furious has a body count, and so long as people provide cover to the attorney general, the blood is on their hands."

POLL SENDS CLEAR MESSAGE THAT HOLDER SHOULD GO

A Rasmussen poll showing only 27 percent support for Attorney General Eric Holder keeping his job, while 73 percent are either in favor of his resignation or undecided, is a clear message that Holder should step down, the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms said.

There is one important caveat, noted CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb. Before Holder leaves, he needs to surrender all documents relating to the Fast and Furious scandal to Congressman Darrell Issa and the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

"If Eric Holder steps down, that doesn't mean he gets to walk away

from this fiasco," Gottlieb observed.
"He doesn't get to go home and write his memoirs, and he doesn't get to just put all of this in his rear view mirror. He needs to comply fully with the subpoena, even if it means trouble for his subordinates, or his boss' re-election campaign.

"The American public deserves answers," he added, "and particularly, the family of slain Border Patrol agent Brian Terry deserves those answers. We cannot get those answers until the documents are turned over."

The survey was conducted on June 13 and 14 and released on June 15. It has a +/- 3 percentage point sampling error. It came as Holder

was trying to head off an Oversight Committee vote on whether to hold him in contempt of Congress for withholding thousands of subpoenaed documents relating to the Fast and Furious investigation. The Rasmussen survey revealed that 40 percent of those contacted are in favor of Holder stepping down. Another 33 percent are undecided, but that leaves barely a quarter of the public in favor of holder's continued service as attorney general.

"Holder needs to go," Gottlieb said, "but not before Congress and the American people are allowed to learn the truth about this disturbing operation."

LEGISLATIVE ROUND

State Legislatures: The legislatures of several states have adjourned with no pro-gun or anti-gun measures enacted. Those states are: Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Connecticut, Iowa, Maryland, New Hampshire, South Dakota, Tennessee and Wyoming. Many others have also adjourned but action was taken as noted below for each state.

Arizona: Gov. Brewer signed HB-2728, a bill allowing hunters to lawfully use suppressors on firearms for hunting, SB-1241, a bill to stop the destruction of confiscated firearms, and HB-2457, allowing hunters to carry a handgun while hunting. Brewer vetoed HB-2729, allowing concealed weapons in public buildings.

California: Senate Resolution 10 supporting a re-enactment of the 1994 Federal "Assault" Weapons bill that expired in 2004 encourages the federal government to target "corrupt" gun dealers and requesting Congress to pass legislation to stem firearms being transferred to Mexico and SB-1315, a bill allowing cities within Los Angeles County and the County to ban certain toy guns, may be heard in the Assembly Committee on Public Safety.

In the Senate Committee on Public Safety four Assembly passed bills may be heard: AB-1527, banning the open display of long guns in public; AB-2182, banning anyone from entering an airport if they had inadvertently brought a firearm into the airport as well as arresting the person with the firearm; AB-2333, a bill to impose severe penalties on those who "allow" minors to use BB guns; AB-2460, banning law enforcement officers from transferring handguns that are not on the California Approved Handgun Roster.

The Assembly Committee on Public Safety passed AB-2549, only allowing a law enforcement officer when they leave their agency to retain one of his/her firearms, while confiscating all other firearms, by a vote of 4-2. AB-2549 could be brought up in the Assembly at any time.

On May 14 the California Senate passed SB-1366, requiring victims of gun thefts to report lost or stolen firearms within 24 hours of knowing the gun was missing or face a fine or jail time.

Delaware: SB-204, a bill to renew last year's state funded gun "buyback" program, was defeated in the Delaware Senate on June 13, 2012.

Florida: Gov. Rick Scott has signed HB-463 allowing members and veterans of the US military to get a concealed carry or firearm license regardless of age or US residency, HB-5601, reducing the fees for concealed weapons permits and HB-313, allowing hunting on private land.

Georgia: Gov. Nathan Deal has signed SB-350, requiring all law enforcement to return seized firearms, or if the owner cannot be located, to sell them at public auction.

Hawaii: HB-679, a bill to limit liability for firearms instructors, has passed the House and the Senate but with differing amendments. A Conference Committee reported the amended version, and sent the measure to Gov. Neil Abercrombie.

Illinois: SB-681 has passed the state Senate and House, allowing an Illinois resident to buy ammunition through the mail from an in-state federal firearm licensed retailer or seller of ammunition. It awaits action by Gov. Pat Quinn.

SB-1034 that was originally an antidrug bill has now morphed into an anti-gun bill as well. The Obama ad-

ministration under the guise that Illinois law needs to be changed to comply with the National Instant Criminal Background Check (NICS) includes many anti-gun provisions. This bill appears to have momentum and be on a fast track towards passage.

HB-5831, would require a \$65 registration fee for each handgun with a \$25 renewal fee every five years. Emanuel has been twisting arms to pass HB-5831 as well as HB-5167 that would implement a 2% tax on ammunition purchases.

On Feb. 22, the House Executive Committee gave both bills a "do pass" recommendation by a 7-4 vote. The committee changed the registration fee to \$25 per handgun and \$20 for renewals.

The Illinois House Rules Committee took up and passed three anti-gun bills introduced by Rep. Edward Acevedo (D-2). The bills include HB-1294, banning many semi-automatic firearms including .50 caliber rifles and ammunition; HB-1599, that classifies many semi-automatic firearms as "semi-automatic assault weapons" and classifies any ammunition of ".50 caliber or higher" and "high capacity ammunition" and creates enhanced felony penalties for possession of these firearms or ammunition; and finally HB-1855, that will make victims of firearms' theft criminals if they fail to report the theft "within 72 hours after obtaining knowledge of the theft." Several more anti-gun bills have been introduced in the House: HB-3809, makes it a crime to transfer a gun to someone known to be a "street gang member"; HB-4149, requiring all private sales of handguns to go through an FFL dealer;

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UP STATE BY STATE

and HB-4457 increases penalties for those carrying firearms without a FOID card.

SB-3218, a companion bill to HB-3809, was heard in the Criminal Law Committee but was not approved. SB-3320, repealing the Illinois Firearms Owner's Identification Act, was introduced. The bill's sponsor, Sen. Sam McCann (R), stated that the current law "just punishes the law-abiding public."

HB-148, a Right-to-Carry bill, is on the House calendar for consideration, but was postponed. Three more progun bills are progressing through the Legislature. HB-4901, allowing an Illinois resident with a federal Curios and Relics license to own a rifle with a barrel under 16 inches, passed the House 96-7. The companion bill, SB-2539, passed the Senate on a 50-0 vote. SB-3533, amends the Wildlife Code to expand the definition of carrying "case" to include shipping boxes, firearms carrying box and other containers, passed the Senate 54-0. It is currently before the House Rules Committee

Kentucky: . Gov. Steve Beshear signed HB-484, strengthening Kentucky's concealed carry law; HB-500, reforming the state's preemption law; and HB-563, adding a "fraudulent firearm" definition to the firearms code.

Louisiana: SB-303, a Constitutional Amendment that would provide the strongest and most comprehensive state constitutional language of any state, has passed and been signed by Gov. Bobby Jindal. It will be on the ballot November 2012 ballot.

Maine: LD-1603, to allow persons with concealed carry permits to keep firearms in their vehicles while parked in public parking lots, and LD-1859, emergency powers legisla-

tion, have passed ad been signed by Gov. Paul LePage.

Massachusetts: A"Castle Doctrine" bill, SB-661, was introduced and a hearing was held, but the Joint Committee has yet to act on the legislation and the reporting date was extended. Michigan: The Senate passed SB-525, to ensure that Michigan right-tocarry permits do not expire before the county permitting board meets to authorize the renewal, and the measure was signed by Gov. Rick Snyder. SB-984, a bill to allow the purchase of long-guns from any state, has been referred to the Senate Committee on Outdoor Recreation and Tourism. HB-5225, a bill to eliminate Michigan's redundant state handgun "permit-to-purchase" law including the handgun registration requirement, and two companion bills, HB-5498 and HB-5499 also passed the House Judiciary Committee.

Minnesota: Gov. Mark Dayton has vetoed HF-1467, an omnibus bill that included "Castle Doctrine" language, recognition of Right-to-Carry permits from other states, and "Emergency Powers" language.

Mississippi: Gov. Phil Bryant signed, HB-695 and HB-455. HB 695, automatically recognizing valid out-of-state Right-to-Carry Permits, while HB-455, removes the state record keeping requirements that duplicate federal records. Bryant also signed HB-353, making it a crime to knowingly deceive an FFL by initiating a "straw sale."

Missouri: The following bills were passed and sent to Gov. Jay Nixon's office: HB-1647, lowering the age requirement from 21 down to 18 for active duty personnel to apply for a Right-to-Carry permit. Nixon had 45 days from June 8 to sign these bills. Nebraska: Gov. Dave Heineman

signed LB-807, a concealed handgun reform bill, into law, and LB-804, a bill to provide persons who use a gun in self-defense with civil immunity, if the person has been cleared of wrong doing through an investigation.

New Jersey: AB-1013 was passed by the Committee and referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. This bill criminalizes the use of a "defaced" firearm if it is used while injuring or killing a police officer. AB 588, a ban on armor piercing ammunition, which is so broad that it would cover almost all ammunition including BBs and airsoft pellets, did not pass the in committee but was held for further study.

AB-1216, legislation that increases the penalty for firearms possession on an educational institution from a second-degree crime to a third degree crime, passed the Law and Public Safety Committee on June 8.

New Mexico: SB-26, repealing New Mexico's law limiting the purchase of long guns to contiguous states, passed and was signed by Gov. Susana Martina.

New York: On June 19 microstamping legislation, AB-1157B, was passed by the Assembly on a vote 85-60. Additionally, the state's 10-year old CoBIS recording system for handgun cartridge samples was terminated in the budget that was enacted and signed into law by Gov. Mario Cuomo (D).

North Carolina: HB-111 would allow Concealed Handgun Permit holders to carry into restaurants that serve alcohol. It passed the House of Representatives and the Senate Judiciary Committee and is currently being considered by the Senate Finance Committee.: HB-843, "To modernize the North Carolina Emergency Management

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STATE ROUNDUP CONTINUED

Act," included language prohibiting the state from "restricting lawfully owned firearms," passed and was signed by Gov. Bev Perdue.

Oklahoma: HB-2322, allowing the open carrying of firearms on private property, passed and was signed by Gov. Mary Fallin . Fallin also signed SB-1760, an emergency powers bill. She has also signed SB-1733, improvements to OK's firearms' law, and SB-1743, allowing the use of suppressors while hunting.

Ohio: HB-495, a bill to reform Ohio gun laws, was passed by the House on a 59-28 vote. This bill would: establish automatic reciprocity with states that also have automatic reciprocity; eliminates the current requirement for a shooting test for renewal applications; change the definition of a loaded firearm in a vehicle, and simplify the definition of "concealed handgun license" so that it applies in each section of the Ohio code.

Oregon: On April 11, Gov. John Kitzhaber signed HB-4045, a bill that "authorized a person applying for concealed handgun license to limit the ability of a public body to disclose records or information that identifies a person as applicant for, or holder of, concealed handgun license."

Pennsylvania: HB-1523 is a bill to strengthen the pre-emption law by allowing citizens to sue municipalities that flaunt Pennsylvania's preemption law when they pass more stringent ordinances. HB-1668 is a reform to the firearms' transfer laws to make them easier to understand. HB-1523 was considered by the House Judiciary Committee on Feb. 6 and passed 19-4. In March the bill was removed from the active calendar. Mayor Michael Nutter of

Philadelphia and Mayors Against Illegal Guns are actively campaigning to kill the bill. SB-1438, strengthening Pennsylvania's preemption law and allowing firearms storage in locked motor vehicles on publicly accessible parking lots, was introduced and SB-273, Castle Doctrine legislation, passed the Senate on a vote of 43-4. This bill is being considered in the House of Representatives. On June 5 it passed the House Judiciary Committee unanimously after a firearms preemption amendment was added by a 22-3 vote. As of the week of June 11 over 30 amendments have been filed in an effort to kill or at least water down the bill, thus delaying consideration on the House floor.

Rhode Island: HB-7605 and HB-7881, bills that change the firearms law regarding intent for juveniles caught with a gun, are scheduled for hearings in the House of Representatives. Current law requires that a juvenile with a gun must use the firearm, rather than only possess it. In the Senate Judiciary Committee SB-2573, overturning firearms pre-emption law, and SB-2582, the Senate versions of HB-7605 and HB-7881, have been held for further study.

South Carolina: HB-3665 that would end the duplicative state licensing of FFLs, and HB-4494 that would put South Carolina in compliance with federal statutes on buying long guns out-of-state, were passed by the House and sent to the Senate. During House debate HB-3665, was amended to keep the state licensing of FFLs and to allow Right-to-Carry permit holders to carry in restaurants that serve liquor provided they do not drink alcohol. In May the Senate Judiciary Committee reported it favorably.

Utah: Gov. Gary Herbert signed HB-129, the right to defend one's person

and property; HB-117, allowing a person with a right-to-carry permit to carry a handgun while hunting; and HB-395, stopping the practice of taking away firearms rights from persons who have been accused of a crime but have not been adjudicated.

Virginia: The following bills have been signed by Gov. Bob McDonnell: HB-940 that repealed Virginia's onegun-a-month law; HB-20, adding lawful carrying and transport of firearms in an emergency to Virginia's Emergency Powers Law; HB-754, a bill to deny localities the ability to require fingerprints on right-tocarry applications; HB-22, to make it more difficult to hold gun buybacks; HB-26, regarding failure to present a permit to a law enforcement officer; HB-237 that transfers the background check from the Virginia State Police to NICS, and HB-375, prohibiting localities from enacting laws to prevent an employee from storing a firearm in a locked vehicle.

Washington: The legislature's regular session has adjourned for 2012. All bills that were introduced during the session have died with adjournment with the exception of SB-6628, mandating mandatory storage requirements for gunowners.

West Virginia: The legislature has adjourned for 2012. Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin has signed three pro-gun bills: SB-149, requiring firearms that are taken by law enforcement to be returned to their lawful owners or sold at auction with the proceeds to go to the government (currently all seized firearms are destroyed); SB-353, allowing Right-to-Carry permit holders to be exempt from the National Instant Check System (NICS); and SB-478, creating an apprentice hunting license for hunters of any age.

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A young burglar in the Phoenix, AZ, area recently found out the hard way he had picked the wrong house to try to pull his dirty deed.

According to PhoenixNewTimes. com, the 17-year old suspect found himself in the hospital in critical condition after having been shot by the homeowner, who also happened to be a cop in the Phoenix suburb of Tolleson. The website reported the homeowner was home when he heard noises and went to investigate. Upon doing this, the homeowner confronted the young intruder, who himself was in possession of a rock. Police told the NewTimes. com the homeowner ordered the kid to drop the rock, but the kid refused, instead allegedly making a menacing gesture with the rock.



According to the Westerly Sun, firefighters in the town of Charlestown, Rhode Island responded recently to a fire alarm at the local police station. Turns out that alarm, according to the paper, was the result of equipment which cleaned the department's service weapons having overheated.

The fire chief told the paper the equipment contained some cleaning solution and apparently had been left on for an extended period.



According to figures from the state of Minnesota's Department of Public Safety which were released by the Minnesota Association of

Defensive Firearm Instructors and available on their website, the state for the first time in its history cleared the 100,000 mark in permits issued. The state reports as of May 31, nearly 101,400 people have obtained concealed carry licenses in the state, up over 2,000 from the last reported numbers at the end of April.



Louisiana voters will have a chance to vote on a major gun rights constitutional amendment this fall. SB 302, which would make the right to keep and bear arms a part of the Louisiana state constitution and subject gun laws to a standard known as strict scrutiny, recently passed the state Senate and is headed to the November ballot.

KATC-TV reported the bill will be a part of a package of legislation sent to voters by Gov. Bobby Jindal, who expressed support for the measure.



Open-carry advocates in Michigan are rallying to the defense of a young man who is in trouble for openly carrying his rifle on the streets of one suburban Detroit community.

Gun rights supporters jammed a recent city commission meeting in the town of Birmingham, northwest of the Motor City, and the *Detroit News* reported that many of them were themselves openly carrying their weapons.

The case in question, according to the News, is of a local high school student who was charged with three misdemeanor offenses after being arrested by police on a city street while out walking with his firearm in possession.



Police officers in Chattanooga, TN, are looking for a new place to practice their shooting skills.

According to the *Chattanooga Times-Free Press*, a couple of sites are being looked at for the new range facility, designed to replace an outdoor range at a nearby national park. The facility, said the paper, is expected to cost a couple million dollars and include over two dozen lanes for officers to shoot in.

The Times Free Press reported the range is expected to be used by both city and county police officers.



A Massachusetts police department is at the center of controversy after an internal investigation found that a former department official issued state gun permits to applicants who were not supposed to obtain them.

The Sun-Chronicle newspaper of Attleboro reported the former sergeant had signed off on giving at least a dozen of these questionable permits out; the paper indicated that the applicants were not allowed access to the licenses for various reasons.

The paper reported the officer in question had retired prior to the end of the investigation, so no action was taken against him.



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The full roster of GRPC 2012 speakers has not yet been set. Past speakers have included: Alan Gottlieb, Joseph Tartaro, Eugene Volokh, Wayne LaPierre, Michael Reagan, Larry Elder, Cong. Joe Walsh, John Lott, Sandy Froman, Massad Ayoob, Tom Gresham, Alan Gura, Bob Barr, G. Gordon Liddy, Larry Pratt and many others. Check our web sites - www.saf.org or www.ccrkba.org for updates.

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