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Citizens Association for Responsible Gun Ownership = CARGO

www.cargogunclub.org

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Hello Fellow CARGO Members,

The next meeting will be held at Napoli's on **Thursday, February 18th**.

We will meet at Napoli's in Wylie.

Napoli's
701 N Highway 78 # A
Wylie, TX 75098

For the dinner portion of the meeting, we will be in the meeting room between 5:45 and 7:00 for food and fellowship. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM and run until about 9:00.

Under the new Texas Open Carry Law, you could be committing an offence if you remove your pistol from its holster while open carrying. While at Napoli's DO NOT remove your pistol from its holster unless it is an emergency.

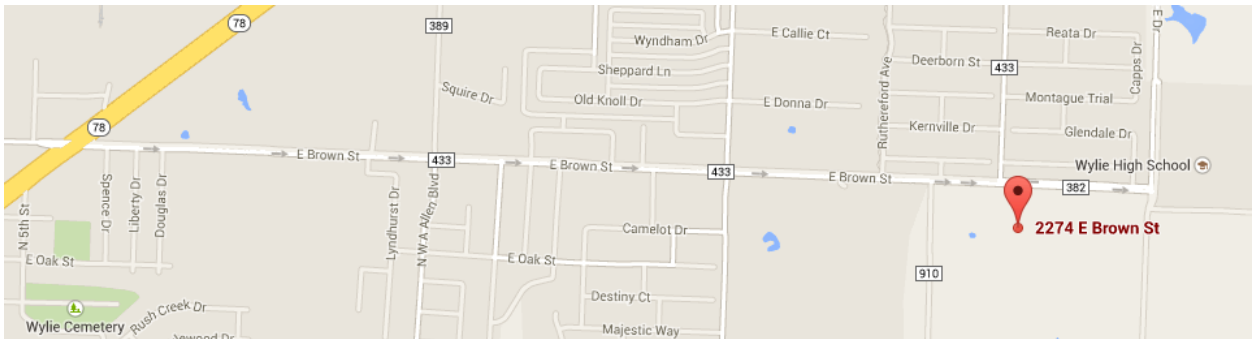
Member Don Bridges has volunteered his shop for the meeting. There are a very limited number of chairs at the shop, so please bring a camp chair for the meeting. We will meet there from 7:00 (ish) until 9:00 (ish)

The address is:

2274 EAST Brown Street in Wylie

While heading east on Brown Street, it is 1/2 mile past stop sign that's at the intersection of Brown Street and Kreymer Lane on the right hand side.

The shop is behind a small white house with a picket fence around the front yard.



Meeting gun topics:

- Remember when you could go into any hardware store, Wal-Mart or sporting goods store and simply ignore the piles of .22 Long Rifle ammo sitting on the shelf? Those days are long gone but part of the reason is the staggering number of choices in .22LR firearms available today. Dig in through your collection and bring any .22 that you have to share with the club.
- Do you have a single action anything? A Single Action Army, 1911 or external hammered 12 gauge coach gun? Bring any single action anything to share with the club.
-

Additional discussion topics / guests:

- Brian Hutcheson is running for Justice of the Peace for JP District 2. He has asked to speak with the club.
- Member Keith Stephens has been in contact with Wylie Police Department and if the Chief of Police is available he has asked for time to speak with the club.
- With the primary season coming up quickly, if you know any candidates that would like to talk to the club, please have their offices contact us at CARGO@att.net
- This is an excellent 30.06 / 30.07 resource: <https://www.texas3006.com/map.php>

If you have any suggestions for future speakers or topics please send your feedback to CARGO@att.net.

When was the last time you visited our web site? Please take some time to go to the CARGO website at www.cargogunclub.org

<http://cfif.org/v/index.php/commentary/54-state-of-affairs/2929-obamas-lawlessness-fuels-civil-disobedience-and-record-government-distrust>

[Obama's Lawlessness Fuels Civil Disobedience and Record Government Distrust](#) PRINT

By [Timothy H. Lee](#)

Thursday, January 14 2016

If Barack Obama refuses to follow the rule of law, how can he expect others to do so?

That's a disturbing but perfectly legitimate question to raise as each day witnesses another scheme by the Obama Administration to circumvent established laws and constitutional mandates, and as an increasing sense of lawless chaos prevails both domestically and abroad.

Just how bad has the situation become? Two new Gallup surveys cast a worrisome scene.

When asked to name the nation's greatest threat as we enter the 2016 presidential election year, Americans by a record margin overwhelmingly say "big government." Particularly notable is the fact that the percentage of respondents holding that position has skyrocketed from 53% when Barack Obama entered office to 69% today. Thus, the man who so desperately endeavored to reverse Ronald Reagan's legacy by convincing Americans to welcome governmental power over our lives has ironically accomplished the direct opposite effect through his actions.

In a related but separate new survey, Gallup also finds that a record 75% of Americans believe that corruption is "widespread" in the U.S. government:

"A staggering 75% of the American public believes corruption is 'widespread' in the U.S. government. Not incompetence, but corruption. This alarming figure has held steady since 2010, up from 66% in 2009... Protests are growing in cities and campuses all around the country. Students and citizens have generally lost faith in their national institutions - the biggest and most powerful of which is, of course, the federal government. The last presidential election had an estimated 5 million fewer voters than turned out in 2008, and the 2014 midterm elections saw the lowest turnout in 72 years (36.3%). At alarming levels, citizens - when invited to participate directly in their own democracy - are taking a pass and staying home. Or taking their frustrations to the streets.

"The perception that there's widespread corruption in the national

government could be a symptom of citizen disengagement and anger. Or it could be a cause - we don't know. But it's very possible this is a big, dark cloud that hangs over this country's progress."

One needn't search far for the proximate cause of that alarming record level of public distrust and hostility.

When Obama entered office, he possessed an overwhelming majority in the House of Representatives, and a filibuster-proof Senate majority. Accordingly, he could have introduced any among his litany of extremist proposals on whatever issues he wanted - climate change, labor unions, gun control, immigration, closing of Guantanamo, treaties with Iran or anything else.

But he didn't.

Only when his own actions created a backlash and caused Americans to elect Republican House and Senate majorities not seen since the 1920s did Obama miraculously find it appropriate to begin imposing his agenda by extra-constitutional means.

Obama's behavior toward Iran provides a perfect and particularly dishonorable recent example, when he sculpted his capitulation in the form of an executive agreement because it became clear that he could not muster anything close to a two-thirds Senate majority to ratify a treaty as the Constitution requires. In order to scrape together the bare minimum 40 Senators of his own party to avoid a filibuster, he pledged to reimpose sanctions should Iran violate the terms of the agreement he so desperately sought. Then, just days ago, we learned that Iran had indeed violated the agreement by testing missiles capable of delivering nuclear payloads. The Obama Administration promptly promised to bring sanctions. But then literally minutes later, it cavalierly reversed course, saying that it preferred to address the situation in its own confidential, diplomatic manner.

With this week's detention of American sailors, we've witnessed another humiliating illustration of how badly Obama's lawless behavior has backfired to our peril.

Meanwhile, we have learned that the Obama Administration spied on our close ally Israel, as well as members of Congress, a coequal branch of government, to advance its diplomatic opening to Iran.

Obama has infamously behaved just as lawlessly in other areas, such as unilaterally declaring the Senate to be in "recess" when only it has the power to do so, the swap of hardened terrorists for deserter Bowe Bergdahl in violation of his explicit duty to inform Congress beforehand, arbitrarily suspending and imposing ObamaCare regulations for political purposes, job-killing and punitive

environmental regulations, IRS persecution of conservative organizations and now a commitment to impose gun regulations that he could have introduced into Congress back when he possessed overwhelming Democratic majorities.

Throughout his presidency, Obama has simply chosen to disregard constitutional and political constraints in order to impose his agenda. It can therefore come as no surprise that increasing instances of reciprocal lawlessness and disrespect for his own authority pop up everywhere from domestically to the Middle East to Ukraine to the South China Sea. He cannot expect others to demonstrate a respect that he himself does not show.

This nation was founded by men far wiser than Obama in the philosophy of individual freedom, not government fiat. Candidates hoping to enter the White House in one year would do well to understand that reality, and Americans increasingly disgusted and alarmed by government overreach would do well to translate their sentiments into electoral action.

https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/west-virginia-house-approves-constitutional-carry-bill/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20160212_FridayDigest_16&utm_campaign=/blog/west-virginia-house-approves-constitutional-carry-bill/

West Virginia House Approves Constitutional Carry Bill

by S.H. BLANNELBERRY on FEBRUARY 10, 2016

Related Tags: [Buzz](#), [R2KBA](#)

Not deterred by the Constitutional carry bill that was [vetoed last year by Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin](#), the West Virginia House of Delegates overwhelmingly approved a new piece of legislation that would bring permitless carry to the Mountain State for those over 21-years-of-age and allow residents between the ages of 18 and 21 to apply for a concealed carry permit.

The chief sponsor of this year's Constitutional carry bill was 19-year-old Delegate Saira Blair, who cited concerns about her safety as someone who cannot currently carry under state law.

In a moving speech before the Legislature, Blair, a Republican, explained why she felt it was time for a change.

"I'm the only person standing in this chamber in the 18 to 21 year old age period. I can currently not get a permit to carry, and I'll tell you right now, I am scared," she said, as quoted by [West Virginia Public Broadcasting](#).

"I've received multiple death threats in the past year," Blair continued. "I am scared. I'm not going to stop what I do on a daily basis; I'm not going to stop going to the mall, I'm not going to stop going to the movies, and I'm not going to stop going to church because of it, but I would feel safer as a law abiding citizen if I knew that I was able to protect myself."

Ultimately, the House passed the bill with a 68-31 vote, with an added amendment that gives one a tax credit for any permit costs. It seems like a no-brainer, especially because residents over the age of 21 can openly carry without a permit under state law. If it's lawful for one to carry openly without a permit, why should it be illegal for one to carry concealed without a permit?

Gov. Tomblin got word of the bill and on Monday, via Twitter, he said, "I will veto any concealed carry bill that does not take into consideration the concerns of law enforcement for the safety of our officers."

However, the Democratic governor is on his way out. Tomblin cannot run for re-election in the fall because of term limits.

The bill now heads to the state Senate, where it will be reviewed by the Judiciary Committee.

From the perspective of gun rights advocates, the first hurdle was ensuring that all 50 states and the District of Columbia have some form of permit issuance system. In short, that any state ban on concealed carry was overturned. Now that that's been accomplished, the next frontier appears to be enacting Constitutional carry.

On this front, there has been some steady progress. Currently, Alaska, Arizona, Kansas, Maine, Montana, Wyoming and Vermont all have versions of permitless carry on the books, with Kansas being the most recent after enacting a Constitutional carry bill last year.

The Utah Legislature is now reviewing a permitless carry bill and one just got shot down in Virginia earlier this month.

While Constitutional carry is not yet the new normal, it's gaining momentum. After all, it's hard to argue with the facts. That is when cries of "blood in the streets" turn out to be overblown after the passage of such laws, anti-gunners have zero credible ground to stand on to justify their opposition.

<http://bearingarms.com/ruling-marylands-assault-weapons-case-gut-gun-control-nationwide/>

Ruling In Maryland's "Assault Weapons" Case Could Gut Gun Control Nationwide

Posted by [Bob Owens](#) on February 4, 2016 at 4:12 pm

In what has to be viewed as a major victory for gun owners, the United States Court of Appeals for 4th Circuit ruled that lower court judge in *Kolbe V. Maryland* must apply the standard of strict scrutiny in reviewing the case about Maryland's "assault weapon" ban, duplicitously called the Firearms Safety Act (FSA).

Laws banning "assault weapons" in Maryland and in other states with "anti-gun" legislatures have typically been upheld when lower court judges—almost universally gun-hating activist liberals—have cheated We, The People by applying the much lower standard of intermediate scrutiny.

I think my friend Andrew Branca explains it [much better than I could](#).

In 2013, Maryland enacted its Firearms Safety Act (FSA). With its passage, effectively banning its residents from owning any of the large majority of semi-automatic rifles owned by American citizens (exceptions were made for retired law enforcement officers). The FSA also imposed other restrictions, such as banning certain standard-capacity magazines.

Such laws are common in blue states, of course, and when challenged in the Federal courts on the grounds that they violate the Second Amendment they are typically subject only to intermediate (or lesser) scrutiny. Generally speaking, if the State can articulate virtually any purportedly reasonable basis for the gun law, it survives scrutiny. Merely uttering the words "public safety" is usually sufficient for this purpose.

Of course, normally laws that arguably infringe an enumerated Constitutional rights are not subject to mere intermediate scrutiny, but rather they are subject to strict scrutiny. To survive strict scrutiny the law must advance not merely any governmental interest, but in particular a compelling governmental interest. It is perhaps arguable that "public safety" would serve to meet this requirement. In addition, however, the law must also be narrowly tailored to actually achieve that interest. It is this second requirement that almost invariably leads to the law in question being found to be unconstitutional.

In a nutshell, then, if intermediate scrutiny is applied to almost any law, the law survives. If strict scrutiny is applied to almost any law, the law falls.

Chris W. Cox, the executive director of the National Rifle Association's Institute for Legislative Action, seems thrilled with the result.

“The Fourth Circuit’s ruling is an important victory for the Second Amendment. Maryland’s ban on commonly owned firearms and magazines clearly violates our fundamental, individual right to keep and bear arms for self-defense. The highest level of judicial scrutiny should apply when governments try to restrict our Second Amendment freedoms.”

The National Shooting Sports Foundation one of the plaintiffs in the case, was similarly pleased.

“We are greatly heartened by the Fourth Circuit panel’s ruling today,” said Lawrence G. Keane, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), one of the lead plaintiffs in this case. “As this important case goes forward, NSSF will continue to work with our co-plaintiffs to ensure that our citizens’ Second Amendment rights are protected and that the lawful commerce in firearms is restored in support of this constitutional protection.”

If the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals decision stands (it will almost certainly be appealed) and the courts hold that strict scrutiny should apply to Second Amendment cases as they do *every other law restricting constitutional rights*, then most of the gun control laws in the United States will eventually fall like dominoes.

Keep your fingers crossed, folks.

https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/appeals-court-rejects-ruling-on-maryland-assault-weapons-ban/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20160205_FridayDigest_15&utm_campaign=/blog/appeals-court-rejects-ruling-on-maryland-assault-weapons-ban/

Appeals Court Rejects Ruling on Maryland Assault Weapons Ban

by MAX SLOWIK on JANUARY 4, 2016

Related Tags: [AR-15](#), [Buzz](#), [NRA](#), [R2KBA](#)

The U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals sent back the lower court's decision upholding the Maryland "assault weapons" ban. While this won't end the ban, it does mean that the recent ruling upholding the gun ban is no longer valid, and that the lower court must review their decision using stricter standards.

Writing for the three-judge appellate court panel that heard the case, *Kolbe v. Maryland*, Chief Judge William B. Traxler wrote: "In our view, Maryland law implicates the core protection of the Second Amendment — 'the right of law-abiding responsible citizens to use arms in defense of hearth and home, *District of Columbia v. Heller*, 554 U.S. 570,635 (2008), and we are compelled by *Heller* and *McDonald v. City of Chicago*, 561 U.S. 742 (2010), as well as our own precedent in the wake of these decisions to conclude that the burden is substantial and strict scrutiny is the applicable standard of review for Plaintiffs' Second Amendment claim."

The court vacated the district court's denial of the plaintiffs' claims and remanded the case to the lower court, ordering that it apply the appropriate strict standard of review.

"We are greatly heartened by the Fourth Circuit panel's ruling today," said Lawrence G. Keane, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), one of the lead plaintiffs in this case. "As this important case goes forward, NSSF will continue to work with our co-plaintiffs to ensure that our citizens' Second Amendment rights are protected and that the lawful commerce in firearms is restored in support of this constitutional protection."

Chris W. Cox, the executive director of the National Rifle Association's Institute for Legislative Action, issued the following statement in reaction to today's ruling by the federal 4th Circuit Court of Appeals in the Kolbe v. Maryland case. The case challenges the legality of Maryland's 2013 ban on so-called assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. The 2-1 decision sends the gun-control law back to a lower court for review because it "implicates the core protection of the Second Amendment."

"The Fourth Circuit's ruling is an important victory for the Second Amendment," said Cox. Maryland's ban on commonly owned firearms and magazines clearly violates our fundamental, individual right to keep and bear arms for self-defense. The highest level of judicial scrutiny should apply when governments try to restrict our Second Amendment freedoms."

From the rabidly anti-gun Huffington post:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/assault-weapons-constitutional-protection_us_56b38ec7e4b08069c7a65c21

People Have A 'Fundamental Right' To Own Assault Weapons, Court Rules

Certain semiautomatic firearms deserve the highest level of protection the Constitution allows, says appellate court.

02/04/2016 06:06 pm ET

- [Cristian Farias](#) Legal Affairs Reporter, The Huffington Post



JAE C. HONG/ASSOCIATED PRESS

A federal appeals court on Thursday said Maryland's 2013 assault weapon ban, passed in the wake of the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre, must be held to a stricter constitutional standard.

In a major victory for gun rights advocates, a federal appeals court on Thursday sided with a broad coalition of gun owners, businesses and organizations that challenged the constitutionality of a Maryland ban on assault weapons and other laws aimed at curbing gun violence.

A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit said the state's prohibition on what the court called "the vast majority of semi-automatic rifles commonly kept by several million American citizens" [amounted to a violation of their rights](#) under the Constitution.

"In our view, Maryland law implicates the core protection of the Second Amendment -- the right of law-abiding responsible citizens to use arms in defense of hearth and home," Chief Judge William Traxler wrote in the divided ruling.

Provisions that outlaw these firearms, Traxler wrote, "substantially burden this fundamental right."

Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, who recently [suspended his Democratic presidential campaign](#), signed [Maryland's Firearm Safety Act of 2013](#) in the wake of the school massacre in Newtown, Connecticut, which spurred similar initiatives in other Democratic-leaning states.

The legislation mostly targets specific kinds of semi-automatic firearms -- such as AR-15s and AK-47s -- and large-capacity magazines, and adds certain registration and licensing requirements.

But gun rights advocates, including the National Rifle Association, quickly moved to challenge these laws in the courts, claiming that the restrictions they imposed on lawful gun ownership were overly broad and weren't proven to save lives.

"This case was a major victory for the NRA and gun rights advocates." Adam Winkler, UCLA law professor

The legal attacks have largely failed. Last October, a federal appeals court in Manhattan [upheld the most iconic of these laws](#) -- those passed in New York and Connecticut in direct response to the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown. And in December, the Supreme Court [declined to review a ruling](#) out of Illinois that upheld a similar ban on assault weapons.

The high court's reluctance to intervene in these disputes has left the Second Amendment in a bit of a state of flux. Since the Supreme Court established in [2008](#) and [2010](#) that the amendment protects a personal right to keep and bear arms for self-defense within the home, judges have struggled to apply those decisions to the newer spate of gun legislation. And inconsistent rulings and standards across the country have left the scope of the law unclear.

When the Supreme Court [refused to take up the Illinois case](#), Justice Clarence Thomas complained that the Second Amendment was being relegated to "a second-class right."

"If a broad ban on firearms can be upheld based on conjecture that the public might feel safer (while being no safer at all), then the Second Amendment guarantees nothing," he wrote, and added that those earlier decisions enshrining the right to gun ownership shouldn't be expected to "clarify the entire field."

The lack of clarity since then underscores why Thursday's decision may be a boon to those who want to see a broader interpretation of the Second Amendment, setting the stage for the next Supreme Court confrontation.

"This case was a major victory for the NRA and gun rights advocates," said Adam Winkler, a law professor at UCLA who specializes in Second Amendment law. "This opinion is an important one because it subjects important gun control laws to the most strict form of judicial scrutiny."

Indeed, the biggest surprise in Chief Judge Traxler's [66-page opinion](#) is the words "[strict scrutiny](#)," a stringent constitutional test that most government laws and regulations fail. Other courts have applied more forgiving standards to similar gun legislation and upheld it.

The 4th Circuit's decision didn't outright strike down the Maryland legislation. Instead, it instructed a lower court to subject the provision to the higher legal standard, meaning more litigation and the possibility of a future showdown at the Supreme Court -- though maybe not yet, according to Winkler.

As if to illustrate the volatile politics and legalities of gun control, dissenting Circuit Judge Robert King all but declared that the court's ruling would lead to the next mass shooting.

"Let's be real," King wrote. "The assault weapons banned by Maryland's [law] are exceptionally lethal weapons of war."

<http://www.governing.com/topics/public-justice-safety/tns-maryland-assault-weapons-ruling.html>

After Gun Ruling, Maryland May Take Assault Weapons Ban to U.S. Supreme Court

BY [TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE](#) | FEBRUARY 5, 2016

By Michael Dresser

A federal appeals court dealt a potentially serious blow to Maryland's landmark 2013 gun control law and similar measures across the country, ruling Tuesday that a lower court was wrong when it upheld the state's ban on assault rifles.

In a 2-1 decision applauded by gun rights advocates, a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit concluded that the semiautomatic weapons and high-capacity magazines banned by Maryland's Firearm Safety Act "are in common use by law-abiding citizens." As a result, they don't fall under the exception to the right to bear arms that applies to "unusual" weapons such as machine guns and hand grenades, the court said.

Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh said Thursday that the decision "conflicts sharply with rulings of other federal appellate courts." Frosh said he would appeal -- either to the full 15-member 4th Circuit or to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The National Rifle Association issued a statement hailing the ruling.

Chris W. Cox, executive director of the group's Institute for Legislative Action, called the decision "an important victory for the Second Amendment."

"Maryland's ban on commonly owned firearms and magazines clearly violates our fundamental, individual right to keep and bear arms for self-defense. The highest level of judicial scrutiny should apply when governments try to restrict our Second Amendment freedoms," Cox said in a statement.

Matthew A. Clark, a spokesman for Gov. Larry Hogan, said the governor's office was studying the ruling but would have no comment.

The judges sent the challenge to Maryland's gun law back to the U.S. District Court with instructions to apply the difficult constitutional test of "strict scrutiny" when considering whether the ban violated the Second Amendment. Previously, U.S. District Judge Catherine C. Blake had found the ban constitutional under the less-stringent test of "intermediate scrutiny."

If the appeals court's decision reaches the Supreme Court, the ruling could have national importance because it would give justices the opportunity to settle the question of whether states can ban assault weapons and magazines that hold a large number of bullets.

Mark Graber, a law professor at the University of Maryland, said the ruling poses a serious challenge to the law -- a signature achievement of former Gov. Martin O'Malley and of Frosh, a state senator when it was passed.

"Strict scrutiny is just that. It is stricter than the ordinary form of scrutiny," he said. Almost all challenged laws fail the test, he said.

Graber said the decision is one of national importance.

"It almost looks like what the court really wants is for this to go up to the Supreme Court," he said.

Adam Winkler, a law professor at UCLA, gave the law a slightly better chance in the lower court than Graber did.

"About three in four laws subjected to this standard of review are struck down," he said. But Winkler added that gun laws have a better chance of ending up in the 25 percent that survive because they're based on a justification of public safety.

Winkler said the decision is the first in which a federal appeals court has questioned bans on "military-style" rifles and high-capacity magazines.

"These laws are at the very heart of the gun control movement's agenda today," he said.

Chief Judge William B. Traxler Jr., an appointee of President Bill Clinton, and Circuit Judge G. Steven Agee, who was named by President George W. Bush, agreed on the main part of the ruling affecting the assault gun ban. Judge Robert B. King, a Clinton appointee, dissented.

Winkler, author of "Gunfight: The Battle Over the Right to Bear Arms in America," said party affiliations are a poor predictor of how judges will vote in gun control cases.

"We've seen both Republican judges and Democratic judges have voted to uphold gun control laws more or less consistently," he said.

Traxler noted that the ban applied to keeping assault weapons in one's home.

"Any prohibition or restriction imposed by the government on the exercise of this right in the home clearly implicates conduct protected by the Second Amendment," the judge wrote.

The 4th Circuit panel said it recognizes that other courts have reached opposite conclusions about similar bans, but said that "we ultimately find these decisions unconvincing."

In his dissent, King said no Supreme Court precedent compels the court to insist on a strict-scrutiny standard. He disagreed with the conclusion that the semiautomatics covered by the ban are standard for home defense.

"Let's be real: The assault weapons banned by Maryland's [law] are exceptionally lethal weapons of war," King wrote.

The clash among federal circuits sets up several possibilities. The state could let the case go back to the District Court and hope to win there under the stricter standard. It could seek Supreme Court review or appeal to the full 4th Circuit, which once had a reputation as the nation's most conservative appeals court but has become more centrist under President Barack Obama.

The full circuit court could decide to hear the case on its own, said Carl Tobias, a law professor at the University of Richmond.

"This would be a very good case for that," Tobias said. If it goes to the full court, he said, "I think it would be close."

The ruling leaves the ban on assault rifles in place pending a decision by the District Court. UCLA's Winkler said it could take a long time before the case reaches the Supreme Court -- if it ever does.

"It's not even a slam dunk that the Supreme Court would take the case," Winkler said.

Maryland advocates on both sides of the issue found something to cheer about.

Dan Blasberg, president of the gun rights group Maryland Shall Issue, said the ruling "turned my day upside-down but in a good way." He said the case, in which his group was a plaintiff, could force the high court to consider the issue.

"This certainly could be a vehicle to get there," he said. "Our legal counsel is fairly confident they could present a good enough case to prevail."

But Vincent DeMarco, president of Marylanders Against Gun Violence and one of the chief lobbyists for the 2013 law, claimed victory on another point.

"The gun lobby never even challenged the most important part of the law, which is the requirement that handgun purchasers be licensed and fingerprinted," he said. "That is the part of the law that will save the most lives."

DeMarco said he has confidence that Frosh will successfully defend the assault rifle ban.

(c)2016 The Baltimore Sun

<http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2016/02/04/fourth-circuit-strikes-down-maryland-assault-weapons-ban/>

Fourth Circuit Rules Against Maryland ‘Assault Weapons’ Ban

38



[Thomas Cooper/Getty Images](#)

by [AWR Hawkins](#) 4 Feb 2016 [715](#)

4 Feb, 2016 4 Feb, 2016

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit sent Maryland’s “assault weapons” ban back to a lower court today for further review because it “significantly burdens the exercise of the right to arm oneself at home.”

[The Washington Post](#) reports that the “law bans more than 45 types of assault weapons and clips that hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition.”

Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh (D)—who supports the “assault weapons” ban—criticized the ruling, saying that “the majority” on the 4th Circuit “got it wrong.” Frosh added, “I think it’s just common sense that the Second Amendment does not give people a right to own military-style assault weapons.”

[NRA-ILA’s Chris Cox](#) said, “The Fourth Circuit’s ruling is an important victory for the Second Amendment. Maryland’s ban on commonly used firearms and magazines clearly violates our fundamental, individual right to keep and bear arms for self-defense.”

AWR Hawkins is the Second Amendment columnist for Breitbart News and political analyst for Armed American Radio. Follow him on Twitter: [@AWRHawkins](#). Reach him directly at awrhawkins@breitbart.com.

<http://dailysignal.com/2016/01/21/will-obama-be-held-accountable-for-fast-and-furious-what-a-new-court-decision-means/>

Will Obama Be Held Accountable for Fast and Furious? What a New Court Decision Means

[Hans von Spakovsky](#) / [@HvonSpakovsky](#) / January 21, 2016

In an odd coincidence, a federal district court on Tuesday issued a [decision](#) against President Barack Obama in the Operation Fast and Furious fiasco, at almost the same time that Fox News broke a [story](#) about Mexican authorities finding a Fast and Furious gun in the hideout of Joaquin “El Chapo” Guzman.

El Chapo

Guzman, who had escaped from a Mexican prison through an elaborate underground tunnel, is the notorious head of the Sinaloa drug cartel. Guzman was captured by Mexican law enforcement, who claim to have shadowed American actor Sean Penn leading up to an interview with Guzman (Penn’s interview in [Rolling Stone](#) is a story in itself).

The authorities seized a .50-caliber rifle in Guzman’s possession. When agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) checked its serial number, they found that it was one of the rifles they had allowed straw buyers to purchase as part of Operation Fast and Furious, and then lost track of when the guns crossed the border into Mexico.

This is the type of rifle popular with long-range shooting competitors because of its power, range, and accuracy. Fox News was told by federal law enforcement sources that Guzman would station his men on “hilltops to be on guard for Mexican police helicopters that would fly through valleys conducting raids” so they could shoot down the helicopters.

Out of the estimated 2,000 weapons that the ATF lost track of in Operation Fast and Furious, 34 were .50-caliber rifles. That is just one reason why Operation Fast and Furious was probably the most reckless law enforcement operation ever conducted by a federal agency—or as Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., [said](#), a “felony stupid” operation.

Fast and Furious Decision

The Tuesday decision by District of Columbia Federal District Court Judge Amy Berman Jackson, an Obama appointee, was in the lawsuit that the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform filed in 2012 to enforce a subpoena the Committee served on former Attorney General Eric Holder in 2011.

On Feb. 4, 2011, after Congress started investigating the operation, the Department of Justice sent a letter to Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, denying that any weapons had been allowed to leave the country and enter Mexico. Ten months later, the Department of Justice retracted that denial and confirmed that federal investigators had allowed straw purchasers to smuggle weapons into Mexico.

The subpoena sought documents from the Justice Department and ATF (which is part of the DOJ) about Operation Fast and Furious, including anything bearing on DOJ's false claim in the Feb. 4 letter; why it took so long for Congress to be informed about the misrepresentation; and, according to Jackson, any records "reflecting the agency's internal deliberations over how to respond to Congressional and media inquiries."

Executive Privilege

While the Justice Department turned over some materials to Congress, Holder refused to provide any DOJ/ATF records created after February 4, 2011. On June 19, 2012, the Justice Department informed Congress that Obama had asserted executive privilege over all documents after Feb. 4.

Less than two week later, on June 28, the House of Representatives voted—for the first time in American history—to hold an attorney general in contempt.

After the U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia refused to enforce the contempt citation, the House filed its own civil suit against Holder, claiming that the assertion of executive privilege was invalid.

On Sept. 30, 2013, Jackson [refused](#) the Department of Justice's request to dismiss the lawsuit entirely and stay out of a "political" dispute (DOJ's characterization) between the legislature and the executive branch. She said that the administration's "blanket assertion" of privilege over all documents generated after Feb. 4 "could not pass muster."

She ordered the Department of Justice to provide a complete list of all the documents it was withholding, along with whatever privilege it was relying on to withhold each one from Congress.

Ruling on Release of Documents

On Jan. 19, 2016, after a long, continuing tug of war in the litigation between the House of Representatives and the Justice Department over these documents, Jackson finally issued a ruling on the privilege claims asserted by the administration.

After the Justice Department kept revising its list of documents, Jackson finally determined that out of 13,753 "unique documents," the Justice Department had turned over only 3,307 to Congress. The remaining 10,446 documents had been withheld by the Justice Department "in whole or in part" based on the deliberative process privilege

(5,342 documents), law enforcement sensitivity (3,041 documents), privacy concerns (1,351 documents), and other miscellaneous reasons (792 documents).

The deliberative process privilege covers conversations with the president, as well other communications among high-ranking executive branch officials “crucial to fulfillment of the unique role and responsibilities of the executive branch.”

Jackson decided that this privilege does cover the Justice Department’s internal deliberations about how to respond to the press and Congress, but it is a qualified privilege, meaning that a court can order the production if the public interests at stake override the privilege. Here, the Justice Department was claiming that disclosure would harm the ability of its lawyers to have internal deliberations.

However, Jackson ruled against the Justice Department because the records had already been turned over to the Department of Justice inspector general. The inspector general issued a [report](#) on Fast and Furious, according to Jackson, that “laid bare the records of [DOJ’s] internal deliberations—and even published portions of interviews revealing its officials’ thoughts and impressions about those records.” Thus, “whatever incremental harm that could flow from providing the Committee with the records that have already been publicly disclosed is outweighed by the unchallenged need for the material.”

In fact, the Department of Justice can “point to no particular harm that could flow from compliance with this subpoena, for these records, that it did not already bring about itself.”

The Justice Department listed nine documents it was withholding without giving a reason; those documents were ordered by Jackson to be produced. The judge also ordered the production of the “segregable portions of any records withheld in full or in part on the ground they contain attorney-client privileged material, attorney work product, private information, law enforcement sensitive material, or foreign policy sensitive materials.” Whether any additional records have to be produced, she said, “is a matter to be resolved between the parties themselves.”

In an interesting comment on the current reputation of the Justice Department, counsel for the Committee told Jackson that they “did not have sufficient trust in the Department of Justice to take the Department’s word on [redactions].”

Jackson said, however, that she had no reason to disbelieve “assertions made in pleadings by an officer of the court representing another, equal branch of government” but that if a “neutral is required to read each individual redaction,” the “parties can arrange for that on their own.”

Jackson ordered the documents turned over by Feb. 2, but when asked whether the Justice Department would abide by the order at a [hearing](#) on gun control in a Senate committee on Jan. 20, Attorney General Loretta Lynch refused to tell Sen. Jim Lankford, R-Okla., whether they would comply or appeal the decision.

There is a lot of leeway in Jackson's order that may still allow the Justice Department to claim it does not have to turn over documents under the other exemptions it has asserted, such as the "law enforcement sensitivity" claim.

So this case may not yet be over, and the House Committee (and the public) may never see the internal documents that explain what was really going on inside the ATF and the Justice Department when Operation Fast and Furious was conceived, planned, and implemented.

http://dailysignal.com/2016/01/07/10-myths-about-guns/?utm_source=heritagefoundation&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=saturday&mkt_tok=3RkMMJWWf9wsRovv6vNZKXonjHpfsX57%2BQkUK6ylMI%2F0ER3fOvrPUfGjI4ASMZiM%2BTFAwTG5toziV8R7jHKM1t0sEQWBHm

10 Myths About Guns

[Sen. Chuck Grassley](#) / [@ChuckGrassley](#) / January 07, 2016

This week, President Barack Obama announced executive actions related to guns. Here are 10 common myths about firearms.

Myth No. 1: Firearm purchases at gun shows do not require a background check due to the “gun show loophole.”

Facts:

- When the president and others refer to the “gun show loophole,” they imply that there are no background checks being done at gun shows. As a result, much of the public has been misinformed and are led to believe that individuals who purchase firearms at gun shows are not subject to a background check.
- In reality, there is no “gun show loophole.” If an individual wants to purchase a firearm from a licensed firearms retailer, which typically makes up the majority of vendors at gun shows, the individual must fill out the requisite federal firearms paperwork and undergo a National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) background check.
- The only firearms that are being purchased at gun shows without a background check are those being bought and sold between individuals, peer-to-peer, as opposed to buying a firearm from a gun dealer. These private sales are not at all different from selling a personal hunting rifle to the owner’s niece or nephew down the road. It is a private sale, and no background paperwork is required. The gun is private property, and the sale is made like a sale of the family’s good silver. The one difference is that the locus of a gun show is being used to make the private sale.
- Under current law, an individual is permitted to occasionally sell part, or all, of his personal firearms collection. These private sellers, however, cannot be “engaged in the business” of selling firearms. “Engaged in the business” means they can’t repeatedly sell firearms with the principal objective of earning funds to support themselves. Some of the individuals who wish to sell a portion, or all, of their personal firearms collection do so at the show and might display their wares on a table. These “private table sales,” however, are private, peer-to-peer sales and, therefore, do not require a background check. The president cannot change criminal statutes governing requirements for which sellers must conduct background checks. His new actions don’t do so and don’t claim to do so.
- In a peer-to-peer, private firearms transaction, it is already illegal to sell a firearm to another individual if the seller “knows or has reasonable cause to believe” that

the buyer meets any of the prohibited categories for possession of a firearm (felon, fugitive, illegal alien, etc.).

Myth No. 2: Gun shows lack any law enforcement presence and are a free-for-all for felons and other prohibited individuals to obtain firearms.

Fact:

- Local, state, and federal law enforcement are often present both in uniform and/or covertly in plain clothes to monitor and intervene in suspected unlawful firearms sales such as straw purchasing; purchases made by prohibited individuals, including non-residents; and the attempted sale of any illegal firearms.

Myth No. 3: Individuals who purchase firearms on the Internet are not subject to background checks.

Facts:

- An individual cannot purchase a firearm directly from a firearms retailer over the Internet and have that firearm shipped to him directly. An individual can pay for the firearm over the Internet at websites and online sporting goods retailers. The firearm, however, must be picked up from a federal firearms licensee, such as a gun store. In many cases, this is the brick-and-mortar store associated with the website where the gun purchase was made. Once at the retail store, the Internet purchaser must then fill out the requisite forms, including ATF Form 4473, which initiates the NICS background check process. Thus, an Internet purchase of a firearm from a firearms retailer requires a background check.
- Individuals from the same state are able to advertise and purchase firearms from one another and use the Internet to facilitate the transaction. It is unlawful, under current law, to sell or transfer a firearm to an individual who is out of state. Any Internet sale, even between individuals, that crosses state lines would have to utilize a federal firearms licensee, such as a gun store, and the purchaser would be required to fill out the requisite state and federal paperwork and would undergo a background check.

Myth No. 4: The president's Jan. 5 executive action on gun control represents landmark change regarding gun control.

Facts:

- With few exceptions, Obama's executive action on firearms is nothing more than rhetoric regarding the status quo. Many senators have long argued for better and more robust enforcement of existing laws that prohibit criminals from owning guns.
- It is the current law of the land that anyone engaged in the business of selling firearms must have a federal firearms license. The president's action does not

change current law, but merely restates existing court rulings on the meaning of “engaged in the business.”

Myth No. 5: The Obama administration has made firearms enforcement a priority.

Facts:

- The Obama administration has used its limited criminal enforcement resources to focus on clemency for convicted and imprisoned felons, the investigation of police departments, and civil rights cases. The latter two categories represent important work, but the Department of Justice lost track of one of its core missions of enforcing criminal law: prosecuting violent criminals, including gun criminals.
- The Obama administration is only now making firearms enforcement a priority. Clearly, enforcing the gun laws is a new initiative, or one of the president’s actions would not have been informing all of the 93 U.S. attorneys about it.
- Proof of this lack of enforcement is revealed in the decline of weapons-related prosecutions during the Obama administration. As data obtained from the Executive Office of United States Attorneys, through a Freedom of Information Act request, reveal, firearms prosecutions are down approximately 25 percent under the Obama administration versus the last year of the Bush administration.

Myth No. 6: Mental health has nothing to do with gun control.

Facts:

- People with certain levels of mental illness are not permitted to own guns. Many of the recent mass killings were committed by mentally ill individuals. One of the keys to preventing further mass shootings and violence committed with firearms is addressing the issue of mental health.
- Background checks to prevent the mentally ill from obtaining guns can work only if states provide mental health records to the NICS system. Too many states have failed to do so. Many of the worst offenders are states with the most stringent gun control laws. For multiple years now, many members of Congress have repeatedly called for and introduced legislation that would provide incentives for states to submit their mental health records for inclusion in the NICS database.

Myth No. 7: Obama’s executive action on gun control will thwart criminals’ ability to obtain firearms.

Facts:

- The president’s executive action regarding firearms is focused primarily on individuals who attempt to purchase firearms through the background check process.

- Criminals, however, obtain firearms in myriad illegal ways, including home invasion robbery; trading narcotics for firearms; burglary of homes, vehicles, and businesses; and straw purchasing.
- My legislation, [Senate Amendment 725](#), was specifically designed to combat the straw purchasing of firearms as well as firearms traffickers who transfer firearms to prohibited individuals and out-of-state residents.

Myth No. 8: There is a general consensus in America that greater gun control is needed to prevent mass shootings in the United States.

Facts:

- Despite the president’s statement to the contrary, polls have shown that the majority of Americans do not believe that stricter gun control would reduce the number of mass shootings in the United States.
- The American public does not believe that making it harder for law-abiding Americans to obtain guns makes America safer. In fact, [polls have shown](#) that a majority of Americans thinks the United States would be safer if there were more individuals licensed and trained to carry concealed weapons. A majority opposes re-imposition of the “assault weapons” ban.

Myth No. 9: The terrorist “no-fly” list is a proper mechanism to bar Americans from purchasing firearms. —Obama, Jan. 5

Fact:

- The no-fly list is actually multiple lists, which are generated in secret and controlled by executive branch bureaucrats. The Second Amendment right to bear arms has been determined by the U.S. Supreme Court to be a fundamental right. This puts the right to bear arms in our most closely guarded rights, similar to the rights to free speech and freedom of religion. It is unconstitutional to deprive an American citizen of his Second Amendment right without notice and an opportunity to be heard.

Myth No. 10: Gun retailers need to step up and refuse to sell semi-automatic weapons. —Obama, Jan. 5

Fact:

- There is nothing unlawful about a semi-automatic firearm. A semi-automatic firearm simply means that a round is discharged with each pull of the trigger. These include most shotguns used for waterfowl hunting and rifles commonly used for target shooting.

<http://www.kvue.com/story/news/local/2016/01/30/austin-bookstore-offering-10-percent-discount-open-carriers/79574234/>

Austin bookstore offering 10 percent discount to open-carriers

Brittany E Shulman, KVUE 3:47 p.m. CST January 30, 2016

AUSTIN -- Brave New Books is offering a 10 percent discount to all customers open-carrying in their store.

The store is also hosting an open-carry symposium on Jan. 30 to help Texas residents learn more about open-carry legislation.

Speakers for the event include Michael Cargil of Central Texas Gun Works and Stephen Sheftall of Defense Distributed. There will also be a panel of firearms freedoms activists who will discuss Second Amendment activity in Texas.

The bookstore, located next to the University of Texas campus, said in a press release that they are the only bookstore in Austin to allow open-carry.

"We appreciate it when people take security and defense in to their own hands. In a world where mass shootings are happening more and more, when seconds count, it's up to we the people to protect our community," said Brave New Books general manager John Bush in a press release.

Popular Austin bookstores, including Half-Price Books and Book People, have said no to customers openly displaying firearms while in their stores.

Brave New Books isn't the first business in Texas to offer a discount to open carriers. Brooks Place, Houston-area barbecue joint, is offering a 25 percent discount to customers who come in wearing their weapons in the open, according to the Houston Chronicle.

For more information on open-carry, here is a run-down from our news partner The Austin-American Statesman.

http://www.prophecynewswatch.com/article.cfm?recent_news_id=124#flilidDb4BLgHjmq.01

ISIS Threat Reignites Guns In Church Debate

Christian churches are beginning to seriously rethink their security arrangements and assess how best to protect worshipers without distracting them or making them feel tense and unsafe during services after it was revealed an ISIS supporter was planning to shoot up a Detroit Megachurch.

Khalil Abu-Rayyan, 22, now stands accused of making terror threats on behalf of ISIS. When investigators asked Abu-Rayyan why he allegedly wanted to target the church, he said: "It's easy, and a lot of people go there, plus people are not allowed to carry guns in church. Plus, it would make the news. Everybody would have heard. Honestly, I regret not doing it. If I can't go do jihad at the Middle East I would do a jihad over here.

Its developments like these that some security experts have been warning about and are encouraging churches to prepare themselves for possible 'lone wolf' attacks.

In one such development in late 2015, the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in West Ashley, SC, participated in a county security conference focusing on church safety. The training titled 'Keeping your Church and Ministry Safe in an Uncertain World' was hosted by the Charleston County Sheriff's Department. A report on this initiative was published last August in the postandcourier.com by Lauren Shirley.

The Charleston County Sheriff's Department hosted the safety and security training, which was free and open to leaders of religious congregations and facilitated by Training Force USA, a Florida-based company.

"What I'm saying to you, ladies and gentlemen, is do not put yourself or your church at risk," training facilitator Tom Gillan warned at the session. "Security

is the last thing that a church thinks of when they're building a church. They're thinking about more of what musical instruments we need, what color we're going to paint the walls, are we going to need stained-glass windows?..

Security is the last thing on the list."

He suggested churches do background checks on volunteers and employees, take a proactive stance, craft a safety and security policy and adapt a security-conscious mindset to keep churches and ministries safe.

The training's were being held all over the country, but Gillan recognized the importance of this week in Charleston, especially given the aftermath of the June shooting at Emanuel AME Church, which he said deeply affected both him and his wife.

The question that the Christian church is now wrestling with is whether the church should offer armed protection and resistance to counter criminals and terrorists. It's not a familiar decision as the threats have so far been more isolated than pervasive, and churches typically prefer to be seen as havens of safety and peace. Looking like a semi-military outpost doesn't fit the bill or enhance the brand.

But circumstances have left churches with little choice. Besides the threats from ISIS, Al Qaeda, and other such terror groups, all churches are vulnerable to cash heists by criminals targeting church offerings and collections. Certain churches that are predominantly of one race are also more open to attack. Penny Dickerson for the Daytona Times highlighted this aspect mid-2016 following the Emmanuel A.M.E. Church in Charleston. The tragedy occurred when Dylan Roof, a lone white gunman entered the Emmanuel A.M.E. Church in Charleston and sat through a near hour of Bible study before he unloaded a barrage of bullets that killed nine congregants.

Dickerson further explains Church safety initiatives that have since been implemented. For instance, the Texas-based National Organization for Church Security and Safety Management, Inc. (NOCSSM) trains churches through the country in the areas of security and safety.

President and founder of Gatekeepers Security Services, Chuck Chadwick is also its licensed security manager. The company's Gatekeepers Program has put hundreds of armed Gatekeepers in churches across Texas.

Our mission in our Gatekeepers program is to train these men and women to go toward the sound of the gunfire and stop the violence, and the only way to really do it effectively is through firearms, said Chadwick.

This is costly beyond the reach of most of the much smaller churches.

According to Brian J. Gallagher, a Maryland-based church safety expert, more than 80 percent of the nation's churches have less than 100 members. Their budgets cannot usually afford high-tech training or often the necessary base-level security an alarm system.

Training is readily available and much of it not just to anyone who can afford it. Late 2015, Michael Gryboski in a Christian Post report made reference to Geof Peabody, a firearms trainer based in El Dorado County, California.

Peabody offers a free course to train church ministers and their staff.

He held the first class at a local Seventh-Day Adventist Church around eight years ago, noting that interest in the training course has only increased.

"It just kind of kept going from there. The first one we did this year we had 55 ministers sign up for it. It's pretty epic," said Peabody, adding that the course has been "immeasurably successful." Peabody told CP that about 500 ministers have taken his course, which includes a classroom section typically held at a church and then a training section held at a gun range.

Which brings up the million-dollar question: What the Bible says about it all?

Some Christians also tend to ask: Well, why should we protect ourselves, shouldn't God take care of us when we come to worship him?

When asked for theological justification for firearms in church, Peabody directed CP to Luke 22:36-38, where Jesus tells his disciples to sell their cloak and buy a sword.

How likely would it be that Jesus should require his disciples to buy an offensive weapon and never expect them to use it? He even went so far as to prioritize the sword over clothing, asking them to sell their cloaks to buy weaponry.

And why would He do that if waiting on divine or angelic intervention for protection were always the appropriate defense? The implication is that trusting in God for protection does not invalidate the need to reduce, or where possible eliminate, the opportunities that evil persons or groups may use to perpetrate carnage and lawlessness.

Perhaps Jesus wanted His disciples to carry the swords merely as a deterrent rather than for offensive purposes? Or perhaps it would be more likely Jesus intended that the swords should be used only whenever necessary for defense and not carelessly?

Later, when Peter used a sword to cut off the ear of the servant of the high priest in an attempt to protect Jesus, he was rebuked by Jesus only for attempting to hinder the process of His mandated death (John 18:10) not for the attempt to defend Him.

These positions are seemingly some of the more popular ones being referenced in support of the need for armed protection in churches.

Samuel R. Hayes III, a Navy veteran, a certified weapons specialist and the CEO of Caliber Training Group based in Atlanta reflected on this: "One could argue that the true essence of Christianity is to defend yourself and your core beliefs with righteous indignation when presented with a threat.

There's this ideology in the church that using physical force up to and including lethal force in an instance like the recent shootings in South Carolina is bad. Arguably, (that ideology is) against God's will if you are not armed and properly trained to meet a threat, should you be called on to step into the role of protector," Hayes said.

"Discreetly carrying a firearm is a skill-set that you hope you never need. But you'll be glad you were able to engage a threat responsibly and effectively as a result of your training," he added.

Carey Lodge, who also reported on the Emmanuel AME shootings, quoted Bishop Ira Combs, a pastor in Jackson, Michigan, who declared in a service after the incident one Sunday: "If they (the church) had security, the assailant would not have been able to reload".

As he preached during a service the pastor was flanked by a man on each side of the pulpit, each armed with handguns beneath their suit coats. Other security personnel were also deployed and communicated with Secret-Service-style earpieces.

Charles Ellis, pastor of the Greater Grace Temple, a Pentecostal megachurch in Detroit with 6,000 members would approve. "Nobody should have to worship in fear or be looking over their shoulder," he said. Ellis has ensured that there is adequate and visible security during church services.

Legislation is already moving through some states to allow for greater access to guns in church.

One example is House Bill 786, or The Mississippi Church Protection Act, which would allow leaders of any church to authorize designated members of the congregation to carry firearms for the protection of worshipers.

It would allow for immunity from civil liability to any church, and the designated member, as long as that person has the required firearms permit and takes a firearms safety course. The bill says anyone who is a law enforcement officer or has a military background can assist the church in training.

If passed, the bill would take effect on July 1.

The National Organization of Church Security & Safety Management (NOCSSM™) (<http://www.nocssm.org/>) mentioned in this article is in Frisco Texas and states this on their web site:

Our family of companies encompass all facets of church security:

- The National Organization of Church Security & Safety Management (NOCSSM™) is a national organization of churches across the United States. We provide our members with educational resources to help them in their security efforts. Resources include our web site which includes written policy and procedure templates, best practices for church security and training videos from some of our national conference sessions of special interest to church security teams.
- The Christian Security Institute™ (CSI) is a security training company that provides church security teams with formal security training. Classes training are held at our facilities in the Dallas, TX area and on-site training at churches across the U.S.
- Gatekeepers Security Services™ (GSS) is a security services company. Gatekeepers provides churches with security services personnel through our church volunteer “Gatekeepers Program™”, contract security services, consultations and assessments.

<https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/guns-at-church-do-you-carry/>

Guns at Church—Do You Carry?

by DAVE HIGGINBOTHAM on APRIL 22, 2015

Any of you diehards out there who are still reading my articles because I wrote them (hi Mom!) may know that this isn't the first time I've written about guns at church. Yet I feel like it is a topic worth exploring on a regular basis. So I'm exploring it again.

A happy story to get us started. This is my go-to church/gun anecdote, and it illustrates all of the hope I have for humanity. Once, a few years back, I was in the local Walmart, admiring their ammo selection. This happened long ago, back when there was more rimfire rounds in a single Walmart than there were emails that Hilary deleted. And who should I bump into but an old man I knew from church. "Knew" is a relative term (And I don't mean it in the biblical sense). I knew who he was because I saw him at church every Sunday. And any other time I went to church. He was always there, at the door, standing tall while everyone else sat for worship. To protect his fragile anonymity, I'll call him Wally.

When Wally saw me there in the ammo isle, he ambled up and struck up a conversation. We talked Springfields, and he whipped out his XD, right there in Sporting Goods, and we both fawned over the gun. Turns out Wally had a nice collection of defensive firearms, and exercised them regularly. After about an hour of gun talk, we both got on with the shopping. That was the last real conversation I had with Wally, though we regularly spoke. Every Sunday, at some random point during the service, I'd happen to catch his eye. Wally would wink and pat his pocket, the one with the XD in it (I came to recognize the print of the holster). And I knew what he was saying. He was watching over his flock.

If you're still with me after this brief narrative detour, I'll ask this: do you carry at church? Here in Arkansas, where I live now, churches can set their own rules. Even private schools associated with churches can establish rules for who can and who can't carry. As I'm the Editor here at GunsAmerica, and a staunch proponent of everyday carry, you might guess how I feel on the matter. I'd carry everywhere, if I could. I carry at home. I carry when I'm on the road. I carry where carry is legal. And where it is not, I often find myself improvising. I carry what I can. A knife. A stout pen. Steel-toed boots. My wits.



I prefer John 3:57....

For the sake of transparency, I'll share a bit about my religious upbringing. I was raised in protestant churches—Presbyterian and Methodist, mostly. Most of my mother's family is Baptist, or evangelical. My father's side was loosely Episcopalian, and I'm married to a devout Catholic (and have been attending masses regularly now for close to 20 years). I'm going to leave my scriptural interpretations at the door and talk about practicalities. I can quote my way out of most scriptural arguments—but I also understand what Tom Waits means in "Misery is the River of the World" when he sings "The Devil knows the Bible like the back of his hand."

For me, it goes well beyond scriptural teachings on violence. The issue itself is deeply theological. It cuts to the core of my beliefs. See, I'm a doubter. I doubt. Everything. I could easily construct an argument that says New Testament teachings on pacifism demand that I stand idly by. I could turn the other cheek until I have no more cheeks to turn. Then doubt creeps in and says *what if I was placed here to defend someone else?* It is heady. And it can inflate your ego in unhealthy ways to imagine that you're the right hand of the Lord.

I've heard well-meaning Christians argue that there should be no guns in church because Jesus preached nonviolence, and peace. Still, some of these same upstanding Christians own guns, and are prepared to defend themselves outside of church. They get prickly when I suggest that such a stance amounts to abject hypocrisy. If you believe in total pacifism, I'll support and defend your beliefs, but

you have to carry those beliefs with you in the world. You can't check your faith (or your gun, I'd argue) at the church door.

I would however like to add another element to the conversation. Below is the full text of a letter sent by Rev. Edward Fride to his parishioners at [Christ the King Catholic Church in Ann Arbor, Michigan](#) (h/t TTAG).

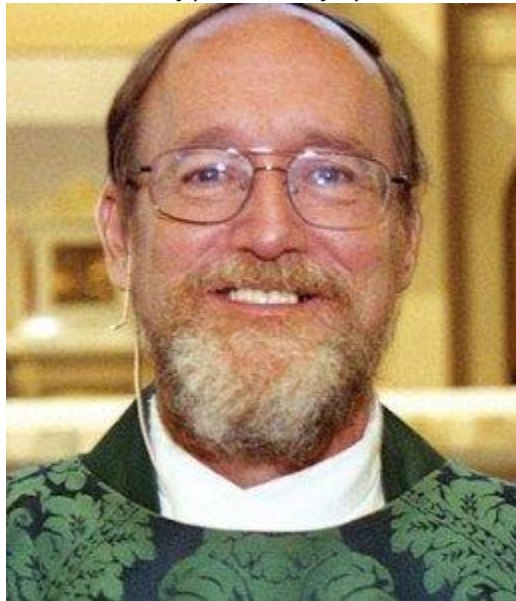
The full text of the letter is copied here. It is a beast. Something tells me this man can deliver one helluva sermon. He certainly got the wind in his sails on this topic. But I'd suggest that you kick back and read the whole thing.

Unfortunately for the priest in question, the one who's approach to this question seems—to me at least—very well considered, he answers to the Bishop. After his letter garnered media attention, the Bishop shut him down. That quote is below, too.

The Letter from Fr. Fride

"We're Not In Mayberry Anymore, Toto!

I have received some feedback from two events recently, one, the announcement I made at the 4:30 Mass on Palm Sunday concerning the CPL (Concealed Pistol License) class and some description of local threats, and the other, concerning the offering of a CPL class at the parish, co-sponsored by the parish. I'd like to respond to some concerns in the context of the broader issue of personal safety and reasonable protection in relation to the parish's role.



Fr. Fride.

Are We Still in Mayberry?

For those of you who do not get the allusion (the blessed 'young' among us), it is a bad mix of two entertainment references.

*Mayberry was a fictitious, idyllic rural American city in which the public safety needs were met by a kind-hearted sheriff and a clueless but well-intentioned deputy. The only 'threat' to public safety was a bumbling, genial ne'er-do-well who was so accustomed to staying in jail that he had his own cell, which was never locked. The show, *The Andy Griffith Show*, was so popular that it had two spin offs, *Mayberry RFD* and *Gomer Pyle, USMC*. It was popular because it showed a kind of life that everybody wished were true, no threats, everything is fine, everybody's perfectly safe, etc. There is no crisis that cannot be solved by hugs and Aunt Bea's cooking. The "Toto" reference is to a famous line from *The Wizard of Oz* in which Dorothy, who comes from a rural Kansas version of Mayberry, but suddenly finds herself in a dangerous environment of witches, deadly flying monkeys, (I still have nightmares about those wretched and heinous beasts!) and real threats to her life. She begins to comprehend this and says to her cute dog: "We're not in Kansas anymore, Toto!" It is very common for Christians to simply assume that they live in Mayberry, trusting that because they know the Lord Jesus, everything will always be fine and nothing bad can happen to them and their families. Those who have followed the Lord Jesus for more than 20 minutes, however, have often experienced first-hand that the reality of living in a fallen universe can be very different. How to balance faith, reality, prudence, and trust is one of those critical questions that we struggle with all our lives. Pretending we are in Mayberry, while we are clearly not, can have very negative consequences for ourselves and those we love, especially those we have a responsibility to protect. If we are not in Mayberry, is there a real threat?*

Let's be specific about what we are talking about: for our purposes, a threat is an awareness of a condition that could result in clear and present danger to our lives or our property. What is that condition? In terms of our personal safety, and the safety of our homes, the situation is that approximately 50 years ago or so, the ratio of police to bad guys, i.e. criminals in the traditional sense, was more or less sufficient to reasonably control crime. However, in more recent years two regrettable factors have taken place. First, the amount of crime has substantially grown; second, due to budget cuts, there has been a significant reduction in the availability of an armed police response. This situation was highlighted recently by the chief of police of the City of Detroit who publically encouraged the law-abiding citizens of Detroit to arm themselves for their protection and the protection of their homes. He went so far as to say: "Good Americans with CPLs (Concealed Pistol Licenses) translates into crime reduction." His statement included the idea that the police could no longer adequately protect the citizens of Detroit and it was therefore their responsibility to take seriously their obligation to assist in their own protection and the protection of those they love. This has actually been good for Detroit, and ironically bad for us, or for those who live in the suburbs. During the CPL class last Saturday at Christ the King, a police officer from a suburb of Detroit who was conducting part of the class pointed out that because more Detroiters are protecting themselves, more of the criminals are now targeting the suburbs, because most of the suburbs consider themselves distant or immune from the threat. But in point of fact, as the officer pointed out, the threat is actually growing there. It is not just in the big cities either. The police chief of Williamston where Fr. Mark serves told him recently that he encouraged people to get CPL's because if they wanted to be safe, it was necessary (and Williamston is a whole lot closer to Mayberry than the Ann Arbor/Ypsi area). That same officer from the CPL class personally thanked me for having the parish do this class and expressed a hope that more would follow suit, because having law abiding citizens armed makes their job as police so much better. When the police are expressing the fact that they

cannot now sufficiently cover the areas assigned to them and are explicitly encouraging people to arm themselves and carry, who is the expert in the field of our protection that we should listen to more than them? Who knows more about the lack of safety than the ones who are formally tasked to attempt to provide it? Prudence requires taking their advice seriously. How close to home is this? A few weeks ago some of our folks had their next door neighbor killed in a robbery. It doesn't get much closer than that.

I was curious about the local church situation so I called some of the local congregations to see what their approach was to folks having weapons. At Knox Presbyterian, which has a history of having their parking lot robbed by the same gang that had targeted us and St. Joe's Dexter, they had no policy and told me they would have to have a committee to discuss it and I should get back to them in a few months. I pointed out that I had walked into the building, through unlocked doors, during a time when the building was filled with Christ the King kids and others doing the homeschool co-op. I found their lack of security or even awareness of its need distressing at best. On the other hand, when I talked to several Protestant ministers in Ypsilanti, they told me that they all regularly carry (i.e. carry concealed pistols) and that especially during their services, they have armed uniform guards present. They take the threat to their folks and their worshipping congregation seriously. They told me that they felt that they had a duty to acknowledge the reality of the threat and to take appropriate action for their people's safety.

Others have made similar observations, for example, the movie theaters. In the aftermath of the Aurora theater shooting, you may have noticed that Rave Cinema started having armed guards present at their Friday and Saturday nights' shows. They were very visibly present, and armed. It brought about a sense of security, and actually helped to establish that security. However, Rave was sold and according to theater employees, the new company didn't want to foot the bill for security and now there are toy cops present, who in an actual threat would be of as much use as screen doors on a sub. What about a police response to a theater threat? In the Aurora situation, it could not have been more ideal, the police were already on site handling the traffic for the Batman opening. They were at the theater where the shooting was taking place in 90 seconds. A 90 second response time would seem to be great, right? In those 90 seconds the shooter had shot 82 people, killing 12. Ninety seconds is an eternity. The shooter drove by two other theaters which allowed patrons to carry firearms and went to the Aurora theater which didn't allow people to carry. "No firearms allowed" turns out to be crazy-speak for "target rich environment." The shooter knew he would have the whole place to himself, and he did, for as long as it took to shoot 82 people. The toll would have been much higher but his primary gun malfunctioned.

What about our schools? The fact that two active shooters got within yards of Father Gabriel Richard before they were taken down by SWAT demonstrates that the threat is real. This druggie couple from Detroit stole a car and it broke down at Plymouth and Dixboro. They went through the woods and had almost reached the high school when they were stopped. Because it was a Mass day, the doors were open so the parents could get in to attend the Mass. There is zero security at the high school. Had the shooters got in, we would have had our own Columbine. But what if their car had broken down on Plymouth and Earhart instead? They would have been coming through the woods into our parish center backyard on a day when the parish center was full of kids. What then? I recently participated in ALICE training with faculty from FGR, SSA, and HVCS. It is training faculty and administration to respond to an active shooter on their site. The protocol has been radically changed from 'basically duck and cover' to 'rush the shooter.' The 'duck and cover' approach turned out to

be disastrous, since during the Virginia Tech shooting the shooter just went from room to room shooting students. Now faculty is being taught that rushing the shooter will result in saving lives. In fact, the superintendent of one school district advised all the kids in their schools to bring a canned good from home to keep at their desk so they could throw it at a shooter if one came to their classroom. That catastrophic morning, the principals at Columbine and Sandy Hook probably thought they had done everything prudent they could to protect their kids, and ended up with schools full of dead kids. I bet they go to bed most nights wondering about what more they should have done. One response other people made was that in the area around the Sandy Hook school, CPL applications went up 300%. That the threat is real we are hearing loud and clear from our police and their input to us is to be protected, ourselves and our families. They are openly supportive of CPL's and doing what is necessary to adequately protect our families and our homes.

Fear

One comment made after I made the announcement at the Palm Sunday 4:30 Mass was that the announcement caused fear in some. Let's analyze that for a moment. Fear is a normal response to a perceived threat condition. Our emotions, though distorted by the Fall, were, in part, given to us to assist in making decisions under certain conditions. For example, a significant experience of fear puts the body into 'fight or flight'; a specific physiological response that prepares us to defend ourselves against a significant perceived threat, either by fighting or escaping. The emotion of fear also communicates, in this situation, two fundamental realities: a threat is present (or is being described as present) and we are not equipped to deal with that threat. It demonstrates the second in that our normal experience is that when we are faced by a threat we know we can handle, we don't experience fear, or at least we do not experience it at the same level. When I get into the sparring ring with a hundred pound yellow belt, there is no fear—there is a threat but it can easily be handled. If at the last minute Chuck Norris jumped into the ring and took his place, the fear would be very real! If most of us were placed in a combat situation, the fear would be very real, so real as to almost be paralyzing; if some Team Six Navy SEALs were placed in the same situation, there would be great focus and concentration, but little fear. So, when we hear about the threats enumerated above, what is our response? If it is fear because we perceive that both the threat is real and that we are unprepared, then we need to have a better response.

The Responses to the Threat

There are a few different responses that can be made to this, most problematic but one highly useful. On the problematic side, number one is ostrich syndrome—bury your head in the sand, pretending that the threat isn't there—if you can't see it, it can't see you. Good luck with that. What that approach ends up with is just a lot of dead ostriches. The police have made it clear that the threat is real, they have given specific advice as to how to deal more effectively with that threat. Ignoring their professional advice is problematic at best. A variant on that, and one that is likely much more prevalent here is 'I'm not worried, I'm a Christian, God will protect me.' This is a Christian variant on 'Mayberry syndrome' Sounds pious, even Biblical, but is it true? The reductio ad absurdum of that argument is fairly simple: this argument requires us to believe that none of the kids killed at Columbine, or Sandy Hook, or Virginia Tech, or the adults at Aurora were Christians. We clearly know otherwise. There was in the past a certain kind of 'magical' thinking in some communities that because we were so special, so faithful, so charismatic, so whatever, that nothing bad

could ever happen to us, to our marriages, to our kids, etc. History has demonstrated the radical insufficiency of that perspective.

It is the case, of course, that the Lord Jesus can intervene to protect us. I have personally experienced the wonderful combination of word of knowledge and release of the charismatic power gifts that have literally saved my life in several situations. However, not to be too blunt about it, but I would bet that there are not more than a handful of people in the parish that are currently operating in the charismatic gifts at that level so that they could utilize them in an attack situation for the defense of their family. Repeated pleas to folks to take our advanced courses and learn more about the power of the Spirit have not generally been well-heeded. Perhaps this new reason to do so (which in fact was always part of my pushing those classes) may get better attendance in the future. But I would also point out, that notwithstanding my capacity to use the gifts in serious threat situations, twice the Lord Jesus had me respond to imminent very dangerous personal threats using more prosaic means, e.g. disarming an attacker in one case and physically challenging members of an attacking gang in another.

What about the passive choice, i.e. I choose to not resist, I chose to turn the other cheek? This certainly has Biblical grounds. What about this? In 1971 I met the Lord Jesus, got Spirit-filled, and became Catholic. I had always had pacifist leanings (I was a Ghandi groupie) and when I turned 18 I decided to be a conscientious objector. The Vietnam War was still raging, the draft was still in effect and my graduating class, the class of 71, was the first one to be ineligible for the student deferment. St. Francis was my patron Saint, his approach considerably moved me, as did the testimony of so many others. The Biblical evidence was clear, the pacifist position was an option. The Church's approach simultaneously allowed and blessed both alternatives, the pacifist approach and the right to protect the common good with military action if necessary. My parents were absolutely opposed as were many of my friends. I continued doing research and praying and eventually decided to file a Form 150, petition to be granted conscientious objector status. My draft board was notorious for not granting them but in my case they did. So, I am well aware of all the arguments for the pacifist position, and I still respect it for those who wish to take it for themselves. So what changed? For me, as is not surprising for an immature 18 year old, it was all about me, what should I do, what should be the ramifications for my life, etc. As I matured and especially as I became more and more aware of the Catholic moral teaching on the common good and the right and obligation to protect it, I began to see how completely individualistic my choice had been. This was not surprising, coming from a Congregational background in which the common good is not taught and the individualism and the individual congregation is the absolute decider (hence the name). But as I studied Catholic moral teaching more, I realized that if I made a choice like that, I was not only making it for myself but for all those who might have a reasonable call on me for their protection. It is no accident that the percentage of Catholics in police forces and the military is far higher than the percentage of Catholics in the general population. Catholics are raised with this idea of self-sacrifice and the active promotion of the common good, even at the cost of self. The quote often used to describe the military experience sums this up so well: 'they don't fight because they hate who is in front of them, but because they love those who are behind them.' I began to consider a set of moral scenarios, 'what would I do if' scenarios. I eventually concluded that I was certainly no longer a pacifist absolutist; there were situations in which I would actively intervene, even to a lethal level if necessary. I could not generally see myself doing that simply to protect myself—especially if martyrdom was involved, but what if I came across a woman being beaten or sexually assaulted, or somebody attacking kids? In those cases my response would

be immediate and sufficient. The 'what would Jesus do' is often used as a defense for pacifism, but when you read what Jesus actually does, as Revelation describes as He leads His army to destroy those attacking Israel, to say it does not go well for the bad guys would be something of an understatement. (Or you could ask Ananias and Sapphira how that 'Jesus is a pacifist' worked for them.)

What then should our response be? Here we have the advantage of Catholic moral teaching, which can assist us in not falling into fundamentalist traps. The virtue of prudence has been given to all of us, it is the capacity to judge what is the appropriate action at a given time. The Church urges us to grow in our understanding and exercise of the virtues and in this case in particular, prudence is of paramount importance. So what is prudent in this situation? If those tasked by our society to protect us are telling us that they are no longer sufficiently able to do so, and they in point of fact are urging us to arm ourselves for our protection and the protection of our families, how could it possibly be prudent to ignore that? How could it be prudent to ignore their professional advice? Ignoring their advice would mean one of four things: you think that they are wrong, or you and your family are already adequately protected, or the odds are 'ever in your favor' against an attack occurring, or you have already decided not to defend yourself or family if attacked. As to the first, if you have hard data that puts you in a better place to make judgments about these issues than the police are, I'd love to see the data. As to the second, good for you. As to the third, risking your family's safety on essentially a coin-toss approach is ludicrous and in fact ignores the police input. As to the fourth, I have known many pacifists in my earlier times with the Quaker peace groups, the Fellowship of Reconciliation, etc. Some of them were absolutists who would not defend themselves and their families in any attack situation. My response was that if the adults had made that decision, that was one thing, but no adult has the right to make that decision for a minor. Kids have an absolute right to expect their parents' protection.

CPL and Christ the King

Part of the announcement that I made at that Mass was misunderstood to suggest that I was about creating a CTK militia to fight against the Moslem threat posed by Dearborn. In point of fact the comments I made about the jihadi threat were specifically in relationship to the published ISIS threat against the domestic families of our military, a threat the military has responded to very seriously. I will address the threat to our military families in a different email. The threat that I am most concerned about is not a religious threat to the parish or our members, though for those who think "it could never happen here," those were exactly the sentiments of the ancient Christian community of Mosul, who are now dead or in exile and whose ancient Cathedral has been desecrated into something else. But that is a different topic. The point here is that the threat that the police have been addressing is not the jihadi threat but the 'normal' threat of a progressively more dangerous society in which we live. The point of having the CPL class at Christ the King was two-fold. First, I have spoken to many folks about getting CPL's and difficulty scheduling; inconvenience, etc. had stood in their way. Second, and more importantly, doing it here at the parish, co-sponsored by the parish, was an attempt to get people to realize the reality of the threat and take it seriously. In a conversation with one person, I was told that when people hear me say these things, they just think to themselves, 'well, that's just Fr. Ed' and they ignore it. You have no idea how deeply hurtful that was. But, in any event, that's why my approach here was not to simply say what I think, but to try to point out the reality of the situation, especially as the police themselves are articulating it to us. If you don't trust my insights into the situation, at least

trust the professionals whose job it is to protect us. Case in point, two parents had their kids temporarily removed from their custody because they let them walk some distance away from their homes without adult supervision, this was seen as negligence on the parents' part by child protective services. While that particular case could be seen as an over-reaction. Clearly there are neighborhoods no longer safe for our kids to be unaccompanied. If child protective services and the courts are now demonstrating a high standard of protection for our kids, precisely because of the perceived greater threat, should we not pay attention, especially if the police themselves are saying the same thing and pointing out their inability to adequately protect us and our families?

So, the choice of course is yours. Each family must consider what it is prudent for them to do. We will offer the CPL class on two more Saturdays and it is my fervent hope that people will take advantage of it, for the reasons I have mentioned. I think it perfectly appropriate for the parish to offer this class because the protection of our families and our kids is of paramount importance to us. Since the police have informed us that it is naïve and simply wrong to think that they can adequately protect us, then we must take the necessary steps to do so. The steps must be reasoned steps and not simply knee jerk reactions. Several people have said to me, I'm afraid of guns. My response to one woman was, 'well, how do you feel about rape?' While that may seem extreme, when we chose against one option, we do, in a sense, empower the other. Ann Arbor was plagued by a serial rapist not long ago, no doubt every woman raped had thought it could never happen to her. The threat is real, fear is a choice. If we are adequately protected, fear need not be the reality. Our families, especially our kids, are the second most precious gift given to us by the Lord Jesus. He Himself being the greatest. How we respond to threat to this gift should be very seriously considered and it is my fervent hope and prayer that all the families in Christ the King will do so.

Your brother in the service of Christ the King,

Fr. Ed"

My hat's off to Fr. Ed. I hope I get to meet him someday. Maybe take him to the range. But I'd promised the Bishop's response. And here it is, via Fr. Fride:

"I would like to make the following statement in relationship to the CPL controversy currently in the media:

The Lord Jesus has blessed us greatly in calling Bishop Earl Boyea to serve us as the fifth Bishop of Lansing. I have been and continue to be very grateful for his ministry, especially his great work in leading the Diocese in the fulfillment of the Holy Fathers' call to the New Evangelization that all people would hear the message of the saving love of the Lord Jesus Christ. As our Bishop, he is responsible for setting policy for our parishes and he has decided and publicly stated that CPL classes are not appropriate on Church property. That is his call to make and we will obviously follow his policy on this and on all decisions he makes as he shepherds this Diocese. No parish is an island unto itself and no priest operates on his own. I am his priest and I will continue to serve him to the best of my ability.

Fr. Ed Fride"

That statement appeared yesterday. This one came today:

“The Bishops of Michigan have weighed in on this topic numerous times, most recently in December 2012, saying: “Churches are meant to be a place of sanctuary for worshippers to gather in peace, free of the threat of gun violence.”

Bishop Boyea himself said in 2012, “At the core of our mission is service to the most vulnerable persons in society. Many have already been wounded in body or mind by the American epidemic of violence. Fragile people come to us for help every day, and it is essential that our sites be refuges — places of peace in every sense. We are followers of Jesus Christ, who raised not a hand against those who mocked, tortured, and finally murdered him. While we grasp both the Second Amendment and the legitimate right of some persons to defend themselves, our churches and our schools are dedicated to a far different approach to life’s problems.”

Flowing from this, Bishop Boyea has never given permission for anyone to carry a concealed weapon in a church or school of the Diocese of Lansing.

This ban on weapons has now been extended to “open carry” in our churches and our schools, thus making them gun-free zones.

Additionally, Bishop Boyea further states that Concealed Pistol License classes are inappropriate activities to be held on Church property.

As always we rely on the public or professional security forces to provide for public safety on Church property.”

So there you have it. Despite the fact that the Vatican has a standing army, with lots of gun, ready to defend the tiny city, the churches of Michigan stand on their own. Good luck parishioners.

Peace be with you.

http://blog.cheaperthandirt.com/everyday-carry-means-everyday-awareness-2/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=social&utm_content=020616chronicle&utm_campaign=CH020616-everydaycarrymeanseverydayawareness2

Everyday Carry Means Everyday Awareness

By [Dave Dolbee](#) published on February 2, 2016 in [Safety and Training](#)

The new year is upon us, and it's time to steer people into enlightenment and out of the old ways. While fate looks after some who do not wish to be bored with the facts, the facts are not in your favor if you don't consider your everyday carry (EDC) gear and learn to use it well. Gear should be chosen after more than a 15-minute investigation.



If you carry a snubnose .38 in the pocket as EDC, perhaps you should practice firing through the jacket sometimes. Get a beater jacket from Goodwill, and spare the North Face garments.

I am certain some of you are fearless young pagans who wish to see what happens when you pull a tiger's tail, while the rest of us find comfort in arriving home, starting a fire in the hearth and relaxing in comfort. It takes mental stimulation to enjoy life. After some of the incidents I've survived, I find comfort in what I have learned and am able to teach.

While such incidents may do more than lower the golf handicap, I do not jerk and gasp when someone slams the door too hard—but I have not forgotten. There are incidents that come upon you in the night and keep you company until the morning. They are best avoided. So, let's pull ourselves together, confer rationally and find a skein of thought.

What do you carry every day? What should you carry? Everyday carry means you carry it at the least on a consistent basis. Our needs and world view affect the EDC gear. Our capabilities are not measured by what we carry, but in a real sense the limits of our capabilities are found in the EDC gear. Every day we deal with the mundane. The extraordinary should not be left to deal with us. We should be prepared. We have to consider the available space.

Most of us have about a yard of belt space, some less, some more. We have to use this space wisely with a proper allotment and balance. A good [gun belt](#) is essential. This is the primary load-carrying device and not the place for false economy. Next, we have the pockets. All gear should be chosen on a basis of quality and reliability, though a light weight is also important. Just do not lose your life for a few ounces of comfort.



How does your EDC gear stack up every day, say, at the grocery store? Go to the range, and find out.

Some vote for versatility, others as much specialization as possible. The [knife](#), as an example, should be dedicated for personal defense and need not be a [multitool](#). For some, a multitool is essential for their daily walk. There is no single solution for everyone, but there are tools and weapons that most of us will be able to use well. There is a balance between weight, effectiveness, and expense. We are dealing with the meanness and sordidness of life and the

former or future denizens of the 51st state (the U.S. prison system). Let's look hard in order to improve our situation.

Do Not Carry Situationally

The bad guys, in my experience, carry situationally. Very few carry a gun every day and every time they leave their home. They do, however, put a handgun in the belt—usually behind the belt buckle without a holster—just before they commit a mugging, robbery or assault. The rub is that we cannot see it coming and must be armed at all times. This doesn't mean only packing the iron when traveling, going to the corner *stop-and-rob* or when out late at night. This means carrying the handgun at all times every day, not just when the idea strikes us. Only then will you be prepared to face an assault.



The [Galco Double Time](#) is a great dual-purpose holster. Note the flashlight in the pocket.

What do you carry every day? Your wallet, keys, cash, credit card, perhaps eyeglasses, and a handkerchief most likely. What if you left your wallet at home? How would your day go? Not well, probably. You might miss lunch for want of cash or not be able to badge in to work. A license check would be bad news. Have you ever wished you had brought less gear with you during the day or on a trip? Probably not. A plan and commitment are vital. Start planning today, and make EDC gear second nature.

I recommend researching the daily routine and likely scenario and carrying everything you need and nothing you don't. As an example, a spare [magazine](#) or [speedloader](#) is important. Two spare magazines, probably less so. If I felt the need to carry two spare magazines for a [Smith &](#)

[Wesson Shield](#) 9mm, as an example, I would probably think I need a Smith & Wesson M&P 9mm compact with a higher magazine capacity than the Shield. (I subscribe to making the rounds in the gun count. The fight will probably be over in the first three shots, and you either got your man or he got you.)

While probabilities of certain problems are low, possibilities are limitless. EDC must become part of the daily routine and the gear and its deployment second nature. You will practice accessing the gear and the items you deploy most often will have the strongest muscle memory for rapid acquirement. You will reach for your wallet many times during the day, and it is thus second nature. The handgun and holster combination must be learned by practice, as you will not be drawing it as a matter of course during the week. Keys, cell phone and other gear also have a high likelihood of strong muscle memory. Consider the circumstance of the typical day, and do not arrange your EDC gear in such a way that it will interfere with your emergency gear.



Typical essential gear includes a ring of keys, a truck key, a good knife and a dog whistle. Do not leave it loose in the pocket.

EDC gear may vary from time to time. Whether you are in an urban or rural environment, traveling or seated most of the day must be considered. Evaluate your needs and make the EDC as simple as possible. As an example, a ring of keys is simpler than a number of loose keys, and if your job demands it, a ring of keys on the belt makes sense. While repeatability is important, the climate introduces variations. Your covering garments affect your EDC carry, at least the mode of carry. Do you leave your gear in the vehicle at times? Is the EDC handgun too valuable to lose? (All are too valuable to lose, but a [Glock](#) is more easily replaced than a custom-grade handgun or Grandfather's Detective Special.) Some tools are an acquired taste, and others are easily used by the majority of trained people.

Every Day Carry

1. **Wallet** – This should not be too big, bulky or overstuffed. It should be carried on the opposite side of the gun hand.
2. **Cell phone** – This should be kept most accessible; the front of the belt is good. It is essential for emergency communication.
3. **Light** – A good, small light is indispensable.
4. **Cash** – Credit cards are not useful in an emergency such as a power failure. Cash is a must.
5. **Emergency medicine** – If you a condition that requires medication, never leave home without your prescriptions (at least a two-day supply).
6. **A good knife** – The [CRKT BT 70](#) and Steel Will Onrush are at the top of the list, though others will suffice.
7. A suitable handgun and holster.
8. **Keys** – Keys to your home and vehicle. Spares are well worth their weight if secreted on the person.

There are other items. Some will add some form of [pepper spray](#). I prefer the knife, from hard experience. Non-dedicated attackers can be dissuaded by gas.

The handgun is often a compromise of weight, caliber, and size. Quality should never be compromised. The Glock 19 is a baseline and a very good one. The Glock is affordable. You can spend more—a lot more—but the Glock is reliable. You can spend less and get a lot less handgun. The Glock is useful by a trained shooter. The 9mm cartridge is the baseline for defense use. The Glock 19 9mm, in the opinion of many, is the baseline for comparison. Compare your EDC carry with this piece, and make an honest appraisal.

An investment in knowledge pays the best interest. –Benjamin Franklin

This isn't a complete directory of EDC gear, but it's a beginning. Study your individual needs and situation, and go from there. You may need more or less than I have enumerated. Consider the weight/benefit trade-off. Also, wear the gear in a realistic scenario, bending and walking and performing daily chores. The arrangement must be reasonably comfortable and the balance of speed and access understood.

Postscript

At present, there are legislators making up bills as pretty as can be with bolstered embroidery on beautiful paper with the desire to deprive us of our liberty. I am one of those who already feel overprotected against myself. If you wish to keep carrying and owning handguns, support the NRA and vote. At present, we seem to have two parties, the democrats and the Americans. Choose accordingly.

What do you carry as your EDC? Share your thoughts and opinions as to the EDC items we should all have in the comment section.



*Bob Campbell is a former peace officer and published author with over 40 years combined shooting and police and security experience. Bob holds a degree in Criminal Justice. Bob is the author of the books, *The Handgun in Personal Defense*, *Holsters for Combat and Concealed Carry*, *The 1911 Automatic Pistol*, *The Gun Digest Book of Personal Protection and Home Defense*, *The Shooter's Guide to the 1911*, *The Hunter and the Hunted*, and *The Complete Illustrated Manual of Handgun Skills*. His latest book is *Dealing with the Great Ammo Shortage*. He is also a regular contributor to *Gun Tests*, *American Gunsmith*, *Small Arms Review*, *Gun Digest*, *Concealed Carry Magazine*, *Knife World*, *Women and Guns*, *Handloader* and other publications. Bob is well-known for his firearm testing.*

https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/8-tactical-shotguns-at-8-price-points/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20160212_FridayDigest_16&utm_campaign=/blog/8-tactical-shotguns-at-8-price-points/

8 Great Tactical Shotguns at 8 Competitive Price Points

by MAX SLOWIK on FEBRUARY 11, 2016



New for 2016, the 500 Tactical 8-Shot Heatshield embodies today's tactical shotgun in every way. An affordable option available to most people everywhere, shotguns like these are setting the standard for self-defense and protection in the line of duty.

Tactical Shotguns Still Deliver in 2016

For well over a century the shotgun has been used as an effective, reliable firearm for self-defense, duty and service. Over the years the shotgun has gone through changes that run the full spectrum from unnecessary tweak to total breakthrough with new advances in operation and manufacturing that continue to alter and refine the combat shotgun to this day.

Lately shotguns used for self-defense, law enforcement and military service are widely referred to as tactical shotguns, although even in recent years, the tactical shotgun has undergone some extensive changes and adaptations.

Two of these would-be enhancements that are fading fast are stocks with vertical pistol grips and tri-railed forends also with vertical or angled foregrips, or rail covers to make them comfortable and easy to use.

The railed forend will continue to have its place for many tactical shotgun owners but people are going back to conventional forends with a few good reasons. They can add weight and sometimes complexity to a shotgun and also add to its cost. That weight can lead to short-shucking on pump guns, and other mounting systems, like clamp-on light adapters, have subtly pushed the railed forend to the side as a way to fix accessories to tactical shotguns.

People are also rethinking the vertical pistol grip stock on shotguns, pumps in particular. With some shotgun designs, like on Mossberg shotguns, the pistol grip moves your hand far from the safety, which can make a bad time worse in a hurry. They also dump a lot of recoil energy into the web of your grip, stressing your thumb and wrist, especially if you don't have a perfect hold on your shotgun.

That being said there, is a place for vertical pistol grip stocks on shotguns especially for anyone who may need to open a door by force. Some designs are better than other for this, and we've got those guns covered.

The tactical shotgun is still pretty tactical, but in a sense is going back to its roots. These shotguns, including manually-operated pump shotguns and gas-operated semi-auto shotguns, have simple, cost-effective straight polymer stocks and forends, improved aperture sights for longer-range shooting and precise work with slugs and more often than not, the ability to add a red dot sight for easy target acquisition.



1. 500-series — \$350-\$475 Street

The humble Mossberg 500 series is one of the most universally-loved pump-action shotgun designs all around the world. With countless variants in and out of production, it could not be left off this list.

For 2016 Mossberg has released [a new 500 Tactical](#) with an 8-shot capacity, rifle sights, a heats shield and standard polymer furniture that is already listing for less than \$400. The 500 Tactical is also offered in both 12- [and 20-gauge](#), a rare option in the world of tactical shotguns.

If you want all the bells and whistles and have a little more money to spend there's always the 590 and 590A1 variants to consider. Also new for 2016 is the [590 9-shot Tri-Rail](#), which comes with short, unobtrusive rails at the front of the forend for a light.

A third new model to check out in particular is the [590A1 7-shot](#), a slightly more compact option with a full-length magazine tube. Mossberg also offers several of their tactical shotguns in left-handed configurations; they've got something for everyone.

Click [here](#) to buy a Mossberg 500 on GunsAmerica.



2. Nova and SuperNova Tactical — \$400-\$450 Street

The [Benelli Nova](#) and SuperNova, with their strong track record and solid aftermarket support, are getting a lot more much-deserved recognition as excellent entry-level pump-action shotguns. The polymer overmolded steel construction is practically indestructable, highly scratch- and rust-resistant.

While there are many affordable pumps on the market, most are for hunting and shotgun games. Benelli stands out with their Nova Tactical, a low-cost option that ticks off the right boxes for a modern self-defense shotgun.

The European-styled shotgun does more than just get the job done, it looks great doing it. The starburst pattern that runs the length of the furniture provides a solid grip on the stock and forend and the sights are swept to minimize snagging. The sights are also interchangeable, with ghost ring and open sight options available including tritium night sight options.

The [SuperNova Tactical](#) is a good choice for anyone dead-set on a pump shotgun with a vertical pistol grip stock as it incorporates Benelli's ComforTech recoil-reduction system and the stock uses gel grip inserts to reduce the impact under recoil.

Click [here](#) to buy a Benelli Nova or SuperNova on GunsAmerica.



3. SXP Ultimate Defender — \$450 Street

The [SXP series](#) is fast, thanks to Winchester's "inertia-assisted" action. The speed of the lock-free action isn't just handy for busting clays and taking game. In a self-defense situation where rapid follow-up shots are critical even fractions of seconds count.

Winchester has had Defender models for some time but more recently introduced the fully-equipped [SXP Ultimate Defender](#). The shotgun comes with ghost ring sights, a receiver-mounted Picatinny rail for optics, two forward-mounted rails for lights, and, uncommonly for most tactical shotguns, it has interchangeable chokes.

Even though most encounters happen at ranges where shotguns don't greatly benefit from a choke, that doesn't mean chokes are completely irrelevant. In addition to giving the shooter the option of dialing in a shot pattern, interchangeable chokes can add other functions to a shotgun

Case in point, the SXP Ultimate Defender comes a ported standoff choke that helps manage recoil and can be used for breaching doors. The SXP Ultimate Defender is also offered with standard and marine finish options.

Click [here](#) to buy a Winchester SXP Ultimate Defender on GunsAmerica.



4. Mossberg 930 Tactical SPX — \$675 Street

It's no surprise that Mossberg, the biggest name in budget pumps, also makes one of the more affordable semi-auto shotgun designs out there, the 930. Even the 930 SPX, the company's flagship Tactical-series model, can be found for \$700 or less.

The [930 Tactical SPX](#) comes loaded with ghost ring sights, a receiver-mounted rail, ambidextrous thumb safety and oversized, sharply-knurled charging handle. The only thing missing is ammo and maybe a flashlight clamped onto the front end.

If you're on a limited budget but aren't willing to compromise on performance when it comes to a semi-auto tactical shotgun you don't have to, thanks to the 930 Tactical SPX.

One of the great strengths of the 930 is its ambidextrous safety, making it a lefty-friendly shotgun. However it's important to mention that tang-mounted safety, present on the 930 and 500-series Mossberg shotguns, is out of reach with pistol grip stocks.

If you must have a vertical pistol grip, stick to other models.

Click [here](#) to buy a Mossberg 930 Tactical SPX on GunsAmerica.



5. Beretta 1301 Tactical — \$975 Street

The [1301 Tactical](#) is a relative newcomer to the shotgun world based on a fresh design by Beretta. It's a featherweight at just over 6 pounds and thanks to the semi-automatic operation, recoil is still a non-issue.

The 1301 Tactical uses Beretta's Blink gas piston system that is designed to require less cleaning a preventative maintenance and cycle quickly for rapid follow-up shots. It features oversized controls including the enlarged charging handle and extended bolt release button that are easy to use from either side.

In addition, to the ghost ring sights the 1301 tactical sports a section of rail for a red dot sight up top and has checkering all along the polymer stock's grip and full-length polymer forend.

Right now the 1301 is only offered in a single configuration. There's nothing wrong with one configuration so long as you get it right, and the 1301 does fine.

Click [here](#) to buy a Beretta 1301 Tactical on GunsAmerica.



6. Wilson Combat Border Patrol — \$1,135 Custom

Rounding out the front of the pack is the Remington 870—of course, this isn't a big-box special, it's a completely overhauled 870 semi-custom package made to order by the legendary builders at Wilson Combat and Scattergun Technologies.

The [Border Patrol](#) is their entry-level package at that, but it still manages to bring a lot to the table with improved peep sights including a tritium front night sight, non-binding hi-contrast follower, enlarged safety, extended magazine and complete refinish for superior rust- and corrosion-resistance.

Wilson Combat offers even higher-end models, the [Standard](#) and the [Professional](#). Of course for anyone on a budget who just needs their existing 870 tuned up and polished, they also offer their [Remington Steal](#) service for \$229.

Click [here](#) to buy a Wilson Combat Border Patrol on GunsAmerica.



7. SLP and SLP Tactical — \$1,200 Street

The [FN SLP](#) is another newer shotgun design built for hard use both as a self-defense shotgun and a competition shotgun, and as a result, includes features like interchangeable chokes that are so uncommon on the tactical scene.

There are two noteworthy differences between the standard model and Tactical version: the SLP has a traditional-style polymer stock, where the Tactical has a vertical pistol grip stock, and the Tactical also comes with a forward-mounted rail where the standard model has nothing.

The [SLP Tactical](#) is another decent option for someone looking for a breacher shotgun as the semi-automatic action will take care of the recoil issue and it can be used with an extended standoff choke. The flashlight mount is just a nice touch on top of that.

Even though the SLP is the competition-minded version, there's nothing not to take seriously as a self-defense gun. They are all excellent options for protection and duty use.

FN has released [MK I versions](#) of both SLP models with rifle-style sights, barrel-mounted rails for optics and extended barrels and magazine tubes. These are good options for anyone looking to maximize their capacity where overall length is not a concern.

Click [here](#) to buy an FN SLP Tactical on GunsAmerica.



8. M4 — \$1,775 Street

Closing in on its third decade of service the [Benelli M4](#) has proven to be a shotgun years ahead of its time, although well-appreciated by many. Today it's still one of the best tactical shotguns out there, tweaked and updated to fit today's shooters perfectly.

Built around Benelli's ARGO or auto-rotating gas-operating system, the shotgun has dual gas pistons that provide excellent reliability in the worst conditions. It features Benelli's interchangeable ghost ring sight system, has a rail for optics and is threaded for chokes.

New for the M4 is an upgraded optional flat dark earth Cerakote finish on the barrel, receiver and magazine assembly. Cerakote is a very tough finish that's quickly becoming a must-have for hard-use guns, plus it gives the M4 a nice two-tone look.

Of course that price tag isn't for everyone. Thankfully, Benelli's got the [M2 Tactical](#). With a street price that's competitive with the Beretta and FN shotguns with the same Benelli flair.

The big difference between the two is that the M2 is inertia-operated, and that may make the M2 even more appealing than the M4 to some shooters. Inertia-operated shotguns will run dirty and fouled and can go a long time without needing cleaning—the M2 is more than just a friendly price.

Both are offered with pistol grip stocks, too, and like the FN, combined with standoff chokes, make excellent breaching shotguns—with a lot of weight backing that up.

It's a good time to be in the market for a tactical shotgun, no matter what your budget happens to be. From updated classics to completely new designs these guns prove that the shotgun continues to stand at the front line of self-defense firearms.

Click [here](#) to buy a Benelli M4 on GunsAmerica.

https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/cz-makes-it-official-scorpion-and-805-bren-carbines-incoming-shot-show-2016/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20160205_FridayDigest_15&utm_campaign=/blog/cz-makes-it-official-scorpion-and-805-bren-carbines-incoming-shot-show-2016/

CZ Makes it Official: Scorpion and 805 Bren Carbines Incoming — SHOT Show 2016

by JACOB EPSTEIN on FEBRUARY 4, 2016

Related Tags: [Buzz](#), [CZ](#), [scorpion](#), [SHOT Show 2016](#)

Read more about the Scorpion: <http://cz-usa.com/product/cz-scorpion-evo-3-s1-carbine/>

Read More about the Bren: <http://cz-usa.com/product/cz-805-bren-s1-carbine/>



Two new versions of the Scorpion.

CZ Does a Carbine Right

If you are a fan of CZ's firearms, 2016 is going to be a great year for you. New for 2016, CZ is releasing carbine models of their very popular Scorpion and Bren pistols that maintain the CZ integrity as well as spare you the NFA rigmarole.

CZ is launching with two versions 9mm Luger [Scorpion carbine](#), one with a faux suppressor and the other with a conventional muzzle brake. Both rifles sport 16.2-inch barrels and come standard with side-folding stocks. The barrels have standard 1/2×28 threads for other muzzle devices and suppressors.

A lot of companies make the mistake of just extending the barrel when converting pistols to carbines, but CZ went the extra mile and actually developed a new handguard that gives the gun an integral suppressor look and provides a longer grip and sight radius. The handguard features M-Lok slots for accessories.

Availability for the Scorpion carbine has not been set yet but they are expected to be released later this year, possibly in the third quarter of 2016.



The new side-folding stocks.

Scorpion EVO 3 S1 Carbine Specifications:

- Caliber: 9mm Luger
- Capacity: 20+1, 10- and 30-round magazines available
- Barrel: 16.2-inch cold hammer-forged with 1/2×28 threads
- Weight: 6.1 pounds
- Overall length: 34.75 inches
- Controls: ambidextrous thumb safety
- MSRP: \$1,049.00



The Bren rifle.

Next, looking at the Bren rifle, we see the same solid features included with the Bren pistol, made available in the U.S. last year, but with the addition of a polymer adjustable side-folding stock and full-length barrel. The cold hammer-forged 16.2-inch barrel is also threaded for 1/2×28 muzzle devices. These rifles will come in black as the standard color but will also be available in flat dark earth as an upgrade.

We were told that the Bren rifles are ready to go into production and should hit gun store shelves within the next two months.

CZ 805 Bren S1 Carbine Specifications:

- Caliber: 5.56 NATO/.223 Remington
- Capacity: 30+1, uses AR-pattern magazines
- Barrel: 16.2-inch cold hammer-forged with 1/2×28 threads

- Weight: 8.02 pounds
- Overall length: 39 inches
- Controls: ambidextrous thumb safety
- MSRP: \$2,099



<http://www.ammoland.com/2016/01/sanders-goes-all-in-for-destroying-gun-manufacturers/#ixzz3ynI0oEUf>

Sanders Goes all in for Destroying Gun Manufacturers

Posted on January 30, 2016 by Dean Weingarten

Arizona -- ([Ammoland.com](http://www.ammoland.com))- Embracing gun control has always been a toxic issue for Democrats. It has played well deep in their darkest bases, like New York City and the District of Columbia, where ignorance about guns and gun law is pervasive and cherished. On the national stage, they have been careful to approach it sideways, with code words like "gun safety" and "common sense". In 1994, when Bill Clinton pushed it the hardest on the national stage, the Democrats suffered one of their most emphatic defeats; the Republican revolution of 1994. President Clinton even acknowledged that his gun control push was a major reason for the Democrat loss of the House.

Democrats shied away from gun control for the next 20 years. Then, safely reelected in 2012, President Obama made another major push, in 2013. Again, Democrats suffered stunning defeats, losing the Senate and losing so many seats in the House that Republicans have majorities that they [had not achieved in 85 years](#).

On the primary trail, and fighting for ever smaller numbers of ideologically rigid primary voters, Hillary and O'Malley are pushing for more gun control. Sanders shows that he cannot withstand the pressure, even as he gains ground. He has come out for a gun control bill designed to destroy gun manufacturers in the United States. [From politico.com](#):

Sanders had said repeatedly that he was open to "changes" in the liability protection law. His official change of heart came just hours after his Senate staff met with activists from the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence. It also came a day after he met with President Barack Obama in the Oval Office. While it's unclear whether the question of gun control came up in that meeting, Obama has urged people to be "single-issue voters" on guns, and in an op-ed in The New York Times, Obama said he would not support even Democrats who don't share his positions on guns, including industry liability.

In explaining his 2005 vote for the liability shield, known as the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, Sanders has pointed to the fact that his predominantly rural home state of Vermont has few gun restrictions. In what he called a "complicated vote," the Democratic presidential candidate said he was trying to protect mom-and-pop gun dealers in his state from getting sued and having to shut down because a customer used the gun in a crime.

Bernie Sanders demonstrates, above, that he can read, and that he understands the issues in the bill. It was passed because the [disarmists](#) in the United States had a plan to destroy gun manufacturers as a way to disarm the public. Sue the manufacturers with frivolous lawsuits, using tax money. Sure, the lawsuits would lose. But they did not cost the politicians pushing them; they were paid for with tax dollars. The activist tort lawyers would get paid; but the manufacturers would have to pay millions of dollars to defense lawyers, over, and over, and over again. Eventually, they would be bankrupted.

Second Amendment supporters saw through the deception, and sponsored the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act to prevent this end run around the Second Amendment.

The problem for the Democrats is that even the modest support for gun control that existed in 1994 has been reversed as more and more citizens become informed on the issue. For the first time since 1958, a majority of people believe that protecting the right to bear arms is more important than restricting access to arms. Without tight control over the major media, as existed for "progressive" ideologues from 1972 to 1994, simply lying about what a bill does no longer works.

Hillary repeatedly says that the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act grants immunity from prosecution for gun manufacturers. It does no such thing. Gun manufacturers are subject to all the criminal prosecutions any other manufacturer is. What they have is immunity from lawsuit for their products being misused by third parties, just like all other manufacturers have. The difference is that the protection was put into law because of an open conspiracy of [disarmists](#) to file frivolous lawsuits to destroy gun manufacturers. The lawsuits did not even use the plaintiffs own money; they mostly used tax dollars.

The problem for the Democrat primary contenders is that they will not be able to walk this back after the primary is over. Digital recording and the Internet have created long and accurate electronic memories for the voters .

This is the first time such a vitriolic attack on the Second Amendment has been done in a Presidential cycle. Not even George McGovern, Jimmy Carter, or Barack Obama campaigned for president on gun control as a major issue.

This does not bode well for the eventual Democrat candidate.

[Definition of disarmist](#)

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About Dean Weingarten;

Dean Weingarten has been a peace officer, a military officer, was on the University of Wisconsin Pistol Team for four years, and was first certified to teach firearms safety in 1973. He taught the Arizona [concealed carry](#) course for fifteen years until the goal of constitutional carry was attained. He has degrees in meteorology and mining engineering, and recently retired from the Department of Defense after a 30 year career in Army Research, Development, Testing, and Evaluation.

<http://www.mysanantonio.com/lifestyle/travel-outdoors/article/Kendall-Jones-tells-Facebook-haters-she-will-not-6775316.php>

Texas Tech cheerleader Kendall Jones tells Facebook haters she 'will not back down from hunting'

By **Tyler White**

Published 5:01 pm, Thursday, January 21, 2016

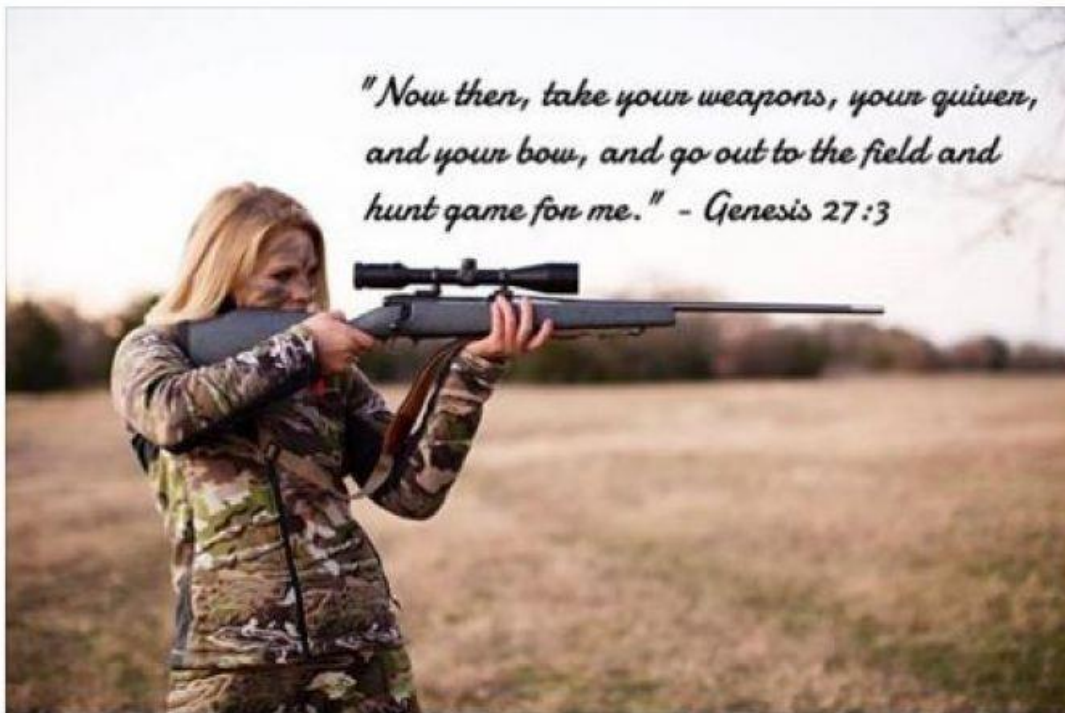


Kendall Jones ✓

January 19 at 3:33pm · ✨

👍 Like Page

For all the people that come to my page just to leave hateful comments, I will not back down from hunting and stop doing something I love just because you don't agree with it. I don't come to your page to leave hate because I don't agree with you. People now days need to worry less about others and more about themselves. Just my thoughts, but hey if you want to judge it says more about yourself then it does me! I'll never back down from hunting ❤️🔫SHARE IF YOU ARE A PROUD HUNTER!!
#proudhunter #genesis27 😊 #iwillwhatiwant



👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share

30,551 people like this.

Top Comments ▾

3,866 shares

Texas Tech cheerleader and controversial huntress Kendall Jones recently posted a photo with a Bible verse, making a statement for all of her haters: "I will not back down from hunting."

Jones [shared a photo of herself](#) holding a hunting rifle while wearing some forest camo with following scripture from Genesis 27:3:

“Now then, take your weapons, your quiver, and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me.”

RELATED: [Texas Tech cheerleader, huntress Kendall Jones quiet on killing of Cecil the lion](#)

She also addressed people who strictly come to her Facebook page to leave hateful comments.

“I will not back down from hunting and stop doing something I love just because you don't agree with it,” [she said in the post](#).

RELATED: [Controversial Texas Tech cheerleader, huntress draws online outrage over 'hot hunter' contest](#)

Recently, Jones has gone on several hunting trips, racking up kills including a mountain lion, hogs and deer, according to her social media postings.

RELATED: [Texas teen huntress shows softer, cuddly side with new photos](#)

Click through the slideshow to see an updated collection of what she's been doing on social media.

twhite@mysa.com

Twitter: [@tylerlwhite](#)



http://blog.cheaperthandirt.com/town-sheriff-requires-essay-obtain-ccw/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=social&utm_content=013016chronicle&utm_campaign=CH013016-townsheriffrequiresessayobtainccw

Chief of Police Requires “Essay” to Obtain CCW

By [Dave Dolbee](#) published on January 29, 2016 in [General](#), [News](#)

As gun owners and supporters of the Second Amendment we are used to lawmakers and public officials coming up with new ways to subvert the law and enact defacto gun control. That being said, the Chief of Police of Lowell, Massachusetts, has set the bar to a new low.

Massachusetts’ law mandates that it is an, “unrestricted right-to-carry” gun permit state. However, the police chief still has to issue the permit. In this case, the chief of the Lowell, Massachusetts Police Department has mandated that the residents of Lowell submit a written essay to the chief of police that explains just why they want that particular right. To actually receive the permit, the applicant must receive a passing grade.



The whole “shall not be infringed argument” is self-explanatory and needs no further explanation here, but how can anyone even conceive an essay requirement as a fair judge of whether to issue an “unrestricted right-to-carry” gun permit? I have read more than one report from police officers... based on their writing skills, more than a few would not have qualified to carry a firearm. However, that is not to say they were not good coppers. There is a lot that goes in to writing a report or an essay, including time, sleep, stressors, and education to name a few, but none of those have anything to do with the restriction of a Constitutional right.

English, writing skills, grammar, they are all subjective to the interpretation of the reader. Even the SAT, the standard requirement to enter most four-year universities, requires multiple readers to grade an essay, but not in Lowell. In Lowell, the Chief merely makes up a rule and assigns a reader. In fairness, the Chief did not make the rule, he merely brought it up to the city council who approved it, but you get the idea.

Adding insult to injury, in addition to the essay requirement, the residents of Lowell are also required to pay up to \$1,100 for firearms training in order to obtain their permit.

The Local Perspective

Once the story broke, *The Shooter's Log* immediately went to Mike Pelonzi, President of Magnum Anti Ballistic Systems Corporation. Beyond making some of the most innovative ballistic panels (Check back in the next couple of weeks for a story on Pelonzi's ballistic solutions), Pelonzi is also a certified firearms training instructor in Massachusetts, which him an ideal candidate for a local perspective.

Pelonzi said, to be certified as a firearms instructor, you have to submit all of your training certificates and a written lesson plan to the Colonel of the MA State Police. Once approved, you are certified to teach the course. Students seeking a CCW who successfully pass that course are and issued a MA certificate, which is supposed to be—and was until now—accepted through all police departments in the state.

Magnum Anti Ballistic Systems Corporation

Danvers MA 01923

Mike Pelonzi, President

978.815.6989

mike@magnumantiballisticsystems.com

www.Mabs777.com

However, Lowell, MA, Police Chief William Taylor's new plan calls for additional requirements such as the essay and fees up to \$1,100. Although the details are a bit vague as the department's website has not yet been updated, it is rumored that the increase in fees is due to the Chief's requirement that citizens be required to take a class taught by the police department instead of private instructors. Pelonzi noted that the average firearms safety class costs between \$75 and \$125, plus \$100 for the license application fee.

Pelonzi concluded the interview by noting, criminals do not take firearm safety classes. We already have a system that requires training and an application that goes through a full NICS background check. Lowell's new requirements add a burden to the law-abiding citizens and potentially denies them of their Constitutional rights, but does nothing to deter crime.

Jim Wallace with the Gun Owners Action League of Massachusetts released this statement: “It is absurd that people should have to write an essay to the town to explain why they should be able to exercise their constitutional rights. We already have a very strict set of gun laws in the state, but this is way over the top. It’s like having a college professor say, ‘I’m going to read your essay and if I don’t like it, I’m going to give it back to you.’”

11. Answer questions 11.a. (see exceptions) through 11.i. and 12 (if applicable) by checking or marking “yes” or “no” in the boxes to the right of the questions.		
a. Are you the actual transferee/buyer of the firearm(s) listed on this form? Warning: You are not the actual buyer if you are acquiring the firearm(s) on behalf of another person. If you are not the actual buyer, the dealer cannot transfer the firearm(s) to you. (See Instructions for Question 11.a.) Exception: If you are picking up a repaired firearm(s) for another person, you are not required to answer 11.a. and may proceed to question 11.b.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
b. Are you under indictment or information in any court for a felony, or any other crime, for which the judge could imprison you for more than one year? (See Instructions for Question 11.b.)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
c. Have you ever been convicted in any court of a felony, or any other crime, for which the judge could have imprisoned you for more than one year, even if you received a shorter sentence including probation? (See Instructions for Question 11.c.)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
d. Are you a fugitive from justice?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
e. Are you an unlawful user of, or addicted to, marijuana or any depressant, stimulant, narcotic drug, or any other controlled substance?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
f. Have you ever been adjudicated mentally defective (which includes a determination by a court, board, commission, or other lawful authority that you are a danger to yourself or to others or are incompetent to manage your own affairs) OR have you ever been committed to a mental institution? (See Instructions for Question 11.f.)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
g. Have you been discharged from the Armed Forces under dishonorable conditions?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
h. Are you subject to a court order restraining you from harassing, stalking, or threatening your child or an intimate partner or child of such partner? (See Instructions for Question 11.h.)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
i. Have you ever been convicted in any court of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence? (See Instructions for Question 11.i.)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

“We’re no longer taking a cookie-cutter approach to issuing firearms licenses,” he said, in the Lowell Sun.

More time? More time for what? How is more time than the law dictates and burdensome, unnecessary requirements anything more than discrimination and an unlawful requirement to enact backdoor gun control by either denying citizens of their Constitutional rights or at a minimum delaying those rights?

How do you feel about Lowell, Massachusetts, new requirement to obtain an “unrestricted right-to-carry” gun permit by writing an essay and increasing the fees? Share you opinions in the comment section.



*Growing up in Pennsylvania’s game-rich Allegany region, Dave Dolbee was introduced to whitetail hunting at a young age. At age 19 he bought his first bow while serving in the U.S. Navy, and began bowhunting after returning from Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. Dave was a sponsored Pro Staff Shooter for several top archery companies during the 1990s and an Olympic hopeful holding up to 16 archery records at one point. During Dave’s writing career, he has written for several smaller publications as well as many major content providers such as Guns & Ammo, Shooting Times, Outdoor Life, Petersen’s Hunting, Rifle Shooter, Petersen’s Bowhunting, Bowhunter, Game & Fish magazines, Handguns, F.O.P Fraternal Order of Police, Archery Business, SHOT Business, OutdoorRoadmap.com, TheGearExpert.com and others. Dave is currently a staff writer for **Cheaper Than Dirt!***



https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/ted-nugent-anti-semitic/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20160212_FridayDigest_16&utm_campaign=/blog/ted-nugent-anti-semitic/

Ted Nugent Posts Anti-Semitic Meme, Catches Hell for It

by S.H. Blannelberry on February 9, 2016

I've [defended Ted Nugent](#) in the past for his inflammatory remarks and rock-n-roll style rhetoric. He likes to, in his words, "raise hell," you know, cause a stir, put people's knickers in a knot. And I get that, I understand that from time to time the political correct dolts in the media, in the political arena, in government need a good ribbing. They need to be put on blast for their gun-grabbing propaganda, and Ted is often the perfect man for the job.

But recently, the Motor City madman made a mistake, in that while attempting to call out a bunch of anti-gunners he intentionally (or unintentionally, can't say for sure) took a swipe at the Jewish people. On his [Facebook](#) page, he posted a photo of a dozen prominent gun-grabbers, each of whom was singled out for being Jewish, along with the caption, "So who is really behind gun control?"

The implication, whether Ted wants to acknowledge it or not, is that Jews are behind the movement to repeal the Second Amendment. I know I don't have to say this, but that notion is utter and complete bullshit!

Quite rightly, the Anti-Defamation League chided uncle Ted for his propagation of this idiotic Internet meme.

"Ted Nugent has a long history of being an equal opportunity offender. But his latest share on Facebook, making the outrageous suggestion that Jews are behind gun control, is nothing short of conspiratorial anti-Semitism," [said ADL CEO](#) Jonathan A. Greenblatt.

"Regardless of one's views on gun control, this kind of scapegoating of an entire religious group is completely unacceptable and completely divorced from reality," continued Greenblatt.

It is completely divorced from reality. There are as many, if not more, Jewish people who love, support and exercise the right to keep and bear arms.

[Alan Gottlieb](#), for example, the executive vice president and founder of the Second Amendment Foundation. There is no one working harder for the 2A cause than Alan.

Gottlieb's organization, and his lead attorney, Alan Gura (also Jewish) are chiefly responsible for the landmark Supreme Court rulings of *Columbia v. Heller* and *McDonald v. Chicago*, which together overturned the D.C. ban on handguns and solidified the interpretation that one's right to keep and bear arms is an individual right not dependent on militia service. Anti-semitic gun owners should ask themselves, what would the state of the Second Amendment be if it weren't for Mr. Gura and Mr. Gottlieb?

Need another example? How about GunsAmerica contributor [Alan Korwin](#)? Yes, Korwin is Jewish. He is also a writer for the "Daily Caller," the purveyor of the pro-gun website [gunlaws.com](#), and the author of a dozen or so books on the Second Amendment. Korwin is a champion for gun rights! Shall we discount all his great work because he is Jewish?

My interview with Korwin from SHOT Show 2016:

I can go on and on but I'll stop here at this last example. Paul Helinski, the owner, and founder of GunsAmerica. That's right, the owner of our entire operation is Jewish.

I've been in this business for quite awhile and I've never met someone more dedicated to the preservation of the Second Amendment than Paul. GunsAmerica is his baby, and it is the place where, quite literally, *America Buys and Sells Guns*.

Since its inception in 1997 (Yes, GA was the first firearms retail website on the Internet) the whole mission of GunsAmerica is to ensure that those who wish to exercise their right to keep and bear arms have a safe place to buy and sell firearms. What's more critical to our cause than that? We are the gun store for the nation, a place where independent buyers and sellers and FFLs can meet and conduct business responsibly. We take our job very seriously, and we never lose sight of what's at stake — especially not Paul.

In fact, Paul shared his thoughts on why some within his tribe have gone astray on the gun rights.

“The reality is that there are a lot of Jews who have gotten suckered into the anti-gun thing, and they are all secular anti-religionists. G-dless fools who trust the ability of man to engineer his own utopia are just fools,” said Paul.

“Lenin called them useful idiots, and a lot of his supporters at the beginning of the Russian Revolution were indeed Jewish. Then Lenin and his comrade Stalin went on to forbid Jewish religious practice, at the penalty of death, or exile in Siberia,” he explained.

“Man cannot engineer utopia. Utopia can only be achieved through the revelation of G-d’s true King, Moshiach, and may we see that speedily in our days. Then we can beat swords into plowshares,” said Paul. “But until then, hang onto your guns, because some bad stuff is coming, soon.”

So, there. For every Bloomberg or Feinstein or Schumer or Emmanuel out there, there is a Gottlieb, a Gura, a Korwin, a Helinski. One should always be mindful of these Jewish warriors working mainly behind the scenes to protect our rights. Moreover, we should all spread the word and remind those out there who may be tempted to believe those ridiculous Internet memes.

As for Nugent, well, he tried to defend himself in a subsequent post on Facebook.

“Just when you hope that mankind couldnt possibly get any dumber or more dishonest, superFreaks rise to the occasion,” wrote the Nuge. “What sort of racist prejudiced POS could possibly not know that Jews for guncontrol are nazis in disguise?”

“‘NEVER AGAIN!’ Anyone? Anyone?? RUFKM! The founder of Jews For the Preservation of Firearms Ownership called me his 2nd Amendment/Freedom hero,” continued Nugent. “The NEVER AGAIN battlecry was universally embraced by all good people who will make sure another Holocaust never happens again.”

“Freaks have plummeted to whole new low. Plummet on punks. Plummet on,” said Ted. “Meanwhile I adjust my yamika at my barmitzva playing my kosher guitar. My dad killed nazis & saved Jews in WWII. Eat me.”

I don’t really understand what Ted was trying to say. But I do know this, gun-grabbing is a disease that affects all races, religions, ethnicities, cultures, political parties, etc. It isn’t endemic to just one

specific group. The only way to stop this contagion is via education. So, as I said before, make sure you're doing your part to spread the gospel of guns and dispel dumb Internet myths.

<https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/prepping-101-no-bs-bugout-bag-basics-essentials/>

Prepping 101: NO BS Bugout Bag Basics & Essentials

by PAUL HELINSKI on JUNE 28, 2015

Related Tags: [Bug Out](#), [Buzz](#), [Feature Articles](#), [Prepping](#)

I have avoided the subject of “bugging out” in this series until now, and it was intentional. Most bugout articles are absolute garbage. I even saw one in a large format news stand magazine that compared **children’s backpacks** because in the same issue were several advertising spreads from Columbia. Bugging out is a great topic if you want clicks and magazine purchases, but few people address what it means to actually bug out, and the different scenarios that may force you to leave a secure location. Think about it. Are the roads jammed? Am I going to be on foot at some point? I can’t hide that I am carrying resources, and at some point I may have to deal with “the authorities” who are going to make sure that I am unarmed. How do I maximize the money that I can spend right now, to perhaps survive at some point out on the road to somewhere.

First lets talk about why you would bug out to begin with. Because if you have been following some of the advice in this column, most likely you already have some resources stocked up, and those resources are not going to be easily transported. For instance, in my [very early article on food](#), I suggested #10 cans of freeze dried food from Honeyville. I just did another order with them recently (and no, we have never gotten a discount or anything free). I also suggested filling 6 gallon plastic buckets with commonly available survival supplies. These don’t travel well for anything like bugging out.

In my [initial water article](#), we covered the individual filtration unit called the LifeStraw, which you for sure would put in a bugout bag, but we also covered a water storage system that fits in your bathtub, and even a 250 gallon water storage unit made to fit through apartment doorways. In one closet you could keep enough resources to survive several months, for less than \$1,000. People will be killing each other in the streets. The best advice is to accumulate as much as you can where you are when a “situation” hits, then hunker down and avoid all human contact. Why would you bug out?



Make sure that your pack is sufficient size to carry what you can physically carry, and don't discount using extra space to hold other bags, like duffel bags, in case you need them down the road. Make sure you get a frame pack, even if you don't get this specific one. Older ALICE packs are really cheap, and they are huge.

There is also the issue of being able to get out. Unless you get some kind of early warning, everyone else is going to be trying to get out too. If you are in the city and you know that no matter what you have to get out, have a plan now. In advance you should build an evacuation plan, and ideally have a place to go. I reviewed the book "[Strategic Relocation](#)" a while ago, and it gives you good escape routes off the beaten path for most major cities. Don't think you are going to go to public government land and wing it, please. The writers who suggest that are going to die in the first wave

as they rush to the same place everyone else is going, only to die fighting over the one wild hog that hasn't been killed yet when they get there. Get a closet water container and hunker down until those idiots all kill each other.

When You Have to Leave RIGHT NOW

This is where the whole subject of bugging out gets interesting. If you are close to one of the coasts, earthquakes all over the world have been [showing up in the strangest places](#). There are cases where you absolutely have to leave, because you will die if you stay.

Do you have to leave ****right now**** because a tsunami just wiped out your neighborhood, and it is either get on the rescue boat or take your chances with staying on the roof? Did your geiger counter just spike to 5 rads an hour because your local nuke plant is melting down after that pretty light from space turned out to be an EMP attack? Have you exhausted your food and water at your current location and now have to forage? Those are all very different scenarios that will require different pack essentials.

Are you in a vehicle or on foot? Are you going to try a vehicle, from which you may have to exit quickly and abandon? From the outset, I would delineate what goes in the packs and what goes in the car. From the outset I would delineate what stays and what goes. Having a plan now is going to make a huge difference if the rubber ever actually meets the road.



My original article on survival food suggested Honeyville.com. I still feel that they are the best. This pack of 6 #10 cans of prepared recipes is \$157, and 6 packs of veggies and cheese products are much less. Shipping is always \$4.99, and no, they don't pay us to say that.

Food

Obviously, the majority of your pack supplies should be food. If you have read [my original article on survival food](#), you know that I am not a strong proponent of sole reliance on freeze dried food sold for survival purposes. Lots of regular supermarket food has a long shelf life, and with your own oxygen absorbers, you can store things like rice, beans, flour, pasta and nonfat dried milk for just as long as freeze dried food.

For your bugout bag, I don't think it is as cut and dried, but some foods, like flour, don't travel well, or they will require too much preparation. I think your bugout bag should have about 1/3rd or less prepared food, so if you can't stop to cook, you have some food that you can eat on the move. This could be foil pack tuna, non-refrigerated meat products, and some canned food if your back can

handle the weight. The rest should be freeze dried survival food, and/or dry beans, rice, and grains, as well as nonfat dried milk, which I consider an absolute must staple.

Ultimately it comes down weight, and whether you carry your water as food, meaning wet food, or if you carry dry food and plan to hydrate it with carried or found water. I prefer to carry water as water as much as possible, and hope that I'll find water on the road to hydrate the food. I tell people to steer away from military MREs. They are expensive, and they are meant for a system that has "supply lines," people dropping or delivering food, which you won't have. If you have to carry the food, you are much better with dried food that you can, then hydrate.



If you read my original article, you will see that I suggest you buy bulk rice, beans, pasta, tuna and dried milk from Walmart. This is my latest find. 4 bucks a pound for actual meat, and the stated shelf life is over 6 months, though I suspect it will be much more.

Then you have to ask the question, where do I get the freeze dried food? I still suggest that you buy #10 cans from Honeyville explained in the previous article. I looked around a lot back then, and have since, and they are the source that the serious preppers use. I have noticed that since I wrote the first article the prices have come up 20-30%, but in bulk I would say that they are still the choice. Just beware that as a rule there is almost no actual meat in any of the freeze dried meat products. Read ingredients.

If you want to go with individual packages of recipe foods, what I would call the gourmet route, we recently got some review product in from [Valley Food Storage](#), and they seem to be very high

quality. When they first contacted us to review their products I compared their quantities and prices vs. other more common brands like Wise, and they seem to stack up with more actual value. I don't suggest that you forgo the 4 pound packages of pasta and dried milk at Walmart that I suggested before, as well as large amounts of beans and rice, before you buy the gourmet food. A good backpack has about 5000 cubic inches, or 80 litres of space, which is the equivalent of more than 3 of the 5 or 6 gallon buckets. But if you have the means, and you want easy to cook, tasty meals, I think Valley is a good option. They also have a pretty cool subscription program where you get food mailed on a budget every month.



Most canned food has an indefinite shelf life, but any food that hasn't had the water removed from it is heavy, and you can carry less of it.

I do not, however, suggest that you buy a prepared "survival" backpack from them or anyone else. You are better to choose what goes into your pack, and use every available cubic inch, even if it means carrying empty water containers. Also keep in mind that when you are dealing with designer recipe long term storage foods, you have to store them at ideal temperatures. I have stored the Valley Food samples for a few months in a South Florida not well air conditioned side room and the "Cheesy Mac" has expanded the bag like a balloon. It may say 15-25 year shelf life, but freeze dried recipe foods are extremely sensitive to temperatures. On examination, the Cheesy Mac seemed fine, but something chemically is going on in there, so they are not long for this world. I have not

experienced that with #10 cans of powdered cheese from Honeyville stored in the same room, and my guess is that Valley uses the same supplier for their cheese powders. The people who make these recipes test for taste, but they don't have a complete understanding of what ingredients may react with others over time.



Valley food storage sent us a pack of sample food a few months back. They seem like a great source for smaller, more transportable packages of recipe foods in freeze dried.

To cook your freeze dried food I would plan to bring [some Mealspec heaters](#). I reviewed these products early in this column and they work great, but they are of course only one use each. I am testing [a DIY rocket stove](#) this week that is a bit heavy, but there are other [backpack style rocket stoves](#) that I haven't gotten in yet to try.

Canned food may be all that you have in the house to take with you, and that's fine if you have the backs to carry it. Hopefully you'll find some support down the road, and the cans will get you through to the next phase of your survival journey. Take everything you can, and bring empty packs with you if you can't fill them when you leave. You never know what the road will bring. Take a can opener or two!

Carrying Water vs. Filtering Water

As we all know, you can't go very long without drinking clean water. And as I explained in my original article on water, you really should have a plan for long term water acquisition where you live. But what if you have to leave? I think that the LifeStraw is a good, lightweight tool that we can all carry for like \$20, but I also think that you need to carry water with you. I don't suggest that you purchase packaged water, or that you rely on supermarket water bottles. From my research, the cheapest and most efficient way for a person to carry a good deal of water is in surplus military canteens. There is a [one quart that you can find on Ebay](#) really cheap, like \$4 with shipping, and there is a 2 quart that [sells around \\$10-\\$15 each with shipping](#).



The only issue we have seen with the Valley food has been in storing it at 80 or so degrees. the Cheesy Mac bag expanded due to some kind of reaction. It seems fine, but that isn't a good sign. Similar cheese powders from Honeyville in #10 cans with oxy absorbers have not reacted in the same room.

If you are a fan of water bladder systems that are built into backpacks, like the Camelbak brand, they definitely have their merits, but I have found the few I have used over the years to be leaky and prone to unscrewing. The backpacks are usually completely useless as well, because they are meant for day hikers and bicyclists. For the money, I prefer the US Military 2 quart canteen.

The major difference between the 2 quart and the older, oval shaped 1 quart, besides the obvious double size and availability of shoulder slings, is that the new canteen usually comes with a "chem cap," which fits the drink tube of most gas masks. Any military canteen case will also have Molle clips to attach to your pack, which is a huge plus for saving space. Water is heavy and bulky.



We covered most water storage systems in the original article on water in this series, but for the road you should invest in these 2 quart military canteens available cheap on Ebay.

I would also make sure that you have a good supply of empty water containers, even old water or soda bottles, to fill dead space in your pack. After your food is eaten or stored, you will need to transport water to your location, and the fewer trips out the better. Collapsible 5 gallon containers are great, but they are too bug to squeeze into small spaces to expand your pack to its biggest. Small bottles will maximize your space and weight.

I would also carry some pool shock and iodine for purifying stream and lake water. They won't remove chemicals, but they will take out pathogens from animals dying upstream, dirty people bathing in the lake, and Giardia.

Do I Need a Gas Mask?

I am actually working on a lengthy gas mask overview right now (like literally right now in another window) and I hope to have it out within a few weeks. There is a ton of disinformation out there on the gas masks that are available in the market today. As a general rule, some mask is better than no mask. And because you have no idea what the threat you face is right now, I think that everyone should have a good "NBC" mask, which means Nuclear, Biological and Chemical, just in case. If you have a lot of people to protect and you just can't afford even the basic Russian GP-5 civilian mask, at

[just under \\$20 each with filter](#), a regular N95 mask will protect you against sneezed viral infections in a mass evacuation. I think an N95 is a little too easy to grab off of your face, but they are at least a level of protection above a surgical mask. One up from there is the dual filter NIOSH masks, but if you are going to spend the money on those, just go for a full face gas mask. There are also some good and cheap options for children, which I'll get to in the article. The Russian GP-5 and PDF masks for children saved a lot of lives after Chernobyl, and they are available now for cheap, and no, they don't have asbestos in the filters.



The new canteen have what is called the "chem cap" on them, which connects to drinking systems on gas masks, including Israeli and some Russian civilian masks.

I personally don't think that biological and chemical threats are worth the weight and bulk of a gas mask, but that's just me. A gas mask filter is only good for 6 to 8 hours under the best conditions, and they are really difficult to function in. If you are part of a large refugee group running from a biological outbreak, if you are the only one in the crowd with a full face mask, you are going to have it taken by the mob at some point.

Chemical weapons are also a lost cause when it comes to gas masks. Most inexpensive civilian masks will melt from exposure to things like Mustard Gas, and you really need a full chem suit if you expect to fight in a chemical weapons theatre. The good news is that chemical weapons have to be hand

spread, or exploded in a small circumference in rockets. so they are therefore extremely localized. If you are just bugging out after an event, if you already survived the event, most likely you don't have to worry about chemical warfare chemicals right now.



That of course begs the question, “do you really think I need a gas mask?” If you consider nuclear threats to be serious, and I do, having to move outside during a nuclear crisis will require an NBC “gas mask” and filter. This is the cheapest option, the Russian GP-5, usually under \$20 including shipping from Russia.

The biggest reason that you would need a gas mask is in the case of nuclear war, or a nuke plant meltdown, which masks gas masks highly conditional when it comes to your bug out pack. You either need one or you don't. And as I explained in my most recent [article on radiation detectors](#), if you need one, you need one. Nuclear particulates are extremely dangerous to long term health, even if they don't kill you right away. But the good thing about both Alpha and Beta particles is that they are heavy, and they generally fall straight down once they are released from clouds. So if you are indoors, even without room filtration you probably won't have much exposure to particles. Having to go outside, however, is a problem.

If you know that you are more than 7 -10 miles from ground zero of a radiation source and your survey meter is still showing high levels, most likely there are particles falling in the air around your

location, which means you don't want to be outside and breathing the air. If you have to move though, you have to move, and that is where an NBC gas mask is going to be a life or death item. Have one for each person on hand, preferably with a few extra filters. If the eventual collapse doesn't involve radiation, I would leave it behind.



For children, a container of Russian PDF masks were brought into the country in the 90s, and they are available in "Evirstar" packages today on Ebay for cheap, in brand new condition. Don't be scared away by false claims that the Russian filters have asbestos. I have an article coming on masks in the future, but go look at Youtube for a video of a guy who took a filter apart.

If you do need a mask to travel, don't worry about long term, because of course you can't wear a gas mask for the rest of your life. Radioactive isotopes degrade very quickly, even the ones with long half lives like Cesium-137. As a rule, unless you are near the core of a nuke plant meltdown, overall radiation degrades by [10x every 7 hours](#). So two days after a nuclear event, the radiation exposure danger is one hundredth times as great. So if one hour after an event the rate is 400 R/hr.

- After 7 Hours – 1/10th – 40 R/hr
- After 49 Hours – 1/100th – .4 R/hr

Other Conditionals

To me nuclear is the biggest conditional that there is, and this applies to all nuclear threats. Whether nuclear bombs are exploding or nuke plants are melting down because the grid went down, your preparation now is going to make a huge difference in your chance of survival. This also applies to your bug out bag. You may have to leave because of an evacuation, but nothing has happened yet. It will, and there is a pretty good chance that one way or the other, the future of America includes nuclear contamination. So while nuclear preparations for your pack are conditional, I would not take them lightly.



I am not going to include pictures of things that are in the library of articles in this series already, but this is a new find. Cloth diapers and adjustable diaper holders from China, for cheap. If you have a baby, great option for survival, and even bugging out.

If you haven't bought Potassium Iodide pills yet (KI), do so. They sell the pills on Ebay, Amazon, and all over the web. KI is absolutely crucial because of the way your thyroid gland works in your body. With all other radioactive isotopes, your whole body absorbs whatever you absorb, so your whole body can help itself recover over the long term, and the human body is extremely resilient. But Iodine-131, which is spewed by both bombs and core explosions, gets all grabbed up by your thyroid gland and concentrated. If you take KI just as the event occurs, your thyroid gets saturated with the iodine and won't absorb the radioactive isotope. It cycles back to your liver, which sends it to your kidneys for excretion. Yay right! But you have to buy the KI now, and make sure that it is part of your

bugout supplies. The half life of Iodine-131 is 8 days, so your two week supply of KI, for each person, will protect you through the life cycle of the isotope.



Duffel bags up to 45,000 cubic inches are available on Ebay for like \$35. If you think you might have to bug out in a vehicle, it would be a good idea to have these on hand, even for food, because you will be able to fit a lot more food in bags than in cases, cans or buckets.

I would also add to conditionals a lot of stuff that applies to children. If you are already carrying all of your available food and all of your portable water storage, ammunition and other essentials, by all means, having a children's backpack with books and reading material is a great idea. I personally have [giant duffel bags](#) in my children's dressers to grab up all of their clothes quickly and get out. They cost about \$35 each. Obviously if you have a baby, you are going to need diapers, but I strongly advice you to buy cloth diapers now, and make them part of your survival plan. You can [get waterproof pants and cloth diapers](#) from China really cheap right now, and they are adjustable.

The other thing I would say is highly conditional, but which you really need to buy now, is some kind of solar charger for your electronics. Just beware, I have tested the battery pack and solar charger combos on Ebay and they are junk. My newest experiment is [a solar charger backpack](#), but they are pricey. It seems that the chargers are in the 6-7 watt range, and that they either come in backpacks with a hydration bladder or in a full sized school backpack version. Or upwards of \$100, I would opt for the latter.



If you have teenagers in your party who can't carry a full sized backpack, check out this charger backpack. Electronics may be a luxury, but if you have kids they can solve a lot of problems, and they may help you also.

If you look through the back issues of this column, you will find that I found [a network free GPS application with built in maps for Android](#), and recently a radiation detector that works off of the headphone jack. Obviously when it comes to keeping kids busy a tablet is a huge plus, so don't discount that part of your bugout plan should be the ability to keep them charged. Apple devices are far less useful than Android, because they don't even have removable memory. You can keep 100s of movies and 1000s of books on micro-SD cards for Android. Survival is boring.

Shelter

I consider a tent of some kind in the same class as matches when it comes to a survival bag or kit. Well of course you would plan to carry some kind of portable shelter, and if possible bed rolls or sleeping bags for each person, depending on the weather.

The one suggestion I would make is that you buy a tent specifically for bugging out, ie, camo. There are [camo 4 season tents on Ebay](#) for as little as \$30 for a 4 man tent. You don't want a bright red tent when everyone is going to be clamoring for resources. It is always preferable to use the resources

you have, and most of us have a tent, but in this case, I would buy a camo tent with the sole intent of using it in case of a bug out.



You have to assume that there is a good chance that you will be on foot at some point, and you should have some shelter with you. This 4 man tent is \$30 on Ebay with free shipping.

Survival Radios

I'm sure the first thing that came to mind on my suggestion of a mobile charger was WTF! Do you really think cell phones will work? No, they will not, and they could be one of the first things to come down if this is an engineered event coming as I suspect. In the week after 911 the cell phone networks went down, probably to contribute to the fear porn factor.

That doesn't mean that communications will not be possible. As I explained in my [first article on survival communications](#), you can get very inexpensive Baofeng hand radios on Ebay which will communicate on all of the hand held Ham radio frequencies. Technically you need a license for these radios, but in a survival situation that won't matter. Those radios in normal use can extend their range using civilian repeaters located on cell towers, and many of those towers even have solar backups. I also broke out [the basics of a Ham radio backpack](#) that can reach all over the globe in the hands of an experienced Ham operator in a second article. Communications should be a part of your preparations, in some way that your budget can swing.

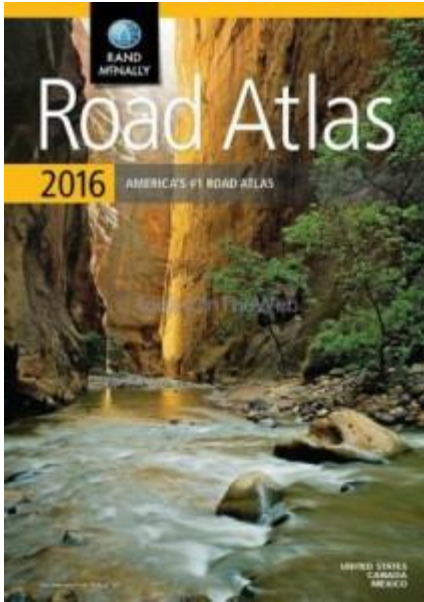


At the very least you should have a hand crank and solar powered multi-band radio, but please read the radio articles here to understand the basics of cheap, \$25 Ham radios as well.

You also should absolutely have a multi-band emergency radio with its own solar panel and hand crank. If you are on a budget, you can get them these days [on Ebay for under \\$20, up to \\$100](#), depending on how many bands they can get. Sometimes the simplest tool is the best.

GPS & Maps

If you are willing to carry some kind of way to charge it, I would strongly suggest taking a GPS of some sort, especially if you already have one in your car. They generally charge on the same 5v cord that you connect to a USB port, and most of them have a battery. An electronic GPS will get you back to the nearest road if you are lost in the woods, and point you in the right direction if you get disoriented. A hiking GPS will also give you trails and terrain.



Life without a GPS will be quite a shock to most of us. Buying a low tech solution today is about \$15.

I also strongly suggest that everyone own at least one national printed map, and one state map, or several states if you are on borders. Finding your way around obstacles will be a big part of long term survival for all of us, if we are required to move. If you don't know your area well, and you are in a rural area, I [discovered a way to have your own maps printed](#) with topographical information, with your house as the center of the map. You really need to get your printed maps now, before the writing is on the wall and everyone is worried about surviving and the possibility of bugging out.

Plastic Weapons – Knives, Knuckles & Pepper Spray

You will note that I didn't include a section on firearms in this article, because of course if you can carry a gun and ammunition, as a GunsAmerica subscriber, you of course will. What you carry for many people is what you can carry, and everyone has their preference. I do suggest a backup as well, something easily concealed.

But what if you get herded through a metal detector by the FEMA SS brownshirts? The gun is going to be left behind, but your backpack may be able to go with you. Non-metal hand to hand weapons in these situations will be absolutely critical, and again, buy them now.



It is a forgone conclusion that GunsAmerica subscribers will be carrying guns and ammo on the road, but don't discount including some weapons that won't be stopped in a metal detector. Shelters will be dangerous places if you have food of your own.

At your local flea market you may be able to get plastic "brass knuckles" for about \$10. You can also order [both brass and plastic knuckles online](#) in many places, though they were banned from Ebay and Amazon. You can also get a plastic hairbrush that comes apart into a stabbing spike, and [all kinds of saps and knuckles from BudK](#). Pepper spray is something they may be looking for, but you can get pepper spray in a pen as well. There are also plastic "[letter opener](#)" knives and spikes on Ebay that are deadly, and that will help you protect your stuff if you are stuck in a refugee camp. Get yourself thinking about your options.

Toilet Paper, Soap, Maxi-Pads, Matches, etc.

If you are bugging out with a lot of people, you have a lot of backs to carry supplies. The most common causes of death in a survival situation are direct results of being dirty. A bar of soap and a couple rolls of toilet paper go a long way, and if you are planning for survival packs, it is really important to plan to carry these things. If you have menstruating women in your group, for sure you also need tampons or maxi-pads for at least a few months. If it isn't happening right now, these could be easily forgotten in a rush. Also bring a couple wash cloths.

Matches, eating utensils, sewing thread, rope and other standard bug out bag essentials are not the purpose of this article. I will mention it here, because I assume you have common sense, and that if you are going to actually go build a bug out bag, you will include these things, and more as your situation dictates. If I had the choice to carry one more pound roll of that Walmart meat or a roll of rope, which do you think I'll pick though? I guess you can tie the rope to the outside of the pack lol.

Choosing a Pack



This pack is \$37.95 on Ebay right now with free shipping. There are no Molle stitched loops, but if it is what you can afford, it is what you can afford. There are all kinds of deals on military packs though, so make an offer before you get the Chinese packs.

I saved this for last because well duh, do you really need help choosing a backpack? I have thought a lot about backpacks because I don't plan to bug out on foot, but if I have to, with children, I would prefer to carry more and go slower than carry less and go quicker. I also think that you are better buying surplus military packs than relying on camping and hiking packs, which are often much more expensive anyway. The pack I have shown here is the Molle II Large Rucksack, which is current military issue. It is 5000 cubic inches, plus it usually comes with side "sustainment pouches" for more space. A standard frame commercial pack is 80 liters, which is about the same if you do the math.

I am a strong proponent of using a current issue pack for more than one reason. If you think about it, call me silly, but wouldn't a current issue digicam backpack make you look more military so that people will be more wary of messing with you? Also, if you end up having to be herded into camps, you might get more professional courtesy from the traitor brownshirts if they think that you used to be one of them. Who knows? But I can say that the military packs, even going back to the old Alice packs, which you can [still get new with frame for under \\$50](#), are way more tolerant to abuse, regardless, so why spend more money on a commercial pack?

Right now a large MOLLE II Rucksack in ACU camo [is selling from \\$75-\\$150](#) with shipping on Ebay, depending on the extras. I just found two of them that I put \$40 offers in to the sellers and they agreed, plus \$25 shipping. If you look are on a really tight budget, dig right in and find the deals. They are out there. I found a [camo ALICE pack for under \\$30](#) just now, and the guy has 3 of them (though probably gone by the time you read this).

Just beware that there are commercial replica military packs on Ebay as well, from about \$50 in the comparable 80 liter/5000 cubic inch size. From what I have seen, the Chinese made commercial packs don't have the Molle attachment stitching, and I am sure they don't have the durability. Obviously figure it out for yourself. You will want at least one big pack with a frame for each adult and older kid. The military packs can carry up to 200 lbs., not that I could lol.



This image was taken from one of the hundreds of articles out there on "bugout bags." My #1 suggestion is DON'T BUG OUT! ...unless you absolutely have to. And hopefully this gave you some brainfood about what your real issues will be if you do.

The hardest thing when you bug out is going to be leaving things behind. If you have the packs and

the backs to put them on, assuming you can't carry anymore food and water, of course you would bring medical supplies, extra clothes and even cookware. Certainly if you bought [some Schedule H](#) antibiotics from India, or you got some pet antibiotics (explained in my survival medicine article), you'd want to take them along because they are light. A few compressed trauma bandages wouldn't hurt either, because likewise, they are light. But big white buckets full of rice and beans are going to have to stay behind if you are on foot, no matter how much you hate to leave them. Figuring out in advance what you can reasonably take, both in a car and on foot in packs, is absolutely crucial. Have some extra duffel bags on hand just in case you can start your journey with a ride of some kind. A horse or a 4 wheeler can carry a lot of packs. And if you are moving just to get away from a radiation hot zone, if you don't go too far there is good chance you can come back for more of your stuff at some point. You just never know. Survival is part guessing game and part statistics. I hope to not be a statistic. If you the packs, you have the packs. I found duffel bags on Ebay for under \$40 that are 45,000 cubic inches, 50" x 30" x 30". That is a lot of nonfat dried milk.

Nobody wants to think about practical survival. It is easier to just stock the pantry and figure that you have enough resources to weather most storms. But that is where most of us are falling victim to a "normalcy bias." Normalcy bias is the name for the little voice in your head that tells you that "it can't happen here," and who knows, it very well may not. But if you dig into what is really going on out there, everywhere, America is in for a fall, and the longer it gets put off the harder that fall is going to be. Bugging out is the worst of the worst case scenario, but it seems like that is what everyone feels is their best option. I disagree. This article turned from a short overview into yet another convoluted discussion of options, because bugging out just isn't that simple, and preparing for it adequately just isn't so cheap either. The richest of the rich have built bunkers under their homes. The governments have built bunkers and stocked them for themselves. Even if you can't build a bunker, I think all of our focus should be on staying home, and staying put. Bugging out is a fools game, for fools. I was talking to a guy in a gunshop the other day and he was dishing about how he wants the collapse to come so he can go out and finally shoot people. Do you really want to be on the road with that guy? Stay home, unless you have to leave. And if you have to leave, make sure you have the packs to take lots of supplies with you.

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Facebook Bans Private, Person-to-Person Gun Sales

by S.H. BLANNELBERRY on FEBRUARY 1, 2016

Related Tags: [Buzz](#), [R2KBA](#)

Last Friday, Facebook announced that it would ban users from selling firearms on its social media platforms unless they are a licensed dealer.

The move has two goals: (a) ensure all buyers undergo background checks, and (b) attempt to eliminate illegal transfers or sales to prohibited persons, e.g., minors, mental defectives, felons, drug addicts, domestic abusers, etc.

Although it's not known for being a gun exchange, Facebook has 1.6 billion monthly visitors. A non-trivial number of those visitors are gun owners who used the virtual community, and its photo-sharing service Instagram, to negotiate gun sales.

But that's all over. Moving forward, only Federal Firearm Licensees (FFLs) will be allowed to conduct transfers, which means that prospective buyers will have to pay the dealer transfer fee and undergo a background check, according to [The New York Times](#).

Naturally, gun-control organizations like former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg's Everytown for Gun Safety hailed it as a victory.

"Moms are grateful for Facebook's leadership today in announcing that they will end all unlicensed gun sales arranged on their platforms," said Shannon Watts, founder of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, which along with Mayors Against Illegal Guns makes up Everytown for Gun Safety.

“Two years ago, our campaign to get Facebook to change how their platforms host firearm sales resulted in nine new policies to curb children’s exposure to guns and to clarify state laws around selling and buying guns online,” continued Watts.

“Our continued relationship with Facebook resulted in today’s even stronger stance, which will prevent dangerous people from getting guns and save American lives,” said Watts.

Facebook has not yet released a statement explaining the decision or confirming if its new stance is a result of conversations with Everytown for Gun Safety.

Facebook currently prohibits people from offering marijuana, pharmaceuticals, and illegal drugs for sale on its platforms. Firearms are now on that list as well.

Quite honestly, we don’t know why anyone would go to Facebook when you can easily buy, sell firearms on GunsAmerica! After all, we’re an unabashedly pro-gun destination that encourages everyone to responsibly exercise their Second Amendment rights.



So, forget Facebook! Buy, Sell Guns on GunsAmerica! Spread the word

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Binary Trigger Fires on Pull & Release – Also Militia .308/7.62 AR – Franklin Armory – Shot Show 2016

by JACOB EPSTEIN on FEBRUARY 3, 2016



The Franklin M4 SBR-M is a compact 7.62 x 51 designed for the defense of freedom. But not a short barreled rifle.

Check out the Franklin guns: http://www.franklinarmory.com/PRODUCTS_M4-SBR-M.html

Read more about the trigger: <http://franklin-armory.myshopify.com/collections/triggers/products/binary-firing-system-trigger-pack>

Buy a Franklin Armory gun on GunsAmerica:

<https://www.gunsamerica.com/Search.aspx?T=franklin%20armory>

New for 2016, Franklin Armory has two unique offerings bound to turn heads. First and foremost, they have a new rifle named the M4-SBR-M. The M stands for militia and I have a hard time arguing that it isn't one of the best rifles on the market for the modern-day militiaman.

Chambered in 7.62×51 and rocking a pinned 14.5-inch barrel, that Militia model is a rifle built for fighting. Sparing all the nonsense that follows the tactical market, this gun is a bare-bones fighting rifle chambered in the fight stopping 7.62×51. The rifle is well equipped right out of the box.

The Militia model comes stock with a Magpul CTR stock and an Ergo pistol grip. The upper uses a full-length, free-float rail and has plenty of space for mounting accessories or rail sections if the standard positions aren't enough.



Despite the name, it isn't technically an SBR.



The barrel is 14.5 inches long, and the break is pinned in place, which brings it to the legal limit.

I've got to say this rifle surprised me. I expected it to be heavy and unwieldy, but it is well balanced and compact enough to truly be a great tool. It is available now and retails for \$2,600.

The new Binary Trigger

The next new offering from Franklin Armory, the Binary Firing System, isn't actually new for 2016 but is now picking up steam and readily available via their web store. If you aren't familiar with the Binary Firing System, it is an NFA approved trigger pack that allows the shooter to fire two bullets with every trigger pull. One on the pull, another on the release.



Bang-bang. And if you don't want to fire that second shot, just hold the trigger back and engage the safety.

So how do they get away with this? Simple. The Trigger pack works as a three position fire control group. It has safe, fire and (for its third position) Binary. By firing one shot as the trigger is depressed and then a second as the trigger is released, the binary mode drastically increases your rate of fire and instantly increases the amount of joy you will get as you pull the trigger.

These trigger packs are available now at a price point of \$399.00. To ensure the best result, you can even send your lower to Franklin Armory for installation (at a total price of \$524.98). Both of these offerings from Franklin Armory are exciting and we hope to bring you a full review on both products in the following months.

https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/iwi-x95-tavor-review-shot-show-2016/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20160204_SHOT16_9&utm_campaign=/blog/iwi-x95-tavor-review-shot-show-2016/

IWI X95 Tavor – Redesigned Controls, More Compact – SHOT Show 2016

by JACOB EPSTEIN on FEBRUARY 3, 2016

Read more at IWI: <http://www.iwi.us/>

Buy an IWI at GunsAmerica: <https://www.gunsamerica.com/Search.aspx?T=iwi>

IWI has brought the X95 to the SHOT Show this year. This updated Tavor is going to be available in March and will be retailing for \$1,999.00.



The original Tavor and the new X95.

The X95 makes a handful of upgrades to the standard Tavor. Most importantly, the magazine release has been moved to the front of the rifle giving the X95 an ambidextrous AR-15-style magazine release. The next big improvement is the relocation of the Charging handle. Moving the handle

closer to the shooter's center mass means the gun can be charged and manipulated without over-extending the shooter's balance. The final big upgrade is the handguard. With a built in tri-rail and removable rail covers, the X95 is able to be outfitted with accessories straight out of the box. In short, the X95 carries over all of the attributes of the original Tavor design but none of its weaknesses.



The new X95 will come in typical Tavor colors.

The gun will be available in black, flat dark earth and OD green, and in right and left-handed variants. Initially, it will be sold in 5.56/.223 but will be available in 9mm and 300 Blackout later this year. There will be conversion kits available for those of you wishing to convert between calibers that will retail for \$899.00 in 5.56/.223 and 9mm and \$499 for 300 Blackout.

The X95 has one huge improvement that will affect all Tavor owners. With a vastly improved trigger pack, the X95's trigger breaks cleaner at almost half the weight of the standard Tavor. This new trigger pack has also passed vetting with the IDF and is in use overseas as I write this, so reliability has been tested and is guaranteed. For those of you who want to upgrade the trigger you will be happy to hear that all standard Tavor trigger packs and linkage are used so Geissele, Timney, Tav-D trigger packs will all work with the gun.

Looking forward, we're pleased to report that IWI is bringing the Galil Ace in 7.62×51/308 to the US market this summer. It will be available in both a braced pistol form and a full-sized battle rifle. It will use SR25 magazines and the safety, magazine release, and bolt release will be ambidextrous. It will

stay at the same price point as the other Galil Ace rifles and pistols so we can expect it to sell around \$1,900.

Check back in the following months as we will be taking a more in-depth look at these new products from IWI.



The X95, from the right side.

Thomas Jefferson wrote that "A bill of rights is what the people are entitled to against every government on earth, general or particular, and what no just government should refuse."

Thank you,
Paul Curtis
President - CARGO
www.cargogunclub.org

"If you can read this, thank a teacher. For the fact that it is in English, thank a Veteran."

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