

A Pair of Academics Question Gun Control Orthodoxy

Given that so much gun policy research is explicitly funded by individuals hostile to our right to keep and bear arms, gun owners are right to be skeptical of academics who delve into the topic. However, there are times when well-respected academics have proven confident enough to challenge the prevailing left-wing orthodoxies on gun control. Such is the case with recent pieces from Northeastern University Professor of Criminology, Law, and Public Policy James Alan Fox and Harvard Kennedy School of Government Research Fellow Thomas Abt.

In a July 23 item for USA Today, Fox pondered why a recent mass killing in Kyoto, Japan did not garner significant attention in the U.S. media. On July 18, a man entered the Kyoto Animation studio and doused parts of the building with an accelerant and screamed “drop dead” or “die!” The individual then set the building ablaze. The resulting fire killed 34 people and injured more than thirty. According to a BBC report, the attack was “one of Japan’s worst mass casualty incidents since World War Two.”

A reasonable person might have expected such a heinous attack perpetrated in a notoriously peaceful country to get the attention of the press, but as Fox explained, the “Kyoto Animation arson killings didn’t get much attention because we couldn’t demonize guns.”

Comparing coverage of the Kyoto massacre to the March shooting in Christchurch, New Zealand, Fox noted, “U.S. newspapers and wire services featured the Christchurch massacre five times as much as the Kyoto mass murder.” Fox went on to explain that a significant portion of massacres are carried out with weapons other than firearms and that “It is the politics and controversy surrounding gun control that highlight mass shootings above the rest.”

In short, if a mass casualty event doesn’t fit a preconceived political narrative and policy prescription the media does not consider it worth covering.

In closing, Fox pointed out, *Whatever the reason, the lesser attention given to mass killings that do not invoke guns is disrespectful to the victims whose lives are tragically cut short. Is the crime any less serious if there were no gunshots? Are the victims any less dead? In fact, victims of burns, suffocation or stabbing often suffer a much slower and painful death than gunshot victims.*

It is surely fruitless to assess the relative severity of mass killings on the basis of weaponry. Our sense of outrage and concern for the victims should be the same whether they died from a firearm or fire.

Fox is not pro-gun, but has long served as a voice of reason in the hysterical aftermath of high-profile shootings. Since 2012, Fox has repeatedly made the case that common gun control proposals, such as so-called “universal” background checks and semi-automatic firearm bans, are unlikely to curtail high-profile shooting incidents.

In a 2018 research piece titled, “Schools are safer than they were in the 90s, and school shootings are not more common than they used to be,” Fox provided concrete data for his conclusion that “there is not an epidemic of school shootings.” Pouring cold water on the gun control policies advocated in the wake of school shootings, Fox noted, “The thing to remember is that these are extremely rare events, and no matter what you can come up with to prevent it, the shooter will have a workaround.”

In a July 19 piece for the Boston Globe, titled, “Democrats are skipping out on the most important gun fight of all,” Abt took issue with the 2020 Democratic presidential field’s approach to violence perpetrated with firearms. After citing some of the candidates’ gun control proposals, such as a national gun licensing scheme and semi-automatic firearm confiscation, Abt noted, “the candidates are still failing to focus on what is simultaneously the most serious and most solvable form of such violence: shootings and killings on the streets of our cities.”

High-profile shootings garner significant media and political attention, but as Abt pointed out, “Urban violence accounts for the overwhelming majority of homicides in the United States.” Moreover, this urban violence is highly concentrated and necessitates targeted strategies.

Abt explained, *because urban violence concentrates among a small number of people and places, strategies that target those concentrations tend to work best. In most medium to large cities, violent crime clusters among a few hundred individuals and a few dozen micro-locations known as “hot spots.” Less than 1 percent of a city’s population and less than 5 percent of its geography will generate the majority of its lethal or near-lethal encounters.*

The researcher went on to promote a handful of targeted law enforcement and social policies that could alleviate the problem without resorting to broad gun controls. Highlighting one problem with the effort to tackle urban violence, Abt wrote, “Mass shootings account for less than 1 percent of all gun deaths annually, yet they dominate the debate on gun violence and distort the search for solutions.”

IN THIS ISSUE	
EVENTS	PAGE 2
LIBERTY NOTES	PAGE 4
PRESIDENT’S CORNER	PAGE 5



...dedicated to the restoration of the inalienable right to keep and bear arms as guaranteed by the 2nd Amendment

The Alliance is a regionally-based, grass-roots organization that seeks to:

- 1. Counter the designs of malicious legislators.
2. Confront the media's twisted portrayals of gun rights issues.
3. Politicize and activate gun owners in defense of their rights.
4. Acquaint the public with the true nature of the Second Amendment.
5. Network with other pro-gun groups to coordinate local, state and national strategies.
6. Train people in basic firearm safety and handgun defense.
7. Sponsor and support pro-gun legislation
8. Make politicians aware that gun owners are awakening from their accustomed apathy and WILL TOLERATE NO FURTHER EROSION OF THEIR FREEDOMS

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COMING EVENTS

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WMSA

General Membership Meeting

7:00 PM

Nov. 26, 2019

Bass Pro Conservation Room
Independence, MO

...

MVACA

Missouri Valley Arms Collectors Assn.

To Be Announced
KCI Expo Center
Kansas City, MO

..

R. K. Shows

KCI Expo Center

October 26-27, 2019

Dec. 21-22, 2019

...

WANENMACHER'S

TULSA ARMS SHOW

EXPO CENTER-EXPO SQUARE
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TULSA, OKLAHOMA

Nov. 9-10, 2019

...

American Legion Gun & Knife Show

To Be Announced
16701 E. 40 Highway
Independence, MO

...

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www.wmsa.net



ACADEMICS (Continued from page 1)

Abt's recognition that firearms homicides are highly concentrated is not novel, but is an underappreciated fact of the gun control debate. A 2010 article for the Journal of Quantitative Criminology by Northeastern University Criminology Professor Anthony Braga, titled, "The Concentration and Stability of Gun Violence at Micro Places in Boston, 1980–2008" found that, *Recent advances in criminological research suggest that there is significant clustering of crime in micro places, or 'hot spots,' that generate a disproportionate amount of criminal events in a city... We find that Boston gun violence is intensely concentrated at a small number of street segments and intersections rather than spread evenly across the urban landscape between 1980 and 2008.*

A 2015 piece for the Hartford Courant by then-Yale Ph.D. candidate and current Assistant Professor at Rutgers University Michael Sierra-Arévalo explained, *The concentration is not just in terms of place, but also people. It's a tiny handful of the community that's responsible for the lion's share of the bloodshed. Turning to Boston again, in the period between the mid-1990s and mid-2000s, more than half of all murders, more than three-quarters of youth homicides and 70 percent of all shootings were perpetrated by 1 percent of youth between the ages of 15 and 24. One percent.*

Citing the work of his Yale colleagues, Sierra-Arévalo added, "As shown by Yale University sociologists in a recent study, 70 percent of all shootings in Chicago can be located in a social network composed of less than 6 percent of the city's population."

This recognition that a significant portion of firearm homicides take place within a small geographic area and fraction of the population suggests that policies narrowly targeted at problem areas and social networks is a more appropriate approach to curbing violence than sweeping gun controls that restrict the rights of the population at large.

Like Fox, not all of Abt's positions are laudable. The researcher expressed passing support for so-called "universal" background checks and a semi-automatic firearm ban, both of which have been shown to be ineffective. Moreover, in the Boston Globe piece the academic took an unnecessary and clumsy swipe at President Donald Trump.

Despite these shortcomings, Fox and Abt's more reasoned analyses of the gun issue expose the gulf between the haphazard rhetoric and policies peddled by gun control advocates and what might emerge from a more thoughtful approach to curbing violent crime.

Another Nonsense Gun-Grabber Assertion

Sheila Jackson Lee erroneously describes her "experience" with an AR-15.

Anti-gun activists know almost nothing about firearms, but that doesn't stop them from claiming to know how best to regulate them. Over the years, we've noted some of the more absurd statements made by anti-Second Amendment politicians. Well, Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX) has served up yet another doozy. She asserted, "I held an AR-15 in my hand. I wish I hadn't. It is as heavy as 10 boxes that you might be moving. And the bullet that is utilized, a .50 caliber — these kinds of bullets need to be licensed and do not need to be on the street." Were those boxes empty, and if not why would anyone in their right mind want to attempt to defend themselves using a firearm that was so impractical and unwieldy? Would not a light-weight firearm be preferable? But we digress.

Powerline's John Hinderaker notes, "An AR-15 weighs maybe seven or eight pounds ... so Ms. Lee can't possibly have held one." Hot Air's Ed Morrissey adds, "It's this kind of ignorance, professed proudly in front of any cameras on hand, that contributes to the disconnect between the governing class and the 60 million American firearms owners who know better. It's pretty darned tough to argue that Congress can be trusted to craft restrictions on gun ownership when they can't even get this much right even after holding the weapon. Or claiming to do so, anyway." And virtually all AR-15s are in .223 caliber, not .50.

Remember some of the other insanely idiotic things Democrats have said about firearms over the years?

Rep. Carolyn Maloney: "We need to ban the massacre machine gun magazines."

Rep. Carolyn MaCarthy: A barrel shroud is a "shoulder thing that goes up."

And that's not to mention the long list of crazy things they've said about the Second Amendment. But we're supposed to trust them to regulate guns?

ANTI-OPEN-CARRY BANDWAGON

The Daily Wire reveals that "Wegmans, Walgreens, and CVS all banned open carry in their stores on Thursday, following the same gun policy change from Walmart and Kroger the day before. Unlike the other retailers that only called for a ban on open carry, CVS advised all customers except for authorized law enforcement officers to totally refrain from carrying at all in their stores." On a related note, according to The Washington Free Beacon, "Walmart clarified its new policy on ammunition sales a day after its CEO announced the retailer would stop selling certain ammunition but didn't specify exactly which ammunition. ... Walmart senior director of communications Delia Garcia ... said Walmart would only sell ammunition capable of being used in the remaining firearms they sell." Tangentially, Tucker Carlson & Neil Patel observe: "Notice that Walmart still plans to sell the remainder of its AR-15 ammunition. This couldn't really be about saving lives, obviously. It's about the money."



LIBERTY NOTES

By Kevin L. Jamison

It is a good day for Liberty.

The 30th Anniversary of WMSA's founding was this September. There was a dinner on 27 September, 2019 at Bass Pro. There were elections for the Board of Directors, Bill Shelley, Bill Bland and Eric Burger were elected for a three year term.

A few Democratic senators have filed a brief with the US Supreme Court in the City of New York case. They call it a brief but it is more of a threat. It says that the court has been ruling wrong and if they don't get it right this time the court will be "modified." There have been calls from the left to increase the number of judges on the Court. This assumes, of course, that they can get a raving leftist elected president to appoint them.

I read "House to House" an account of the battle of Fallujah Iraq from the perspective of an Infantry squad leader. A couple of portions are of direct interest to us. One insurgent tried to climb the front of his Bradley fighting vehicle. The machine gunner kicked him off with a long burst; blowing off his legs and face and one arm. The squad emptied rifles into him until he stopped moving. The author checked the body, put two rounds in the stomach to be sure and marked the body for graves registration. When they carried him to the helicopter, he screamed at them. Some people are hard to kill, and the enemy was taking amphetamines. The author recounts the best close quarter fight I have ever read. He threw a grenade in a room, but the insurgent was still alive. He started to shoot, but smelled propane leaking from canisters. He clubbed the enemy, smashed him into the armor plate on his body armor. He hit him with his helmet, stabbed him strangled him. At one point the insurgent bit him. Ultimately, he prevailed.

A letter to the editor claimed to be written by a "registered" gun owner. He argues that the 4473 questions can be answered with lies. He demands that gun buyers must show ID. Of course, there is no such thing as registration in Missouri or Kansas. Buyers have been required to show ID since 1968, and their answers are checked by FBI computers. People tell these obvious lies and think we are stupid enough to believe them. Of course, we know they are lies, but the ignorant masses read these letters and believe that gun owners want gun control.

Shortly after two mass killings, one at a WalMart, a Springfield man put on body armor and web gear, slung an AR over his shoulder and went to a Walmart. He says that his intent was to see if his rights would be respected. If it had just been the rifle things might have been OK. He didn't threaten anyone; he didn't point the rifle at anyone. The military gear and body armor made it look like preparation for a gunfight. People saw him pushing a cart, mumbling into his phone (he was video recording the event) with an AR rifle over slung over his shoulder. There was panic; the manager pressed the fire alarm to let people flee. The man was held at gunpoint by a customer who was carrying concealed. He was arrested and charged with making a terrorist threat in the second degree. I doubt that they can make the charge stick. Unless there is a recording of him stating that he intends to terrify people I do not believe they have the evidence. He was perceived as a threat. In politics perception is often reality. During the fight for concealed carry we were often told that we don't need concealed carry because we can open carry. Now we see what can happen. Currently open carry is legal for the most part. Certain cities outlaw it unless the person has a license to carry concealed. I usually must repeat that: To carry openly, you must have a license to carry concealed. Shortly after the Springfield incident, two men openly carried handguns into a Kansas City area WalMart. They were buying ammunition. The police were called, determined that no law was broken, and everyone went on their way. One commentator said that is what we want. The police showing up and telling people that all is legal. People will then find that guns are good. If people act logically, that will happen. People have not acted logically. They have acted emotionally. That is what the usual suspects are counting on. Open carry sounds like a good idea but must be planned out to reach its goals and not the goals of the anti-gun crowd.

The open carry advocates believe that 1) it deters crime and 2) it makes people accustomed to guns. It may deter crime in some locations; it may also cause criminals to shoot the open carrier first. If it does deter crime it may be a matter of winning the battle and losing the war. People reacting emotionally to the sight of guns demand more restrictions which we must fight. We have enough on our plate. I am not sure that rubbing people's noses in openly carried guns will bring them over to our side. I have never heard of such a thing.

I am very concerned that the discussion over these incidents has become an exchange of insults between open carry advocates and concealed carry advocates. This helps the usual suspects not us. We need to discuss open carry as a tactic. Exchanging insults prevents this. We need to stick together.

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Someone in Hollywood came out with a movie called "The Hunt." It concerns liberal elites who kidnap and hunt right wing "deplorables." After adverse reaction the producers pulled the movie from release. They say they are astonished that we did not get the joke. This is what they think of us.

Federal prosecutors in Kansas have been caught listening in on attorney-client privileged calls. I have found that this happened in other jurisdictions as well. Do NOT talk about your case on jail phones. This is a burden for defense lawyers. The federal district court in Kansas has found the prosecutor's office to be in contempt, not just for violating the privilege, but for destroying evidence the court wanted for its investigation.

A creature in Jackson County, we cannot call him a man, killed a woman and severely injured three others. One of the women had a pistol but did not use it. Instead she ran until the creature shot her. Then he returned to his car and picked up an AK and continued shooting. Just having a gun doesn't make one a gunfighter. The lady was not ready to kill. The killer was. To carry a gun, you have to consider what it is for. Having a gun is not enough you must have the will to use it.

An arsonist in Japan killed 33 people. Ban matches, especially assault lighters.

Coffee is the most important meal of the day.

A Minnesota man was prosecuted for murder. The probable cause statement listed the man's bumper sticker. It said, "GUN CONTROL IS HITTING YOUR TARGET." The most innocuous things trigger people who have power.

A Chinese (Red) factory is making devices which turn Glock handguns into machine guns. They are illegal, yet they get through customs.

Rally Day has been changed to 7 April, 2020 still in the Capital Building in Jefferson City.

We shall overcome.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

HISTORY

K. L. Jamison

Thirty years ago The Western Missouri Shooters Alliance was formed. I'm the only member of the original Board of Directors still active and have been asked to preserve its history.

In the late summer of 1989 a single man started calling people. These were friends and names he took from the newspaper letters to the editor column. I had written some letters in those days. This was before cell phones and our names were in the phone book. Clayton Hartig called us to an organizational meeting. I had promised to take my sons shooting that day. I told him to let me know. I didn't have a lot of confidence it would succeed. Thirty years later I must admit that I was wrong.

After the meeting Clayton called to tell me that I had been elected to the board of directors. This started a long tradition of being elected whenever a meeting was missed. Our first Board of Directors had a woman on it. The first of many. Sheila Stokes sat on our Board and in the end became our president for eight continuous years. This was considered unusual enough, at least beyond the superstitions of the liberals, that a reporter was dispatched to interview her. It is harder for the left to argue with an officially declared minority. It strikes me that women may be a slight majority. If the liberals see them as an oppressed minority who are we not to take advantage? The reporter asked her if the men of our association do as she tells them. That brought a great laugh. There is no better way to get a laugh than for our president to give an order. We have always decided things by consensus. A board member would cite a problem or a proposal. Propose a course of action, everyone would have their say, and a consensus would emerge. We have rarely had a disputed vote on a course of action. Books on organization describe this as a "female" method of leadership. It has worked for us over the last thirty years; although being mostly a male group.

One of those males was Gary Davis, actually two of them with the same name. It became troublesome to tell them apart, until we measured them and found the Black Gary was half a foot taller than the White Gary. The tall Gary became our president for many years. At one time he was required to negotiate with a representative of the NRA. There was some concern over this meeting but Gary was not concerned. "I know how to talk to white people." All went well.

Gary, the tall one, left us as a consequence of his diabetes. The shorter one continues as distributor for our newsletter. Many Board members left us over the years. For some it was a family matter. For others their jobs took them away. I remember one or two who decided that the Republic would not be saved only by preservation of the Second Amendment. They left for an organization with grander plans, but accomplished nothing. We have elected to take our liberties back one slice at a time. Some left us because they burned out in the struggle. I cannot fault them. It is a thankless fight and the call of family is strong. A few have taken offense at some decision of the Board and left least they be tainted by it. For the most part we have taken the advice of Ronald Reagan; anyone who is 80% on our side is an ally.

Some potential allies were unacceptable. A local KKK outfit, claiming membership in three figures, wrote us to join forces. They do not accept gun rights for all and for this and other obvious reasons we bluntly refused their offer. They sent us a childish reply to the effect that we were not true patriots and would slavishly turn in our guns when told to do so. It turned out that that their "three figures" of membership turned out to be three pathetic individuals.

PRESIDENT (Continued on page 6)



PRESIDENT *(Continued from page 5)*

In 1990 Board member Keith Rice went through the concealed carry laws of the various states. There were not so many concealed carry laws in those days. He took down the provisions he liked and those he disliked. He presented the list to the Board. We agree with him. The provisions we liked were drawn up into a proposed law and we distributed it to other grass roots groups like ours. A lobbyist was hired and the proposal re-written into a bill. We contacted the NRA but were not greeted with any confidence of success. The bill found a sponsor and over three-quarters of the Missouri House voted for it. Since then the NRA has had confidence in it. The bill stalled in the Senate for thirteen years. Powerful senators opposed us. One year the bill was about to pass and a powerful senator told that body that one of our advocates threatened to kill him. The bill immediately failed. That senator later said that our advocate told him that he could no longer support the senator. Since there was no alternative to him, the senator said, that was a threat to kill him. After being lied to in this manner the rest of the senate continued to listen to him. He was that powerful.

It took thirteen years to pass the license to carry we have now. It took more years to take the law we have now. We had disagreements with the NRA from time to time. These disagreements were over tactics not objectives. We could not have gotten it passed without the NRA. They could not have passed it without us. It is one thing to have the NRA present a bill to the legislature. It is quite another for Missouri voters to bring it. The legislature does not vote for what is right or what experience has shown works. They vote the way power lies. In the end they voted for our bill thinking we would go away and leave them alone. Silly legislators.

When we began we struggled to get responses from politicians. Today politicians call us. We are on contact lists for members of the media; at least our point of view gets a hearing. The anti-gun view does not go unchallenged. When we began the directors had to put our wallets together in order to buy a classified ad in the newspaper. Now we have thousands of dollars in our treasury going into an election year. We are known in the legislature for our advocacy. We are known for putting our members on the ground for election activities.

We will continue to do so.

Breaking Down 2019's Federal Gun Grabs

By: José Niño

It's safe to say 2019 has been an unprecedented year for gun control at the federal level. Although no new gun control has officially been signed into law, the federal conversation on gun control has now captivated national attention like never before.

In fact, for the first time since the Clinton era, gun control legislation has made it out of the House. Specifically, H.R. 8, the House Democrats' universal gun registration bill, and H.R.1112, a gun control bill that would close the so-called "Charleston loophole," both received the House's approval. H.R. 8 garnered bipartisan support as it cleared the House by a 240-190 vote on February 26, 2019. Republicans like Peter King, Brian Fitzpatrick, Brian Mast, Fred Upton, Chris Smith, Vern Buchanan, Mario Diaz-Balart, and Will Hurd joined anti-gun Democrats in passing this bill.

Next up, H.R. 1112 was passed on February 28, 2019 by a 228-198 vote. Although this bill also attracted bipartisan backing it was not as pronounced as H.R. 8. Three Republicans, Brian Fitzpatrick, Peter King, and Chris Smith tagged along with Democrats in voting to pass this bill.

Since the Brady bill was enacted in 1993, gun control advocates have worked day and night to bring gun registration to America, and their efforts in 2019 are just stepping stones in their plot to undermine and ultimately destroy the Second Amendment.

Background Check Basics

To purchase a firearm from a Federal Firearms Licensee (FFL), an individual must fill out an ATF Form 4473, which requires the purchaser's name, address, and biometric data. Form 4473 also records the make, model, and serial number of the firearm(s) being purchased.

The FFL then proceeds to contact the National Instant Background Check System (NICS) by telephone to verify the individual is legally eligible to purchase the firearm. The FBI administers the NICS system for states that comply with the Brady Act. Some states, including Colorado, run their own Brady systems, and their state bureau of investigation takes care of this portion of the check.

Background checks are de facto gun registration and are troubling in several ways, namely:

- The NICS "background check" is only one part of the process to purchase a firearm through a firearms dealer.
- Every firearm purchased from a Federal Firearms Licensee comes with an ATF Form 4473. In other words, the federal government has access to a list of every firearm purchased through a dealer. On top of that, this government list contains information on every firearms buyer, what they look like, and where they live.
- Form 4473 cannot be destroyed. FFLs must keep physical copies of these forms. Should the FFL close its doors, 4473s must be transferred to another FFL or to the ATF.
- Physical logbooks used to be the norm, but the ATF has recently allowed FFLs to maintain electronic logbooks.
- FFL logbooks are open to inspection, including copying, by the ATF at any time.

How 2019's Universal Gun Registration Bill Works. Now to the 2019 universal gun registration bill, H.R. 8. This bill mandates that almost all firearms sales and loans go through an FFL. Due to federal law prohibiting licensed deal-

GUN GRAB *(Continued on page 7)*



GUN GRAB (Continued from page 6)

ers from transferring handguns to persons under 21 years of age, young adults are effectively barred from obtaining handguns. H.R. 8 stipulates that all firearm sales, gifts, and loans be carried out at a gun store. The same maze of bureaucratic hurdles—fees, paperwork, and record-keeping—applies to the purchase of new guns at stores, too. In the case an individual lends a gun to a friend outside of a gun store without performing a government-approved background check, that person will receive the same penalty as someone who knowingly sells a gun to a convicted felon if he or she is caught.

H.R. 1112: A Right Delayed is a Right Denied. H.R. 1112 is marketed as the gun control bill that would close the “Charleston Loophole” that Dylann Roof, the perpetrator of the 2015 Charleston Massacre, took advantage of to commit his heinous crime. Gun Owners of America reports this bill would have every gun purchaser who receives a non-committal response from the FBI subject to stiff penalties.

H.R. 1112 would effectively extend the three-day waiting period to take possession of a firearm to a minimum of two weeks. Emphasis on minimum. In worst-case scenarios, the Attorney General can delay gun purchases indefinitely, which is very likely to happen under this bill.

Now that these bills have passed the House, they will have the tall order of going through the Republican-controlled Senate. Although President Trump has vowed to veto these bills, gun controllers are playing the long game by making progressive steps in acclimating the populace to their anti-gun agenda. Today’s small victories can turn into large wins in the long-term if the gun controllers are not kept in check.

Gun owners will have to play defense and be ready to go on the offensive to restore Second Amendment rights for all Americans fully.

José Niño is a Venezuelan-American political activist based in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Despotic Judiciary Assaults Second Amendment

Another appellate court has failed to defend Americans' Second Amendment rights. On Thursday, the U.S. Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals upheld Cook County, Illinois's ban on so-called "assault weapons." Last year, a U.S. district judge dismissed a lawsuit brought against the 2006 Blair Holt Assault Weapons Ban, which means a fine for Cook County residents of up to \$10,000 and sentences of up to six months in prison if they are found to be in possession of so-called "large-capacity magazines" or "assault weapons." The fact of the matter is that the law intentionally misclassifies common semiautomatic weapons like the AR-15 as "assault weapons" and misleadingly labels these firearms' standard-capacity magazines (20 to 30 rounds) as being nefariously "large capacity."

In its unanimous ruling, the court's three-judge panel wrote, "We have stated repeatedly, and recently, that, absent a compelling reason, we will not overturn circuit precedent." The precedent was the Highland Park ruling, wherein a three-judge panel ruled 2-1 that municipalities have the leeway to regulate firearms if it makes people "feel safer." The majority wrote, "If a ban on semi-automatic guns and large-capacity magazines reduces the *perceived* risk from a mass shooting, and makes the public *feel* safer as a result, that's a substantial benefit" [emphasis added]. So, feeling safe trumps Americans' Second Amendment right to take action to actually *be* safe? As Rush Limbaugh famously observed of the Left, it's "symbolism over substance."

This ruling once again supports Justice Clarence Thomas's argument that the Supreme Court needs to stop this erosion of Americans' Second Amendment rights. As Thomas recently wrote, "The Framers made a clear choice: They reserved to all Americans the right to bear arms for self-defense. I do not think we should stand by idly while a State denies its citizens that right, particularly when their very lives may depend on it." Justice Thomas may get the opportunity he's been calling for, as the Illinois State Rifle Association, which sued Cook County over this "assault weapons" ban, plans to appeal to the Supreme Court.

Activist judges are ignoring not only the Constitution but Supreme Court rulings in *District of Columbia v. Heller* and *McDonald v. City of Chicago*. It's time for the Supreme Court to rectify that rogue behavior. Thomas Jefferson once warned, "The opinion which gives to the judges the right to decide what laws are constitutional and what not, not only for themselves, in their, own sphere of action, but for the Legislature and Executive also in their spheres, would make the Judiciary a despotic branch." He was right.

GUN-CONTROL DEFIANCE

"New Zealand's government ... is running into stiff resistance to new gun rules from firearms owners who are slow to surrender now-prohibited weapons and will probably never turn them in. ... As of last week, only around 700 weapons had been turned over. There are an estimated 1.5 million guns — with an unknown number subject to the new prohibition on semiautomatic firearms — in the country overall."

"This country is owned by We the People. We wrote a Constitution. We put down what we wanted to put in it. We can amend it when we wish. And it is not up to nine people to tell 330 million Americans how to live."

—Justice Neil Gorsuch



Feds Demand Apple And Google Hand Over Names Of 10,000+ Users Of A Gun Scope App

Own a rifle? Got a scope to go with it? The U.S. government might soon know who you are, where you live and how to reach you.

That's because the government wants Apple and Google to hand over names, phone numbers and other identifying data of at least 10,000 users of a single gun scope app, *Forbes* has discovered. It's an unprecedented move: Never before has a case been disclosed in which American investigators demanded personal data of users of a single app from Apple and Google. And never has an order been made public where the feds have asked the Silicon Valley giants for info on so many thousands of people in one go.

According to an application for a court order filed by the Department of Justice (DOJ) on September 5, investigators want information on users of Obsidian 4, a tool used to control rifle scopes made by night-vision specialist American Technologies Network Corp. The app allows gun owners to get a live stream, take video and calibrate their gun scope from an Android or iPhone device. According to the Google Play page for Obsidian 4, it has more than 10,000 downloads. Apple doesn't provide download numbers, so it's unclear how many iPhone owners could be swept up in this latest government data grab.

If the court approves the demand, and Apple and Google decide to hand over the information, it could include data on thousands of people who have nothing to do with the crimes being investigated, privacy activists warned. Edin Omanovic, lead on Privacy International's State Surveillance program, said it would set a dangerous precedent and scoop up "huge amounts of innocent people's personal data."

"Such orders need to be based on suspicion and be particularized—this is neither," Omanovic added.

Neither Apple nor Google had responded to a request for comment at the time of publication. ATN, the scope maker, also hadn't responded.

Possibly the only politician with a spine

Politicians are generally the subjects of my wrath. I mean, why wouldn't they be? The majority of them are power-hungry gremlins who work tirelessly to steal your money and infringe on your rights.

But they're not alone. You then have the fake defenders of liberty who talk a big game about limited government, but work to undermine your rights behind the scenes. Devious, I say. I don't know which one is worse. I honestly prefer dealing with open despots rather than closet authoritarians. After all, the devil that you know is easier to fight back against. However, the wolf-in-sheep's clothing is much harder to hold accountable. He will usually dupe you with clever rhetoric, and then stab you in the back when it matters most.

This has been the case when dealing with Republicans. It's most apparent with the current issue of red flag gun confiscation orders. Republicans are ready to compromise with an enemy that wants to destroy the Second Amendment. Talk about suicidal!

However, there is one Republican that is breaking the mold right now. His name is Tony Lovasco. Lovasco is a State Representative in Missouri. Unlike most of his Republican colleagues, he actually believes in the Constitution. And he has a legislative track record to prove it. In the current red flag gun confiscation debate, Lovasco has taken a strong constitutionalist stance. He sees these laws as clear violations of the Second Amendment and due process. Sadly, many Republicans are starting to sound like leftist gun grabbers on the issue. Dan Crenshaw..... Lindsey Graham..... I'm looking at y'all!

Funny thing is, nearly all of the 17 states with red flag laws (Florida & Indiana being the only exceptions) are solid blue states. So, spineless Republicans are trying to follow in their Democratic Party colleagues' footsteps. The usual game.....

Well, Tony Lovasco ain't having it. Learn more about Lovasco's strong stances against gun confiscation in my post for *Liberty Conservative News*. <https://libertyconservativenews.com/liberty-representative-tony-lovasco-exposes-red-flag-tyranny/>

Peace,
José Niño

P.S. Republicans falling for red flag gun confiscation orders was very predictable. As someone who's been in the political game for nearly a decade, I've seen it all. These types of sell-outs are business as usual for the GOP. Unfortunately, many of their constituents and political operatives don't get that. Don't be like them



"The deterioration of every government begins with the decay of the principles on which it was founded." —Charles de Montesquieu



PUSHING BACK

"The National Rifle Association filed a lawsuit against San Francisco over the city's recent declaration that the gun-rights lobby is a 'domestic terrorist organization,'" according to Fox News. "The lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California against the city and county of San Francisco and the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. It accuses city officials of violating the gun lobby's free speech rights for political reasons and claims the city is trying to blacklist anyone associated with the NRA from doing business there." Tangentially, "Twenty-eight percent (28%) of Democrats say Americans should be prohibited by law from belonging to pro-gun rights organizations like the NRA, a view shared by 15% of Republicans and 10% of unaffiliated s," a Rasmussen survey reveals.

"In the '70s and '80s, many of these guns were as available as they are now, but we weren't having these mass shootings that we have today. So I think we need to really ask ourselves the question of what has socially brought us to this point in history, and what have we done, and what can we do differently to change society. That's certainly a question that needs to be continued to [be] ask[ed], because I don't know that taking everyone's guns, and buying everybody's guns back, is going to cure the national massacres that we've had in recent history."

—Democrat Rep. Vicente González

"This country is owned by We the People. We wrote a Constitution. We put down what we wanted to put in it. We can amend it when we wish. And it is not up to nine people to tell 330 million Americans how to live."

—Justice Neil Gorsuch

"The Left likes to measure progress based how many people depend on government benefits like Obamacare, food stamps and welfare. Conservatives measure progress based on how many people are working and providing for themselves and their families."

—Gary Bauer

"Before a standing army can rule, the people must be disarmed; as they are in almost every kingdom of Europe. The supreme power in America cannot enforce unjust laws by the sword; because the whole body of the people are armed, and constitute a force superior to any band of regular troops that can be, on any pretense, raised in the United States."

—Noah Webster, 1787

"The Founding Fathers knew a government can't control the economy without controlling people. And they knew when a government sets out to do that, it must use force and coercion to achieve its purpose. So we have come to a time for choosing."

-- Ronald Reagan

"Stay informed — because stupid people are ruining America. God blessed me with a voice and a big mouth and I'm going to use it to try to wake people up and convert some of the stupid people."

—Herman Cain

"If you have an important point to make, don't try to be subtle or clever. Use a pile driver. Hit the point once. Then come back and hit it again. Then hit it a third time -- a tremendous whack."

--British Prime Minister Winston Churchill

"To announce that there must be no criticism of the president, or that we are to stand by the president, right or wrong, is not only unpatriotic and servile, but is morally treasonable to the American public."

--Theodore Roosevelt





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From start to finish... and everything in between!

"There is one way to settle our disagreements: it's called peacefully, at the ballot box." —Donald Trump



We're having a raffle!

We're raffling off a Kel Tec Sub 2000 9mm Pistol Caliber Carbine

We will have a limited number of raffle tickets. We will not mail tickets to members to sell. Tickets will be available at all General meetings and at events where WMSA has a table. Additionally to build our treasury for the coming year, this year's raffle is aimed towards gaining more WMSA members.

The tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. As an added incentive, bring in a new member at a General Membership Meeting and get a free raffle ticket. Any current member who brings in a new WMSA member gets a free raffle ticket for each new member added to our rolls.

Bring your prospective new member to a General membership meeting and when the new member completes the membership application and pays their dues, you are handed a ticket, no charge! The drawing for the rifle will be at the January 2020 RK Gun Show at the KCI Expo Center.

Go recruit new members, get a free ticket for every member and exhaust our limited number of tickets.

Tickets can also be obtained via mail by sending a check to the WMSA, P.O. Box 11144, Kansas City, MO 64119.



If you win, what will you get? You get more than just the rifle.

Kel Tec Sub 2000 9mm Pistol Caliber Carbine w Laser Sight 2-Glock 17 Magazines and soft carry case

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Here's your chance for a Kel Tec folding carbine with accessories.

Come to our next General meeting and buy your tickets!



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

WESTERN MISSOURI SHOOTERS ALLIANCE

The Alliance is a regionally-based, grass-roots organization that seeks to;

- 1) Counter the designs of malicious legislators.
- 2) Confront the media's twisted portrayals of gun rights issues.
- 3) Politicize and activate gun owners in defense of their rights.
- 4) Acquaint the public with the true nature of the Second Amendment.
- 5) Network with other pro-gun groups to coordinate local, state and national strategies.
- 6) Train people in basic firearm safety and handgun defense.
- 7) Sponsor and support pro-gun legislation.
- 8) Make politicians aware that gun owners are awakening from their accustomed apathy and
WILL TOLERATE NO FURTHER EROSION OF THEIR FREEDOMS!

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Occupation: _____

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Kansas City, MO 64119

Hotline (877) 333-WMSA
www.wmsa.net
 County: _____

Home Phone: (____) ____ - _____

Cell Phone: (____) ____ - _____

E-Mail _____

NRA member? ____ Registered Voter? ____

Check membership type:

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____ Senior (65+)
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____ Associate
\$15 (spouse, no newsletter)

____ 3 Year Annual
\$87

____ 3 Year Senior
(65+)
\$57

____ 3 Year Associate
(spouse, no newsletter)
\$28

____ Sponsor
\$100 (4 business card
ads per year.)

____ Sponsor
\$250 (12 business card
ads per year.)

Dedicated to the restoration of the inalienable right to keep and bear arms as guaranteed by the Second Amendment



Western Missouri Shooters Alliance
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 keep and bear arms as guaranteed by the 2nd Amendment*

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REMINDER Next General Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2019 at 7:00 PM
 Meeting located at Bass Pro Conservation Room, Independence, MO

CONTACT INFORMATION - *Let them know what you think!*

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 800-672-3888

The Second Amendment Foundation
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Arming Women Against Rape and Endangerment
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 877-672-9273

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