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# D.S.S.A. NEWS

DELAWARE STATE SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION  
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## Common Sense Is in The Eye of The Beholder

By Jeff Hague, President DSSA

This letter is on response to Dan Cannon's opinion piece of Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup>. I totally agree the mass murders committed in El Paso and Dayton were horrific. What I don't agree with are the "common sense" solutions that Mr. Cannon proposes.

What is very rarely reported is the carnage and violence that is taking place every day in places like Chicago and Baltimore. So far this year there have been over 309 homicides in Chicago and over 171 homicides in Baltimore. These two cities happen to be in states that have some of the strictest gun laws in the United States. The question that should be asked is if these cities have strict gun control laws, why is there so much violent crime committed with firearms? Answer, because the laws that Mr. Cannon is advocating for don't work. Those types of laws do nothing to reduce violent crime. Illinois and Maryland have had some of the strictest gun laws in the country for years. California has been implementing stricter and stricter gun laws for the last 10 years. Looking at the violent crime rate in California it is clear that more gun laws are not the answer.

The firearms industry is the most heavily regulated of any in the United States. There are over 25,000 Federal, State and local laws, rules and regulations governing the manufacturing, sale and possession of firearms. With all this oversight, why do we need more laws? Perhaps we need to enforce those we have.

The guiding principle in this discussion is that attempting to regulate or control the object is not a means in reducing violent crime. One must look behind the object to the person committing the violent act with whatever weapon is used.

People that advocate for more gun control often point to the time when the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment was written. They say the founding fathers could never imagine the types of firearms that exist today. Therefore, they must be banned. Does that go for automobiles, cell phones and violent video games? I for one would not imply that our founding fathers were not looking to the future and the wonders that were yet to come when they wrote our Bill of Rights. The inconvenient truth is that unlike almost every other country in the world the United States has a constitution with enumerated individual rights that the government is not permitted to infringe upon.

If the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment should fail, then every other amendment in the Bill of Rights is in danger of failing.

I would submit that the reason we are seeing the types of tragedies that occurred most recently is due to the breakdown of the basic social fabric most of use seniors grew up with. The family unit is breaking down. The percentage of single parent homes is at an all-time high. Respect for others, especially law enforcement is declining. Examples are the police officers in New York that are having water, and who knows what else, thrown on them. Look at what happened in Philadelphia on Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>. Police officers attempting to protect the public were heckled and had items thrown at them by the very people they were trying to protect.

I could go on and on; however, I would like to respond to Mr. Cannon's "common sense" statements. First; background checks for all purchases. Delaware has had "universal background checks" since 2013.

Second; a reasonable amount of time to complete the check. Mr. Cannon is incorrect in stating it is a one-day time limit. Most NIC's checks are completed in about 15 minutes. The reason is the person purchasing the firearm has no disqualifiers. If there is a delay, the FBI will try to respond within 3 business days. If they do not, the dealer may, I repeat may, complete the transfer. Many do not. Delaware requires a wait of up to 25 days if there is a delay.

Third; Delaware has a model red-flag law that was implemented last year. Many of the states that are looking to implement these types of laws should look to Delaware for an example that not only helps keep firearms out of the hands of people that are having problems but protects the due process rights of individuals.

Fourth; the matter of "high velocity/military-grade ammunition". There is nothing special about "military grade ammunition". Most of the ammunition used for hunting or competition is high velocity and has been for over 150 years. A .22 caliber round is as lethal, if not more so, than a .30 caliber round. An example is what happened to President Reagan. As for "high capacity magazines/clips. There is no empirical evidence that the number of rounds in a magazine has any impact on crime. That is a red herring thrown about by liberals that rely on hyperbole and emotion rather than facts.

Fifth; "devices that increase/augment the rate of fire". Legislation was passed in 2018 here in Delaware that prohibits that type of device as well as bump stocks.

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So, as we can see, the “common sense” ideas that Mr. Cannon suggests are for the most part already in law here in Delaware. His statements are also geared toward attempting to control the object. Now ask yourself, has the rate of violent crime here in the first state decreased as a result? I don’t think so. Criminals still get guns but do so illegally. Criminals do not stand in line at a firearm dealer’s and attempt to purchase a firearm. They obtain them illegally. The only people that are impacted, and mostly inconvenienced, are people that are law abiding already.

As I stated previously, the object that is used to commit a violent crime is not at fault. It is the person behind the object that needs to be held accountable.

The Attorney General of Delaware has been on a crusade to reduce the number of people in prison. She is proposing and sometimes getting passed, legislation that results in more plea bargains, more people released on bail, shorter prison terms, early release and so on. I know for a fact that if someone is in prison, they cannot commit a violent crime on the streets.

Until the mental health problem, the drug problem, the social failure of families, the violent video games that reward the player with bonus points for committing horrific acts of violence, are addressed, violent crime will not go down.

One last comment; For all those that cry out for more gun control measures. You first must admit that everything you have tried in the past has failed.

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## HAVE THEY LOST THEIR MINDS?

By John C. Sigler  
NRA Past President



**“San Francisco officials brand NRA a “domestic terrorist organization”**” – that was the headline in the September 4, 2019, Fox News article by Adam Shaw. According to Shaw, “The San Francisco Board of Supervisors has passed a resolution declaring the National Rifle Association a “domestic terrorist organization” and urged the federal government to do the same, alleging that the NRA is using “its considerable wealth and organization to promote gun ownership and incite gun owners to acts of violence”.

“Have they lost their minds” you ask? No, probably not. My guess is this is all part of one, well-planned, well-

considered and well-executed “grand scheme.” They know exactly what they are doing.

They care little about facts or the truth. And they certainly don’t care about defaming over 5 million law-abiding gun owners who proudly belong to America’s oldest, strongest and largest civil rights organization. They know the truth about you and the NRA, but to them the truth is merely an inconvenience to be brushed aside, ignored, denigrated, and lied about in favor of their progressive “grand scheme”.

They know that NRA is an organization that has, for the past 148 years, promoted firearm safety, adherence to the laws of the land, respect for our flag, our history, our culture, our heritage and the principles of good government, and obedient, loyal and patriotic citizenship. And they know that NRA has never incited anyone, member or non-member, to acts of violence. In fact, they know the opposite to be true. They know for a fact that NRA members are among the most law-abiding, peace-loving, God-fearing, respectful and patriotic members of our society.

Then why are they doing this? The answer is simple.

Last year I was criticized for saying “they don’t hate your guns, they hate you” – Well, it looks like I was right. San Francisco’s defamatory and utterly hateful and ridiculous resolution shows just how far off the deep end their hatred for you, the NRA, and America’s traditional values has driven the anti-gun crowd.

But there is a method to their madness. The real meat of their preposterous resolution lies not in the defamatory and inflammatory labeling of NRA as a so-called “domestic terrorist organization”. No, the real meat of their preposterous resolution lies in the purpose of that resolution which is to do the same thing that New York tried to do – scare off businesses that do business with NRA and its 5+ million law-abiding God-fearing, freedom-loving patriotic members. Here’s the punch line from their hate-filled resolution:

***“The City and County of San Francisco should take every reasonable step to limit those entities who do business with San Francisco from doing business with this domestic terrorist organization”***( meaning the NRA and its members).

Sound familiar? Sounds just like New York’s Governor Cuomo and his cronies, doesn’t it?

In other words, this is about money and politics. It’s about trying to remove NRA and its 5+ million members from the electoral playing field in 2020. It’s really about defeating Trump and sending more folks like Diane Feinstein and Kamala Harris to the U.S. Senate and others like Nancy Pelosi, Eric Swalwell, Adam Schiff and Maxine Waters to Congress – and taking over the US Supreme Court.

But why? What are they after? If you ask them they will tell you it’s about “progress” – they are, after all, “progressives”. But progress toward what? What is their goal, what is their “end game”?

Is it socialism? Is it communism? Is it despotism? Or totalitarianism? Or is it some combination of all of those things? Or perhaps their idea of “progress” is something not yet named by today’s political and social scientists and studied in the textbooks of our time, something even more sinister and foreboding? I don’t know – and I doubt that most of them do either.

But, what we do know, is that whatever it is toward which they are “progressing”, it isn’t traditional “Americanism” and it certainly isn’t about preserving our Republic, our history, our culture, our heritage, our American way of life, our freedom or our beloved Constitution. Whatever it is toward which they want to “progress”, it is most certainly the antithesis of the freedom and the love of America for which you and I and every other card-carrying NRA member stands, and for which so many Americans have fought and died.

In other words, we – you and I and the NRA - are standing in their way. Standing united, we the 5+ million members of the NRA are the proverbial roadblock they must remove if they are to achieve their “progressive” goal. They know that in order to achieve their ultimate goal of destroying American freedom, of replacing our beloved market-driven Republic with some socialistic and totalitarian abomination they must first destroy the NRA and your will to stand up to them and to thwart their evil plans.

I have said it before and I will say it again – they don’t hate your guns, they hate you – because you are standing in their way – their way toward “progress” – their way toward the fundamental transformation of America into something no one who has ever worn the uniform or saluted the flag of the United States of America would ever recognize.

It isn’t about guns – no, not really. Guns are simply the symbol. To them, guns represent American traditions and American values. To them, privately owned and lawfully used guns represent traditional American values such as rugged individualism, individual independence and freedom, individual responsibility and self-reliance – American values that each and every responsible NRA member, like you, possesses and cherishes and about which we teach our children, families, friends and neighbors.

OK, so I was wrong – they do hate your guns – but only because of the traditions and values your guns represent. And they hate you and me and the NRA because we embrace those traditions and values, and because the people who embrace those traditions and values will never embrace the “progress” the anti-gunners and those pseudo-Americans wish to achieve.

Stand with me – stand with the NRA – stand for freedom – and stand united and block the path of the anti-gun “progressives” whose idea of “progress” is one that is decidedly anti-American and anti-freedom.

If we stand united, we – you, and I, and the NRA – can, and will, defeat these anti-American forces of evil at the ballot box next year, and every election year thereafter. United we win – divided we fail.

## BRPC REPRESENTING DELAWARE AT SOUTHWEST NATIONALS

BY JOHN C. SIGLER



The Delaware State Sportsmen’s Association proudly announces that The Bridgeville Rifle and Pistol Club F-Class Rifle Team will be representing Delaware and the Delaware State Sportsmen’s Association at the 2020 Southwest Nationals sponsored by the Desert Sharpshooters Club on the Ben Avery Range in Phoenix, Arizona, in February of 2020. The Bridgeville Rifle & Pistol Club (BRPC) is a 100% NRA and 100% DSSA club with over 1,500 members boasting multiple rifle and pistol range facilities located in central Sussex County, Delaware.

The Southwest Nationals has become one of the premier events for long-range and mid-range rifle competitors and serves as the opening event for the 2020 shooting season. The host club, the Desert Sharpshooters, uses an on-line first-come, first served registration system run by PRACTISCORE that is designed to give everyone an equal chance to participate in this premier season-opening event.

This year, on-line registration for the Southwest Nationals opened at 6 am Phoenix time on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Six (6) minutes later the main Grand Aggregate event was sold out with nearly 400 competitors registering for this internationally popular event. Competitors from ten (10) countries, including the United States, will compete in the 2020 Southwest Nationals over a total of 5 days in February.

Day #1 of the Southwest Nationals will consist of three 20 round matches fired at 600 yards, prone. Day #2 will see the competitors firing in the Palma Team Match, 15 rounds at 800 yards, 15 rounds at 900 yards and 15 rounds at 1,000 yards. Days #3, #4 and #5 will be combination of individual and team matches of 20 rounds per match per shooter, all fired at 1,000 yards.

This year will see the field divided as follows: 33% conventional “sling shooters”; 38% F-Open shooters; and 29% F-T/R shooters.

Delaware and the Bridgeville Rifle and Pistol Club will be represented by a minimum of 6 F-Open Rifle shooters with one F-T/R Rifle shooter anxiously waiting on the “Wait List”, hoping to be able to shoot this first-of-the-season match of international importance. DSSA’s President Jeff Hague is expected to serve as the wind-coach for Bridgeville’s F-Open Team.

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## **“The Synergy of Diversity”**

**By Bill Walsh**

**Delaware Rifle and Pistol Club**

Got your attention didn't I? No, this is not about the national debate on immigration policy.

It's about the diversity and synergy of facilities, instruction, and mentoring offered to young (and not-so-young) shooters by our many, great gun clubs in the tri-state area. My thoughts were prompted by my granddaughter, Erin Walsh, who recently finished seventh in the nation a few weeks ago in three-position small-bore rifle at the Junior Olympic competition at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Yes, it's your 'Bragging Grandfather' again.

Erin just completed her Freshman Year at the University of Mississippi where she is a member of their Varsity Rifle Team. You may remember (I hope) my comments in a recent DSSA News Letter about the connection between competitive shooting and academic achievement. The comments were about observations that the discipline and concentration learned on the shooting range appears to carry over to good academic performance. Every member of the 'OLE MISS' rifle team has a grade point average of 3.0 or higher, and that is not because of an NCAA or University requirement. They are all just smart, focused, and disciplined young ladies, who had early access to youth firearms training programs.

Getting back to the 'synergy of diversity' and the range facilities in the tri-state area; Erin always seems to do especially well in small-bore competition at Fort Benning. My son Mike and I started to ask ourselves "Why". We think it is because of the diversity of the gun clubs' facilities, instruction and mentoring that is available in the tri-state area!

Each gun club has unique facilities, and each has what I call a special character. Their common elements are always safety, promotion of the shooting sports, and readiness to mentor new and developing shooters; but each club contributes their unique 'flavor' to the experience. For us, the DSSA is the glue that ties all that diversity together into a synergy that produces especially well grounded, competitive shooters in our tri-state area.

Erin started shooting as a young kid at the Delaware Rifle and Pistol Club in Elsmere. For starters, DRPC has a class room that is bigger than their 50' indoor range. I think its special character is their emphasis on getting new shooters properly started, their friendly competitions, and their offering of family fun shoots. I started Erin at DRPC as a very young shooter by placing a balloon over a standard target. I explained the range rules and safety procedures, and said, "See if you can break the balloon." She did, and actually came close to the x-ring on the target in the process (Talk about blind luck!). To this day, when she goes into a competitive mental slump, I remind her "Just break the balloon. Relax, target shooting should be fun!"

When Erin wanted to start deer hunting she did her target practice and sighting-in at the Southern Chester County Sportsman's & Farmers Association outdoor ranges. The SCCS&FA's special character is that it has something for everyone. It is one of the great outdoor ranges for sighting-in small & large bore firearms with a choice of 25, 50, 75, & 100 yd ranges. They also host serious competitive pistol matches, plus archery, shotgun, and a kids fishing pond. Thanks to SCCS&FA Erin killed her first deer with one well-placed shot.

As Erin progressed towards competitive Air and Small Bore shooting her father, Mike, discovered the Queen Anne County 4H program in nearby Maryland. The Queen Anne's 4H club's special character is their intense focus on training serious air rifle and small-bore rifle competitors. They have a great indoor facility, and it is one of the East Coast's pre-eminent Junior Olympic training centers. As Erin competes in NCAA events around the Country it is impressive how many shooters she already knows on the other school's team, because they also had QA County 4H roots. It was a long drive every Wednesday night, and the DRPC has one less Range Master/Instructor (4H has converted son Mike), but it is a really special program in our tri-state area that develops potential US Olympic Team shooters.

Finally, Erin has on occasion joined (and outscored) her father at the Bridgeville, Delaware Club. Bridgeville's special character is that it is the facility in the State for long range shooting. Mike & I concluded Bridgeville is why Erin does so well at Fort Benning. The small-bore ranges at Fort Benning are all outdoor ranges! Most of her NCAA and Junior Olympic small-bore competitors train exclusively at indoor ranges. Thanks to Bridgeville, Erin instinctively knows to wait out the gusts, when not to pull the trigger, and she understands windage if there is a steady wind. Many of her competitors do not have exposure to the diversity of shooting experience offered in the tri-state area.

We are very fortunate to have that much diversity of shooting experience in our area, and should support the DSSA to keep it that way in Delaware. Monetary support is important, but even more lasting is your individual support of youth and new shooter programs. On average you get a 4X yield, because you usually hook the entire family.

Footnote: Even the Coach of the 'Ole Miss' Rifle Team had the benefit of an early tri-state gun club training. Her father, who worked for DuPont in Texas, was transferred to Delaware when she was young. She still regards herself as a Texan, but as a young person she was a member of the DuPont Fish and Game Association's air rifle team while the family was in Delaware. That was when the DuPont Co. was in its prime. The DF&GA range is now trap & skeet only, in their new Millington, MD location. The 'glory days' of the DuPont Company, and the DuPont Fish & Game Association, in Delaware are long gone. But, they are still part of the long history of our tri-state area's gun club diversity, and their youth programs still impact future generations of shooters.

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## DSSA Membership Update

Dave Bell – Chris Merlino

The Delaware State Sportsmen's Association has been very busy this past year, defending our Delaware State Constitution, as well as, our 2nd Amendment rights. Communication is a key element in our enduring success. Our membership has literally exploded with new members and support. Keeping the membership information, membership cards, web site and social media current is important for DSSA.

DSSA is streamlining our essential information data base. We have new Board of Directors, appointed to fill the duties of processing this information, and keeping it up to date and secure. In the past, everything was primarily done by two members, and with the growth of the DSSA this task was becoming labor intensive. The BOD appointed three new gun rights technical support people to facilitate this improvement. Using grant money from the NRA, equipment has been obtained to streamline the process and communications will improve. WE WANT TO DO IT RIGHT! New membership cards have been designed and are being printed. You will be proud to show others the new card I'm sure. On the back of each card will be printed:

### **ARTICLE 1. Bill of Rights § 20. Right to keep and bear arms.**

A person has the right to keep and bear arms for the defense of self, family, home and State, and for hunting and recreational use.

The Membership Committee will soon be sending notices of expiration to individuals as needed. Remember that DSSA is Member Supported and without our members we would not be successful. Thank You for your support, The DSSA Membership Committee.

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### **GUN CONTROL**

By: Matt Lenzini, CRI Board Member

Released: 9/3/2019

Submitted by

Rick Armitage

It has become a scene that is all too common in America. News reels with crying mothers, a shattered community and a lingering sense of terror and anxiety. A veritable plague of shootings continues to tear apart our nation.

As our country mourns the lives lost in El Paso, Dayton and Midland - at the hands of chaotic vengeful madmen, citizens are left wondering what if anything can be done to curb these terrifying senseless acts. Many will call for tighter controls on firearms and in the effort to satiate the demands of their constituents, politicians looking to score points for the next election cycle will craft legislation adding layers of new laws on top of the some 2,000 existing gun laws in place

across the nation. The clamoring to do something is understandable and those affected deserve to not only be heard but see tangible steps taken to fix a nation being ripped apart by the chaotic actions of mad men.

The dialogue unfortunately, will not probe any deeper than the surface. The talking heads, fighting for ratings won't spend much time asking why this is happening, why these men chose to murder innocent people. The left will push to ban firearms and the right will undoubtedly push back, but few if any will take the time to question the underlying social, psychological and moral conditions that sit under the surface and could be key to addressing this pandemic.

Firearms are part of America. Firearms are not new in the US and throughout most of our history they have been readily available for legal purchase. There are more restrictions on firearms today than there were forty or fifty years ago. In the 50's – one could purchase a rifle from a mail order catalogue. So we should be asking ourselves, what else has changed?

What societal factors, policies and trends have occurred that correlate with the ever-increasing frequency of mass shootings in the United States. Firearms have been prevalent throughout American history and were much more accessible historically than they are today. Mass shootings are a relatively new social crisis that does not consistently correlate or trend with the proliferation of firearms.

First and foremost, we have to admit to ourselves that gun free zones have not worked. In fact, the opposite is true. The vast majority of mass shootings have occurred in gun free zones. Several assailants have specifically noted in their manifestos that they chose these locations because they are soft and they can inflict the most carnage before there is a response.

Second, we should thoroughly investigate the state of our public mental health programs. The men and women who commit these heinous acts are not well. There are often signs or a history of mental health problems. According to research completed by the "Mother Jones" web site, over 50% of all mass shooters have had documented mental health issues. Another 20% may have displayed signs of serious mental illness.

From, 1970 to today, there has been a 74% reduction in the number of inpatients in public mental care facilities. This is not due to a decrease in the number of patients requiring treatment and care, but to an ever decreasing allocation of funding towards public mental care. The process of deinstitutionalization began in the 1950's and was accelerated in the mid 1960's. Since then, nearly 90% of individuals that would have been treated in a public mental health facility were left without care. Nearly 800,000 people with severe issues that would have been in a 24x7 treatment facility are being left to navigate the world – often on their own.

The timing of the decommissioning of our mental health system closely correlates with the timeline of mass shootings in the United States.

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To compound this issue, psychoactive drugs such as Ritalin, Adderall, SSRIs and others are being prescribed at ever accelerating rates. Between 1990 and 2010, the number of prescriptions for these potent chemicals increased fourfold, and when plotted and regressed against the trend of mass shooting correlates highly with the upward trend in mass shootings. Production of these chemical compounds has increased by a factor of 10 over the same time. More than four times the number of prescriptions for these compounds are written in the US than in the UK, Australia, Spain and most other developed nations. It should also be noted that these chemicals have known side effects such as paranoid delusions and violent outbursts.

Correlation does not inherently indicate causation, but the trend cannot be ignored and needs to be thoroughly researched. The impact of these chemicals on minds that are not yet fully developed needs to be re-evaluated. This may be a symptom of our lack of available psychiatric care as doctors only tool becomes their prescription pad.

Children with broken homes, those that have experienced severe neglect or childhood trauma are more likely than others to lash out in a violent outburst – killing and maiming innocent people. Our social structures are failing us here. Communities are less connected, single parents are working two jobs and many children are left to fend for themselves in a world that is often confusing and cruel. Many of these children will have symptoms that could have indicated that there was a child in need of help. Symptoms such as anxiety, mood swings, fist fights and self-harming – are often ignored. This creates the opportunity for social contagion to set in and steer someone in the wrong direction.

Social contagion can be an extremely strong force. Impressionable minds see news headlines and seek to mimic behaviors. The bombardment of 24 hour news, always on social media and chat rooms can feed an idea and make it seem not only rational but the popular thing to do. The movie “Heathers” is an example of this concept. When the most popular girl in school commits suicide, other kids in the school begin to do the same. It becomes not only acceptable but the popular thing to do. Mark David Chapman, the man who killed John Lennon was asked why he did it. He responded that he wanted to be important. When the primary influences on a person become television and social media and there is no-one there to help dampen the influence, an impressionable mind can be led to believe that worst possible scenario as the only way of being someone and be seen by the world.

My plea to all of our legislators, to our families, friends, the media and every citizen of our country is to think about not just what is happening, but why? What are the societal trends? What emotions are driving people to commit these terrible crimes? That is the only way we will ever find a solution.

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## **PHILADELPHIA (WPVI) -- A store employee shot and killed a would-be robber in Philadelphia on Monday afternoon, Thursday, August 29, 2019**

**By Bob Brooks  
Submitted by Vickie Prickett**

It happened around 4 p.m. at a MetroPCS store located on the 7000 block of Elmwood Avenue. Police say an armed man in his 30s attempted to rob the store when the MetroPCS employee, who has a permit to carry, shot the suspect. Police say the suspect died at the scene.

"A male entered the store with a firearm and attempted to rob the store to which (the employee) discharged his firearm at the robbery suspect several times, striking him," said Philadelphia Police Captain Scott Drissel.

No other injuries were reported. Neighbors here say they heard the shots from inside. Local activist Joar Dahn says it's unfortunate someone has died but also says people have to protect themselves. He also says he's grown accustomed to shootings here in the neighborhood.

"He's doing his job and standing his ground and whatever he had to do. But this is the normal in Southwest. It's an everyday thing, nothing new for us," said Dahn.

Police confirm this was the third time recently that someone had come into the MetroPCS store with the intent to rob it.

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## **Policy banning military from carrying guns On US bases should end**

**Don Brown – Fox News  
Submitted by Vickie Prickett**

For most Americans, July 16 was cause for celebration -- marking the 50th anniversary of the [Apollo 11](#) liftoff. But for five Gold Star families, the day brought only pain and heartache.

On July 16, 2015, a jihadist named [Muhammad Youssef Abdulazeez](#), who immigrated to the United States from Kuwait, went on a murderous shooting spree in Chattanooga, Tenn. After a drive-by attack at a Marine recruiting center, Abdulazeez drove to a Navy Reserve center, where he again opened fire. Abdulazeez was then killed in a shootout with police.

May the names of the five killed by Abdulazeez never be forgotten: Marine Gunnery Sgt. Thomas Sullivan; Marine Staff Sgt. David Wyatt; Marine Sgt. Carson Holmquist; Marine Lance Cpl. Squire Wells; and Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class

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Randall Smith. Smith died later in the hospital from wound suffered in the attack.

Then-FBI Director James Comey got this one right when he said. "There is no doubt that (Abdulazeed) was inspired, motivated by foreign terrorist organization propaganda." The murders sparked a national discussion that remains unresolved. Why can't military members carry weapons on U.S. bases to defend themselves in an attack?

The anti-gun policy was started by President George H.W. Bush with a Department of Defense directive in February 1992 and was implemented under President Bill Clinton in 1993. As a result, America's finest remain soft targets for jihadists like Abdulazeed. In short, the Bush policy has been a security disaster.

Lest we forget, Chattanooga came after Fort Hood, where in 2009 another radical jihadist, Maj. Nidal Hasan, infiltrated the Army's officer corps. Disregarding the weapons ban, Hasan opened fire with his semiautomatic pistol. Twelve American soldiers died, plus a civilian physician. Thirty-one other soldiers and a civilian police sergeant were wounded.

It's not just radical jihadists posing a threat. On Sept. 16, 2013, a gunman named Aaron Alexis, using a valid base pass, drove onto the Washington Navy Yard in Washington, D.C. Then he opened fire, using the Remington shotgun he'd stashed in the trunk. Twelve civilian employees were killed before police killed Alexis.

As in all of the attacks, a well-placed bullet could have saved lives.

But at recruiting stations like the Marine facility in Chattanooga, little improvements have been made to improve security. What a crying shame and disgrace to the American serviceman who died.

After Fort Hood, after the Navy Yard and after Chattanooga, military personnel on U.S. soil remain largely unarmed. Current Defense Department directives require military members to keep weapons locked in a central storage facility, or in their personal residences on base.

Most major U.S. military installations have armed guards posted at the entrances. Sometimes those guards are military members and sometimes they are civilian contractors. Nonetheless, security remains lax. If a shooter penetrates the main gate, unarmed military members inside are easy targets. After Fort Hood, after the Navy Yard and after Chattanooga, military personnel on U.S. soil remain largely unarmed. Current Defense Department directives require military members to keep weapons locked in a central storage facility, or in their personal residences on base.

Why? We can trust service members with the most sophisticated weapons in places like Iraq and Afghanistan, but not within the confines of military installations at home? It's only a matter of time before another jihadist strikes. Another nut case will slip in, and the death toll could surpass the carnage at Fort Hood and Chattanooga. It's time to arm

our soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines, on base at home, before that happens.

In 2018, President Trump spoke in favor of arming American forces on their home bases. "If we can't have our military holding guns, it's pretty bad," he said at the Conservative Political Action Committee Conference in Maryland. The president promised to review the policy, but with other matters consuming his time since then, the call for beefed-up security on military bases seems to have died on the vine.

Now is the time to revisit the policy, Mr. President. Failing to act is a disaster waiting to happen. Military lives matter.

God bless America.

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## **Student Suspended After Shooting Guns at Range with Mother**

By AWR Hawkins  
Breitbart

A Loveland, Colorado, junior was suspended from high school pending a police investigation after he went to a shooting range with his mother.

Complete Colorado reports that 16-year-old Nathan Myers was reported anonymously by another student after posing alleged "threatening" material to Snapchat. The alleged "threatening" material was a video of guns Nathan and his mother Justine posted before heading out to the range. The caption on the video said, "Finna be lit."

Weld County Sheriff Steve Ream spoke to the uproar over Nathan's video, saying, "People base their apprehension on their own paradigm and their own fear of guns and gun culture. One kid is totally excited to go out and train on how to use a gun responsibly, while another kid is totally freaked out about seeing a gun."

Bearing Arms reports that Loveland High School—the school suspending Nathan—is operating in line with a program called "Safe 2 Tell." The program is designed to allow students an avenue to report possible threats.

Sheriff Ream observes Nathan's plight as a perfect example of the trouble that arises from putting laws in place where people can face punishment or have guns confiscated simply on accusations.

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## We Don't Trust You

By Ann Coulter

Breitbart

Submitted by Hank Myer



Like all Americans, I've been deeply moved and horrified by the recent spate of mass shootings. Surely, I thought, there must be some commonsense gun regulations that could put an end to the carnage — red-flag laws, longer waiting periods, age limits, something!

Leaving aside the usual suspects, who are rushing to the microphones to demand the immediate confiscation of all guns, liberals are appealing to us to come together in good faith and formulate a plan to keep guns out of the hands of these monsters, using fair process and common sense.

The only problem is that no one on their side believes in good faith, fair process or common sense. Here's the reality: We don't trust the other side, nor should we.

Americans used to be able to rely on two bulwarks to protect us from stupidity:

1) Legal process — The genius of our founders was to strictly limit the power of capricious, and often armed, government officials and to create a government of laws that made major changes difficult, but not impossible. You want a new amendment to the Constitution? Get 38 states to ratify it, two-thirds of the Senate to vote for it, the president to sign it. There — you've changed the constitution. You oppose a law? Run for office, put a proposition on the ballot, donate to a campaign, persuade your fellow citizens — or move to a different state.

2) Common sense — We also used to be able to assume that a basic reasonableness undergirded our society, flowing across generational lines, political divides, racial differences and policy disputes. Until the 1970s, for example, federal courts mostly enforced actual legal and constitutional rights on the books. The other branches of government tended to perform their roles in good faith — or at least not in obvious bad faith.

Whether you were a Taft Republican or a JFK Democrat, you believed that we had a border, that people here illegally would be processed according to law, that there were two sexes, that free speech was a hallmark of our nation, and that a kid could dress up as a cowboy or Indian for Halloween without being branded a "racist."

Naturally, therefore, my first instinct was to assume that our shared respect for process and decency remained. But I now realize that's wrong.

In 1994, nearly 60% of Californians voted to deny government services to illegal aliens. Proposition 187 was approved 59% to 41%, with the votes of 56% of African Americans, 57% of Asians — and even a third of Hispanics. It won in every county of California except San Francisco. In heavily Latino Los Angeles County, Proposition 187 passed by a 12-point margin.

Liberals said: *No problem, we'll take the case to a left-wing, Carter-appointed federal judge who will overturn the will of the voters!* District Court Judge Mariana Pfaelzer held that the perfectly constitutional law was "unconstitutional" and, today, California taxpayers are forced to spend billions of dollars on food, housing, education, health care and prison cells for illegal immigrants.

In 2008, Californians voted against gay marriage. Again, this was California — not South Carolina — and voters decided, 52% to 48% that "marriage" is not between a mailbox and a chimpanzee, a rhododendron and refrigerator, but only between a man and woman.

Liberals said to themselves: *No problem. We'll just find a gay district court judge to overturn the vote. This will be a piece of cake.* They also said, *Not only are we going to reverse the vote, but we will name and shame the people on the other side* (except African Americans, who voted overwhelmingly for Proposition 8, much to the embarrassment of progressives). People found to have donated to the marriage initiative would be driven out of their jobs, fired from high-tech firms they founded, and chased from Mexican restaurants. Apparently, everyone born in the last 5,000 years, right up until June 26, 2015, was a hateful bigot.

Since the 1980s, nearly every time Americans have been allowed to vote on illegal immigration, they've opposed it — denying government services to illegal aliens, denying bail to illegal aliens, imposing English language requirements, allowing police to request documentation from suspected illegal aliens and on and on and on. All of these democratically achieved results were met with rage, insults, prejudice — and often a court overturning the vote.

This culminated in 2016, when Americans decided to make an utterly preposterous candidate not a mayor or congressman, not even a governor, but *President of the United States* based on his promise to deport illegal aliens and build a wall. We know how that turned out. (Don't weep for Brexit voters. Britons have only been waiting three years to get what they voted for. We've been waiting decades.)

It's not the underlying issue in any of these examples that's the problem — it's the flouting of the democratic



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process. I'm not saying: *We trusted you and got a bad result.* I am saying: *We trusted you, but you abandoned the Constitution and the law to get the result that you could not win honestly.*

At least we still have our common sense! Surely, we can count on the next generation to believe in free speech down to the marrow of their bones. They clearly understand that college campuses, whatever else they are, must always be bastions of open inquiry and far-reaching debate. They obviously recognize the wisdom and majesty of the Constitution's Electoral College.

Nope! None of that is true.

Actress Debra Messing is collecting names of Trump supporters for a new Hollywood blacklist. Armed and masked left-wing brown-shirts patrol the streets of Portland, Oregon, beating up suspected Trump supporters. I tweet, "It's a nice day," and 2,000 people respond that they hope I will die. We're dealing with people who are not honest brokers. We can no longer have any expectation of good faith, sound process or common sense. In this environment, it's preposterous to believe that we can start putting asterisks on the Second Amendment and hope that it will survive.

We can't entrust our liberties to your dirty hands.

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## **BRPC High Power Match Report**

By Frank Nedza  
DSSA Board Member

### **Across-The-Course (XTC)**

There were no scheduled Across-the-Course events scheduled for July or August, but our next scheduled matches are the Delaware State XTC Championship on September 14<sup>th</sup>, and an EIC (Excellence in Competition) match for September 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Mid-Range Prone**

**Saturday July 13<sup>th</sup> and Sunday July 14<sup>th</sup>** were the dates for the Delaware State Midrange Championship. This match was (obviously) conducted over two consecutive days and was fired at 300, 500 and 600 yards each day. These are always fun matches (for me anyway), with the 300 yard target being more challenging than one might imagine on first glance. A total of 25 shooters (10 sling, and 14 F-Class) were our guests for this match with 22 folks shooting both days.

On the Sling Side, Jon Howell led the way with a pretty impressive 4 clean targets for the 6 matches, posting an impressive 1197-76X at the end of the match. Nicely Done, Jon! Rich Kussman wasn't far behind though with a very nice 1193-60X. There were a total of nine clean targets on the sling side, and a good number of 'almosts', with a total of nine 199's posted.

We had one lone AR-Tactical competitor, Rufus Standefer, who posted a score of 1143-36X. Not bad at all for a pretty new competitor!! I sure wish we would see a few more of you AR-owning guys (and gals!) show up for matches –it's fun, and you already have the rifle, so...

In F-Open, Dave Kokoszka fired a really nice 1193-84X, including clean targets at 300 yards (twice), and 500 yards. Nice shooting Dave! John Sigler was REALLY close on his heels, with a score of 1193-78X! Imagine that -84 and 78X's out of a possible 120! DANG! (That goes for Jon Howell too, with ONLY 76 X's...).

In F-T/R, Jim Crofts took the win with an 1188-55X, including a clean at 500 yards. Close on his heels was Chris Fairbanks with a nice 1186-57X with a clean at 600 yards. Also in F-Open we were happy to see our friend Geof Slichter back on the range after some pretty serious back surgery – glad you are back and doing better Buddy!

As always, the regular match scores can be found on the Bridgeville website;

<http://brpc-de.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Mid-Range-7-14-19-2.pdf>

The Hexa electronic scores for this Mid-Range match may be found here:

<http://shooting.hexsystems.com.au/competition/view-in-club-by-date?clubId=329&day=13&month=7&year=2019>

<http://shooting.hexsystems.com.au/competition/view-in-club-by-date?clubId=329&day=14&month=7&year=2019>

### **Long-Range Prone**

**Saturday July 27<sup>th</sup> and Sunday July 28<sup>th</sup>** found us at the 1000 yard shoot house. This event attracted 22 total shooters, with 13 shooting both days. This time the weather was decent, the winds were a lot more manageable than last time, and the scores were better (go figure, right?). One thing that didn't change at all though was having a great day on the range with friends –the people we shoot with are what make this sport what it is. Anyway, on to the results.

In F-Open, Brian Glanden was the match winner, posting a nice 1184-40X, with Corey Woods putting up a nice 1169-37X for the win in his class. Nicely done guys! There were no cleans shot this time (it's tough out there at 1000 yards!), but Brian Glanden had an 'almost' on Sunday's match #2 with a 199-7X.

On the sling side, Rich Kussman posted a nice 1183-55X for the win, with Jon Howell close on his heels at 1177-59X. Also on the sling side, no clean targets this time, but a total of 6 'almosts' with Jon Howell posting 4 of them (199, with 15, 14, 6, and 11X's!!!) and Rich Kussman and Tom Snodgrass (still my favorite Marine) posting one each at 199-9X and 199-6X (very nice shooting Guys!) I hope that the rest of the field had as much fun as I did, and I am looking forward to our next set of long range matches.

As always, the regular match scores can be found on the Bridgeville website;

<http://brpc-de.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/July-2019-LR.pdf>

The Hexa electronic scores for the Long-Range match may be found here:

<http://shooting.hexsystems.com.au/competition/view-in-club-by-date?clubId=329&day=27&month=7&year=2019>  
<http://shooting.hexsystems.com.au/competition/view-in-club-by-date?clubId=329&day=28&month=7&year=2019>

## 'Away' Matches

**Canadian Fullbore Nationals** This issue of 'away matches' takes us really AWAY, as in out of the country! Several members of the Bridgeville Rifle and Pistol Club were able to attend the Canadian Fullbore Nationals, held in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada at the Connaught Range from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> of August. What a neat place to shoot! This year's match, the 2019 Canadian Fullbore Nationals was the 137<sup>th</sup> iteration of the match! That is quite an accomplishment for the DCRA (Dominion of Canada Rifle Association) which has been in existence since 1868. The DCRA is the official sanctioning body for many shooting disciplines, including Target Rifle and F-Class, much like our own NRA. The Connaught range is on a military base, and is a beautiful range (or really, set of ranges), with the Gatineau hills as a backdrop. Those that are interested can read the history of the DCRA here <http://dcra.ca/history.php>

There were 198 registered shooters for this match, with folks coming from all over Canada (of course), as well as the United States, Jamaica, the UK, Wales, and probably more places that I missed. I met a lot of really great people from all over, and hope that we will meet again next year (once again, the shooters are the best part of the match!).

The match consisted of all prone matches at distances of 300, 500, and 600 yards as well as 800 and 900 meters and was shot on 5V type targets, so not only did we 'outlanders' have to travel, we had to learn a new target that is very different from our decimal target, and a new scoring system with new terminology. A center shot is a V-Bull, and is announced that way 'V-Bull, 3 on target' and is the functional equivalent to our X-Ring. The next ring out is a Bull, or Bull-5, with the next ring in the black being an 'inner 4'. The rings in the white are worth 3 ('outer 3'), and 2 points, and a hit anywhere else on the target is worth 1 point. There is a 'magpie' in there somewhere too, but I never did really figure that one out ☺. Target pullers are part of the match entry fees, so we didn't have to pull targets. Most of the pullers were quite good, with a minority being tolerable at least. Most days you would fire somewhere around 40 shots, in strings of between 7 and fifteen shots per string. That does NOT imply that you had it easy though, as most matches were fired 3 to a mound. This means that 3 shooters are set up next to each other on the same firing point talking turns shooting and scoring for each other. In the 3 to a mound format, the shooter on the right fires his shot first while the far left shooter records and announces the score. The center shooter is getting ready while the right shooter shoots, as he will shoot next as soon as the right shooter's score is

recorded and acknowledged, and then the left shooter has his opportunity to shoot. Each shooter has 45 seconds from the scoring and acknowledgement of the last shot to take their own shot. You will be chastised if you go too long without shooting, and if you repeatedly take too much time, the range officer will begin taking away points. Effectively, your 10 shot string is the equivalent of a 30 shot string time-wise, without the benefit of playing 'chase the spotter'! This is quite different from our normal string shooting style in the United States, and makes your wind-reading ability (or lack thereof) more important. With 3-shooters taking turns, you could have 2 minutes or more elapse between your shots, so conditions can change dramatically. Time can get away from you, and conditions can really change if you are sorting out a challenge, have a slow puller, or any one of a number of other issues to deal with. Speaking of conditions, we had rain on a couple of days (only one day in which some of us (me) got seriously wet), and pretty windy conditions (pretty much all week). In one match at 900 meters, I went to the line with 11-1/2 minutes of left wind on my rifle for the first shot, prayed that the target would go down, and was happy that it came up with an inner 4! Whew! Note the flag on the far right...



The match is also different in that you are assigned shooting times for all your matches several days in advance. The times are very specific (i.e. 9:16 AM). If you aren't there and checked-in prior to your start time, you will find yourself looking on, as the prep time will be over and the match will have started at 9:16 AM sharp. Suffice it to say that the DCRA ran a great match, on a great facility! (That shouldn't be a surprise, considering they have had 136 previous go-rounds to work out the kinks ☺). In all seriousness, it was an awesome experience that I won't soon forget.

In addition to the individual matches, there were also several different team matches shot, including the Coaches Team Match (two man), the Outlander Team Match (eight man), and the Commonwealth Team Match (twelve man). I was lucky enough to be able to shoot all of these matches. I can tell you that we had the benefit of some fantastic coaches (most from the USNRT), and even though we hadn't shot with them previously, I think we all adapted pretty well.

The best thing about the team matches was learning how to shoot as a team under pretty trying conditions for us and our coaches –personally, I want to thank them VERY MUCH for the experience! You guys are awesome! We (meaning the Bridgeville/USA Goodwill Team) came in SECOND in the Commonwealth Team Match and FOURTH in the Outlander Team Match. Again, I think credit goes to the Coaches.

We didn't get the opportunity to get too many pictures, but here is one of the Coaches Team Match with Coach Kent Reeve, and shooters Don Phister and Frank Nedza.



As you might imagine, prone shooting isn't really a spectator sport, but the ones that ARE there, are quite enthusiastic... (see below)



Chairing the Winner –the winner of the Governor General's Match is traditionally 'chaired' off the range. It looks like a lot of fun (unless your teammates drop you ☺ ). Here is an older video of a chairing at Connaught to give you a flavor of the process; <https://youtu.be/vV5TpJy0gGY> And here is a photo of this year's winner being chaired off, rifle in hand.



Those that are interested in the scores should be able to find them here;

<http://www.dkra.ca/results/2019/CFRC/index.htm>

but I warn you, the scores are not easy to interpret as they don't seem to include an overall aggregate, instead focusing on sets of matches that have historical significance, like the Letson, the Gibson, the Alexander of Tunis, and other matches (please don't ask me to explain as I still don't know what the significance is (yet)). Your best bet is to look at individual days, and look at "Jim Thompson's Daily Summaries" then select a day, then the 'ranges shot today' to find the results you wish to see.

Unfortunately, like all good things, the match had to come to an end, but I can tell you that I am looking forward to next year, and an opportunity to better my scores, and perhaps make the Governor General's Shootoff.

As you can see, the High Power season is now fully underway at Bridgeville and elsewhere, and if you don't hurry, you might miss it! I am hoping to see many more of you out on the line for future matches. Our next scheduled match is the Delaware State XTC Championship (with a LEG match) scheduled for September 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, and the Delaware State Fullbore Championship (with Palma match), scheduled for September 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>. For those that are interested but maybe a little bit apprehensive, come on out and see what we are all about. I am sure we can convince you to take the plunge and join us on the firing line!

## Call for Articles

Would you like to be published in the DSSA News Letter? Publicize your Club's activities or special events. Found a great article that you want to share with Delaware Sportsmen?

Please send your article or special event to:

**Roger T. Boyce**

**Vice President**

**DSSA**

[Roger.boyce@dssa.us](mailto:Roger.boyce@dssa.us)