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ATF Classification Compromise to Redefine Sporting Use, Ban Certain Ammo Imports

By DAVID CODREA

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The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' classification of **pistol grip only firearms with 14" barrels** that fire shotgun shells and are over 26" in overall length as neither "shotguns" nor National Firearms Act "Destructive Devices" or "Any Other Weapons" has created a situation wherein the agency must either quietly save face or have it exposed that untold numbers of good faith gun owners currently legally possess firearms problematic for the government to allow. In order for that status quo to continue, ATF, in conjunction with certain members of Congress and lobbying interests, is working at "tweaking" its definition of the arbitrary "sporting use" term, insider sources tell Gun Rights Examiner. And with that will come a push to expand definitions to allow for further importation bans on certain types of presently legal ammunition.

While many of the details of the deal being worked on are sketchy, informed sources are of the opinion that the "tradeoff" is a backroom effort that includes undisclosed "bipartisan" members of Congress, ATF acting on behalf of itself, the Department of Justice and the administration, and firearms lobbyists who have traditionally been part of the behind-the-scenes development, if not outright "ghostwriting" of classifications and rules affecting the industry and gun owners.

This is hardly the first time ATF has found itself needing to reverse prior decisions. The entire **Heller Foundation-supported machine gun case** currently making its way through the courts was set up by the Bureau first ruling that NFA trusts are not "persons" as defined by law, and were therefore eligible to manufacture and possess post-1986 machine guns typically reserved for military, law enforcement and properly licensed members of the firearms industry. They changed their minds and demanded their tax stamp back despite no statutory provision for doing that. And with the current state of disorganization and unknown numbers of contradictory decisions, further disconnects where band aid "solutions" are applied will be practically guaranteed, as a recent ATF industry circular demonstrates.

"Any individual letters stating otherwise are contrary to the plain language of the NFA, misapply Federal law, and are hereby revoked," ATF's Firearms Technology Branch declared in its **"Open letter on the redesign of 'stabilizing braces'."** This is tacit admission that conflicting classifications and rulings force firearms makers and owners to face decisions that could land them in life-altering trouble. This reaffirms that ATF only gets around to addressing those conflicts on a haphazard and sporadic basis when individual circumstances bring them to the fore. The scope of that problem is unknown, but quite possibly massive and severe, as a **2005 Congressional Research Services report** concedes.

"It is significant to note that ATF regulations, rulings and classifications are based upon the agency's best interpretation of current law and reported case law," the report observes. "As such, ATF determinations are subject to the Administrative Procedures Act and can be challenged in federal court, after all other administrative remedies have been exhausted." (Continued under "ATF", page 2).

Are You "Living In The Plastic"?

By DAVID DEGEROLAMO, *General Editor*



Have you ever bought something that you think you will need at some point in the future and left it in its plastic wrapping? It could be a compass, small water filter or even a medical kit. I call this living in the plastic.

I also use this term to describe people who have purchased a firearm and ammunition only to put them in a safe for "later". My broader definition of living in

the plastic is simple: buying some thing which has instructions or needs training to use effectively but you do not read the instructions or train with the tool ahead of time.

How often have you bought a book but not read it? I doubt that I will ever be able to read all of the books that I have purchased but I highly recommend *"Battlefield America"* by John Whitehead and *"The Survival Group Handbook: How to Plan, Organize and Lead People For a Short or Long Term Survival Situation"* by Charley Hogwood.

I have seen several examples where someone has purchased an AR-15 rifle and put it away for later. When "later" came in the form of rifle training, the rifle jammed on the first shot. Causes were: carrier bolt not lubricated, lacquered rounds and reloads bought at a flea market. The consequence of living in the plastic in this case can result in death and the possible passage of a rifle into the hands of the "enemy".

Another case of living in the plastic concerns personal relationships. Are you basing your future security on the expectation that when the SHTF occurs, people will rise up to what the situation requires and that you will be able to count on them? This is a fallacy that also has consequences that can result in death. If you cannot count on them now, are you willing to risk your children's lives on them in the future?

The last case of living in the plastic or more commonly known as "normalcy bias" is the ballot box option. People want to believe that everything will work out if we just vote for good politicians. After the last election where the Republicans took control of the Senate and kept control of the House, we know that there is no solution at the ballot box. History shows that the next option for us to regain our freedom is the cartridge box. If you believe this, ask people whom you are willing to trust if they believe that the ballot box has been replaced by the cartridge box. When you see the look of incredulity on their face, you will know if they are living in the plastic. You can bring them out of the plastic with one statement: You may not believe it but the federal government believes in the cartridge box solution as shown by the massive amount of ammunition that they are buying.

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What To Do About Burns

By IVYMIKECAFE, *Medical Editor*



From a standpoint of you, dear reader, most of you have figured out to not hang around in stupid places with stupid people doing stupid things, thus, your likelihood for a burn has been mitigated by your ample use of grey matter. Oh, and don't smoke in bed or with oxygen on, either.

The key to avoiding burns is to make sure you assess where you are going and what you are doing. If you will be in an environment where high-pressure, flammable aerosols

Ingenuity that guarantees employment for medical professionals.

will be ignited and pointed at something, or on a camping trip with 300 pounds of Tannerite and powdered non-dairy creamer, make sure you pack some burn care gear in your kit and have some training for treating burns. If you are just going fishing down at the river for an afternoon, then you stand a pretty low chance of catching the heated vapors.

If the grid is down, then it's going to be game on with increased likelihood for burns. People get very creative with ways to heat and light their homes, cook their foods, and heat their water. People rarely practice using their auxiliary power equipment when the grid is up. They do poor jobs at rotating or stabilizing fuels. They Jerry-rig things together that are outright dangerous. You combine these together with the stress of a grid down environment, the possibilities for harm are almost endless.

Anatomy and Physiology

Let's talk about our very good friend, the skin. It is also known as the integumentary system, or sometimes just the integument. It is a barrier that keeps bacteria and infections at bay, helps us control temperature, prevent fluid loss, and provide sensation to help us get around in the world. It also happens to be the largest organ of the human body.

The Skin is Composed of Three Layers:

Epidermis: The thinnest and outermost layer of the skin, it is composed of dead and dying skin cells that are constantly being shed by the body. It lies on top of oil glands in the dermis that secrete sebum to keep the epidermis moist and pliable. If you are not getting enough sebum, your skin gets dry, flaky, and ashy.

Dermis: The dermis is below the epidermis and contains blood vessels, oil and sweat glands, and nerve endings. Let's repeat – NERVE ENDINGS. (Continued on "What to Do About Burns, page 2)

Thought for the week: The IRS must love poor people; they have created so many of them.

What to Do About Burns, continued

These are going to play a large role in burns and burn care. The sweat that is secreted by the sweat glands and evaporates on the skin is a key factor in keeping you cool and controlling body temperature. The wet skin acts as a radiator of heat as the body opens up the vessels in the dermis to allow more blood to flow to dump heat while at the same time, picking up a little cooling effect from the wet skin. Flushed, pink skin from your workout is this process at work.

Subcutaneous Tissues: This area is composed of adipose tissue – aka fat – and connective tissue. It is a layer of insulation that helps both conserve body heat and radiate body heat depending on shunting or pushing blood behind it or in front of it respectively.

There are underlying structures beneath the skin, which in very basic and general terms, are the muscles (fascia), nerves, tendons, bones, and organs. These are areas that can be affected by very deep burns. Electrical burns can cause all sorts of havoc down here as well.

Burn Types

There are four major types of burns. For the sake of brevity, we are going to cover blast wounds in another post, as they are instant multi-system trauma that deserve to be covered in depth.

Speaking of trauma, burns are considered trauma. Therefore, you should apply your rapid trauma assessment in the field and treat life threats accordingly. Do not get hung up on the gore you may see in front of you because your patient may have another, more acute life-threatening injury that you will need to deal with.

Thermal Burns

As noted in the stats above, these are the most common forms of burn in the US. These are the burns that you get from contact with something that is a lot hotter than you are. Key to how they happen is the ability of the heated substance to hold heat energy. When you stick your arm in a 350 degree oven to pull the chocolate chip cookies out, it's definitely hot, but the heated air doesn't burn your arm immediately because air cannot hold large concentrations of heat energy. If you grab the 350 degree steel cookie sheet with your bare hand, you are going to get burned immediately because the dense steel can store more heat energy than the air / gases. The same thing applies for oils, water, and other liquids. Sticking your hand in a 350 degree deep fryer is going to leave a nasty mark.

For more burn information please go to griddownmed.com/2015/04/18/burns/.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 22-26—Earth Day celebration, Andrews NC. Native plant information, natural medicines, Trail of Tears information, nature hikes, fishing tournaments and gospel music. See andrewsnc.com for info.

May 16-17—2nd Annual Mountain Prepper Expo, Sevierville Convention Center, 202 Gists Creek Road, Sevierville, TN. See mountainprepperexpos.com/ for further information.

May 23-24—Spring Arts, Crafts & Music Festival, Downtown, Blairsville, GA. Enjoy artists, musicians food and fun. Hours 10am-5pm both days, rain or shine.

May 29-31—Heritage Life Skills, Waynesville, NC. Three days of workshops & speakers including Survivor Jane & Rick Austin. Call Jan at 828-456-5310 or visit the website carolinareadiness.com to sign up.

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CONGRESS REACTING TO ISIS TERRORISTS CROSSING US/MEXICAN BORDER.



ATF, continued

"According to ATF, the agency has over 300 cubic feet of classification letters stored in file cabinets," the report elaborates. As noted in my latest **GUNS Magazine "Rights Watch"** column, none of these have been scanned into a searchable database so that consistency of interpretations can be assured and conflicts identified and resolved. As that report was published 10 years ago, the thought of what it must look like today evokes nothing so much as the government warehouse at the end of *"Raiders of the Lost Ark."*

As an aside, the APA requirement was directly contradicted by ATF in its aborted (for now) attempt to seek a ban on "green tip" ammo using a "sporting purposes" rationale. As **first reported in this column**, the Bureau's Enforcement Programs and Services spokesperson maintained its proposal was merely a "framework" and would "not actually be a [regulatory] change, more of a policy along those lines."

This morning, citizen journalist and blogger Mike Vanderboegh, who **first reported on allegations** at the CleanUpATF whistleblower website that Operation Fast and Furious weapons were involved in the murder of Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry, will be attending various seminars at the National Rifle Association's annual meeting in Nashville. He'll be asking questions to include if NRA knows anything about a "sporting use" tweak and a potential specialized ammo import ban. His findings will be posted on the **Sipsey Street Irregulars blog** when he makes his report from the convention press room.

With this level of uncertainty, it's always a judgment call on whether or not it's too early to issue a report. Admittedly, there's always a risk involved in doing so, especially with issues capable of generating a lot of passion, and particularly to the credibility of anyone who stirs people up for no good reason. The decision to file this one was made after consultation with knowledgeable insider sources who have a track record of professional accomplishments and of providing reliable information that has borne out in the past.

On the "to do" list at this writing will be efforts to determine the exact scope, nature and language of the proposed changes alleged to be in development, and to identify all parties involved, including members of Congress who reportedly have commissioned a research and feasibility study, as well as any lobbyists who may be helping steer the process. Whether that can be accomplished is unknown, as cooperation on the part of people being asked questions is not a given.

Perhaps inferences will need to be made based on "No comment" replies, or outright denials. Regardless, three clear points remain valid and ought to be priorities for advocates of the right to keep and bear arms no matter how this story shakes out.

First and foremost, the entire concept of "sporting purposes" is not only arbitrary, in addition to having documented **1938 German law origins**, it is offensive to the core purpose behind the Second Amendment. It is past time members of Congress who have enjoyed gun owner endorsements and contributions acknowledged that and worked to eliminate it as a criterion -- and that's something those GOP presidential candidates vying for NRA member support at this weekend's annual meeting **leadership forum** could make a point of pledging to sign if elected.

Second, it must be made more than clear that no "tradeoffs" or "compromises" on any kind of ammunition are acceptable. Marginalizing hobbyists and enthusiasts like those who fire off tracers at Knob Creek and throwing them under the bus is unacceptable, and part of a "divide and conquer" strategy that all gun owners must stand fast against and refuse to cede ground to. As seen every time the gun-grabbers advance, far from being satisfied, they always use their new position of advantage from which to launch their next deeper incursion.

Third, and this is something well within the powers of Congress to require, this business of 300 cubic feet of files, or whatever it is 10 years after that report was made, is unacceptable, and lends itself to further disastrous reversals with gun owners paying the price for ATF's disorganized laziness. It's like something we would expect from a police station in a Third World country, not from the government of the United States. Those files need to be scanned and placed in a searchable data base accessible to all, and then audited for consistency, with contradictory classifications and rulings identified and openly resolved with public input and Congressional oversight.

For more information see examiner.com/article/atf-classification-compromise-to-redefine-sporting-use-ban-certain-ammo-imports.