

FOIA MARKER

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Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 18930

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NRA [National Rifle Association]

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round of ammunition having been fired from a handgun, penetrating that officer's armor causing the primary lethal injuries."

Faced with hard evidence that shredded the president's credibility, the Clinton Administration rushed to trash the report. Raymond W. Kelley, Treasury Under Secretary for Enforcement, quickly issued the following statement:

"The recommendation in the [B]ATF draft report on armor piercing ammunition that states, '... no additional legislation regarding such laws is necessary' is wrong and does not reflect the Treasury Department's position on cop-killer bullet legislation.

"The Treasury Department strongly supports President Clinton's proposed legislation. . . . [B]ATF and its Advisory Panel are currently reviewing the draft report as is the Department of the Treasury. The final report . . . is expected later this Spring."

NRA is not sitting idly by waiting for Treasury politicians to rewrite this study -- but rest assured we will compare their final product word for word with the BATF original. While the Clintonites are busy replacing science with politics, we will be reminding policy makers that the majority of killers of law enforcement officers have prior criminal histories. That during the last 10 years, 70% of those involved in officer killings had prior criminal arrests. That 53% of those killers had been convicted of criminal offenses, and that 22% were actually on parole or probation when they murdered officers. We will argue that rebuilding our nation's criminal justice system will go a long way in protecting those who patrol our streets and neighborhoods.

NRA will also working to change the most disturbing finding in this important study. BATF's report tragically notes that "officers who do not wear protective armor are 13.5 times more likely to be killed if shot in an armed confrontation. It is truly unconscionable that more than half of the Nation's law enforcement officers, armed with such knowledge of the benefits of protective body armor, still do not choose to wear it."

NRA is giving its full support to H.R. 1410 -- the "Law Officer's Armor Vest Tax Credit Act of 1997" -- by Congressman Bob Barr (R-GA) that would give a 100% tax credit to law enforcement officers who have to buy their own protective vest. Rep. Barr's legislation recognizes the fact that more than 2,000 officer lives have been saved because they were wearing protective armor. NRA members are encouraged to call their Representative (202: 224-3121) and encourage him or her to become a co-sponsor of H.R. 1410 and also to urge their fellow lawmakers to do the same.

In the meantime, NRA will continue to expose all who irresponsibly discourage officers from wearing vests by making false claims about their effectiveness, false claims about bullets that slice through vests "like a hot knife through warm butter."

would affect more than 85% of conventional hunting and target shooting rifle ammunition.

NRA joined many in law enforcement in opposition to the bill, and with our input the performance-based concept was discarded for one based upon the design and construction of the projectiles themselves. In 1986 Congress prohibited sale to the general public of ammunition made with a "projectile or projectile core which may be used in a handgun and which is constructed entirely (excluding the presence of traces of other substances) from one or a combination of tungsten alloys, steel, iron, brass, bronze, beryllium copper, or depleted uranium." Shotgun shot required by federal regulations for hunting and other specifically-described projectiles were exempted. After passage, Rep. Biaggi admitted, "In the end, there was no compromise on the part of police safety."

In 1994, after the development in Sweden of another special-purpose handgun round, one never introduced in the U.S., Congress, again with NRA input, used a construction-based approach to restrict its sale. Sales of ammunition manufactured with a "full jacketed projectile larger than .22 caliber designed and intended for use in a handgun and whose jacket has a weight of more than 25% of the total weight of the projectile" were prohibited.

The anti-gun lobby and the likes of Congressman Charles Schumer continue their lies and claim NRA fought to protect "cop-killer bullets." The "guns-gullible" national media, too lazy and/or too biased to check the record, continue to spread their lies.

Clinton Coverup Could Risk Lawmen's Lives

When a study assessing the threat to law officers from the criminal misuse of firearms exposed the Clinton "cop-killer bullets" myth, Treasury Department bureaucrats had to make a choice. They could accept the conclusions of their own law enforcement experts and embarrass the president, or they could begin a political coverup. The coverup has begun...



By Tanya K. Metaksa

President Clinton continues to champion legislation written by Rep. Charles Schumer (D-NY) to ban what they claim are new, exotic rounds of ammunition having "bullets that can slice through protective body armor like a hot knife through warm butter."

NRA continues to say, and say correctly, that no such ammunition exists and that in reality the Schumer/Clinton legislation would ban ammunition that has been used for many decades by both sportsmen and by those citizens who assume responsibility for their own self-protection.

To get to the truth, Congress, as part of the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996, directed the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF) to conduct a study of firearms ammunition and the use of protective armor by law enforcement officers. In mid-April, BATF released a draft of its report.

After studying the felonious killings of law enforcement officers during 1985-1994, the most recent decade for which data is available, BATF concluded:

"Combined with the availability of sensible defensive strategies, the existence of laws restricting the common availability of armor piercing ammunition are clearly working to protect law enforcement officers, and no attempt to discard the existing laws should be undertaken. At the same time, because the existing laws are working, no additional legislation regarding such laws is necessary. In this matter, to err on the conservative side of the existing status quo laws is to avoid any experimentation with police officer lives that could conceivably lead to numerous additional officer fatalities." (Emphasis added)

BATF also noted that:

"During the period examined, 1985-1994, no law enforcement officer in the United States who was wearing a bullet-resistant vest died as a result of any

"Cop-Killer Bullets" History Of A Hoax

In January 1982, NBC used a special-purpose handgun ammunition designed almost 20 years earlier for law enforcement agencies' use to create a political issue. It aired a sensational, prime-time television spectacle titled "Cop-Killer Bullets." The title of the piece was as preposterous its message. The ammunition in question -- Teflon-coated KTW -- had never been offered for sale to the general public; it was originally intended for, and was marketed to, law enforcement and the military. It had never been used to murder a police officer.

Law enforcement officials pled with NBC not to broadcast its sensational report, lest criminals learn of the virtually unknown ammunition. NBC not only refused to drop its show, but rebroadcast the program six months later.

Publicity-hungry anti-gun members of Congress soon recognized that "cop-killer bullet" was the most exciting and inflammatory term since "Saturday Night Special." Rep. Mario Biaggi introduced "a bill to stop the proliferation of 'cop-killer' bullets." That bill would have outlawed any bullet that, when fired from a 5" barreled handgun, could penetrate the equivalent of 18 layers of Kevlar, the trade name of a fiber used in the police vests.

Technical experts of the FBI, BATF, Secret Service and police forensic labs throughout the country warned that such a performance based ban would be impractical and unenforceable. NRA warned the ban would affect more than 85% of