

PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION

Deanne E. Benos  
04/12/2000 09:07:49 PM

Chris -  
Cepher S. S. S.

Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP@EOP, Eric P. Liu/OPD/EOP@EOP, Leanne A. Shimabukuro/OPD/EOP@EOP  
cc: Anna Richter/OPD/EOP@EOP  
Subject: Gun Show Statistics.

On the confusion regarding the statistic on 54,000 guns linked to 314 ATF investigations -- In case we are ever asked about it again, and because it is one of the only statistics we have on gun shows (and a pretty compelling one if accurate) that can be verified in an official publication (the ATF/DOJ 1999 Gun Show Study), I did a little bit more followup on it tonite to make sure that it had a fair trial before we put it to rest. From further clarification, I have learned that, technically, we can say that all 54,000 guns are linked to gun shows or linked to persons committing illegal acts at gun shows -- but (and a big one) all of the guns were not sold at gun shows or used in crimes.

A more detailed explanation: The 54,000 guns aren't necessarily crime guns. They are guns that are "linked" to 314 gun show-related investigations. This means that the guns could have been purchased by criminals at gun shows and traced to crimes; confiscated from criminals who bought them at gun shows; illegally trafficked at gun shows; illegally trafficked by someone who buys or sells guns at gun shows as well as at other locations (in these cases, guns that weren't bought/sold at gun shows would still count toward the 54,000 total because they are part of the broader, gun show-related investigation); sold by someone charged with selling without a license at gun shows (even if the guns weren't sold to criminals); and in rare, rare occasions, these guns may represent full confiscations of the inventory of an illegal trafficker (this is not as common as we thought earlier today).

An important note: In many investigations of illegal traffickers, ATF counted "estimates" of the number of guns trafficked toward the 54,000 total based on records (such as FFL sales records) and interviews of witnesses (private sales). Thus, if 300 guns were traced back to a suspected trafficker, but there was a record of 500 sales to the trafficker in the investigation, ATF counted 500 guns.

I hope that this was helpful -- and didn't serve to confuse anyone further.



Sarah E. Gegenheimer

02/09/2000 11:58:11

AM

✓  
Eric Lin

Record Type: Record

To: Cathy R. Mays/OPD/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: Guns call for Bruce

Would it be possible for Bruce to call the following reporter? She's working on a story on guns and in particular would like to talk to Bruce about why we are wading into the lawsuit arena. As you know, Detroit is a city that has sued the gun industry. This reporter has written several stories on guns recently (see attached). Please let me know if he can't make the call. Thanks!

Reporter: Melanie Eversley  
Publication: Detroit Free Press  
Phone: 383-6036

January 22, 2000, Saturday

SECTION: DOMESTIC NEWS

KR-ACC-NO: K4931

LENGTH: 753 words

HEADLINE: Gun show takes wraps off high-tech, mechanical gun safety products

BYLINE: By Melanie Eversley

BODY:

LAS VEGAS \_ The firearms industry this week took the wraps off high-tech and mechanical gun safety products, including a gun that can be fired only by a person wearing an encoded ring.

The devices were unveiled or presented this week by new and established companies at the annual Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade (SHOT) Show in Las Vegas, one of the largest firearms trade shows in the world.

Among them is a long gun equipped with a mini computer that will fire only for a user wearing a ring equipped with a matching computer chip; a device that prevents anyone from firing a gun until you punch in a personal identification number, and a gun safe designed to be opened quickly when you really need a handgun fast.

Spread across two floors of the Sands Expo and Convention Center, manufacturers displayed state-of-the-art pistols, rifles, holsters, firearms cases, binoculars and other equipment and a number of gun safety devices.

Gunmakers at the show were quick to point out that they've always displayed safety products. But visitors to the show \_ which this year attracted more than 30,000 gunmakers, dealers and enthusiasts \_ said there appear to be more products to prevent guns from being fired by the wrong person than ever before.

The difference? This year's show follows the rash of lawsuits filed by more than two dozen cities and counties that blame gun manufacturers for urban gun violence. Some of those plaintiffs are demanding safer guns. Additionally, the Clinton administration has said it will ask Congress for \$10 million to develop smart guns that fire only when held by their owners.

The industry is responding to political pressure in a hostile climate manufacturers say evolved after the first of the lawsuits was filed 15 months ago, said Wes Lang, vice president of marketing for Sig Arms, a gun manufacturer in Exeter, N.H.

"It's obvious that this has become a big issue," Lang said earlier this week. "It's just that as it becomes a more important issue, we take a look at solutions for our marketplace."

His company has developed new pistols equipped with the Electronic Personal Locking System, which prevents a gun from firing unless the user punches in a PIN number. It's set to be available for retail in six months.

The organization that coordinates the show and that represents more than 1,000 manufacturers and distributors, the National Shooting Sports Foundation of Newtown, Conn., says safety has always been a priority for members.

"Every year there have been new products, new innovations at the SHOT show about safety-related material," Chris Chaffin, press room manager for the show, said. "There certainly is a trend now to see more technology involved in those products, whereas before they were highly mechanical."

Bob Scott, president of Saf-T-Hammer Corp., an Arizona company that unveiled a safety device called Saf-T-Trigger, said: "I believe that the industry is far more responsible than the average person gives it credit for being."

The devices on display range from simple to high-tech, with some trying to address complaints from gun owners that safety devices might operate too slowly in an emergency, like when an intruder enters the home.

Among the safety products:

iGun: A firearm equipped with an internal mini computer that can fire only when its user is

wearing a ring containing a matching computer chip. The iGun will sell for \$1,000 to \$1,200 when it is available in July.

Saf-T-Round: An orange plug that prevents a gun from firing until the user pulls back on the top sliding barrel, or rack. Produced by Safe Tech Inc. in Knoxville, Tenn., the Saf-T-Round is available now and sells for \$10 to \$12.

Qwik Case: A mini gun safe angled to allow the user quick access, Qwik Case models, manufactured by the Quick Case Corp. of Forest Grove, Ore., is available now for \$169 to \$329.

Saf-T-Trigger: A key lock device that, along with installation, is expected to cost about \$40 when it is available in May.

The developers of the newer products, such as Qwik Case and iGun, said they were responding to the new safety trend being driven by the public.

Said Jonathan Mossberg, president of iGun Technology Corp.: "Certain studies have shown that up to 10 percent of people that are not anti-gun would be interested in purchasing a firearm like this for home defense."

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January 19, 2000, Wednesday

KR-ACC-NO: DE-GUN-SUIT

LENGTH: 1117 words

HEADLINE: Gun Industry Not Cowed by Suits

BYLINE: By Melanie Eversley

BODY:

LAS VEGAS--The weight of 19 lawsuits brought by 29 cities and counties has not demoralized a gun industry that offered tough talk this week against the movement to make it pay for gun violence.

Rather than give in to the pressure, gunmakers and dealers -- making up most of the 30,000 people who flooded the Sands Expo and Convention Center in Las Vegas for one of the industry's largest trade shows -- are digging in for a fight.

Among the hot topics at the 22nd annual Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade (SHOT) Show:

The raising of money to help companies defend against the crush of litigation.

The forming of a political action committee to contribute to the campaigns of candidates for president and Congress who oppose gun-control measures.

Most importantly, the message to gunmakers, dealers and enthusiasts was to get political, a tactic that has worked well for other organizations, such as the National Rifle Association.

"This upcoming election will impact our industry, and we must have an impact on this election," Robert Delfay, president of the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), the Newtown, Conn., organizer of the show, told members in a fiery speech Monday night.

Many who attended the show said the lawsuits helped them resolve to vote in November. And many said those votes would likely be for pro-gun Republican candidates.

Delfay harshly admonished the Bill Clinton White House for its recent announcement that the Department of Housing and Urban Development might file its own lawsuit against the gun industry.

"We will not allow the most anti-gun administration in history to bully us into an agreement that will impact our customers' right to own and use firearms, or your right to conduct your business responsibly," Delfay said.

"The next president could appoint up to five Supreme Court justices who could decide the future of our 2nd Amendment," he said. "A Democratic House and Senate would blaze through a series of gun-control measures that have been stymied to date.

"Now historically, we have not been politically active as an industry," he said. "That must change, and it will change with these upcoming elections."

Guest speaker Alan Simpson, the former Republican senator from Wyoming, also volleyed harsh words at the White House and its threatened HUD lawsuit and urged members to "get in, get wet" in the political arena.

"You can get yourself a new president. When you get a new president, you get a new HUD," Simpson said.

Responded Sarah Gegenheimer, a White House spokeswoman, on Tuesday: "The Clinton administration is working on all fronts to keep guns out of the wrong hands and help make our communities safer. This isn't about politics. It's about saving lives."

Organizers used the show to announce the formation of an NSSF political action committee to give financial support to pro-gun candidates. The group also formed a fund to help pay legal defense costs and other pro-gun projects.

The group also said it had moved for dismissal of 17 of the lawsuits and that three dismissal requests would come before a judge in the next few weeks, including Detroit's on Feb. 10. NSSF members said they were confident that they would prevail after judges threw out three lawsuits -- Cincinnati, Bridgeport, Conn., and Miami-Dade County. The plaintiffs are appealing those cases.

Despite the siege-like undercurrent, visitors remained enthusiastic about the show.

The back offices of sleek, two-story displays hummed with buying and selling, while row after row of dealers studied and fingered the latest technology. Along people-packed, carpeted aisles, videos featured the newest firearms, alongside rows of pistols, rifles, camouflage clothing, books, locks, covers, cases, safes, knives, birdcalls, backpacks, hunters' chairs and bowls of free hard candy, all cramped onto two convention center floors, each easily the size of a football field.

Dealers attending said they blamed the media for misinforming the public about their business. Dealers and gun manufacturers are law-abiding, not criminals, they said. Yet many said they feel the media have been unduly harsh since late 1998, when New Orleans became the first jurisdiction to file a lawsuit. Detroit and Wayne County are each seeking \$ 400 million in damages from several gun manufacturers and dealers.

Employees staffing the booths for Colt Manufacturing, a firearms maker based in Hartford, Conn., were barely responsive when asked to discuss safety technology. One employee said there was no one at the show representing the company who would discuss the issue.

There have certainly been other tough times for the gun industry -- the assassination era of the 1960s was one, said Jeff Reh, spokesman for Beretta U.S.A. But even that atmosphere did not spawn a rash of lawsuits, Reh said Monday.

"I don't think we've seen anything in the past that is quite as severe as this," Reh said.

Others were focused on the November general elections.

"If the Democrats get the presidency and the House and the Senate, we'll be in trouble," Dennis Mazet, owner of High Country Sporting Goods in Riverton, Wyo., said Monday.

"I don't think you're going to see very many dealers voting Democrat," he said.

Another theme that ran through the show was a movement to get the public thinking differently about the sport of shooting. Leadership of the NSSF repeatedly referred to criminals as "nontraditional gun owners" and touted a new television campaign to encourage more participation in shooting sports by promoting the time it gives families to share experiences outdoors.

Mary Lou Boyd, 57, who with husband Cliff Boyd owns Cliff's Rifle Shop in Traverse City, and others talk wistfully of the culture surrounding a sport that brings people closer with nature, allows them to spend time with their children and other family members and keep wildlife populations at a manageable size.

"These are good people in here," Mary Lou Boyd said. "The problem is with the general public, not the people in here."

Another Michigander attending the show, Madeleine Rafferty of Coldwater, spoke of discovering the joy of hunting two years ago.

"Once I got outdoors, it was unbelievable, the feeling of being out there, the release of everyday stress," Rafferty said.

Industry members said they are not overly concerned by the lawsuits. One executive, Reh of Beretta, even suggested they might have a positive effect on sales.

Gun owners might increase their purchases as a sign of protest, Reh explained.

"This is an activist industry," he said.

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Crime -  
Gun Shows

# Los Angeles County Evicts Gun Shows

## Board Votes to Ban Sales on Its Land

By RENE SANCHEZ  
Washington Post Staff Writer

AI

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 24—For two decades, the Great Western Gun Show has been the nation's largest legal marketplace for weapons and ammunition, drawing many thousands of shoppers to the sprawling Los Angeles County fairgrounds four weekends a year. But its long and profitable run there is about to end.

In another sign of rising alarm over gun violence, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors today banned the sale of weapons and ammunition from taking place on any county-owned property, a move intended to evict the Great Western Gun Show from the fairgrounds and force others like it to relocate.

The unusual ban is the latest in a growing wave of new restrictions on weapons that elected officials across California are endorsing in what has become a long summer of discontent for gun merchants and buyers in the state as well as powerful interest groups such as the National Rifle Association.

In just the past week, California lawmakers have approved legislation banning the manufacture or sale of unsafe handguns in the state, so-called Saturday night specials, and subjecting other ones to strict new consumer safety standards that would ensure no misfires. Last month, Gov. Gray Davis (D) also signed into a law a measure giving the Golden State the nation's most far-reaching ban on assault weapons.

The crackdown against gun shows in Los Angeles County comes just two weeks after white supremacist Buford O. Furrow's alleged shooting rampage with a submachine gun in the city. It left three young children, a teenage counselor and a receptionist at a Jewish community center's summer camp wounded. Furrow subsequently used a handgun to kill a U.S. postal worker who was targeted because he was a minority, authorities said.

County supervisors said they no longer want to allow the gun shows to use the fairgrounds or other county-owned sites here, such as armories or convention centers, because they believe the expositions have become a hub for sophisticated illegal weapons buying and trading that is too large and difficult to police. At the last Great

Western Gun Show here this summer, federal agents working undercover said that they discovered an assortment of subtle and clever criminal activity among merchants and buyers alike.

"We have too many innocent children who are becoming victims of weapons that in some small way we have been helping to sell," said Supervisor Yvonne Braithwaite Burke, a sponsor of the ordinance.

"This is but a small step, but it's a very important step," said Supervisor Gloria Molina. "We have been finding violations of gun laws on our own property."

The ordinance passed by a 3 to 2 vote among county supervisors. It will take effect in about six weeks and could cost the county several hundred thousand dollars in annual revenue. But a majority of supervisors said that they were willing to lose the money.

"We should not be in the arms business," said Joel Bellman, a spokesman for Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, who led the campaign for the measure.

Organizers of gun shows aggressively fought the ban and are vowing a court fight to have it overturned. Some say that it will have little effect because they will move the shows to other parts of Southern California. Just this past weekend, for example, the Crossroads of the West gun show was held on public property in neighboring Orange County. But other gun show managers sound worried because finding large private venues in the region could prove difficult. And there may be more obstacles ahead for them.

State lawmakers are not allowing new gun shows to receive permits on California property until they resolve whether to impose tougher restrictions. Several such bills are now being debated.

"Firearms are not the problem,"

said Chad Seger, the manager of the Great Western Gun Show, which on some weekends draws nearly 100,000 customers to the county fairgrounds. "The problem is that we are not prosecuting criminals, and we are letting illegal guns on the street. But that is not a gun show issue."

Like many of its counterparts, the Great Western Gun Show is a huge mart featuring both antique and state-of-the-art weaponry, as well as ammunition, body armor and survivalist gear, all for sale.

Gun shows across the nation have come under increasing scrutiny in the aftermath of the massacre this past spring at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., in which two students firing assault weapons on the campus killed 12 of their classmates and one teacher. A weapon used in the attack had been purchased at a gun show by an 18-year-old girlfriend of one of the teenage assailants. In Congress and in some state legislatures, there are growing calls to intensify background checks of weapons

purchasers at gun shows and to forbid anyone under 21 from buying items there.

The drive to oust gun shows from county property here gained momentum recently when both Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca, a former member of the National Rifle Association, and Los Angeles Police Chief Bernard C. Parks announced strong support for the measure. Gun control groups in California also have been lobbying for it and plan to begin pressing other counties in the state

to take the same step.

"The shows have become a marketplace for illegal activity, or at least a magnet for people who want to engage in illegal activity," said Luis Tolley, the western regional director for Handgun Control.

In one recent case that inspired the ban, federal agents arrested a merchant at the Great Western Gun Show and accused him of selling weapons parts illegally. Law enforcement officials said the merchant first sold undercover officers a kit to assemble most of the

parts needed for a particular machine gun. That transaction was legal. But officials said the man then told the undercover buyers he would sell them the remaining crucial part to complete the machine gun at another date and location, and later met them there.

"We should not be letting public space get used to foster this at a time when we're taking so many other steps to restrict Saturday night specials and assault weapons," Bellman said. "It's complete hypocrisy."

The Washington Post

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25, 1999

# E. Timor Rivals Plan for War, Peace

## *Some Ready to Embrace Independence, Others to Resist It*

By KEITH B. RICHBURG  
Washington Post Foreign Service

AI

MALIANA, Indonesia—In the westernmost towns of East Timor, armed militias are preparing for war if it's necessary to block this territory's separation from Indonesia. In the mountainous east, guerrillas who support independence are hoping for peace.

The west is the Badlands, stronghold of the anti-independence militias and the traditional base of most

pro-Indonesian sentiment in East Timor. At militia checkpoints, dozens of tough-looking young men with spears, daggers, machetes and homemade rifles demand identification papers. Anyone connected with the United Nations or with pro-independence groups is turned back.

U.N. officials here said they have strong indications that the militias have conceded that they will lose the referendum on Monday, and are planning to ignite a civil war when the results are announced. They

have backing from local Indonesian army commanders, and access to weapons more modern than the primitive rifles on display. "We've known about the [post-vote] preparations for war for some time," a senior U.N. official said.

A contrasting mood prevails near the eastern end of the province, where the Armed Force for the Liberation of East Timor is preparing to celebrate the fulfillment of a 24-year-old dream of independence. "It was a very long and difficult road to get here," said the rebels' deputy commander, Taur Matan Ruak, 43. "I never dreamt the people would one day have an opportunity to vote."

The difference in attitudes between the armed groups illustrates the tensions pulling at East Timor, a former Portuguese territory in dispute since Indonesia invaded it in 1975 and annexed it a year later. The invasion set off civil strife and abuses by the Indonesian military that are thought to have cost more than 200,000 lives.

Now, 15 months after the collapse of the 32-year Suharto dictatorship, there are signs that Indonesia's top political and military leaders in Jakarta are willing to let East Timor depart peacefully, before the situation damages the country's international image further. But it is unclear whether the anti-independence militias and their local military backers will go along. If not, violence could erupt, presenting the government with a prolonged crisis.

The mood among the pro-independence guerrillas at Waimori, one of four guerrilla cantonment sites set up under a pre-election agreement between the two rival factions, is upbeat. The rebels still use their *noms de guerre*, like "Hunter" and "The Tiger of Kablaki." Their shoulder-length hair, like their mismatched uniforms and weapons—old Portuguese rifles, outdated M-14s—speak to their years in the hills.

These days, the talk is of what life will be like now that the struggle for independence seems nearly complete. The festive atmosphere at Waimori was enhanced on a recent day by the music-filled wedding of three guerrilla couples.

In his 24 years in the mountains, deputy commander Ruak said, what he has missed most is peace. "Now I hope it returns quickly, so I can return to my family and friends."

Ruak said he was aware that the referendum result, widely expected to be overwhelmingly in favor of independence, may not be fully accepted, and that the militias in the west may be planning to wage their own guerrilla war. But he said he was not worried, because the militias do not pose a military threat. "I don't believe they'll do it," he said. "I have the experience of 24 years fighting. And if they do, we'll be able to sort it out in a day."

Ruak said he believes the vote will be 70 percent for independence, and 30 percent against. He said it would be higher were it not for the intimidation and violence by the anti-independence militias. "So the Indonesian government doesn't feel ashamed, I'm going to give them 30 percent," he said.

At the other end of the territory, though, there is a completely different perspective. "Ninety-nine percent!" declared militia commander Joao Tavares, when asked how many people would reject independence and accept an offer of East Timorese autonomy within Indonesia. "If I say 100 percent, there would be some complaints from the other side."

At his sprawling hillside villa, just a few miles from the border with West Timor, the 68-year-old commander—surrounded by scores of chanting, singing militia members—offered his views on the prospects for violence and the role he now plays. The setting was in coffee-growing country, the most economically viable part of East Timor.

"Because I am the commander of the pro-integration force, they ask for my order: Is there war or not war?" said the former appointed administrator of the Indonesian government in East Timor. "If I want war, I say war. If I want peace, I say peace. But I don't want to have any more war. I want peace."

Many disagree. U.N. officials and diplomats said they have seen all the preparations for war. Among other indications, they said, militiamen

have started moving their families across the border.

The militias have terrorized villagers, burned houses, kidnapped and killed independence supporters, taken and destroyed people's voter registration cards.

Ian Martin, the head of the U.N. mission in East Timor, got a firsthand look at the worsening security situation in Maliana last week, when he flew here by helicopter with Indonesian Foreign Ministry officials assigned to help organize the referen-

dum. Just before his arrival, scores of militia members, some armed, surrounded the U.N. compound, forcing U.N. security personnel to begin evacuation procedures. Some journalists and photographers threatened by the mob took refuge inside the compound for several hours.

Carrying weapons is supposed to be illegal before the referendum, just as the militia checkpoints were supposed to be dismantled. But the police, who are in charge of security, make no attempt to intervene. As one U.N. official said, "they [the militias] usually gather in groups of about 400. So the police take a pragmatic approach, probably based on survival."

Oddly, the apparent breakdown of security in the western part of the territory comes as U.N. officials said they were getting improved signals from senior Indonesian government leaders in Jakarta. Some analysts said President B.J. Habibie, and the armed forces commander, Gen. Wiranto, may have been embarrassed by the earlier militia attacks against U.N. staff, and may have resigned themselves to the likelihood that East Timor will vote to separate.

According to this view, the Indonesian leadership in Jakarta now wants to see a peaceful end to the turmoil. The replacement of the military commander in East Timor may be a sign of the changed attitude.

The key question now, U.N. officials said, is why this new attitude from Jakarta has not translated into a reining in of the militias.

One view is that the armed forces may be operating under dual lines of command, with East Timor's militia groups directed and controlled not by the army's regular territorial forces, but by the special operations division known as Kopassus and by intelligence services that bypass the local command structure. One official described the militia operation here as run by "a special black operations unit within Kopassus. They won't be the people wearing uniforms—you won't ever see them."

Also, some lower-ranking Indonesian army officers have been in East Timor for years and are considered well entrenched with business interests here, mostly in imports. Four army sergeants based in Maliana have been implicated in militia activity. U.N. official Martin last week publicly called for their removal, but did not name them.

From his hilltop mansion, militia commander Tavares denied any links between his men and the Indonesian army.

Tavares also said his forces had turned in all their weapons and were now confined, like the pro-independence rebels, to designated cantonment sites. But about an hour later, he escorted reporters to a pro-autonomy rally in the nearby town of Balibo, where he posed in the town center with about 300 supporters waving spears, machetes, pistols and homemade rifles.

The Washington Post

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25, 1999