



Exercising the Right

Delivering Lead

On Friday, March 11, a Kentucky “Wing Zone delivery driver” pulled up to the curb behind an apartment complex, expecting to deliver pizza to customers within. Unbeknownst to him, four men were waiting behind a nearby dumpster and sprang up as he exited his vehicle. Two of the men cornered the driver, and one was armed. The armed assailant pointed his gun at the hard-working victim and demanded all his cash. The driver, aware that similar robberies of pizza delivery men had occurred in the area, was prepared. He dashed back into his car and retrieved his pistol, which was “legally stored” inside. He fired at the would-be robbers as he tried to make his escape. Everything that occurred is not clear, but authorities suspect the robber fired back — a total of six shell casings were recovered at the scene. The driver escaped from the scene in his car and alerted the police. One of the four conspirators suffered a gunshot wound to the chest and collapsed. The other three fled in fear of their lives. The suspected robber who was shot was taken to a nearby hospital, and his condition was not immediately available.

ATF “Anti-gun Zealot”

When President Obama nominated Andrew Traver, who is currently the Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) Chicago Field Division, to be the new Director of the ATF, a firestorm was touched off among gun-rights activists, who described Traver as an “anti-gun zealot.” On the other hand, gun-controllers like the Brady Campaign were enthused when Traver was nominated by President Obama to be the head of the ATF. Those looking to preserve Americans’ God-given right to armed self-defense have much to be concerned about. Dave Kopel of the Colorado-based Independence Institute told the *Christian Science Monitor*, “This is a demonstration that Obama has ... the same attitudes about Second Amendment rights now as he did [when he was an Illinois state Senator], which is quite hostile.... He’s picked a strong anti-Second Amendment person for an administrative job that has far more influence over the practical exercise of Second Amendment rights than any other job in the country.”

Conservative pundit Michelle Malkin wrote that “Traver allied with the progressive Joyce Foundation to lobby for tighter federal restrictions of Second Amendment freedoms. He ... opposes privacy protections for gun owners. He has also compared automatic black-market weapons to legal semiautomatic assault weapons.” Such criticisms have stalled Traver’s nomination and, at the time of this writing, it hasn’t yet come up to a vote by the U.S. Senate.

Operation Gunrunner

On the topic of the ATF, a new controversy has stirred up that might permanently damage the unconstitutional organization if fully exposed. The latest claims involve ATF operations that “allegedly have helped to supply Mexican drug cartels with weapons, as part of a ‘controlled trafficking of arms’ to Mexican authorities.” The allegations come from ATF whistle-blowers who allege the poorly run operation may have resulted in weapons that were used in the murder of federal law-enforcement agents.

Now there is pressure mounting among Mexico City lawmakers for an investigation into this U.S. law-



Written by [Patrick Krey](#) on May 9, 2011

Published in the issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 27, No. 09

enforcement operation that may have allowed hundreds of weapons to flow into the hands of Mexican drug cartels. A ranking Mexican legislator claims that at least 150 Mexicans have been killed or wounded by guns trafficked by smugglers under the watch of U.S. agents in what many are criticizing as an ATF coverup.

A *Washington Post* article entitled “ATF’s tactics to end gun trafficking face a federal review” reports that a “controversy over tactics ... has prompted federal officials to reevaluate an aggressive law enforcement strategy to stop firearms trafficking. The new scrutiny comes after two separate shootings in the past three months in which federal agents were killed and guns recovered by investigators were later traced back to people already under investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.” But were these tactics really about stopping firearms trafficking, or were they instead an attempt to bolster the gun-controllers’ argument that it is U.S. guns being used by Mexican drug cartels? Katie Pvalich, writing for Townhall.com, believes that the plot is only thickening:

It is important to remember that the Obama Administration and the Department of Homeland Security have implied that much of the violence in Mexico is to blame on law abiding gun shop owners who “sell to cartel members” and the Second Amendment, yet continued exposure of Operation Gun Runner shows the government approving the sales reported by shop owners to ATF, giving the green light for weapons to flow freely across the border into dangerous hands, resulting in thousands of innocent deaths in Mexico and Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry in Arizona earlier this year. ATF sat by and watched as known criminals purchased the weapons they needed to carry out lethal operations with no take downs of cartels as a result, all while using law abiding gun shop owners as a cover.”

More and more gun-rights enthusiasts are arguing that these operations are part of a larger overall effort by the federal government to bolster the contention that lax U.S. gun-control laws are behind the increasing violence on the border with Mexico. An April 3 blog post at LubbockOnline.com entitled “Did the Obama White House Authorize Gun Smuggling into Mexico?” observed:

The corruption and criminal activity apparently sanctioned by the Obama White House is staggering. The apparent fact that White House ATF agents have been smuggling guns into Mexico and the Department of Justice and politicians are using this smuggling as an excuse to place more restrictions on the ability of law abiding citizens to own guns is both appalling and criminal.



Subscribe to the New American

Get exclusive digital access to the most informative, non-partisan truthful news source for patriotic Americans!

Discover a refreshing blend of time-honored values, principles and insightful perspectives within the pages of "The New American" magazine. Delve into a world where tradition is the foundation, and exploration knows no bounds.

From politics and finance to foreign affairs, environment, culture, and technology, we bring you an unparalleled array of topics that matter most.



[Subscribe](#)

What's Included?

- 24 Issues Per Year
- Optional Print Edition
- Digital Edition Access
- Exclusive Subscriber Content
- Audio provided for all articles
- Unlimited access to past issues
- Coming Soon! Ad FREE
- 60-Day money back guarantee!
- Cancel anytime.