



NFA Branch: Transfer Applications Surge



It isn't your imagination. Wait times for approvals on various NFA Transfer Application Forms has significantly increased.

The joint efforts of NFATCA and the NFA Branch were paying off handsomely in reduced wait times for Form approvals. We had whittled the average wait on a Form 4 from about 90 days in 2005, to around 30 days in 2007. Now, it's back up to

nearly 140 days. According to Ernie Lintner (BATF), who presented facts and figures on the process at the recent Knob Creek machine gun shoot, "Everyone in the examiners office is working just as hard and as efficiently as possible. However, we've gone from less than 170,000 transfer requests in 2005 to nearly a million in 2008. The numbers are going up and that will not likely change in 2009."

Lintner also made mention of one examiner that managed to clear over 1,300 transfers in just one month! The volume is staggering and a variety of factors are contributing to the surge in volume. NFA Branch understands our

passion and our desire to get the forms processed quickly. But they also want to encourage patience.

NFATCA President, John Brown, implored the NFA community to try and limit the number of inquiries being made to NFA Branch to check on the status of form approvals. "We have to try and limit the calls we make to them. Every time they courteously deal with us on the phone is time taken away from getting forms approved and out the door."



POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ Form 4's have gone from 14,290 in 2005 to 26,598 in 2008
- ◆ Form 3's have gone from 26,151 in 2005 to 70,487 in 2008
- ◆ Average processing time for all forms has gone from 16.62 days in 2007 to nearly 56 days in 2009 (YTD)

NFATCA UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ◆ SAR East, York, PA: May 1st—3rd
- ◆ Knob Creek Fall, West Point, KY: Oct 9th-11th
- ◆ SAR West, Phoenix, AZ: Dec 4th-6th

Sunsetting CLEO

The Chief Law Enforcement Officer (CLEO) sign-off requirement for the NFA transfer approval process has often been a source of frustration for our community. Often, political considerations would interfere with the lawful acquisition/ownership process and folks who wanted to own NFA items were forced to find alternate means when a Sheriff, Chief, etc. refused to sign.

Frequently, persons who had no other legal method

of securing these items would form corporations, trusts, or the like, to acquire NFA items since there was/is no CLEO signature requirement for these entities.

The CLEO requirement was created long before there was an instant background check system in place. Unfortunately, although an archaic remnant of an old system, CLEO's who will not sign are causing an end run on background checks. There are

no checks on the ultimate recipients of NFA items in trusts and other business entities. (continued on P2)





“THE NFATCA SEEKS TO SIMPLIFY “THE PROCESS” ON BEHALF OF ALL OF THE PARTIES INVOLVED. “

The NFATCA recently conducted an experiment during the last weekend in March. The event took place north of Nashville in rural Tennessee. The goal was to combine folks from all walks of life, and all experience levels with firearms, in a relaxed setting to demonstrate the safe and sporting use of NFA weapons. Women, children, police officers, civil war re-enactors, folks who had never touched a gun and folks who were bench rest shooting champions all gathered for a day of fun (that turned into two!).

A variety of belt and magazine

Public Awareness

fed machine guns, thread-on suppressors, integrally suppressed rifles, short barreled shotguns and rifles, and more were available for all to learn with. All of the participants were instructed in the basic firearms safety rules and in the specific safe operation of each weapon that they wanted to try out. One by one, each participant approached the firing line.

And each of them could not help but breaking out into a bountiful grin! NFA items are not just an affluent endeavor. All learned that there are real world applications for NFA items for



STUDENT LEARNING THE SAFE OPERATION OF AN MP5K... AND HAVING FUN!

Sunsetting CLEO (continued)

The net result being that folks who should not have access to firearms of any kind are receiving access to NFA items. Something about unintended consequences. Clearly, this was never the intent of any regulatory authority.

NFATCA and NFA Branch have been working together to provide the necessary research and supporting evidence required to eliminate the CLEO

sign-off requirements and at the same time insure that NFA items are always transferred lawfully. As you can imagine, the process of change is slow and arduous. It is often quite difficult to shift the status quo, even when such a shift would more closely align the efforts of the Bureau with the regulations that it is mandated to enforce. Most will agree that this change in process is

necessary, though.

In all of its endeavors on behalf of the NFA community, the NFATCA seeks to simplify “the process” on behalf of all of the parties involved. We are making steady progress and thank you for your continued support.

NATIONAL FIREARMS ACT TRADE & COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

POWER THROUGH EXPERIENCE

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NFATCA Website Forum Launched



You are cordially invited to point your Internet web browser at www.nfatca.org. The NFATCA has created an interactive forum where the entire NFA community

can register and participate in an ongoing discussion regarding a host of topics. Registration is, of course, free. We are going to do our best to grow the forum into a destination that becomes the definitive web resource for all things NFA.

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Advertisement for NFATCA membership featuring a soldier with a rifle. Text includes: THANK YOU FOR RISKING YOUR LIFE FOR US. NOW WE WANT YOU TO BE A PART OF OUR TEAM. Email LEMil@nfatca.org to get your membership. NFATCA.ORG. NFATCA MEMBERSHIP IS NOW OPEN AT 80% DISCOUNT TO ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT.