



Cooperation or Pontification?

It should come as no surprise that the current White House administration has taken an insulated position in regard to working with the very industry and community that ATF is charged with regulating. It should also come as no surprise that the gun control measures that the White House could not implement via legislation are now being brought to bear by attempted Executive action and end run tactics. That, too, has been met with stiff opposition. Facing gridlock and backlash, the Department of Justice and ATF convened a July 18, 2014 meeting at the ATF's Washington DC headquarters to meet with industry and attempt to reopen communication.



Ostensibly, this meeting was to serve as a forum for announcements, a discussion of regulatory issues and a report on increases in efficiency. It had been nearly two years

since such a meeting took place. Each branch of ATF was present and participated in the open, albeit guarded interactions. Of particular note was the *NFA Handbook*.

The *NFA Handbook* was created by the NFATCA and responsibility for updates fell upon ATF once it was for-

mally presented. There have been some minor updates through the years, however, all of us are keenly aware that the handbook has been in need of a major overhaul. It was confirmed that the guide is being reviewed for updates and that the NFATCA will help insure that industry and community input will be considered so as to retain the value of the resource. Visitors to ATF's website will note that the handbook is currently unavailable (as of the printing of this newsletter) for download. We will advise when it is once again accessible.

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The Run on Russia

On July 16, 2014, the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) announced new sanctions on persons and entities in Russia determined to be contributing to the unstable situation in Ukraine. The announcement added many individuals and almost a dozen companies to the list of Specially Designated Nationals (SDN's) pursuant to Executive Order 13662, dated March 20, 2014. The complete list of SDN's can be found here: <http://goo.gl/mwMSXn>

Of particular concern to the U.S. firearms community is the inclusion of various Kalashnikov, Iz mash and Saiga weapons. There are lots of questions regarding what US citizens can and cannot do with these brands of weapons.

In short, if one of the SDN's has any financial interest in the weapon, it is sanctioned. This includes weapons that are already here but are not paid for. Further, from the Treasury Department: *If a U.S. person is in possession of a Kalashnikov Concern product that was bought and fully paid for prior to the date of designation (i.e., no payment remains due to Kalashnikov Concern), then that product is not blocked and OFAC sanctions would not prohibit the U.S. person from keeping or selling the product in the secondary market, so long as Kalashnikov Concern has no interest in the transaction. New transactions by U.S. persons with Kalashnikov Concern are prohibited, however, and any property in which Kalashnikov Concern has an interest is*

blocked pursuant to OFAC's designation of Kalashnikov Concern on July 16, 2014. If a U.S. person has an inventory of Kalashnikov Concern products in which Kalashnikov Concern has an interest (for example, the products are not fully paid for or are being sold on consignment), we advise that U.S. person to contact OFAC for further guidance on handling of the inventory. [7-16-2014]

All are cautioned against violating OFAC sanctions. Civil penalties can be up to \$250,000 per violation or twice the transaction value, whichever is greater. Criminal penalties can be up to \$1 million per violation or twice the transaction value, whichever is greater, and up to 20 years imprisonment, or both.

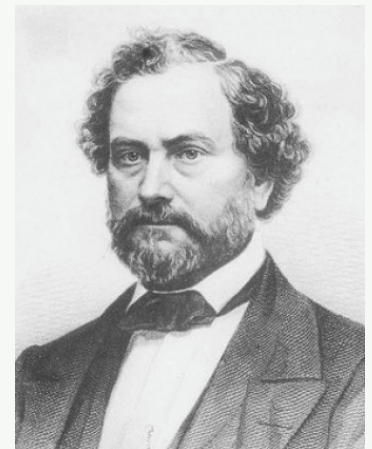


"Perhaps the fact that we have seen millions voting themselves into complete dependence on a tyrant has made our generation understand that to choose one's government is not necessarily to secure freedom."

~ Friedrich August von Hayek

NFATCA Upcoming Events

- ◆ Knob Creek Shoot, October 10-12, 2014, West Point KY
- ◆ SAR West, December 5-7, 2014, Phoenix AZ





Associate Memberships

The NFATCA now has \$ 5 0 Associate Memberships available to provide an opportunity for even more folks to help keep NFA weapons available to all. Join now!

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“Huh?” It is the most common response given by a shooter when asked a question. And it is because we, as a group, simply do a poor job of taking care of our ears. People who use firearms are more likely to develop hearing loss than those who do not. Firearm users tend to have high-frequency permanent hearing loss, which means that they may have trouble hearing speech sounds like “s,” “th,” or “v” and other high-pitched sounds. The left ear (in right-handed shooters) often suffers more damage than the right ear because it is closer to, and directly in line with, the muzzle of the firearm. Also, the right ear is partially protected by head shadow. People with high-frequency hearing loss may say that they can hear what is said but that it is not clear, and they may accuse others of mumbling. They may not get their hearing tested because they don’t think they have a problem. They may also have ringing in their ears, called tinnitus. The ringing, like the hearing loss, can be permanent.

Exposure to noise greater than 140 dB can permanently damage hearing. Almost all firearms create noise that is over the 140-dB level. A small .22-caliber rifle can produce noise around 140 dB, while big-bore rifles and pistols can produce sound over 175 dB. Firing guns in a place where sounds can reverberate, or bounce off walls and other structures, can make noises louder and

increase the risk of hearing loss. Also, adding muzzle brakes or other modifications can make the firearm louder. **People who do not wear hearing protection while shooting can suffer a severe hearing loss with as little as one shot**, if the conditions are right. Audiologists see this often, especially during hunting season when hunters and bystanders may be exposed to rapid fire from



big-bore rifles, shotguns, or pistols. So what to do? Well, the answer is obvious. Protect the delicate inner ear mechanism using one of many options available. Your choice of which method of ear protection you wear depends on how often you’re exposed to gun and rifle shot and personal preferences for wearing comfort. Over-the-ear-cups provide excellent protection, blocking out the destructive sound waves produced by the shot of a rifle. However, many shooting sports enthusiasts find this ear protection uncomfortable. And since these cups block out most sound, carrying on a conversation while wearing them is

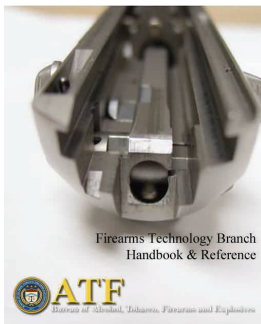
almost impossible. Another variation is ear muffs that rest on the outer ear. These are a bit more comfortable than cups and do provide a bit more hear-through when not in use, but they’re still bulky and inconvenient. Many occasional shooters prefer the ear plugs available at most gun shops and even many hardware stores. These plugs are made from pliable rubber, flexible plastic or moldable wax so that the user can actually create a mold of his or her outer ear to provide good protection from ear trauma. There are also custom-fitted plugs that can also include cutting edge technology that incorporates noise cancellation technology, but these can be pricey.

As shooters, we should all be aware that every single one of us is at substantial risk of hearing loss from the very first shot fired. Spectators are also at risk, even if just observing from a few yards back. And once hearing vanishes, it really does not come back. Worse, you could be in for a lifetime of “ringing” in your ears, or tinnitus. You just don’t get too many chances to overcome that! The shorty 1919, pictured, is one of the most popular guns on the Knob Creek main shooting line. It’s loud and obnoxious and everyone wants to check it out. The volume of concussive sound belching from this beast should be warning enough to protect your hearing. Sadly, most ignore the warning.

Pontification, (continued)

Also of interest was the “resurrection” of discussion on the *FTB Handbook*. NFATCA began work on this project several years ago at the behest of ATF. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed by both parties and it was agreed that NFATCA would deliver to ATF a completed draft of the entire document when the draft was complete and contained all of the

elements of the outline, including the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP’s) that the industry has been clamoring for. Nearly 300 pages were compiled, yet the work was not finished because FTB would not or could not deliver the remaining SOP’s. It would appear that ATF is once again interested in helping the industry understand exactly how it is tested and



evaluated. And since we are only just now reopening the lines of communication, we are advising all to remain cautiously optimistic. Certainly, this renewed activity is a far cry from previous interactions where we were told that “we are not interested in any industry input at this time.” Only time will tell if this is just lip service. We encourage each of you to send us your ideas, comments and concerns for both of these manuals. We can be reached via email at: info@nfatca.org