

THE Gun Owners

27 YEARS OF NO COMPROMISE – 1975-2002

Sen. Smith Introduces Bill To Arm Pilots

by John Velleco

Since September 11, the federal government has spent literally billions of taxpayer dollars in the name of aviation 'security,' in addition to federalizing an entire segment of the workforce.

The flying public has witnessed airport baggage screeners systematically harass the elderly, grope countless women, and frighten small children.

Remarkably, studies show that it is still not all that difficult for weapons to be smuggled onto commercial aircraft (see related article in the previous issue of *The Gun Owners*).

The Bush administration, however, remains firmly committed against

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GOA on the Firing Line



GOA Executive Director Larry Pratt (left) debates anti-gun spokesman John Rosenthal on MSNBC after the Bush administration announced its mixed support for the Second Amendment. (See story on page 3.)

GOA Sues to Overturn Incumbent Protection Act

by Mike Hammond

Gun Owners of America has gone to court to challenge legislation designed to silence Second Amendment advocates during congressional elections.

In a complaint filed on April 23, 2002 in the nation's capital, GOA and GOA's Political Victory Fund joined Texas Congressman Ron Paul and other groups and individuals who would have their constitutional rights trampled by the McCain-Feingold Incumbent Protection Act.

Kentucky Senator Mitch McConnell and the National Rifle Association have also filed separate suits challenging the anti-gun overhaul of federal election laws, which President George Bush signed into law on March 27, 2002.

However, unlike other litigants, the complaint filed by Paul and GOA asks

that the court overturn — in addition to the anti-gun aspects of McCain-Feingold — other anti-gun election rules which were already on the books.

Specifically, the Paul/GOA suit argues that the Incumbent Protection Act interferes with the First Amendment's Freedom of the Press by prohibiting GOA and other Second Amendment groups from going to television and radio stations to discuss Second Amendment issues during an election season.

The suit alleges that McCain-Feingold gives the Federal Election Commission the power to license and control the nature and content of political communication — the very core of the First Amendment's Free Speech and Free Press guarantees.

New law will limit GOA's ability to hold legislators accountable

Within 60 days of an election (30 days of a primary), McCain-Feingold would ban GOA TV and radio ads and appearances if those ads even MENTION a congressman or other candidate for office.

In addition, the Act defines these pro-gun ads as "electioneering communications." This means that, unless

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Inside:

- **Bush administration sends mixed signals on Second Amendment (see page 3)**

One man's journey from potential victim to armed hero

by Erich Pratt

Grenades were exploding everywhere. Pews were shattering. Bullets were flying. People were diving under chairs and grasping for whatever cover they could.

The church at St. James in Cape Town, South Africa was under attack by guerrillas armed with automatic machine guns. The worshippers that night were sitting ducks, except for one man, Charl van Wyk.

"Instinctively, I knelt down behind the bench in front of me and pulled out my .38 special snub-nosed revolver," Charl says. "I always carried [it] with me."

As the mayhem continued, Charl began moving slowly toward the attackers. From a kneeling position, he fired off two rounds at the assailants. One of the slugs hit its intended target.

Sprinting to the back door, Charl exited the church and rounded the corner of the building. He came upon the armed thugs from behind and fired off his final three rounds as the attackers jumped into their getaway car and sped away.

A "snubby" sends machine guns fleeing

Back in the church, the wailing and screaming continued. Dust, smoke and smell of sulfur filled the air. But the congregants were safe now. Charl's heroic actions had chased away the aggressors and saved the lives of dozens of people.

In his book, *Shooting Back: The Right and Duty of Self-Defense*, Charl van Wyk recounts this horrifying incident in graphic detail. Like a scene out of a movie, the reader sees the splintering pews, the flashes of light and the heroic actions of several people in the congregation.

Shooting Back is a book that is quite relevant for Americans today. Now that the FBI Director Robert Mueller is warning Americans of possible terrorist strikes, this book certainly offers lessons for combating such assaults.

Most terrorists are cowards. They don't like being shot at by their victims. Charl's story shows how citizens, with



The heroic actions of one armed man prevented an even greater tragedy from occurring at the St. James Church.

relatively little firepower, are capable of driving away guerrillas who are more fully armed.

The Bible supports carrying arms

But *Shooting Back* is more than just a retelling of the St. James massacre of 1993 where 11 people died and 53 were wounded. It is also an appeal to several different kinds of people.

First, the author makes a plea to Christian pacifists by demonstrating, quite convincingly, that the Bible is not at odds with self-defense.

The irony is that Charl did not always carry a gun. Even though he had spent time in the South African army, he was not convinced that it was necessarily right for him to carry a gun as a civilian. Protecting the nation is one thing, he thought. It's quite another to walk around carrying a firearm all the time.

By the time the attack on the church occurred, however, his transformation was already complete. Not only was he carrying a gun everyday, he says, "I would have felt undressed without it."

So what changed his mind?

It was an article authored by Larry Pratt, the Executive Director of Gun Owners of America. The subject

entailed the Bible and guns.

A life-saving decision

Reading that article was "an answer to prayer," Charl says. He realized there was no problem whatsoever for Christians to be armed for the protection of self and others.

On a sober note, Charl writes that if he had not read that monograph, he would probably not have been carrying a weapon that fateful day and "I may not have been here to tell the story."

For those who think that the teachings of Jesus conflict with the duty to protect family and home, Charl reprints the entire text of Larry Pratt's *What does the Bible say about Gun Control?*

"I had found answers to all the questions that had been plaguing me," Charl writes. "I am sure that the arguments put forward by Larry would help anybody that is experiencing the same kind of doubt."

Guns save lives

In *Shooting Back*, Charl van Wyk also appeals to the self-defense "agnostic," to those who are unsure that guns serve any useful purpose or who are ignorant about the self-defense uses of guns.

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Bush administration sends mixed signals on Second Amendment rights

by Erich Pratt

The Brady Bunch was hopping mad recently after the Bush administration declared that the Second Amendment protects an “individual right.”

While this is *very good news* — and represents a break with the previous Clinton administration — gun owners should not start popping the champagne corks yet.

The administration also stated that this individual right is subject to “reasonable” restrictions designed to prevent possession by “unfit persons” or to restrict the possession of firearms that are “particularly suited to criminal misuse.”

Reasonable restrictions?

Well, let’s see. Handguns are the “weapon of choice” for criminals. Does that mean that the government can pass “reasonable restrictions” — such as a ban — upon handguns?

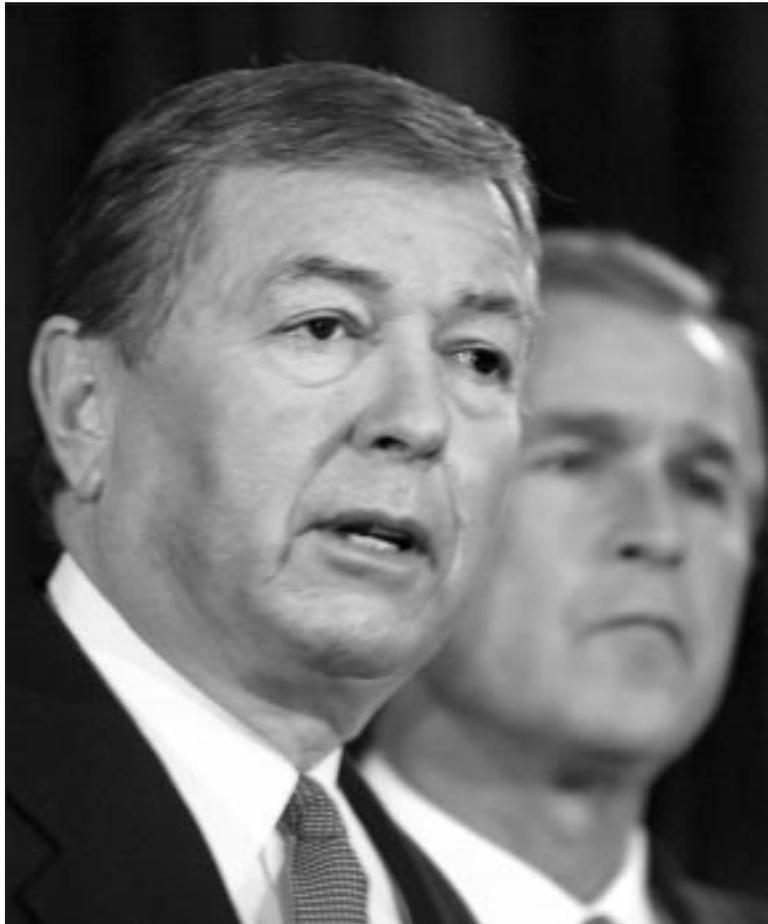
And who is an unfit person? A pilot? A teacher? A law-abiding resident of Washington, DC? All three groups of people are currently considered “unfit” to carry firearms for self-defense most of the time.

You see the problem? The administration’s statement leaves the door open for boatloads of gun control.

Which is why Gun Owners of America was not surprised to hear Attorney General John Ashcroft recently admit that he would defend the Brady instant check.

“Reasonable regulations regarding the ownership of weapons are appropriate,” Ashcroft said in an interview on CNN’s *Larry King Live*. The Brady restrictions “are reasonable regulations, and they’re to be defended.”

Hmm. Mr. Ashcroft’s copy of the



Attorney General John Ashcroft supports certain gun control laws that he considers “reasonable.”

Constitution must read: “the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be *unreasonably* infringed.”

Read my lips?

Not everybody is buying the administration’s “reasonable” rhetoric, however. Two men charged with carrying a pistol without a license in Washington, DC, are challenging the citywide ban on guns.

Both men claim the gun ban contradicts the Bush administration’s position that the Second Amendment protects an individual right.

One would think these men have a point. Unfortunately, the Bush administration is still prosecuting the two men, thus giving their imprimatur to one of the most draconian gun bans in the country.

According to a May 31 *Associated Press* story, “the Justice Department [has] urged the continued prosecution of the men” for violating the DC gun ban.

Still reading my lips?

And then there’s the issue of arming pilots.

Political gurus credit the issue of gun control as the reason that Al Gore lost Arkansas, Tennessee and West Virginia during the 2000 election — thus handing the presidency to Bush.

But the administration took a page out of Al Gore’s playbook when it decided, in May, to prevent airline pilots from carrying arms in the cockpit.

Speaking for the President, Transportation Security Administration Director John Magaw said that pilots need to just focus on flying the plane.

Never mind that “flying the plane” is somewhat difficult with a box cutter pressed against your neck.

So what’s the bottom line? On the one hand, the Bush declaration regarding “individual rights” is welcome news. But on the other hand, it could be a case of “one step forward, two steps back.” ■

Fast Fact:

In May, an ABC News Poll found that almost three-fourths of the American public (73%) believe that the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution protects the rights of “individuals” to own guns. Only 20 percent thought the amendment guaranteed the right of a state to maintain a militia.

Source: ABCNEWS.com poll of 1,028 adults which was conducted between May 8 and 12 of 2002.

Special Once-in-a-Lifetime Opportunity for GOA members & Supporters!

Dial 703-321-8585 and sign up today for this special deal!

Front Sight Firearms Training Institute in Las Vegas, Nevada, one of the most prestigious and most effective schools in the world (see endorsements at bottom) has made a spectacular offer to help Gun Owners of America lead the country in the battle to save our gun rights.

Now, when you purchase a life membership in Gun Owners for only \$500, you will receive five hundred dollars (\$500) in world-class training at Front Sight Firearms Training Institute in

Las Vegas, Nevada! That's right! This is not a typographical error.

You receive two days of unbelievable training at levels exceeding that of law enforcement and the military (without the boot camp mentality) all FREE OF CHARGE when you purchase a life membership in GOA!

How can Front Sight afford to do this? Or better yet, why are they doing this? Quite simply, because they recognize that our right to keep and bear arms has never been in greater peril and they see Gun Owners of America as the organization with "The Right Stuff" to save our gun rights.

When you purchase your GOA life membership, you will receive a special Front Sight/GOA certificate that will allow you to attend Front Sight's two-day defensive handgun course or two-day tactical shotgun course, or two-day practical rifle course!

This amazing, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity is not available to any other pro-gun organization. You will receive a \$500 gift of world class training. Training that lasts a lifetime! Realize that once Front Sight trains you to a level that exceeds that of law enforcement and the military, you have that training forever, plus a lifetime membership in GOA — all for only \$500.

And your \$500 life membership will help

to build GOA's financial war chest so we will be able to increase our efforts to fight and win the battles that will ensure that America's Second Amendment gun rights will no longer be compromised. We must fight now to preserve the gun rights of our children and their children's children. So buy your lifetime membership in GOA today and enjoy the never-before offered benefit of Front Sight Firearms Training Institute.

In addition to getting our newsletter, The Gun Owners, special reports, legislative action updates and all the other regular

benefits of membership — like GOA's travel program that provides 50% off at more than 4000 hotels, discounts on condo rentals, and roadside emergency services

at fleet discount prices

— Life Members will also receive a certificate, suitable for framing, identifying you as a GOA Life Member, a unique lapel pin, and a wallet card that only Life Members and Senior Staff at GOA are allowed to carry.

If you truly believe in the right to keep and bear arms, you have lots of reasons to take advantage of this special offer today. There's no telling how long Front Sight will hold their amazing offer of a FREE 2-day top-flight firearms training course, so act now!

To take advantage of this incredible offer, dial 703-321-8585 and start your Life Membership today.

Once you have purchased your GOA life membership, it is easy to take advantage of the Front Sight offer. Dates for 2002 classes will be mailed to you, but you can redeem your certificate for training in future years because there is no expiration date on the special Front Sight/GOA training certificate.

For more information on Front Sight's courses and Las Vegas location contact GOA's Front Sight coordinator, Sheriff Richard Mack, at 800-834-2027.



What Those Who Know are Saying About Front Sight's Courses

"Front Sight is the future in firearms training. From the novice civilian to the veteran soldier or law enforcement officer, all will gain invaluable knowledge by attending their courses."

Eric Ryden, Police Officer

"As a 14-year veteran of the US Army Special Forces, I have never been to a better school on the use of handguns. It was so great to learn from instructors who are not only good teachers, but who can also perform the tasks on demand. One of the things that impressed me most was how well rounded the class was. We were taught safe gun handling, marksmanship skills, legal and moral aspects of owning and using firearms, and what needs to be done to preserve our firearm freedoms. We were taught what every firearm owner or user should know, not only for defense, but also for hunting, competition, plinking, and fun. The lectures on what to do if you should ever have to use a firearm for defense are the best I have ever taken, seen, or read about. They alone are worth the price of the course. I cannot recommend Front Sight enough."

SSG, Dale R. Mohr

"To get to the National Team for International Skeet Shooting, I had some of the best coaches in the world. These coaches included former Olympic Gold Medal winners and their coaches. Front Sight's staff are among the best instructors I have ever had the pleasure of working with."

Bobbi Bowen, Computer Engineer

"After 15 years as an FFL licensee, I was amazed at what I did not know. I thought I was a safe gun owner and a fair shot. Front sight showed me I had a lot to learn and in the last four days I have learned a lot! If you own a gun and want to be competent as well as safe, you need to attend Front Sight!"

Mich Steinmetz, Mortgage Broker

"I came to the handgun course a complete novice. I had fired a pistol before, but relied on my husband to do all the set up before shooting and securing it afterward. I learned not only how to do both of these things, but now feel confident in firing and handling my pistol. This class was a challenge, but was extremely fun and exhilarating. Thank you Front Sight."

Becky Hyde, Housewife

Smith bill will begin arming pilots within 90 days

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allowing pilots to carry firearms to defend themselves, their passengers, and the innocent Americans in their flight path.

Bush administration nixes armed pilots

In late May, Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Director John Magaw reiterated the administration's position that it will not allow commercial aircraft pilots to be armed.

Magaw told the Senate Commerce Committee that the pilots' main concern must be to "maintain positive control" of the aircraft, and that firearms on the flight deck would distract pilots from that responsibility.

"After a lot of consultation and realizing my experience in law enforcement, I will not authorize firearms in the cockpit," Magaw said.

Capt. Tracy Price, chairman of the Airline Pilots' Security Alliance, ridiculed Magaw's testimony in a piece in *The Washington Times*:

Unlike Mr. Magaw, I have been flying airliners for years, and I can tell him with certainty that I will not be able to concentrate on flying after terrorists break into my cockpit, kill me and use my airplane and its pas-

sengers as a guided bomb. Mr. Magaw's arrogant assertions are ridiculous and would be laughable if the lives of my passengers did not hang in the balance.

The TSA, an arm of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), was created last year as part of the Aviation Security bill. Under the leadership of Senator Bob Smith (R-NH), that bill also included a provision which would allow pilots to carry firearms. But compromisers on the House and Senate Transportation Committees insisted on giving the TSA veto power over any armed pilots program.

Smith bill gathering steam

In an effort to remove the discretion from a reluctant Bush administration, Sen. Smith has introduced a bill which would mandate that pilots be allowed to carry firearms.

A similar bill has been introduced in the House by Rep. Don Young (R-AK) and John Mica (R-FL).

Smith's bill (S. 2554), which has the support of Association of Flight Attendants as well as the major pilot unions, and Young-Mica (H.R. 4635) would give the TSA ninety days to begin implementing the armed pilots program.

At a press conference announcing the introduction of his bill, Sen Smith said, "The pilots want this program, the flight attendants support this legislation and the American people want additional means to be protected against future

acts of terrorism. Our legislation is the best way to allow the voluntary implementation of this program, so that pilots can provide the first line of deterrence and the last line of defense."

At press time, the Smith bill had garnered eleven cosponsors: Sens. Miller (D-GA), Murkowski (R-AK), Burns (R-MT), Bunning (R-KY), Thurmond (R-SC), Hutchinson (R-AR), Crapo (R-ID), Campbell (R-CO), Sessions (R-AL), Thomas (R-WY) and Enzi (R-WY).

The Young/Mica bill has a bipartisan coalition of over 40 cosponsors. Sources on Capitol Hill say the bill could come to the floor of the House before the scheduled August recess.

Ironically, as the Congress and the administration wrangle over this issue, U.S. fighter jets can be put into a position to fire upon a hijacked civilian aircraft.

"It is irrational that this government would authorize shooting a civilian airline out of the sky, yet not give pilots one last chance to defend the cockpit," said Sen. Smith. ■

Fast Fact:

According to a recent, nationwide poll, almost seven in ten adults (68 percent) approve of airline pilots being armed.

Source: Dana Blanton, "Fox News Poll: Few Americans Blame Bush," *FoxNews.com* (June 10, 2002). The nationwide poll of 900 registered voters was conducted between June 4-5, 2002.

Armed Hero

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Many in our culture today are unaware of the thousands of times that law-abiding citizens use a gun for defensive purposes each day. After reading this book, the reader will encounter many examples showing how guns have been used to protect home and families; and conversely, how gun control has led to the slaughter of many defenseless citizens in countries around the world.

Finally, *Shooting Back* is a challenge to those who already believe in the right to keep and bear arms.

Charl grapples with many of the

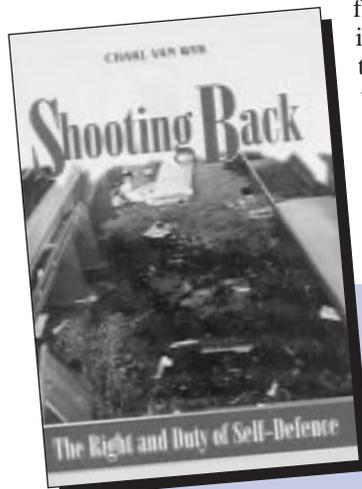
questions that most gun owners must eventually come to grips with: Should we carry arms? Is the use of lethal

force appropriate in every situation? What can we do when our freedom to carry arms is legislated away from us?

But be fore-

warned. If you're looking for a textbook approach, then *Shooting Back* is not for you. Charl's style is very conversational. And many of the insights he presents come from the lessons he was forced to learn on the street.

Like most of us, Charl was an ordinary man — until the day he was called upon to be extraordinary. His story is inspiring and will encourage you to keep your best defense with you at all times. ■



Shooting Back: The Right and Duty of Self-Defense by Charl van Wyk is available from Gun Owners Foundation for \$10.00 plus shipping and handling. The book can be ordered from the GOF web site at <http://www.gunowners.com/bookst.htm> or by phone: 703-321-8585.

GOA Lawsuit

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McCain-Feingold is overturned, a single TV ad or talk show appearance by a GOA employee could endanger the organization's tax status.

Over the past decade, most successful anti-gun legislation was considered on appropriations (money) bills. These bills usually reach the critical stage of consideration during September and October — the "black-out" period during which groups like GOA would be silenced by McCain-Feingold's "gag rule."

Thus, if GOA tried to use TV broadcasts to blast McCain for his anti-gun television commercials attacking gun shows, the Incumbent Protection Act would bar GOA's pro-gun ads, while allowing McCain's anti-gun spots.

Anti-gun groups favor Incumbent Protection Act

It is clear that the politicians pushing McCain-Feingold intended this anti-gun impact.

Scott Harshbarger, president of Common Cause, greeted passage of the

times when there is a very direct connection. A vote for campaign finance reform is a vote for policies about guns.



Rep. Ron Paul (right) is one of the many who have joined GOA's lawsuit challenging the Incumbent Protection Act.

Incumbent Protection Act by saying:

We need to make the connection with every person who cares about gun control that there is a need for campaign finance reform because that is how you are going to break their power. The equation is a simple one. A vote for campaign finance reform is a vote against the Second Amendment gun lobby. This is one of those



A House amendment to exempt Second Amendment groups from the scope of McCain-Feingold was offered by Mississippi Congressman Chip Pickering (R-MS), but it was defeated by a narrow 219-209 vote — with congressmen elected with the support of gun owners casting the six deciding votes against it.

GOA Executive Director Larry Pratt summarized the situation: "It's a sad day when we must ask the courts to stand up for the Constitution because a cowardly Congress and a pliant president would not."

Under the provisions of the Incumbent Protection Act, the lawsuit will be heard by a three-judge panel of the District Court for the District of Columbia — and then will be subject to expedited appeal. ■

Scott Harshbarger, president of Common Cause, hopes the Incumbent Protection Act will "break" the power of the gun lobby.

Help Defend the Second Amendment Every Time You Place a Long Distance Call



Gun Owners of America is in Washington fighting for the Bill of Rights and your Second Amendment freedoms every day.

And you can help GOA every day as well - or at least as often as you make a long distance phone call.

GOA has partnered with Promise Vision, one of America's major long distance telephone providers.

Every long distance call made by a GOA customer of Promise Vision results in a 15% payment to GOA. This is 50 percent more than Life Line currently pays to GOA.

There are reports that Life Line does business with MCI. Unlike Life Line, Promise Vision has no relationship with any of the companies like AT&T, Sprint and MCI that support anti-gun candidates.

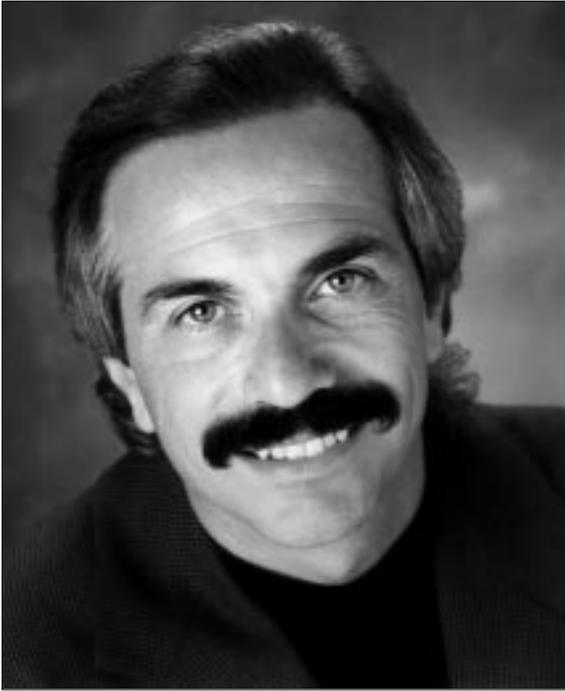
Indicative of Promise Vision's political incorrectness is their partnership with the staunchly conservative Reggie White, former defensive lineman with the Green Bay Packers.

Promise Vision offers different rate plans, depending on one's long distance volume. One plan offers 7 cents a minute with a small monthly service charge.

If you want to switch from Life Line to Promise Vision, Promise Vision will pay any switching charges that may apply. And if you currently patronize phone companies that currently contribute to anti-gun politicians (like ATT, Sprint and MCI), why not put your long distance money to a pro-gun use instead.

You can help yourself and help GOA by using Promise Vision. Call the special GOA toll free number at Promise Vision to find out which plan will work best for you. That number is **1-866-458-9111.**

Suicide bombers in America?



by Joseph Farah

The news is full of reports about future terrorist attacks and speculation about what form they might take.

Some believe America might begin experiencing the kind of suicide bombing attacks that have plagued Israel in recent months.

I could be wrong, but I don't believe that will happen here.

To understand why, you need to know why terrorists resorted to suicide bombing attacks in Israel.

Many years ago, terrorists tried to execute more conventional attacks in the Jewish state. They armed themselves with automatic weapons and stormed cafes and crowded plazas. But they were unsuccessful at creating the kind of human carnage they desired.

Why?

Because so many people in Israel are armed.

When terrorists began shooting in public places, they themselves were shot down by ordinary citizens. Some times they were shot down before they got a shot off.

The terrorists began looking for other methods. The suicide bombing attack is a method that works in a country where armed citizens are everywhere. There are no undefended schools in

Israel. There are no undefended synagogues. There are no undefended buses or plazas or cafes or discothèques. Armed civilians are everywhere.

This is no longer true in America. It may have been true once. But America long ago caved in to the political pressure to disarm. Now there are entire cities — including the nation's capital — where it is illegal to carry a firearm. This was supposedly a plan to make people safer.

Of course, it has not.

Crime — especially violent crime — is rampant in the very cities and states that have the most restrictive gun-control policies.

So it will be with terrorism.

The terrorists are smart.

They know they will not have to kill themselves with bombs

strapped onto their bodies to wreak havoc on American cities. They will be much more effective, unfortunately, with automatic weapons. They can kill far more people spraying gunfire in crowded public places, safe from return fire, than they could with a single

The American government simply doesn't trust its own people to defend themselves — even in the most extraordinary circumstances.

As *WorldNetDaily* reported recently, the federal Aviation administration banned firearms in the cockpits in July 2001 — just two months before the Sept. 11 hijackings. Had the FAA instead required pilots to be trained in the use of firearms and encouraged to carry them, I believe the tragedies of that date could have been averted.

Now the airliners are gun-free zones. In other words, they are safe for terrorists.

Our schools are also gun-free zones. In other words, they are safe for terrorists.

Our shopping malls are, in many jurisdictions, gun-free zones. In other words, they are safe for terrorists.

Our major city streets are, in many jurisdictions, gun-free zones. In other words, they are safe for terrorists.

In America, we have ensured that terrorists don't have to blow themselves up to kill lots of people. They don't have to die to commit mass murder and mayhem. We have determined that the government and only the government can defend us.

The airliners are gun-free zones. Our schools are gun-free zones. Our shopping malls are, in many jurisdictions, gun-free zones. Our major city streets are, in many jurisdictions, gun-free zones. In other words, they are all safe for terrorists.

bomb. And, with this approach, they can often live another day to terrorize the American public again and again.

That's my prediction. That's why I believe you will not see the Israel-style suicide bombings take place in America — at least not on any large scale. It's unnecessary. It's inefficient. And there are better ways to kill in a society stripped of its entire notion of self-defense and self-reliance.

Even in light of the most serious attack on America in history, the government opposes arming even trained airline pilots to defend themselves, their crews, their passengers and their crafts.

This is a sad state of affairs. But it's not too late to change directions. Sept. 11 should have been the wakeup call we needed to begin focusing on true homeland defense. The founding fathers of our great country knew the people would only be safe and secure in their homes if they were armed and vigilant.

The possession of firearms is a fundamental American civil right. And it is now more important from a practical standpoint than ever before. ■

Joseph Farah is editor and chief executive officer of WorldNetDaily.com and writes a daily column.



Where Is The Militia?

by Larry Pratt

During World War II, governors of east and west coast states called up the citizen-militia to deal with the threat of invasion by the Germans and Japanese.

Following 9/11, the governors did virtually nothing, while the federal government began moving to create a new cabinet position

of Homeland Security to coordinate federal police agencies.

Everybody knows that Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, an act which was followed by a congressional declaration of war in 1941. Many fewer know that the Japanese also launched an invasion off the coast of Kona, one of the Hawaiian islands.

The attack against Kona took place in 1941 and was met by an armed militia (not a neighborhood watch). One description of the attack comes from Elizabeth Goldhahn writing in the *Missoulan* on December 8, 1991:

Every gun in that part of the coast was mobilized, civilian volunteers assembled, along with the military.... The men were armed, ready and waiting when the Japanese patrol boats approached. A concentrated volley from big game rifles, small arms and handguns left the Japanese rolling in the crimson surf. None of them set foot on Hawaii.... The force set to occupy the Kona region was destroyed to a man.

The threat of Japanese attack continued. The Japanese did successfully occupy a couple of the Aleutian Islands in 1942, and it cost 700 American lives to dislodge them.

Also in 1942, a Japanese sub fired shells at an oil refinery at Goleta, California and later fired shells into the naval base at Fort Stevens, Oregon.

In response, militia patrolled the west coast of the country during those tense years.

In the east, a German submarine penetrated Long Island for the purpose of blowing up bridges and water works. The saboteurs were captured and executed. Civilian pilots and sailors patrolled the east coast with their handguns and rifles at the ready.

Fifty years later, four gun-free zones flew right past the noses of the professional police forces of the country. During the time the Muslim mass murderers were preparing for 9/11, the FBI was investigating President Clinton's *bete noire*, the vast right wing conspiracy. They did not have even a clue as to the real threat to America.

In spite of the national police force's record of failure, even more centralization of their power is being coordinated by Tom Ridge, the Director of Homeland Security.

The airplanes are still gun free, and we know from FAA inspectors that they have been successful in slipping weapons through airport security nearly fifty percent of the time. This is following the federalization of airport security personnel.

The President and his subordinates have opposed even arming pilots. (Would it have been a bad thing or a good thing if a passenger or two had had a gun on the planes of 9/11?)

The Constitution provides for the militia. It gives the Congress power to provision the militia and to select its officers.

Why are the citizen militia not being called up to guard bridges, waterworks, nuclear plants, and airports? They have as much training for this as the national guard and other military units that have been assigned for some of these duties — none. Other than Military Police, the training of the military is to search and destroy — not exactly the training needed for protecting nuclear power plants. Why was the militia good enough for providing homeland security in the 1940's, but not in 2002?

We should not stretch our Clinton-decimated military further than it is now. We should be calling up and training citizen militias.

Perhaps the idea of using "civilians" violates the unconstitutional notion that security can only be provided by a centralized, professionalized police force. The people cannot be trusted, in this view, to participate in providing their own protection.

This notion of a centralized police fits comfortably with the growing acceptance that only the federal government can provide for all of life's needs — education, old age, unemployment, health, etc.

The growing preemption of American life by the federal government has no room for individual responsibility. Rather than encourage the militia, politicians are busily looking for ways to disarm more and more Americans.

It is an unconstitutional view. Those that hold it should not be trusted to hold public office.■

THE Gun Owners

Sen. H.L. Richardson (Ret.)
Founder and Chairman

Larry Pratt
Executive Director

Erich Pratt
Director of Communications

John Velleco
Director of Federal Affairs

Sheriff Richard Mack
Director of Public Affairs

GUN OWNERS OF AMERICA
8001 Forbes Place
Suite 102
Springfield, Virginia 22151
703-321-8585

Web Site
<http://www.gunowners.org>

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