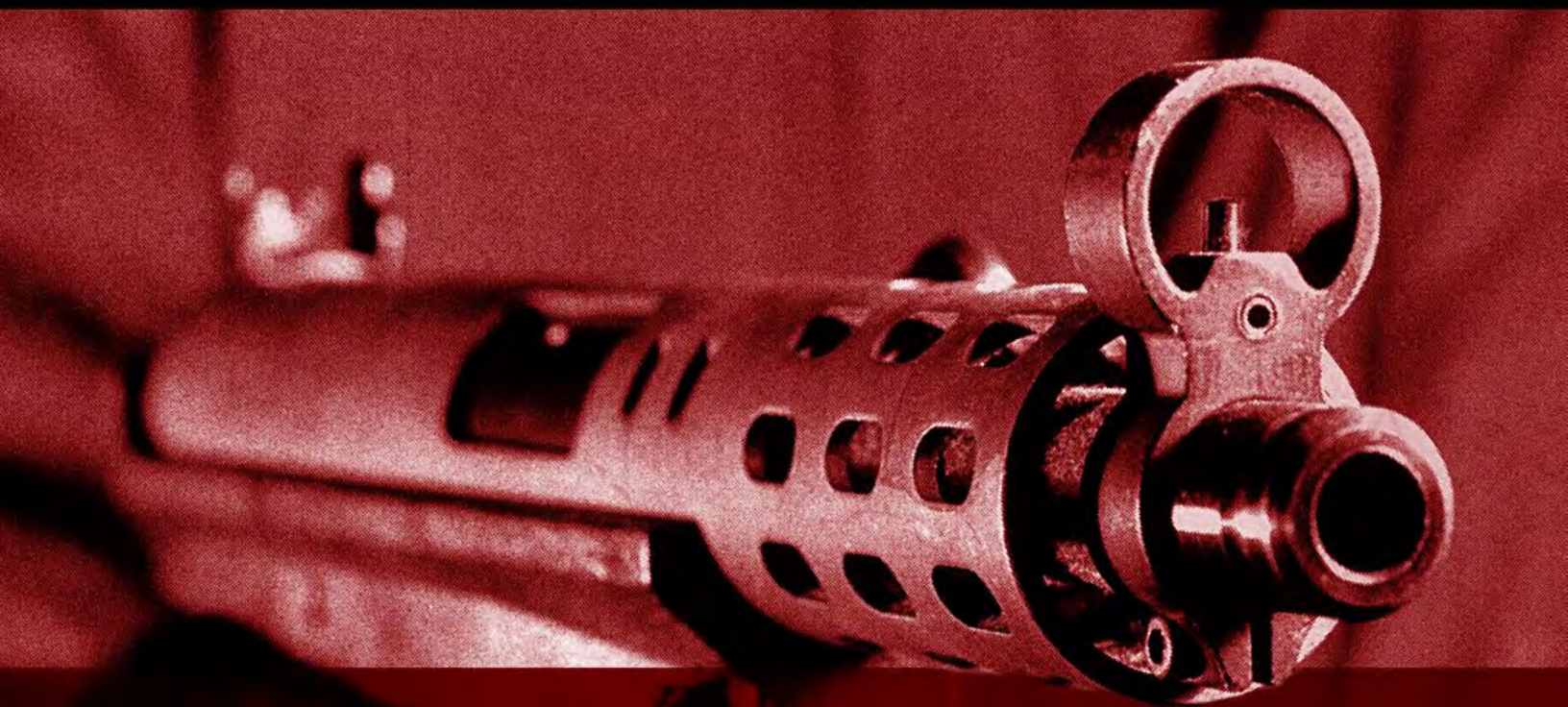


Assault Weapons "Mass Produced Mayhem"



**Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence
October 2008**

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The Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence is a national non-profit organization working to reduce the tragic toll of gun violence in America through education, research, and legal advocacy. Through its project, *Gun Industry Watch*, the Brady Center works to monitor and publicly expose gun industry practices that contribute to gun violence, with the goal of bringing about life-saving industry reform. The programs of the Brady Center complement the legislative and grassroots mobilization efforts of its sister organization, the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence and its network of Million Mom March Chapters.

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A Note About the Title

The phrase "mass produced mayhem" is taken from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives's description of assault weapons in its "Assault Weapons Profile" (April 1994).



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Executive Summary

Assault weapons are military-style weapons of war, made for offensive military assaults. It is no accident that when a madman, Gian Luigi Ferri, decided to assault the law offices at 101 California Street in San Francisco, he armed himself with two TEC-9 assault weapons with 50-round magazines, which enabled him to kill eight people and wound six others.¹ Or that the Columbine high school shooters, who killed 12 students and a teacher, included a TEC-9 assault pistol in their arsenal.² Or that the Branch-Davidians at Waco, Texas, accumulated an arsenal of assault weapons to prepare for battle against the federal government, including 123 AR-15s, 44 AK-47s, two Barrett .50 calibers, two Street Sweepers, an unknown number of MAC-10 and MAC-11s, 20 100-round drum magazines, and 260 large-capacity banana clips.³ Or that James Huberty used an UZI assault pistol and a shotgun to kill 21 people and wound 19 others at a McDonald's in San Ysidro, California.⁴ Or that Patrick Purdy used an AK-47 assault rifle to kill five children and wound 29 others and a teacher at an elementary school in Stockton, California. Equipped with a 75-round "drum" magazine, Purdy was able to shoot 106 rounds in less than two minutes.⁵ The list of horrific attacks goes on.⁶

The federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) has called assault weapons "mass produced mayhem."⁷ They have been weapons of choice for gangs, drug dealers, and mass killers. They have been used to slaughter innocents in numerous high-profile shootings, and have been used to outgun police officers on the streets. They are of no use for hunters and are counterproductive for lawful defense of one's home. Law enforcement throughout the nation has called for them to be banned. Presidents Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush did not agree on much, but they all supported an assault weapons ban.

For ten years, from 1994-2004, federal law banned these weapons of war. Although this now-expired law was limited in scope, and was circumvented by many gun manufacturers, it reduced the use of assault weapons in crime. The experience suggests that a stronger, more comprehensive law would enhance public safety even more.

In the four years since the federal ban expired, hundreds of people have been killed in this country with military-style assault weapons. This report lists incidents in which at least 163 people have been killed and 185 wounded in with assault weapons, including at least 38 police officers killed or wounded by them. Moreover, as these incidents are only those that we could find reported in the press, the actual tally of fatalities and injuries is almost certainly much higher.

Since the federal assault weapon expired in 2004, politicians from President George W. Bush to Senator John Warner have called for its renewal. But on this issue, the two major presidential candidates offer two starkly opposing views: Senator Barack



Obama has stated as recently as his convention acceptance speech that it is imperative that criminals be denied the use of assault weapons. Senator John McCain, who has opposed the NRA on gun shows and other issues, has been firm in his opposition to assault weapon bans. The question should be asked of the candidates, “Senator, why should civilians be allowed to wield these weapons of war?”

This report provides the factual basis for answering that question, and makes the evidentiary case for an assault weapons ban. The report also outlines how the availability of assault weapons to criminals has altered the balance of power on urban streets between police and criminals, placing police officers in grave risk of harm.

SWD M-10, M-11, M-11/9, and M-12 Assault Pistol



AK-47 Assault Rifle (Many variants)



Assault Weapons Are Designed to Slaughter People

Assault weapons are semiautomatic versions of fully automatic guns designed for military use. These guns unleash extraordinary firepower. When San Jose, California, police test-fired an UZI, a 30-round magazine was emptied in slightly less than two seconds on full automatic, while the same magazine was emptied in just five seconds on semiautomatic.⁸

As the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (“ATF”) has explained:

Assault weapons were designed for rapid fire, close quarter shooting at human beings. That is why they were put together the way they were. You will not find these guns in a duck blind or at the Olympics. **They are mass produced mayhem.**⁹

ATF has also described semiautomatic assault weapons as “large capacity, semi-automatic firearms designed and configured for rapid fire, combat use.... Most are patterned after machine guns used by military forces.”¹⁰ In short, as a Montgomery County, Alabama Sheriff has said: “[T]here’s only one reason for owning a gun like that – killing people. There’s no other use other than to kill people. That’s all they’re made for.”¹¹

Assault weapons have distinct features that separate them from sporting firearms.¹² While semiautomatic hunting rifles are designed to be fired from the shoulder and depend upon the accuracy of a precisely aimed projectile, the military features of semiautomatic assault weapons are designed to enhance their capacity to shoot multiple human targets very rapidly. Assault weapons are equipped with large-capacity ammunition magazines that allow the shooter to fire 20, 50, or even more than 100 rounds without having to reload. Pistol grips on assault rifles and shotguns help stabilize the weapon during rapid fire and allow the shooter to spray-fire from the hip position. Barrel shrouds on assault pistols protect the shooter’s hands from the heat generated by firing many rounds in rapid succession. Far from being simply “cosmetic,” these features all contribute to the unique function of any assault weapon to deliver extraordinary firepower. They are uniquely military features, with no sporting purpose whatsoever.¹³

Accordingly, ATF has concluded that assault weapons “are not generally recognized as particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes” and instead “are attractive to certain criminals.”¹⁴ An ATF survey of 735 hunting guides, conducted during the administration of President George H.W. Bush, found that sportsmen do not use assault weapons.¹⁵ These findings were confirmed in a second study performed by ATF under the Clinton Administration.¹⁶



A researcher hired by the Department of Justice to analyze the effect of the 1994 federal ban on assault weapons confirmed that the firepower of assault weapons gives them greater destructive potential. His analysis found that:

attacks with semiautomatics – including assault weapons and other semiautomatics equipped with large capacity magazines – result in more shots fired, more persons hit, and more wounds inflicted per victim than do attacks with other firearms.¹⁷

This contradicts the National Rifle Association’s (“NRA”) assertion that there are only “cosmetic” differences between the guns affected by the assault weapon ban and other firearms.

TEC-9, TEC-DC-9, and TEC-22 Assault Pistol



Steyr AUG Assault Rifle



Assault Weapons Threaten Law Enforcement and Terrorize Civilians

Since the federal assault weapons ban expired in September 2004, assault weapons have again flooded our streets, causing mayhem. Law enforcement agencies throughout the United States have reported an upward trend in assault weapons violence, forcing many police departments to invest in expensive assault weapons to keep from being outgunned by criminals. However, even with greater firepower and the availability of bulletproof vests, many officers have lost their lives to assault weapon attacks. Hundreds of civilians have also been victimized by assault weapons, many of them in multiple-victim attacks. In an appendix to this report, we list more than 200 assault weapons shootings and attacks that have occurred since the federal ban expired – and the list does not purport to be comprehensive. Assault weapons may not be used in the majority of crimes – handguns are – but they are disproportionately used in crime compared to their numbers in circulation. Moreover, assault weapons have special appeal to terrorists. They have no place in a civilized society.

Police Outgunned

Law enforcement has reported that assault weapons are the “weapons of choice” for drug traffickers, gangs, terrorists, and paramilitary extremist groups. As Los Angeles Police Chief William Bratton said:

There is a reason that these weapons are so appealing to criminals. They are designed to be easily concealed and kill as many people as possible as quickly as possible. Congress must act and act now to protect the American public and our police officers from these deadly weapons. This is about public safety and law enforcement.¹⁸

Law enforcement officers are at particular risk from these weapons because of their high firepower, which often leaves them outgunned by criminals. A researcher for the Department of Justice found that:

[A]ssault weapons account for a larger share of guns used in mass murders and murders of police, crimes for which weapons with greater firepower would seem particularly useful.¹⁹

Indeed, numerous law enforcement officers have been killed with high-firepower assault weapons.²⁰ In black sidebars on the following pages, we list ten cases of officers down since the federal assault weapons ban expired in September 2004. Unfortunately, there have been many more.²¹



OFFICERS DOWN

San Antonio, Texas. September 8, 2008.

A man shot two police officers with an assault rifle when the police attempted to arrest him. A standoff between the suspect and police followed, ending hours later when the suspect shot and killed himself.²²

Tucson, Arizona. June 1, 2008.

A man shot at several houses with an assault rifle, then lead police in pursuit across Tucson for more than an hour. During the chase, the gunman shot at police multiple times, fatally shooting one officer and injuring two Sheriff's deputies.²³

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. May 3, 2008.

Officer Stephen Liczbinski was shot and killed by an assault rifle as he was responding to a robbery at a Bank of America branch. Three men robbed the bank and were fleeing when Officer Liczbinski stopped their car and exited his patrol car. At that time, one of the bank robbers opened fire with an SKS assault rifle, striking Liczbinski numerous times. One suspect was eventually shot and killed by police and the other two were arrested and charged with murder.²⁴

Miami, Florida. September 13, 2007.

Police spotted a vehicle driving erratically and followed it until it stopped in a residential complex. The suspect got out and hopped a fence to the rear of the home; the officers exited their patrol car and went to the front of the home and were granted permission to search by a female resident. The suspect grabbed a high-powered, military-style assault rifle and fired at the police officers through a window, killing Officer Jose Somohano. The suspect then exited the house and shot three other officers as he escaped. The shooter was caught later that day but would not relinquish his assault rifle so he was shot and killed by police officers.²⁵

Floyd County, Indiana. June 18, 2007.

Two officers responded to a domestic disturbance call between a mother and her son. The officers were speaking with the mother on the driveway when the 15-year-old son ambushed both officers from an upstairs window and shot at them with a high-powered assault rifle. One officer was killed and the other was seriously wounded.²⁶

In addition, police departments have found that the ban's expiration has led to increased criminal access to assault weapons and levels of violent crime, forcing many to outfit their officers with assault rifles of their own.²⁷ An informal survey of about 20 police departments conducted by the International Association of Chiefs of Police revealed that since 2004, all of the agencies have either added assault weapons to patrol units or replaced existing weapons with military-style assault weapons.²⁸

"We're in an arms race," said Police Chief Scott Knight, chairman of the firearms committee of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.²⁹ Indeed, data collected from ATF found that, since 2005, the first full year after the federal ban on assault weapons expired, ATF recorded an 11% increase in crime gun tracings of AK-47-type assault weapons.³⁰

The Chicago Police Department reported a 10% increase in the number of assault weapons seized. Superintendent Phil Cline said, "[t]hese are guns that can shoot up to 30 rounds with a couple pulls of the trigger. And it puts our police in grave danger out there. So, we'd like still to see some kind of ban, either by the state or federally."³¹

In 2006, law enforcement in Miami noted the effect of the expiration of the assault weapons ban on the rash of crimes used with these now-legal weapons.



County state attorney Katherine Fernandez-Rundle stated that the AK-47 is the “favorite weapon” of dangerous gangs gaining influence in Miami.³² Miami-Dade Police Director Robert Parker stated “there was nothing positively gained by the lifting of the ban on assault weapons by the government.”³³

Just over a year later, Miami police said that the amount of assault weapons they recovered, and homicides using assault weapons, had continued to increase. While just four percent of homicides in Miami in 2004 were committed with assault weapons, in 2007, it was one in five.³⁴ “It’s almost like we have water pistols going up against these high-powered rifles,” said John Rivera, president of the Dade County Police Benevolent Association. “Our weaponry and our bulletproof vests don’t match up to any of those types of weapons.”³⁵

The death of Miami police officer Sgt. Jose Somohano - killed by a shooter wielding a MAK-90 three years to the day after the federal ban expired - prompted Miami Police Chief John Timoney for the first time to authorize officers to start carrying assault weapons. The Chief blamed the expiration of the federal ban for the current “arms race” between police and drug gangs using assault weapons:

This is really a failure of leadership at the national level. We are absolutely going in the wrong direction here. The whole thing is a friggin disgrace.³⁶

He added:

Two or three years ago, we had the lowest homicide rate since 1967 in Miami. Then the homicides skyrocketed with the availability of AK-47s. And it went from 3% of all homicides being committed with AKs, up to 9% two years ago, then 18% last year, and this year it is around 20%. And it’s going up.... We’re being flooded with these AK-47s.³⁷

Shootings involving assault weapons were among the reasons U.S. Attorney R. Alexander Acosta set up an anti-gang task force of federal, state, and local law enforcement officials in Florida in 2007. Fifteen federal prosecutors were assigned to the effort. Said Acosta of assault weapons:

These bullets are very powerful: they go through walls, they go through cars, and if you just spray the general vicinity you’re going to get innocent bystanders. A shooting that might have been an injury previously is now a death.³⁸

Pittsburgh law enforcement also has noticed an increase in criminal use of assault weapons since the expiration of the ban. Firearms like the AK-47 and Soviet SKS Carbine have become the weapons of choice for street criminals. Pittsburgh’s Assistant Chief of Police William Mullen blamed the expiration of the ban for this



OFFICERS DOWN

Biloxi, Mississippi. June 5, 2007. A gunman with an AK-47 ambushed police officers in a shootout, killing one, then shooting himself. The gunman lured police by firing shots in the neighborhood and waiting. After shooting one officer, the gunman unloaded an additional round into the patrol car. The gunman had a cache of backup guns and ammunition waiting inside his home.³⁹

Chantilly, Virginia. May 8, 2006. A teenager with an AK-47 and 5 handguns engaged in a firefight at a police station in suburban Virginia, killing Detective Vicky Armel immediately and wounding two other officers, one of whom, Officer Michael Garbarino, died nine days later from his injuries.⁴⁰

Las Vegas, Nevada. February 1, 2006. A 22-year-old fired at least 50 rounds from an assault rifle, shooting two Las Vegas police officers and killing one, before being shot and killed by the surviving officer.⁴¹

Livingston County, Kentucky. June 2, 2005. A deputy was shot when he responded to a domestic disturbance call placed by a couple's 18-year-old daughter. When the officer entered the home, a male fired at least 8 rounds from an assault rifle at him, hitting him four times and killing him. The officer was able to fire one round which killed the gunman.⁴²

Ceres, California. January 9, 2005. A 19-year-old Marine armed with an SKS assault rifle shot two police officers, killing one, in a gun battle outside a liquor store.⁴³

increase and noted, "[t]here's a lot more assault weapons in the area in districts now than ever before."⁴⁴

In Houston, where homicides were up significantly in 2006, Police Chief Harold Hurtt said the AK-47 assault rifle had become "a weapon of choice" among warring gangs.⁴⁵

Palm Beach County police have noted an alarming trend of AK-47 use in violent crimes. Sheriff's Lieutenant Mike Wallace said: "It seems to be the weapon of choice right now. It's a weapon of war, and the function is to kill and maim. When somebody gets hit with that, it causes horrendous damage."⁴⁶ Sergeant Laurie Pfiel of the same office said: "[Criminals] don't have .38s anymore. They have AK-47s."⁴⁷

Martin County Sheriff's Office Captain Ed Kirkpatrick of Florida details the effect of criminal possession of assault weapons on effective law enforcement: "Everyone is taking more precautions. When you stop a car in the middle of the night, you [didn't] think about it. Now you do. These are very powerful weapons."⁴⁸

Franklin County, North Carolina Sheriff Pat Green said: "I've been in this business 25 years, and it's just getting worse," referring to a report that they have been finding more and more assault weapons at crime scenes in the state.⁴⁹ In South Carolina, Lieutenant Ira Parnell, head of the State Law Enforcement Division's firearms lab, noted that investigators are seeing an increase in criminal use of AK-47 and SKS assault rifles.⁵⁰

Fort Wayne, Indiana police reported a significant spike in seizures of assault weapons since the ban expired, from two in 2003, to nine in 2004, eight in 2005, 29 in 2006, and 20 in 2007. "[W]e're certainly seeing them more and more," said Police Chief Rusty York.⁵¹ Similarly, Omaha, Nebraska police seized 39 assault rifles in 2007, up from nine in 2006.⁵²



In San Francisco, Police Officers Association President Gary Delanges said: “Just about every crook you run into out there [who] is a drug dealer or a gang banger’s got one of these weapons. And it’s putting our officers’ lives at risk.”⁵³ Deputy Chief Morris Tabak displayed some of the seized assault weapons, including a .22 caliber gun modified to hold 100 rounds. “These are what could be described only as anti-personnel weapons,” he said.⁵⁴

Israeli Military Industries Action Arms UZI Assault Rifle



Civilians Massacred

Assault weapons have been used to perpetrate some of the most horrific crimes, including mass murders, ever committed in the United States. Some of the most infamous ones are cited in the Executive Summary of this report. Unfortunately, this gruesome death toll has grown since the expiration of the 10-year federal ban on assault weapons.

As can be seen from the following examples, assault weapons have been used to kill civilians engaged in common activities of life, in all types of circumstances and places. The Appendix lists more than 200 examples from just the last four years.

- **Teens slaughtered at a swimming hole in Wisconsin**

On July 31, 2008, a man used an assault rifle to massacre a group of teenagers, killing three and injuring a fourth near Niagara, Wisconsin. The teens were gathered along a river to go swimming when the gunman emerged from surrounding woods and began shooting.⁵⁵



- **Apartment employees shot by a disgruntled tenant in Virginia**

On March 19, 2008, in Virginia Beach, Virginia, a man shot five people, killing two, with an AK-47 assault rifle and .9mm handgun before killing himself. The man was about to be evicted from his apartment and targeted the apartment complex's employees in his attack.⁵⁶

- **Churchgoers gunned down in Colorado**

On December 9, 2007, a man armed with an assault rifle attacked a missionary training center in Arvada and a church in Colorado Springs. He killed two people and injured two others in Arvada, and killed two and injured three others, including two teenage sisters, in Colorado Springs. He was injured by a security guard and then shot himself.⁵⁷

- **Mall shoppers massacred in Nebraska, Washington, and New York**

On December 5, 2007, nine people were shot to death and five others were injured after a 20-year-old shooter, armed with a military-style assault rifle, attacked shoppers in a department store in an Omaha, Nebraska mall.⁵⁸

On November 20, 2005, a 20-year-old male opened fire in a Tacoma, Washington mall, wounding six. The shooter took four hostages, all of whom were released unharmed.⁵⁹

On February 13, 2005, a gunman fired more than 60 shots from an AK-47 assault rifle in the Hudson Valley Shopping Mall in Ulster, New York, wounding two and causing tens of thousands of dollars of damage before being apprehended. A few hours earlier, the shooter had purchased armor-piercing ammunition from a nearby Wal-Mart.⁶⁰

- **Birthday party celebrants spray-fired in Louisiana**

On September 15, 2007, at least 28 bullets were fired from an AK-47 at an outdoor birthday party for five-year-old twins in the courtyard of a housing complex in Kenner, Louisiana. A 19-year-old was killed and three children were wounded, ages 7, 8 and 13.⁶¹

- **Pregnant woman and child shot while sleeping in Illinois**

On June 25, 2006, in Calumet City, Illinois, a 22-year old pregnant woman and her three-year old son were shot and killed while they were sleeping when an unknown gunman fired 30 rounds from an AK-47 into their home at 1:15 a.m.⁶²



- **Family massacred in a home robbery in Indiana**

On June 2, 2006, in Indianapolis, Indiana, seven family members, four adults and three children, were shot and killed in their home by a robber armed with an assault rifle. Nearly 30 shell casings were found.⁶³

- **Two young girls shot in their homes in Illinois**

On March 11, 2006, 10-year-old Siretha White was killed by a shot to her head as she was celebrating her birthday in her living room. A spray of bullets from an assault weapon peppered the house from a nearby fight.⁶⁴

Just over a week earlier, on March 3, 2006, a stray bullet from an assault rifle struck a 14-year-old honor student as she was looking out the window of her home, killing her instantly.⁶⁵

- **College students murdered while camping in Florida**

On January 7, 2006, two college students camping in the Ocala National Forest in Florida were randomly targeted by a man who shot and killed them with a stolen AK-47.⁶⁶

- **Domestic violence leads to mass shootout on courthouse steps in Texas and triple-slaying in Ohio**

On February 25, 2005, in Tyler, Texas, a gunman who was reportedly fighting with his ex-wife over child support for their two youngest children, shot over 50 rounds from an SKS assault rifle on the steps of his local courthouse, killing his ex-wife and a bystander. The shooter's 23-year-old son and three law enforcement officers were wounded in a shootout.⁶⁷

Just a day earlier in Akron, Ohio, a man shot and killed his girlfriend and her seven-year-old son using an AR-15 assault weapon, then fired more than 100 rounds at a dozen law enforcement officers as he fled the murder scene. The gunman was arrested the next morning inside the apartment of a Kent State University student, who he also murdered with the AR-15 assault weapon. Police subsequently seized 21 weapons kept by the suspect, including an Uzi and an AK-47.⁶⁸

- **Hunters gunned down in the woods in Wisconsin**

On November 21, 2004, near Hayward, Wisconsin, a 36-year-old man opened fire with an SKS semiautomatic rifle, killing six members of a hunting party and wounding two after being asked to leave another hunter's property.⁶⁹



Crime Use Disproportionate

The firepower of assault weapons makes them especially desired by violent criminals and especially lethal in their hands. Prior to the Act, although assault weapons constituted less than 1% of the guns in circulation,⁷⁰ they were a far higher percentage of the guns used in crime. ATF's analysis of guns traced to crime showed that assault weapons "are preferred by criminals over law abiding citizens eight to one.... Access to them shifts the balance of power to the lawless."⁷¹

In arguing against assault weapon bans, the NRA and its supporters have cited Justice Department studies based on surveys of state and federal prisoners to claim that assault weapons are used in only 2% of crimes nationally. These studies, however, actually confirm the disproportionate use of assault weapons in crime. More than 80% of these prisoners used *no firearm* in the commission of their crime. Within the category of inmates who used guns to commit crimes, semiautomatic assault weapons were actually used in 6.8% of state prosecutions and 9.3% of federal prosecutions.⁷² Both percentages are much higher than the estimated 1% of guns in circulation that are assault weapons.⁷³

In addition, research by Dr. Garen Wintemute of the University of California at Davis has found that gun buyers with criminal histories were more likely to buy assault weapons than buyers without such histories. Wintemute further found that the more serious the offender's crimes, the more likely he is to buy assault weapons. Assault weapon buyers also are more likely to be arrested after their purchases than other gun purchasers.⁷⁴

Fabrique Nationale FN/FAL, FN/LAR, and FNC Assault Rifle



Terrorists Armed

As our nation wages a war on terrorism – at home and abroad – one salient fact is especially unassailable: terrorists and assault weapons go together. The assault weapon's capacity to mass-murder within a matter of seconds makes it an ideal weapon for domestic and foreign terrorists alike. The oft-seen file footage of Osama Bin Laden,



aiming his AK-47 at an unknown target, is now a familiar reminder of the incontrovertible connection between terrorism and assault weapons.

After America's bombing of terrorist camps in Afghanistan after 9/11, the *Chicago Tribune* reported that, among the mounds of rubble found at a training facility in Kabul for a radical Pakistan-based Islamic terrorist organization, was a manual entitled "How Can I Train Myself for Jihad" containing an entire section on "Firearms Training."⁷⁵ Tellingly, the manual singles out the United States for its easy availability of firearms and advises al-Qaeda members living in the United States to "obtain an assault weapon legally, preferably AK-47 or variations." Further, the manual sets forth guidelines for how would-be terrorists should conduct themselves in order to avoid arousing suspicion as they amass and transport firearms.

As the following examples indicate, terrorists have sought and obtained assault weapons in the U.S.

- **Conspirators armed to attack within the United States**

On May 7, 2007, five New Jersey men were indicted for conspiring to attack the United States Army base at Fort Dix, NJ. Over several months, the conspirators managed to stockpile numerous assault weapons, along with shotguns and various other small arms, and used these weapons in tactical training for their attack. The men had also arranged to purchase five fully automatic AK-47s and several M-16s at the time of their arrest.⁷⁶

On March 16, 2005, in New York, Artur Solomonyan, an Armenian, and Christian Dewet Spies, of South Africa, were indicted for smuggling a small arsenal of assault weapons into the U.S. from Russia and Eastern Europe. The two men, who had entered the U.S. illegally, stored these weapons in storage lockers in New York, Los Angeles, and Fort Lauderdale. When approached by an FBI informant with ties to terrorist organizations, Solomonyan and Spies offered to sell him AK-47s and machine guns, along with RPG-launchers, mines, and other military-grade ordnance.⁷⁷

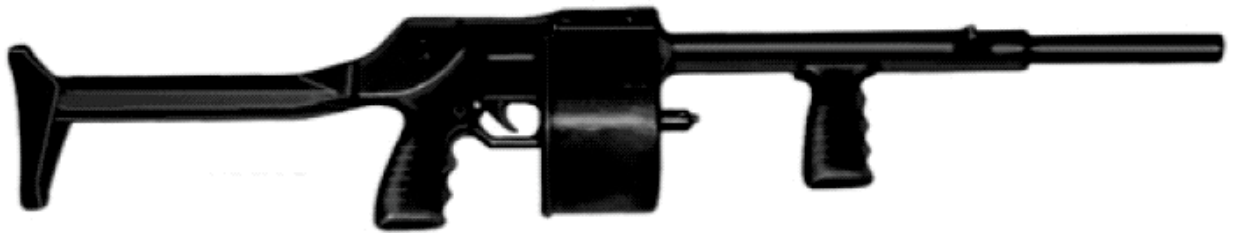
In late April 2004, Michael J. Breit of Rockford, Illinois, was arrested after firing his AK-47 in his apartment. Federal agents recovered seven guns, more than 1,300 rounds of ammunition, pipe bomb making components and other explosives, a list of government officials and political and public figures with the word "marked" written next to them, and a written plan for 15 heavily armed men to kill 1,500 people at a Democratic presidential event. Breit's library included *The Turner Diaries*, the anti-government cult novel that inspired Timothy McVeigh, and *Guns, Freedom and Terrorism*, the book authored by NRA CEO Wayne LaPierre, investigators said.⁷⁸

In September 2001, Ben Benu, Vincente Pierre and his wife were arrested in Virginia for illegally buying assault weapons and other guns. The arrests were part of the post-September 11th sweep of terrorism suspects. They were alleged to be part of a militant group called Muslims of America (also linked to a terrorist group called Al



Fuqra). They bought guns including an SKS assault rifle, a 9mm pistol, and AK-47 ammunition.⁷⁹

Street Sweeper/Striker 12 Assault Shotgun



- **Arming terrorists and criminals abroad with assault weapons bought here**

On May 6, 2008, Phoenix gun dealer George Iknadosian and two associates were arrested after receiving a shipment of weapons intended for sale to a Mexican drug cartel. An undercover investigation by ATF indicated that Iknadosian sold at least 650 AK-47 assault rifles for trafficking to Mexico but that the actual number might have been closer to 1,000. Such weapons feed the on-going conflict between drug traffickers and Mexican authorities, a conflict which resulted in more than 2,000 law enforcement deaths in an 18-month period.⁸⁰

Over several months in 2006, Adan Rodriguez purchased more than 100 assault rifles, along with many other weapons, from Dallas area gun shops on behalf of Mexican drug traffickers who paid him in cash and marijuana. Rodriguez's arrest was one of several key arrests in a five-year crack-down on weapons smuggling to Mexico. AK-47's, AR-15's, and other high-powered assault weapons, obtained either at gun shows or through straw purchasers, fuel an on-going war between major Mexican cartels and police and military officials. Over 4,000 people were killed in this drug-related violence during an 18-month period in 2007-2008.⁸¹

On September 10, 2001, Ali Boumelhem was convicted on a variety of weapons charges plus conspiracy to ship weapons to the terrorist organization Hezbollah in Lebanon. He and his brother had purchased an arsenal of shotguns, hundreds of rounds of ammunition, flash suppressors and assault weapons components at Michigan gun shows. Had it not been for a police informant, these purchases would have eluded any scrutiny.⁸²

Stephen Jorgensen purchased hundreds of firearms, including AK-47 clones called MAK-90s, with plans to ship them overseas from Tampa, Florida. Jorgensen bought 800 MAK-90s, loading them on to small planes. US customs officials say the guns were headed to the FARK guerilla movement in Colombia, a group on the U.S. terrorism watch list. Jorgensen was caught because he illegally exported the guns.⁸³



In June 2001 federal agents arrested Keith Glaude when he tried to purchase 60 AK-47 assault rifles and 10 machine guns in Florida. He told authorities that he intended to ship the guns to an Islamic extremist group in his native Trinidad. Previously, that group had acquired over 100 assault weapons in Florida that it used in a 1990 attempt to overthrow the government of Trinidad and Tobago.⁸⁴

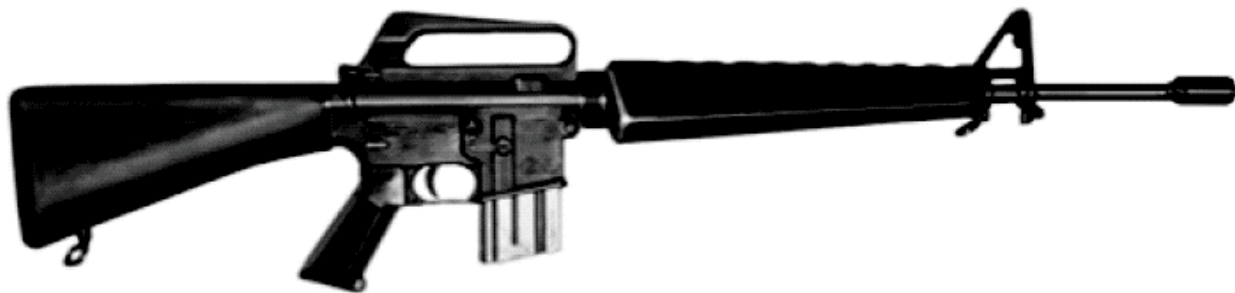
- **Using assault weapons in terrorist attacks**

Over a period of weeks in 2002, John Mohammed, a convicted felon, and his juvenile cohort, Lee Boyd Malvo, terrorized the entire metropolitan Washington, D.C. area by engaging in a series of sniper attacks on randomly-selected victims. In all, they shot 16 victims with a Bushmaster XM-15 E2S .223 caliber semiautomatic assault rifle that one of the snipers allegedly shoplifted from a Tacoma, Washington gun store. Each of the victims was randomly gunned down while going about simple activities of daily living, like closing up a store after work,⁸⁵ filling a car with gas at a service station,⁸⁶ mowing a lawn,⁸⁷ or loading one's car in a mall parking lot.⁸⁸ Both shooters have been convicted of their offenses.

On March 1, 1994, terrorist Rashid Baz opened fire on a van of Hasidic students crossing the Brooklyn Bridge, killing one student and wounding another. Baz used a Cobray M-11 assault pistol in the crime. He assembled it from a mail-order kit.⁸⁹

On January 25, 1993, Pakistani national Mir Aimal Kasi killed 2 CIA employees and wounded 3 others outside the entrance to CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia. Kasi used a Chinese-made semiautomatic AK-47 assault rifle equipped with a 30-round magazine purchased from a Northern Virginia gun store.⁹⁰ After fleeing the country, he was arrested in Pakistan in June 1997 and convicted by a Virginia jury in November of that year.⁹¹

Colt AR-15 Assault Rifle



Assault Weapons Have No Sporting or Self-Defense Purpose

Prior to passage of the federal assault weapons ban, the importation of certain types of assault weapons from overseas was banned during the Reagan and George H.W. Bush Administrations. These import bans were ordered by ATF under the 1968 Gun Control Act, which bars the importation of guns that are not “particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes.”⁹²

Under the Reagan Administration, ATF blocked the importation of certain models of shotguns that were not suitable for sporting purposes. In 1989, during the George H.W. Bush Administration, ATF expanded this list to permanently ban the importation of 43 types of semiautomatic assault rifles that were also determined not to have a sporting purpose. Later, in 1998, President Clinton banned the importation of 58 additional foreign-made “copycat” assault weapons in order to close a loophole in the existing import ban.⁹³

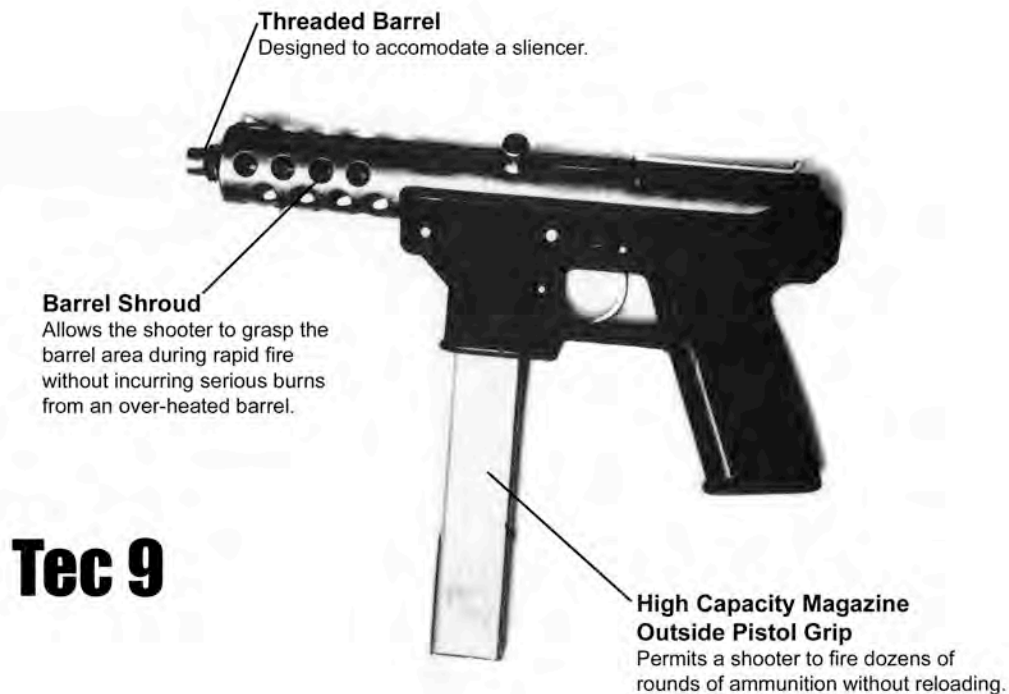
Assault weapons, as opposed to hunting rifles, are commonly equipped with some or all of the following combat features that have no sporting value:

- **A high-capacity ammunition magazine** enabling the shooter to continuously fire dozens of rounds without reloading. Standard hunting rifles are usually equipped with no more than three or four-shot magazines.
- **A folding or telescoping stock**, which sacrifices accuracy for concealability and for mobility in close combat.
- **A pistol grip or thumbhole stock**, which facilitates firing from the hip, allowing the shooter to spray-fire the weapon. A pistol grip also helps the shooter stabilize the firearm during rapid fire.
- **A barrel shroud**, which allows the shooter to grasp the barrel area to stabilize the weapon, without incurring serious burns, during rapid fire.
- **A flash suppressor**, which allows the shooter to remain concealed when shooting at night, an advantage in combat but unnecessary for hunting or sporting purposes. In addition, the flash suppressor is useful for providing stability during rapid fire, helping the shooter maintain control of the firearm.
- **A threaded barrel designed to accommodate a flash suppressor or silencer.** A silencer is useful to assassins but clearly has no purpose for sportsmen. Silencers are also illegal.
- **A barrel mount designed to accommodate a bayonet**, which obviously serves no sporting purpose.



Combat Hardware Commonly Found on Assault Weapons

Assault weapons generally include features that are useful for offensive assaults on people, but have no sporting or self-defense function. Some of these are shown below.



- **A grenade launcher or flare launcher**, neither of which could have any sporting or self-defense purpose.
- **A shortened barrel** designed to reduce the length of an assault rifle to make it more concealable. This reduces accuracy and range.⁹⁴

In addition to utilizing military features useful in combat, but which have no legitimate civilian purpose, assault weapons are exceedingly dangerous if used in self defense, because the bullets many of the weapons fire are designed to penetrate humans and will penetrate structures, and therefore pose a heightened risk of hitting innocent bystanders. As Jim Pasco, executive director of the Fraternal Order of Police has explained: **“An AK-47 fires a military round. In a conventional home with dry-wall walls, I wouldn’t be surprised if it went through six of them.”**⁹⁵ A bullet fired in self-defense that penetrated a home’s walls, could strike bystanders in neighboring rooms, apartments, or houses.

High capacity magazines containing more than 10 rounds, which were also banned as part of the Federal Assault Weapons Act, are also not useful for self-defense, as former Baltimore County Police Department Colonel Leonard J. Supenski has testified:

The typical self-defense scenario in a home does not require more ammunition than is available in a standard 6-shot revolver or 6-10 round semiautomatic pistol. In fact, because of potential harm to others in the household, passersby, and bystanders, too much firepower is a hazard. Indeed, in most self-defense scenarios, the tendency is for defenders to keep firing until all bullets have been expended.⁹⁶

Assault weapons were designed for military use. They have no legitimate use as self-defense weapons.



Sportsman Jim Zumbo Speaks Out “Assault” Rifles are “Terrorist” Rifles

A long-standing writer for *Outdoor Life* magazine, Jim Zumbo, created a huge controversy within the gun lobby when he admitted in an online blog that assault rifles have no place as hunting weapons. Zumbo wrote:

“I must be living in a vacuum. The guides on our hunt tell me that the use of AR and AK rifles have a rapidly growing following among hunters, especially prairie dog hunters. I had no clue. Only once in my life have I ever seen anyone using one of these firearms.

I call them ‘assault’ rifles, which may upset some people. Excuse me, maybe I’m a traditionalist, but I see no place for these weapons among our hunting fraternity. I’ll go so far as to call them ‘terrorist’ rifles. They tell me that some companies are producing assault rifles that are ‘tackdrivers.’

Sorry, folks, in my humble opinion, these things have no place in hunting. We don’t need to be lumped into the group of people who terrorize the world with them, which is an obvious concern. I’ve always been comfortable with the statement that hunters don’t use assault rifles. We’ve always been proud of our “sporting firearms.

This really has me concerned. As hunters, we don’t need the image of walking around the woods carrying one of these weapons. To most of the public, an assault rifle is a terrifying thing. Let’s divorce ourselves from them. I say game departments should ban them from the prairies and woods.”⁹⁷

Israel Military Industries Action Arms Galil Assault Rifle



“Dangerous and Unusual Weapons” Are Not Protected by the Second Amendment

The Second Amendment does not provide constitutional protection for military-style assault weapons. In *District of Columbia v. Heller*,⁹⁸ the Supreme Court recently ruled that the Second Amendment protects an individual right to keep and bear arms for self-defense in the home.⁹⁹ However, the Court also went out of its way to indicate that the right is limited in a number of ways. One limitation, the Court held, is that not all “arms” are protected.

We also recognize another important limitation on the right to keep and carry arms. [*U.S. v.*] *Miller* said, as we have explained, that the sorts of weapons protected were those “**in common use at the time.**” We think that limitation is fairly supported by the historical tradition of prohibiting carrying of “**dangerous and unusual weapons.**”¹⁰⁰

Assault weapons are certainly “dangerous and unusual weapons” according to any reasonable analysis of that phrase. They are military-style offensive weapons designed to slaughter human beings.¹⁰¹ This differentiates them from all hunting rifles and shotguns, as well as common handguns, which are often used in crime but have also been used in self-defense.

Moreover, assault weapons have never been “in common use” at **any** time. As semi-automatic versions of machine guns developed for use during the World Wars of the 20th Century, they are a relatively recent invention. In addition to being banned by the federal government for 10 years, they have been banned in several states.¹⁰² Plus, ATF has twice concluded, after thorough analyses in 1989 and 1998, that assault weapons have no “sporting purpose.”¹⁰³ This conclusion has blocked them from being imported into the United States.

Another factor suggesting that the Second Amendment does not protect assault weapons is that state supreme courts have consistently upheld the constitutionality of assault weapon bans as reasonable regulations designed to protect public safety under broadly-worded right-to-bear-arms provisions in state constitutions.¹⁰⁴ The *Heller* Court relied on these state constitutional provisions, many of which were adopted in the 18th and 19th centuries, to support its interpretation that the Second Amendment protects an individual right to bear arms. Courts construing the Second Amendment, post-*Heller*, can be expected to apply a similar standard of review, and uphold a federal assault weapons ban.



A Strong Federal Assault Weapons Ban Should Be Enacted

In response to mass shootings and mounting public pressure, Congress finally passed a nationwide ban on assault weapons in 1994. In hearings on the bills, the Senate Judiciary Committee explained the need to:

address the carnage wrought by deadly military-style assault weapons on innocent citizens and the law enforcement officers who seek to protect us all. Recent events illustrate again, and with chilling vividness, the tragedy that results from the wide and easy availability of guns with fire power that overwhelm our police, of weapons that have no place in hunting or sport and whose only real function is to kill human beings at a ferocious pace.¹⁰⁵

Those factors are just as prevalent today. Indeed, after 9/11, the need may be greater.

Unfortunately, the 1994 statute's scope and effectiveness were limited in several important ways. First, the law included a 10-year sunset provision allowing it to lapse when it was not re-enacted in 2004. Second, the law contained a list of assault weapons banned by make and model, but this list was not comprehensive. Third, the statute also banned guns by reference to their military features, but required guns to have **two** of these features (in addition to being semiautomatic firearms capable of accepting a detachable, high-capacity ammunition magazine) in order to be banned. The requirement of two military features created a loophole that allowed gun makers to continue manufacturing and selling stripped-down assault weapons.¹⁰⁶

The result was a piece of legislation that was valuable at keeping many of the most dangerous assault weapons out of criminals' hands, but one that also had an opening for gun manufacturers to evade the ban. Some manufacturers evaded the ban by developing guns, like the Bushmaster XM-15, Intratec's AB ("After Ban")-10, and Olympic Arms PCR ("Politically Correct Rifle"), with only minor changes in features to banned weapons.

Effect of the 1994 Ban

According to a study published by the Brady Center in 2004 entitled *On Target: The Impact of the 1994 Federal Assault Weapons Act*, the federal assault weapons ban reduced the incidence of assault weapons use in crime. In the five-year period (1990-1994) before enactment of the ban, assault weapons named in the Act constituted 4.82% of the crime gun traces ATF conducted nationwide. In the post-ban period after 1995,¹⁰⁷ these assault weapons made up only 1.61% of the guns ATF has traced to crime – a drop of 66% from the pre-ban rate.¹⁰⁸ Moreover, ATF trace data showed a steady year-by-year decline in the percentage of assault weapons traced, suggesting that the longer the statute was in effect, the less available these guns became for



criminal misuse. Indeed, the absolute number of banned assault weapons traced also declined. An initial report issued by the Department of Justice supported these findings.¹⁰⁹ These findings were further supported in a later report by one of the same researchers.¹¹⁰

This analysis was based on crime gun trace data compiled by ATF of more than 1.4 million crime guns recovered across the United States between 1990 and 2001.¹¹¹ If the ban had not been enacted, and had the banned assault weapons continued to make up the same percentage of crime gun traces as before the Act's passage, it was estimated that approximately 60,000 more of the banned assault weapons would have been traced to crime in the 10 years the law was in effect. Former ATF officials at Crime Gun Solutions, LLC, including the former Special Agent in Charge of ATF's National Tracing Center, analyzed the data for the Brady Center.

On Target also looked at the problem of "copycat" assault weapons developed by the gun industry to enable the continued sale of high-firepower weapons. The study found that industry efforts to evade the federal ban through the sale of these "copycat" weapons was able to diminish, but not eliminate, the 1994 Act's beneficial effects. Even including copycats of the federally banned guns, there was still a 45% decline between the pre-ban period (1990-1994) and the post-ban period (1995 and after) in the percentage of ATF crime gun traces involving assault weapons and copycat models.

The lesson to be drawn from this study is that a new assault weapons ban should be passed to reduce criminal use of these dangerous weapons, but it should be stronger and more comprehensive than the original federal ban to reduce indirect evasion through the manufacture of "copycat" weapons. One model for a strong assault weapons ban is the law California enacted in 2000 that bans military-style weapons capable of accepting high-capacity ammunition magazines that have even a single combat feature.¹¹² Representative Carolyn McCarthy has introduced similar strong assault weapons legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives.¹¹³

Support by Law Enforcement, the Public, and Presidents

The law enforcement community has long supported strong assault weapons bans. Every major national law enforcement organization in the country supported the Federal Assault Weapons Act and urged its renewal, including the Law Enforcement Steering Committee, Fraternal Order of Police, National Sheriffs' Association, International Association of Chiefs of Police, Major City Chiefs Association, International Brotherhood of Police Officers, National Association of Police Organizations, Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association, National Black Police Association, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, Police Executive Research Forum, and Police Foundation.

In poll after poll, the American people, regardless of party affiliation, have consistently supported a federal ban on assault weapons. In an ABC/Washington Post poll conducted in August-September 1999, 77% of adults supported a nationwide ban



on the sale of assault weapons.¹¹⁴ That same percentage held firm through the end of 2003 when an NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll found that 78% of adults nationwide expressed support for renewing the federal ban.¹¹⁵ In September 2004, just after the assault weapons ban expired, a Harris poll found that a substantial majority of Americans, 71%, favored reinstatement of the ban.¹¹⁶ As more time has passed without a federal assault weapons ban in effect, support for a ban has grown. For example, a 2007 poll from Illinois found that 80% of voters favored banning semiautomatic assault weapons.¹¹⁷ Newspaper editorial boards have also continued their strong support for getting assault weapons off our nation's streets.¹¹⁸

Presidents across the political spectrum have supported an assault weapons ban. Former Presidents Ford, Carter, and Reagan wrote Congress in support of the 1994 ban to "urge you to listen to the American public and to the law enforcement community and support a ban on the further manufacture of these weapons."¹¹⁹ In 2004, Presidents Ford, Carter, and Clinton wrote to urge re-authorization of the ban.¹²⁰ President George W. Bush also stated that he supported the ban and would sign its reauthorization if it passed Congress.

- **Senator Obama Opposes Assault Weapons for Civilians, While Senator McCain Supports Them**

Of the Presidential candidates, Senator Barack Obama supports banning assault weapons. He also addressed the issue in his acceptance speech to the 2008 Democratic Convention, saying, "The reality of gun ownership may be different for hunters in rural Ohio than they are for those plagued by gang violence in Cleveland, but don't tell me we can't uphold the Second Amendment while keeping AK-47s out of the hands of criminals."

Senator John McCain has consistently opposed an assault weapon ban, saying it "represented an arbitrary restriction on the constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens."



Conclusion

Assault weapons are weapons of war that are sought after and used by street gangs, drug dealers, and terrorists, but are of no use to law-abiding persons who own guns for sporting purposes and self-defense. Law enforcement and an overwhelming majority of the American public realize that these guns have no place in civilian hands, and should be banned. For 10 years, America attempted to limit the mayhem caused by assault weapons and the high-capacity ammunition magazines that they utilize. Although the gun industry worked hard to evade the federal ban by marketing assault weapons stripped of enough features to get by, gun makers were not wholly effective at neutralizing the federal ban's effect. Even accounting for the industry's evasive efforts, the use of assault weapons in crime declined substantially. Unfortunately, President Bush and the 108th Congress allowed it to lapse.

We need to enact a new, stronger federal assault weapons ban to keep these dangerous guns off the streets – a law that will ban all military-style weapons and with no sunset provision.

The lives of our law enforcement officers and our citizens hang in the balance.

Beretta AR 70 Assault Rifle



APPENDIX: Examples of Assault Weapon Violence Since Federal Ban Expired

- **North Tulsa, Oklahoma. October 6, 2008.** A man accidentally shot his roommate with an SKS assault rifle. The victim and shooter were arguing with the victim's estranged wife and another man when the shooter fired warning shots, hitting his roommate inadvertently.¹
- **Madison, Illinois. October 6, 2008.** A 12-year-old boy died after getting caught in the middle of a gunfight. More than 40 shots were fired as a man with an assault rifle exchanged fire with gunmen in cars.²
- **Springfield, Missouri. October 4, 2008.** A 21-year-old shot two men with an AR-15 Assault Rifle during an argument at a nightclub.³
- **Kansas City, Missouri. October 2, 2008.** Two men, one armed with an assault rifle, shot at two undercover police officers. The officers returned fire, injuring the two assailants.⁴
- **Brownsville, Texas. September 30, 2008.** Two men armed with an AK-47 Assault Rifle and .38 revolver shot multiple rounds at a group of men gathered outside a home twice in one night. There was a long-standing argument between the shooters and one of the victims. Nobody was hurt in either incident.⁵
- **Battle Creek, Michigan. September 28, 2008.** A felon with an assault weapon shot two teenagers in retaliation for a shooting several weeks prior.⁶
- **Jackson, Mississippi. September 26, 2008.** Two men armed with an assault rifle shot repeatedly at a house, hitting a woman and a one year old boy inside.⁷
- **Lenoir, North Carolina. September 21, 2008.** A former police officer and army veteran, who was armed with an assault rifle, shot two sheriff's deputies, killing one of them.⁸
- **San Antonio, Texas. September 18, 2008.** A gunman with an AK-47 assault rifle fired more than 15 rounds at a home, hitting a woman sleeping inside twice.⁹

¹ *Man accidentally shot by roommate*, KJRH- TV 2, Tulsa, Oklahoma, Oct. 6, 2008.

² *12 Year Old Shot Dead In Madison, Illinois Overnight*, ASSOCIATED PRESS, Oct. 7, 2008.

³ Dirk Vanderhart, *Shooting prompted by conflict over woman, hat*, SPRINGFIELD NEWS-LEADER, Oct. 7, 2008.

⁴ *KCMO Officers Fired on with Assault Rifle*, WDAF-TV 4, Kansas City, Missouri, Oct. 2, 2008.

⁵ *Police: 10-year grudge prompts downtown shooting*, BROWNSVILLE HERALD, Oct. 3, 2008.

⁶ Trace Christenson, *B.C. man faces attempted murder charge*, BATTLE CREEK ENQUIRER, Oct. 2, 2008.

⁷ *2 men charged in shooting denied bond*, ASSOCIATED PRESS, Oct. 2, 2008.

⁸ Dee Henry, *Armed and dangerous*, HICKORY DAILY HERALD, Sept. 22, 2008.

- **Charlotte, North Carolina. September 15, 2008.** Two people were sitting in a car outside an apartment building when a man shot at them with an assault rifle. One person in the car was hit twice and the other individual was injured by shattered glass.¹⁰
- **Houston, Texas. September 9, 2008.** One person died and two were injured in an overnight shooting. The assailants were carrying several weapons, including an assault rifle.¹¹
- **San Antonio, Texas. September 8, 2008.** A man shot two police officers with an assault rifle when the police attempted to arrest him. A standoff between the suspect and police followed, ending hours later when the suspect shot and killed himself.¹²

Tulsa, Oklahoma. September 7, 2008. A gunman with an assault weapon opened fire on a car carrying five teenagers home from church. Four of the five passengers were hit: Donovan Crutcher died from his wounds, Adrion Crutcher sustained damage to his spinal cord, Jeremy Williams lost the sight in his left eye, and Jahmal Bryant was in the intensive care unit. Four days later, a suspect was arrested in connection with the shooting.¹³

- **Birmingham, Alabama. September 5, 2008.** A man shot and killed his landlord with an SKS assault rifle after the two argued over stolen property.¹⁴
- **Dayton, Ohio. August 26, 2008.** A 31-year-old man sustained severe leg injuries when he was shot multiple times with an assault rifle.¹⁵
- **Hope Mills, North Carolina. August 25, 2008.** An 18-year-old shot a man in the head with an assault rifle. The victim was leaving the shooter's house by car, along with a woman and baby, when the incident occurred.¹⁶
- **Miami, Florida. August 23, 2008.** An intoxicated customer was shot with an AK-47 assault rifle after being kicked out of a strip club. The shooter was then shot by another man, who was also carrying an assault rifle.¹⁷

⁹ *Shooter Opens Fire On Home, Sleeping Woman Hit Twice*, WOAI – TV 4 San Antonio, Sept. 18, 2008.

¹⁰ *Apartment Complex Evacuated After Double Shooting*, WSOC-TV 9, Sept. 16, 2008.

¹¹ *Suspects in Triple Shooting Had Assault Rifle, Multiple Weapons*, FOX 26 TV Houston, Sept. 10, 2008.

¹² *SAPD Details Monday Shooting Investigation*, KSAT12-TV, San Antonio, Texas, Sept. 10, 2008.

¹³ *Arrest made in deadly drive-by*, TULSA WORLD, Sept. 12, 2008.

¹⁴ *Landlord Killed After Argument Over Stolen Copper*, NBC13-TV, Birmingham, Alabama, Sept. 8, 2008.

¹⁵ *Man Targeted By Shooter With Assault Rifle*, WHIOTV, Dayton, Ohio, Aug. 27, 2008.

¹⁶ *Three charged in Hope Mills shooting*, THE FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER, Aug. 28, 2008.

¹⁷ *2 Dead in Shootout At Strip Club*, NBC6-TV, Miami, Florida, Aug. 23, 2008.



- **Youngsville, North Carolina. August 22, 2008.** A 12-year-old boy accidentally shot an 11-year-old neighbor with an AK-47 assault rifle.¹⁸
- **San Antonio, Texas. August 20, 2008.** A man was chased by a group of young men outside an apartment complex and was shot twice with an assault rifle.¹⁹
- **West Valley City, Utah. August 15, 2008.** Three men in an SUV shot at another car with an assault rifle and then led police on a high-speed chase. The police recovered drugs, alcohol, live casings, and an assault rifle from the car.²⁰

Newark, New Jersey. August 14, 2008. 15-year-old Bukhari Washington was killed after a bullet fired from a Chinese-made Norinco SKS assault rifle struck his bed while he slept. The gun was fired accidentally when its owner, 19-year-old Terrance Perry, was “fiddling” with it in the apartment below. Washington was a student at Christ the King Preparatory School and interned at a nursing home for people with HIV and AIDS.²¹

- **Birmingham, Alabama. August 11, 2008.** A 17-year-old girl was in a car that was sprayed by bullets from an AK-47. The girl exited the car and tried to run home when she was shot twice, once in the chest and again in her left hand, severing it. She died moments later from her injuries.²²
- **New Orleans, Louisiana. August 10, 2008.** One man was injured and another man died after being shot with an AK-47 assault rifle.²³
- **New Orleans, Louisiana. August 8, 2008.** A gunman carrying an assault rifle shot two people.²⁴
- **Niagara, Wisconsin. July 31, 2008.** A man with an assault rifle massacred a group of teenagers, killing three and injuring a fourth. The group was gathered along a river to go swimming when the gunman emerged from surrounding woods and began shooting.²⁵

¹⁸ *Sheriff says boy, 11, shot with AK-47*, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, Aug. 24, 2008.

¹⁹ *Man Chased Down and Shot to Death*, WOAI-TV, San Antonio, Texas, Aug. 21, 2008.

²⁰ *Shooting triggers high-speed chase; 3 arrested*, THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE, Aug. 15, 2008.

²¹ Jonathan Schuppe, *Senseless Shot, Random Death: Respected teen is slain in bed, to Newark's grief*, THE STAR-LEDGER, Aug. 15, 2008.

²² Dan Barry, *Gunshot, then silence: And the sorrow spreads*, NEW YORK TIMES, Aug. 17, 2008.

²³ Nicole Dungca & Ramon Antonio Vargas, *Two die Sunday in separate slayings*, THE TIMES-PICAYUNE, Aug. 11, 2008.

²⁴ Leslie Williams, *Mob scene follows double shooting*, THE TIMES-PICAYUNE, Aug. 9, 2008.

²⁵ *Niagara, Wisconsin shooting suspect caught*, THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE, Aug. 1, 2008.



- **Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. July 31, 2008.** Two men with an assault rifle shot and killed two cousins as they talked outside a home.²⁶
- **Orlando, Florida. July 30, 2008.** A man with an assault rifle shot and killed two teenagers and another man over stolen property.²⁷
- **Dallas, Texas. July 29, 2008.** A Dallas Morning News deliveryman was shot multiple times with an assault rifle while delivering papers early in the morning. His 14-year-old son was with him, but was not injured.²⁸
- **Kansas City, Missouri. July 28, 2008.** Three men broke into a home and held up the occupants at 1:30 in the morning. The men were armed with an assault rifle with a bayonet attached.²⁹
- **Detroit, Michigan. July 27, 2008.** Three people died, including a 17-year-old girl, after being shot with an assault rifle while leaving a bar.³⁰
- **Salt Lake City, Utah. July 26, 2008.** A 19-year-old airman shot a 22-year-old with an assault rifle after the two argued at a nightclub. The airman shot another person several months earlier.³¹
- **Chattanooga, Tennessee. July 24, 2008.** Two men armed with an SKS assault rifle shot a 28-year-old man in the head and back.³²

Oakland, California. July 23, 2008. 23-year-old Amanda Hunter was killed when she was accidentally shot in the head with an assault rifle. Hunter was attempting to remove the weapon from her home when it fell to the ground and fired. Her boyfriend, the owner of the weapon and a convicted felon, was arrested for weapons related charges including being a felon in possession of a firearm.³³

- **New Orleans, Louisiana. July 15, 2008.** A man died after being shot repeatedly with an AK-47 while asleep in his trailer.³⁴

²⁶ Jill King Greenwood, *72 killings set bloody pace in city, county*, PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW, Aug. 2, 2008.

²⁷ Vincent Bradshaw & Willoughby Mariano, *Flurry of bullets near Orlando playground kills three*, THE ORLANDO SENTINEL, July 31, 2008.

²⁸ Scott Goldstein, *Father, son survive shooting during News delivery*, THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS, Aug. 7, 2008.

²⁹ Mike Rice, *Home invasion robbery reported in Gladstone*, KANSAS CITY STAR, July 28, 2008.

³⁰ Candice Williams, *Girl, 17, two men fatally shot outside Detroit bar*, THE DETROIT NEWS, July 27, 2008.

³¹ *Airman's arrest for shooting not his first*, STANDARD-EXAMINER, July 29, 2008

³² Jacqueline Koch, *Police investigate assault-rifle shooting*, CHATTANOOGA TIMES FREE PRESS, July 25, 2008.

³³ *Oakland woman killed when assault rifle accidentally fires*, July 24, 2008, available at:

http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci_9977524 (last visited Sept. 26, 2008).

³⁴ Ramon Antonio Vargas, *AK-47 fire kills sleeping former rapper*, THE TIMES PICAYUNE, July 16, 2008.



- **Daytona Beach, Florida. July 13, 2008.** A distraught man fired 30 rounds into the side of an occupied building with an AK-47 assault rifle.³⁵
- **Eatonville, Florida. July 8, 2008.** A father and son were shot during a robbery with an AK-47 assault rifle.³⁶
- **Youngstown, Ohio. July 8, 2008.** A man beat up and attempted to shoot his girlfriend with an assault weapon.³⁷
- **Edwardsville, Illinois. July 7, 2008.** Two 19-year-olds repeatedly shot at a sheriff's deputy with an assault weapon as he pursued them during a car chase.³⁸
- **Van Buren, Michigan. July 6, 2008.** Two 19-year-olds with an assault rifle shot and killed a man they had argued with earlier.³⁹
- **Beaumont, Texas. July 5, 2008.** One person was injured when a man shot an assault rifle into a crowd standing outside a nightclub.⁴⁰
- **Dallas, Texas. July 4, 2008.** A gunman shot at an apartment building with an AK-47 assault rifle, killing a 17-year-old girl inside. The gunman had been arguing with the girl's stepfather outside.⁴¹
- **Buena Vista, Michigan. July 3, 2008.** A gunman shot an AK-47 multiple times into a car carrying two teenage girls, hitting one in the leg.⁴²

³⁵ Julie Murphy, *Outlaws clubhouse shot up. Police: man fires 30 rounds, accuses members of rape*, DAYTONA BEACH NEWS JOURNAL, July 17, 2008.

³⁶ *Shooting may be linked to Orlando Incident*, WESH.COM, Orlando, FL, July 8, 2008, available at: <http://www.wesh.com/print/16817435/detail.html> (last visited Sept. 26, 2008).

³⁷ *Man charged with assault over domestic dispute*, VINDY.COM, July 9, 2008, available at: <http://www.vindy.com/news/2008/jul/09/man-charged-with-assault-over-domestic-dispute/> (last visited Sept. 26, 2008).

³⁸ Sandord J. Schmidt, *Two accused of shooting at deputy*, THE TELEGRAPH.COM, July 8, 2008, available at: http://www.thetelegraph.com/news/county_15966___article.html/madison_accused.html (last visited Sept. 26, 2008).

³⁹ Susan L. Oppat, *2 Van Buren teens charged in slaying*, THE ANN ARBOR NEWS, July, 10, 2008.

⁴⁰ Heather Nolan, *Beaumont police seek help in investigating shooting at night club*, BEAUMONTENTERPRISE.COM, July 7, 2008, available at: http://www.beaumontenterprise.com/news/local/beatmont_police_seek_public_s_help_in_investigaton_07-07-2008_10_43_01.html (last visited Sept. 26, 2008).

⁴¹ Seema Mathur, *Teen hit by stray bullet at dallas apartment*, CBS11TV.COM, July 6, 2008, available at: <http://cbs11tv.com/local/dallas.teen.shot.2.764557.html> (last visited Sept. 26, 2008).

⁴² *Buena Vista gunman fires AK-47, strikes girl*, WNEM.COM, July 8, 2009, available at: <http://www.wnem.com/print/16821122/detail.html> (last visited Sept. 26, 2008).



Warsaw, North Carolina. July 2, 2008. 18-year-old high school football star Derrick Barden was killed after being shot with an AK-47. Three teenagers were charged with his death, which occurred as a group of people played with an AK-47 outside of an apartment complex.⁴³

- **Adairsville, Georgia. June 29, 2008.** A man carrying an AK-47 assault rifle shot a woman twice in the chest during a robbery attempt.⁴⁴
- **Overtown, Florida. June 28, 2008.** A 15-year-old died after he was shot with an assault weapon during a drive-by shooting.⁴⁵
- **Mobile, Alabama. June 27, 2008.** A 6-year-old boy was shot three times and a man twice when a group of men fired AK-47 and SKS assault weapons at the two cars they were riding in.⁴⁶
- **Powhatan, Virginia. June 25, 2008.** A 17-year-old with an assault weapon shot and killed an 18 year old after the two argued.⁴⁷
- **Powhatan County, Virginia. June 24, 2008.** An 18-year-old high school student was shot and killed with an assault rifle following an altercation at a gas station. A juvenile was also wounded in the shooting.⁴⁸
- **Anderson, South Carolina. June 22, 2008.** A man fired more than 30 rounds from an assault rifle at a group of people, killing a 16-year-old who was hit three times and wounding a man.⁴⁹
- **Opa Locka, Florida. June 22, 2008.** A man shot an AK-47 assault rifle at a business, injuring three people inside.⁵⁰

⁴³ Steve Herring, *Three teens charged in player's shooting*, GOLDSBORO NEWS-ARGUS, July 9, 2008.

⁴⁴ Hayden Jennings, *Suspect arrested in Adairsville shooting*, ROMENEWSWIRE.COM, June 30, 2008, available at: <http://www.romenewswire.com/index.php/2008/06/30/suspect-arrested-in-adairsville-shooting/> (last visited Sept. 26, 2008).

⁴⁵ David Ovalle, *2 deaths raise 2008 homicides to 136*, THE MIAMI HERALD, July 2, 2008

⁴⁶ Ron Colquitt, *Four suspects denied bail*, THE PRESS-REGISTER, June 28, 2008.

⁴⁷ *Authorities: Powhatan teen's killer was 17-year-old*, INRICH.COM, June 30, 2008, available at: <http://www.inrich.com/cva/ric/news.PrintView.-content-articles-RTD-2008-06-30-0195.html> (last visited Sept. 26, 2008).

⁴⁸ Linda Dunham & Reed Williams, *Suspects in fatal shooting surrender: Sheriff: Trio wanted in Powhatan teen's death face murder charges; suspected weapon found*, RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH, June 29, 2008.

⁴⁹ Craig Stanley, *Westside student, shooting victim, is remembered*, INDEPENDENTMAIL.COM, June 27, 2008, available at: <http://www.independentmail.com/news/2008/jun/27/westside-student-shooting-victim-remembered/> (last visited Sept. 26, 2008).

⁵⁰ *3 shot in Opa Locka*, NBC6.NET, June 22, 2008, available at: <http://www.independentmail.com/news/2008/jun/27/westside-student-shooting-victim-remembered/> (last visited Sept. 26, 2008).



- **Little Rock, Mississippi. June 21, 2008.** A man died after being shot in the head with an AK-47 assault rifle. The gunman and victim had argued over a dice game.⁵¹
- **Elyria, Ohio. June 14, 2008.** A woman died after being shot with an AK-47 assault rifle during a robbery.⁵²
- **Miami, Florida. June 13, 2008.** A man shot six people at a graduation party with an assault rifle. One of the victims died.⁵³
- **Lavaca County, Texas. June 11, 2008.** A 14-year-old boy died after being accidentally shot by his grandfather with an AK-47 assault rifle.⁵⁴
- **Longview, Texas. June 10, 2008.** A man opened fire with an AK-47 assault rifle after arguing with his girlfriend, injuring three people, including a 7-year-old girl.⁵⁵
- **Wilkes, North Carolina. June 6, 2008.** A 17-year-old was seriously injured after being shot with an AK-47 assault rifle. Several teenagers were playing with the gun when it was fired.⁵⁶
- **Shreveport, Louisiana. June 1, 2008.** A 25-year-old man was seriously injured after being shot multiple times with an assault rifle while in his car.⁵⁷
- **Tucson, Arizona. June 1, 2008.** A man shot at several houses with an assault rifle, then lead police in pursuit across Tucson for more than an hour. During the chase, the gunman shot at police multiple times, fatally shooting one officer and injuring two Sheriff's deputies.⁵⁸

⁵¹ Tim Doherty, *Foxworth man held in slaying* THE HATTIESBURG AMERICAN, June 24, 2008.

⁵² Matt Suman, *AK-47 used in deadly Gas USA robbery*, THEMORNINGJOURNAL.COM, June 25, 2008 available at:

http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=19801129&BRD=1699&PAG=461&dept_id=46371&rfi=6 (last visited Sept. 26, 2008).

⁵³ *Teen shot and killed while leaving graduation party*, WSVN.COM, Miami Gardens, FL, available at: <http://www.wsvn.com/news/articles/local/MI88522/> (last visited Sept. 26, 2008).

⁵⁴ *Teen shot, killed in hunting accident*, KSAT.COM, June 12, 2008, available at:

http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=19801129&BRD=1699&PAG=461&dept_id=46371&rfi=6 (last visited Sept. 26, 2008).

⁵⁵ *3 wounded in Longview gunfire*, THE DALLS MORNING NEWS, June 10, 2008.

⁵⁶ *Wilkes teens play with rifle, one shot*, GOBLUERIDGE.NET, June 9, 2008, available at:

http://www.goblueridge.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3821&Itemid=1 (last visited Sept. 26, 2008).

⁵⁷ Katrina Webber, *Violent weekend in Shreveport leaves 3 with gunshot wounds*, KSLA NEWS 12, June 2, 2008, available at: <http://www.ksla.com/Global/story.asp?S=8410023&nav=0RY5RQCK> (last visited Sept. 26, 2008).

⁵⁸ Brady McCombs & Alexis Huicochea, *Officer on life support after crosstown pursuit*, ARIZONA DAILY STAR, June 2, 2008.



- **New Orleans, Louisiana. May 26, 2008.** Two people were injured when a gunman carrying an AK-47 assault rifle fired more than twenty rounds at them.⁵⁹
- **Jackson, Mississippi. May 26, 2008.** Five people were shot, one fatally, at a Memorial Day barbecue. A man left the party after an argument and returned with an assault rifle and fired indiscriminately into the crowd.⁶⁰
- **Shreveport, Louisiana. May 19, 2008.** A 15-year-old shot a 14-year-old with an assault weapon.⁶¹
- **Brooklyn, Connecticut. May 14, 2008.** A 16-year-old boy with Asperger syndrome shot an assault rifle near a group of people playing basketball in a park who he had argued with earlier.⁶²
- **Miami, Florida. May 14, 2008.** A man was shot multiple times after his car was sprayed with bullets from an assault weapon.⁶³
- **San Jacinto, California. May 12, 2008.** A SWAT team was called in after a man and woman armed with assault rifles shot at security guards and then Sheriff's deputies. The two were killed in the resulting shootout.⁶⁴
- **Raceland, Louisiana. May 12, 2008.** Three men attacked three other men in their car, killing all three. Each victim was shot multiple times with an AK-47 assault rifle.⁶⁵

Calabash, North Carolina. May 8, 2008. James Murdock, 25, was killed in a drive-by shooting. Murdock was sitting in a car when a dark SUV pulled up and fired at him with an assault rifle. He died at the scene. Two men were charged with the murder.⁶⁶

- **San Jacinto, California. May 8, 2008.** A 26-year-old man shot at Sheriff's deputies with an assault rifle. The man was killed when the policemen returned fire.⁶⁷

⁵⁹ *Pair gunned down by AK-47*, WDSU.COM, May 27, 2008, available at:

<http://www.wdsu.com/news/16401761/detail.html> (last visited Sept. 26, 2008).

⁶⁰ Kathleen Baydala, *Man arrested in fatal holiday party shooting*, THE CLARION LEDGER, May 28, 2008.

⁶¹ *Arrest made in shooting of 14 year old boy*, KSLA NEWS 12, May 20, 2008, available at:

http://www.ksla.com/Global/story.asp?S=8350809&nav=menu50_11_16_4 (last visited Sept. 26, 2008).

⁶² Dustin Racioppi & Don Bond, *Conn. teen with autism held in assault rifle shooting*, THE METRO WEST DAILY NEWS, May 15, 2008, available at:

<http://www.metrowestdailynews.com/archive/x2118739287/Conn-teen-with-autism-held-in-assault-rifle-shooting> (last visited Sept. 26, 2008).

⁶³ *Man shot with high-powered assault weapon*, LOCAL 10 NEWS, May 14, 2008, available at:

<http://www.local10.com/print/16261614/detail.html> (last visited Sept. 29, 2008).

⁶⁴ Gillian Flaccus, *Deputies kill 2 in gun battle on Calif. Reservation*, ASSOCIATED PRESS ARCHIVE, May 14, 2008.

⁶⁵ Raymond Legendre, *Grand jury to consider Raceland triple-slaying case*, THE COURIER, August 11, 2008.

⁶⁶ Shannan Bowen, *Two charged in Calabash murder*, STAR-NEWS, May 20, 2008.



- **Ripon, Wisconsin. May 6, 2008.** A 19-year-old accidentally shot and killed an 18-year-old friend with an assault rifle while the two were at a friend's house.⁶⁸

Stafford, Virginia. May 5, 2008. Aaron Poseidon Jackson shot his children, 1-year-old Aaron and 2-year-old Nicole, with a .38 caliber handgun, then shot their mother, Latasha Thomas, with an AK-47. When police arrived at the home, Jackson, wearing a bulletproof vest and surrounded by guns and ammunition, was found dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.⁶⁹

- **Burien, Washington. May 4, 2008.** A man died when he was shot in the head with an assault rifle after arguing with the shooter in a bar. The shooter left after the initial incident but returned with the gun.⁷⁰
- **Chicago, Illinois. May 4, 2008.** A college student died after being shot with an assault rifle when she was caught in crossfire from a gang while in a car.⁷¹
- **Cordova, New Mexico. May 4, 2008.** A man killed his 17-month-old son by shooting him in the chest with an assault rifle.⁷²
- **Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. May 3, 2008.** A police officer was shot and killed by an assault rifle as he was responding to a bank robbery. Three men robbed the bank and were fleeing when the officer stopped their car and exited his patrol car. At that time, one of the bank robbers opened fire with an SKS assault rifle, striking the officer numerous times. One suspect was eventually shot and killed by police and the other two were arrested and charged with murder.⁷³
- **San Antonio, Texas. May 2, 2008.** Two teens armed with an assault rifle shot at a man after he tried to stop a fight between groups of teenagers.⁷⁴

⁶⁷ Jose Arballo Jr., Steve Fetbrandt & Michelle DeArmond, *Soboba member killed in gun battle with deputies*, THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE, May 8, 2008.

⁶⁸ *Teen charged with negligent homicide in Ripon shooting posts bond*, NBC 15 NEWS, Feb. 29, 2008, available at: <http://www.nbc15.com/home/headlines/15839617.html> last visited (Sept. 29, 2008).

⁶⁹ Keith Epps & Ellen Biltz, *Gunman heavily armed*, FREDERICKSBURG.COM, May 7, 2008, available at: <http://fredericksburg.com/News/FLS/2008/052008/05072008/377460> (last visited Sept. 26, 2008).

⁷⁰ Casey McNerthney, *Man shot after Burien bar fight dies*, SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER, May 5, 2008.

⁷¹ Annie Sweeney & Stefano Esposito, *We had so many plans*, THE CHICAGO SUN-TIMES, May 6, 2008.

⁷² Isaac Paul Vasquez, *Police allege father killed son*, KFOXTV.COM, May 4, 2008, available at: <http://www.kfoxtv.com/news/16157794/detail.html> (last visited Sept. 26, 2008).

⁷³ Joseph A. Gambardello, *Liczbinski suspect's girlfriend to stand trial*, PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER, July 17, 2008; *Officer shot, killed after bank robbery*, NBC 10.COM, May 3, 2008; See Sergeant Stephen Liczbinski, www.odmp.org, available at: <http://www.odmp.org/officer/19359-sergeant-stephen-liczbinski> (last visited Sept. 30, 2008).

⁷⁴ *Man shot at after breaking up fight*, KSAT TV 12, May 2, 2008, available at: <http://www.ksat.com/news/16136482/detail.html> (last visited Sept. 26, 2008).



- **Compton, California. April 29, 2008.** A 19-year-old with an assault rifle exchanged fire with Sheriff's deputies. No one was injured in the incident.⁷⁵
- **Chicago, Illinois. April 21, 2008.** The owner of a plumbing company was shot in the stomach by an employee using an AK-47 and died as a result. The employee also shot at three police officers later in the evening.⁷⁶
- **York, Pennsylvania. April 11, 2008.** A man died after he was shot multiple times with an assault rifle. The victim and shooter had argued earlier.⁷⁷
- **Miami, Florida. April 5, 2008.** A 16-year-old boy died and his mother was injured when they were shot with an assault rifle outside of their home by people they had previously argued with.⁷⁸
- **Sharonville, Ohio. April 3, 2008.** A 14-year-old girl was shot in the leg when a man fired an assault weapon randomly into the street. The bullet went through a car door and hit the victim.⁷⁹
- **Miami, Florida. April 3, 2008.** A 20-year-old with over thirteen firearms, including four AK-47s, and more than 5,000 rounds of ammunition, was arrested after threatening over the internet that he was going to carry-out a Virginia Tech style massacre.⁸⁰
- **Tarpon Springs, Florida. March 30, 2008.** A man fired several rounds from an assault weapon toward another man who was exiting his car.⁸¹
- **Donaldsonville, Louisiana. March 22, 2008.** A five-year-old boy and a man were injured after being shot with an assault rifle on the street.⁸²
- **Virginia Beach, Virginia. March 19, 2008.** A man shot five people, killing two, with an AK-47 assault rifle and .9 mm handgun before killing himself. The man was

⁷⁵ *Suspect arrested in connection to Compton shootout*, CBS2.COM, May 1, 2008, available at: <http://cbs2.com/local/Compton.Shooting.Arrest.2.713125.html> (last visited Sept. 26, 2008).

⁷⁶ Lisa Donovan et. al., *SWAT will go on patrol*, CHICAGO SUN TIMES, Apr. 22, 2008.

⁷⁷ Kristin Thorne, *York man killed in shooting involving assault rifle*, ABC27 NEWS, Apr. 11, 2008, available at: <http://cfc.whtm.com/printstory.cfm?id=510600> (last visited Sept. 29, 2008).

⁷⁸ *Teen killed, mother injured in shooting*, NBC6.NET, Apr. 6, 2008, available at: <http://www.nbc6.net/news/15806302/detail.html> (last visited Sept. 26, 2008).

⁷⁹ *Teenage girl accidentally shot in Sharonville*, WCPO 9 NEWS, Apr. 3, 2008, available at: http://www.wcpo.com/news/local/story.aspx?content_id=c473d379-e54d-4b46-a24d-397f12369149 (last visited on Sept. 29, 2008).

⁸⁰ *Police: Man threatened to re-enact Virginia Tech-style killings*, ASSOCIATED PRESS, Apr. 4, 2008.

⁸¹ *Tarpon Springs man arrested in assault rifle attack*, TBO.COM, Mar. 31, 2008, available at: <http://suncoastpasco.tbo.com/content/2008/mar/31/tarpon-springs-man-arrested-assault-rifle-attack/> (last visited Sept. 26, 2008).

⁸² Samuel Irvin, *Sheriff promises to boost patrols*, THE ADVOCATE, Mar. 27, 2008 available at: <http://www.2theadvocate.com/news/17040851.html> (last visited Sept. 26, 2008).



about to be evicted from his apartment and targeted the apartment complex's employees in his attack.⁸³

- **Chattanooga, Tennessee. March 15, 2008.** A man fired more than 20 rounds from an assault rifle at another man outside of an apartment building. The victim was not hit.⁸⁴
- **Baton Rouge, Louisiana. March 7, 2008.** A 16-year-old male shot his father in the arm with an AK-47 and was placed in juvenile detention on one count of attempted murder.⁸⁵
- **Kansas City, Missouri. March 5, 6, 7, 2008.** One man was killed and three injured during a drive-by shooting of a tire store. The shooters used two .223-caliber assault rifles, one of which had two large drum magazines and could fire 100 bullets without reloading. Police pursued the shooters, who were eventually apprehended, and were shot at with the same assault rifles. The following day, three retaliatory shootings occurred; the day after, one retaliatory shooting occurred in which a woman was shot seven times in the chest and torso.⁸⁶
- **Roanoke, Virginia. February 29, 2008.** A car chase ended when the driver pulled over and began shooting at police with an SKS assault rifle. The police shot and seriously wounded the driver. None of the police were seriously injured.⁸⁷

Gainesville, Georgia. February 19, 2008. 52-year old Mary Bailey was killed after being shot with an AK-47. Bailey was sleeping on the sofa when her 19-year old son, Derrick Bailey, cleaned his assault weapon and it fired. Derrick claims he did not know the weapon was loaded.⁸⁸

- **Marrero, Louisiana. February 16, 2008.** An 18-year-old was killed and a 16-year-old wounded after being shot with an AK-47 multiple times. The shooter fired more than 20 rounds at the two victims.⁸⁹
- **Pulaski, Kentucky. February 9, 2008.** A man fired more than 50 rounds from his assault rifle into a mobile home and garage after arguing with the owner. The homeowner received only minor injuries in the incident.⁹⁰

⁸³ *Gunman in mass shooting identified*, WVEC 13 NEWS, Mar. 20, 2008, available at: http://www.wvec.com/news/vabeach/stories/wvec_local_031908_vb_shooting.79dfc43.html (last visited Sept. 29, 2008).

⁸⁴ Amy Katcher, *East Lake shootout caught on tape*, WDEF NEWS 12, Mar. 26, 2008, available at: http://wdef.com/news/east_lake_shootout_caught_on_tape/03/2008 (last visited Sept. 26, 2008).

⁸⁵ *Police and fire briefs*, BATON ROUGE ADVOCATE, Mar. 8, 2008.

⁸⁶ Christine Vendel, *Heavy firepower in KC: Officers outgunned by suspects*, KANSAS CITY STAR, Mar. 8, 2007.

⁸⁷ Jessica Marcy, *Shots end U.S. 220 chase in Roanoke County*, WWW.ROANOKE.COM, Mar. 1, 2008, available at: <http://www.roanoke.com/news/roanoke/wb/152736> (last visited Sept. 26, 2008).

⁸⁸ *Gainesville teen: 'I shot my mother'*, WSBTV.COM, Feb. 19, 2008, available at: <http://www.wsbtv.com/news/15345707/detail.html> (last visited Sept. 26, 2008).

⁸⁹ *Harvey teen booked with murder*, THE TIMES PICAYUNE, Feb. 19, 2008.



- **Phoenix, Arizona. February 9, 2008.** A 17-year-old died and a 23-year-old was injured after being shot with an assault rifle during an attack by four men.⁹¹
- **Indianapolis, Indiana. February 8, 2008.** An 8-year-old girl died after being shot in the head when someone sprayed her house with bullets from an assault weapon.⁹²
- **Macon, Georgia. February 4, 2008.** A man fired over 70 rounds from an assault rifle into the front of a house, killing the woman at the door. The man was looking for the woman's son but shot her after learning he was not at home.⁹³
- **Cleveland, Tennessee. February 2, 2008.** A 20-year-old man died after being shot several times with an assault rifle as he exited a car. The gunman shot at the other people in the car and at a nearby house as well.⁹⁴
- **Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. January 28, 2008.** A 12-year-old girl was killed and her mother badly injured after they were shot with an AK-47 assault rifle. The two were visiting a family member when an assailant sprayed the house with dozens of bullets.⁹⁵
- **Camp Hill, Alabama. January 22, 2008.** A 19-year-old shot a 17-year-old in the face with an assault rifle after the two argued over the stolen weapon.⁹⁶
- **Miami, Florida. January 20, 2008.** Three cousins were injured when dozens of rounds were fired from an assault rifle into their car. One of the cousins was left brain-dead.⁹⁷
- **Carmichael, California. January 16, 2008.** A 24-year-old man was shot with an assault rifle in a drive-by shooting and died.⁹⁸

⁹⁰ *Eubank man jailed following hail of bullets fired into residence*, WKYT.COM, Feb. 9, 2008, available at: <http://www.wkyt.com/home/headlines/15476381.html> (last visited Sept. 26, 2008).

⁹¹ David Biscobing, *Teen gunned down in Phoenix with rifle*, EAST VALLEY TRIBUNE, Feb. 9, 2008.

⁹² *Community mourns eight-year-old's shooting death*, WTHR 13 NEWS, Feb. 26, 2008, available at: <http://www.wthr.com/Global/story.asp?S=7853369> (last visited Sept. 29, 2008); *Man charged in 8-year-old's shooting death*, WTHR 13 NEWS, Feb. 27, 2008, available at:

<http://www.wthr.com/Global/story.asp?s=7865668> (last visited Sept. 29, 2008).

⁹³ Ashley Tusan Joyner, *Woman died after man sprays home with bullets*, THE MACON TELEGRAPH, Feb. 6, 2008.

⁹⁴ Ryan Harris, *Bradley murder victim identified*, CHATTANOOGA TIMES FREE PRESS, Feb. 5, 2008.

⁹⁵ Michael Hasch, *Girl, 12, killed as 40 shots blast into North Side home*, THE PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW, Jan. 29, 2008.

⁹⁶ *Teen shot in face by assault rifle*, WTVM.COM, Jan. 22, 2008, available at: http://www.wtvm.com/Global/story.asp?S=7757100&nav=menu91_2 (last visited Sept. 26, 2008).

⁹⁷ David Ovalle, *Little Haiti: Gun violence tears family*, THE MIAMI HERALD, January 24, 2008.

⁹⁸ *Two Carmichael killings may be connected*, KCRA.COM, Jan. 16, 2008, available at: <http://www.kcra.com/news/15067608/detail.html> (last visited Sept. 26, 2008).



- **Louisville, Kentucky. January 14, 2008.** A man carrying an assault rifle fired several rounds at a police officer during a traffic stop. The officer was not injured.⁹⁹
- **North Miami Beach, Florida. January 8, 2008.** An off-duty Miami police detective was killed by a man who shot him with an AK-47 assault rifle as he sat in his car.¹⁰⁰
- **Merrillville, Indiana. December 31, 2007.** A 25-year-old man shot a 20-year-old man with an assault rifle. The shooter asked the victim and another man to leave his apartment after they argued, then followed them outside and shot the victim multiple times.¹⁰¹

Little Rock, Arkansas. December 29, 2007. 6-year-old Kamyia Weathersby was shot at least 7 times by gunmen outside her home as she was lying in bed. Police believe at least one assault rifle was used to fire 50 or more rounds at her home. The following day, Kamyia died when her family made the decision to take her off life support.¹⁰²

- **Ozark, Alabama. December 29, 2007.** An 18-year-old man repeatedly shot a 22-year-old man using a SKS assault rifle after the two argued. The 22-year-old died from his injuries.¹⁰³
- **Southington, Connecticut. December 24, 2007.** One man shot another in the head with an assault rifle, killing him, after the two argued.¹⁰⁴
- **Arvada & Colorado Springs, Colorado. December 9, 2007.** One man with an assault rifle attacked a missionary training center in Arvada and a church in Colorado Springs. He killed two people and injured two others in Arvada, and killed two and injured three others in Colorado Springs. He died after being shot by a security guard and then shooting himself.¹⁰⁵

⁹⁹ 4th arrest made in SWAT case, WLKY.com, Jan. 14, 2008, available at: <http://www.wlky.com/news/15048297/detail.html> (last visited Sept. 26, 2008).

¹⁰⁰ David Quinones, *Dispute boils over mourning of detective*, MIAMI HERALD, Jan. 19, 2008; See Detective James Walker, www.odmp.org, available at: <http://www.odmp.org/officer/19128-detective-james-walker> (last visited Sept. 30, 2008).

¹⁰¹ *M'ville man charged in shooting*, THETIMESONLINE.COM, Jan. 4, 2008, available at: http://www.thetimesonline.com/articles/2008/01/04/news/lake_county/doc88e35a05299f4540862573c600061f09.txt (last visited Sept. 26, 2008).

¹⁰² *Girl, 6, dies after being shot 7 times – Ark. police search for suspects, motive*, MEMPHIS COMMERCIAL APPEAL, Jan. 1, 2008.

¹⁰³ *Ozark shooting suspect surrenders*, PRESS-REGISTER, Jan. 1, 2008.

¹⁰⁴ Chris Velardi, *\$2million bond for Southington murder suspect*, WTNH.COM, Jan. 2, 2008, available at: <http://www.wtnh.com/global/story.asp?s=7566985> (last visited on Sept. 29, 2008).

¹⁰⁵ Erin Emery, *Report details church shooting, the document chronicles the days leading up to the Dec. 9 deaths of four young people*, DENVER POST, Mar. 13, 2008.



- **Omaha, Nebraska. December 5, 2007.** Nine people were shot to death and five others were injured after a 20-year-old shooter, armed with a military-style assault rifle, attacked shoppers in a department store in a Nebraska mall.¹⁰⁶
- **Arden, South Carolina. December 4, 2007.** One man was injured when he was shot at close range in the leg and foot with an AK-47 assault rifle.¹⁰⁷
- **Memphis, Tennessee. November 13, 2007.** One man was killed and another injured after an unidentified man opened fire on a grocery store parking lot with an AK-47 assault rifle.¹⁰⁸
- **Vallejo, California. November 4, 2007.** One man died after being shot several times with an assault rifle while arguing with two other men. Witnesses of the shooting pursued the shooters by car and were also shot at, although none were injured.¹⁰⁹
- **Crandon, Wisconsin. October 7, 2007.** An off-duty Sheriff's deputy killed six and wounded a seventh person when he burst into a pizza party and started shooting with an assault weapon. The shooter later killed himself as the police closed in.¹¹⁰
- **West Palm Beach, Florida. September 18, 2007.** Two men were killed and another injured when they were attacked in their car by two men carrying a handgun and an assault rifle. The suspects shot at the police as they escaped.¹¹¹
- **New Orleans, Louisiana. September 15, 2007.** At least 28 bullets were fired from an AK-47 at an outdoor birthday party for 5-year-old twins in the courtyard of a public housing complex. A 19-year-old was killed and three children were wounded, ages 7, 8 and 13.¹¹²
- **Miami, Florida. September 13, 2007.** Police spotted a vehicle driving erratically and followed it until it stopped in a residential complex. The driver got out and hopped a fence to the rear of the home; the officers exited their patrol car and went to the front of the home where they were granted permission to search by a female resident. The suspect grabbed a high-powered, military-grade rifle and fired at the police officers through a window, killing one officer, then exited the house and shot

¹⁰⁶ *The American Way*, REGISTER-GUARD, Dec. 17, 2007.

¹⁰⁷ Clarke Morrison, *Arden man gets 12 years for assault rifle shooting*, THE CITIZEN-TIMES, Aug. 8, 2008.

¹⁰⁸ Chris Conley & Jody Callahan, *Drive-by shooting kills 1—police search for two gunmen in B-52 Market incident*, MEMPHIS COMMERCIAL APPEAL, Nov. 13, 2007.

¹⁰⁹ Henry K. Lee, *Two suspects sought in Vallejo homicide*, SFGATE.COM, Nov. 10, 2007, available at: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/11/10/BAUJT9HSA.DTL> (last visited Sept. 26, 2008).

¹¹⁰ Todd Richmond, *Crandon mass murder-suicide: Questions linger in killing of seven, officials tight-lipped despite suspect's death*, ST. PAUL PIONEER PRESS, Dec. 4, 2007.

¹¹¹ *2 killed in West Palm shootings, suspects escape on foot after one fires at police officer pursuing them*, SOUTH FLORIDA SUN-SENTINEL, Sept. 19, 2007.

¹¹² Mary Sparacello, *Housing Authority reining in parties, Kenner shooting leads to regulations*, THE TIMES PICAYUNE, Oct. 11, 2007.



three other officers as he escaped. The shooter was caught later that day but would not relinquish his assault rifle so he was shot and killed by police officers.¹¹³

- **Aiken, South Carolina. September 12, 2007.** A 20-year-old man died after being shot multiple times with an assault rifle by a 19-year-old when they were having an argument.¹¹⁴
- **Rome, Georgia. August 26, 2007.** One man was killed and a woman seriously injured inside their home. The shooter was found with an AK-47, from which several clips of ammunition had been emptied, and a 12-gauge shotgun when police arrived at the scene.¹¹⁵
- **Treme, Louisiana. August 13, 2007.** Two men were killed and another was seriously wounded as a shooter sprayed the crowd with an AK-47 assault rifle at a recreational league basketball game.¹¹⁶
- **Dallas, Texas. August 12, 2007.** One person was killed and three others wounded in a shooting outside a poetry/coffee shop. The gunman, who used an assault rifle, fled the scene.¹¹⁷

Hialeah, Florida. August 5, 2007. Eric Lopez, 38, was fatally shot in his home, and his wife, Olga, was shot in the leg. The incident began around noon when gunmen entered their home and began firing with a military-style semi-automatic weapon. Police arrested four people in connection with the shooting.¹¹⁸

- **Oakland, California. August 4, 2007.** A gunman with an assault rifle unleashed a barrage of bullets at a van parked on a North Oakland street, killing one man who lived nearby and wounding his brother and their friend. The gunman then fled.¹¹⁹
- **Orangeburg, South Carolina. July 19, 2007.** A man brandishing an assault rifle shot a woman once in the leg. The man was charged with assault and battery with intent to kill.¹²⁰

¹¹³ David Ovalle et al., *The murder and the manhunt started in a South Miami-Dade townhouse, zigzagged...*, MIAMI HERALD, Sept. 15, 2007.

¹¹⁴ Michelle Guffey, *Police seek murder suspects*, THE AUGUSTA CHRONICLE, Sept. 19, 2007.

¹¹⁵ *Man goes on shooting rampage, kills one, severely injures another*, ROMENEWSWIFE.COM, available at: <http://www.romenewswire.com/index.php/2007/08/26/police-on-scene-of-possible-murder-in-west-rome/> (last visited Sept. 29, 2008).

¹¹⁶ Richard A. Webster, *Soaring murder rate in New Orleans undermines recovery strides*, NEW ORLEANS CITY BUSINESS, Aug. 20, 2007.

¹¹⁷ Marissa Alanis, *Peacekeeper is killed outside club, police say: Dallas 3 others injured as gunman fires assault rifle into crowd*, DALLAS MORNING NEWS, Aug. 13, 2007.

¹¹⁸ Laura Figueroa, *Hialeah: 4 charged in 'crime of passion'*, MIAMI HERALD, Aug. 7, 2007.

¹¹⁹ *Two more slain in Oakland weekend violence*, THE OAKLAND TRIBUNE, Aug. 5, 2007.

¹²⁰ Richard Walker, *Woman recovering after being shot with AK-47*, THE TIMES AND DEMOCRAT, July 20, 2007.



- **North Augusta, South Carolina. July 15, 2007.** Twenty-one bullets were shot from an assault rifle into a home, hitting a 14-year-old boy sleeping inside. The bullets reportedly came from a car outside, tore through a foosball table, couch, and the wall to a back bedroom, where they pierced furniture, blasted a TV to the floor, and hit the boy.¹²¹
- **Floyd County, Indiana. June 18, 2007.** Two officers responded to a domestic disturbance call between a mother and her son. The officers were speaking with the mother on the driveway when the 15-year-old son ambushed both officers from an upstairs window and shot at them with a high powered assault rifle. One officer was killed and the other was seriously wounded.¹²²
- **Biloxi, Mississippi. June 5, 2007.** A gunman with an AK-47 ambushed police officers in a shootout, killing one, then shooting himself. The gunman lured police by firing shots in the neighborhood and waiting. After shooting one officer, the gunman unloaded an additional round into the patrol car. The gunman had a cache of backup guns and ammunition waiting inside his home.¹²³
- **Dallas, Texas. March 23, 2007.** A Dallas police officer was killed when he was struck in the neck and chest by an assault weapon as he approached a suspect's car.¹²⁴
- **Metairie, Louisiana. February 27, 2007.** Two AK-47s were among several guns fired into a Metairie apartment that resulted in four men being shot, one fatally and another critically.¹²⁵
- **Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. February 13, 2007.** A gunman used an assault weapon to kill 3 and wound another before killing himself.¹²⁶
- **Palm Beach County, Florida. January 1, 2007.** An 8-month-old baby boy was shot in his car seat after his mom parked in front of a drug house and rivals opened fire with assault rifles.¹²⁷
- **New Bedford, Massachusetts. December 12, 2006.** Three people were killed and two police officers were injured when a gunman opened fire at the Foxy Lady strip

¹²¹ Meredith Anderson, *North Augusta 14-year-old shot*, WRDW 12 NEWS, July 16, 2007, available at: <http://www.wrdw.com/home/headlines/8526357.html> (last visited on Sept. 29, 2008).

¹²² See Officer Frank Charles Denzinger, odmp.org, available at: <http://www.odmp.org/officer/18926-officer-frank-charles-denzinger> (last visited Sept. 30, 2008).

¹²³ Ryan LaFontaine, *Gunman had a large arsenal, Police say Asher used AK-47*, SUN HERALD, June 9, 2007.

¹²⁴ Tanya Eiserer et al., *Dallas officer dies after shootout*, THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS, Mar. 24, 2007.

¹²⁵ Michelle Hunter, *Cops say victim not innocent bystander*, THE TIMES PICAYUNE, Feb. 28, 2007.

¹²⁶ Larry King & Joseph A. Gambardello, *Investor rage, lethal trap*, PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER, Feb. 14, 2007.

¹²⁷ Rochelle E.B. Gilken, *County has most homicides since '89*, PALM BEACH POST, Jan. 6, 2008.



club; the shooter was fatally shot. One of the weapons used was described as an AR-15.¹²⁸

- **Westboro, Massachusetts. December 2, 2006.** Police seized a semiautomatic assault rifle from the bedroom closet of a young Shrewsbury man who posted threatening internet messages and who claimed to admire one of the Columbine High School killers.¹²⁹
- **Newport, Kentucky. November 19, 2006.** A fight at a nightclub led to four people being shot that evening. A 23-year-old was shot several times and left for dead on a bridge. An hour later, police found a 20-year-old man shot dead in his vehicle. Two other people were taken to the hospital with gunshot wounds and police recovered casings from an assault weapon.¹³⁰
- **Chicago, Illinois. October 30, 2006.** Members of the New Breed Street gang shot at Chicago police officers with an AK-47 from their car, injuring one officer. One gang member was killed and another critically wounded in the shoot-out.¹³¹
- **Palm Beach County, Florida. August 15, 2006.** A 50-year-old landscaper was shot at least 15 times as he walked toward a house to collect money for completed yard work. The shooters used assault weapons in the drive-by and police say the shooters mistook the victim for a gang member.¹³²
- **Chapel Hill, North Carolina, July 29, 2006.** A gunman with an assault rifle shot a man multiple times outside a nightclub, killing him. The shooter fled in a getaway car and later turned himself in.¹³³

¹²⁸ Jessica Heslam, *Strip club gunman at 'crossroads', killer bid farewell in cell phone messages*, BOSTON HERALD, Dec. 14, 2006.

¹²⁹ Kevin Keenan, *State police seize weapons*, WORCESTER TELEGRAM & GAZETTE, Dec. 2, 2006.

¹³⁰ *A fight at a Northern Kentucky nightclub lead to a wild shooting spree*, WLEX TV 18, Lexington, KY, Nov. 19, 2006, available at: <http://www.lex18.com/Global/story.asp?S=5704257&nav=EQ1p> (last visited Oct. 2, 2008).

¹³¹ Lisa Donovan et al., *Shoot-out 'looked like a movie': Cops kill 2 men they say were about to execute gang rivals*, CHICAGO SUN TIMES, Oct. 31, 2006.

¹³² Tim Collie, *Two members offer a look inside a South Florida gang*, SOUTH FLORIDA SUN-SENTINEL; July 22, 2007; Jerome Burdi, *'Innocent victim' killing unsolved, family awaits arrest in 2006 Boynton drive-by shooting*, SOUTH FLORIDA SUN-SENTINEL, Aug. 20, 2007.

¹³³ *Chapel Hill nightclub under review after fatal shooting*, WRAL.COM, July 31, 2006, available at: <http://www.wral.com/news/local/story/1056918/> (last visited Sept. 29, 2008).



St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana. June 27, 2006. 25-year-old Kelvin Thomas Jr. died after being shot in the abdomen with an assault rifle. Alonzo Bolden, 20, was arrested and booked with second-degree murder in connection with the shooting. Police believe the two men were engaged in an argument that was part of a long-running feud and ended with Bolden firing multiple shots at Thomas at close range. Thomas had three young children.¹³⁴

- **Calumet City, Illinois. June 25, 2006.** A 22-year-old pregnant woman and her 3-year-old son were shot and killed while they were sleeping when an unknown gunman fired 30 rounds from an AK-47 into their home at 1:15 a.m.¹³⁵
- **St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana. June 20, 2006.** A man who had killed a deputy police officer and injured another during a crime spree broke into the house of an 81-year-old man and held him hostage with an AK-47 until he eventually gave himself up and released the hostage.¹³⁶
- **Metairie, Louisiana. June 15, 2006.** Police attempted to serve a man with an emergency committal order but the man barricaded himself in his home and engaged in a 12-hour standoff with police. Seven hours into the standoff, the man shot and wounded two Sheriff's deputies with an assault rifle.¹³⁷
- **Reno, Nevada. June 12, 2006.** An owner of a gun shop, with a license to carry concealed weapons and access to a cache of guns, stabbed his wife to death and then shot the family court judge presiding over his divorce with a Bushmaster .223 high-powered assault rifle with sniper capabilities. The judge survived.¹³⁸
- **Howard County, Maryland. June 8, 2006.** County police officers were shot at by a man wielding an assault rifle whom they were attempting to serve a warrant on.¹³⁹
- **Norman, Oklahoma. June 7, 2006.** Two men opened fire on a Native American gathering of over 300 with an SKS assault rifle, killing one man and injuring another.¹⁴⁰

¹³⁴ Allen Powell II, *Garyville man held in fatal shooting, Deputies suspect long-running feud*, THE TIMES PICAYUNE, June 27, 2006.

¹³⁵ Tom Rybarczyk, *Calumet City reels after spray of bullets*, CHICAGO TRIBUNE, June 26, 2006.

¹³⁶ Allen Powell II, *Mourners salute slain St. John deputy*, NEW ORLEANS TIMES PICAYUNE, June 21, 2006.

¹³⁷ Michelle Hunter & Walt Philbin, *2 deputies wounded in Metairie standoff*, THE TIMES PICAYUNE, June 16, 2006.

¹³⁸ FOX NEWS, June 24, 2006.

¹³⁹ Tyrone Richardson, *Man found guilty of murder attempt*, BALTIMORE SUN, Oct. 29, 2006.

¹⁴⁰ Tom Blakely, *Pair arraigned in Sunday crowd shooting*, THE NORMAN TRANSCRIPT, June 7, 2006.



- **Miami, Florida. June 6, 2006.** Three men were killed and another injured when the van they were riding in was shot numerous times by assault weapons. About 50 rounds were fired into the van.¹⁴¹
- **Indianapolis, Indiana. June 2, 2006.** Seven family members, four adults and three children, were shot and killed in their home by a robber armed with an assault rifle. Nearly 30 shell casings were found.¹⁴²
- **San Diego, California. June 2, 2006.** A 17-year-old was wounded in an accidental workplace shooting when the teen's co-worker brought an AK-47 to work and was unaware that there was a live round inside the rifle's chamber.¹⁴³
- **New Milford Township, Pennsylvania. May 27, 2006.** Two brothers were camping with their wives and children when they were awakened by gunshots coming from a neighbor's property at 3:00 a.m. The brothers knew the neighbor so they went to his house to ask him to stop shooting. The neighbor, armed with a shotgun, told the two brothers to leave and then told his stepson to pick up an AR-15 rifle. The brothers were both shot in the stomach and wounded severely.¹⁴⁴
- **West Palm Beach, Florida. May 17, 2006.** Two men carrying AK-47 assault rifles ordered a man out of his car at gun-point, mugged him, and ripped off his pants.¹⁴⁵
- **Kingston, Tennessee. May 14, 2006.** A deputy sheriff and another individual were shot and killed by high-powered assault rifles. The deputy had 33 gunshot wounds.¹⁴⁶
- **Port Salerno, Florida. May 12, 2006.** A deputy sheriff was shot and wounded with an AK-47 assault rifle.¹⁴⁷

¹⁴¹ David Ovalle, *Ambush takes lives of 3 men*, MIAMI HERALD, June 6, 2006.

¹⁴² Ashley M. Heher, *Suspect in slaying of 7 family members surrenders / Indianapolis police say he had nowhere else to go*, HOUSTON CHRONICLE, June 4, 2006.

¹⁴³ Debbi Farr Baker, *Man accidentally shoots co-worker*, SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE, June 3, 2006.

¹⁴⁴ Nyier Abdou, *Somerville brothers still hospitalized after shooting: Pa. Man charged with assaulting rescue squad members during family camping trip*, THE STAR-LEDGER, May 31, 2006.

¹⁴⁵ *Digest*, SOUTH FLORIDA SUN-SENTINEL, May 17, 2006.

¹⁴⁶ Duncan Mansfield, *'Anti-government' man sought in ambush of Tennessee deputy*, CHARLESTON GAZETTE, May 13, 2006.

¹⁴⁷ Leon Fooksman, *Police fearful of violent crime trend: AK-47 shootings*, SOUTH FLORIDA SUN-SENTINEL, May 13, 2006.



Fort Worth, Texas. May 9, 2006. 16-year-old Derick Giles, an innocent bystander, was killed after being shot in the abdomen in the crossfire of a gang shooting outside a convenience store. Five minutes later, one man was shot in the leg and another in the foot during a second drive-by shooting. One hour and half later, a 50-year-old woman was shot in the shoulder by gunfire from a high-powered assault weapon as she stood in her kitchen.¹⁴⁸

- **Chantilly, Virginia. May 8, 2006.** A teenager with an AK-47 and 5 handguns engaged in a firefight at a police station, killing a female detective immediately and wounding two other officers, one of whom died nine days later from his injuries.¹⁴⁹
- **Los Angeles, California. May 8, 2006.** Police arrested a man and found over 20 assault weapons in his home after the man fired multiple rounds in the air while driving through his neighborhood with a semiautomatic pistol. The man had his young son in the car with him.¹⁵⁰
- **Oskaloosa, Iowa. May 5, 2006.** A 17-year-old shot his 13-year-old friend in the chest with a military-style rifle and then shot himself.¹⁵¹
- **West Palm Beach, Florida. April 28, 2006.** Shots were fired into an apartment at 6:00 in the morning, hitting one man in the right leg and left knee. Seventeen shell casings from an AK-47 were found at the scene.¹⁵²

West Palm Beach, Florida. April 27, 2006. An AK-47 was used to shoot 24-year-old David Paulk and his 16-year-old sister. Mr. Paulk was critically injured and died four days later. The next day, the alleged gunman, Brandon Williams, was shot in the back with an assault rifle and taken to the hospital, where he was treated and left before police were able to find cause to arrest him.¹⁵³ However, he was arrested soon after.¹⁵⁴

¹⁴⁸ Deanna Boyd, *Teen killed in shooting at convenience store*, FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM, May 9, 2006.

¹⁴⁹ Ian Urbina, *Fatal police station attack shocks tranquil community*, NEW YORK TIMES, May 10, 2006; *Officer Killed*, BOSTON GLOBE, May 18, 2006.

¹⁵⁰ *Man said to be on 'edge of Armageddon'*, LONG BEACH PRESS-TELEGRAM, May 9, 2006.

¹⁵¹ AP-News Agenda, Broadcast News, May 5, 2006.

¹⁵² *Police Blotter*, PALM BEACH POST, Apr. 29, 2006; Jerome Burdi, *Rash of shootings hits city in 2 days*, SOUTH FLORIDA SUN-SENTINEL, Apr. 29, 2006.

¹⁵³ Jerome Burdi, *Rash of shootings hits city in 2 days*, SOUTH FLORIDA SUN-SENTINEL, Apr. 29, 2006; Jerome Burdi, *New task force seeks man suspected in 2 shootings*, SOUTH FLORIDA SUN-SENTINEL, Apr. 30, 2006; *Police Blotter*, PALM BEACH POST, Apr. 30, 2006.

¹⁵⁴ Nirvi Shah, *West Palm slaying suspect jailed after Pensacola stop*, PALM BEACH POST, May 8, 2006.



- **Oakland, California. March 19, 2006.** A gunman with an AK-47 opened fire on an apartment building, filling it with bullets and killing a 49-year-old man.¹⁵⁵
- **Lake Worth, Florida. March 17, 2006.** A man angry over an argument with a woman, shot the woman and her roommate with an AK-47 and left the victims in the doorway of their home.¹⁵⁶
- **Chicago, Illinois. March 11, 2006.** A 10-year-old girl was killed by a shot to her head as she was celebrating her birthday in her living room. A spray of bullets from an assault weapon peppered the house from a nearby fight.¹⁵⁷
- **Chicago, Illinois. March 3, 2006.** A stray bullet from an assault rifle struck a 14-year-old honor student as she was looking out the window of her home, killing her instantly.¹⁵⁸
- **Las Vegas, Nevada. February 1, 2006.** A 22-year-old fired at least 50 rounds from an assault rifle, shooting two Las Vegas police officers and killing one, before being shot and killed by the surviving officer.¹⁵⁹
- **Brooklyn, New York. January 20, 2006.** A man was arrested after firing at least two rounds from an Uzi at two members of the New York Police Department.¹⁶⁰
- **Ocala, Florida. January 7, 2006.** Two college students who were camping in the Ocala National Forest were randomly targeted by a man who shot and killed them with a stolen AK-47.¹⁶¹
- **Indianapolis, Indiana. January 2, 2006.** A man dubbed the “Tec-9 Robber” was arrested after being wanted in connection with as many as 23 robberies in four months of fast food restaurants, convenience stores, and gas stations.¹⁶²
- **Caddo Parish, Louisiana. January 1, 2006.** A 19-year-old was arrested after he was found hiding in an alley with an assault weapon. He faces two counts of aggravated assault on a police officer and potential charges for riddling a house with bullets, injuring a man.¹⁶³

¹⁵⁵ Henry K. Lee, *Oakland: Two new slayings brings homicide total to 30*, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE, Mar. 21, 2006.

¹⁵⁶ Kevin Deusch, *Man arrested in assault-rifle shooting*, PALM BEACH POST, Mar. 17, 2006.

¹⁵⁷ *Gov. Blagojevich, victims' families, advocates urge lawmakers in Springfield to pass statewide assault weapons ban*, US STATE NEWS, Mar. 23, 2006.

¹⁵⁸ Charles Sheehan, *Neighborhood buries another child*, CHICAGO TRIBUNE, Mar. 19, 2006.

¹⁵⁹ Omar Sofradzija, *Processions to honor Prendes*, LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL, Feb. 7, 2006.

¹⁶⁰ Veronika Belenkaya et al., *Uzi maniac shot by cops. Tied to 3 attacks on city's finest*, NEW YORK DAILY NEWS, Jan. 22, 2006.

¹⁶¹ Stephen Kudak & Sarah Lundy, *Cops: Suspect admits killing 2 campers in Ocala forest*, ORLANDO SENTINEL, Jan. 28, 2006.

¹⁶² CBS 8 WISH, Indianapolis, IN, Jan. 5, 2006.

¹⁶³ CBS 12 KSLA, Shreveport, LA, Jan. 2, 2006.



- **Harper Woods, Michigan. December 31, 2005.** A 40-year-old man was shot sixteen times with an assault weapon while standing on his front porch around 3:15 p.m. and died from his injuries. His wife and daughters were in the house at the time of the shooting. His murder, occurring on the last day of the year, was the first murder of 2005 in his town.¹⁶⁴
- **Miami, Florida. December 28, 2005.** A man dressed in all black used an assault weapon to fire multiple rounds into a house killing a 20-year-old man and injuring another man who was hit in the leg.¹⁶⁵
- **Fortville, Indiana. December 13, 2005.** A man slapped a female relative and fired a round from an assault weapon into his driveway then barricaded himself in his house and threatened to shoot anyone who came to the door. When the 8-hour standoff ended, police found more than 10 weapons in the home.¹⁶⁶
- **Tacoma, Washington. November 20, 2005.** A 20-year-old male opened fire in a Tacoma mall, wounding six. The shooter took four hostages, all of whom were released unharmed.¹⁶⁷

San Francisco, California. October 14, 2005. 22-year-old Derna Wysinger and his two-year-old son, Naemon, were killed when a man opened fire on their car with an assault weapon. The toddler's mother, Jazmanika Ridout, was shot in the foot and survived. The family was leaving the home of the toddler's great aunt, who had been babysitting Naemon so that Wysinger and Ridout could go on a date.¹⁶⁸

- **North Braddock, Pennsylvania. August 12, 2005.** A man was found dead, shot in the back and head. Police found assault rifle bullet casings near the body.¹⁶⁹
- **Denton County, Texas. August 9, 2005.** In a night-long standoff at his home, a man fired his SKS assault rifle at police to avoid being arrested. After shooting an officer in the leg and refusing to negotiate, police shot and killed the suspect.¹⁷⁰
- **New Orleans, Louisiana. August 8, 2005.** While driving, a man was shot and killed when an occupant of another car opened fire with an AK-47 assault rifle.¹⁷¹

¹⁶⁴ NBC 51 WDIV, Detroit, MI, Jan. 4, 2006.

¹⁶⁵ *Man killed in early morning shooting*, MIAMI HERALD, Dec. 28, 2005.

¹⁶⁶ *Eight-hour standoff ends peacefully*, THEINDYCHANNEL.COM, Dec. 13, 2005 available at: <http://www.theindychannel.com/news/5524484/detail.html> (last visited Sept. 29, 2008).

¹⁶⁷ *Suspect: 'follow screams', Man opens fire at mall in Tacoma; 6 wounded*, AKRON BEACON JOURNAL, Nov. 22, 2005.

¹⁶⁸ Christopher Heredia, *San Francisco police ask public for help in finding shooting suspect*, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE, Oct. 16, 2005.

¹⁶⁹ Michael Hasch, *Shooting victim was teen suspect's uncle*, PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE REVIEW, Aug. 17, 2005.

¹⁷⁰ Domingo Ramirez Jr., *Trooper is shot; suspect is killed*, FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM, Aug. 9, 2005.



- **West Palm Beach, Florida. June 25, 2005.** A man was killed and his 9-year-old daughter severely wounded when a man fired into their parked car with an assault weapon that police believe had been converted to fully automatic.¹⁷²
- **Cincinnati, Ohio. June 22, 2005.** Assailants armed with SKS-type assault rifles sprayed over forty armor-piercing bullets in twenty seconds, hitting two women leaving a grocery store.¹⁷³
- **Livingston County, Kentucky. June 2, 2005.** A deputy was shot when he responded to a domestic disturbance call placed by a couple's 18-year-old daughter. When the officer entered the home, a male fired at least 8 rounds from an assault rifle at him, hitting him four times and killing him. The officer was able to fire one round which killed the gunman.¹⁷⁴
- **Fresno, California. May 31, 2005.** A man fired at least eight shots from an assault rifle at two veteran police officers sitting in their patrol car outside the police K-9 facility. The police later found a partially loaded 30 round magazine in the assailant's car.¹⁷⁵
- **Kansas City, Missouri. May 29, 2005.** After being pulled over for a routine traffic stop, a recently fired elementary school janitor shot a Highway Patrol trooper nine times with a 9 mm assault rifle.¹⁷⁶
- **Tulsa, Oklahoma. May 29, 2005.** A gunman fired more than 20 shots from an assault rifle at an apartment building security guard, wounding the guard and hitting his car and surrounding buildings.¹⁷⁷
- **Camden, New Jersey. May 21, 2005.** A mother of three young children was killed by a stray bullet fired from an AK-47 during a shoot-out.¹⁷⁸
- **Jackson, Mississippi. May 18, 2005.** A man fired at least 17 shots from an SKS assault rifle and 9 mm pistol at police during a traffic stop.¹⁷⁹

¹⁷¹ Walt Philbin, *Three men killed in seven hours: All are shot to death on New Orleans streets*, NEW ORLEANS TIMES PICAYUNE, Aug. 9, 2005.

¹⁷² *Gun owners trade in arms, W. Palm Beach shootings spark city buyback*, SOUTH FLORIDA SUN-SENTINEL, July 10, 2005.

¹⁷³ *Two wounded in West End*, CINCINNATI POST, June 24, 2005.

¹⁷⁴ *Livingston County Kentucky Deputy Sheriff killed in gunfight*, LMPD.com, June 3, 2005, available at: <http://www.lmpd.com/index.php?name=News&file=article&sid=291&theme=AutoPrint> (last visited Sept. 30, 2008).

¹⁷⁵ *Two held in assault-rifle attack on two officers*, FRESNO BEE, June 1, 2005.

¹⁷⁶ *Accused man tells trooper he's sorry*, KANSAS CITY STAR, May 30, 2005.

¹⁷⁷ *Security guard at apartment is shot*, TULSA WORLD, May 29, 2005.

¹⁷⁸ *Two more men arraigned in fatal street shoot-out*, THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER, June 1, 2005.

¹⁷⁹ *Bond denied for man in shootout*, SUN HERALD, July 20, 2005.



Clayton County, Georgia. April 23, 2005. High school senior Larry Bishop Jr. was killed, and three other teens were wounded, when a gunman opened fire on a group of partygoers. 18-year old Artavious Rashad Abercrombie was arrested in connection with the crime.¹⁸⁰

- **Miami, Florida. April 10, 2005.** Three men were injured during a dispute in a strip club parking lot when a fourth man fired an AK-47 at them.¹⁸¹
- **Canton, Texas. April 8, 2005.** A man shot his son's football coach in the chest with an AK-47 after a dispute.¹⁸²
- **Houston, Texas. April 8, 2005.** Two robbers armed with AK-47s fired nearly twenty rounds at police during a shoot-out outside a pawnshop.¹⁸³
- **New Orleans, Louisiana. March 27, 2005.** A woman was shot in the chest outside her apartment with an AK-47 when she refused to give her purse to two armed robbers.¹⁸⁴

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. March 16, 2005. 16-year-old Keith Watts was killed, and two other students were injured, when a shooter fired at least eight rounds from an AK-47 into their parked vehicle.¹⁸⁵

- **Dallas, Texas. March 15, 2005.** Three people were killed after a man fired an assault rifle at them through the sunroof of his car.¹⁸⁶
- **Schertz, Texas. March 3, 2005.** After being pulled over, a man fired more than 30 bullets from a handgun and AK-47 at a state police officer.¹⁸⁷
- **Tyler, Texas. February 25, 2005.** A gunman with a history of domestic violence and a felony conviction, who was reportedly fighting with his ex-wife over child support for their two youngest children, shot over 50 rounds from an SKS assault rifle on the steps of his local courthouse when his ex-wife exited the building. His ex-wife was killed along with a bystander who tried to shoot the gunman. The shooter's 23-year-old son and three law enforcement officers were wounded during the shooting, including a 28-year-old deputy who was in grave condition. The

¹⁸⁰ *Teen faces murder charge*, THE ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION, May 28, 2005.

¹⁸¹ *Pair of early-morning shootings leave six hurt*, MIAMI HERALD, April 11, 2005.

¹⁸² *Gunman attacks coach at school*, FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM, April 8, 2005.

¹⁸³ *Pawnshop heist ends in bloody shootout*, HOUSTON CHRONICLE, April 7, 2005.

¹⁸⁴ *Jeff woman shot in struggle with thief*, THE TIMES-PICAYUNE, March 29, 2005.

¹⁸⁵ *Schools need permission to shield kids from threats*, PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE, March 18, 2005.

¹⁸⁶ *Police say revenge went awry for slaying suspects*, DALLAS MORNING NEWS, March 18, 2005.

¹⁸⁷ *Man indicted in Schertz shootout*, SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS, March 24, 2005.



gunman fled the scene but was pursued and shot by police when he exited his car and shot toward officers.¹⁸⁸

- **Los Angeles, California. February 24, 2005.** A disgruntled Los Angeles municipal employee opened fire with an AK-47 after being reprimanded at work, killing his supervisor and another employee.¹⁸⁹

Akron, Ohio. February 24, 2005. A man shot and killed his girlfriend and her seven year old son using an AR-15 assault rifle, then fired more than one-hundred rounds at a dozen law enforcement officers as he fled the murder scene. The gunman was arrested the next morning inside the apartment of a Kent State University student, who he also murdered with the AR-15 assault rifle. Police subsequently seized 21 weapons kept by the suspect, including an Uzi and an AK-47.¹⁹⁰

- **Las Vegas, Nevada. February 15, 2005.** A suspected murderer fled from police as his girlfriend fired an assault rifle with a 100 round magazine at pursuing police vehicles. The man was wanted in connection with a drug related murder and for a nonfatal shooting. The man also had convictions for attempted manslaughter and armed robbery, and was suspected of shooting at a Louisiana police officer five months earlier.¹⁹¹
- **Ulster, New York. February 13, 2005.** A gunman fired more than 60 shots from an AK-47 assault rifle in the Hudson Valley Shopping Mall, wounding two and causing tens of thousands of dollars of damage before being apprehended. A few hours earlier, the shooter had purchased armor-piercing ammunition from a nearby Wal-Mart.¹⁹²
- **Lebanon, Tennessee. February 10, 2005.** A second grade student found a Tec-9 inside a closet and brought it to school in his backpack, where it was confiscated by police. The gun was not fired but sixteen bullets were discovered in the magazine.¹⁹³
- **Dayton, Ohio. January 31, 2005.** Three teens were shot with a Russian-made assault rifle following an argument at a grocery store.¹⁹⁴

¹⁸⁸ Bill Hanna & Jack Douglas Jr., *Rampage in Tyler leaves three dead, four wounded*, FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM, Feb. 25, 2005; Jack Douglas Jr. & Bill Hanna, *Police order emergency trace on weapon used in shootings*, FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM, FEB. 26, 2005.

¹⁸⁹ *2 Are Shot to Death at Maintenance Yard*, LOS ANGELES TIMES, Feb. 25, 2005.

¹⁹⁰ Ed Meyer, *Police eye semiautomatic rifles, Brimfield officials want to be prepared after recent shooting rampage that killed 3 people*, AKRON BEACON JOURNAL, Feb. 24, 2005.

¹⁹¹ Brian Haynes, *Wild chase ends in arrests*, LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL, Feb. 19, 2005.

¹⁹² *Mall Gunman Had Columbine Fixation, an Official Says*, THE NEW YORK TIMES, Feb. 15, 2005.

¹⁹³ WKRN TV NEWS 2, Nashville, TN, Feb. 10, 2005.

¹⁹⁴ Kelli Wynn, *Assault weapon used in shooting, police say*, DAYTON DAILY NEWS, Feb. 2, 2005.



- **Ravena, Ohio. January 21, 2005.** Three people were killed, including a mother and her seven year old son, when a man fired at least 18 bullets from an assault rifle.¹⁹⁵

Jackson, Tennessee. January 11, 2005. Donna Renee Jordan, 31, David Gordon, 41, and Jerry Hopper, 61, were killed when Jordan's estranged husband, David Jordan, opened fire in a Tennessee Department of Transportation maintenance garage. Two other employees, Larry Taylor and James Goff, were shot and wounded. When David Jordan was arrested shortly after the shootings, police found an SKS assault rifle, a 12-gauge shotgun, and two pistols in his truck. Jordan's wife, whom he shot four times, left behind two children and two stepchildren.

- **Ceres, California. January 9, 2005.** A 19-year-old Marine armed with an SKS assault rifle shot two police officers, killing one, in a gun battle outside a liquor store.¹⁹⁶
- **Newington, Connecticut. December 31, 2004.** A former correction officer used a fully automatic M-16 to fatally shoot a Newington policeman after the officer responded to a domestic disturbance call.¹⁹⁷
- **New Orleans, Louisiana. December 23, 2004.** A mentally challenged 19-year-old was chased through the streets with a high-powered assault rifle before being gunned down outside his former elementary school.¹⁹⁸
- **Hayward, Wisconsin. November 21, 2004.** After being asked to leave another hunter's property, a 36-year-old man opened fire with an SKS semiautomatic rifle, killing six members of a hunting party and wounding two.¹⁹⁹
- **Oak Creek, Wisconsin. November 5, 2004.** A man wearing body armor and armed with a machine gun fled the hotel room where he murdered his girlfriend, firing 30 to 40 rounds down the hotel hallway, killing one man and injuring two others.²⁰⁰
- **Portland, Oregon. October 28, 2004.** A 31-year-old aimed two machine guns out his front window to guard the marijuana growing operation run from his home, which was less than 400 feet from an elementary school. Police seized 29 guns from his home, including several AK-47s and Uzis, a MAC-10 submachine gun and a .50

¹⁹⁵ Stephen Dyer, *Murder suspect pleads insanity*, AKRON BEACON JOURNAL, Feb. 8, 2005.

¹⁹⁶ *Cop, gunman dead: Marine killed after shooting officers*, THE MODESTO BEE, Jan. 11, 2005.

¹⁹⁷ *Officer shot, held hostage*, HARTFORD COURANT, Dec. 31, 2004.

¹⁹⁸ *Barbarity beyond belief*, THE TIMES-PICAYUNE, Dec. 23, 2004.

¹⁹⁹ *Wisconsin Shooting Rampage*, ST. PAUL PIONEER PRESS, Nov. 23, 2004.

²⁰⁰ *2 dead, 2 wounded in hotel shootings*, MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINAL, Nov. 6, 2004.



caliber anti-aircraft gun. He was later sentenced to more than eight years in prison.²⁰¹

- **Minneapolis, Minnesota. October 21, 2004.** A store clerk died after being shot in the chest with an assault rifle during a botched robbery attempt.²⁰²
- **Oakland, California. September 22, 2004.** A 16-year-old honor student was killed on the sidewalk near her home after being struck by errant assault rifle fire.²⁰³

²⁰¹ Local news – Washington County, THE OREGONIAN, May 4, 2006.

²⁰² *3 teens charged with clerk's slaying*, ST. PAUL PIONEER PRESS, Nov. 2, 2004.

²⁰³ *Girl, 16, gunned down in Oakland drive-by*, THE OAKLAND TRIBUNE, Sept. 24, 2004.



Endnotes

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- ³ *Cult's Massive Weapons Purchases Stir Up a Furor Over Federal Regulation*, FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM, May 2, 1993.
- ⁴ *Satellite College Campus Helps to Heal the Scars at San Ysidro Massacre*, LOS ANGELES TIMES, Mar. 30, 1989; *A 77-Minute Moment in History That Will Never Be Forgotten*, LOS ANGELES TIMES, July 16, 1989.
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- ⁷ ATF, *Assault Weapons Profile* 19 (1994)
- ⁸ Judith Bonderman, *In Search of Justice: Compensation for Victims of Assault Weapon Violence*, 20 PRODUCT SAFETY & LIABILITY REP. 25 (June 26, 1992). There are numerous examples of test-firing that display the firepower of semi-automatic assault weapons on YouTube. See, e.g., <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nCMEqCPCvV4>; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cYRsPzUYMM4>; and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A75O0-QoJJI>.
- ⁹ ATF, *Assault Weapons Profile*, *supra* note 7, at 19 (emphasis added).
- ¹⁰ *Id.*
- ¹¹ *Assault rifles concern police*, MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER, May 25, 2006.
- ¹² ATF, *Assault Weapons Profile*, *supra* note 7, at 20.
- ¹³ See *infra* p. 15.
- ¹⁴ Dep't of Treasury, *Study on the Sporting Suitability of Modified Semiautomatic Assault Rifles* 38 (1998).
- ¹⁵ ATF, *Report and Recommendations of the ATF Working Group on the Importability of Certain Semi-Automatic Rifles* (July 6, 1989)
- ¹⁶ Dep't of Treasury, *Study on the Sporting Suitability of Modified Semiautomatic Assault Rifles*, *supra* note 14.
- ¹⁷ Christopher S. Koper, *Updated Assessment of the Federal Assault Weapons Ban: Impacts on Gun Markets and Gun Violence, 1994-2003*, U. PA. JERRY LEE CENTER OF CRIMINOLOGY 3 (June 2004). [Quotation in report spells out 'assault weapons' & 'large capacity magazines' while the actual quotation uses the abbreviations 'AWs' & 'LCMs'].
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- ²² *SAPD Details Monday Shooting Investigation*, KSAT12-TV, San Antonio, Texas, Sept. 10, 2008.
- ²³ Brady McCombs & Alexis Huicochea, *Officer on life support after crosstown pursuit*, ARIZONA DAILY STAR, June 2, 2008.
- ²⁴ Joseph A. Gambardello, *Liczbinski suspect's girlfriend to stand trial*, PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER, July 17, 2008; *Officer shot, killed after bank robbery*, NBC 10.COM, May 3, 2008; See Sergeant Stephen Liczbinski, www.odmp.org, available at: <http://www.odmp.org/officer/19359-sergeant-stephen-liczbinski> (last visited Sept. 30, 2008).
- ²⁵ David Ovalle et. al., *The murder and the manhunt started in a South Miami-Dade townhouse, zigzagged...*, MIAMI HERALD, Sept. 15, 2007.
- ²⁶ See Officer Frank Charles Denzinger, [odmp.org](http://www.odmp.org), available at: <http://www.odmp.org/officer/18926-officer-frank-charles-denzinger> (last visited Sept. 30, 2008).
- ²⁷ See, e.g., Brittany Wallman, *Fort Lauderdale police to carry assault rifles in cars*, SOUTH FLORIDA SUN-SENTINEL, June 4, 2008; Ronnie Garrett, *Long guns on patrol: Officers find it takes more than a handgun, a badge and handcuffs to protect the public and themselves*, OFFICER.COM, May 20, 2008; David C. Lipscomb, *D.C. to arm police with assault rifles*, WASHINGTON TIMES, May 8, 2008, 'Arms race' has police carrying deadlier guns: Officers armed with increasingly powerful tools, ASSOCIATED PRESS, Mar. 22, 2008; Katie Fretland, *Sheriff's office upgrades to counter criminals*, ORLANDO SENTINEL, Oct. 4, 2007,
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- ²⁹ Matt Sedensky, *AK-47s are turning up more in U.S.*, ASSOCIATED PRESS, Mar. 27, 2008; Lise Fisher, *Phasing in firepower*, GAINSVILLE SUN, Dec. 17, 2007; Jeffrey Kofman, *Increasing Assault Weapons in Criminal Hands*, ABC NEWS, Nov. 27, 2007
- ³⁰ Matt Sedensky, *AK-47s are turning up more in U.S.*, *supra* note 29.
- ³¹ See Mike Flannery, *More Assault Weapons Found in Chicago Since Ban Expired*, CBS 2 CHICAGO, June 7, 2005, available at http://cbs2chicago.com/topstories/local_story_158180945.html.
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- ⁸⁶ Premkumar A. Walekar of Olney, Maryland, a 54-year-old male cabdriver, was shot and killed with the Bushmaster assault rifle at a Mobil gas station in Aspen Hill, Maryland on October 3rd.
- ⁸⁷ James L. “Sonny” Buchanan, Jr. of Abingdon, VA, a 39-year-old landscaper, was shot and killed with the Bushmaster assault rifle while mowing grass at a car dealership in White Flint, Maryland On October 3.
- ⁸⁸ Linda Franklin, a 47-year-old FBI employee was shot and killed with the Bushmaster assault rifle while loading packages with her husband in their car in the parking garage of a Home Depot in Seven Corners Shopping Center in Fairfax County, Virginia On October 14.
- ⁸⁹ Second Amended Complaint, *Halberstam v. S.W. Daniel, Inc.*, No. 95-C3323 (E.D.N.Y.1998), Nov. 19, 1997.



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⁹⁵ *Police Fear a Future of Armored Enemies*, USA TODAY, Mar. 3, 1997.

⁹⁶ Declaration of Leonard J. Supenski in Support of Plaintiffs' Joint Opposition to Navegar, Inc.'s Motion for Summary Judgment or, in the Alternative, Summary Adjudication at 8, In re 101 California Street Bldg., No. 959316 (Sup. Ct. Cal. 1996).

⁹⁷ Jim Zumbo, *Assault Rifles for Hunters?*, available at: http://razoreye.net/mirror/zumbo/zumbo_assault_rifles.html (last visited Oct. 7, 2008).

⁹⁸ *District of Columbia v. Heller*, 128 S.Ct. 2783 (2008).

⁹⁹ The Court was careful to announce only a limited Second Amendment right that was tied to guns used for self-defense in the home. *Id.* at 2821-22. "[W]hatever else [the Second Amendment] leaves to future evaluation, it surely elevates above all other interests the right of law-abiding, responsible citizens to use arms in defense of hearth and home." *Id.* at 2821. "[T]he enshrinement of constitutional rights necessarily takes certain policy choices off the table. These included the absolute prohibition of handguns held and used for self-defense in the home." *Id.* at 2822. "In sum, we hold that the District's ban on handgun possession in the home violates the Second Amendment, as does its prohibition against rendering any lawful firearm in the home operable for the purpose of immediate self-defense." *Id.* at 2821-22.

¹⁰⁰ *Id.* at 55.

¹⁰¹ See *infra* p. 1, *Assault Weapons are Designed to Slaughter People*.

¹⁰² Those include California, which passed the nation's first statewide ban in May 1989, as well as New Jersey (1990), Hawaii (1991), Connecticut (1993), Maryland (1994), Massachusetts (1998), and New York (2000). California expanded its ban in 2000 to include all semiautomatic rifles or pistols that have the ability to accept a detachable magazine and contain any one of a series of military-style features similar to the list found in the federal ban. CAL. PENAL CODE § 12276.1.

¹⁰³ See *infra* p. 14, *Assault Weapons Have No Sporting or Self-Defense Purpose*.

¹⁰⁴ See, e.g., *Benjamin v. Bailey*, 662 A.2d 1226 (Conn. 1995); *Robertson v. Denver*, 874 P.2d 325 (Colo. 1994); *Arnold v. City of Cleveland*, 616 N.E.2d (Ohio 1993).

¹⁰⁵ Hearings Before the Committee on the Judiciary on S. 639 and S. 653, U.S. Senate, 103d Cong. 1 (Aug. 3, 1993) (statement of Hon. Joseph Biden).



¹⁰⁶ The law was intended to cover “copies or duplicates” of named firearms, 18 U.S.C. § 921(30)(A), but it was never successfully applied to ban any of the copycat weapons that emerged after the ban unless they also violated the two-features test.

¹⁰⁷ The data available at the time of the study went up through the end of 2001.

¹⁰⁸ The conclusions in the On Target study were similar to an analysis of assault weapons traced to crime done for United States Senators Dianne Feinstein and Charles Schumer. This analysis showed that the proportion of banned assault weapons traced to crime dropped by more than 65% while the ban was in effect, according to ATF crime gun trace data. See report released on Nov. 5, 2003, *available at* <http://feinstein.senate.gov/03Releases/r-assaultweprate1.htm>.

¹⁰⁹ In addition to the Brady Center’s study, the U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice conducted a study, mandated by the Act, of the short-term impact on crime of the assault weapons ban. The study, published in 1999, found that the ban had “clear short-term effects on the gun market,” leading to semiautomatic assault weapons “becom[ing] less accessible to criminals because there was at least a short-term decrease in criminal use of the banned weapons.” Jeffrey A. Roth & Christopher S. Koper, *Impacts of the 1994 Assault Weapons Ban: 1994-96* 1, 9 (U.S. Dep’t of Justice, National Institute of Justice 1999) (*available at* <http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/173405.pdf>).

¹¹⁰ One of the principal authors of that interim study published a follow-up analysis of the effects of the federal ban in June 2004. Christopher S. Koper, *Updated Assessment of the Federal Assault Weapons Ban: Impacts on Gun Markets and Gun Violence, 1994-2003*, U. PA. JERRY LEE CENTER OF CRIMINOLOGY, *supra* note 17. That study documented a dramatic reduction in the incidence of assault weapon use in crime while the ban was in effect. The study found, according to ATF data, that assault weapons, as a percentage of total crime gun traces, fell 70% from 1992-93 to 2001-02. *Id.* at 44. Indeed, the study found it “remarkable” that the annual number of assault weapons traced to crime did not increase during the period the ban was been in effect, even though, due to far more comprehensive tracing of crime guns by ATF, the number of total guns traced to crime increased almost 200% during that same period. *Id.* As the study noted, these results were consistent with the findings of the Brady Center in its On Target report, discussed above. *Id.* at 44, n.43. Koper’s study attributed these declines in the frequency of assault weapon use in crime to the statute itself, in contradiction to the assertions made by some commentators that the decline was due to other factors. The study found that the decline in frequency of assault weapon traces did not begin until 1994, the year of the ban, and concluded that “the ban prevent[ed] a few thousand crimes with assault weapons annually.” *Id.* at 52, n.61.

¹¹¹ The firearms listed in this data are considered by ATF to be “crime guns,” which means they have been illegally possessed, used in a crime, or suspected of having been used in a crime. ATF, *The Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative, Crime Gun Trace Analysis Reports: The Illegal Youth Firearms Market in 27 Communities* 5 (1999).

¹¹² CAL. PENAL CODE § 12276.1.

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¹¹⁴ See <http://www.pollingreport.com/guns.htm>.

¹¹⁵ *Id.*

¹¹⁶ Majority of U.S. adults favors continuing ban on sales of assault rifles, according to latest Harris poll, Sept. 24, 2004, *available at*: http://www.harrisinteractive.com/harris_poll/index.asp?PID=498 (last visited Oct. 3, 2008).

¹¹⁷ *Survey: 8 out of 10 Illinois voters favor banning assault weapons*, WBBM 780 NEWS, Chicago, IL, Mar. 22, 2007.

¹¹⁸ Numerous newspaper editorials and columnists are in favor of the reinstatement of an assault weapons ban. See, e.g., *Our leaders are fighting to bring back the national assault weapons ban*, DAILY PENNSYLVANIAN, May 29, 2008; Brian Scheid, *Rendell: Reinstate weapons ban*, BUCKS COUNTY COURIER TIMES, May 12, 2008; David Gambacorta, *In wake of Liczbinski slaying, a push for assault-weapon ban*,



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¹¹⁹ See Press Release, Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, Jim and Sarah Brady “Personally Offended” by Gun Lobby Efforts to Falsify Reagan Record (June 16, 2004) available at: <http://www.bradiycampaign.org/media/release.php?release=565> (quoting letter from President Reagan).

¹²⁰ See Press Release, Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, Former Presidents Ford, Carter, Clinton Urge President Bush to Save the Assault Weapons Ban (June 7, 2004) available at: <http://www.bradiycampaign.org/media/release.php?release=569>.

