



# SAGA SNIPPETS

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## FCA Bill Submissions Closing Soon

### ***Deadline looming!***

If you have not yet made a submission on the Firearms Control Amendment Bill we would like to encourage you to do so before the 3 August 2021 deadline.

Anyone can make a submission, not only SAGA members. The more people who make rational, constructive submissions, the stronger our approach will be.

Attached to this email is our Submission Suggestions document to provide some basic guidance.

Send your submission to:  
The Secretary for Police Service

Email address:  
comments.fcabill@csp.gov.za

Make sure your submission states your full name, postal address, email address, telephone number and, if applicable, your fax number.

### **What Can You Do to Help SAGA?**

It is clear from the devastating riots, insurrection and looting that took place in our country just over a week ago, that an armed and prepared citizenry is essential to help maintain our hard-won democracy.

SAGA stands in solidarity with the people of KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng who have experienced this traumatic period. These are the people who stood together as law-abiding citizens, who were lawfully armed, and who were able to make a difference by protecting lives and property when it counted most.

SAGA has already sent letters to the President of South Africa, the Minister of Police, and the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Police, stressing the importance of having law-abiding, legally armed citizens and calling for the urgent withdrawal of the FCA Bill.

Now, more than ever, SAGA needs your support to help grow our membership base. Strength obviously lies in numbers and for SAGA that means  
...more members,  
...more people being involved,  
...the more reach we can achieve,  
...the more work we can do,  
and all for legal gunowners.



Count yourself as part of our team to be more and to do more - just by signing up your family and friends. Use the QR code here, or join via our website or contact our office by email or phone.

Also make sure you keep your own membership up to date by renewing as soon as you receive our renewal notice.

#### **New Member Rates per Year:**

Adult R250

Junior R150

Pensioner R150

Family:

1x Adult @R250 plus any number of family members @ R60 each

Renewal rates for most categories of membership are R50 less than the new rate.



## Continued... Research Update: It's [Still] Not the Guns

Wintemute and his team claim there were more “excess” purchases in June and July than in any prior month in the study period. June 2020 had the highest number of NICS checks ever (until December 2020). There’s nothing to suggest that “excess” purchases in April and May should be associated with violence but not later “excess” purchases.

As each new month is added, the effect of so-called “excess” purchases on domestic violence perpetrated with firearms decreases. April and May saw a lower rate ratio – meaning a weaker effect – than April; April through June saw a lower rate ratio than April and May; and, April through July saw a lower rate ratio than April through June. One might reasonably expect any effect from “excess purchases” to increase as the excess stock increases in aggregate but that is not the case in this analysis. The final two time frames were not statistically significant – there was no association between “excess purchases” and domestic violence.

We debunked the notion of excess purchases last summer, when the original article came out and now Wintemute and his staff at the Firearm Violence Research Center at UC Davis have rejected the theory of an association between the so-called “excess” purchases and violence.

Bloomberg-funded researcher Daniel Webster commented on the study for *The Guardian* and provided the sort of dizzying spin usually reserved for desperate politicians.

It seems Webster wanted a way to reconcile these findings with the anti-gun worldview. Webster offered that perhaps more Americans were willing to carry their firearms, or that the surge in sales was predominantly existing gun owners, or that the increase in homicides may be due to increased illegal carrying of firearms.

Well, he may be on to something with that last trial balloon. Webster referenced reports of an

increase in weapons found during arrests in several cities even as the pandemic and other 2020 pressures reduced the overall number of arrests. Key in on the phrase, “during arrests.”

In other words, criminals.

An increase in criminal behavior just so happens to coincide an increase in certain types of crime. Next, they’ll tell us that background checks don’t impact crime.

That’s right – both criminals and from Wintemute and Webster, whose previous research determined that California’s universal background check law had no effect on homicide rates, have already proved this.

It’s what we’ve been saying all along.

Monday, July 19, 2021

<https://www.nraila.org/articles/20210719/research-update-its-still-not-the-guns>

Watch this space ...for more interesting firearm snippets

## 3 Things Gun Students Do (That Drive Instructors Nuts)

<https://www.nrafamily.org/articles/2021/7/5/3-things-gun-students-do-that-drive-instructors-nuts>

by Sheriff Jim Wilson  
Monday, July 5, 2021

We are blessed in this day and time with a large number of very qualified defensive schools and instructors. More and more people are realizing the real life-saving value of getting professional training in conjunction with their decision to begin carrying a defensive handgun. Some folks can easily afford to attend as many schools as they want, while others have to carefully budget their money to be able to get the desired training. Regardless, it is rare that a person will come away from a good school and not feel like they've gotten their money's worth.

But then there are the other folks who just don't take it seriously. Maybe they think this whole business of personal defense is just a fad. Or they may have been shooting since childhood and don't really believe that the instructor can teach them anything new. These folks, intentionally or otherwise, can disrupt a class for the other students and they sure can make the instructor's day a long one. Here are three of the main pet peeves that just make instructors cringe.

### 1. That Ego Thing

I really think that some students take classes in hopes of impressing that big-name instructor with their shooting ability. We've all seen this guy in one class or another. He's the one who tries to act like an assistant instructor instead of a student. He's the guy who gives other students advice during the breaks. And he is often the guy who tries to debate defensive techniques with the trainer.

The best thing to do with your ego is to park it at the gate to the

shooting range. If you are not there to learn, then you are wasting your money and the instructor's time. If you really want to impress the instructor and your fellow students, focus your efforts on learning and mastering the material that is being taught so that it will be clear to everyone that your shooting skills have vastly improved over the course of the class.

### 2. Not Trying It

Some defensive instructors will teach a certain stance, a certain gripping technique or a different pistol presentation. And those techniques may very well be different from what you have been used to. While it may be akin to the "ego thing," some students seem to ignore what is being taught in favor of doing it like they have always done it.

Here again, the student is keeping themselves from getting the most out of the class. The smart move is to do your very best to perform in the manner that the instructor is teaching and give it a fair try throughout the class. In most cases, you will find that you have truly learned something new and useful. After the class is the time to think over what you have learned and decide how that fits into your own personal defense plan. If you decide to discard some of what you have just learned, it won't be because you didn't give it a fair chance and evaluation.

### 3. Ignoring Safety Rules

Any instructor worth his or her salt will begin the class with a safety lecture. He or she will explain proper safety procedures and enforce them throughout the class. These safety instructions and the way the instructor runs the range may be different from what you are used to. The important thing to remember is that safety, or your version of safety, is not a topic that is open for discussion.



For example, I run what is called a "hot range." That is, all guns are always loaded and they aren't taken out of the holster unless the student is instructed to do so. A loaded gun in the holster, with nobody fooling with it, is a safe gun. Other instructors want guns unloaded at all times unless the student is specifically told to load. When a string of fire is completed, the student is told to unload and show that the gun is empty before reholstering. Both methods are safe when the student listens, follows instructions, and keeps safety foremost in his or her mind at all times. To do otherwise is to court disaster.

There is no question that defensive training is critical to a person's safety and skill development. Before spending hard-earned money on a class, however, the student should give some serious thought to exactly what their goals are in taking the class. The only reasonable goal is to be there to learn and to improve life-saving skills. When you leave the defensive school, will the instructor be glad to see you leave or will he or she be hoping that you will come back soon? The choice is really up to you.

Park your ego at the front gate. Make an honest effort to perform the various functions as instructed. And always keep safety foremost in your mind. I can nearly guarantee that you'll be welcomed back to that school.

## How You Can Watch Olympic Shooters Compete

<https://www.americas1stfreedom.org/articles/2021/7/23/how-you-can-watch-olympic-shooters-compete>

by Mark Chesnut  
Friday, July 23, 2021

After a year-long delay and the additional anticipation associated with it, Olympic shooters from the United States are now in Tokyo hoping to make their lifelong dreams come true. But things aren't going to be easy for these athletes, given stringent COVID-19 protocols, high heat and humidity at the nearby shooting venue and the country's overall anti-gun sentiment.

The shooting competition at the Olympics begins on July 24. Matt Suggs, CEO of USA Shooting, the national governing body for the shooting sports, said American shooters are ready to get on with the competition.

"They're all excited," Suggs said in a phone interview from Tokyo. "Having the Olympics delayed for a year just increases the anticipation. We've taken advantage of the delay. Certainly, our rifle and pistol team is significantly better than it was a year ago. While it was an abbreviated World Cup season, we had a very positive World Cup season with a number of our youngest shooters winning World Cup medals. I think of all the countries here, we've probably taken the most advantage of the one-year delay."

While the anticipation is high, the shooters' journey to the Olympics hasn't been an easy one, logistics wise. While many sports require specialized equipment, some of the equipment used by shooters is largely banned in Japan.

"It's extremely difficult to get gear over here," Suggs said. "Japan has some of the most-onerous gun laws in the world. There's a restriction on how much ammunition you can bring in, even for the

Olympics - 800 rounds. Each athlete has storage for 800 rounds and can't exceed that at any given time. So, you kind of get your 800 rounds in, then based on how many boxes you use per day, you do a replenishment order on that."

Suggs said that while there is no shooting culture in Japan, shooting-sports athletes are mostly treated equally to all the other athletes. The emphasis there, however, is on mostly. "You know, the one part where you don't get treated equally is when you're going through customs, and it takes you an hour and a half longer to get through customs than it does for most of the other athletes because they open up every gun box and count every round of ammunition," he said. "So, that's the one place shooting competitors get treated differently."

Once there, shooters have found a very strict COVID protocol designed to keep athletes safe. So far, that has been successful for American shooters, who have stayed healthy. "We got our last shooters into the country last night," Suggs said. "They took two COVID tests before they came, then they took another one in the airport here, and everybody passed those."

"What you're seeing here is 100% masked - everyone is wearing masks all the time, except for when you're actually on the firing line. The cafeteria has plastic partitions between every seat, so it's sort of like going in to visit your relatives in prison. You put plastic gloves on when going through the various food lines. It's a lot more locked down than it is presently in most parts of the United States."

Suggs said shooters are adjusting well to the protocol and are also getting an opportunity to adjust to the extremely hot Tokyo weather. Suggs said the heat index at the shotgun range has been 104 to

105 degrees in the heat of the day.

"We're probably fortunate in comparison to some countries in that a lot of our shooters are from the South, and most of them are used to a little bit of heat and humidity," he said. "And we're definitely getting plenty of that. The shotgun range is especially warm. The ground cover that they put down seems to radiate the heat quite a bit. But those guys are all used to shooting in the heat."

One of the positives for this Olympics - especially for those of us back home wanting to watch the shooting sports that typically get little coverage by American media - is the viewing opportunity should be much greater this year. That additional coverage is thanks to live streams of most of the events by various teams, federations, organizations and even overseas networks more interested in the shooting sports than U.S. networks.

"In comparison to what we've had in the past, there's just a lot more content out there and you should be able to see more shooting in this particular Olympics than you've been able to in the past," Suggs said. "I know they have some of the finals slated for television, and it will probably depend on who makes those finals. But there will be streaming of everything."

Shooting events kick off with the women's 10-meter air rifle competition. The official schedule for the shooting competitions can be found at the link below, and it will be updated with results as the competitions are completed. To find streaming coverage of an event, choose one you want to watch and do a search to see what is available.

<https://olympics.com/tokyo-2020/olympic-games/en/results/shooting/olympic-schedule-and-results.htm>

## Armed Self-Defense: Reality vs. Fantasy

by Sheriff Jim Wilson  
9 July 2021

Since most people have never even witnessed a criminal attack or shooting, they often have unrealistic ideas about what exactly might happen. We tell students that a criminal attack is going to be what it is going to be – and probably won't fit your pre-conceived ideas.

For example, I was recently made aware of a couple who had spent quite a bit of time discussing and planning for ways to deal with a home invasion. And then, one evening, the wife pulled into her driveway after a long day at work. Two men jumped out of a car parked on the street that the wife had not really paid attention to. They pushed her up against her car and demanded her keys. It was a carjacking, not a home invasion. So surprised to be dealing with an attack that she hadn't even considered, the woman was almost overpowered. As it was, she was able to get her gun out and get a shot off, failing to hit either attacker. As they fled, the husband was in the house wondering who in the neighborhood was popping firecrackers.

The most dangerous (and perhaps most common) attacks are those that occur at very close range. The crooks can be on you before you can even get your gun out – even if you are wearing your gun and have practiced getting it out in a hurry. This is the reason that we continually emphasize being aware of what is going on around you—living life in “condition yellow.”

Too often, even those people who develop defensive plans tend to imagine criminal attacks as a scenario where the good guy always wins and things work out in the end. It is really a good idea to give serious consideration to worst-case-scenarios, those times when everything goes wrong.

Instead of thinking about home invasions where you run the bad guys off, consider dealing with a home invasion where you wake from sleep to find the invaders already in your house and on their way to your kids' bedrooms. Have you made plans for dealing with that sort of situation?

In addition, people rarely think of the aftermath of a defensive shooting. Here's a clue – unless you're a combat veteran, you will be under more physical stress than you have ever experienced in your entire life. Physical stress leads to heart attacks and strokes. You might want to give some serious consideration to getting some exercise and getting in better physical shape because that helps you overcome severe stress.

In kind, people often think that, when the police arrive, they will just tell the officers what happened and the officers will congratulate them and haul the bad guys off. In fact, the officers probably won't know who the real bad guys are right off the bat. Instead of being congratulated, you may very well be handcuffed. And you might experience something a whole lot worse if you still have your gun in your hand when the police get there. Regardless of your stressful situation, you had better keep your mind in gear.

Instead of turning into a Motor Mouth in front of the officers, it is better not to make statements until you have an attorney present. You might tell them, “That man tried to rob me and I shot him. His gun is lying over there. I will give you a complete statement once my attorney gets with me and helps me calm down and collect my thoughts.”

But I come from a law enforcement background...which means the actual attorney who represents you may not agree with what I have just said. Please consider talking to a local defense attorney

– not just any attorney, but a defense attorney – and get his or her advice. After all, this person is the one who will be representing you during your police interview and possibly in court. Don't make their job more difficult.

Having a personal defense plan is an excellent idea. But don't make the mistake of imagining scenarios where you always turn out to be the hero and the guy who doesn't get any bullet holes in him. Study news reports of actual shootings, and consider what your actions should be in worst-case scenarios. Plans are nice – realistic plans are even better.

<https://www.nrafamily.org/articles/2021/7/9/armed-self-defense-reality-vs-fantasy>