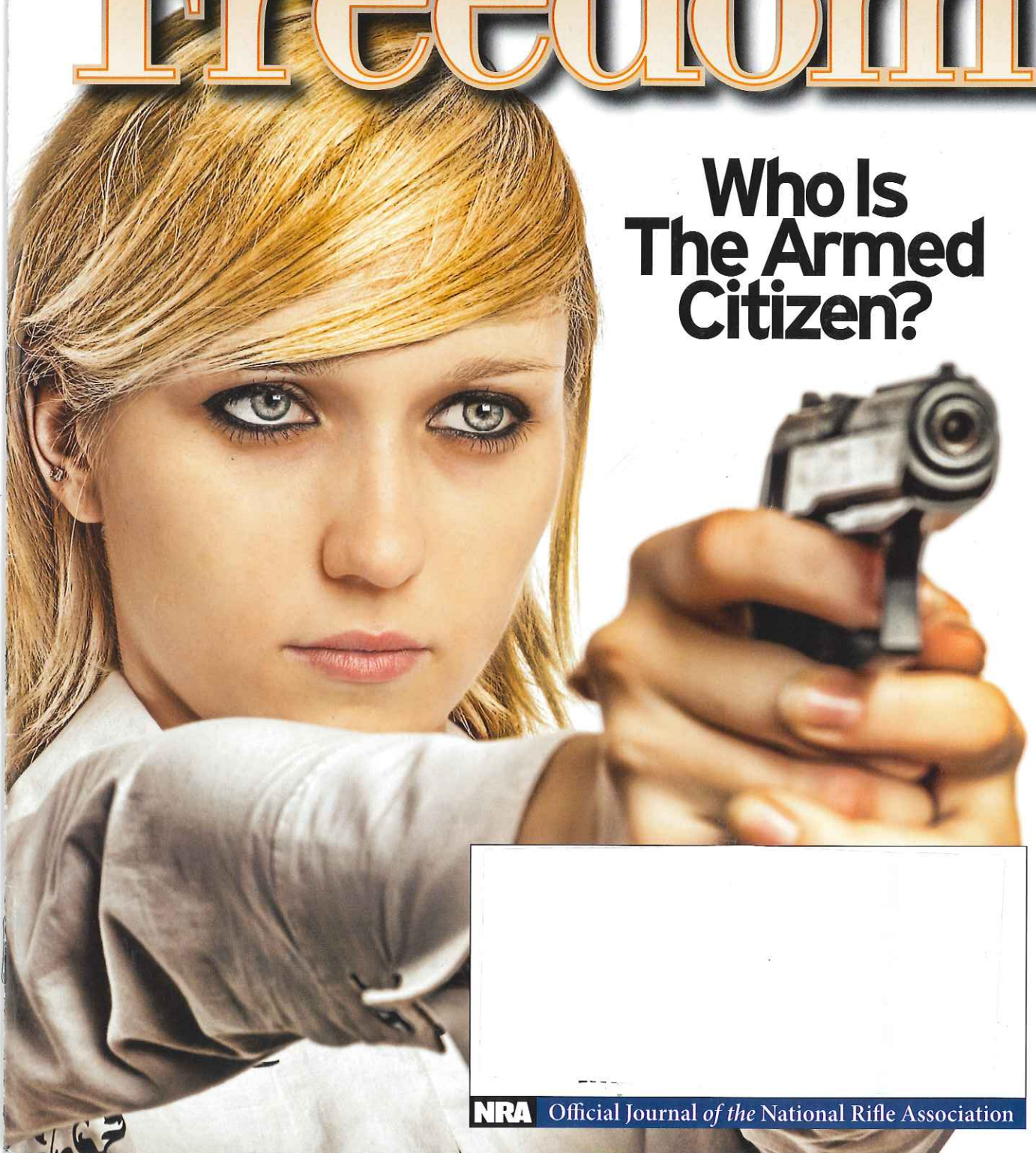


Inside: A special report on an exhaustive study about the true nature of American armed self-defense.

AMERICA'S 1st Freedom

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**Who Is
The Armed
Citizen?**





First Things First:

Persistent, And Distracting, Rumors

NRA-ILA hopes to dispel rumors of two supposed dangers to gun-owner rights in America before they distract gun owners from the actual work of protecting our Second Amendment rights:

1. Regarding "S.B. 2099," a bill that would supposedly mandate gun owners report firearms on their federal tax return: According to NRA-ILA Executive Director Chris W. Cox, this rumor is a recycling of an old action alert that wasn't very accurate in its initial incarnation.

"There actually was a U.S. Senate bill with that number that would have taxed handguns—nine years ago. It was introduced by anti-gun Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., and it would have included handguns under the National Firearms Act's tax and registration scheme," he said, "and this has nothing to do with anyone's Form 1040, of course."

This bill disappeared from the Senate without any action, back during the Clinton administration. "We reported about it back then, just as we report about new anti-gun bills every week," Cox said. "Now, it's time for gun owners to drop this old distraction and focus on the real threats at hand."

2. Veterans who visit a Veterans Affairs clinic and answer "yes" to a series of three specific questions could be forced to forfeit their Second Amendment rights by the Department of Homeland Security: According to the e-mail making the rounds, a Vietnam veteran and Right-to-Carry permit holder, upon visiting his local VA hospital, was asked three questions:

"1) Did I feel stressed? 2) Did I feel threatened? 3) Did I feel like doing harm to someone or myself?" The author of the e-mail then says the nurse informed him that had he answered "yes" to any of these questions, the VA would have reported it to Homeland Security and his RTC permit would have been revoked, as the information would have gone into his medical records.

According to NRA-ILA's Research and Information Division, the VA does ask patients these questions due to growing concern about post-traumatic stress disorders. But the other concerns don't hold up to close scrutiny.

First, the FBI, not Homeland Security, is the agency that compiles records of persons restricted from possessing firearms via the NICS program. Secondly, VA records are only reported to NICS if a patient has been "adjudicated as a mental defective," a lengthy process that includes opportunities for hearings, appeals, etc.

Because of this, just telling a nurse you feel "stressed" isn't sufficient to be reported to any agency, let alone deprive a person of a constitutional right. (Any veteran who's really had a problem should call NRA-ILA's Office of Legislative Counsel at (703) 267-1161.)

To read a story by Cox on the proliferation and danger of such rumors, go to: <http://www.nraila.org/Issues/Articles/Read.aspx?id=367&issue=047>



PITTSBURGH PUNTS ON "ASSAULT WEAPONS" BAN

Due to pressure from gun owners, the Pittsburgh City Council in mid-September stepped back from enacting a so-called "assault weapons" law, though NRA warns that attempts by the council to restrict many common semi-automatic firearms could once again come to the Steel City.

The discarded "assault weapons" language was an attempt to ensure a secure environment for October's G-20 Summit there, Pittsburgh city councilors claimed. The proposed "assault weapons" law would have run counter to Pennsylvania's pre-emption law, which makes it illegal for municipalities to enact gun laws more stringent than state law.

NRA License Plates Now Available In Mississippi

NRA members and other freedom lovers in Mississippi can now show their support for the Association while helping fund its important in-state programs by purchasing NRA license plates from their county tax collectors offices. The NRA tags cost \$31, with \$24 of each purchase going to The NRA Foundation state account to generate capital for marksmanship and youth firearm training, hunter education, range development and other NRA initiatives benefiting Mississippi gun owners, freedom lovers and youth.

