

2014

ATA Article for February

Greetings from Ontario, Canada.

For Canadians who wish to temporarily import firearms into the USA, be aware that the folks at Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms are wanting the ATF applications completed differently for 2014. No longer will they accept general statements such as “approximately”, ammunition manufacturers “including”... This varies from what I reported to readers of this column last year. To assist you in completing your forms, please ensure you:

- Include every ammunition manufacturer whose ammunition you will be importing. If you are not sure, include it anyway because if you are found with ammunition from a manufacturer that is not on your ATF form you will either be denied entry or perhaps the offending ammunition will be confiscated;
- Include the country of the manufacturer of the ammunition. Most North American brands will be “USA” but be careful here – some may be from Italy (for instance) and only imported into USA;
- Indicate the gauge – 12 gauge almost invariably;
- Insert shot size - #7 ½ and #8 shot almost invariably;
- Amount of ammunition – you need not specify the amount of each type of ammunition. My discussions with ATF staff are to the effect you can put in a global amount – eg. 5,000 rounds – but don’t import more than your permit authorizes.

On a lighter note, many of you will remember the “Mantracker” series that aired on A&E. The star of that production Terry Grant (Mr. Mantracker himself) is a client of my office and every time he arrives it is like a media event. I have staff that wants autographs, other clients that want an introduction and Terry just laughs and takes it all in. When you have celebrity status like Terry you have to take advantage of the notoriety and he certainly does just that, driving a huge four wheeler adorned with “Mantracker” all over it.

Terry is actually a very serious young man who hails from High River, Alberta. You may have heard of that community which was badly damaged in early 2013 by massive flooding. Residents had to be evacuated. They were given no choice. Then, after the residences were residentless, the RCMP went into homes and confiscated legally owned firearms. The reason for this has changed to the point that presumably only the RCMP themselves are aware of why this was done. I recall reading articles that suggested the RCMP were looking for improperly stored firearms. Some suggest the search targeted individuals whose names were in the firearm owner data base.

The National Firearms Association is urging a “high calibre” judicial enquiry into the actions of the RCMP. The “Mantracker” wouldn’t comment on whether he was personally impacted. Victims of the flooding should not have to be further victimized by agents of a “police-like state”. Who gave the RCMP its orders? What specifically were those orders? Why? Time may tell.

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