

# TUESDAY: GOING ALONE

I've been so damned angry I've had difficulty wrapping words around what I want to say. It's still Tuesday somewhere, so I'll grit this out.

*Assault weapons should be banned for sale to civilians.*

Spare me the crap about hunters and taking their guns. My freezer contains 25 to 100 pounds of venison at any time. This household lives off the results of hunting and respects the power of firearms. None of this meat required an assault weapon.

If an assault weapon had been used, it would have been a waste of a deer tag. There'd be no meat left.

The embedded video above shows the damage hunting ammo does at close range – approximately 15-20 feet – on meat. The next video shows the damage #4 and #8 birdshot can do at short range, even through multiple layers of denim and drywall. Imagine what an assault weapon would do to flesh at similar range.

Better yet, listen to what a combat vet says about assault weapons.

There's nothing in the Second Amendment to suggest a prohibition on certain weapons is wrong; if anything, the framing of a 'well regulated militia' suggests limitations are in order.

There's also nothing in the Second Amendment to suggest that gun manufacturers have an absolute right to an unrestrained business model, or to profits at the expense of the public's general welfare.

Nor does the Second Amendment say a damned thing about catering to 'gun enthusiasts' who want guns for 'pleasure'. A 'well regulated militia' doesn't possess guns but as necessary for the 'security of a free state', not personal enjoyment.

And both embedded videos embedded make a bloody good case that arguments about assault weapons being necessary to stop a home invasion are trash. Birdshot at close range can do one hell of a lot of damage, as do 00 buckshot and a 1-oz slug.

Congress – more specifically, the GOP – needs to strap on its spine and draw the line on assault weapons. How many more dead Americans is it going to take before Congress clues in the terrorist threat is already here? It's domestic, and it's better armed than the police because GOP-led Congress is as weak as the GOP is against Trump.

Spare the empty moments of silence and prayers which might as well be to Moloch after another human sacrifice. Such fail at protecting the American public.

Speaking of which...


#### **Information Security Fail**

- USAF database with records on ~100,000 investigations 'lost' (Defense One) – This is such bullshit, I can't even...why is a CONTRACTOR, which may be the subject of any one of the 100K investigations, hosting and managing a database like this? What a massive conflict of interest. The database included constituent and congressional inquiries. Don't even get me started on the fact this system relied on Microsoft Internet Explorer. Where have we seen

this kind of massive loss of data including failed backups before? Hardly a surprise the data covers the period including most of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars as well as the construction of the F-35. Somebody better lose their job for this crap, and there'd better be a respectable investigation instead of the usual fluffery hiding billions of lost dollars.

- DNC database infiltrated by the Russians (WaPo) – DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman-Schultz needs to be walked out the door for this bullshit, along with responsible IT management. As if anyone able to sit up and take nourishment couldn't see the DNC computer systems would be a target for cybercrime and cyberwarfare. No excuses for this during the run-up to a general election season, especially when her favorite candidate is already floundering because of information security failures during her tenure as Secretary of State. This bit:

■ The depth of the penetration



reflects the skill and determination of the United States' top cyber adversary as Russia goes after strategic targets, from the White House and State Department to political campaign organizations.

Total blowjob for access. If the hackers got in by spearphishing as suggested in the article, there's no finesse required. Just poorly trained/educated users and no firewall between email and database. The only thing that surprises me about this is that ransomware wasn't deployed. Imagine it: a major U.S. political party ground to a halt by spearphish-delivered ransomware.

- University of Calgary paid CDN\$20K after ransomware attack (Calgary Herald) – First heard about this attack the end of May. Looks like the school had no choice but to offer the bitcoin equivalent of \$20K to release their systems, which says a lot about backup systems and rebuild cost. Considering the broad range of users at universities and widely different levels of experience and training, I'm surprised we haven't seen more ransomware attacks on schools. Though monetarily they're less appetizing than

other targets, and may have more resources to deal with the threat if they have a strong IS/IS program.

- Chinese IBM employee arrested for trade secret theft (Reuters) – The indictment (pdf) says the now-former IBM employee stole proprietary software related to hyperscale storage clusters, or what most consumers would know as ‘cloud storage’. This is a technology segment in which the U.S. still has considerable clout in terms of marketshare, and in terms of global economic impact based on its use. Reporting on this indictment has been vague, referring to the technology at the heart of this case as ‘networking software’. It’s more complex than that; the proprietary software underpins storage and retrieval of data across networked large storage devices. (*Hi blueba. Just checking to see if you missed me. Can’t let the Russians have all the fun.*)

Basta. Enough. Let’s hope Wednesday is kinder than the last handful of days have been.