

## TODAY'S "SHORT TOPIC"

### **DETERRENCE IS IMPORTANT! THIS ISN'T JUST ABOUT FIRING A WEAPON IN SELF-DEFENSE!**



By Stephen L. Bakke  November 27, 2015

#### *Here's what provoked me:*

*A writer misleads readers about the importance of concealed-carry permits in deterring crime in the U.S. Not only does he give his opinion, which would be fine by itself – he also uses statistics irrelevant to the issue being addressed.*

#### *Here's my response:*

#### **Deterrence is Important! This isn't Just about Firing a Weapon in Self-Defense!**

On 11/27 ("More concealed-carry not ideal everywhere"). Tom Wallace took exception to an earlier guest opinion expressed by Ed Tisdale ("Criminals should fear their potential victims," 11/7). Wallace refers to the "concealed-carry fantasy" in downplaying the deterrent effect of citizens legally carrying firearms.

Wallace misleads the reader by using New York City stats about actual use of weapons by licensed individuals. He correctly points out that only a small percentage of these incidents involved using a weapon in self-defense. Actually that small percentage would be expected considering the small number of legal concealed weapons present in any location, particularly if it is a "gun free zone." He further misleads by only using examples when legal weapons were actively used/fired.

While Tisdale provides a first-hand example of the presence of a legal weapon saving his daughter's life, Wallace misses Tisdale's point that firing the weapon isn't often the real deterrent. Rather, the presence, or possible presence, of a weapon for self-defense is the important thing. If Wallace wants facts, he should consider the correlation of total violence (not limited to mass shootings) in the U.S. going down during the same period as concealed-carry permits were sky-rocketing.