

**6/30/23** After four days of deliberation, jurors acquitted the Broward County, Florida school resource officer who had been charged with child neglect and other crimes for not trying to confront the shooter who perpetrated the 2018 Parkland high school school massacre. Scot Peterson, who did not have a tactical vest and only carried a handgun, testified that he initially remained outside the building that Nikolas Cruz roamed with an AR-15 because he didn't know where the gunfire was coming from. Peterson, who retired after the massacre and was then "retroactively fired," will retain his pension.

**6/16/23** Jurors begin deliberating today, and there's no doubt they will find Robert Bowers guilty. After all, his own lawyers concede that Bowers gunned down eleven worshipers at a Pittsburgh synagogue in October 2018. Still, he's been charged with sixty-three counts, and it's possible that a few which require a "conscious intent" to obstruct worship may not hold if jurors believe, as his attorneys insist, that Bowers was acting irrationally. What's really up in the air is whether, during the second, penalty phase of deliberations, the jury will impose the death sentence.

**5/9/23** Russian social media site "Odnoklassniki" was where Mauricio Gracia, who murdered eight shoppers outside an Allen, Texas mall with an AR-15 type rifle, posted comments predicting "race wars and the collapse of [American] society." According to the Army, Garcia joined the U.S. Army in June 2008 but only lasted three months before he was kicked out for mental health reasons. During the assault Garcia wore a "RWDS" (Right Wing Death Squad) patch that's in vogue with right-wing extremists.

**5/1/23** On April 25, an Illinois Federal judge appointed by President Biden refused to enjoin Illinois' new assault-weapons ban, ruling that "the overwhelming interest in public safety" outweighed the law's possible harms (*Herrera v. Raoul*). Three days later, in *Harrel v. Raoul*, an Illinois Federal judge appointed by President Trump enjoined the law, ruling that it improperly interfered with citizens' ability to "exercise their right to self-defense in the manner they choose." (Note: on May 4 the Federal 7th. Circuit Court of Appeals [restored the state's assault-weapons ban.](#))(See 1/2/24 update)

**4/20/23** More than fifty AR-15 and AK-47 style rifle models are specifically included in a wide-ranging ban on assault weapons passed by the Washington legislature. Governor Jay Inslee, a "Blue," had pushed for the measure, which was vigorously opposed by the "Red" minority. His signature [will make the state the tenth](#), in addition to the District of Columbia, with a similar ban. [Bill text](#)

**4/7/23** Spurred by the massacre in Nashville, three of the 23 "Blues" in Tennessee's House of Representatives joined citizens in a rowdy protest on the House floor demanding stronger gun laws and a ban on assault weapons. But there are 75 "Reds" in

the House. So they successfully voted to expel two of the three “Blues”, Rep. Justin Jones and Rep. Justin Pearson. Expelled representatives, though, can be re-elected. And they can’t be expelled twice for the same reason.

**3/30/23** When interviewed after the Uvalde massacre, responding officers agreed that they didn’t storm the shooter because he had an AR-15 rifle, whose powerful projectiles made their regular ballistics vests useless. Two of their colleagues had already been grazed by rounds. “There was no way of going in,” said a sergeant. “We had no choice but to wait and try to get something that had better coverage where we could actually stand up to him.” A major legislative report made no mention of the officers’ remarks.

**3/16/23** In March 2021 Ahmad Al Aliwi Alissa used an AR-556 “pistol” to murder ten at a Boulder, Colorado supermarket. One of his victims was Suzanne Fountain. Her son has now filed suit against Smith and Wesson for promoting the weapon, essentially an AR-15 rifle refashioned to get around assault weapons restrictions, in a way that appeals to killers. After the Supreme Court refused to intervene, Remington Arms settled a similar suit filed by the families of the Sandy Hook victims for \$73 million.

**2/9/23** In exchange for “90 consecutive life sentences”, Patrick Crusius, who gunned down 23 persons and wounded 22 others at an El Paso Walmart in August 2019, pled guilty to hate crimes charges and using a firearm in a Federal crime of violence. Crusius, a 23-year old White nationalist, had targeted Hispanic immigrants, and nearly all who died had Hispanic surnames. Crusius, who “spent countless hours on the Internet” following White supremacy, used an assault rifle.

**1/12/23** Illinois just enacted a comprehensive new gun law that, among other things, bans the sale of assault weapons and requires the registration of those presently possessed. It also prohibits the possession of large-capacity ammunition magazines (max. 10 rounds for rifles, 15 for handguns) and forbids those currently in hand to be carried in public. Devices that increase the rate of fire of semi-automatic weapons (i.e., “bump stocks”) are banned altogether.

**12/15/22** Survivors of the massacre at “Club Q”, a Colorado Springs LGBTQ nightclub where Anderson Lee Aldrich used an AR-style rifle to kill five and injure nineteen, testified in favor of a new Federal assault weapons law before the House Oversight Committee. But given fierce opposition, its prospects seem non-existent.

**11/3/22** After a special jury couldn’t unanimously agree that he merited the death penalty, Nikolas Cruz drew two consecutive sentences of life-without-parole. In 2018 Cruz, a 19-year old former student, used an AR-15 style assault rifle to murder seventeen

and wound an equal number at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. (See below updates)

**10/14/22** Jurors who deliberated whether Nikolas Cruz should get life or death for the Parkland, Florida high school massacre told media sources that a lone member of the panel, who was then joined by two others, rejected death because she felt that Cruz was mentally ill. Since Florida law requires unanimity to impose a death penalty, Cruz was sentenced to life without parole. Families of the victims reacted angrily. (See 10/10 and 10/13 updates) [Detailed CBS coverage](#)

**10/13/22** Rejecting the death penalty, jurors sentenced Nikolas Cruz to life without parole on each of the seventeen counts of murder for the massacre he admittedly carried out on February 14, 2018 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida (see 10/10 update.)

**10/10/22** Will Nikolas Cruz, who in 2018 murdered fourteen students and three adults at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, draw life or death? Played by prosecutors at his ongoing death penalty trial, a videotape of the killer's interview by forensic psychiatrists painted a grim picture of his years-long preparation for the massacre. Cruz's defense - that his birth mother's alcoholism caused him brain damage - must be believed by at least one juror. But even that seems a distant hope.

**9/12/22** As jurors assess whether to impose the death penalty on Nikolas Cruz, the expelled student who murdered seventeen at Marjorie Stoneman High School in Parkland, Florida in 2018, defense lawyers present evidence of a deeply troubled childhood. Raised by a foster family, Cruz and his half-brother, the children of a sex worker, fought viciously, and often damaged the home. Deputies and social workers were repeatedly called, but to no avail. Neither did mental health treatment seem to help.

**8/20/22** A three-month long inquiry into the manufacture of assault weapons that have been used in mass shootings led the House Oversight Committee to propose two pieces of legislation. One would impose a 20 percent tax on the makers of assault rifles, and another would require them to track the weapons' misuse. [Committee report](#)

**8/17/22** In the House, [the Committee on Oversight and Reform](#) continues to "examine the role of gun manufacturers in flooding our communities with weapons of war and fueling America's gun violence crisis." Smith & Wesson's CEO - his firm made the rifle used in the Highland Park massacre - recently refused to appear. [But in earlier testimony](#), Daniel Defense's CEO - their weapons were used at [Robb Elementary](#)

[School](#) in Uvalde and in the [2017 Las Vegas massacre](#) - insisted that “our nation’s response needs to focus not on the type of gun, but on the type of persons who are likely to commit mass shootings.”

[8/6/22](#) During the trial of the defamation lawsuit filed against him by the parents of six-year old Scarlett Lewis, who was murdered in the Sandy Hook massacre, Infowars host Alex Jones admitted he was wrong: the massacre *did* happen. In closing arguments, though, his lawyer denied that Jones’ public rants about what he long insisted was a made-up event caused real harm. But jurors disagreed, awarding \$4.1 million in compensatory and \$45.2 million in punitive damages. Jones still faces two more lawsuits.

[7/28/22](#) On July 27 the House Committee on Oversight and Reform held a hearing that examined the role of the gun industry in fueling an “epidemic” of violence. According to the Chair, manufacturers caused the problem with marketing approaches that appealed to twisted notions of masculinity while “flooding our communities with weapons of war.” But gun makers cast the blame on individuals and urged that “these murders are local problems that have to be solved locally.” [Committee video](#)

[7/21/22](#) Testifying before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee about the massacre in Highland Park, the city’s mayor, Nancy Rotering, who was present during the shooting, urged the enactment of a new Federal assault weapons ban. She also voiced support for Red-Flag laws, national background checks, bans on large-capacity magazines, and reduced immunity for gun dealers. [Testimony](#)

[7/19/22](#) Local police had filed a "clear and present danger" report with Illinois State police notifying them of dangerous behavior by Highland Park shooter Crimo. But he did not have a gun I.D. card, which Illinois requires to have or buy guns, and had not submitted an application, so the report was tossed. Three months later Crimo’s father sponsored him for a card, and Crimo soon bought several guns. An emergency rule was just enacted to retain warning reports even if there is no gun ID or app. on file. (See [7/18/24 update](#))

[7/7/22](#) At a political gathering in Highland Park (IL) two days after the July 4th. massacre, Vice President Kamala Harris urged that Congress “have the courage to act and renew the [Federal] assault weapons ban.” She also called for repeal of the Federal 2005 “[liability shield](#)” which prohibits lawsuits against the firearms industry for gun misuse. Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker recently called for a statewide assault weapons ban, which Illinois does not have. (Highland Park [passed one](#) in 2013.)

**7/6/22** Prosecutors filed seven murder counts against Highland Park (IL) shooter Robert “Bobby” E. Crimo III. Police were called about him twice in 2019: once when he attempted suicide, and again when he threatened to kill his family. Officers took away a knife collection but say they lacked reason to arrest. Still, they filed a “clear and present danger” report with State police. Three months later Crimo’s father sponsored him for a firearms I.D. card, which Illinois requires to buy or have guns. Over time Crimo would legally buy five firearms, including the “AR-15-type rifle” he used in the massacre.

**7/4/22** At least sixteen persons were shot, six fatally, soon after the start of a daytime Fourth of July parade in Highland Park, Illinois, a “peaceful” and [prosperous city of 30,000](#) just north of Chicago. Police arrested Robert “Bobby” Crimo III, 22, the self-styled [YouTube rapper](#) “Awake”. He reportedly used a ladder to climb onto a roof, then opened fire with a “high-powered rifle,” which was recovered. One of his rap videos repeatedly displays an image of a cartoon character aggressively wielding a rifle. (Click [here](#) for our brief version of the video, and [here](#) for an image of the rifle.)

**4/4/22** Nikolas Cruz pled guilty last year to shooting and killing fourteen students and three teachers and wounded seventeen others at a Florida high school in 2018. It’s now time to select the jury who will decide whether he will be put to death. Anything short of unanimity means life without parole. To sit on the case jurors cannot be fundamentally against the death penalty. And to vote for death, they must decide that aggravating factors outweigh “his lifelong mental illness and the deaths of his parents.”

**3/17/22** One-hundred twenty seven point-five million. That’s what the Department of Justice has agreed to pay to settle more than forty lawsuits filed in connection with the 2018 massacre by Nikolas Cruz at Marjorie Stoneman High School in Parkland, Florida. A tip called in to the FBI five weeks earlier warned that Cruz, who had been expelled from the school for his behavior, had bought guns and intended to “slip into a school and start shooting the place up.” But it was never passed on.

**2/28/22** Fourteen persons were shot, one fatally, as an argument erupted between patrons at a Las Vegas hookah lounge two days ago. At least two shooters were involved. Their motives and identities are as yet unknown. It’s the worst shooting in the city since the 2017 massacre, when Stephen Paddock opened fire from a hotel room on the Strip, killing fifty-eight, the most in American history.

**2/16/22** Settling a lawsuit filed by the families of nine victims of the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre, the insurers of bankrupt Remington Arms agreed to pay \$73 million to compensate them for the gun maker’s violation of Connecticut laws that forbid marketing products in a way that promotes illegal use. [Although a 2005 Federal law](#) shields gun manufacturers from lawsuits over gun misuse, [the Connecticut Supreme](#)

Court ruled that it does not bar litigation over purposeful misconduct, and the U.S. Supreme Court agreed.

**2/8/22** In a lawsuit against the Federal government by the families of the victims of the November 2017 Sutherland Springs massacre, a judge ruled last July that the Air Force's failure to report Devin Kelley's court-martial conviction for spousal abuse to the FBI enabled his purchase of the assault rifle he used to murder twenty-six parishioners. On February 7 the judge ordered that the Air Force, which he considered "60 percent responsible" for the tragedy, pay more than \$230 million in damages.

**12/1/21** In 2015 Massachusetts imposed laws tightening gun licensing and requiring background checks for all gun sales, including private-party transfers. However, a recently-published study that studied the resulting increases in the "percentage of all denied applications, the percentage of denied applications due to unsuitability, and the percentage of denied applications due to statutory disqualification" revealed that the new restrictions had "little to no effect on violent crimes."

**11/23/21** U.S. will pay \$127.5 million to settle lawsuits filed by the families of Parkland High School victims over the FBI's failure to follow up on warnings that the shooter, Nikolas Cruz, was planning a rampage. Cruz, a mentally troubled former student, used an AR-15 rifle to kill fourteen students and three teachers and wound seventeen others at the Florida high school in 2018. He pled guilty in October to 17 counts of murder and seventeen of attempted murder and asked for a life sentence. But prosecutors say they will seek a death sentence at a forthcoming hearing.

**7/27/21** In Wasco, a town near Bakersfield, Calif., a 41-year old man armed with an AK-47 style rifle and a handgun opened fire inside his home. Neighbors called deputies and said occupants had been shot. Responding officers were fired on and took cover. Two SWAT members soon approached on foot. The shooter opened fire, reportedly through the windows, fatally wounding Deputy Phillip Campas, 35 and wounding his partner. Two other deputies sustained shrapnel injuries. Deputies shot and killed the assailant as he exited the home. His 42-year old wife and their 17 and 24-year old sons were found inside, all shot dead. A restraining order prohibiting the shooter from having guns was in effect.

**7/19/21** Florida upped the minimum age to buy long guns from eighteen to twenty-one after 19-year old Nikolas Cruz used an AR-15 rifle he bought at a local gun store to murder seventeen at a high school in 2018. That didn't stop 18-year old Sol Pais, a Miami resident, from buying a shotgun she apparently intended to misuse in Colorado the next year. To prevent future circumventions, the FBI has agreed to explore modifying its background check system to enforce the buyer's home State age requirements.

**7/11/21** A San Diego Superior Court judge ruled that the victims of John Earnest, who stormed into a Poway synagogue in 2019 and opened fire with an AR-15 type rifle that he bought in a local gun shop, killing one and wounding three, can sue Smith & Wesson for marketing a gun that was easily modified into a state-prohibited assault weapon. Victims can also sue the seller, who didn't confirm that Earnest, who was nineteen, had the hunting license California requires for persons under 21 to buy long guns.

**6/22/21** A Ninth Circuit panel stayed the San Diego Federal judge's decision to throw out California's assault-weapons ban until the full Circuit rules on other pending challenges to the law. Among these is [Duncan v. Bonta](#), in which a Ninth Circuit panel invalidated a ban on large-capacity magazines.

**6/5/21** Ruling that "no legislature has the constitutional authority to dictate to a good citizen that he or she may not acquire a modern and popular gun for self-defense," San Diego, Calif. Federal judge Roger Benitez threw out [California's assault-weapons ban](#), which prohibits semi-automatic rifles that hold more than ten rounds or those that accept external magazines and have features such as a pistol grip. Judge Benitez stayed his ruling for thirty days to allow for an appeal. [Miller v. Bonta](#)

**5/6/21** In an op-ed, sociologist Frederick H. Decker suggests that a "scoring system" based on a weapon's lethality could be used to devise a "graduated firearm tax." To avoid circumventions, such as through private sales, background checks would have to be required whenever firearms change hands.

**2/17/21** On July 22, 2018 a mentally-ill gunman [randomly opened fire with a stolen .40 caliber S&W pistol](#) on a Toronto (Canada) street, killing two and wounding thirteen. He then committed suicide. A Canadian court recently let victims' lawsuit against Smith & Wesson proceed, ruling that the maker could have long implemented mechanical safeguards that only let a gun's licensed user fire the weapon. Canada, which banned military-style rifles last year after a heavily-armed man took twenty-two lives, [is considering launching a program to buy back these weapons](#), as they can no longer be legally used.

**2/15/21** Commemorating the seventeen lives lost to an AR-15 toting shooter at a Florida schoolhouse on Valentine's Day three years ago, President Joe Biden called for a Federal ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, background checks for all gun transfers, and re-imposing civil liability on gun makers for the foreseeable consequences of the products they sell.

**2/8/21** The two FBI agents killed while serving a search warrant on February 2 in Sunrise, Florida were shot dead by projectiles from an "assault-style" rifle that [were fired through the front door](#). Three other agents were wounded. [Their assailant, David Huber, 55](#), was being investigated for crimes against children. He committed suicide.

**11/13/20** Syed Raheel Farook, brother of terrorist Syed Rizwan Farook, was sentenced to probation for helping his Russian-born sister-in-law emigrate to the U.S. by arranging a pretend marriage between her and Enrique Marquez Jr., the man who obtained the guns for the San Bernardino massacre.

**10/23/20** Enrique Marquez Jr., 28 was sentenced to twenty years imprisonment for conspiring with Farook and Malik, who perpetrated the San Bernardino massacre, to commit terrorist attacks and for supplying the AR-15 rifles used by the couple. Marquez bought the weapons at a gun store.

**8/14/20** Applying a standard of “strict scrutiny,” a Federal appeals panel ruled, 2-1, that California’s ban on magazines that hold ten or more rounds (i.e., “high-capacity”) violates the Second Amendment. Mass shootings don’t require such magazines. And state bans won’t necessarily have an effect, since assailants often use multiple firearms and bring in large-capacity magazines from other states.

**8/4/20** A 2018 YouGov nationally representative survey of 1,100 adults about regulating firearms lethality revealed considerable overall support for banning assault weapons, high-capacity magazines and bump stocks. However, Republicans, conservatives, gun owners and, especially, NRA members, were far more likely to consider mass shootings as “the price of liberty.”

**7/9/20** Louis Lane, 31, was fired from his Red Bluff (Calif.) Walmart job in 2019 for not showing up. On June 27 [he returned armed with an “AR-type” rifle](#) and opened fire, killing one and wounding four before police shot him dead. [In 2018 his “suspicious behavior”](#) in the parking lot of a Nevada airport led police to detain him. Officers found a loaded pistol in his waistband and a 7.62mm rifle and “numerous” loaded magazines in his vehicle. But he avoided becoming a felon. A felony concealed weapons charge was dismissed and he pled guilty to misdemeanor under the influence (he had reportedly been using meth and alcohol).

**6/3/20** Marketing practices are the focus of an FTC complaint filed by the father of a victim of the [Parkland massacre](#). According to the document, which gun control groups also joined, Smith & Wesson sought to boost the sale of assault rifles, such as M&P-15 .223 cal. used in Parkland, by, among other things, recklessly glorifying its link to military combat rifles, which the M&P closely resembles.

**3/28/20** Two articles in a [special issue](#) of *Criminology & Public Policy*, “[Assessing the potential....](#)” by Christopher S. Koper, and “[Evidence concerning the regulation....](#)” by Daniel W. Webster, Alexander D. McCourt, Cassandra K. Crifasi, Marisa D. Booty and Elizabeth A. Stuart, report that restricting large-capacity magazines reduces the frequency of mass shootings. Handgun buyer licensing (but not background checks or assault weapon bans) were also found effective in the latter study.

**12/12/19** On December 10 self-styled “Black Hebrew Israelites” David Anderson and Francine Graham gunned down Jersey City police detective Joseph Seals, then stormed a Jewish market and engaged in a protracted firefight, killing three citizens and wounding two officers before police shot them dead. Anderson and Graham took an AR-15-style rifle, a shotgun and two 9mm. pistols into the store. A silencer-equipped weapon and a pipe bomb were found in their van. [Anderson, an ex-con with prior arrests for weapons offenses, had apparently posted hateful messages on social media](#) and mentioned past massacres.

**10/26/19** Dick’s Sporting Goods sells guns. But it no longer sells assault-style weapons or high capacity magazines and requires all gun buyers to be at least 21. That decision was made by C.E.O. Ed Stack after the 2018 Parkland, Fla. high school massacre. He concedes these steps won’t eliminate all mass shootings. “But there will be less loss of life if an assault-style rifle isn’t used. And if we do all those things and we save one life, in my mind it’s all worth it.”

**9/20/19** According to Colt Firearms “a pretty sharp decline in rifle sales” and a “significant inventory buildup by our distributors” has led it to suspend production of civilian versions of the AR-15. Colt will focus on police and military orders, which, it says, are “absorbing all of Colt’s manufacturing capacity for rifles.”

**9/1/19** A male in his 30s armed with a rifle hijacked a mail truck and went on a shooting rampage in the West Texas cities of Odessa and Midland. He killed seven and wounded nineteen, including three officers, before police shot him dead.

**8/24/19** Guns recovered by police in California often come from Nevada, whose gun laws are far looser. California legislators are planning to ask their Nevada counterparts to prohibit assault weapons and high-capacity magazines such as used by Santino Legan, the 19-year old Nevada man who legally bought an AK-47 type weapon at a Nevada gun store on July 9, then used it to kill three and wound a dozen at the Gilroy (CA) Garlic Festival on July 28.

**8/15/19** A Philadelphia man who had served Federal prison time for being a felon with firearms fired repeated barrages at police serving a narcotics search warrant. Six officers sustained minor wounds. The suspect eventually surrendered. An AR-15 rifle and a handgun were recovered.

**8/15/19** Authorities say that the gun used to kill CHP officer Moye (see below update) was a “ghost gun,” meaning untraceable. It was apparently built by completing a partially-machined lower receiver that can be legally bought without a serial number, then assembling it into a weapon using legally-available parts.

**8/13/19** On August 12 veteran California Highway Patrol officer Andre Moye, 34, was shot and killed and two colleagues were injured when a convicted felon whom officer

Moye pulled over for a traffic violation opened fire with an “AR-15 style” rifle. Their assailant was reportedly a gang member who had served prison time for an armed assault.

**8/9/19** Weeks before the El Paso massacre, the gunman’s mother worried that he wasn’t “mature or experienced enough” for the assault-type rifle he had ordered. She called police but apparently didn’t convey that her son posed a lethal threat. He moved out and legally got his rifle.

**8/4/19** Early this morning an unidentified man wearing body armor and carrying a .223 rifle and multiple magazines opened fire in a Dayton (OH) nightclub area, killing nine and wounding more than two dozen. Police shot him dead. This was reportedly America’s 22nd. mass shooting this year (at least four dead excluding the gunman.)

**8/3/19** Forty-six persons were shot in an El Paso (TX) shopping center by a twenty-one year old man wielding an assault-type rifle. Twenty have died. Police arrested the shooter, Patrick Crusius. He was dressed in a black t-shirt and was wearing earmuffs and dark glasses. Crusius’ online posts depicted him with a rifle, praised the New Zealand massacre and criticized America’s “invasion” by Latinos.

**7/31/19** Santino Legan, the 19-year old Nevada man who used a California-banned rifle to kill three and wound a dozen at the Gilroy (CA) Garlic Festival on July 28, legally bought his AK-47 type weapon at a [Fallon, Nevada gun store](#) on July 9. Police shot him dead. In a recent Instagram post Legan praised a novel that glorifies white supremacism.

**7/14/19** New Zealand began buying back semi-automatic weapons it banned in April, one month after the [massacres at two mosques](#) by Brendon Tarrant. [Semi-auto rifles are now legal only in .22 caliber](#) and with magazine capacities of less than ten rounds. Semi-auto shotguns have been restricted to five rounds.

**6/26/19** On June 19 Adel Ramos, 45, used a high-powered rifle to shoot and kill rookie Sacramento, Calif. police officer Tara O’Sullivan, 26, during a domestic violence call. Ramos, who had a record and an open warrant for domestic violence, [had a shotgun, a handgun and two California-illegal AR-15 type rifles assembled from parts](#). This tragedy apparently led California Governor Gavin Newsom to change his mind and endorse expanding the State’s red flag laws to allow, among other things, “teachers, employers and co-workers to also petition the courts.”

**3/16/19** Before live-streaming his murderous rampage, which took the lives of 49 parishioners at two New Zealand mosques, the heavily armed, internet-obsessed killer used Twitter, Facebook and an online hate site to promote a white uprising. Brendon Tarrant, 28, held a firearms license that allowed him to legally buy the two semi-auto rifles and two shotguns he used in the attack.

**3/14/19** Ruling against Bushmaster, the manufacturer of the AR-15 used in Sandy Hook, the Connecticut Supreme Court decided that [Federal Law](#) which shields gun makers from responsibility for their products' misuse does not bar lawsuits under [a state law](#) that prohibits "harmful marketing" practices; in this case, promoting the weapons' use for "offensive military style combat."

**1/3/19** Several mass shooters bought their guns and ammo on credit. Omar Mateen got started on his purchases twelve days before the shooting. He wound up spending nearly twenty thousand dollars on guns and ammo using six credit cards. He worried that the authorities might be informed about the purchases, but the credit card issuers paid no heed.

**12/10/18** Asked why Devin Kelley's disqualifying conviction for spousal abuse wasn't reported to the FBI records division as required, the Air Force agent who investigated the assault by Kelley blamed "stress and excessive workload" that "prevented agents [in his unit] from doing the basic tasks." A superior confirmed the presence of a "high operations tempo" (p. 99). [NY Times article](#)

**10/27/18** This morning a virulent anti-Semite armed with an "assault-style rifle" and three handguns stormed into a Pittsburgh Jewish synagogue and opened fire, killing eleven and wounding six, including four officers. The suspect, Robert Bowers, 46, was wounded and surrendered.

**10/5/18** A 74-year old veteran and disbarred lawyer who bragged about his abilities with military-style rifles unleashed a barrage from "a high powered rifle" on officers serving a search warrant at his Florence, South Carolina residence. One officer was killed and six were wounded. Five citizens were also hurt. Police deployed an armored vehicle to extricate the injured. [More](#)

**10/2/18** With few exceptions, such as Florida (see 3/9/18 update), States have not responded to mass shootings by tightening up gun laws.

**9/11/18** A JAMA study that compared 248 "active shooter incidents" during 2000-2017 revealed that those involving semi-automatic rifles led to significantly more persons wounded, killed, and either wounded or killed. Percentage of those shot who died did not significantly vary.

**8/12/18** Schools throughout the U.S. have locked down campuses and vastly increased the use of metal detectors and full-time armed guards; Florida, for example, will deploy the latter on nearly every campus. So far, it's the only state that will also use part-time, non-sworn "guardians."

**8/7/18** Nikolas Cruz, the Marjorie Stoneman shooter, told police that that a “demon voice” in his head ordered him to “Burn, Kill. Destroy.” He said he had tried to commit suicide in the past and regretted that officers did not kill him.

**7/6/18** LAPD and ATF arrest ten L.A.-area gang members who were assembling assault-type rifles from parts and selling them to criminals. Forty-five of these untraceable, unserialized “ghost guns” were seized, along with silencers and drugs. The suspects were charged with state violations including illegally manufacturing assault rifles, possessing silencers, and conspiracy.

**5/31/18** Videos on Nikolas Cruz’s cellphone announced that he would be the “next school shooter of 2018” and explained why: “I live a lone life. I live in seclusion and solitude. I hate everyone and everything. But the power of my AR you will all know who I am...I had enough of being told that I’m an idiot and a dumbass. You’re all stupid and brainwashed by the political and government programs.”

**4/23/18** On April 22 a naked, delusional man armed stormed into a Nashville restaurant and opened fire with an AR-15 rifle, killing four and wounding seven. Travis Reinking, 31, was arrested the next day. He had been arrested in July 2017 for breaching the White House perimeter. Four guns including the AR-15 were taken from him and later released to his father.

**4/6/18** On April 3 Nasim Aghdam, a woman in her 30s, opened fire with a pistol at YouTube in San Bruno, wounding three. She then shot herself dead. Aghdam, a YouTube user angry with the company’s policies, legally purchased the gun from a San Diego gun store in January.

**3/21/18** As early as 2016 [school employees and the deputy sheriff](#) mentioned below were so concerned about spoken threats made by Nikolas Cruz that they recommended he be committed for evaluation. His deceased mother’s friend, where he was living, [repeatedly called 911 and gave him an ultimatum](#) to get rid of his gun. But police reportedly said nothing could be done.

**3/11/18** In the [New York Times](#) and [Washington Post](#), illustrated features about the grievous damage inflicted on the human body by ultra high-velocity projectiles such as those fired by AR-15 style rifles.

**3/9/18** Florida’s Governor signed into law a bill that lets some school employees carry concealed handguns, bans “bump stocks” and extends the State’s 3-day waiting period for handgun purchases to long guns. It also raises the minimum age to buy a rifle to 21, a provision that the NRA is challenging in court as a violation of the Second Amendment.

**3/9/18** The Florida deputy whom President Trump and others excoriated for not entering Marjorie Stoneman High School said that a victim found outside and other

indicia led him to believe that the shooter was outside. The first local police officer on scene followed his lead and also set up outside.

**2/28/18** Dick's Sporting Goods, a Pennsylvania-based chain that operates nearly 700 stores across the U.S. under various brands, said it will no longer sell assault-style semiautomatic rifles at any location. Its Chief Executive, Richard Stack, supports an outright ban on such weapons.

**2/24/18** A woman who called the FBI's tip line about Cruz on January 5 said she was worried he might sneak into a school "and just [start] shooting the place up." A family friend had also recently conveyed fears about Cruz and his guns to the sheriff's office. Cruz himself called 911 and said that his mother's death was giving him problems.

**2/23/18** A forensic psychiatrist [told the New York Times](#) that mass shootings are unlikely to be prevented through mental commitments: "Most of these shooters are angry, antisocial individuals you cannot spot in advance, and even if you could, you don't have the right to institutionalize them." Another authored an [op-ed](#) to the same effect.

**2/21/18** Copycat threats are keeping L.A.-area authorities busy. In one incident deputies arrested a 17-year old high school student who had threatened to shoot up his high school "in three weeks." At his home deputies found two AR-15 rifles plus other weapons and ammunition. Police also arrested a 27-year old man who had threatened a college. Two loaded AR-15's, two handguns and a large quantity of ammunition were seized at his residence.