

Indiana enlists NRA for Guard firearm training

By BRIAN SLODYSKO
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The National Rifle Association has been instructing Indiana’s National Guard members on how to use concealed weapons after Republican Gov. Mike Pence directed the state’s military bases and training centers to beef up security in response to recent attacks in Tennessee.

According to a survey by The Associated Press, Indiana is the only state to enlist the NRA’s help in the training, which the gun-rights group says it will conduct free of charge for any guardsman who wants to carry a concealed handgun.

Although National Guard members traditionally have not been allowed to carry weapons while conducting most stateside duties, Pence is one of 14 governors who decided to arm them in the wake of a gunman’s attacks last month on two U.S. military sites in Chattanooga that left four Marines dead.

Gun control advocates argue it’s inappropriate for a state to involve a political lobbying organization in training members of the military, and even some National Guard officials from states that allow guardsmen to carry weapons question why a civilian organization is needed.

“This is a military problem to deal with, so we’re going

to deal with it with the military,” said Lt. Col. Joel Lynch, a spokesman for the Arkansas National Guard, which is handling the training of its Guard members itself.

As governor, Pence has wide-ranging powers over the Indiana National Guard and appoints the adjutant general who oversees operations.

Pence spokeswoman Kara Brooks declined to comment and directed inquiries to the Indiana National Guard. Guard spokeswoman Lt. Col. Cathy Van Bree said guard instructors have previously offered handgun instruction themselves but that Pence’s executive order last month allowing guardsmen to be armed requires a “deeper level of training.” She did not elaborate.

In order to be armed, a guardsman must have a valid conceal-carry permit and undergo training. Van Bree declined to say how many members have been approved to be armed.

Guy Relford, an NRA instructor who recently trained about 65 Indiana guardsmen at an armory in Franklin, said his “basic pistol” course delves into safety scenarios on when and when not to shoot.

Without training, the National Guard has “dramatically increased the possibility that someone could hurt themselves or others with a gun,” Relford said.



AP file photo
A 2014 photo of Noel Biderman, chief executive of Avid Life Media Inc., which operates AshleyMadison.com., posing in Tokyo.

CEO of cheating website says he’s faithful husband

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Touting himself as the “The King of Infidelity,” the founder of the adultery site Ashley Madison built his livelihood around the unconventional philosophy that cheating is a natural part of married life — yet he says he is a devoted husband, and his wife of 12 years says she would be devastated if he was unfaithful.

Noel and Amanda Biderman say they do not practice what they preach but simply are smart entrepreneurs seizing an untapped market.

“I am printing money, I don’t deny it,” Biderman told the New York Post in 2014. “That’s what happens when you build a taboo-focused business.”

Their privately held Toronto holding company, Avid Life Media Inc., grossed \$115 million in earnings last year, according to tax documents and figures shared by Biderman with Forbes.

Now divorce lawyers are preparing for a potential bonanza from the site’s massive breach that released the information of its subscribers.

It’s a problem the Bidermans say they’ve never had to confront because they are in a monogamous relationship, but they recognize others do not have that and there is money to be made from infidelity.

The couple, who have two children, say there’s nothing wrong in running a site that allows married people who want to cheat to connect with others seeking an affair. Users pay a fee each time they send a message to a potential lover.

The company says in a statement the hackers should be judged, not Ashley Madison and its roughly 39 million customers. The hackers have accused the company of filling the site with fake profiles and extorting fees for wiping profiles that were never truly deleted.



Matthew Hengst via AP
Bugs swarm at a service station in the eastern Sierra Nevada town of Lone Pine, Calif. Scientists are calling the unusual explosion of this Melacoryphus lateralis species of seed bug the first outbreak of its kind in California’s recent memory.

Insect invasion

Seed bugs swarm California communities, homes, cars

LONE PINE, Calif. (AP) — The gas station’s ground was covered with the small winged bugs. Piles of carcasses, inches deep, sat swept to the sides.

On the road, they rained onto car windshields. They flew by the thousands toward even the smallest sources of light, and crept along windows and kitchen tables.

Such has been the skin-crawling reality for the past two months in the high-desert communities at the foot of the Sierra Nevada’s eastern slopes, where residents have seen an explosion of the black-and-red seed bug species *Melacoryphus lateralis*.

“They’re in everything. There’s no way to get rid of them or eradicate them. They’re just here,” said Blair Nicodemus, 33, of Lone Pine, while driving with a bug creeping on his windshield. “Sometimes there will be these micro-plumes that’ll come through where there will be just thousands of them, and they’ll be all over you. ... I’m sure I’ve eaten at least two dozen, because they get into your food.”

Such outbreaks have happened in Arizona’s Sonoran desert near Tucson, but scientists say it’s the first one they have record of in California.

The influx has been driven by a mild winter and monsoonal weather, which provided healthier vegetation for the nutrient-sucking bugs, said David Haviland, an entomologist with the University of California Cooperative Extension in Kern County.

The bugs’ flight into town and toward the lights in homes, businesses or cars, however, might be related to the drying up of native vegetation in the summer heat and the drought, said Nathan Reade, agricultural commissioner for Inyo and Mono counties.

To the north, a different type of bug is infesting the site of the popular Burning Man counterculture festival in Nevada’s Black Rock Desert. State officials are working to identify the green, coin-shaped insects swarming the outdoor venue and biting workers setting up for this year’s event, which starts Aug. 30.

Entomologist Jeff Knight, with the Nevada Department of Agriculture, said the bugs aren’t bloodsuckers and don’t seem to pose a health risk.

In California, the outbreak of finger-nail-sized seed bugs is a main topic of conversation in the infested communities.

A printout in a Lone Pine motel lobby warned people to keep their doors shut at night, and a hotel worker advised people to keep their car windows up if lights are on. A Dollar General Store in Inyokern limited its store hours after dark to avoid dealing with the bugs.

Lia Sensanbaugh of Inyokern doesn’t turn on her lights when at home. “I’ve got them real bad,” she said. “I’ve been living off my TV light for about a month and a half.”

Gas stations and rest areas along Highway 395 — a roadway that crosses through sparsely populated and rural areas — are prime bug targets because of their lights. After dark, the bugs swirl like surreal artwork below the Pearsonville Shell gas station’s overhead lights.

“Millions, tens, twenty, we can’t count it,” gas station owner Soma Praba said. “At night time, if you go into the station, they’ll follow. They go everywhere. They get on your body, your head.”

Suspect killed by police was shot in back

ST. LOUIS (AP) — An autopsy showed that an 18-year-old who was shot and killed by an officer helping serve a search warrant in a violence-plagued neighborhood died from a single wound in the back, police said Friday.

St. Louis Police Chief Sam Dotson cautioned that the location of Mansur Ball-Bey’s wound neither confirms nor disproves two officers’ accounts that Ball-Bey pointed a loaded gun at them before they shot at him Wednesday.

The shooting had set off an evening of violent outcry, with authorities saying at least nine people were arrested and property was damaged. It also came on the heels of violence that marred the anniversary of the day Michael Brown was killed by a white officer in nearby Ferguson — a killing that sparked protests, the “Black Live Matter” movement and a national debate over police treatment of minorities.

Dotson said Thursday that a stolen handgun linked to Ball-Bey — with one round in the chamber and 13 more in the magazine — was found at the scene.

“Just because he was shot in the back doesn’t mean he was running away,” Dotson told the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. “What I do know is that two officers were involved and fired shots, but I don’t know exactly where they were standing yet and I won’t know until I get their statements.”

Authorities haven’t said exactly where in the back Ball-Bey was shot. Police haven’t released the full autopsy or toxicology tests yet, and they have not explained why they don’t yet have statements from the officers. Messages left Friday with St. Louis’ chief medical examiner and that office’s investigator weren’t returned.



WHAT’S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THESE TWO HOMES?

HINT: IT HAS TO DO WITH SAVING ENERGY AND MONEY.

Though two homes may look alike, energy-efficiency upgrades can make a big difference in terms of maximizing comfort and reducing energy use and cost.

Energy Trust of Oregon can help you find a trade ally contractor and provide cash incentives that help offset the cost of qualifying energy improvements. With upgrades to your water heater, appliances and lighting, you could save up to 20 percent on your home energy costs while not having to scale back on comfort.

+
Start getting more from your energy today. Visit www.energytrust.org/homes or call us at 1.866.368.7878.

Serving customers of Portland General Electric, Pacific Power, NW Natural and Cascade Natural Gas.



ONE DAY ONLY!
Friday, August 28, 2015
50% OFF
FRAMES & LENSES

Excluded: Oakley, Maui Jim, Glass, Essilor, Specials and Custom Orders.
Add on's at Regular price.

8th Anniversary Sale
We are giving away
over \$3,000 in prizes!

Drawings held August 28, 2015 -
need not be present to win.
Come on in and sign up anytime.

AFFORDABLE FAMILY EYEWEAR

1045 N. 1st St., Hermiston • 541-567-3790
www.affordablefamilyeyewear.com