

# 3D-printed guns raise concerns for safety, rights

**(AP)** -- A little-known dispute over 3D-printed guns has morphed into a national legal debate in the last week, drawing attention to a technology that seems a bit of sci-fi fantasy and — to gun-control advocates — a dangerous way for criminals to get their hands on firearms that are easy to conceal and tough to detect.

The gun industry calls the outcry an overreaction that preys on unwarranted fears about a firearm that can barely shoot a round or two without disintegrating.

It also raises a host of constitutional questions involving First Amendment protections for free speech and Second Amendment rights to own guns.

Here are some questions and answers about the debate:

**Q. What is behind the dispute?**

A. Cody Wilson, the founder of Texas-based Defense Distributed, first posted downloadable blueprints for a handgun called the Liberator that could be made using a 3D printer in 2013. Within days it had been downloaded about 100,000 times until the State Department ordered him to cease, contending it



Debate is swirling around the legality of 3D-printed guns.

violated federal export laws since some of the blueprints were saved by people outside the United States.

The dispute between Wilson and the federal government went on for years until this past June when they reached a settlement that paved the way for Wilson to resume posting the designs.

The State Department decision came amid an obscure administrative change — begun under the Obama administration — in how the weapons are regulated and administered. Military grade weapons remain under the purview of the State Department, while

commercially available firearms fall under the Commerce Department. The settlement with Wilson determined that 3D-printed firearms are akin to more traditional firearms that aren't subject to State Department regulations.

Wilson resumed sharing his blueprints for the gun the day the settlement went into effect last week.

**Q. Why does Wilson want the authority to post the designs on his website?**

A. Wilson calls it a First Amendment issue. He believes the First Amendment gives him a

constitutional right to disseminate the code to make a gun with a 3D printer.

"This is a very, very, very easy First Amendment question that I think people might be hesitant to accept because it involves guns and people don't like guns," said his lawyer, Josh Blackman.

And Wilson has a strong legal claim that distribution of the information is different than actually making an all-plastic firearm.

While it is a violation of the federal Undetectable Firearms Act to make, sell or possess a firearm that can't be detected by mag-

netometers or metal detectors, what Wilson is doing is simply providing the information on how to make such a firearm.

**Q. What kind of gun designs are available on the website?**

A. Defense Distributed shows a variety of designs. The code for a 3D printed gun is for what he calls the Liberator, which gets its name from a pistol American forces used during World War II.

His design includes a metal firing pin and a metal block. His site also includes blueprints to make various AR-platform long guns and some other handguns using more traditional means and materials.

**Q. Are 3D printed guns legal?**

A. In 1988, the U.S. enacted the Undetectable Firearms Act, making it illegal to manufacture, sell, or possess a firearm that couldn't be detected by a metal detector. That law has been renewed several times by Congress and remains in effect.

If 3D printed guns contain enough metal to be flagged by a metal detector, they are considered legal under U.S. law.

Gun-control advocates argue that the risks are too great to allow 3D printed guns because even if they're designed to include metal, it's too easy for someone to not include those pieces or to remove them to skirt detection.

"It's an absurdity. You can take the piece of metal out and put it back in at your own whims and you can take it out and walk through a metal detector undetected," said Jonas Oransky, legal director for Everytown for Gun Safety.

**Q. How well do 3D printed guns work?**

A. Gun experts and enthusiasts recoil at the suggestion that a 3D printed gun is a true threat, calling the firearms mere novelties.

Unlike traditional firearms that can fire thousands of rounds in their lifetime, 3D-printed guns are notorious for usually lasting only a few rounds before they fall apart. They don't have magazines that allow the usual nine or 15 rounds to be carried; instead, they usually hold a bullet or two and then must be manually loaded afterward. And they're not usually very accurate either.

## New sergeant



Lacy Garrison photo

**Kevin Ballew has been pinned as the new Warren and Cannon County sergeant for the Tennessee Highway Patrol, which means he'll be overseeing seven troopers in this district. Sgt. Ballew is a 16-year veteran with the Highway Patrol, most recently serving as a road trooper in Van Buren County. Additionally, he is a crash reconstructionist and has numerous commercial vehicle verifications. "I'm excited and humbled to work with these men because we've got a good bunch here," said Sgt. Ballew.**

## Trump support not everything

**NASHVILLE (AP)** — Basking in the afterglow of an emphatic Republican primary victory in her bid for the U.S. Senate, U.S. Rep. Marsha Blackburn proclaimed it a win for the agenda of President Donald Trump, a statement from Tennessee voters they want to give him their full support.

"We know that what Tennesseans say they want to see in their next senator is somebody who is going to stand with President Trump to finish the agenda that they voted for when they elected him," she said Thursday.

But the Republican primary for governor tested the limits of her theory.

In that race, U.S. Rep. Diane Black began as the favorite, made multiple appearances with the president and left no room for opponents to outdo her devotion to him, though at times they tried. She won the endorsement of Vice President Mike Pence and cherished warm comments at every turn from Trump, who

ultimately stopped short of a formal endorsement. Black finished third.

On Friday another Republican candidate got what Black wanted in the primary: Trump tweeted his support for GOP nominee Bill Lee in the general election contest for governor.

Voters had mixed feelings about the Trump-themed GOP election. Nashville resident Diane Dimel said Thursday she voted for Trump in 2016, but no longer supports him or the candidates he favors.

"When I saw all those ads for Diane Black with President Trump, that was one where I was like, 'Well, I am definitely not going to vote for her,'" said Dimel, who added she now regrets her vote for Trump.

But Robert Crowell, 69, of Nashville, said he voted for Black and other candidates who agree with Trump on issues like a strong national defense and protecting America's borders.

"I just go with the ones that agree with the presi-

dent," he said.

Meanwhile, support for Trump seemed to help in the Senate race, where Blackburn touted Trump's wall-building immigration crackdown and his U.S. Supreme Court pick, Brett Kavanaugh. She has benefited from center-stage appearances alongside Trump and Pence in public events and fundraisers in Tennessee, and managed to avoid drawing any via-

ble primary challengers.

Blackburn, who could become the state's first female U.S. senator, will face former Tennessee Democratic Gov. Phil Bredesen in the general election. Bredesen walked a careful line throughout the campaign, saying he would support the president on policies that are good for Tennessee and oppose him on those that aren't.



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SMYRNA CEMETERY

Thanks so much to everyone who helped make the annual Smyrna Cemetery Decoration a success. We had a great crowd both Friday evening and Saturday. We hope everyone enjoyed the hamburger steaks on Friday as well as the hamburgers, french fries and all the homemade desserts on Friday and Saturday. Special thanks to High Roller Smokers for donating BBQ - it was delicious. Total funds collected to-date are over \$15,000, with donations continuing to come in. To all the "first timers" who joined us this year, as well as those tried and true supporters who are there every year, we thank you so much for your help and support, and we look forward to eating a cheeseburger or some peach cobbler with you again next year. Because of people like you we are able to make improvements, the cemetery is always well kept and something we can all be proud of.

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Chestnut Grove Church of Christ

Gospel Meeting 2018

Sunday, August 12 - Tuesday, August 14, 2018

Speaker: Jason Gann

Preacher, Campaign church of Christ

Song Leader: Raney Webb

Sunday Morning Worship Service: 9:00

Sunday Morning Bible Study: 10:00

Sunday Fellowship Meal: 11:00

Sunday Evening Worship Service: 6:00

Monday & Tuesday Night Services: 7:00

You are cordially invited!

The Chestnut Grove church of Christ building is located at 2042 Chestnut Grove Road, Morrison, TN 37357.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank the voters of the 12th District for allowing me to work for you another term. I will serve to the best of my ability.

Thank you,

Carl D. Bouldin

82nd Annual Shady Grove Cemetery Picnic

Saturday, August 11th

10:00am Petting Zoo, Kids Games & Bingo

10:30am Homemade Ice Cream & Concessions

2:00pm Field Games

4:00pm Cake Walk

4:30pm Live Music

6:00pm Live Auction Begins

All proceeds are for the upkeep of the Shady Grove Cemetery

Donations for the Auction or Trust Fund Appreciated