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Access to the Sports Shooting Education Center

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Access to the Sports Shooting Education Center

Submitted by: Robert Costomiris

5/1/2018

Question(s):

Are international students and faculty restricted in any way from having full access to all of the resources, both archery and firearms, at the SSEC? If so, what are those restrictions? If so, why are such restrictions imposed?

Rationale:

Some international students have indicated being denied access to the SSEC. These questions seek to find out if there is a policy regarding international student access to the SSEC or if permission to use the facility is based on other criteria.

Response:

5/7/2018 from Maura Copeland

Question presented:

Are international students and faculty restricted in any way from having full access to all of the resources, both archery and firearms, at the SSEC? If so, what are those restrictions? If so, why are such restrictions imposed?

Answer:

In some circumstances, restrictions apply and are generally due to the Gun Control Act of 1968 (as amended). International students and faculty present under certain visa types are restricted by federal law from certain activities at the SSEC. Specifically, federal law provides:

An alien admitted to the United States under a nonimmigrant visa is prohibited from shipping, transporting, receiving, or possessing a firearm or ammunition unless the alien falls within one of the exceptions provided in 18 U.S.C.

922(y)(2), such as: a valid hunting license or permit, admitted for lawful hunting or sporting purposes, certain official representatives of a foreign government, or a foreign law enforcement officer of a friendly foreign government entering the United States on official law enforcement business.

[18 U.S.C. 922(g)(5)(B) and 922(y)(2); 27 CFR 478.11 and 478.32]

Typically, Georgia Southern University students enter the United States on an F1 visa and faculty members on an H1 visa, which are nonimmigrant visas for the purpose of study or work (not for the purpose of hunting or sport). More information may be found on the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (“ATF”) website, located here: <https://www.atf.gov/qa-category/nonimmigrant-aliens>.

Other foreign nationals, such as lawful permanent residents or individuals entering the United States under the Visa Waiver Program, are not prohibited from possessing a firearm solely on the basis of immigration status. However, other legal requirements that must be satisfied for sale or possession to be lawful may have the practical effect of impeding possession. For example, University policy requires submission to a background check before any patron is permitted to use the shooting sports facility for an activity not specifically exempted by Georgia law. International students and faculty often cannot provide the Social Security Number necessary for completion of the check and are therefore unable to fulfill all the conditions required to be permitted use of the facility for those purposes.

Minutes 5-22-2018

Shooting Sports Education Center

Some pertained to the Shooting Sports Education Center. One re: why some foreign students here on visas and therefore barred by federal law from using the Center still are paying fees towards it will have to await Maura Copeland’s return to town from the System office.

Robert Costomiris (CAH) asked that present Senators who would still be on the Senate in Fall pay attention to that response so that the question doesn’t just go away over summer.