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"Love of reading enables a man to exchange the weary hours, which come to every one, for hours of delight."

~ Baron Montesquieu

(Retrieved from http://www.useful-information.info/quotations/library_quotes.html#reading, accessed on 10/03/12)

In Case You Were Wondering...

Why does Social Security need 174,000 bullets? Why is the agency that provides benefits to retirees, disabled workers, widows and children stockpiling ammunition?

By Stephen Ohlemacher
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It didn't take long for the Internet to start buzzing with conspiracy theories after the Social Security Administration posted a notice that it was purchasing 174,000 hollow-point bullets.

Why is the agency that provides benefits to retirees, disabled workers, widows and children stockpiling ammunition? Whom are they going to use it on?

"It's not outlandish to suggest that the Social Security Administration is purchasing the bullets as part of

preparations for civil unrest," the website Infowars.com said.

Another website, The Daily Caller, said the bullets must be for use against American citizens, "since the SSA has never been used overseas to help foreign countries maintain control of their citizens."

The clamor became such a distraction for the agency that it dedicated a website to explaining the purchase. The explanation, it turns out, isn't as tantalizing as an arms buildup to defend against unruly senior citizens.

The bullets are for Social Security's office of inspector general, which has about 295 agents who investigate Social Security fraud and other crimes, said Jonathan L. Lasher, the agency's assistant IG for external relations.

The agents carry guns and make arrests _ 589 last year, Lasher said. They execute search warrants and respond to threats against Social Security offices, employees and customers.

Agents carry .357 caliber pistols, Lasher said. The bullets, which add up to about

590 per agent, are for the upcoming fiscal year. Most will be expended on the firing range.

Some bloggers have taken issue with the type of ammunition the agency is buying, questioning why agents need hollow-point bullets. Hollow-points are known for causing more tissue damage than other bullets when they hit a person because they expand when they enter the body.

The bullets, however, are standard issue for many law enforcement agencies, Lasher said, a fact confirmed by the directors of two law enforcement training centers.

"For practice ammunition, they do not have to be hollow-points, but hollow-points are the normal police round used for duty ammunition due to their ability to stop when they hit an object as opposed to going through it and striking more objects," said William J. Muldoon, president of the International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training.

The episode illustrates what can happen when a seemingly salacious tidbit gets amplified and embellished on the Internet.

A few weeks ago, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration had a similar dustup when it solicited bids for 46,000 rounds of ammunition and shooting targets, seemingly to arm workers at the National Weather Service. It turns out the notice had a clerical error and the bullets were for NOAA's Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement, the agency said.

Social Security's turn in the pillory hit a crescendo when Jay Leno joked about it in a recent monologue on "The Tonight Show." "What senior citizens are they worried about?" Leno asked. "I mean, who's going to storm the building?"

Lasher said, "That's why we opened a blog post. We were getting a lot of inquiries and the blog gave us a vehicle to put all of the accurate information out there in one place, so that those who are interested or concerned can read what the real story is."

*Excerpted from *Homeland1 Newsletter*, September 6, 2012

New to Our Collection

Several new items have been added to our shelves since the last newsletter was distributed.

- ◆ Every Officer is a Leader—Anderson (**363.2 AND**)
- ◆ Flourish—Martin Seligman (**150 SEL**)
- ◆ Authentic Happiness—Martin Seligman (**158 SEL**)
- ◆ Gross National Happiness—Arthur Brooks (**302 BRO**)
- ◆ The 7 Habits of Highly Successful People—Stephen Covey (**158 COV**)
- ◆ The 8th Habit—Stephen Covey (**158 COV**)
- ◆ Principle-Centered Leadership—Stephen Covey (**158 COV**)
- ◆ Personality Style at Work—Ward (**155.2 WAR**)
- ◆ The Ethical Warrior: Values, Morals, and Ethics for Life, Work and Service—Hoban (**170 HOB**)

These are materials requested by trainers to enhance the training they can provide for our students. Feel free to come by and browse or to check one or two out.

Remember, the numbers highlighted in red are the call numbers or where the books can be found on the shelf. If you need help locating a book, just ask.

Brown Bag Lunch in the Library

The Brown Bag Lunch series is continuing into its second year and there are currently two presentations scheduled that you can take advantage of. The first, Financial

Exploitation, will take place on Monday, October 22, and our presenter is none other than Bruce Lohr. This is not a how-to but rather how you can protect yourself from being financially exploited.

The next presentation, for which you will shortly receive an invitation, will take place in November. Our presenter (you'll find out soon) will be addressing the problem of stress, especially as we near the holiday season.

Both presentations promise to give those who attend lots to think about and to implement in their lives. Hope to see you then!

Como se dice en espanol?

Or, how do we say it in Spanish? If you'd like to know how, the library has just the thing for you.

Our Pimsleur Spanish language package consists of 16 CDs that take you through the important basics of conversational Spanish so that you'll be able to comfortably converse with those who speak the language.

Each CD consists of two lessons, with each a half-hour in length. It's an easy commitment of time to make that takes you to being able to talk about time, money, dining out, and all of the other normal and mundane everyday activities. Lessons offer the opportunity for hearing and repeating that help to reinforce the new skills.

Come to the library, borrow a CD, and give it a whirl! You'll be glad you did.
