



Threats? Trump needs to ban dogs, bees and asteroids

Phil Luciano

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At first, I was scared by President Trump's executive order.

My trembling eye caught one particularly worrisome line: "My first priority will always be to protect and serve our country." I fretted that he meant doing something crazy, like "protect" the country from its 13,000 annual gun deaths - or, as some call it, just the cover charge for livin' in 'Murica.

But then I read his order further and found out he was actually aiming to keep out Muslims - or, as Trump lovingly explains, not really *just* Muslims but people who only *happen* to live in seven countries with lots and lots of other Muslims. Get it right, stupid media.

Quick action by a new prez? As Trump was kind enough to remind us with a helpful tweet, "This was a big part of my campaign. Study the world!"

Naysayers might suggest he study math. Over the past 40 years, foreign nationals from those seven countries killed exactly zero Americans on U.S. soil. So, the argument might go, the president is protecting us from people known as a grave risk to do absolutely nothing.

But such a view would be shortsighted. Only a unique visionary could look into an empty abyss and see a roaring monster. That's Trump.

Despite the aforementioned no-risk murder history, there is an actual risk, once you account for all factors in our hairy, scary world. According to the Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank, the annual chance of dying in America in a terrorist attack by refugees is one in 3.6 billion. That's a "b," as in billion. As for those illegal immigrants, the odds of murder at their hands is one in 10.9 billion.

I'm not sure how that works out odds-wise in a country home to just 325 million people. But any risk is too risky, right? It's enough to make you stay home and with your loved ones - provided, of course, you first check their papers.

But if the Oval Office is getting its briefs in a bunch over a threat of just one in 10.9 billion, what about other perils out there? What will our president do to further protect us? After all, he has vowed to enact "the most secure policies over the next 90 days."

So, we might see an increase in the ban, not just with other countries but other threats. In terms of odds, these dangers are more likely to kill you than Trump's terrorism targets so far.

By Trump logic, these are some possibilities:

Dogs: There's a 11,273,142-to-one shot that you will be bitten or mauled to death by a pooch. I say we either ban them all, or at least send them to live with the crazy lady down the street with all those cats. She won't know the difference.

Wasps and bees: Death by stinger? Odds are a nasty 25,364,571-to-one. That said, we don't have to get extreme. I say we ban not just wasps but also hornets and yellow jackets, primarily because I don't know the difference. But we need to keep the honeybee, which contribute to many important facets of our everyday life, chiefly Bit-O-Honey bars, which are delicious.

Fireworks: OK, let's not get crazy. Sure, there's a 50,729,141-to-one shot you'll die from a fireworks attack, which is a far greater chance than death from refugees and illegal aliens. But drunken fireworks accidents are almost as part of American culture as drunken gunplay accidents. And really, who wants to mess with the fabric of America?

Asteroids: Talk about an alien attack: there's a 74,817,414-to-one chance that you'll die this year when hit by an asteroid. Granted, the next big asteroid isn't set to get anywhere near earth until March 29, 2185, so we might not be around. Still, Trump promised to replace Obamacare with "something terrific," maybe so terrific we'll all live another 168 years, at least. To keep out the asteroid, maybe Trump can build a wall - and make the asteroid pay for it.

These next 90 days should prove interesting, if we can keep away from the dogs, wasps and asteroids. It's a dangerous world out there.