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美国之音听力突破系列

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Voice of America

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There's no honorable way to kill, no gentle way to destroy.
There is nothing good in war.
Except its ending.

Albanderson Liveragio

学习在生活 点点燃星火

兴南音像电子出版社



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# 前言

Language is a door, through which we may walk closer to success; / Language is a window, out of which we can see a colorful life; Language is a mirror, in which we can find both others and ourselves.

你手中的这本书,它是一扇敞开的门,引领你踏上梦寐以求的成功之路,它能变幻成透明的窗,让你饱览窗外异彩纷呈的世界,它还是明亮的镜子,映照出过去、现在和未来的自我。

VOA Special English是深受广大英语学习者喜爱的英语节目。本书取材于2007年上半年的VOA节目文稿,涵盖Special English的全部专题节目。全书共14章,分为上篇"政经科教"和下篇"文史综合"。上篇包括:时事新闻、发展报道、经济报道、教育报道、健康报道、农业报道和科学报道:下篇包括:自然探索、今日美国、美国史话、美国人物志、美国万花筒、美国故事和词语掌故。本书中的所有文章均配有原始广播录音。

如何有效地提高听力水平?许多英语名家都建议精听和泛听相结合。本书每一章分为精听和泛听两部分:精听文章配以"单词注释"、"全文翻译"、"新闻链接"和"即听即练",建议听第一遍后做题,然后反复听(根据原文模仿正音,听译,对照译文,复述等等);泛听部分仅有"单词注释",建议听一两遍,把握大意、巩固听力。每章后面附以"专题词汇"和"名师点拨",前者帮助学习者扩大词汇量,后者为学习者指点迷津、找到适合自己的最佳学习方法。

"激情英语"、"动感英语"、"逆向英语"、"克聋英语"……你未唱罢我登场,如今的英语门派和学习方法俯拾皆是。我们精选的"慢速英语"无门无派,以其独特的魅力为英语学习者加油助威。

本书适合:

有一定英语基础的高中学生和大学生使用:

既可作为提高听力、口语和写作的自学参考资料;

也可作为大学英语文化、阅读类选修课的补充教材:

对于英语专业的学生来说,本书是练习听写(全文或部分)的绝佳选择。

俗话说"慢功出细活",英谚又云"More haste, less speed(欲速则不达)"。我们的观点是学英语,不怕慢,就怕站(Be not afraid of growing slowly, be afraid only of standing still.)。功到自然成,成功属于持之以恒的人。

# VOA Special English 专题节目简介 V•八 〇

Slogan of VOA Special English: Learn American English and Much More Read Listen Learn

#### Chapter 1 In the News 时事新闻

小国大国联合国,国国交往,家事国事天下事,事事关心。世界瞬息万变,时事频繁更新,岁月匆匆流逝,新闻转眼成为历史。也许,变是唯一的不变,不变可以应万变。秀才不出门,尽知天下事。或静坐于书房,或斜卧于床榻,伴着舒缓的音乐,英语时事新闻入耳入心。既可开阔视野,又能学习英语,可谓"一石二鸟"也。

### Chapter 2 Development Report 发展报道

邓小平说,发展才是道理。持续的发展是人们的生存基础,健康的发展是人们的奋斗目标,稳定的发展是一个民族的希望。美国之音的"发展报道"栏目,报道世界最新发展动态。城市化、气候变暖、绿色革命、消除贫困……"发展"仍是当今世界的两大主题之一。国家要发展,企业要发展,个人也要不断地发展,从学好英语开始。

### Chapter 3 Economics Report 经济报道

经济是国家实力的一个晴雨表。国家的经济状况会时高时低,你学英语的热情也同样会忽冷忽热。怎么办?以农业(词汇)为基础,以科技(MP3)为动力,以市场(VOA)为先导,坚持两手抓,两手都要硬(精听和泛听)!听懂听透,融会贯通,下次的英语角,你可以像经济学家一样畅谈金融市场,贸易谈判、合并收购、牛市熊市、道琼斯指数……

### Chapter 4 Education Report 教育报道

中国有句泛滥而空洞的口号: "一切为了孩子,为了一切孩子。"把口号补充完整应该是"一切为了孩子(的老师和父母),为了一切孩子(的早衰和痛苦)。"外国的月亮更圆吗?美国的教育制度如何?美国的孩子怎样学习?留学美国如何申请助学金?你想到的,没想到的问题,都可以在"教育报道"中找到满意的答案。

### Chapter 5 Health Report 健康报道

身体是生命的本钱,健康是身体的红利。有人说,忙得找不到时间休息的人迟早会找到时间生病。要维持身心健康,VOA提供秘方如下:合理的饮食(一日三餐);规律的作息(早睡早起);适量的锻炼(每周至少三次);乐观的态度(每天笑十次);last but not least,收听英语节目(早晚各一次)。谨遵医嘱,康乐无忧。信不信由你。

## Chapter 6 Agriculture Report 农业报道

民以食为天,粮以地为基。农业是国民经济的基础,也是社会稳定的基础。"农业报道"是为农业科技工作者和生产者安排的一个栏目。发达国家的农业成果,发展中国家的生产经验,科学家的最新研究进展,尽在报道之列。谁说我"一介书生,不识五谷杂粮"?畜牧养殖、土壤改良、病虫害防治、无籽水果嫁接等等,我如数家珍呢!嘘!美国之音的功劳(一般人我不告诉他)。

## Chapter 7 Science in the News 科学报道

科学是生产力。本栏目主要对科学技术新闻进行综述或摘要广播,向听众介绍世界各国在自然、医学、疾病、原子能、航天等方面的科研动态、成果、突破性进展及存在的困难。涉及当今世界人们普遍关心的重大问题,如核事故、禽流感、艾滋病、自然灾害和环境污染等等。走近科学,关注生活,热爱生命!

### Chapter 8 Explorations 自然探索

吾生也有涯,而知也无涯(Art is long, life is short)。学习的乐趣在于不断揭开大自然的神秘面纱,而人类的进步正是源于不断探索未知世界。该栏目涵盖太空遨游、非洲探险、珠宝艺术、莎翁名剧、野生动物园、史前巨石阵、人口老龄化等等话题。广袤无垠的宇宙中,渺小但顽强的人类在挣扎,在探索,在进步。"自然探索",探索自然与人生。

## Chapter 9 This is America 今日美国

生活日新月异,现代化的美国生活吸引了来自世界各地的人。"今日美国"向你介绍美国人民的生活、学习、工作和娱乐情况,是英语学习者了解美国社会的一个窗口。希拉里竞选、奥斯卡之夜、NBA赛事、母亲节感怀……每周一个焦点,每期一次感叹,好奇的眼睛通过耳朵和电波观望美国。"今日美国",早听早知道。

## Chapter 10 The Making of a Nation 美国史话

创业难,守业更难。美国经历了几多风风雨雨,才成为今天的头号强国? "美国史话",美国成功之路。该栏目为你介绍美利坚合众国从十三个殖民地,到现代化超级大国的孕育,诞生及发展壮大的历史过程。党派纷争,总统就职,热战冷战,政府决策,功过是非任人评说。如能坚持收听,美国历史定会了然于胸。

### Chapter 11 People in America 美国人物志

记不清哪位名人说过一句话:若想名垂青史,要么写出值得别人拜读的东西,要么做出值得别人记载的东西。美国历史上人才辈出,有法政捍卫者,有民主代言人,有环保先驱,有政坛领袖,有科学家,有文学家……。 "美国人物

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志"类似于人物小传或名人录,一般简述名人的生平事迹,并评价其杰出贡献。收 听名人故事,学习名人精神,谱写人生新篇章!

### Chapter 12 American Mosaic 美国万花筒

喜欢看杂志的朋友,你"听"过杂志吗?"美国万花筒" (很诱人的名字) 是一个可以听的空中"广播杂志"。随着播音员那亲切悦耳的声音,一本图文并茂的英语杂志就展现在你面前,稍加想象,一幅幅生动有趣的美国生活剪影在脑海中闪现。每期"杂志"包括三到五个小节目,内容丰富多彩,每次还解答一封听众来信。如有感兴趣的问题,可以写信给美国之音节目组。下一封要解答的信,可能就是你写的。

## Chapter 13 American Stories 美国故事

"欲知后事如何,且听下回分解!" 刘兰芳、田连元和单田芳播讲的评书,在中国可谓是妇孺皆知、家喻户晓。殊不知,美国之音也有自己的"英语评书"节目。故事以短篇为主,词句简洁,语速舒缓,或催人泪下,或令人捧腹,或发人深省,或扣人心弦……听,熟悉的音乐又响起来了,准备好再一次陶醉吧! 耳朵过瘾,心旷神怡。

## Chapter 14 Words And Their Stories 词语掌故

中国叫"说文解字",美国叫"词语掌故",名不同而实相类。它以讲故事的形式解释美语中生动有趣的词语和惯用法,并从科学研究和通俗词源学的角度来介绍其含意、背景及演变情况。每个词你都认识,组成短语却面目全非:"see eye to eye"是"对眼"吗?"pull sb's leg"是"拉后腿"吗?"one of those days"是"那一天"吗?"a black sheep"是"黑羊"吗?"a blue movie"是"蓝电影"吗?切莫望文生义,还是多听多问勤查字典吧。

## VOA Special English 收听时间与无线短波频率

广播时间 (北京时间)	短波频率(兆赫MHz)
上午6:30-7:00	9.570 13.755 15.145
上午7:30-8:00	7.260 9.570 13.725 13.755 15.145
上午8:30-9:00	1.575 9.715 11.725 15.185 15.205 15.290 15.560 17.820
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## Bush Faces Opposition, Low Public Support for Troop Plan for Iraq

This is IN THE NEWS in VOA Special English.

President Bush told the American people this week that he plans to send more troops to Iraq. He called the situation there unacceptable and added: "Where mistakes have been made, the responsibility rests with me."

The president spoke Wednesday night from the White House.

Mister Bush said past efforts to secure Baghdad failed for two main reasons. First, there were not enough Iraqi and American troops to secure areas that had been cleared. Secondly, he said, there were too many **restrictions** on American forces.

Under the new plan, more than twenty thousand American troops will join the roughly 130,000 already in the war. Most will go to Baghdad to help Iraqi forces. Others will go to the most violent area outside the capital, Anbar province in the west. The president called Anbar the home base for al-Qaida in Iraq.

His "New Way Forward" plan also calls for more than one billion dollars in additional economic aid for Iraq.

Mister Bush has been under pressure to bring American troops home. He says an increase is needed first, to prevent the collapse of the democratically elected Iraqi government. But the newspaper *USA Today*, for example, found that just 12% of the American people support sending more troops.

President Bush said the Iraqi government will **deploy** Iraqi Army and National Police across Baghdad to support local police. He said he has made it clear to Iraqi leaders that America's presence in Iraq is not open-ended. If the Iraqi government does not follow through on its promises, he said, it will lose the support of the American people.

He expressed the belief that victory is still possible, in the sense of a democratic Iraq that would serve as an example for the Arab world. He said succeeding in Iraq also requires defending its territory. He said the United States will target what he called the "flow of support" from Iran and Syria for attacks on American forces.

President Bush said American military commanders believe

his plan can work. But Senator Dick Durbin, in the Democratic answer to the speech, said the president is ignoring the advice of most of his top generals.

The war was a major cause of the Republican loss of Congress in the November elections. The new Democratic leaders in Congress condemned the troop increase even before Mister Bush presented it.

They are planning **advisory** votes in both houses to urge the president not to send more troops. But many Democrats say that is not enough. Some Republicans are also against the plan.

Separately, Defense Secretary Robert Gates announced a plan to increase the Army and Marine Corps by 92,000 troops. The increase, over five years, requires **congressional** approval. He also announced that some part-time forces will be called to duty for a second time before the usual five-year waiting period.

IN THE NEWS in VOA Special English was written by Brianna Blake. I'm Bob Doughty.

## Vocabulary | 单词注释

restriction	[ris'trik∫ən]	n.	限制,约束
deploy	[iclq'ib]	٧.	散开, 部署
commander	[kəˈmɑːndə]	n.	司令官,指挥官
advisory	[ədˈvaizəri]	adj.	顾问的, 咨询的, 劝告的
congressional	[kənˈgreʃənəl]	adj.	会议的, 国会的

## Translation | 全文翻译

## 布什计划增兵伊拉克国内遭反对

这里是美国之音特别英语节目"时事新闻"

本周布什总统向美国民众宣布,他计划向伊拉克增派军队。他宣称伊拉克目前的局势让人难以接受,并称"如果犯下过错,我一人承担责任"。

周三晚上,总统在白宫发表了上述讲话。

布什说,此前为保障巴格达安全所作的努力之所以失败,主要有两方面的原因。其一,伊军和美军兵力不足,没能守住已经清理过的地区。其二,他说,则是因为美军面临太多的限制。

按照新计划,超过2万的美国士兵将被派往前线,与现已投入战争的13万士兵共同作战。新增兵力主要派往巴格达援助伊拉克士兵,其余的派到首都以外的暴力多发地——西部的安巴省。布什总统把安巴省称为"基地"组织在伊拉克的总部。

布什的"前进新路"计划拟给伊拉克增加10亿多美元经济援助。

在撤军的问题上,布什已经承受压力。他说要撤军,先要增兵,以防止 民主选举产生的伊拉克政府的垮台。但是据《今日美国》等报纸发现,只有 12%的美国人支持增兵伊拉克。

布什总统说,伊政府将在巴格达各地部署伊军和国际刑警,以帮助当地的警察。他说他已经明确告知伊领导人,美军不会无限期地驻扎在伊拉克。他说,如果伊政府不信守承诺,将会失去美国人民的支持。

他相信,胜利还是有可能的,从民主的角度来说,伊拉克将成为阿拉伯世界的榜样。他指出,在伊拉克取得成功,就要保卫其领土安全。他还表示,美国将密切留意来自伊朗和叙利亚的支持伊反政府武装的"支援力量",以防其袭击美军。

布什总统说,美军指挥官们相信此计划能够奏效。但是参议员迪克·德宾 代表民主党回应布什的讲话,称布什总统先生忽视了大多数高级将领的意见。

11月共和党在国会中期选举中失利,伊拉克战争是一个主要原因。甚至 在布什提交增兵计划前,国会中的新任民主党领导人就表态反对。

他们正计划游说参众两院投票,敦促总统不要增派兵力。但是许多民主 党人说这还不够。一些共和党人也反对这项计划。

国防部长罗伯特·盖茨另外宣布了一项扩军9万2千名陆军和海军士兵的计划。这项在5年内扩军的计划,需征得国会同意。他还宣布,部分兼职武装人员将会在5年等待期内提前被召回再次服役。

这是美国之音特别英语节目"时事新闻",由布赖恩·布莱克撰文,鲍勃·多尔蒂为您报道。

## News Link | 新闻链接

## 美国民众对伊战的反应

据06年10月《华盛顿邮报》的报道,美国国内有49%的人不满意布什对伊拉克问题的处理,而且越来越多的美国人现在认为美国根本就不应该对伊开战。民意调查结果还显示,目前有将近半数的美国人认为,发动对伊战争和现在对伊拉克的占领将使美国国家安全受到更大威胁。他们认为,布什政府应把主要精力放在解决美国内经济和就业等问题上。

## Exercises | 即听即练

Answer the questions briefly without referring to the manuscript:

- 1. Mister Bush said past efforts to secure Baghdad failed for two main reasons. What are the two reasons?
- 2. According to the newspaper *USA Today*, how many American people support sending more troops to Iraq?
- 3. How much does "New Way Forward" plan call for in additional economic aid for Iraq?

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## Bush Wins on Iraq Bill, but Democrats Promise to Renew Fight

This is IN THE NEWS in VOA Special English.

This week in Washington, Congress approved a war spending bill that President Bush said he would sign. There was debate on an **immigration** bill. And hearings continued into why the Justice Department dismissed eight federal prosecutors last year.

The Iraq spending bill was approved Thursday after majority Democrats dropped their demand to set a date for a troop withdrawal. But the bill does threaten to cut economic aid if the Iraqi government fails to make progress on political and security reforms.

Democrats say they will fight for a withdrawal plan in the next war-financing bill.

The one just approved contains 120 billion dollars in spending. 95 billion of that will pay for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan through September. Billions will go to unrelated projects at home.

Also included in the bill is the first increase in almost ten years in the federal minimum wage. Many of the lowest-paid workers are immigrants. And on Monday the Senate opened debate on an immigration bill.

Supporters of immigration reform, including President Bush, say the bill is needed to help fix a broken system. An estimated 12 million immigrants are in the United States illegally.

Proposals include stronger border security, a temporary worker program and a path for undocumented workers to become legal.

One proposal would create two-year renewable visas for foreign temporary workers. On Wednesday the Senate voted to cut the proposed number of temporary workers in half, to two hundred thousand a year.

Some groups say the bill would separate families of immigrant workers. Labor unions worry that the bill would create a new class of poorly paid migrants with few legal protections. Employers are divided over proposed changes that could also affect highly skilled foreign workers. And some critics say the bill would reward people who entered the country illegally.

The Senate is expected to end debate on the immigration bill

in the middle of June. At that time senators could take a rare **no-confidence vote** in Attorney General Alberto Gonzales over the Justice Department dismissals.

On Wednesday a committee in the House questioned a former Gonzales aide who worked with the White House. Monica Goodling said she "crossed the line" by bringing political considerations into some hiring decisions at the department. But she said she had only a limited part in the replacement of United States attorneys.

Democrats said her statements raised new questions about **dismissals** that they suggest were made for political reasons. But a Republican lawmaker said there were no surprises and no evidence of **corruption**.

Democrats and some Republicans want Alberto Gonzales to resign. President Bush says he supports him and hopes Congress will move quickly to finish hearings that he calls "political theater."

And that's IN THE NEWS in VOA Special English, written by Brianna Blake. I'm Steve Ember.

## Vocabulary | 单词注释

immigration withdrawal no-confidence vote	[ˌimiˈgreiʃən] [wiðˈdrɔːəl]	n.	移民 收回,撤退 不信任投票
replacement	[ri'pleisment]	n.	复位,替换
dismissal	[dis'misəl]	n.	免职,解雇
corruption	[kəˈrʌp∫ən]	n.	腐败,贪污

## Translation | 全文翻译

布什赢得伊拉克法案,民主党人声称不服这里是美国之音特别英语节目"时事新闻"。

本周于华盛顿,国会通过了布什总统打算签署的战争拨款法案。同时移民法案引起了争论,就去年司法部为何解职8名联邦检察官举行的听证会还在继续。

在多数民主党人放弃要求确定撤军期限后,伊拉克拨款法案于周四获得通过。但该法案中要挟道,如果伊拉克政府不能在政治和安全改革方面取得进展,(美国)将减少经济援助。

民主党人声称,他们会在下一个战争筹金法案中再次为撤军计划而战。

刚通过的法案包含1200亿的拨款。其中950亿用于直到9月底的伊拉克和阿富汗的军事行动,数十亿用于国内其他项目。

法案还包括近十年来首次提高联邦最低工资。最低收入的工人多数为移民。 本周一、参议院对移民法案展开辩论。

移民改革的拥护者,包括布什总统在内,认为该法案有助于修复受到破坏的体制。据估计美国境内有1200万非法移民。

提议包括加强边境安全检查的要求、建立临时工制度以及无证件的工人变为 合法的途径。

有项提议是为国外临时工发放为期两年的可更新的签证。周三参议院投票决定将提议的临时工数量削减一半,降至每年20万人。

有团体称, 法案会拆散移民工人的家庭。工会担忧法案会导致缺乏法律保护的低薪移民这样一个新阶层的出现。雇主们对提议的变革是否会影响外国高级技术人员这一问题产生了分歧。还有批评家指出。非法入境者反倒会受惠于法案。

参议院预期6月中旬结束对移民法案的讨论。届时参议员们可以就司法部解职风波对司法部长阿尔韦托·冈萨雷斯进行罕见的不信任投票。

周三,众议院某委员会询问了在白宫就职的冈萨雷斯前助手,莫尼卡·古德林说自己"越了界",让政治意见影响了司法部的雇佣决定,不过她说自己在替换美国检察官事件中参与有限。

民主党人说,她的声明引发了新的质疑,即他们建议的解职行为是源于政治原因。但据一名共和党议员说,事情并不突然,也没有证据显示这是腐败行为。

民主党人以及部分共和党人想让阿尔韦托·冈萨雷斯辞职。布什总统说自己支持他,并希望国会加快进程,尽快结束被他称作"政治剧"的听证会。

这是美国之音特别英语节目"时事新闻",由布赖恩·布莱克撰文,史蒂 夫·恩柏为您报道。

## News Link | 新闻链接

### 美国国会通过拨款法案

布什2007年5月1日否决了国会通过的包含从伊拉克撤军时间表的紧急战争拨款法案。此后,民主党和白宫就修改紧急战争拨款法案展开谈判,在国会即将因长假休会前,双方最终达成妥协。众议院24日以280对142票通过了修改后的紧急战争拨款法案,随后参议院也以80对14票通过了这一法案。虽然民主党在撤军问题上做出了让步,但白宫也被迫同意在法案中首次提出伊拉克政府在安全和政治问题上必须达到的目标,并且把美国提供的重建援助与伊拉克政府是否达标挂钩。

## Exercises | 即听即练

Choose the correct answer for each question:

 Hearings continued into why the Justice Department dismissed \_\_\_\_\_ last year.

A. eighteen federal prosecutors

	C. eight federal prosecutors
	D. eighty federal officials
2.	The bill does threaten to cut economic aid if the Iraqi
	government fails to make progress on
	A. economic and security reforms
	B. political and security reforms
	C. political and economic reforms
	D. political and legal reforms
3.	An estimated immigrants are in the United
	Of the state of th

States illegally.

A. twelve million B. twenty million
C. two million D. two billion

4 Monica Goodling said she "crossed the line" by bringing

Monica Goodling said she "crossed the line" by bringing
 \_\_\_\_\_ into some hiring decisions at the department.
 A. personal taste
 B. political election

C. political considerations D. Presidents' suggestion President Bush says he hopes Congress will move quickly

to finish hearings that he calls \_\_\_\_\_A. political drama.

B. eight federal officers

B. political theater.

C. congress drama

D. congress theater.

Issues after Killings at Virginia Tech Go Beyond Debate over Gun Laws

This is IN THE NEWS in VOA Special English.

Friday was a statewide day of mourning in Virginia for the people shot to death Monday at Virginia Tech. But other Americans also honored the 32 students and teachers. Some of the **victims** at the university in Blacksburg were from other countries. The attack by a student, Cho Seung-hui, who also killed himself, was the deadliest shooting in modern American history.

The tragedy brought back memories of other school shootings, including what had been the worst. In fact, Friday was the 8th **anniversary** of the attack at Columbine High School in Colorado. Two young men killed twelve other students and one teacher, and themselves.

Often, when a shooting captures national attention, debate

about gun control follows. This week some of the calls to restart that debate came from political leaders in other countries.

Australian Prime Minister John Howard spoke of the gun culture in the United States. He noted that his own country took action to limit the **availability** of guns after a man killed 35 people in Tasmania 11 years ago.

British Home Office minister Tony McNulty studied at Virginia Tech. If the tragedy starts a serious debate on gun laws, he says, then some good may come from it.

The White House said Friday that President Bush has ordered federal officials to study issues raised by the shooting. These include how to deal with people whose mental health problems can make them a danger.

On Monday, a spokeswoman said the president believes that people have a right to arms, but all laws must be followed.

The Second Amendment to the Constitution says: "A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed."

Gun laws are not the only issue. Others involve privacy laws and disability rights that protect people with mental disorders.

Cho Seung-hui was born in South Korea but lived most of his life in the United States. He was known at Virginia Tech as a troubled person. He studied English and some of his writings were so violent they scared other students and his professors.

But schools may worry about legal action if they **expel** a student who has not made direct threats. Virginia Tech officials say they did what they could within the law.

The shooter was armed with two handguns that he recently bought after passing a criminal history check. There are federal laws, but each state also has its own laws on buying and selling guns. Virginia is among the states with fewer restrictions than others.

The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence says an estimated 39% of American homes have a gun. The campaign points to national injury reports from 2004, the most recent year available. There were almost 30,000 gun-related deaths. About 40% were murders. Most of the others were suicides or accidents.

And that's IN THE NEWS in VOA Special English. I'm Steve Ember.

## victim

['viktim]

n.

受害人

anniversary availability

[¡æni'vəːsəri] [əˌveiləˈbiliti] n. n.

周年纪念

expel

[iks'pel]

٧.

TT EA

## Translation | 全文翻译

弗吉尼亚理工大学枪击案后热议枪支法案

现在是美国之音特别英语节目"时事新闻"。

本周五,弗吉尼亚全州民众为弗吉尼亚理工大学星期一被射杀的师生举行悼念仪式。其他州也为死去的32名师生举行了悼念活动。布莱克斯堡市这所大学的一些受害者来自其他国家。肇事学生赵承熙最终也自杀,这起枪杀案是美国近代史上最惨烈的一次。

这一悲剧让人回忆起其他校园枪杀案,包括最为恶劣的案件。其实,周 五正是科罗拉多州科伦拜高中枪杀案的第八个周年纪念日,两个年轻人杀害 了12名学生和1名老师后自尽。

每当枪杀案引起全国关注之后,接下来往往是对枪支管制的争论。本周 其他国家的一些政治领导人也呼吁再度展开争论。

澳大利亚总理约翰·霍华德谈到了美国的枪支文化。他指出,11年前有人在塔斯马尼亚州射杀了35人,之后澳大利亚便采取了措施限制获取枪支的途径。

英国内政部部长托尼·麦克那提曾就读于弗吉尼亚理工大学。他说,如果这一悲剧能够引发对枪支管制的严肃讨论,那么这起案件或许具有积极作用。

白宫周五说,布什总统已命令联邦官员研究枪杀案揭示的各种问题,包括 如何应对有心理障碍而对他人构成威胁的群体。

周一,一位发言人称总统认为人们有权使用枪支,不过要遵守所有法律。

宪法第二条修正案明文规定: 规范化的民兵部队对自由国家的安全而言至为重要。民众拥有与携带枪支的权利不可侵犯。"

枪支法案并不是唯一的问题,还涉及到隐私法以及保护有心理障碍人群的残疾人权利。

赵承熙出生于韩国,但绝大多数时间生活在美国。他在弗吉尼亚理工大学是出名的问题学生,主修英语。他的一些作文充满暴力内容,曾令老师和同学恐惧不已。

不过如果学校开除一名未造成直接威胁的学生,反倒担心会受到指控, 校方声称他们在法律允许的范围内尽力而为了。

凶手携有两把手枪,这两把手枪是他在最近通过了一次罪犯历史测验后 买来的。关于枪支的买卖,联邦有相关法律,但各州也有其自己的法律,弗 吉尼亚州是对枪支买卖限制比较少的一个州。

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