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**Don't Trade Rights for Security**

**By Terry Mitchell**

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"Those who sacrifice essential liberty for temporary safety are not deserving of either liberty or safety."  
— Ben Franklin, 1776

In the wake of 9/11 and subsequent terrorist attacks around the world, there is a real temptation to allow the government to take away some of our most precious rights in exchange for greater security. We must resist this temptation. In order to have a free society, there are certain prices that have to be paid. One of those is the possibility that someone will take advantage of our freedom and use it as an opportunity to endanger us. So what if they do? Giving up any part of our freedom is not the answer. In fact, that's exactly what the terrorists want. When we do that, they win.

The U.S.A. Patriot Act is a step in the wrong direction and could represent a slippery slope toward further erosion of our rights. Write your Representative and Senators and ask them to repeal the U.S.A. Patriot Act and avoid passing similar legislation in the future. If we don't do something soon, the U.S. could soon have policies similar to many communist, fascist, and Islamic fundamentalist countries, all under the guise of greater security!

People have accused me of being "obsessive and overzealous" on this issue but that's okay with me. Ask some of the senior citizens in Cuba who have been under Castro's repressive regime for 45 years how they feel now. I bet many of them wish they would have been a little more "obsessive and overzealous" about their freedom in 1959, instead of standing by passively when the communists took over. Look what it's gotten them!

If some of those currently under Islamic rule in the Arab world were free to say what they thought about their situations now, I bet many of them would tell you they wish they would have been a little more "obsessive and overzealous" about protecting their freedom instead of sitting by passively and letting the Islamic fundamentalists take over.

What about North Korea? Could a few more "obsessive and overzealous" defenders of freedom have prevented that country becoming the communist threat to the world that it is today?

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What about Nazi Germany? Could Hitler's rise to power have been nipped in the bud if his opponents had been a little more "obsessive and overzealous" instead of being so timid? Could we have used a few more "obsessive and overzealous" defenders of civil liberties in Germany when six million Jews were losing their lives?

What if George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and the other Founding Fathers would have just given in to England's demands instead of being so "obsessive and overzealous" about their freedom? And Patrick Henry? Surely he was an "obsessive and overzealous" person if there ever was one. Why he was even "obsessive and overzealous" enough to say "give me liberty or give me death" and really mean it!

There are plenty of well-meaning but misguided and fearful individuals out there who are lobbying Congress to limit our First and Second Amendment, habeas corpus, and other rights even further. We must let our voices be heard or the voices of those people will be the only ones they hear. It only takes a few minutes to make a difference. Of course, it doesn't take any time at all to sit back and let your rights completely erode. The choice is yours.

"I would remind you that extremism in defense of liberty is no vice." — Barry Goldwater, 1964

Terry Mitchell is a software engineer, freelance writer, and trivia buff from Hopewell, VA. He also serves as a political columnist for American Daily and operates his own website – <http://www.commenterry.com> – on which he posts commentaries on various subjects such as politics, technology, religion, health and well-being, personal finance, and sports. His commentaries offer a unique point of view that is not often found in mainstream media.

## Credit Option Spreads

**By Daniel Beatty**

What is a credit spread?

Investopedia says... "An options strategy where a high premium option is sold and a low premium option is bought on the same underlying security."

OK I know that is very vague, so lets see if I can do better.

It is a trading strategy in which you buy an out of the money option at a certain strike price and then you sell an out of the money option at a different strike price of the same month. As time goes on the options will decay in value and as long as the price of the stock does not go past the sold strike price at the end of expiration you will receive a full credit winning trade.

For example, it is January and XYZ stock is currently at \$54 and it looks as if it is bullish or will increase in price over the next month and you firmly believe that the stock will not go below \$50. You would

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trade a Bull Put Credit Spread on a Feb expiration. You would buy the Feb 45 put for \$.25 and you would sell the Feb 50 put for \$1.00. This leaves you with a credit of \$.75 in your account or actually \$75 per contract you trade. The risk of the trade or the amount of money per contract you need in your account is \$425 per contract. This gives you a return on investment of 17.5% in how ever many days till Feb expiration.

Lets take it out like a real trade – It is January 13 and Febuary expiration is in 35 days. You place the trade for 5 contracts. So you now buy 5 FEB XYZ 45 PUTs for \$.25 or \$125 total and you sell 5 FEB XYZ 50 PUTs for \$1.00 or \$500 giving you a credit of \$375 in your account. Now to back the trade up with collateral in case the trade goes wrong you need to have \$2125 in your account for just this trade. If XYZ closes above \$50 in 35 days you will have received \$375 which is a 17.6% gain. There is a break even price of \$49.25 that if the stock closes at this number you will neither gain or lose money. If the stock closes between \$49.25 and \$45 you will lose some money and if it closes below \$45 you will lose \$2125.

If you like the idea of knowing exactly what your profit will be, exactly when the trade is closed, and exactly how much money you will risk then credit option spread trading is for you. Your profit margins will be between 10 and 20% on each trade – on some of the aggressive credit spreads you can make over 50% – and there are techniques for changing your trade if it becomes a losing trade to help you recover some of the loss and in some cases even make it a winning trade again even though you were wrong on the direction of the movement of the stock.

Daniel Beatty has been trading options for several years and now teaches others how to trade specific strategies for free through his website

or Option Spreads.



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