

TACTICS AND PREPAREDNESS

SKILLS AND SURVIVAL FOR ALL SITUATIONS

STASHING
CRITICAL
SUPPLIES

CONTINGENCY CACHES

BY KELLY ALWOOD

I flew into Kabul on a commercial flight from the states. I was on a low-profile protective detail and was unable to bring much in the way of kit or weapons.

I had a U.S. military friend in country at Jalalabad whom I called before departing Chicago. I let him know I would need to hit a cache upon arrival in country. Dozer had assets in place all over, from rat lines to safe houses to caches and I needed to raid one to plus up my gear. I had told him over the phone what I would

need when I hit the ground and he was Johnny On the Spot with supplies. One was even a dead drop on the outside of a checkpoint coming into the city.

A cache is a hiding place, a safe location, to stash items that you may need at some future point. What items go into a cache is completely dependent upon your mission

or situation. You may travel frequently to a certain city for business and want to cache a backup set of ID and credit card in the event you lose those while out of town. Many people have cached an entire bug out bag not many miles from their home in case they are away from home when a situation demands *continued next page*

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STAFF

DAVID MORRIS and "OX"	Publishers
CHRIS GRAHAM www.chrisgrahamauthor.com	Editor
JOHN HIGGS	Copy Editor
BETTY SHONTS	Graphic Designer

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PIXABAY - JIMSPITZER

There are a lot of questions to address before you stash or bury your cache - Will someone spot me? Will I always have access? How will weather affect it?



PIXABAY - FIM-PYH-DELUKE

they leave quickly without returning home to kit up.

It is a good idea to cache needed items on an emergency evacuation route you planned for a disaster. Caches can be temporary or long term. You may go on a vacation and want to cache some cash, credit cards, ID, important phone numbers, and the like just in case you are robbed, in a wreck or just lose it. Some special operations units cache equipment upon initial infiltration of an area of operation before proceeding to their target. These caches are usually critical backup equipment needed for extraction if equipment carried is damaged or lost such as radios and other communication equipment.

The first consideration of a cache is to adequately package contents. What this is exactly will depend not only what you are putting inside, but also the location of where it will be

placed. When you place a cache there are several considerations that must be taken into account. Things to think about are: 1. Weather (will this hiding place freeze, flood, etc.), 2. Can I readily find this exact location again; day or night? 3. Will someone see me place it? 4. What will be the cost if someone else finds my cache? 5. Do I have unlimited access to this site year round? 6. Likelihood of cache being moved.

A few examples may be helpful to start asking useful questions for your hide location. I was in a northern region of a country when I needed to place a longer term cache. I decided to use plastic and duct tape to package my cache as it was waterproof and I was placing it in the water, in a lake, near the shore. I tied one end of an appropriate colored line of embroidery thread to the package and the other end at the bottom of a smaller tree

to tether it. The thread had sufficient tensile strength for the job and I buried the line so it could not be seen. I only had to remember which tree I secured it to when I wanted to retrieve it.

All of this worked, but I did not plan for a winter retrieval of my cache. I found my tree, but the cache was under six inches of ice. Another example is a cache I put in Chicago, where my packaging was great and I found an abandoned building with block walls. My cache was there for two years and then upon my next trip to Chicago to teach a class I discovered my building was torn down completely; another lesson learned. I was in another area with seasonal climate changes and cached a bucket. I dug a whole, buried the bucket and put soil back over the top. Every time I was in country, I checked the location, first to make sure I could find it and second to see if the ground had been disturbed. Each time I did find it and it looked normal. There was no sign of disturbance, however, after three years I dug it up to check the contents and supplement it. What I found was that the freezing and thawing of the ground had compromised the integrity of my seal and it was

full of water. Weapons were rusted in position. They would not cycle or kick out a magazine. The knives were rusted to the point of being useless and the rest of the kit was ruined as well. Thankfully I was only checking the cache and wasn't in a position where I was in need of it for survival at that point.

Consider my experiences when deciding packaging and location for your cached gear and avoid the same problems. Some ideas for cache locations are: caves, bridges, walls, ceilings and baseboards of structures in infrequently used structures such as stadiums, railroad facilities off spur lines, culverts, conduits, museums, churches, libraries, lakes and rivers. As you look at this limited list it should get you thinking outside the box and also considering the pros and cons of each. My all-time favorite spot for a cache is a cemetery. It fits all the criteria; no one digs or molests things there, there is easy full time access, they are seldom busy with people and there are permanent markers that will not generally be changed. This is why insurgents from the Viet Cong to al Qaeda in Iraq have routinely hidden coffins full of weapons and other materials in cemeteries.

Finding your cache is a challenge if not well planned for in advance. One way to consistently find your caches is to use a system, such as always using the largest or smallest tree in the group, or the very north east corner of a building or a grave with the same first or last name, etc. Once you do this, also be consistent with regards to orientation of that object, such as eight feet north of the marker, or 20 paces south, knee high in a wall, etc. Be consistent with all your placements and as you put out more and more caches over time you will be able to recover them more simply.

You may see from the examples that simple packaging will work with most items you want to stash. A common way to safely package most anything is with garbage bags and packing tape. It is cheap, non-descript, and it works. I have tried almost every product on the market over the years and I find that vacuum seals will fail, things will degrade, and the only thing that hasn't failed me is a Pelican case. However, the down side to using them is: 1. They are expensive. 2. They may be too big for whatever you are putting in it, requiring a lot more room and limiting hiding options. 3. Once discovered, your cache will

**A CEMETERY MAY FIT
THE CRITERIA FOR A
SAFE CACHE LOCATION.**

PHOTO: MICHAEL JONES





PELICAN.COM

left: The author had no trouble with Pelican cases, but attractive containers are almost guaranteed to be stolen when found.

right: Garbage bags may keep your contents dry and protected.



MTWCASE-GARD.COM

A GARBAGE BAG MAY NOT INVITE SCRUTINY IF FOUND.

be gone with a 100 percent certainty. No one will fail to look inside it or leave it behind. For these reasons I don't use them.

I used high quality black garbage bags and packing tape on everything I put away. It will be waterproof, dustproof, humidity resistant, etc. If someone stumbles upon it, as a garbage bag there is a chance that it won't be disturbed. When was the last time you opened a garbage bag to see what was inside? Another favorite place of mine for caching small items is those hanging maximum height bars in parking garages; that is the PVC pipes that hang down and say maximum vehicle height is 8'2". Those are one of my favorite places as they can be right off the street, open to the public, available 24/7/365 and there is a high likelihood the structure will not move or be torn down. When was the last time you looked inside one of those? The pipes are not very big in diameter, so it is great for smaller items such as: some cash, a thumb drive, prepaid credit card, flip phone, lock picks, etc. Package it properly, place it inside, and I usually attach a small piece of embroidery thread to it that hangs just to the edge for quick retrieval.

There are occasions when you may need to stow away some legitimate gear, however most of the time a minimal amount of kit will suffice. Also, keep in mind that if your cache was to be discovered it would likely be lost, and depending what you had inside it may compromise your whole mission and presence. I keep my long term caches sterile; meaning that nothing would

come back to me if it were discovered.

Shorter term caches may be more likely to require having identifying articles in them. That's actually one reason we have them. So if you need to cache anything but physical ID, I would recommend using a thumb drive or SD card to keep all your data on, encrypt it and have it password protected. Now you can keep most everything you need in a digital format and keep your anonymity. Always consider the fact that someone may pick up your stash and go through it all. That means you need to take into account legal considerations to comply with and all possible safety issues. Do you want a curious 10-year-old to find a pistol? Are you operating in an ungoverned region abroad, are you in the USA, or somewhere else?

Most of my caches have a \$40 Android prepaid phone in them. There I can store photos of my ID, credit cards, contact information, and even use it to withdraw at an ATM. Given enough time a hacker can access the phone's contents, however, that is normally not my primary concern. I am worried about the normal Joe in that place getting my information. Prepaid credit cards are good to have around, the burner phone with information loaded in it as well as needed apps and a reload card, an inexpensive knife, charging cable, thumb drive to access stored information from a computer, and then whatever else you might need specifically for your needs can come in handy.

If you are anticipating a bug out or operating in any type of austere environment, then

you should add other items to your kit. When I'm in such a situation, I always assume the worst and think about what I would need if I had nothing, and this was the only resource I had to get me through my mission. To these caches I add medical supplies, a tiny survival kit, a few high calorie/high protein bars, a small flashlight with extra batteries and any other critical item appropriate for the location. A small urban kit might include lock picks, multitool, etc. If it was rural you will need to beef up your survival kit portion. Each one you build will be unique and individual-based on the location and the purpose it is intended for.

Your first few caches will most likely fail, so set out at least a half dozen practice ones with nothing of value, nothing hazardous and nothing containing identity in them and learn from their compromises. Don't let your first cache be a real one, this is something that takes some real thought, and trial and error at your location will be an eye opener. Be legal, be safe and be prepared. ✓

BIO

Kelly Alwood has served as a security consultant in Southeast Asia, and Southwest Asia including: India, Iraq and Afghanistan. He provided security services in support of Hurricane Ike, Hurricane Gustav, Hurricane Katrina and the Asian tsunami. He is a partner in OnPoint Tactical, and provides instruction in urban escape and evasion, tracking and survival. www.kellyalwood.com.



FRSO PROGRAM: CLASS IN THE U.S. AND OUR STRATEGY FOR REVOLUTION

DOCUMENT BY **FREEDOM ROAD SOCIALIST ORGANIZATION** SUMMARY BY **CHRIS GRAHAM**

The Freedom Road Socialist Organization (FRSO) reportedly grew out of a constellation of shrinking Maoist groups of the 1970s United States New Communist Movement. They merged to one organization.

FRSO Program: *Class in the U.S. and Our Strategy for Revolution* was adopted at the Freedom Road Socialist Organization 2007 “Congress”. The entire document can be accessed for free at: <https://frso.org/main-documents/class-in-the-us-and-strategy-for-revolution/>.

The document opens:

To change society and end oppression, we need a plan to get from where we are now to liberation - a strategy that will work. Any successful revolutionary strategy must address the fundamental issue of who are our friends and who are our enemies and explain how we will go about uniting all who can be united to end the existing order of things.

It goes on to say:

We need to turn things upside down. This means revolution, a radical break that advances the cause of the exploited, that employs, in the words of Malcolm X, any means necessary. Working and oppressed peoples need political power. This power is the means to reorganize society in our own interests and dictate our terms to all who stand in the way.

Section two, “United Front Against Monopoly Capitalism” makes the claim:

Of paramount importance is grasping the fact that the United States is a country where entire nationalities - African Americans, Chicanos and Latinos, Asian Americans, Native peoples including native Ha-

waiians, Arab Americans and others within U.S. borders - are bound by the chains of national oppression. Real and full equality, liberation and self-determination become possible with the destruction of monopoly capitalism. Thus the struggle to end national oppression has a revolutionary significance. One cannot understand the U.S. past, present or future without firmly grasping this point.

Section three, “Strategic Alliance” asserts:

Revolutionary change in the United States will bring together two powerful currents: the struggles of oppressed nationalities for equality and liberation, and the fight of the multi-national working class to end exploitation and eliminate all oppres-

sion. Building the unity of these two forces is what we mean by building a strategic alliance.

Section four, “Classes in the U.S.” states:

Marxists approach the matter differently, and we believe that to be a part of the working class is something to be proud of. When socialists look at the issue of class we see that every kind of society, from ancient times until now, is organized around its tools – its’ means of producing things that satisfy people’s needs and wants. Ownership of the means of production is basic. Classes are large groups of people, who have a defined relationship to the means of production, such as ownership. They also have a defined place in the social division of labor, for example some people are supervisors or managers. The result of these differences in who owns what and where one fits into the social division of labor, means a difference in who gets how much wealth.

Section five, “Monopoly capitalists” asserts:

The monopoly capitalist class is the dominant class in the United States. They own and control the big corporations like Citicorp, General Motors and Wal-Mart. This class of billionaires, multimillionaires and those in their immediate circles are real rulers of the U.S. This class of monopoly capitalist is the principal target of revolution in the United States.

Section six, “Non-monopoly capitalists” states:

These are the capitalists who are important on a local or regional level. They include some of the smaller banking and finance groups and some of the smaller manufactures, for example in furniture building and food processing, the owners of large farms and ranches, with a larger section centered in the service sector—for example the owners of smaller restaurant chains....

The non-monopoly capitalists are also a target of revolution in the United States.

Section seven, “Petty Bourgeoisie” says:

Based on their relationship to other classes and their income, the petty bourgeoisie can be broken down into three groups or strata: upper, middle and lower...

and goes on:

It is important that as many people as possible within this class be brought into

the united front against monopoly capitalism. In some cases, this will be done based on the economic interests of sections of this class. For example, building farm protest movements or uniting with small storeowners to oppose a Wal-Mart in the community. In other cases, work will be done by building progressive political centers in a certain profession for example, building the organizations of progressive lawyers.



FRSO promotional material featuring communist revolutionary Che Guevara.

Section eight, “Working Class” asserts:

Broadly speaking, the working class can be divided into upper, middle and lower sections.

Many undocumented workers are in the lower section of the working class, and a portion of this section of the class would like to see radical change.

The urban poor is the stratum of the lower section of the working class who are without jobs or who lack stable employment. It includes people on public assistance and day laborers. The urban poor is extremely dissatisfied with conditions, and it is the only stratum of the working class that as a whole, is open to revolutionary ideas about changing society.

The conclusion, “Working Class Leadership and the Need for a New Communist Party” prescribe:

For revolutionary change to take place in the United States, three conditions need to be in place. First, the broad masses of people ... need to arrive at the conclusion that they are unable to live in the old way, and need to be willing to fight to bring the old order to an end. Second, the ruling class

needs to be in real crisis, where it is divided against itself and unable to continue with business as usual. And, finally, there needs to be a strong revolutionary organization, a communist party that is capable of navigating complex political situations and that can lead the fight to establish working class political power.

It is possible that an upsurge of the national movements will lead to the creation of Marxist organizations based among a specific nationality, as happened in the late 60’s and early 70’s. If this takes place again, it would mean prioritizing the principled unity of communist organizations. Likewise if polarization in society due to the decline of U.S imperialism, or radicalization of a section of one or more social movements creates a layer of activists who are revolutionary minded, this in turn will affect the content of party building efforts.

Why does the Freedom Road Socialist Organization *Strategy for Revolution* matter to you? In July 2020, the New York Times claimed, “Black Lives Matter may be the biggest movement in US history”. In 2013 the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement first appeared, tweeting slogans in support of false narratives popularly circulated in mainstream media about the killing of Trayvon Martin. Martin was fighting a Hispanic male CCW holder when he was shot. All substantiated evidence suggested that the shooting was an act of self-defense and investigators documented this at the time.

In a 2015 video interview BLM founder, Patrisse Cullors, stated “We are trained Marxists”. Who provided that training? Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi, the three originators of BLM, have each reportedly held positions in Freedom Road Socialist Organization groups.

In 2020, a Minneapolis police officer arrested George Floyd for allegedly circulating counterfeit currency. The officer appeared to be kneeling on Mr. Floyd’s neck in a video shot by a bystander. Mr. Floyd is believed to have died after nearly eight minutes. Multitudes of people were angered by the loss of life. Police misconduct appeared to have been evident in the situation, and the narrative that Mr. Floyd was “murdered” for racial reasons was widely advanced. Protests and riots ensued with BLM signs displayed around the world.

It is unlikely that many people who partici-

pate in America's most recent protests and riots want their private property confiscated, their right to free speech rescinded, and their individual liberties determined by a ruling committee and subordinate bureaucrats, but then communist revolutions have never depended on transparency and convincing a majority of citizens to voluntarily participate.

Communist revolutionary warfare tactics formulaically use agitators to foment strife and discontent in a society. Lines of effort are pursued to turn neighbor against neighbor. Small intransigent cadres are used to escalate and maintain societal discomfort. Cadres do not honor compromises; their demands can only be acquiesced to in whole or in part until the next demand is made. False narratives and deception are aggressively used to obscure the origins of the strife and commonly used to obscure the final end states sought. The deceptions must be maintained until the revolution has sufficient momentum that the apathetic majority of the population is no longer relevant. When these templates were utilized in China, North Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia, Cuba, Venezuela, Russia, and throughout Eastern Europe similar

tactics, techniques and procedures were employed to undermine existing societies.

Communist revolutionary warfare cadres rely on human nature. In these historical examples, corrupt politicians could be relied upon to seek personal gains from posing as friends of emerging movements and naively trying to ride the waves they created, but quickly lost the delusion of control. Many professional organizations and commercial entities desperately tried to position themselves to win favor from revolutionary movements naively hoping to prevent their own property from being destroyed or to profit from what they thought was a new trend to harness. Communist powers such as China, Russia and Cuba provided overt and covert assistance to communist insurgents in other countries.

Communist cadres went to great lengths to infiltrate governments and influential organizations with revolutionaries. There is predictably a bloodletting in later stages of these revolutions. When success appears to be at hand, a competition occurs for who will wield the power that has been seized. Many incompatible allies understand this at the outset (com-

munist and jihad inspired insurgents provide historical examples of this), but this reality comes as a surprise to most of the revolutionaries as internal killings are commonly used to consolidate power.

Will the Freedom Road Socialist Organization "Strategy for Revolution" succeed in the United States? No, it won't. These horrors are entirely undigestible to most people, of any color, in the light of day. You know the plan. Read Nien Cheng's classic *Life and Death in Shanghai* for her detailed first hand story of how this template was used to enslave the people of China. Share your knowledge with every person you influence from contacts in government and law enforcement to your family and friends. Light of day is the best preventive defense. Practice free speech and seek communication tools and media sources that resist censorship. ✓

BIO

*Chris Grabam is the former commander of a military anti-terrorism unit and serves as editor of **Tactics and Preparedness**. Visit his books and training products at www.ChrisGrabamAuthor.com.*

GEAR REVIEW

ANNIHILATE F-A3

Whether you are digging a fighting hole, building a primitive shelter or defending yourself with an improvised weapon, a compact shovel can be the most useful tool for the task. The F-A3 boasts a forged stainless steel head, a six position push button shift head (for compact packing), a machined pivot section, a weighty ax head, aircraft aluminum handles, a fishing spear head, and a ferro rod for fire starting. A \$20 surplus entrenching tool may meet your digging, chopping and shovel combat needs, but you will likely find that browsing a \$200 shovel puts a grin on your face. www.zunelotoo.com





TWO DAY **RED DOT** TRAINING WITH SCOTT JEDLINSKI

BY ADAM SCHOLL PHOTOS COURTESY OF BUCK HOLLY, CHPWS.COM

The advantage of a red dot pistol is that it allows the shooter to use one focal plane and remain threat focused while super imposing the dot over the target.

This involves fewer actions than your typical iron sight pistol where the front and rear sights must be reconciled with the target in real time, while ensuring equal height and equal light on your sights, tracking the target and remaining focused on your pistol's front sight thus making your target blurry. Another advantage of the red dot equipped pistol is for shooters with vision challenges. Many find the red dot much easier to see in less than ideal lighting conditions, and most red dots can be adjusted for brightness.

I built my first red dot pistol about two years ago. Like many shooters who have con-

verted from iron sights to a red dot, I noticed that there seems to be a fairly steep learning curve. I was still significantly faster shooting with my irons than with my dot and I wanted to work on improving my capabilities. Specifically, I occasionally had some issues finding the dot on the draw, and I had trouble tracking the dot during strings of fire. My friend Scott Jedlinski invited me to his two day red dot pistol course in Lebanon, Pennsylvania. Scott is a masterclass USPSA shooter and is the owner of Modern Samurai Project (modernsamuraiproject.com).

Day one of the course started with Scott walking us through how to zero our op-

tics. Scott went through the differences between a ten meter zero and a more common twenty-five meter zero for a pistol mounted optic. The difference in the point of impact was about an inch at twenty-five meters. For those looking for a more precise zero, you may want to consider the 25 meter zero.

After zeroing our weapons, we discussed techniques that Scott doesn't care for, like pinning the trigger and finding the reset each time you fire a round. Scott explained that this technique is actually slowing you down rather than just letting the trigger come all the way out (with your finger still on it) and then pressing it again and again.

Scott also showed us his preferred grip; a slight adjustment from my previous grip. He stresses not using your thumbs to put any pressure on the gun. He also encourages shooters to use their support hand to put pressure upwards and inwards to what would be one o'clock. If you were looking at the left side of your pistol, this pressure is on what he calls the drumstick of your thumb, and for me is just behind the slide stop/release on a Glock pistol.

Previously, I had extended and locked the wrist of my support hand, thus putting my thumb parallel to the barrel and allowed my thumb to push into the base of the frame just a bit. With Scott's grip my thumb rests on the slide of the weapon and isn't pointed forward quite as dramatically. Scott demonstrated shooting the gun while applying pressure to the slide to show how even if you push into the slide (which is not what he is advocating) you will not induce a malfunction. Ultimately Scott's grip is a bit higher than a traditional "thumbs forward" grip and I've been playing around with it since the class and I like it a lot. Another detail that Scott gave us that made a big difference in finding the dot was applying pinky pressure with the support hand just as you are about to reach full extension. This method allows the dot to consistently drop in from twelve o'clock every time, thus making finding the dot easier and more predictable. That trick alone was worth the price of admission for struggling dot shooters.

Scott is a BJJ purple belt and a lifelong martial artist. He uses his knowledge of the human body to help shooters become more proficient. Through a series of drills conducted without a pistol, Scott demonstrated how a traditional "isosceles" stance was not as stable as his modified isosceles stance where the shooter's strong side foot is slightly staggered to the rear. This stance is not unlike a fighting stance. Hips and shoulders are square to the target, the feet are staggered slightly. The shooter's weight should (when permissible) be distributed evenly and they should make an effort to sink into the ground a bit to provide an optimally stable shooting platform. The forward lean combined with turtling the shooter's head are both unnecessary. Scott shoots as relaxed as possible with his head up, bringing the gun to his eyeline and not his eyeline to the gun.

The next topic that was discussed in great detail was the concept of locking the

shooter's elbows. Scott uses an analogy of a car's shocks to demonstrate his position on locked elbows. Would you want to replace your car's shocks with two by fours? No. They are incapable of absorbing shock. The same is true about your wrists and elbows. Scott's grip does not call for locked wrists, and he instructs shooters to present to full extension and then back off a little to find a comfortable position that allows the elbows to be slightly bent. The bend in the elbows and wrists is not only more comfortable and less fatiguing, it also allows for better recoil management so your dot can get back on the target more quickly, thus allowing you to take faster follow up shots.

Once we dialed in our grip and stance we began to shoot more rapidly. The course called for one thousand rounds split over two days, and we shot just about that. As we began to shoot faster Scott explained his theory on splits. Splits are the time between each shot you fire. Scott believes that your splits should be legal (.18 or older to be exact). The reason for this isn't that you can't shoot faster, but rather that you can't process faster. Our cue to fire the gun should be our dot on target and the target is still a threat. If we get into the habit of shooting too fast, we are just

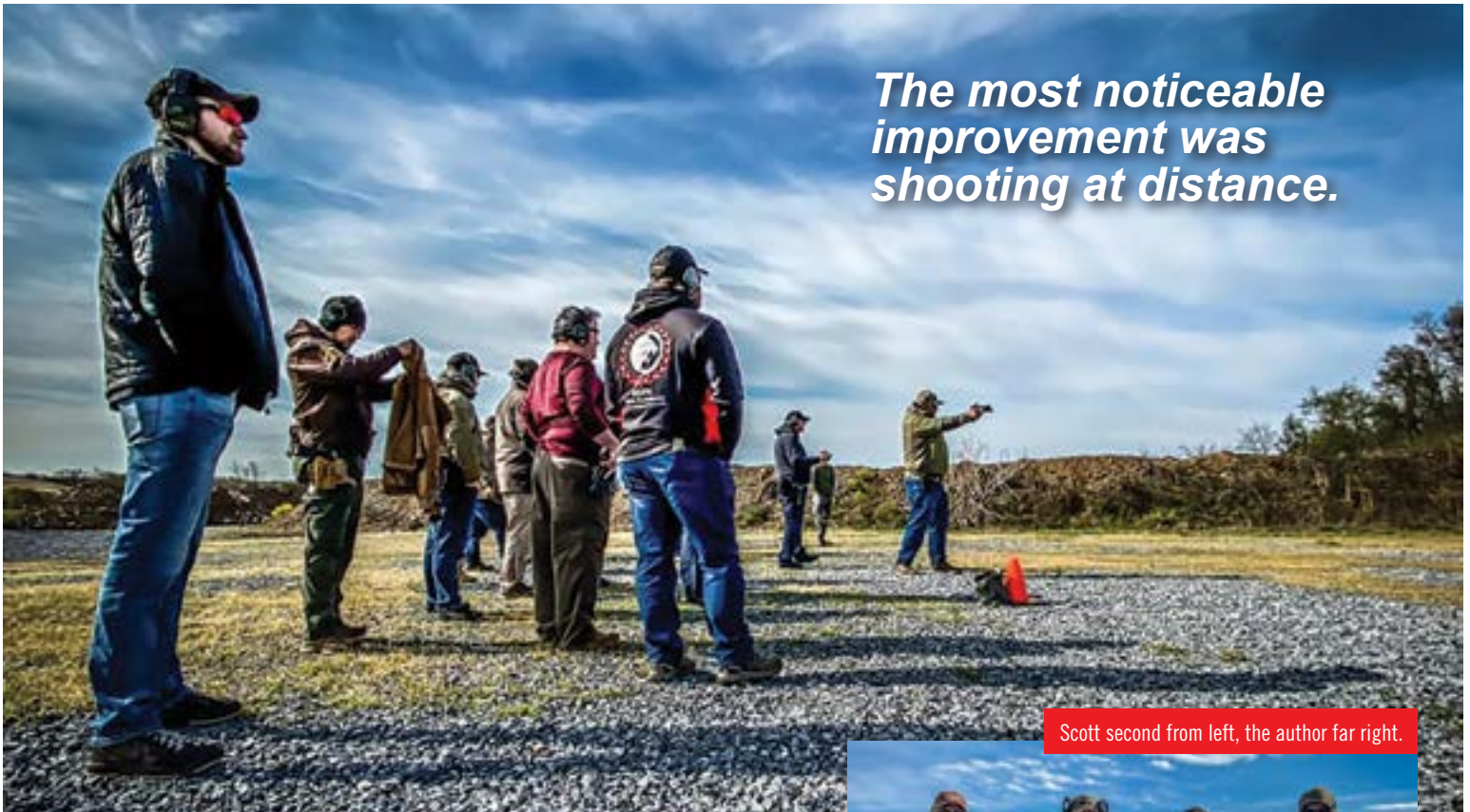
deciding ahead of time how many rounds we want to fire, rather than being able to truly assess the situation and determine if more shots are needed. This concept is important for shooters who carry for self-defense in addition to competition. Shooting fast is important, but we also need to account for every round fired. When a shooter is tasked with firing five rounds, they often are not seeing their sights each round.

After some shooting and body mechanics work, we began to discuss the draw. Scott carries concealed from appendix in a Philster Spotlight, but also used a Safariland ALS duty rig for day two of training to show some of the LEO students how to maximize their speed with that setup. From concealment, Scott advocates that the support hand moves to the belly button with the fingers pointed towards the ground and grab a chunk of shirt and pull it up to about the sternum. At the same time the strong hand is moving to the weapon getting a "claw" grip on the pistol. The claw grip is where the three fingers wrap on the front of the pistol grip while the thumb indexes just over the top left side of the rear sight (for a right-handed shooter). It is very fast, and as the gun clears the holster, the thumb slides right into position high

Scott prefers to not use the thumbs to put any pressure on the grip.



The most noticeable improvement was shooting at distance.



Scott second from left, the author far right.



in the backstrap of the pistol. As the pistol comes up the support hand then chops under the trigger guard with the support hand index finger grinding against the trigger guard in a wave-like motion, building the full firing grip as the pistol is moving toward the target. Scott discusses in great detail his 80-20, 90-10 and 95-5 modules, referring to how fast you get the first part of the draw out of the way and how you slow down at the end of presentation to ensure sights are aligned properly before pressing the trigger. The 80-20 means that the first part of the draw and presentation is done quickly while the last 20 percent of the presentation is where we begin to slow down slightly and ensure everything is properly aligned before breaking the shot. The 95-5 module just means that only during the last 5 percent of the presentation are you ensuring everything is properly aligned, thus making the 95-5 module your fastest option, with the most possibility for error. Throughout the course shooters found what worked best for them with most ending up in the 90-10 area to ensure a compromise between speed and accuracy without dramatically sacrificing either.

The last takeaway I want to highlight from the class was how Scott taught us to engage multiple targets with the red dot pistol. Tracking the dot from target to target was something I struggled with before attending

this class. Previously I had been taught to drive the gun from one target to the next. Scott however preferred a method he described as floating the gun from one target to the next. Essentially this method involved letting the gun's natural recoil take place and as the sights came back down, we would move the gun to the next target. While hard to describe in words, think of the letter "m" or a series of small rounded mountains. If I begin shooting the target on the left and work my way left to right, each movement would arc like the rounded top of the lowercase letter m and I would ride that movement to the next target. This method proved to be very reliable and we were able to shoot multiple targets very quickly with the red dot pistol, without having to hunt for the dot.

Each day of the two-day class was filled with a lot of shooting and sharing of knowledge. There are only a handful of instructors who are teaching exclusively red dot pistol courses and I believe among them, Scott is the most accomplished shooter. He performs live demonstrations of each exercise and is able to diagnose issues with each shooter individually, ensuring that everyone walks away from his class a better shooter than

they arrived. Where I see the most noticeable improvement with a red dot is at distance. During the class I hit an 8x10" piece of steel at 25 meters from concealment in under 1.3 seconds. I would be very surprised if I could achieve the same hit in the same time with iron sights. Scott is also one of the hosts of the Primary and Secondary Podcast and hosts his own Modern Samurai Project Podcast as well. ✓

BIO

Adam Scholl (www.schollsecuritygroup.com) is a former LEO. He worked as an FBI and USMS Task Force Officer. Adam has worked for the US DoD as a fieldcraft instructor and currently works in the private security sector. He is also a Renzo Gracie BJJ Black Belt and a Krav Maga Black belt.

America has seen an unprecedented number of riots in the last few months. These are not civil disobedience events or protests, but large out of control mobs conducting criminal acts.

As police, we train for these events, and we know that there is a high probability that there will be some shooting involved, usually a criminal shooting up into the air.

Shooting into the air is actually common in large parties, disturbances and riots. In other countries it is even more common and called “celebratory gun fire”. It is sometimes common at weddings and other celebrations where more than a few people are present. In Denver, Colorado, in the late 1980s there were some limited riots occurring and a police officer was shot in the arm while standing on a roof top as an observer, watching the crowd for trouble. It is unclear

whether the suspect, a gang member, was actually shooting at the officer or just shooting into the air. This was not the only case of officers being shot at or shooting occurring during riots, but it was infrequent.

Basic riot training teaches supervisors to have “counter snipers” specified and assigned to safe locations to use high power optics to watch the crowd for armed persons. The current threat level is at an all-time high for officers responding to riots. Four officers were shot in one incident in St. Louis Missouri, two shot in the leg, one shot in the foot, one shot in the arm. In Las Vegas Nevada, an officer making an arrest was the victim of direct fire and shot in the neck

leaving him critically wounded. The Chief of Police for Moline Acres, Missouri was shot and killed while defending a store.

Why can officers get ambushed during these events and what do we do to stop it? These incidents have a large number of people, and mob mentality can set in. People think they are anonymous in the crowd and will do things they otherwise would not do. The numbers of people in the crowd make it difficult to watch everyone, and some of them are wittingly and unwittingly cooperative with shooters and function as shields. Historically, some shootings during mob violence are spontaneous un-aimed or minimally aimed fire, but when agitators

STREET FIGHT

**Observations
from the Riots**

BY **KENT O'DONNELL**





PIX/AP - JOAN BROWN 51

The most dangerous position for officers is the skirmish line. They are easy targets for Molotov cocktails, gas splashing and active shooters.

and instigators are present and committed to revolutionary activities, planned or deliberate fire can be a tool to provoke tragic incidents in congested environments. Recent riots have contained individuals carrying balloons filled with accelerants to throw and others with large fireworks to provide ignition from a distance. Night time brings decreased visibility and more shadows that embolden individual bad actors whether they are spirited members of a mob or professional revolutionaries who are subsidized to travel long distances to foment strife.

Gas masks are very limiting in how much we can see. They have come a long way from the M117 gas mask to newer full-face shield masks, but peripheral vision is still limited. Our tactics, the age-old skirmish line, make us a predictable target despite the fact that we are not fighting like the red coats in the Revolution. Add gunfights to the mix and many opportunities for adversarial exploitation exist.

When departments did not have armored vehicles, counter snipers were commonly positioned as over watch for the incident.

As departments geared up with armored vehicles such as the Bearcat from Lenco (www.lencoarmor.com), they started to put snipers or “designated marksman” in the turret and moved them closer to the incident. Instigators use modern technology such as text and Twitter to coordinate activities. Incidents quickly “popping” up and with social media tools effectively drawing participants or encouraging simultaneous actions at other locations, departments need to be extremely mobile in order to respond effectively.

The Bearcats are a great tool for this. The difficult part is shooting from the top of a vehicle. We all shoot better when we are as stable as possible, so the shooter and driver must be in constant communication for coordinated actions. Moreover, the 12 guys (who may be) in the back actually have to be still too. Training and conducting rapid deployment drills or rescue drills while using marking cartridges reveal that having a counter sniper or designated marksman vehicle mounted is not as functional as we thought it would be.

I tell departments with new ideas or procedures, “everything sounds good until you test it”. I have to steal a training line from the best reality based training instructor I know, Ken Murray (Armiger Police Training Institute). His standard reply is: “well, let’s test that”. I have seen many great ideas—like snipers positioned on Bearcats—fail once tested with the use of marking cartridges. So, how do we stop officers from getting shot? In large incidents officers should be in teams of two to six. This helps with leadership, coordination and 360-degree security. In the Marines we had a phrase, “security is 360 degrees and paramount”. Officers in a team can have some team members working (making an arrest for example) and some observing the surroundings in all directions. We need to become more mobile than the mob. We should be deploying small gas teams that are very mobile. We should change from deploying gas to the front of a crowd to deploying it from the back to the front.

Looking at a mob, in the front row facing the police, is a small group that really wants

to fight. Then in the middle there is a group that really wants to see the action, but do not wish to personally mix it up. The back of the mob is composed of folks just there to say they were there and get attention. They lack the zealotry of the front row, but prevent the others from leaving when gassed in the front. Retreat is not possible for those who wish to retreat because of the masses behind them.

Deploying gas from the back, disbursts the ones who lack commitment and opens an avenue of retreat. Then bouncing back to gas the people who think they want to be there can be a more effective option. We are left with a smaller cadre to arrest.

The mobile gas teams are armed with less-lethal options and deadly force options. These pop-up teams appear and disappear, but can be directed to materialize at a moment's notice from the high ground observ-

People think they are anonymous in the crowd and will do things they otherwise would not do.

ers. Who are the high ground observers? That is the job of the snipers.

Shooting back at a suspect in the heat of a riot is rarely an option. There are too many others moving in the foreground and background to take the shot. Another tactic departments need to have ready is the use of fire hoses. The high-pressure water can knock a person down and can contain marking dye so when they hit and run, even the next day, suspects will be easy to identify. Water is also a great tool as we finally leave summer and start winter. Being cold and wet takes the fight out of most people.

Another tactic we are seeing is driving at the police. This is a difficult challenge to solve, we train to leave the mob a way to exit the incident peacefully, but this is now an avenue of attack for vehicle assaults. Departments cannot leave police vehicles to block roads because they will be damaged or destroyed. Again, having small mobile teams arrive, block, gas, move to a safe location and observe is useful.

I can recall an incident where an ambulance blocked the road, and when the shoot-

ing started the vehicle was in the line of fire. A dedicated medic ran to the ambulance and drove it to safety. Moral of the story: EMS take good care of their vehicles.

Currently, the most dangerous position for officers is the skirmish line. Officers are standing in the open, facing the crowd. They are easy targets for Molotov cocktails, gas splashing and active shooters. The armored vehicle should be immediately behind the skirmish line and have fire extinguishers and armored shields. The vehicle needs to have a group of officers for security and support and if the armor is going to drive through the skirmish line to insert the ground team, you will have to coordinate getting the skirmish line out of the path.

Other tactics emerging are doing away with the skirmish line and using vehicles only. If we look at the Northern Ireland conflict, they were facing all of the dangers we are facing today. Studying how riots, the instigation of riots and riot tactics were employed in the past is one more area that proves it is less painful to learn from the experience of others than it is to start from scratch.

An additional threat to officers is the use of lasers to injure their eyes. Lasers have been used by saboteurs at airports attempting to injure pilot's eyes and lasers are being brought to riots to do the same to officers. Officers need to be issued laser safety glasses and all the lenses in the gas masks now need to be made laser safe.

My last observation comes from both the Marine Corps and working as a contractor in several nations in Africa. I believe the most dangerous internal threats to a nation are a sizable population of unemployed males between ages 14 and 50, and a dynamic leader spreading emotional calls to action. Unfortunately, whether or not the information is truthful is optional. ✓

BIO

Kent O'Donnell is a former Recon Marine and a retired police sergeant. He spent most of his career on his department's SWAT team. Kent has done risk and security audits and training throughout west Africa, South America and Europe and provided weapons and tactics training around the world. Kent worked on a U.S. government project in Libya for six months and currently serves www.360worldwidesecurity.com.

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После развала Советского Союза и превращения КГБ в СВР, организационные наследники успешно продолжили активность в Америке. Что, если президент США был избран в результате дезинформационной компании начатой десятилетиями назад? Был ли обвал финансовых рынков 2008г случайностью? Какова роль подрывной деятельности в сегодняшних войнах с исламским терроризмом? Что будет дальше?

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DEZINFORMATSIYA

A YOUNG
ADVENTURER
MUNCHES
ON TRIMMED
THISTLE.

COURTESY CHRIS GRAHAM

THISTLE, VIOLETS AND GRAPES



eat the *weeds*

BY CHRIS GRAHAM

On a humid July day, I met “Green Deane” at the Boulware State Park near Gainesville, Florida.

Deane is the author of the “Eat the Weeds” blog. He is credited with more than 65 years of foraging experience and also having more than 20 years of teaching and lecturing on the subject under his belt. I joined a group of about 20 people for a three hour walking seminar. We discussed quite a few edible plants, but I will share three that I enjoyed sampling most.

THISTLE

Thistles commonly pop-up unwanted in lawns, but they are edible. They can be bitter and the bitterness is caused by their white sap. You cannot eat most plants with white sap, but Sow Thistles are one rare exception.

Deane told us there is much variety in sow thistles, from few or no prickles to a lot. Some are a foot high, some six feet high, some are green, some have purple coloring, especially older plants. He said young sow thistles can just be used in an herb pot, but some older leaves need to be trimmed of the thistles, which is a point of culinary departure. Old leaves are bitter and may be less pleasant.

Dean said, when young their flavor resembles lettuce and as they age more like chard. The young stalks peel and cooked are good and the young root is also edible when cooked but tastes “woody”.



COURTESY CHRIS GRAHAM

THISTLE.



SOW THISTLE SALAD.



According to Green Dean's blog, three common thistles are *Sonchus oleraceus*, *Sonchus Asper* and *Sonchus arvensis*: the common sow thistle, the spiny sow thistle and the field sow thistle. The *Oleraceus* has green leaves with blue coloring, arrow-shaped end lobes and pointed lobes where it holds the stem. The *asper* has spiny round lobes at the stem and a lot of spines. This is the one we found, cut the prickly leaves off with a knife and enjoyed like celery. The *arvensis* reportedly has more lance shaped leaves with irregular lobes, and a soft small spine. Dean describes it as the softest of the three with a feel close to a wild lettuce.

Dean tells us: *Sonchus* is the Greek name for the plant and means "hollow" (referring to the plant's hollow stem). *Sonchus* is a weed amongst grass crops, but in Italy *Sonchus* gets picked and served. *Oleraceus* reportedly means it is edible. *Asper* means rough, and *arvensis*, cultivated.

Dean said sow thistles got their name because they were fed to pigs. The white sap of the thistle was presumed to be good for

nursing sows. Pigs apparently like them, and so do rabbits.

Sow thistle is found literally around the world. It is used in salads, and reportedly has been for thousands of years.

Dean wrote:

Pliny wrote that before Theseus went to meet the Bull of Marathon, he was treated by the old woman Hecale (e-KAH-lee in Greek) to a dish of sow thistles. The ancient Greeks considered sow thistle wholesome and strengthening — maybe the Bull of Marathon should of ate some. Modern Greeks call it Zobos. In New Zealand, Sonchus is called "puba" and is frequently eaten, particularly by the Maori who also used the sap as a gum.

Thistles have milky sap. They grow in northern climates in spring, summer and sometimes autumn. In the South, Dean says they can be found December through April. They grow in lawns, fields, vacant lots, waste areas and parks, etc. Young leaves can be put in salads, and may be bitter, old leaves can be boiled for 10 minutes or so.

Violet leaves can be used raw in salads or cooked like spinach. Their flowers can be eaten raw.

VIOLETS

Violets show great variation, so getting the right identification can be challenging. Dean assures us, however, violets are like pine trees in that you don't need to know which exact species it is as long as you have the right genus. The violets we encountered were not African Violets, a completely different genus.

Dean said that Violets leaves can be used raw in salads or cooked like spinach and that their flowers can be eaten raw, and dried leaves can make tea. He also said, Violets can be added to soups as a thickener and this was historically the most common reference for them.

Dean told us they traditionally blossom in the spring, but in warmer areas they blossom in the spring and late fall.

He told us that American Indians had medicinal uses for more than 15 species of Violets. They reportedly used Violets for headaches and boils, as an infusion for dysentery, kidney problems, bladder issues, heart pain, colds and coughs, and skin problems. He says they are high in vitamin A and vitamin C.

Dean reported that Indians reportedly soaked violet roots with corn seeds as a pre-planting insecticide and that before there was a “litmus test”, there was a “violet test” for acid or alkali.

Dean tells us that Violets were cultivated in Greece at the time of Socrates, and Hippocrates and that they were the first commercial flower product. He also said that the Romans loved violet-flavored wine and that there are around 850 species of violets divided into sweet and wood groups. They reportedly have 15,000 or more international units of vitamin A per 100 gram serving.

Dean said the leaves are good raw, dried or cooked. Blossoms are good raw or candied, and Yellow Violets can be a laxative.

SINGLE TENDRIL GRAPE

Grapes are challenging to identify. Dean tells us that a grape is easy to confirm, but deciding which grape you have can be difficult. There are native grapes, hybrid grapes, and a lot of cross breeding.

Dean wrote:

“In the 1500’s, a century before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock and three hundred years before California became a state, the Spanish in Florida noticed a lot of wild grapes growing. They made wine from the native grapes and planted grapes from back home in Spain. Unfortunately, the European grapes died, and for more than 300 years that was the story of growing non-native grapes in Florida. In 1891 some 60 grape varieties were planted mid-state and they, too, died. In 1894 over a thousand acres were planted further north in the state. They perished as well. It looked like the end of growing non-native grapes in Florida. Then the state’s agricultural service got involved and began hybridizing varieties of grapes that could be grown in Florida. They had early successes and over the course of several decades some of those successful hybrids escaped as well. So, Florida has five kinds of grapes: Native muscadines, grapes believed descended from muscadines and early plantings of European grapes (let’s call them escaped cultivars) intentional hybrids under cultivation, intentional hybrids that have naturalized (often found unattended near old homesteads) and nearly any combination of the above.”

Dean says you will find the local muscadines and “escaped cultivars” from Florida to Texas. First is the pure muscadine native



PIXABAY - GREENERBABA

Besides the fruit, the wild grape has another benefit: you can get water from a piece of its vine.

which has a single tendril (what we found) with six to 30 grapes per cluster, not bunch. The second group has split tendrils and bunches of 30 or more grapes.

Dean warns: “if you make grape jelly from muscadines don’t crush them with exposed skin (hands, feet, etc.) High acid content can burn, but grape sap is drinkable.” He also adds: “If you cut the grape vine it will leak water if you invert it.”

Grapes are woody vines with tendrils. Vines without tendrils that look like grapes are not grapes. The leaves vary greatly in shape from serrated and round to heart-shaped and smooth to lobed and hairy. The seeds of the grape are always tear-drop shaped. There are grape hybrids under cultivation — around 300 different types — that are green, red, blue or black. Some are quite large. Grapes can be eaten off the vine. They can be made into jelly, raisins or wine.

As a Marine, I always marveled how dependent all of DoD was on logistical support. I remember scratching my head at a U.S. Forward Operating Base in Jalalabad, Afghanistan that had a beautiful freshwater spring onboard, but had all drinking water supplied in plastic bottles transported by massive convoys of trucks driven by civilians that attracted IEDs



PIXABAY - LIFEONTHESTOP

like magnets instead of using what was available. As a young guy, I was required to step off on patrols carrying quarts of water intended to be “resupplied” by military transported water sources. As an older guy, I stopped scratching my head and started purifying my own water.

True resilience requires superior fieldcraft skills. Do you have finite sources of stored drinking water for contingencies or can you create your own? Do you have a stash of MREs or can you trap your dinner and “Eat the Weeds”? If that is a skill you would like, visit Green Deane at eatttheweeds.com. ✓

BIO

Chris Grabam is the former commander of a military anti-terrorism unit and serves as editor of Tactics and Preparedness. Visit his books and training products at www.ChrisGrabamAuthor.com.

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CHINA'S HIGH-TECH SURVEILLANCE STATE: A "DIGITAL DESPOTISM"

BY PAUL CRESPO

China combines cutting-edge surveillance technology with traditional communist police-state repression, to create 21st-century Orwellian dystopia in Xinjiang Region, and beyond.

S*kynet, Sharp Eyes, Operation Knocking on Doors, Web-Cleaning Soldier*; these are just some of the terms used by China's state security to describe the draconian surveillance systems deployed to identify, monitor, track, and persecute scores of millions of Chinese citizens, especially ethnic minorities and religious groups.

China's high-tech surveillance technologies and systems employ advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI) to process and analyze massive amounts of data collected from facial recognition, DNA sampling, biometrics, GPS, ubiquitous, high-resolution CCTV cameras, intrusive mobile phone apps, desktop computer software, smart TVs, and drones. How-

ever, these high-tech capabilities are also combined with old-fashioned networks of informants, a constant and invasive police presence, outposts and patrols, all integrated with massive computerized databases.

"[China has] adopted the most pervasive surveillance system in the world, and it not only uses new tech to surveil but to link people to their police record, their social information, their name, and their identity number," said James Andrew Lewis, a technology expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). "It's the combination of big data, facial recognition, and pervasive surveillance that's made it the most intrusive thing that anyone has ever seen."

THREE TRACKS TO CONTROL

This surveillance system is composed primarily of three tracks: 1) Massive, unprecedented collection of personal data, 2) near total surveillance via technical and human means, and 3) data analysis and management via advanced AI and military-style coordination operations. The final goal is a sophisticated national database allowing security forces to track, analyze and control every individual in China in real, or near real time.

While many aspects of these surveillance systems are being employed throughout China, Xinjiang Autonomous Region in China's northwest, home of most of the country's Uyghur Muslim population, has been serving

PKABAY - THE DIGITAL ARTIST



PIKABAY - THE DIGITAL ARTIST

Chinese authorities in Xinjiang are collecting a full range of biometrics including DNA samples, fingerprints, iris scans, and blood types.

as the testing ground or laboratory for some of the most intrusive and repressive techniques. In 2017 President Xi Jinping declared he was creating a “wall of steel” around the region. Once proven in Xinjiang, these surveillance systems are often rolled out to other regions of China.

Fergus Ryan, an analyst and China expert at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI), said that the technology has been deployed as “part of Beijing’s repression of the Uyghurs, Kazakhs, and other ethnic minorities” and that Xinjiang was “a major testing ground for these types of surveillance technologies”.

MASSIVE DATA COLLECTION

China has become the nefarious global leader in collecting extremely sensitive and personal data from its citizens. According to Human Rights Watch, Chinese authorities in Xinjiang are collecting a full range of biometrics including DNA samples, fingerprints, iris scans, and blood types of all residents in the region between the ages of 12 and 65 in order to build a region-wide biometric database.

This data collection is done primarily via

a specially designed mobile app while DNA and blood types are being collected through a free annual physical exams program called “Physicals for All.” In 2016, Xinjiang police bureaus also began collecting residents’ voice samples for a national voice database that could be used, for example, to identify any voice during recorded phone conversations.

For people designated as “focus personnel” or “key individuals,” full biometrics samples must be taken *regardless of age*. These “important persons to be controlled” are those people the Chinese authorities consider threatening to regime stability — and their families — to have usually members of ethnic minorities such as Uyghurs, and “illegal” religious groups.

According to Human Rights Watch, this biometric collection scheme is detailed in an official document called “The [Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous] Region Working Guidelines on the Accurate Registration and Verification of Population” (“The Population Registration Program”).

As *Bitter Winter* previously reported, a major part of China’s data collection effort also

includes the expansive, dragnet-style “Operation Knocking on Doors” launched nationwide in early 2017. This operation sends police officers to investigate and photograph religious believers under false pretexts, part of a broader surveillance system to specifically track religious people nationwide.

The operation collects information on the activities of religious groups listed as *xie jiao* and conducts networked surveillance of each believer. Data is stored in dedicated computers of the Domestic Security Protection Bureau. Investigators also search for evidence that individuals are promoting religion. If found, further investigation is pursued. These investigations then lead to comprehensive, non-stop surveillance of the individuals through projects “Sharp Eyes” and “Skynet,” as well as other electronic monitoring systems.

TOTAL SURVEILLANCE

As noted by the Los Angeles Times, China has installed 176 million public and private surveillance cameras for its 1.4 billion

people, including some on every block in its capital, Beijing. However, China plans to have as many as 626 million cameras installed nationwide by 2020. As more CCTV cameras are installed in rural areas and they increasingly incorporate advanced facial and the latest “gait” (walking styles) recognition, China will soon become the world’s most monitored society.

According to a Radio Free Asia report, the company behind Sharp Eyes, Guangdong-based Aebell Technology Corporation, claims to have developed the platform systems using home televisions and smartphones to push video surveillance into people’s homes. Beginning in 2016, Xinjiang police also started using hand-held or desktop scanning devices that can break into smartphones and extract and analyze all information contained on it. These surveillance technologies are now quietly spreading across China. Reuters reported that this technology is now encroaching into cities like Shanghai and Beijing.

Residents in Xinjiang are also required to install GPS tracking devices in their vehicles, and those who refuse are not allowed to buy fuel for their vehicles. Local authorities have even set up facial recognition systems that would alert them when targeted individuals moved more than 1,000 feet beyond their home or workplace.

Additionally, since 2017 Xinjiang residents are being required to install an app called Jingwangweishi, “Web Cleaning Soldier” to help authorities monitor cell phones. All Chinese residents are also increasingly being surveilled by the state via a backdoor in the vastly popular social media app *WeChat*.

MILITARY-STYLE COORDINATION

With data collected on a person’s every aspect and movement, artificial intelligence is needed to process the vast volume of information for hundreds of millions of Chinese. AI “can trace patterns, map relationships, and note deviations. For house church leaders, this makes it difficult to organize, secretly hold services, or inform outsiders when persecution occurs,” according to Dean Cheng, an expert on China at the Heritage Foundation.

To manage and analyze the massive amounts of information from so many sources, Chinese authorities are implementing a military-style “Integrated Joint Operations Platform” to aggregate data about people that “detects deviations from what authorities

deem ‘normal,’” reports Human Rights Watch. The program generates lists of subjects for police to round up and question; many are detained and then sent to transformation through “education” camps.

Integrated joint operations is a new People’s Liberation Army (PLA) doctrine that depends on a hi-tech C4ISR (command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance) “system of systems.” China’s application of this military doctrine, and technology to civilian policing demonstrates the extent to which policing in Xinjiang is being militarized.

TRACK AND REPRESS

Ultimately all this surveillance and data collection is designed for one purpose. While Chinese authorities claim the unprecedented surveillance, tracking and monitoring is used to prevent crime, improve health or other benign purposes, its’ overarching goal is to control and repress the people, especially the Uyghurs and religious groups.

This was shockingly highlighted recently when a Dutch cyber expert discovered a massive unsecured Chinese online database that showed China is using what is being called a “Muslim Tracker” to closely monitor over 2.5 million people, primarily Uyghurs in Xinjiang Region. Australia’s ABC News reported that Victor Gevers, a researcher with GDI.foundation, found names, identification card numbers, birth dates, employers and locations on an unprotected database run by SenseNets, a Chinese company contracted by the Chinese police.

Reports showed that the database included details of 2,565,724 people, and 6.7 million geographical coordinates showing the locations of each of these citizens over the last 24 hours. According to Gevers, the data was tagged with descriptions such as mosque, hotel, internet cafe, restaurant, police station, and other places where surveillance cameras were often found. Locations were apparently recorded as individuals passed cameras in fixed positions that provide a video feed for facial recognition.

“This insecure face recognition/personal verification solution is built and operated for only one goal,” he wrote on Twitter: “It’s a ‘Muslim tracker’ funded by Chinese authorities in the province of Xinjiang to keep track of Uyghur Muslims.” By 2020 China plans to use these comprehensive surveillance systems to track *all* Chinese. However, the Chi-

nese may not limit their monitoring of people to China. As reported by *Bitter Winter*, the recent arrest in Vancouver, Canada of Meng Wanzhou, deputy chairwoman of the board and chief financial officer of China’s largest private company, Huawei Technologies Co. Ltd has heightened concerns that China intends to spread its surveillance techniques globally, well beyond China through companies like Huawei; even potentially hijacking the next generation worldwide 5G network for these purposes.

DIGITAL CENSORSHIP AND INDOCTRINATION

To make the Orwellian picture complete in China, western technological giants such as Apple are complicit with China in its’ repression by censoring human rights and religious liberty websites and apps. Also, in January 2019 the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) launched a new app available for both Apple and Android platforms, “Xi Study (*Xue Xi*) Strong Nation”, available from the website xuexi.cn. This app, provided by the Propaganda and Public Opinion Research Center of the Central Propaganda Department of the CCP, is mandatory for all CCP cadres and members.

As noted in *Bitter Winter*, the app’s name includes a word game in Chinese. “Xi” is the President’s last name but is also the second character in the Chinese word *xuexi*, which means “to study.” The implication is that the study of the President’s word is the most important study of them all. Apple, which censors other apps, quickly obliged the CCP, as did other platforms; and the “Xi Study” app is now up and running at full speed.

In China, “Orwellian dystopia” may be too tame a term to describe its’ ever-expanding digital despotism. ✓

BIO

Paul Crespo is managing editor of American Defense News (www.americandefense-news.com). He is a former US Marine Corps officer and he served as a military attaché at several US embassies worldwide. He has also served as an adjunct professor of political science at the University of Miami and holds degrees from Georgetown, London, and Cambridge Universities. He is CEO of SPECTRE Global Risk (www.spectreglobal-risk.com), a security consultancy. This article is reprinted from Bitter Winter (bitter-winter.org) with permission of the author.

Whether you are outnumbered facing a human wave assault by AK-47 wielding communists, facing the economics of Wuhan Virus attributed protocols or facing the politics of censorship, there are times when each of us can use a little inspiration. Sometimes it helps to put your challenges in perspective. Sometimes it's encouraging to see how selfless human beings can be. This account is the Vietnam War Medal of Honor Citation for Charles Rogers.



Although painfully wounded during the assault, Lt. Col. Rogers pressed the attack, driving the remainder of the enemy from their positions.

CHARLES ROGERS

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Lt. Col. Rogers distinguished himself in action while serving as commanding officer, 1st Battalion, during the defense of a forward fire support base, November 1, 1968, during Operation Toan Thang II, Vietnam. In the early morning hours, the fire support base was subjected to a concentrated bombardment of heavy mortar, rocket and rocket propelled grenade fire. Simultaneously, the position was struck by a human wave ground assault, led by sappers who breached the defensive barriers with bangalore torpedoes and penetrated the defensive perimeter. Lt. Col. Rogers, with complete disregard for his safety, moved through the hail of fragments from bursting enemy rounds to the embattled area. He aggressively rallied the dazed artillery crewmen to man their howitzers and he directed their fire on the assaulting enemy. Although

knocked to the ground and wounded by an exploding round, Lt. Col. Rogers sprang to his feet and led a small counterattack force against an enemy element that had penetrated the howitzer positions. Although painfully wounded a second time during the assault, Lt. Col. Rogers pressed the attack killing several of the enemy and driving the remainder from the positions. Refusing medical treatment, Lt. Col. Rogers reestablished and reinforced the defensive positions. As a second human wave attack was launched against another sector of the perimeter, Lt. Col. Rogers directed artillery fire on the assaulting enemy and led a second counterattack against the charging forces. His valorous example rallied the beleaguered defenders to repulse and defeat the enemy onslaught. Lt. Col. Rogers moved from position to position through the heavy enemy fire, giving encouragement and direction to his men. At dawn the determined enemy launched a third assault against the fire

base in an attempt to overrun the position. Lt. Col. Rogers moved to the threatened area and directed lethal fire on the enemy forces. Seeing a howitzer inoperative due to casualties, Lt. Col. Rogers joined the surviving members of the crew to return the howitzer to action. While directing the position defense, Lt. Col. Rogers was seriously wounded by fragments from a heavy mortar round which exploded on the parapet of the gun position. Although too severely wounded to physically lead the defenders, Lt. Col. Rogers continued to give encouragement and direction to his men in the defeating and repelling of the enemy attack. Lt. Col. Rogers' dauntless courage and heroism inspired the defenders of the fire support base to the heights of valor to defeat a determined and numerically superior enemy force. His relentless spirit of aggressiveness in action are in the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army. ✓