

TACTICS AND PREPAREDNESS

SKILLS AND SURVIVAL FOR ALL SITUATIONS

LOW LIGHT

MARKSMANSHIP TRAINING WITH RPGi

BY **BRENDAN SOUDER** PHOTOS COURTESY **RPGi**

Let's pretend that we live in a world where bad scenarios involving gunfights are entirely predictable based on collected statistics.

Numerous studies across the world state that the highest percentage of gun battles occur between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., yet most training courses focus primarily on daytime marksmanship applications. It is our belief that fundamental training is critical for all shooters, but can also provide a false sense

of security and surprise those who are required to demonstrate the same skills in hours of limited visibility. The skills and drills executed in the daylight should be equally trained at night.

The history of low light shooting for me began with my time as a kid using flashlights from my Dad's garage taped to my

old .22 marlin for shooting soda cans on the back of our farm. Now this isn't a great option, but back then I perceived it as a groundbreaking technique for a 12-year-old kid in rural Virginia. Shortly after graduating high school, I was fortunate enough to secure an enlistment into a high-speed army unit. We had all kinds *continued next page*

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One must strive to train marksmanship and tactics in varied conditions.

of high-end equipment, and my M4 rifle was equipped with its own military version of a flashlight, the "VLI" (Visual Light Illuminator), which probably weighed another 2.5lbs. The weight didn't matter much since I was able to mount it to my quad rail without my Dad's grey duct tape, but I remember my squad leader harped on me about taping up the flashlight bulb so I wouldn't accidentally discharge my light during training and tying it down with 550 cord was also important. Those are the days that I use to reflect on my most basic understanding of low light shooting with flashlights.

Since then, I've spent countless hours training and deploying overseas with weapon-mounted lights strapped to my primary and secondary. Shooting with white light took quite some time to understand the strengths and weaknesses and necessity of such equipment in practical application. I've spent most of my adult life in special operations units and have heard phrases like "train as you fight" or "we own the night" thrown around alongside other clichés. I believe that the VLI with all of its 150 lumens I was issued in my Ranger unit with solid training and use would be just as effective as the new generation weapon-mounted lights.

One must strive to train marksmanship and tactics in varied conditions while focusing on stress shoots or competitive style

courses of fire. Training is critical and necessary to develop the true capability of an advanced level of low light marksmanship. We like to begin with the fundamentals of safety and marksmanship first when conducting a low light style course. We start all of our low light carbine and pistol courses during the day to ensure everyone is safe, zeroed, fundamentally trained and get a couple dynamic courses of fire. At dusk, we flip on the lights at the training area and re-iterate safety, provide an equipment class and talk about low light considerations. Shooters typically are curious about finding the "best way" to attach their light source to their own platform or have questions about which light is the best for low light marksmanship. We make suggestions to our students to mount their lights at a 45-degree offset close to their support hand mounted on the rifle (if no pressure pad is utilized). We recommend shooters stick with placing the activation button in a position that doesn't require a significant variation of how they shoot their rifle in daylight.

The drills associated with low light shooting are identical to the daytime shooting program except that we ask our students to practice activating their light to positively identify the target, engage and then turn the light off in between iterations. Shooting with white lights can be complicated past 10 yards with more than a two-round string. We



Using night vision to check targets and student progress.

typically train guys and gals at 50 yards and closer and eventually stretch out to 100 plus yards to test our students' weapon-mounted light capability. Our favorite drill to run during the low light portion is the 20A drill. This is a 5-round string of fire recorded on a shot timer. We place an IPSC target and marked shooting positions from five yards, 10 yards and 15 yards. This drill should focus on speed and accuracy; leaving all shots within the "A" zone. A good daytime shooter can place a five-shot string into the "A" zone in under 1.25 seconds at five yards.

This drill is used regularly in our training courses as it focuses on the fundamentals: stance, grip, sights and trigger control. This drill is also a self-diagnostic test in which each shooter must call their shots after completing the exercise. This drill substantially changes at night because the shooter is required to activate their white light before engaging their first shot. The other difficult factor in shooting the 20A drill at night is un-related to the shooters' ability to shoot and more to do with smoke escaping the front of the gun, masking your target. Many factors contribute to this phenomenon: humidity, type of gun powder, muzzle devices (muzzle brake/compensator/suppressor) and presence and direction of wind.

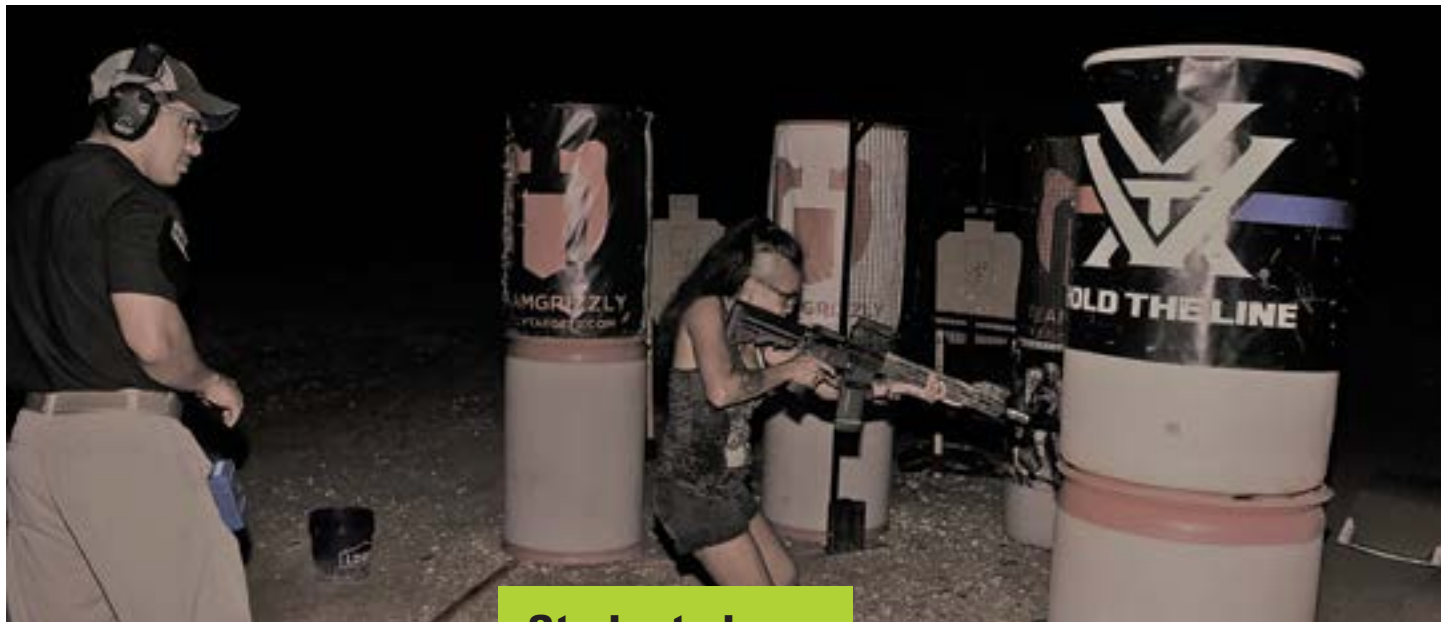
At our low light course, we run students through transition drills that drive home the importance of target identification and leading with the eyes versus the gun. Running these target transitions allows us to demonstrate the importance of opening the hips and driving hips towards each follow-on target. We set up 2-3 targets in each of the students' lanes that usually consist of paper and steel. The drills vary at distance and force students to work the fundamentals on multiple targets

during hours of limited visibility. I spend quite a bit of time on this topic as it brings together many fundamentals and causes us to open up our stance. I teach students to point their toes to the outside edges of the targets, thus allowing the shooter to effectively use their hips to drive the gun target to target. At night we also equip our 66 percent IPSC steel targets with Magneto T1000 hit indicators. This allows us to gain feedback with multiple shooters on the line and is a great training tool. As with the 20A drill, one can imagine the smoke produced from a six-round engagement with transition targets. We teach a few techniques that allow the shooter to re-acquire the target and continue accurate engagements:

Taking one step left or right, to clear the smoke cloud. We want to avoid developing training scars associated with the students continuously firing aimlessly and hoping to hit. The other training scar of pausing the engagement until the smoke clears or "slowing down." We never advocate "going slow" but promote deliberate actions during marksmanship application.

Changing levels is an option. We teach this technique to add to the shooter's toolbox. During the course of fire in hours of low vis-

Shooting with white light takes some adjustment, such as learning to clear an obstructing smoke cloud.



Students learn paper and steel target engagements, dynamic movement around obstacles, movement, target transitions and weapon manipulation.



ibility, the shooter can squat to a modified crouch position to shoot below the smoke cloud during target engagement.

Our keystone activity for training is the mini-courses of fire that we build for the students. The RPGi staff gets together on the range the day before to run through the program. During this time, we shoot the same drills as the students, discuss demonstrations, safety, proof all of the activity and then design courses of fire on the range bay's periphery. These courses of fire are set up similar to our Tactical Competition Stages at the RPGi matches. We use these as culminating events for the skills and drills taught during the day and night time portion. They consist of paper and steel target engagements, dynamic movement around obstacles, movement, transition targets and weapon manipulation. What's excellent about the courses of fire is our ability to vary or modify based on the students' pace. This is what we have found to work the best in testing our training in the course with students and, most importantly, developing our shooters. We get the shooters to compete against one another to achieve the most accurate and fastest times. The courses are fun and keep the shooters fully engaged.

At the base of everything, we try to simplify the "tactic" of low light shooting by promoting marksmanship skills through a curriculum that focuses on fundamentals. We are also big proponents for getting good quality reps in and thoroughly knowing your equipment. As a reflection on training in low light conditions, we understand that many shooters are not permitted to conduct live-fire

training at night and are generally not accustomed to the distinct differences of shooting at night. We also find that shooters are drawn to weapon-mounted lights with higher lumen outputs, bad ergonomics and sometimes fail to mount it in a way that doesn't disturb how they shoot their gun. We provide portions of the training to cover these common issues. This is why we also conduct a daytime portion of the training to ensure the students can familiarize themselves with their equipment with instructor mentorship for the best possible performance at night.

One must find the time, tools and resources to train, especially at night. I support dry fire and weapons handling technique practice in low light conditions at your house or garage before stepping out on the range. Having a balanced approach to your training plan is

critical, and the shooter must get in meaningful repetitions on their gun in varied conditions. Above all else, I feel that with any range session, one should set up a course of fire to rehearse all of the marksmanship, target transition drills, movement and other skills practiced to put everything together. ✓

BIO

Brendan Souder is an active duty soldier, a competition shooter and owner/operator of Range Project Group International (rpginternational.us) in the Panhandle of Florida. RPGi hosts shooting competitions and training courses that leverage the SOF background/competition hybrid model. The views expressed in this article are the opinions of Brendan Souder and do not reflect views of the U.S. Military.



ADRIFT

BY **STEVEN CALLAHAN** SUMMARY BY **JOHN STEVENSON**

In January of 1982, Steven Callahan was scheduled to sail his small boat, “Napoleon Solo”, across the Atlantic Ocean from the coast of Portugal to the Caribbean island of Antigua.

Callahan departed on January 29 under clear skies beginning his solo crossing, and after a brief stop in the Canaries he pushed on towards the open Atlantic. On February 4, the wind began to pick up and the waves began to get larger. At about 23:00 GMT, Callahan laid down to get some sleep after checking and rechecking the condition of his boat and his gear. He was soon awakened by a deafening bang. He was instantly aware of the sound and feel of water rushing over him. Callahan thrust himself forward to the hatch and yanked it open.

As he took stock of his vessel's condition, he realized that she wasn't going down yet and that he had a window of time to get his

life raft operational and gather any supplies that he could. Callahan dove back into the dark, water-filled cabin to grab his emergency duffle bag, sleeping bag, a cushion, and several other items. With these items loaded into his raft, he abandoned ship but remained tethered to his foundering sailboat in hopes that he could gather his remaining supplies in the morning if Napoleon Solo remained afloat.

During the night, the line from Napoleon Solo to the raft worked free and with it, Callahan's plan to retrieve his survival rations, ten gallons of drinking water and neoprene survival suit. They were lost in the raging sea and the storm persisted in battering his tiny

raft. Callahan noticed a calming on his fourth day adrift.

He had secured all of his gear, lashing it down to the interior webbing of the raft, taken inventory of the items that he'd salvaged from Napoleon Solo, and began, to keep notes and a navigational record. Callahan rationed one-half pint of water per day. His priorities were gathering water, finding more food and calculating how long his supplies would last. He began using two solar stills.

The solar still produced twenty ounces of water per day and needed constant monitoring to ensure that it was properly inflated so that the fresh water did not become tainted with salt. He also began efforts to collect rain.

Spearfishing from a raft proved to be a tricky process. The first fish to appear were triggerfish, followed shortly by a school of Dorados. He missed many times with a spear-gun and when he was able to spear a fish, they pulled themselves free.

Callahan developed salt water boils over his body from being constantly wet and were made worse by the daily battering that he took from a school of Dorados that were now accompanying him on his journey westward. They rammed the bottom of the raft with their heads making it seem as if he was being punched or kicked from below. Then sharks arrived. Occasionally, during periods of calm weather a shark would bump the raft or shake it probing for an easy meal. Callahan tried to fend off these visits with his spear gun, but he was never able to do any damage to the sharks.

After thirteen days adrift he'd eaten only three pounds of food and been unable to supplement his supply, but he finally speared a triggerfish and successfully landed it. This achievement bolstered his spirits.

Callahan conducted modified yoga for exercise, and regularly re-inflated his raft with a small hand pump. As the days wore on, Callahan began to become more proficient at catching fish and maintaining his solar still. He speared Dorado and hung the strips of meat to dry into jerky strips giving him a small reserve of food while he was still deteriorating.

As his muscles atrophied, Callahan had to work harder and harder to stay active and focused on solving his immediate needs. Each day he was aware that he could choose to give up or keep going. Once the decision to survive was made, the rest of the details could be attended to and the very real problems of staying alive could be thought through and solved as they arose.

During the first three weeks of being adrift, Callahan sighted and attempted to contact three passing ships unsuccessfully using both flares and his Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacon. His EPIRB could allegedly transmit a signal for 72 hours with a range of 250 miles.

On February 27, the seas got rougher again with ten-plus foot swells. Callahan spotted a fourth ship, but was unable to attract their attention either. He concluded that he had reached shipping lanes. Something he thought was impossible twenty-four days ago had been achieved. Callahan journaled: "My



"It is in facing the challenges of the wilderness that the thickness of your wallet becomes irrelevant and your capabilities become the truer measure of your value."

plight has given me a strange kind of wealth, the most important kind. I value each moment that is not spent in pain, desperation, hunger, thirst or loneliness."

The power strap on Callahan's spear gun became detached leaving him with a spear that was no longer tethered to the gun. He used some of the various pieces of line that he had in his gear to lash the spear to the gun. The same day he was able to land a large Dorado, proving the efficacy of his fix.

On March 6, Callahan's father called the Coast Guard to report him overdue. The Coast Guard broadcast a standard yacht overdue message to other mariners and did a harbor check at places that he might have entered without going through proper arrival notification procedures. Little else was done due to the uncertainty of where to search for him.

Back at sea, Callahan's first solar still wore out and he cannibalized the second one to fix the first. At that point he worked toward a more viable rain catchment system as a backup. He rigged a large Tupperware container to the top of the raft so that it collected rain water.

After forty-three days adrift the spear gun turned lance came apart while attempting to land a Dorado. The flailing fish broke the bindings, and in the melee the tip of the spear pierced the front

of the raft tearing a four-inch hole in it.

He inserted a piece of closed-cell foam from a cushion into the gap and then lassoed the two lips of the tear with some light line. It held, but still leaked air. He had to put in fifty pumps of air every half hour in order to keep the raft adequately inflated. Callahan tried new ideas until he hit on multiple tourniquets that slowed the leak significantly.

This partial success allowed Callahan to spend some time fishing, but disaster struck again. After spearing a Dorado, the fish spiraled around the shaft of the lance several times unscrewing the tip from the shaft. The fish then slid off of the shaft, taking the tip with it.

Callahan wrote: "The dorados have awaited their chance to test me. They have destroyed my ship, disarmed me and now they mock me." He ultimately used the knife from an old Boy Scout utensil kit that he'd had in his emergency kit. He lashed it to one side of the arrow shaft and on the other, he lashed the blade from a leather knife that he had in his kit. He bent the handle of a butter knife away from the shaft in order to serve as a barb. He tied a small line through holes in the handles of the knives to serve as a retaining line and attached it to the raft. Finally, he bent the blades inward, towards each other, forming a large, V-shaped blade. Before nightfall he had

an opportunity to test his newest invention and was able to spear a triggerfish.

Day after day, he fixed the patch. It would reopen, he would think of new ideas, try them and the cycle would repeat. The lashings around the patch kept working off allowing the hole to open around the patch, and letting air escape from the tube. Finally, he used the fork from his survival kit. He broke off the tines of the fork, then carefully cut a slit through the top lip, the foam patch, and the bottom lip of the tear in the raft. Then he slipped the handle through the slit so that it stuck out of both sides. He lashed it in place and the fork handle served as a stop so that the lashings for the patch could not roll over themselves thus, holding the patch in place.

Instead of having to pump the raft every half hour, Callahan was now able to go twelve hours in between re-inflations. This allowed him to conserve calories, lengthening his survival window.

The still had to be tended every hour or else it would sag and mix salty water with the purified, but he was getting farther south and west into the Atlantic where rain storms became more frequent. This allowed him to

gather more rain water to supplement his increasingly worn out solar still.

His food was supplemented by more frequent appearances of clumps of seaweed filled with small fish, crabs and other edible creatures. Callahan was also still spearing Dorados and Triggerfish and occasionally caught seabirds.

He was still deteriorating, but on day 61, Callahan noted a change in the ocean that convinced him that he'd reached the shallow waters of the continental shelf. He saw new birds and fish as well as a floating landfill of garbage. Within the trash, ecosystems had developed providing him with precious calories from shrimp, fish and crabs. He wrote: "It seems ironic that this pollution should serve as a signpost of my salvation."

On day 71, the second and final solar still failed when the rotted bottom ripped away completely. He now had to depend solely on rainfall for drinking water. He grew depressed and wondered if his navigation was off. During this time of doubt he held fast to his routine in order to remain as resolute as possible.

On the night of his 75th day at sea he spotted lights on the horizon. The lights turned

out to be the glow from the island of Guadeloupe in the Eastern Caribbean. By morning he could see the island and make out details that would be important to landing without being cut to shreds by coral or crushed against a rocky shore by waves.

As he planned for landfall, Callahan heard the sound of an engine. A couple of hundred yards away, a small fishing boat was heading toward him. He was rescued after 76 days at sea.

Callahan recovered quickly on Guadeloupe and was reunited with his family. His voyage spanned 1,800 nautical miles. He recalled: "To my mind, voyaging through wildernesses, be they full of woods or waves, is essential to the growth of the human spirit. It is in the wildernesses that you learn who you really are. It is in facing the challenges of the wilderness that the thickness of your wallet becomes irrelevant and your capabilities become the truer measure of your value." ✓

BIO

John Stevenson is a former police officer, U.S. Border Patrol agent and Federal Air Marshal.

GEAR REVIEW

MURTISOL PRO INFLATABLE PADDLE BOARD

A paddle board can be your ticket to playing in the surf, exploring new fishing spots or getting in and out of otherwise inaccessible coastal and riverfront locations while avoiding crowds. The Murtisol Pro adds the benefit of being inflatable for compact storage and can fit in a convenient backpack that happens to be included. It features: a carry handle, cargo tie downs, a pull and push pump that can inflate it in one minute, stabilizing fins and a repair kit. www.murtisol.com





APACHE BOOBY TRAPS

BY KEVIN REEVE

I was working with a U.S. Army Special Forces A-team for a training project in the desert.

I was their quarry, and they were tracking me. I had an hour head start and I had to make some choices: I could move fast, but fast movement leaves obvious tracks. I could move slow and hide my tracks, but that would keep me in closer proximity of the trackers—or I could set a booby trap. In this case, I could emplace a noisemaker to let them know they had triggered a trap and that they needed to be more careful.

I ended up using all three techniques. I traveled fast in the wrong direction to get some separation, then altered my vector towards my destination going slow and hiding my trail, then I set a booby trap. This was one motivated group of soldiers and they caught me, but in the after-action discussion, they conceded that the booby trap had been the most effective countermeasure.

The game played between trackers and their prey is usually talked about in terms of the time/distance gap. Trackers want to close the gap, and evaders want to extend it.

The evader can increase his speed, but that results in an easier trail to follow. He can hide his intent (destination) by direction changes. But one sure way to force a tracking team to be cautious, typically slowing their movement, is the clever use of booby traps.

The trap does not even have to hurt or kill someone to be effective. A trap that triggers and misses the target can have the same psychological impact as if it hit the target. It causes the target to have to stop, assess the situation and be more cautious.

Booby traps are indiscriminate. They kill or injure whoever comes across them. Great care must be taken to ensure that the individuals

targeted are the only ones who trigger the trap if deterring pursuit is appropriate, such as in the case of an isolated soldier avoiding capture overseas. Civilian casualties from a booby trap set for enemy combatants is unacceptable.

The use of booby traps in the USA today is generally unlawful. They cannot be used as long as the rule of law is in place, but criminals make use of them and it is wise for citizens and students of history to understand the tools commonly used by insurgents. These insights are at the heart of seeing and avoiding danger. I believe that the Apache were tactical geniuses, and their traps have been evolved by insurgents such as the Viet Cong. Illegal drug fields in the U.S. and abroad have been protected by similar traps, and IRGC and Hezbollah operatives and associates have provided numerous groups and individuals around the world ad-

vanced training in booby traps updated with the use of electronics, batteries, sensors and improvised explosives.

Primitive man-traps are classified into three categories: Drop traps where an item drops from above, pit traps where the individual drops into a hole of some type and the miscellaneous category of traps that meet neither of the previous criteria.

THE APACHE LIMP WIRE TRAP

One of the common identifiers in most trip-line activated traps is the presence of a taut trip line stretched across a trail. The symmetrical, straight line of the trip wire is not natural, and it stands out.

The Apache Limp Wire trap does not require a taut line, which makes it much harder to detect. A twenty foot line is tossed over a strong branch at least 10 feet above the trail. It should be centered over the trail. A rock or weighted log is tied to one end and hoisted up to the branch. The other end is directed around a branch to provide a vertical pull. The pull must be directly vertical over the trigger mechanism, and it must be straight up from the stake.

The main stake is driven into the ground close to the tree. A four-inch long by half-inch thick crossbar is placed under the nose of the stake. A peg that will span from the crossbar to a rock on the ground is measured and cut, and the trip line is firmly attached and laid in place close to the rock. The trip line should be run across the trail and staked into place on the other side of the trail.

The weight is lifted by pulling on the rope until it is as high as it can be raised. Going around the branch from the tree trunk, measure down to the crosspieces with the rope and tie a loop. While holding the weight of the rock on the line, put the cross piece in place and slip the loop over the crosspiece. Bring the loop right next to the stake and slide the cross piece so that there is a short end with the line loop over the end. Holding the long end of the cross piece, you would now feel very little pull down from the weighted line. The trapper would make sure to maintain the cross piece in a horizontal position so the loop does not slip off. The peg is set between the long end of the cross bar and the rock on the ground and the horizontal bar is slowly allowed to add pressure to the peg. Once it is let go, the peg will hold the cross bar steady. The key here is that the weighted loop goes straight up from the stake. Any side pull will make the cross piece want to rotate and trigger the trap.

If the set-up is right, the trap will be steady.

One way this is practiced is to mark out with sticks a kill box (the area the weight will drop onto) while making sure neither the trapper nor anyone in their party gets near the kill box. This is a deadly trap, and it is an indiscriminate killer.

The trigger is very sensitive and even the slightest tug will trigger it. To properly place the trigger, the trapper has to estimate the time it takes for the weight to drop and take into account the walking speed of the individual targeted.

A head or shoulder strike typically does the most damage, but a close call will likely shake the pursuer and force them to be much more cautious.

Making easy to follow tracks, called sucker tracks, can sometimes cause a tracker to speed up. That conversely lowers his awareness of a trip line.

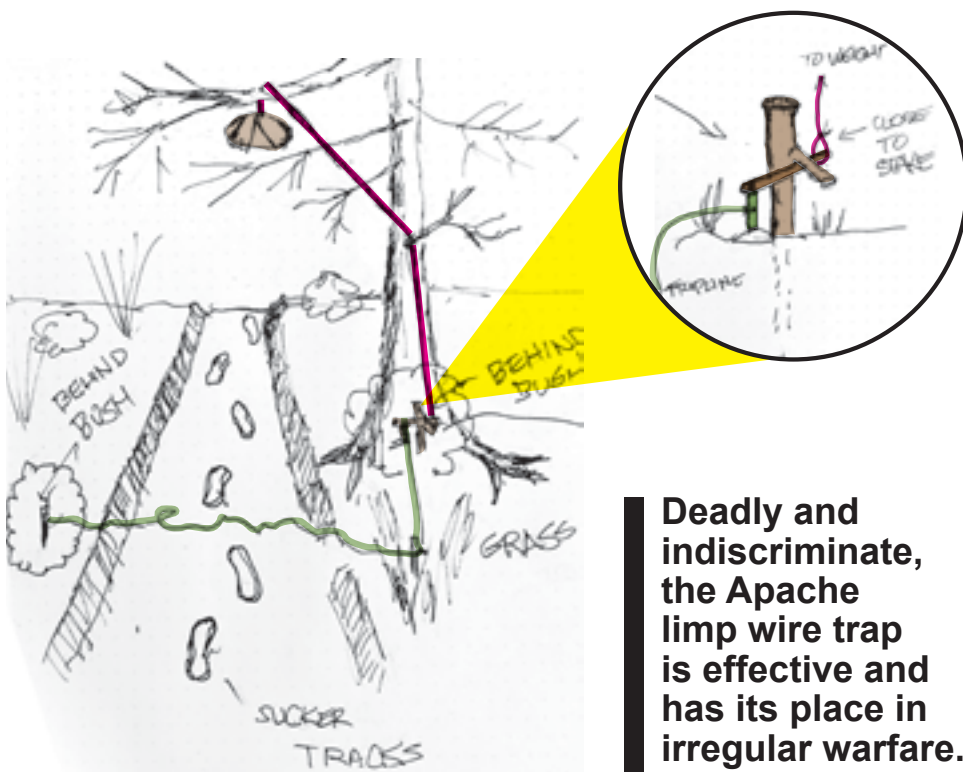
Other options for the trip line are to set the line past the trap so that the point man or tracker triggers the trap that drops on another member of a pursuit team. This will cause the point or tracer to doubt themselves. In areas of dense vegetation along an overgrown trail, the trip line is tied to a bush protruding out onto the trail and brushing against the bush causes the trip to trigger. A treble hook placed on a branch protruding into the path will hook on clothing and pull the peg as well.

If I have the parts ready (I carry a couple of sets in my trap pouch), from start to finish, I average 6-7 minutes total setup time. Considering the effect on a tracking team of killing or injuring one of their members, that is six minutes well spent if I am forced to evade an enemy tracking team or teach these skills to others.

Booby traps have their place in irregular warfare. They are commonly used to slow pursuits or as a low cost, simple tool to attrite and deter an enemy. Good guys will use them where only appropriate combatants involved will trigger them and in accordance with relevant U.S. laws. Once you set a trap, you lose control over it; you can no longer control who triggers it. Booby traps may have limited value for citizens under normal circumstances, but understanding how booby traps are used by criminals and insurgents helps us all hone the ability to see and avoid danger. ✓

BIO

Kevin Reeve (www.onpointtactical.com) is the founder and Director of OnPoint Tactical Tracking School. Kevin has provided training to law enforcement, SAR teams and the U.S. military in the arts of tracking, survival, escape and evasion and urban operations. Kevin also worked at Apple Computer for five years doing organizational development and executive coaching, as well as platform training and curriculum development.



Deadly and indiscriminate, the Apache limp wire trap is effective and has its place in irregular warfare.

PALM STRIKE



OPEN HAND STRIKING

BY DAVE CADY

During my law enforcement career, I have investigated and witnessed hundreds of assault cases.

I have also been engaged in physical altercations with violent subjects. My martial arts training has been an asset to de-escalating physical situations that could become violent. It is always best to use verbal judo or other interpersonal skills when possible and it is an ironic fact of life that the more competent an intelligent person is with various fighting skills, the less frequently they are forced to use them. The best-won fight is the one that is ended with the use of interpersonal skills and the ability to talk a person down. This is an art that must be part of your self-defense skills, and practiced specific awareness is the key to prevention and avoidance of violent situations.

It is important to research your state and local laws and the precedents of recent prosecutions attempted, regarding the subject of “justification of physical force”. Self-defense, the defense of others and the defense of your property may all be moral, but the potential legal liabilities vary dramatically from location to location and according to political fashions. You must be able to articulate why you took the action that you did and that it was reasonable. The first step in articulating appropriate use of force is to be certain that you are appropriately using force in the first place.

What is the most common method of striking an opponent? If you said with a closed

fist, you are correct. For those with the proper training, striking with a closed fist can be very effective. A closed fist punch can generate a lot of concentrated striking power, but if the open hand technique is practiced and done correctly an adequate amount of striking power can be generated as well, while minimizing the risk of breaking your own fingers.

Even trained fighters generally benefit from open hand techniques for self-defense purposes. Boxers and MMA fighters wear gloves during competitive fights. Their hands are wrapped before the gloves go on. Those wraps keep the fist tight and reduce the chances of a boxer’s fracture. That’s a frac-

In order to develop a level of skill and confidence with open hand techniques, they must be practiced.



HAMMER FIST



ture of the neck of the fifth metacarpal. The fifth metacarpal is a bone in the pinky finger. The fracture occurs most commonly when the person punches something. They tend to turn the punch inward and strike with the last two knuckles above the pinky and ring finger. A proper fist is made when the fingers are rolled into the palm and the first two knuckles are the striking point, the knuckles above the index and middle finger. The two bones in the forearm reinforce the striking knuckles. A proper fist and punch take time and practice make a consistent habit. Striking the attacker in the mouth with a closed fist can cause cuts to your striking fist. I have seen some nasty infections from striking the mouth with a closed fist.

In order to develop a level of skill and confidence with open hand techniques they must be practiced. Run scenarios through your mind in which an open hand technique could be used. Familiarize yourself with the target areas on the body.

PALM STRIKE

When done properly, a great deal of force can be generated with a palm strike. This strike uses the palm of the hand. The hand can be open or the fingertips can be folded against the bottom knuckles. Palm strikes hit with the bottom part of the palm, where the hand meets the wrist. The hand is held perpendicular to the wrist. This will help you avoid hitting the softer inner wrist tissue against your target. The bottom ridge of the palm is a very solid striking surface. You can get the same result as a closed fist punch when done properly, but the palm strike has less risk of injury to the striker's hand. A palm strike is thrown with a more relaxed hand than a clenched fist. The clenching of the fist shortens the extensor muscles of the wrist. The extensor muscles counter the action of the flexor muscles of the wrist that are used when punching. Another advantage of the palm strike is the ability to quickly grab your opponent after striking. Follow up techniques such as

throws or knee strikes can then be used as an extra measure of control. In the martial arts, we practice straight palm strikes: Outside palm strikes, upward palm strikes and downward palm strikes. The target area of your opponent will dictate which palm strike is used. The striking surface of the palm will remain the same for all the palm strikes. Some examples of target areas for the palm strike include: the nose, jaw, ears, back of the head, groin, kidneys, temples and the abdominal cavity.

HAMMER FIST

The hammer fist is a strike using the bottom of your clenched fist. Think of the action of a swinging hammer. The hammer fist can strike downward or from the outside swinging in. There is no compression of the knuckles or metacarpals, and there is no leverage to bend the wrist. The downward hammer fist can strike the bridge of the nose as well as the collarbone. The outside hammer fist strike



KNIFE HAND STRIKE



Striking the throat can cause serious physical injury or death. You must be certain that you are appropriately using force.

can strike the jaw and temple area. If you cup your hand, a strike to the ears can be very effective. The hammer fist can also be used in a ground pound mixed martial arts situation. If your opponent attempts a grappling charge, the hammer fist can be used on the back of the head and neck.

KNIFE HAND STRIKE

This is sometimes referred to as a “karate chop”. The strike is performed using the side of the knuckle of the small finger. The fingers are slightly bent for giving in the event that the fingers get jammed up. The knife hand strike can come from the inside of your body or the outside of your body. A great target area is the side of your opponent’s neck, but not the throat unless potentially lethal force is appropriate. Striking the throat can cause serious physical injury or death. Striking the outside of your opponent’s neck can cause your opponent to be disorientated and loose balance. The knife-edge of the hand cuts into the soft tissue of the neck. This action is similar to shutting off the power to the brain. A knife hand to the jaw can have a similar action as a right or left hand cross punch. The knife hand strike can also strike downward. A downward knife hand strike to the clavicle is a good technique to get your attacker to

release a hold on you. Knife hand strikes are also good for striking soft tissue areas and nerve centers on the top of the forearms.

RIDGE HAND STRIKE

A ridge hand is formed by tucking the thumb into the palm. The striking surface is a few inches inside the hand below the first knuckle of the index finger. The ridge hand strikes from the outside of your body with a hooking motion. Imagine your attacker has a double grip of your collar. A downward hammer fist strike can be used on his double grip of your collar. Then use an outside ridge hand strike to the outside of your opponents neck. Follow up with some knee strikes to his abdomen and you will alter the nature of your encounter and likely create new options for yourself.

PRINCIPALS FOR PROPER STRIKING

Timing of muscular Tension: Relax the extension of the strike. Tense the muscles of the body only at the point of impact with your target. Then relax again letting the strike recoil. Relaxation allows the strike to gain the greatest possible velocity. Rigidity at impact allows the maximum transfer of energy.

Breath Control: In the martial arts we in-

clude a “*Kiai*” or a shout. This action causes the body to tense up. The exhalation of breath gives you more power in the strike. I teach police officers to shout *Back! Or Down!* Civilians can use the same for proper breath control. Bystanders can be made aware of your situation and either render assistance or recall what they see as a witness.

Penetration: Strikes should be aimed as though you were striking *through* the target surface.

Footwork: The body must be properly balanced. Proper balance helps to support the combination of strikes and the power behind each strike. Proper angle and distance must also be considered. Rotation and movement of the body adds to the power of the strike. In addition to striking, your situation will require you to move in or out or to the side for a best outcome.

STRATEGIES FOR STRIKING

1. Combinations: One strike is unlikely to solve your problem. Be prepared to deliver targeted barrages. Shift targets for maximum effect. Practice using a variation of open hand techniques. Develop a flow for multiple strikes to predetermined areas of your opponent’s body.

Example: Straight palm strike with your re-



RIDGE HAND STRIKE

Quality strikes can open up the opportunity to escape, access another weapon or even incapacitate.

verse hand to your opponent's solar plexus. Follow up with an outside hammer fist to the attacker's jaw. An outside or inside knife hand strike to the side of your attacker's neck. Grab your attacker with both hands and pull them into a knee blitz.

2. Level of Attack: A lead-hand palm strike to the head in the style of a jab can cause the attacker to raise his hands to block that palm jab. A reverse palm strike to the abdomen is a strike at a lower level of your opponent's body.

3. Dominant angle of attack: This is when you achieve a positional advantage relative to your opponent. A very important aspect is to utilize footwork to acquire a dominant angle of attack. You should position yourself so you can strike your opponent, but your opponent is out of position to strike you. Your hips should be facing your opponent and your opponent's hips facing away from you. When practicing combinations of techniques do not stand in one place. Move forward, backward and side-to-side.

FIGHTING STANCE AND COMBINATIONS

The stance that you fight from should be the stance that you practice your combinations from. Your hands should be held in a man-

ner that protects your head. Palms facing inward to your jaw and cheeks. Hands should be open and ready to cradle the head if

a series of strikes are thrown at you. The open hand techniques that we have discussed will be executed from the striking zone. If you were to move closer to your opponent, that is the area I refer to as the trapping zone. This should be a very advantageous area for you if you develop a flow for combinations of open hand techniques.

Fists can and should be used in the proper application by those properly trained. The fist should be formed properly and the first two knuckles should be the striking surface. Target areas for the fists are the abdomen, ribs and kidneys. The solar plexus is also a target, but a dangerous one. It should be considered a deadly force strike. The fist can be used for a well-placed jab or series of jabs that allow you to gain the positioning for an open hand technique to the head.

COMBINATIONS FOR PRACTICE

Lead hand palm strike to the face like a lead jab. This is a great platform to start with and build on.

Lead hand palm strike like #1 Follow up

with a ridge hand strike to the neck with the opposite hand.

Your attacker has a double lapel grab and has pulled you into his personal space, *Trapping Zone*. Downward hammer fist to his nose then quickly follow up with an outside ridge hand to the side of the neck.

Practice these three combinations or variations of your own and you will develop speed and power. Your mind will also start to formulate techniques and additional combination options. Quality strikes can open up the opportunity to escape, open the opportunity to access another weapon or even incapacitate an attacker. ✓

BIO

Dave Cady holds a 4th Dan Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do. He is in the 24th year of his law enforcement career. He has held positions in Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Narcotics and SWAT. In addition, Dave is a singer/songwriter and recording artist. His music videos can be found on YouTube search: Dave Cady.

THIS ARTICLE IS INSPIRED BY THE AUTHOR'S NOVEMBER 2019 REPORT: "WARNING ON RACISM".

PIXABAN - COMIFREAK



POLITICAL WARFARE TACTICS 2020

**UNCONSTRAINED
ANALYTICS**

BY **STEPHEN COUGHLIN**

“This is not decay; it is organized destruction. Secularists, and their allies among the “progressives,” have marshaled all the force of mass communications, popular culture, the entertainment industry, and academia in an unremitting assault on religion and traditional values.”

—William Barr, United States Attorney General Speech at University of Notre Dame October 11, 2019.

I believe there is a strategic information effort leveraging the full range of political warfare activities to delegitimize the United States. I have long predicted the effort would pivot off the current election cycle and include intimidation and violence. I believe this line of effort (LOE) is operated dialectically through weaponized attack narratives to destroy identity. It accomplishes this objective through targeted negation campaigns that seek the denial of individual, social and national identity. The negation process conditions the domestic populations to accept and even support violence, integrates non-violent actions to enhance effects, and

shapes enduring perceptions in support of planned end states. It is a process that anticipates domestic terrorism.

These narratives are escalating in frequency and intensity. As they continue to do so, intimidation and violence will be integrated into building narratives by design. As such, recent events can be understood to reflect the opening phase of an information campaign designed to sculpt the information battlespace for future planned operations through preparations resembling operational preparation of the environment (OPE) activities normally associated with special operations. Joint Publication 3-05 “Special

Operations” defines OPE “as the conduct of activities in likely or potential operational areas to prepare and shape the operational environment. [Commanders] conduct OPE to develop knowledge of the operational environment, establish human and physical infrastructure, and for general target development.”

The “racism” line of effort, or LOE, for example, seeks to define all things American as “racist” in furtherance of delegitimizing all things American. It does this, for example, by designating all things American as “white”; white nationalism, white supremacy, white privilege, etc. and therefore racist. The end

state is the suppression of all speech that promotes or defends America by designating all things American as racist. These narratives escalate by design.

To recognize their arc and trajectory, it is necessary to understand the roles they play in political warfare regimes. As Josef Pieper observed in *Abuse of Language - Abuse of Power* the objective is reality dislocation; to deny people their “share and portion of reality, to prevent their participation in reality.”

I believe that astute students of history will recognize that we face a dialectically determined Marxism that follows Maoist political warfare disciplines, and that recent events validate the political warfare concepts I have previously argued. The “Otherism” LOE, including those of racism, depend on the existence of already implemented political warfare regimes. A seamless, self-sustaining loop exists between current LOEs and well-established underlying regimes that invigorate, reinvigorate and are mutually supporting. Thus, as new LOEs are implemented, they are automatically reinforced by, and build upon, preexisting political warfare activities that solidify their validity while enabling their simultaneous expansion, amplification and penetration.

It is apparent that the language of international human rights has functionally transitioned to neo-Marxist memes. The language of international forums is dominated by otherism narratives. Hate speech regimes are hostile, foreign assaults on the free speech rights of Americans and of all freedom loving people. According to the racism LOE, individuals who violate speech norms enforced by racism narratives engage in hate speech. On June 18, 2019, the General Secretary of the UN, Antonio Guterres, gave a speech on the “United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech”. Before becoming the UN General Secretary, Guterres was the General Secretary of the Socialist International, the former Secretary General of the Socialist Party of Portugal, and a former member of the Council of Europe. Guterres speech was in line with Marcuse’s “Repressive Tolerance” norms such that “tolerance” means the deliberate intolerance of all existing social orders, “pluralism” means imposing a hostile group on a target group for the purpose of nihilizing it, and “hate speech” is the deliberate application of “might makes right” regimes by states empowered to decide who is to be targeted, by what, and why. The objective of

hate-speech is the suppression of targeted speech and publication “in advance of [their] actual expression” through intimidation that anticipates violence. As such, hate speech imposes prior restraint on those who are on the wrong side of the repressive tolerance equation by design.

Currently, narratives are advanced that drive black clad Antifa and other Neo-Marxist groups to the streets of Europe and America. Just like the 1930s, they too are (supra)state sponsored with principal supporters coming from groups like The Council of Europe, the European Union and the billionaire George Soros’s Open Society Foundation. Tipping their hand to reveal their European Leninist pedigree, when President Trump called for legislation to recognize Antifa as a terrorist organization, Germans rushed to Twitter to defend it. On August 15, 2019, RAIR Foundation released Maria Svart’s roadmap of the Marxist movement in America to a friendly audience from a conspicuously branded European Parliament dais. Maria Svart is the National Director of the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA); she disclosed the detailed activities of the DSA at the European Parliament on April 14, 2019.

Video recordings of Maria Svart’s reports to the European Parliament confirms a close relationship between Neo-Marxists in the United States and their European counterparts - including with the leadership nodes within the European Union framework, she also affirmed:

That the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) has a pedigree that draws from violent radicals including the Students for a Democratic Society, the SDS, whose members, she notes, upon graduating, transitioned to “community organizing,” a Gramscian term for building mass line/popular front movements in line with Bernie Sanders political vision.

That, as with the SDS, the DSA has cadres on campuses capable of political warfare activities involving confrontation through violent and non-violent LOEs while claiming Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio Cortez and Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib are members.

Both the UN “hate speech” and DSA reporting to the European Parliament examples are provided as warning that the nature of the attack on America has foreign and international roots. This makes the framing of this crisis (the “Area of Operation”) substantially larger and

existential than “politics as usual” in America.

The targeting of religious organizations for penetration in America as a united front activity can be traced at least as far back as the Soviet-controlled Comintern in the 1930s. The “Interfaith Movement” in America was given institutional weight when the Gramsci Marxist Saul Alinsky founded the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) in 1940. The “social justice” narrative can be sourced to Marxist efforts in its interfaith LOEs that can be sourced to the Comintern. The interfaith line of effort serves as a vehicle on which a Judeo-Christian culture can be positioned for dialectical negation as well. As a united front, as far back as the early 1980s, the Muslim Brotherhood recognized the need to form alliances with anti-American groups. “Social Justice” narratives are not new to the Muslim Brotherhood. In 1949, Sayyid Qutb recognized the co-opting force of the “social justice” meme when writing *Social Justice in Islam*.

It is through the framing of the political warfare environment that one discerns that racism narratives are being elevated to strategic level efforts aimed at intimidation of the public and of politicians, delegitimization of America, and the targeting of a sitting president. Elements of this analysis, of necessity, include partisan political activities. Having said that, my assessment is not concerned with traditional partisan give-and-take but rather with political warfare attacks masquerading as partisan “politics as usual”.

Following EU precedence, a member of Congress and Deputy Director of the DNC signaled support for Antifa-related violence directed against citizens. I will focus on a few illustrative examples organized around three categories: 1) Initial Indicators, Indicators of Intent, 2) Attack Narratives Laid-In; and 3) Warning of Social Media Manipulation.

Beginning in the second half of July 2019, news items began clustering around events indicating activity. For example, in conjunction with this clustering, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi staged a media event in late July on the Capitol steps to pledge that the Democrats “will own August.” As noted, the racism narrative is designed to designate all things American as racist in in order to delegitimize all things American. As an indicator of intent, on August 18, 2019, The New York Times Magazine dedicated the entire edition to “The 1619 Project”. Through The 1619 Project, The New York Times launched a backdrop narrative committed to “refram-

ing American History” with the understanding that America’s “founding ideals are false.”

Attack Narratives that sanction violence against targeted classes of the citizenry are identifiable. In the July 30 and 31 debates cohosted by CNN and the DNC, candidates were barraged with questions regarding “racism” and “hate speech” in the context of “white supremacy” that forced candidates to respond in the narrative. This was made unintentionally comical through repetition in a DC Caller video clip that becomes pronounced at the 40 second mark. What makes it comical is the repetitiveness of the narrative. “White supremacy” is a Marxist meme. In line with the DNC’s earlier endorsement of Antifa violence, the week following the CNN/DNC debates, CNN’s Reza Aslan built on the racism / white nationalism meme to declare the president a racist while calling for the killing of what he perceives to be the Trump demographic; white middle class citizens: “The President is a white nationalist terror leader. His supporters – ALL OF THEM – are by definition white nationalist terror supporters. The MAGA hat is a KKK hood. And his evil, racist scourge must be eradicated from society.” This is the same Reza Aslan whose book *No God but God* is a staple in undergraduate interfaith and comparative religions programs.

There is genuine concern regarding the deliberate “de-platforming” of targeted individuals and organizations that fail to conform to far-left speech codes through processes designed to overwrite First Amendment protections. There is considerable reporting of the manipulation of data oriented towards the purposeful skewing of elections. These activities constitute a deliberate, purposeful, and systematic assault on speech in furtherance of undermining liberty. Moving into an election cycle that has been targeted for exploitation, these activities demand a lawful response. These activities transcend the two-party narratives while trapping Republicans, a controlled opposition, in a domain of under-inclusive responses.

As Josef Pieper warned, the rise of totalitarianism always begins with the abuse of language that starts when false narratives are imposed in order to “withhold the other’s share and portion of reality, to prevent his participation in reality.” As Pieper continued; “Corruption of the relationship of reality, and corruption of communication – these evidently are the two possible forms in which

the corruption of the word manifests itself today.” This is precisely what we are witnessing with the deplatforming of non-conforming views and large-scale data manipulation activities.

From a narrative perspective, it is enough that the public is aware of - and influenced by - these efforts. Just the awareness of deplatforming forces one to undergo a personal inventory of self-censorship before engaging in any communication on the principle communication platforms on which information flows in America today. This represents the actual imposition of prior restraint on the American people that is really intended to suppress speech and the free flow of ideas through the enforcement of narratives. It is a counter-state operation.

As mass line efforts to replace the First Amendment with “hate speech” regimes continue unabated, the controlled political opposition remains alarmingly aloof. By itself, the realization that the social media and technology giants have the means and the apparent will to manipulate elections while de-platforming citizens undermines the integrity of the electoral process. The mere perception of these activities, by itself, delegitimizes because confidence in the Constitutional processes that guard our freedoms - in this instance the electoral process itself - is undermined in the eyes of the American public. As these narrative fictions begin to overwhelm the real, hate speech regimes suppress the truth by intimidating the opposition into silence.

As Pieper observed: “True and authentic reality is being drowned out by superficial information bits noisily and breathlessly presented in propaganda fashion. Consequently, one may be knowledgeable about a thousand details and nevertheless, because of our ignorance regarding the core of the matter, remain without basic insight.”

It would be wrong to think that the concerns raised in this assessment include known, articulable white supremacist organizations like the KKK or Neo-Nazis, or of individuals who, upon reasonable articulable suspicion, bring warranted scrutiny upon themselves. Quite the opposite, the concern is for Neo-Marxist narratives that increasingly appear to label nonconforming speech of ordinary citizens as “racist” or “white supremacist” in an effort to target, delegitimize and suppress.

The political warfare orientation evident

in contemporary America is fundamentally international, foreign and hostile. Estimates that fail to account for these realities are under-inclusive to the threats they pose. Most estimates are deliberately under-inclusive. Unsupported racism accusations for the purpose of delegitimizing as part of Neo-Marxist attack narratives are not the same as those fought over through the civil rights movement but rather are part of a bundled set of otherism LOEs structured to destroy (nihimize) identity. One seeks to unify, the other to destroy.

Military strategists commonly speak of placing an adversary “on the horns of dilemma”. Rather than resembling a bull’s horns, America’s current dilemmas more accurately resemble those of a triceratops.

First, senior Chinese Communist Party officials have openly written about constraining the United States and dominating the world. Second, a domestic counter-state has emerged pressing a Marxist style revolutionary insurrection in alignment with PRC objectives advancing popular narratives that are incomplete, misleading, or entirely false. Third, the virus from Wuhan has created a biological-economic crisis exacerbated by domestic political warfare cadres who travel the country using calculated acts of violence to provoke strife between the unwitting and to intimidate opponents into compliance and silence. This is capitalized on by opportunistic activism in media and politics.

As I previously forecast, the current election cycle clearly evinces various non-violent attack narratives enforced by violent LOEs in the form of intimidation and actual violence. I believe the political warfare effort is coordinated and calibrated. These efforts will succeed if not properly assessed and effectively countered. ✓

BIO

*Stephen Coughlin served as an intelligence analyst for the Joint Chiefs of Staff and in the Pentagon’s National Military Command Center; the National Military Joint Intelligence Center; and on a National Security Council Threat Panel. An attorney recognized as the Pentagon’s leading expert on Islamic law as it relates to national security, he authored the explosive book: *Catastrophic Failure: Blindfolding America in the face of Jihad*. He is a principal of *Unconstrained Analytics* (www.unconstrainedanalytics.org).*



YOUR "FIRST LINE GEAR" ARE THE TOOLS ALWAYS WITH YOU.



LOCK PICKING

THREE LINES OF GEAR

BY PAT WATSON

I am often asked "Pat, which lock pick set should I buy?" The answer is always "It depends".

I then recommend people start with *pocket sized* pick sets like the SEREPICK.com or LockPickTools.com's "Bogota" type sets and of course the SparrowsLockPicks.com "Mace Picks" set. I recommend those small sets as opposed to some of the longer handled picks that come in those leather snap cases the size of the old No. 2 pencils because they are a little too long to store conveniently in a pocket and you can't use lock picks that you don't have with you. If they are easier to find a home for and easier to carry them, you'll carry them more often.

With just one well-chosen rake and one

good tension wrench, you can get into a large percentage of the residential and commercial doors in the U.S. Not all, but still a very large percentage. How? Here's the same crash course that I give all of my students: "1- Hold the lock like this. 2- Put the tension wrench in like this. 3- With your pointer finger, keep light turning tension on that wrench. 4- Move that rake tool in and out of the keyway and up and down within the keyway." Continue with light varying tension, and experiment with your in/out/up/down motion with your rake until the lock opens. Inside the lock there is a row of spring loaded pins of different lengths.

When you put the right key in the lock, they are pushed up to the appropriate depths to align with the "shear line" and the cylinder can turn. The tension wrench provides light rotational pressure so you can get them to bind at the shearline when you rake each one there and when the lock is picked (all pins at the shearline simultaneously), that rotational pressure will cause it to open like a key. Experiment until you get a pressure that works for your lock.

Having one or two small pocket sets, these tools now reside within your "first line gear" (the tools that are always on you). Now any-



**A COAT HANGER IS
HANDY FOR GETTING
AROUND LOCKS.**



time you are out living your life you'll know that you have these tools with you and you'll be amazed at how much use they get *because* they are in your pocket. They don't take up much space, don't add much weight, don't cost a lot and they don't get in the way of how you live your life. That last point is a major point of the preparedness principles that I teach. If a security upgrade makes your life more difficult than you really need it to be, consider your situation and reconsider your approach.

In your first line gear, with your pocket-sized pick sets, an old hotel room key card and a pocket knife, you can access many different padlocks, door key ways and door latches for bypass methods. My good friend from CDI Tactical likes to remind me: "Most things about lock picking are child's play, but, being really blanking good at it, is not child's play". Sometimes it is as easy as "Just push this credit card into the door frame until it hits the latch, then keep pushing the card and it will open" and "Just hook that coat hanger (or pocket knife) around the latch and pull and wiggle and the latch will slip open".

If the key way is a little more advanced, if the door fits the frame correctly (tight) and your old hotel room key card isn't getting the job done or if you run across a *type* of lock that your first line gear doesn't cover, your "second line gear" (a small wearable bag or sling pack that holds tools that expand your attack options) comes into play. This is a systematic approach to overcoming locked ob-

stacles during emergencies, when resources are limited. If you were to be an entry specialist for a tactical team 24/7, I would organize a layout for you with all of your pockets full, your belt loaded down and a huge backpack stuffed with tons of heavy, extra, duplicate and miscellaneous entry tools. The problem is that not too many people on this earth fill that full time role. Even SWAT team members that fill the specialty role of "breacher" don't load down their whole vest and a go-bag with entry tools. Usually it's a small selection of tools for one or maybe two entries that may occur during an operation.

The tactical practitioner and the security minded civilian alike are almost always constrained by limited resources. The trunks of police patrol vehicles are full to the brim with required gear (most of which is never used) and gear purchased by the officers themselves, leaving little space to expand your toolbox in any direction. The citizen also has limited resources, usually a limited budget, and are often on a mission to keep their vehicles *as empty* of gear as possible, but they still have a need to respond to life's emergencies as the actual "first responder" to incidents that occur in their lives. Both the professional first responder, and the first responder based not on title but on reality, have the ability to spend \$100 to get some basic lightweight, small, but effective entry tools in their wallet or on their keychains.

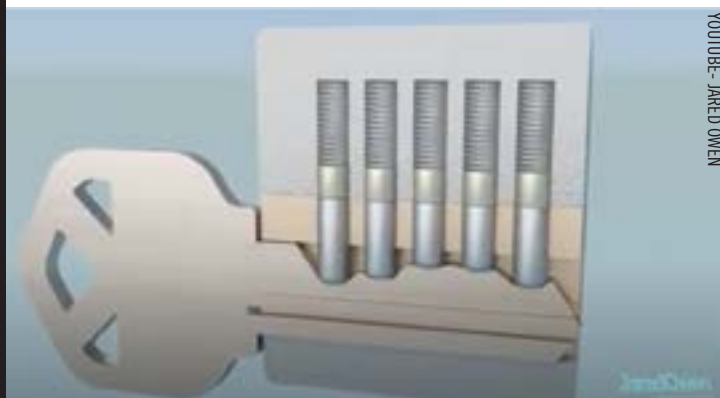
What about more difficult lockouts? Besides the low security keyway access and door latch access that your first line gear can help you access, you will want some more advanced tools in your second line bag as well as some options for accessing some of the less common types of locks. Vehicles are a common type of lockout that your second line gear will allow you to cover more thoroughly. Let's say you don't have any vehicle keyway tools in your first line gear, or the ones you have just aren't cutting it, and you don't currently have access to your long/bulky vehicle entry tools yet. Your second line gear is a great place to store some vehicle keyway expansion tools. For this technique (if the vehicle is the right make and model) using an "auto jiggler" tool is almost as easy as the "raking" technique we discussed above.

Insert the jiggler, keep some turning tension to either the left or the right and jiggle the tool around while keeping that light turning tension applied until the lock opens. Sometimes it is just that easy. Other times you may need some advanced tools like an auto tension wrench and what is called a "double sided wafer rake" for some keyways. There are also specific "decoder" tools for specific makes/models of vehicles. Now, you can't carry every type of decoder for every vehicle, but you can have some best options. Keep in mind that my setup for my three lines of



left: The “jiggler” can be used on the right make and model car.

below: A standard pin and tumbler lock.



left: Some commercially available kits.

gear will be different from yours. If I work at an agency with 500 fleet vehicles that are Ford Crown Vics then it makes sense to have a Crown Vic decoder tool in my second line bag. The curriculum I teach in my courses, and the gear that I recommend people carry, is not an excluding outline, meaning that I encourage creativity, adaption and adjustments, new options, custom options and the like.

Some tools that a tactical lock picker or an entry specialist may want to carry just don't fit into a pocket, onto a belt or into a small go-bag. Hello, third line gear (tools that don't fit into your first two-line carry options and tools that are duplicates, extras, specialty or rarely used). The long vehicle entry tools mentioned above fit in here. Long sticks around 4-6 feet long, that reach through a separated gap between a car door and the door frame, for pulling handles and pushing buttons *inside* the vehicle, from the outside, allowing entry. Sometimes a difficult task to master, but the concept is just as simple as described.

Also, in third line gear is one of my favorite tools, the Under Door Tool. These are available commercially and you can also improvise these tools yourself, like I have done dozens of times. If you have ever been in a locked room with a handle-shaped door handle with an installed push button lock on the handle then you will understand the value of this tool. If, in that room, you locked the lock, then when exiting all you have to do is manipulate the handle and the door automatically unlocks, that is what this tool does from

the far, locked, side of the door. This tool reaches under a door, and up the bag, to pull on the door handle to unlock the door by giving the door handle a “request to exit” input.

You can't carry a four-foot long fishing-pole looking tool on your belt 24/7, but you might be able to bend it and fit it into a large backpack ... maybe. Some of my students do that, but it definitely fits in the trunk of a vehicle or in a closet or in the toolbox in the bed of a pickup truck. Organizing your gear for use will help you save time, save money and possibly save lives. Imagine just having a big plastic tub of individual little tools all mixed up together and thrown into the container like your kid's Legos. It would be difficult to grab a good assortment of gear to bring with you to a target if you had to cradle a bunch of random tools in your arms, hoping to not drop any on the way to a target. It would also be a terrible idea to have to carry a large plastic tub to every entry, leaving you with no hands to operate door handles, no hands to access your weapon and not be able to climb fences or ladders because your hands are full.

There are times when kicking a door in is the most appropriate option. There are times that it is not. I am not against high-energy, kinetic entry techniques, but I am very pro

efficient and effective entries using limited resources. First Responders most commonly pick locks for safety calls when a relative reports a family member suddenly not answering their calls and nobody comes to the door. Citizens have picked locks when keys were missing or unavailable, they have picked locks to get out of dangerous situations and they have picked locks to access critical supplies in emergencies.

I'm Pat. I run UncensoredTactical.com and I help people learn lock picking skills to meet *their* needs. Check your local statutes and make sure the way you carry your gear and your actions comply with the laws in your area, and make sure you have the skills you need *before* you need them. ✓

BIO

Pat Watson (UncensoredTactical.com) served for over a decade in several different roles including: international counter-narcotic operations, military anti-piracy operations, local law enforcement patrol operations, private security work, etc.

PROFILES OF COURAGE

Whether you are facing jihadists who have taken control of your flight, 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 based on multiple open source reports.



Bingham and several other passengers decided to resist the hijackers and coordinated a hasty plan. above: Bingham's name at The National September 11 Memorial & Museum.

MARK BINGHAM

United Flight 93 was delayed more than 40 minutes before taking off from Newark. The Boeing 757 was climbing over Ohio when its pilot radioed Cleveland controllers for explanation of an alert that had read “beware of cockpit intrusion.” On September 11, 2001, American Airlines Flight 11 had been flown into the World Trade Center’s North Tower and United Airlines Flight 175 had been flown into the South Tower. In the following moments Ziad Jarrah and a team of hijackers powered into the cockpit and slit the throats of the flight deck crew with improvised weapons. It is believed that flight 93 was now headed for the White House or the U.S. Capitol Building to carry out another “martyrdom operation”.

Jarrah disengaged the autopilot and an-

nounced to passengers: “Keep remaining sitting. We have a bomb on board.” 31-year old Mark Bingham and other passengers were herded to the back of the airplane. Passengers called family members and learned of the other hijackings. Bingham and several other passengers decided to resist the hijackers and coordinated a hasty plan. The counter-hijacking team and their phone contacts on the ground reportedly recited the Lord’s Prayer and Psalm 23. Audio recordings capture a passenger’s voice saying, “Are you ready? Okay. Let’s roll.” Jarrah jockeyed the controls of the plane to upset the passenger’s footing, but the plane’s voice data recorder revealed crashing sounds at the cockpit door and a passenger shout: “Let’s get them” followed by a hijacker scream, “Allahu akbar!” (Allah is

greater). Jarrah begged, “Give it to me. Give it to me. Give it to me. Give it to me. Give it to me. Give it to me. Give it to me. Give it to me” in a losing bid to retain power over the controls. The plane crashed into an empty field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania killing everyone on board, but harming no one else.

Despite being crowded out of the headlines, al Qaeda and hundreds of other insurgent groups professing to pursue shariah are still active. Some act as a “stick” in the form of terror attacks while others act as a “carrot” in the form of non-violent political warfare, agitation, and subversion efforts such as those revealed by evidence entered in *US V. Holy Land Foundation, et al.*, the largest terrorism financing case successfully prosecuted in U.S. history. ✓