

# TACTICS AND PREPAREDNESS



## TRANSITION -TO THE- SIG SAUER M17 -AND- M18

BY **BRENDAN SOUDER**

**I have transitioned from the Beretta M9 to a series of Glock pistols and now I am honing my skills with the new Sig.**

**S**ince Sig Sauer won the military service pistol contract in 2017 to produce the M17 and M18, many soldiers are transitioning to this gun. Citizens who like to be proficient with the most common firearms will have to do the same.

The bottom line, up front is that new firearms are not too difficult to learn if you

already have an excellent working knowledge of marksmanship and gun handling skills. The most difficult part is the mental game to get over your biases and your pre-existing preferences. The most common obstacle to growth is the thought of “this is what I’ve always done”. At RPGi we can get a shooter to a high level of pistol performance in 600 rounds or less if

they show up with the right equipment, ammunition, a positive attitude and about six hours.

Some shooters forget what made them proficient with their original gun. You see, pistol shooting is challenging because if your fundamentals are slightly off, then it punishes your overall performance (especially accuracy). We find that guys at the

U.S. ARMY STAFF SGT. DARYL BRADFORD

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**With new equipment we need to gain a sense of familiarity.**

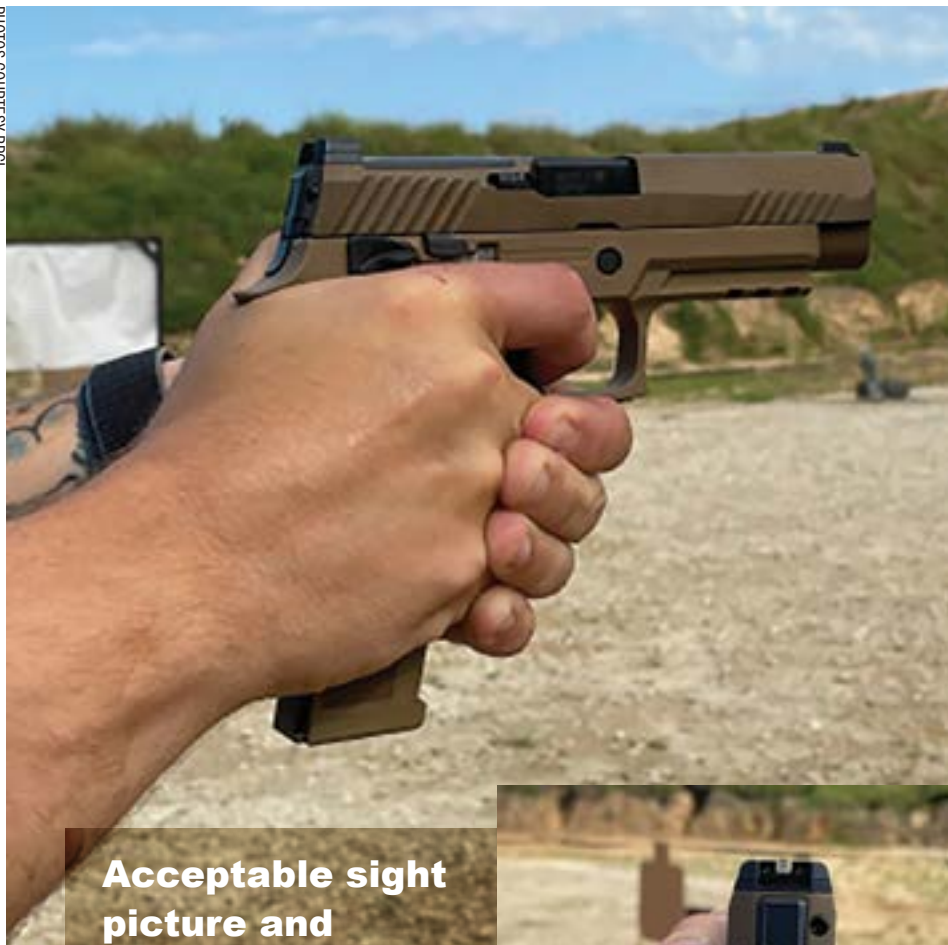
intermediate level and higher still benefit from reviewing and nailing the fundamentals during the course. How you spend your time training overall is critical to making you successful. Shooters must apply meaningful reps with purpose-driven drills.

With new equipment we need to gain a sense of familiarity. Shooters have to learn the controls' contours, understand the mechanical aspect of the firearm, and all of the supporting equipment that comes with the rig. We suggest that shooters train with a similar style holster to their previous platform and show up to training with at least three serviceable magazines. We find it best to conduct in a comfortable environment like a classroom to minimize distractions during the familiarization portion. Start by orienting in a safe direction, removing any magazine and locking the slide to the rear using the machined serrations and the slide lock lever to confirm the weapon is clear. It is good practice to allow yourself time to feel the controls and get set up for dry fire practice.

I was taught by world-class shooters and champions that dryfiring is critical to pistol performance. As an instructor and competitive shooter, I believe in that line of thinking now more than ever. Some of the best pro-

fessional shooters make it a point to dry fire their pistols a hundred times to every one round fired on the range. Transitioning to the Sig P320 M17, we recommend beginning the dryfire process from full presentation. Work your way back from full presentation, adding a step along the way until we start from the pistol being in the holster (then start a full iteration draw stroke into a dry fire at full presentation). This practice is an excellent method for building a great draw stroke while gaining comfort in your new holster, and ending with a clean trigger break with perfect fundamentals. If you have taken a class with us, you probably heard me say that there are "157" fundamentals of marksmanship (at least in Army Special Forces) and that I focus on a handful.

**Fundamentals:** Shooting the M17 is easy if you use the correct sight picture/alignment and proper trigger press. This focus on the fundamentals is consistent for every firearm you pick up and shoot. When I was a young Weapons Sergeant, a Senior 18 Series guy coached me on pistol shooting and told me I was missing my target because I wasn't in an aggressive enough Stance. Looking back now, I realize his image of pistol shooting reminded me of the proverbial "Tactical Turtle"



**Acceptable sight picture and smooth trigger work are still the keys to hits with the M17.**

and that most SOF guys were terrible pistol shooters. Needless to say, SOF units finally wised up and sought outside influence from competitive shooters who thought about pistol shooting in terms of performance results and not solely combat and camouflage.

Grip and Stance are two fundamentals that help us get “to and through” shots number two and beyond. The nice aspect of the M17 pistol is that it has a more advantageous grip angle and feels a lot more comfortable making a proper grip. Glock shooters may need extra time on the M17 during dryfire to familiarize how to deactivate the manual safety on the draw stroke. I like to teach my students to deactivate their safety when they make their grip on the pistol in the holster. Conversely, we need the shooters to activate their safety as they begin the re-holstering process immediately after the pistol leaves full presenta-



tion. If you shot a Beretta, the de-cocking procedure was started as soon as neared position 3 (retention). Glock shooters never had to be concerned with this activity due to the safety being located on the trigger shoe.

Usually, after an hour or so of dryfire, any shooter is ready to hit the range and make some noise. It's important to use a progressive format building up to culminating exercises. We urge shooters making the M17 transition to work up to complex courses of fire to support safety and overall performance. During the first few magazines of live fire, we

strive to get shooters used to the sights, trigger, grip and stance using the M17. During the training, we suggest working with a scorable target (USPSA or IPCS), shot timer, and utilizing pasties to paste everything outside of the “A” zone.

## USEFUL DRILLS

**Full Presentation:** Loaded and ready, on the start signal fire one round at a time (each timer beep) focusing on clean sights and proper trigger pressing at the three yard, five yard, seven yard and ten yard line. Use four magazines and initiate each volley of fire with the shot timer. After each magazine, paste anything outside of the A zone, focus on accuracy and “feeling” the controls and trigger.

**Beginning at retention:** Loaded and ready, on the start signal, move the pistol to full presentation and fire one round at a time (each timer beep), focusing on clean sights and proper trigger pressing at the seven yard, 10 yard and 15 yard line (one magazine at each yard line). Use four magazines and initiate each volley of fire with the shot timer. After each magazine, paste anything outside of the A zone.

**Beginning at retention:** Loaded and ready, on the start signal, move the pistol to full presentation and fire two rounds (controlled pair), focusing on clean sights, proper trigger press, proper grip, and feel the reset of the M17 trigger. This drill is not a race, and shooters must trust the process and be extremely deliberate with this activity. Conduct this drill at seven yards and ten yards over a span of four magazines (two at each yard line).

**Holster work/Draw Stroke:** Loaded, ready and M17 holstered, on the start signal shoot string drills (2-5 shot strings) at five yards, seven yards, ten yards and 15 yards (one magazine per yard line). Focus on proper draw stroke, deactivating the manual safety, and apply the safety at the end of the engagement before re-holstering. This exercise should begin deliberately at about 25 percent speed and climb towards full combat speed after a few iterations at each yard line.

**20A drill (a personal favorite):** Loaded, ready and M17 holstered; on the start signal, shoot five rounds at five yards, ten yards, 15 yards and 15yds. This drill is conducted in 5 shot increments and allows shooters to apply different trigger presses appropriate for pre-planned distances. The drill contains four total iterations that have a total round count of 20. When transitioning to a new pistol such as

the M17, we recommend that shooters really focus on this drill, conducting no less than five rounds before moving on to the next shooting exercise.

**Plate rack work:** Loaded, ready and M17 holstered; on the start signal shoot the plate rack at 10 yards, 15 yards, 20 yards, and 25 yards. We recommend shooting the rack 2-3 times at each specified distance. Shooters will find they are more than likely to figure out the M17's true capability at the 20 and 25 yard line. Our staff members report a high level of accuracy from the M17 pistol.

**2x2x2 Magazine Change Drill:** Loaded (2 rounds in each magazine), ready and M17 holstered; on the start, signal shoot the A box of a paper IPSC target, and conduct slide lock

reloads until complete. Focus on activating the magazine release button, using the slide release lever, and completing the magazine change on the clock while maintaining A-zone hits. Conduct this drill at the 7 yard line for a total of four magazines.

**Transition target drill:** Set up three IPSC targets with approximately 2-3 yards in between. Begin the pistol loaded, ready, and holstered; on the start signal, draw and shoot two rounds in each target for a total of six rounds. Run this drill in an iterative format practicing from left to right and right to left. Focus on seeing the target first and bringing the sights to your eyes. Conduct this drill at seven yards and progressively build up speed until attempting to beat your previous time with a

clean run (All A zone hits). Shooters should fire at least four magazines to build capability.

**Culminating courses of fire:** Shooters at this point in the training session should be hovering around 350-400 rounds fired and well accustomed to the M17. At this point, a short 20 round course of fire mixed with some dynamic movement, paper targets and steel targets are in order. During this activity, shooters should attempt to achieve a clean run and turn up the speed until reaching their maximum performance (clean run while moving with a sense of purpose). This drill should be conducted over and over again to create personal competition, meaning that the shooter is constantly attempting to beat their last score/time or other training participants.

Simply put, shooters at the intermediate level of skill should have little to no problem changing over to the M17. The amount of dry fire practice, live fire, and one day of transition is not the end all be all. This pathway is a great start to mastering the M17 pistol and could be repeated over a series of three to four training sessions with great results. The key to this whole process is accepting the new platform and letting go of the other pistols, especially if this platform is your work gun (DOD). Sig Sauer has come a long way and is well on its way to being the most innovative firearms company on the planet. The M17's modularity sets it up for future modifications and new capabilities.

My final recommendations are these: stick to the fundamentals when attempting to switch pistols or rifle platforms. Believe in the process of deliberate sequential training and conduct purpose-driven repetitions that force you as the shooter to be accountable for each round fired. The fundamentals of marksmanship are the constant in the race for proficiency in arms. The variables are always going to be there; iron sights vs. optics, single-stage triggers vs. two-stage triggers, grip angles etc. Train. Evolve. Compete. ✓

**BIO**

*Brendan Souder is an active duty soldier, a competition shooter, and owner/operator of Range Project Group International (rpg-international.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.*

**Shooters skilled in the basics will have little trouble adapting to the M17 with purpose driven reps.**

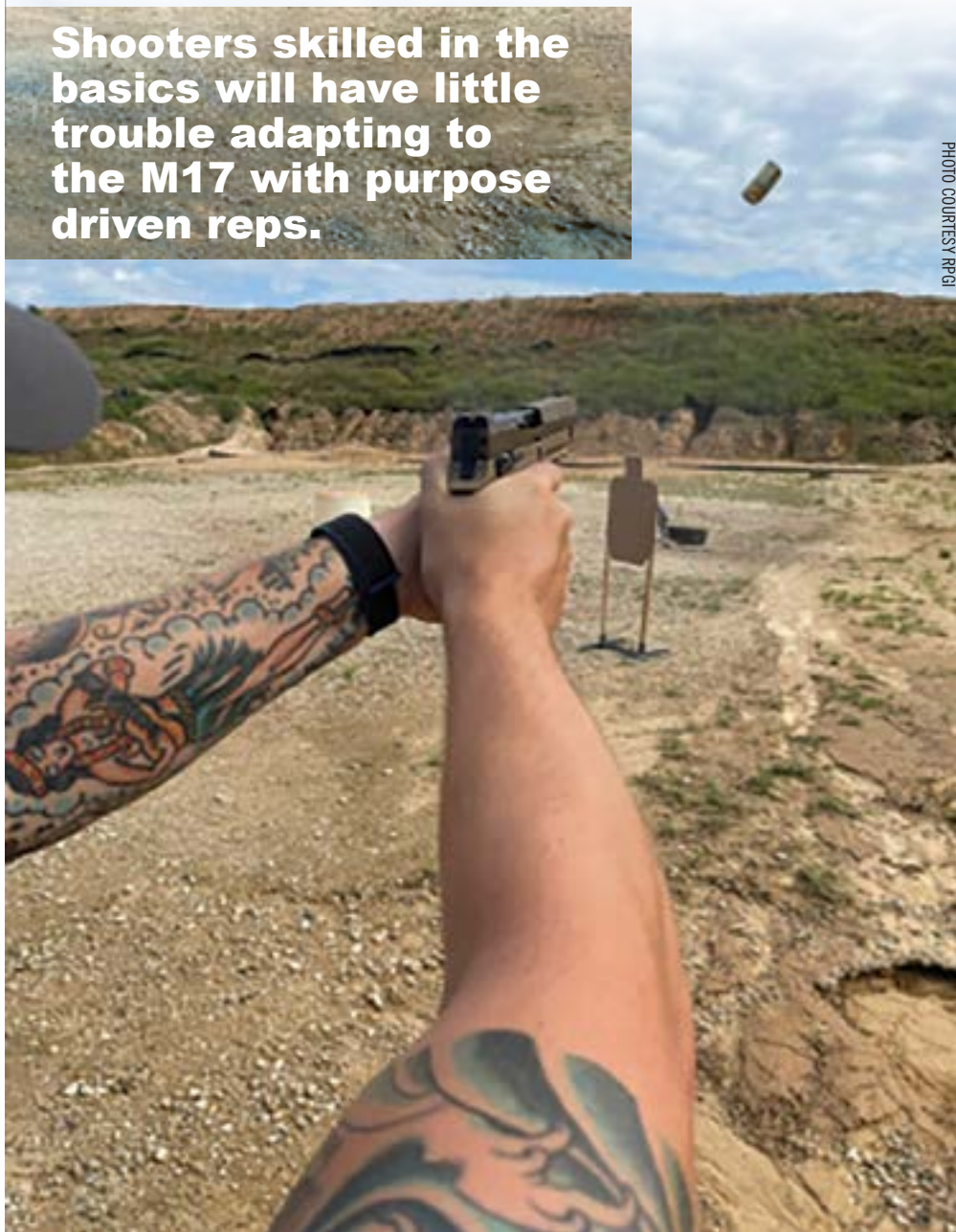


PHOTO COURTESY RPGI

AND SUDDENLY  
THE INVENTOR  
APPEARED

## TRIZ, THE THEORY OF INVENTIVE PROBLEM SOLVING

**Genrich Altshuller received a patent for dive gear while he was a high school student. Then he built a carbide fueled rocket boat and in 1946, at the age of 20, pioneered a technique for escaping from a submarine without dive gear.**

Unfortunately, Altshuller lived in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). In 1948, while a navy lieutenant, he wrote a letter advocating competence and a methodical approach to problem solving that was considered a threat to socialism. He believed he had a process that could systematize the inventive process.

Stalin and his sycophantic underlings charged the 22-year-old with multiple kangaroo court crimes and sentenced him to 25 years in prison. He was sent to a Siberian gulag. He was malnourished, continuously exposed to harsh weather and forced to do hard labor. He knew he was intended

to serve as an example to others, then die.

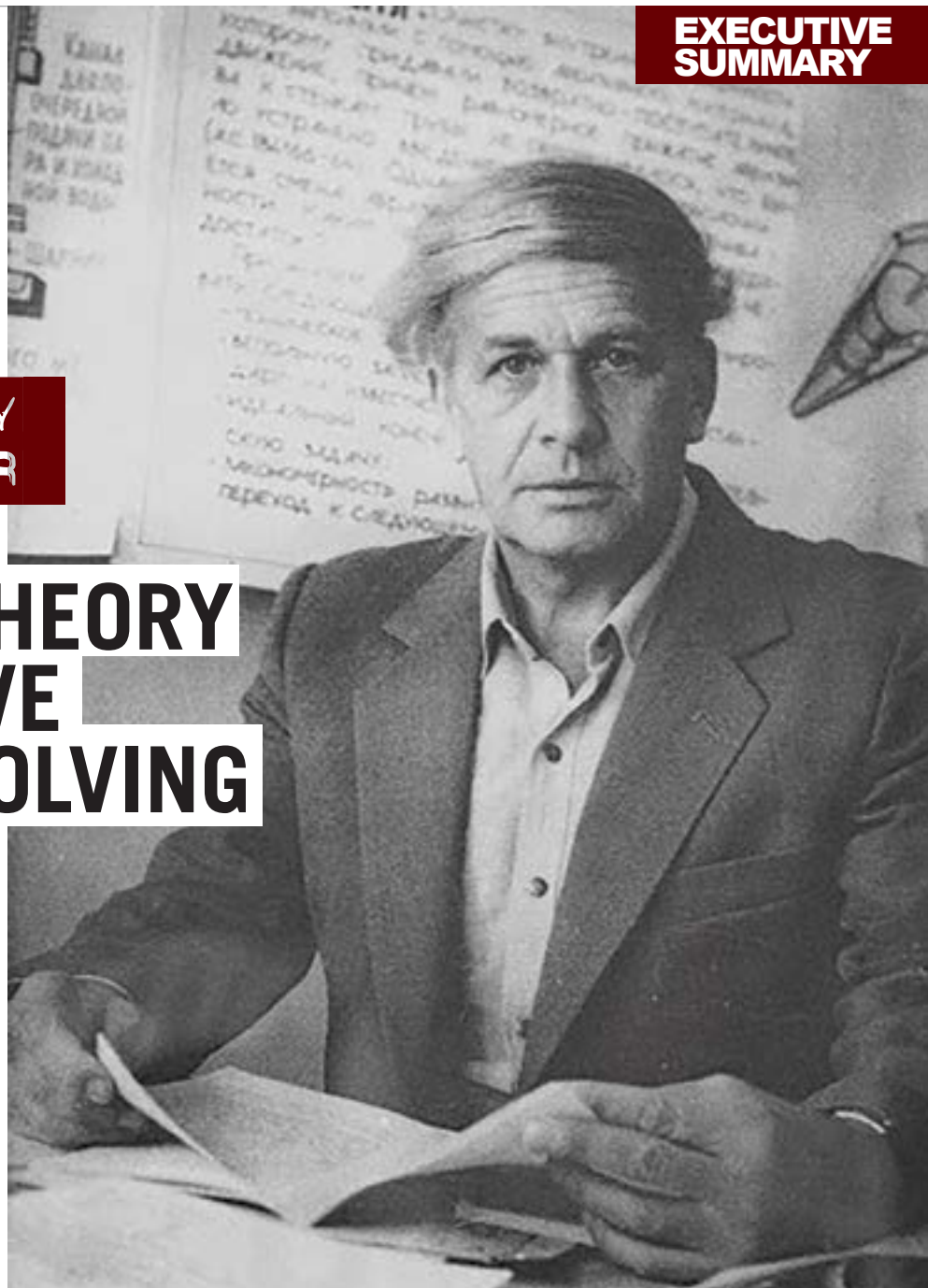
So, he put his problem-solving concepts to work for his own survival. He was quickly put into solitary confinement. It was unpleasant, but it saved him from being worked to death. Then he was transferred to be held with criminals where he told fictional stories for mental exercise.

He then got transferred to a facility for intellectual political prisoners. Every day, Genrich debriefed scientists, engineers, inventors, and others with specialized knowledge for up to 14 hours at a time. He modeled each expert's skills, methodologies and principles for problem solving.

Ultimately, he was moved to another gulag to serve as a slave in coal mines. However, he created solutions for the numerous emergencies and problems resident in a communist mining operation with such speed and simplicity that people thought he had years of experience there.

After Stalin died, Altshuller was finally released. He quickly became one of Russia's most prolific fiction writers and inventors. He is believed to have said: "You can wait a hundred years for enlightenment, or you can solve the problem in 15 minutes with [TRIZ]."

The principles of TRIZ (an acronym of Rus-



BY **GENRICH ALTSHULLER** | SUMMARY BY **CHRIS GRAHAM**



Altshuller's methodical approach to problem solving landed him in a gulag.

sian words for: Theory of inventive problem solving) have reportedly been used by: Ford, Johnson & Johnson, Boeing, NASA and others. This is what they are:

- Do it inversely.
- Change the state of the physical property.
- Do it in advance.
- Do a little less.
- Matreshka (a doll with a series of incrementally smaller dolls inside).
- Conflicting requirements are separated in time or in space.
- All special terms must be replaced with

- simple words.
- Incorporation of similar or different objects into one system.
- Fragmentation, consolidation.
- Dynamization.
- Add magnetic powder to the substance and apply a magnetic field.
- S-field modeling.
- Self-service.
- Heat expansion.
- Transition from macro structure to micro structure.
- Effect of the corona discharge.
- Curie point of ferromagnetic materials.
- Combination of various effects.
- Geometrical effect of the Moebius ribbon.
- Geometrical effect of the rotating hyperboloid.
- Ideal Final Result (IFR).
- Introduction of a second substance.
- Utilization of soap bubbles and foam.
- Operator STC (size, time, cost).
- Model with miniature dwarfs (MMD).
- Make a copy and work with it.
- Build a model of the problem.

Altshuller's book explores each concept by presenting the reader a problem to solve. Af-

ter one reads the problem and considers how to solve it, one can read the author's solution and explanation of the solution as well as his explanation of how it applies more broadly to systematic practical problem solving.

Whether you are trying to improve the conditions of your slavery as a political prisoner of a communist regime, Macgyvering your way out of a tight spot, or having fun training your kids to be resilient problem solvers, Genrich Altshuller provides an inspiring mind to model. *And Suddenly the Inventor Appeared* provides 36 practical problems to solve, instruction on perspectives and thought processes to solve them and solutions in case you get stuck and need to work backwards on occasion. If you prize the ability to see what others do not see, and understand what others do not understand, you will want to read and apply the book. ✓

#### 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](http://www.ChrisGrabamAuthor.com).*

## GEAR REVIEW

### HURLEY ADVANTAGE

Paddleboarding has exploded in popularity as more and more Americans unplug from electronic propaganda on the internet and television to strengthen their mental and physical health outdoors. This 10' inflatable stand up paddleboard comes with a leash, hand pump, waterproof backpack (for carrying), detachable fins and a repair kit. The board is 10' x 30" x 5" inflated and is designed to handle up to 240 lbs. Deflated it can be cached near your favorite secret fishing spot, or stored in your home or office. It can be transported in your car's trunk or on your back while riding a bicycle or hiking. Inflatable boards may be your family's best option to enjoy a few more days of summer before the coming winter hits. [www.Hurley.com](http://www.Hurley.com)





# LESSONS FROM SOUTH AFRICA

BY KEVIN REEVE

**The recent unrest in South Africa is just one of the many items curiously absent from U.S. news coverage on most days.**

**H**aving spent many years studying what happens in cities when a disruptive event occurs, I have taken great interest in what is happening in Durban and the surrounding areas presently.

South Africa is still dominated by tribal politics. Police recently arrested the former president for corruption. The former president is Zulu. This was followed by an immediate violent response from the area's Zulu population. Large numbers of Zulu people began attacking and looting stores and malls, cleaning them out and burning them.

Like many mob actions, the fury grew into a storm and before long all the stores in the area were looted and destroyed. Rioters then turned their attention to the distribution hubs where food and medicine were warehoused to be shipped from. Like Aesop's cautionary classic *The Goose That Laid the Golden Egg*, the rioters destroyed the very infrastructure they need to stay alive.

The government eventually sent security forces to quell the violence, but it was too late for the businesses in the area. The Zulus attacked the Indian and white owned neighborhoods who, in turn, formed self-protection groups and defended their neighborhoods by force. The urgent validity of America's Second Amendment for emergencies was reaffirmed and the criticality of private gun ownership was again demonstrated as desperate South African families were forced to defend themselves. The so-called "militias" emerged after exhausted and disbursed police were overwhelmed and bypassed by looters. With resources expended, police became mere witnesses to the criminal attacks. Self-defense groups endeavored to protect neighborhoods and save lives until the South Africa Defence Force (military) arrived.

Once the city was depleted of resources, the looters turned their attention to the surrounding communities and looted and burned all of

their businesses as well. The result was what is sometimes called a "food desert", where people have to be able to travel long distances to obtain basic needs. The post offices, distribution points for welfare money and other resources, were also looted and destroyed.

Some wonder if this could ever happen in the United States. It already has. In 1992, the Rodney King riots in Los Angeles included: widespread rioting, looting, and burning of stores, many owned by Korean Americans. When order was eventually restored, many businesses were not reopened. Community infrastructure had been destroyed and locals had to make long journeys, often on buses to meet basic needs. They experienced life in a "food desert".

Racial strife and class warfare themes are reported to have been key components of South Africa's contemporary strife that resulted in targeting Indian and white owned businesses not unlike the targeting of Koreans in South



**The problems in South Africa will continue because there is a large population competing for what are now very limited resources.**

Central and Compton Los Angeles decades earlier. Existing friction points combined with the deliberate actions of opportunists fueled racial animosity to ever higher levels until the only thing needed to create a disaster that would ultimately bring suffering to all was a single incident.

Is the situation in major U.S. cities at all similar? Racial animosity, tribal alliances and escalating opportunists with both short- and long-term goals are clearly evident.

### FORECASTING

I believe that every city in the United States with a population over 250,000 is at risk. A look at a race distribution map of Los Angeles shows that the city is still largely segregated. You have predominately white areas, black areas, Hispanic areas and Asian areas. Racial divides are not the only factor, but they are a large one, and Los Angeles bears a lot of similarity to other major cities.

I believe that the larger the city, the more likely violence will erupt. The precipitating event is generally a perception of injustice from one or more ethnic groups. The shooting of a black man by a white police officer, the verdict in the Rodney King trial, and the accounts of the death of George Floyd have all triggered violence, looting and burning. Some cities, such as Portland, are in a perpetual state

of violence with little official effort to restore peace and security. In fact, official actions curiously appear to incentivize lawlessness in some cities.

### BE PREPARED

Like a good Boy Scout, be prepared. Here are some suggestions:

**Suggestion one:** Have a safe haven identified and coordinated that you can go to if things break down. This could be as simple as communicating mutual assistance plans with distant family members or friends to welcome them in your home and vice versa if needed. Multiple options in multiple locations is best, but be prepared to hold up your end of any agreements.

**Suggestion two:** Do an area study. Identify where violence has occurred in the past. Identify areas with high crime rates. Identify where different ideological and demographic boundaries exist in your community as best as able. For example, competent soldiers deployed to Iraq closely studied where they would pass from a Sunni neighborhood to a Shiite one and made a point of learning which tribes and factions were represented in which homes for self-preservation purposes.

Identify routes that avoid those areas where you will stand out. For example, if I want to go from my home in Santa Monica out to Pomona

(east), I would probably not go due east as it will take me through a neighborhood where being able to blend in would not be possible. If I were black, that might be the preferred route. I can, however, blend in going northeast to Pasadena and out the 210 corridor to Pomona. An area study helps me understand possible danger and safe zones in my area with specificity.

**Suggestion three:** Try out the routes using the military acronym PACE, which stands for Primary route, Alternate route, Contingency route and finally, Emergency route. This allows you to continue if unforeseen events make the primary route non-viable. As you test your routes, look for chokepoints, construction zones or any other problem that might hinder your movement and consider the pros and cons of traveling by car, on foot, by bicycle, by boat or even by light aircraft as fits your situation, resources and abilities.

**Suggestion four:** Have an evacuation bag packed and ready to go. We did an urban evac class for a family and they took our advice to heart and had totes in the garage with the supplies they would want to evacuate with. Less than three months later a wildfire caused their neighborhood to be evacuated. They were the first ones out.

**Suggestion five:** Have a plan to defend your family. If you think you can defend your-



self against rioters or in any significant conflict with pepper spray or a stun gun, let me know how that works out. In a failure of civility, there is no substitute for firearms. A handgun is concealable and maneuverable in a car. A rifle is less concealable, but can offer longer range and often offer greater magazine capacity. There is no reason not to legally and safely keep a rifle in your home for contingencies. Marine Colonel Jeff Cooper reportedly said that the only reason to have a pistol is to have a tool you can use to fight your way to a rifle. His perspective is worth considering. Some people have qualms about gun ownership. I recommend spending some time watching Active Self Protection, a YouTube channel that breaks down violent interactions in robberies, home invasions, and other violent encounters. Spoiler alert: A good guy with a gun is the only effective and realistic defense against a bad guy with a gun.

**Suggestion six:** Do not reveal your preparations. People will do bad things when their kids have not eaten in several days. Do not make yourself a visible target.

**Suggestion seven:** Have a vehicle that is road worthy. I usually refill my gas tank when it gets to 1/2 a tank. Make sure you do preventive and scheduled maintenance on the vehicle. Nothing is less convenient than a breakdown in the middle of civil unrest.

**Suggestion eight:** Build rapport. Give everyone you encounter reason to trust and respect you. Be a good neighbor and be able to form teams and alliances quickly and skillfully. Consider this groundwork to be preventive medicine, good manners, and practice of an often overlooked critical skill.

Also consider this: insurgents in Iraq and Afghanistan received differing levels of assistance from locals partly dependent on which unit they were targeting. Units that treated locals poorly were IEDed frequently. Units that treated locals with genuine respect sometimes faced fewer IEDs and at least one unit that both projected military competence and real rapport building experienced a situation where locals detonated known IEDs emplaced by insurgents to prevent bloodshed and to avoid getting caught up in follow on counter actions. Within some American neighborhoods police officers are individually known. The competent can be distinguished from the incompetent and those who use bullying behavior can be distinguished from those who are even handed.

Skills are the critical and often overlooked

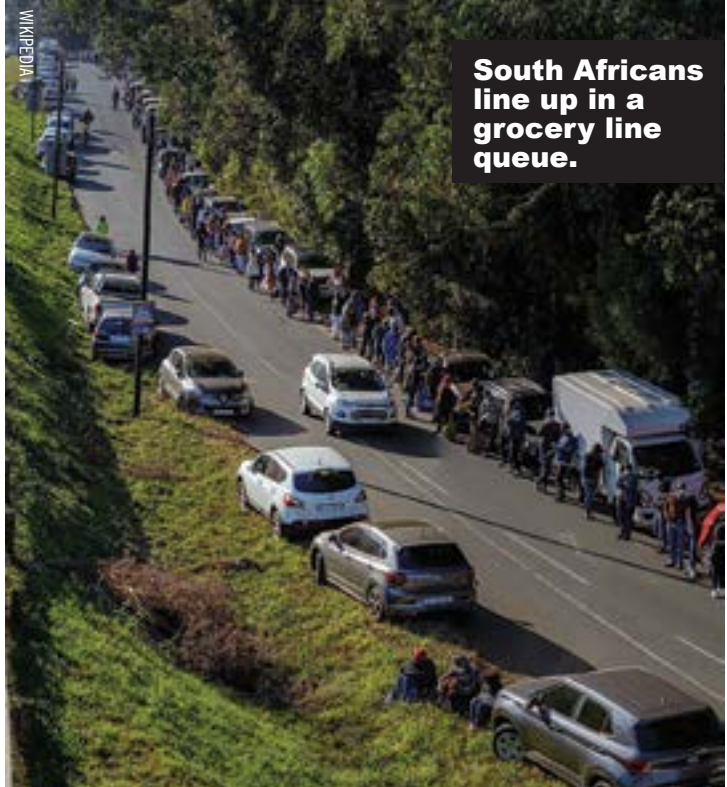
component to safely employing useful tools, including firearms. It is important to have already been trained through the unconscious incompetence phase, the conscious incompetence phase, the conscious competence phase and into the unconscious competence phase of your critical skills before they are tested in an emergency.

One of the lessons of the South African violence is that many people (to include the police) did not have enough ammo on hand for the prolonged violence. I recommend a minimum of 1,000 rounds per gun.

Pay attention to the news, but also search the internet and other sources for up-to-date information. American news sources are ever-increasingly choosing not to reveal certain information and are consistently “spinning” information counter-factually on certain subjects. Track the movement of the mobs and bail out ahead of their arrival. When you think it is getting spicy, implement your evacuation plan. Too early is an inconvenience. Too late can be lethal.

The problems in South Africa will continue because there is a large population competing for what are now very limited resources (just like the problem outlined in *The Goose That Laid the Golden Egg*), and opportunists practicing political warfare in support of a power grab routinely fan the flames of strife on all sides.

Whoever controls the food, controls the population. Store some extra food for when stores are cleaned out. This happens in hours not weeks when they are unreplenished. Have a little extra prescription medicine, bottled water and the means to purify water. If you live in an apartment, you are obviously limited as to what you can store, but anything is better than nothing. Have several cans of soup, chili, tuna, etc. Avoid frozen or refrigerated food for an emergency. It is ironic that in an attempt to seize power, the most subversive things you can do is be capable of producing your own food and water and be sufficiently



**South Africans line up in a grocery line queue.**

physically fit that you require no medications.

Finally, do not live your life in fear. Being prepared means taking precautionary action, then enjoying your life knowing that contingencies are covered as best as able. General Patton called a plan “a wish in a party dress”. You plan so that you have something to adjust to the ever-changing situation rather than starting from zero.

Hopefully you will never face a raid on your home by a mob like so many in South Africa have faced in recent weeks. And hopefully your town will not be steamrolled in a matter of hours by insurgents like thousands of American citizens and Afghans predictably faced in Kabul. However, I have spent a lot of time studying the decline of societies. For me, it is not *if* violence, upheaval or disaster will happen, it is *when* and in what form? Brace for impact. ✓

## BIO

Kevin Reeve ([www.onpointtactical.com](http://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.



# DEFEATING PUSH BUTTON LOCKS



**1,081 combos**

**Often left unchanged  
from the "manufacturer's  
default" code.**

BY **PAT WATSON**  
PHOTOS BY **UNCENSORED TACTICAL.COM**

**Have you ever looked at a combination lock and thought to yourself, "Ugh! There's no way that I could figure out the combination to that! It would take me thousands of guesses to try to guess the correct code."**

I'm happy to tell you that No, Probably not. It's not going to take you an incredibly long time to try to guess the combo for that combination lock and it will be especially surprising to see the difference in possible entry attempts between a standard four-wheel combination lock and the common mechanical push-button combination locks that are often referred to as Realtor Key Lock Boxes or Realtor Locks, since they are commonly seen hanging from home doorknobs,

housing a key to be used by different realtors or prospective buyers. First up is an easy example of the exploitable math that can help you make entry through four-wheel combination locks.

Four-wheel combination locks have 10,000 possible entry codes. This is laughably, and strangely a difficult concept to explain to some people. I've seen some very heated arguments concerning how many possible entry codes are programmable into the lock

but the simple facts are this: Counting from 0-0-0-1 up to 9-9-9-9 gives us 9,999 possible entry codes. If we also add in 0-0-0-0 then that brings our total to 10,000. The statistical math is the equation of 10 possible inputs on the first wheel multiplied by 10 on the next wheel and 10 on the third wheel and 10 on the fourth, bringing us to 10,000.

Computer hackers refer to these counting attacks as a "brute force" attack. They don't mean the force of hammers and pry bars,



**1,081  
Possible  
Combinations**



**After the first digit is solved,  
the remaining possible choices  
are made easier.**

they mean the brute, total force of every possible passcode hitting the locked obstacle as fast as possible which should always give you the correct passcode at some point during your attack. For some locks, like the four-wheeled combination locks, this brute force attack is as easy as counting up from zero. Rule of thumb for four-wheeled locks is that it would take about two and a half hours to try every possible code. For three-wheeled combination locks you only have 1,000 possible passcodes to try before finding the correct one. This is literally so easy that a child can do it in fifteen minutes or less, which is why I strongly suggest parents do not use simple three-digit or even four-digit wheeled combo gun lock boxes.

The math here gets very interesting when we switch away from the multiple dial or multi-wheel combo locks and into the push-button locks that are commonly mounted to walls outside of businesses or hanging from doorknobs in front of homes for sale. Because the inputs are commonly 0-9, and because the code is usually four digits long, does not necessarily mean that there are 10,000 combinations you would have to try before gaining entry with the correct passcode.

The rules have changed. It is still a four-digit code, but the first input is now a choice be-

tween 0-9 (on some push button locks) meaning there are ten possible choices to choose from for the first digit. After using the digit, you can often no longer use that digit again in the passcode so you must choose another. The next input can only be one of nine digits. The next choice you have is one of the eight inputs that are left. Then you may choose only from seven of the inputs that are left. Again, this is for push button locks that only have ten input options "0-9"; this math changes when other rules or inputs change. So far, we are at  $10 \times 9 \times 8 \times 7 = 5,040$ . With our new rules there are around five thousand possible entries, but wait, there's more...actually...less. If you set the correct passcode for the lock as 1-2-3-4 (a bad idea) and you close the lock, you can often punch in the combo 4-3-2-1 and the lock will open. This is because on a

**1,000  
Possible  
Combinations**

**But, can be  
quickly decoded**



lot of push button locks (not all) the order in which the four digits are pressed does not matter. As long as all four of the inputs are pressed in some order, the lock should open.

If you have four chosen inputs, and if each of them is used only once in a four-digit code, there are 24 ways that you can arrange those four separate inputs. That means that the separate input buttons "1, 2, 3, and 4" can be punched into the 24 different ways and ALL of them should open the lock. So we take



## Cracking a padlock's code is not as difficult as you think.

5,040 and we divide by 24. That gives us 210. Now, how long would it take you to count up to 10,000 and how long would it take you to count up to 210? This is a huge difference.

I call this next tool “counting trees”. I may not be the most accurate with my statistical verbiage, but the math works out regardless. If I were to walk up to a push-button realtor lock box and I were to try to brute force attack it by trying every possible code, and if I started punching in “0-0-0-0, try the activation lever. Nope, that wasn’t it. 0-0-0-1. Try the lever again. Nope, that wasn’t it. 0-0-0-2, 0-0-0-3, 0-0-0-4” and so on. I would have wasted all of my time up until I input the four-digit code 0-1-2-3. This is because every entry before that had an input that appeared more than once in the code attempt. Counting trees (writing them yourself or having access to a paper or digital list) can really shred that entry time way down and prevent you from losing track of where you are at in your entries.

If I were to walk up to one of the realtor boxes of the push button variety, I would correctly start my entry attempts using the following pattern, a counting tree specific to the rules of the lock, for example: 0-1-2-3; 0-1-2-4; 0-1-2-5; 0-1-2-6; 0-1-2-7; 0-1-2-8; 0-1-2-9; 0-1-3-4; 0-1-3-5; 0-1-3-6; 0-1-3-7; 0-1-3-8; 0-1-3-9; 0-1-4-5; and so on. Do you see all the “counting numbers” that are missing in between each of those entries? It may not seem like a lot when written as an example here but when you can take 10,000 entries down to

200 entries, it could literally be a lifesaver.

Imagine being a firefighter at a small fire department. You show up on scene to a large structure fire. Bureaucracy says that you are “supposed” to have the master access keys to the building but behold, that key is missing. Let’s say the building is locked up tight but there is a small realtor box nearby. Let’s say you have correctly identified the lock box as having only 210 possible input codes. And let’s say you have a pocket cheat sheet of the right codes. It may be smart for the other members of your fire crew to start making forced entry on the structure, but you could really help speed up the rest of their structure search inside the building if you had the right key to open up all of the follow on doors inside. This could literally be a life-saving piece of math to have, quite literally, in your back pocket.

As a kid, I never thought that I would be relishing math when I grew up, but in the in-person Tactical Lock Picking courses that I teach, one of my favorite lessons of the course is getting out a white marker board and drawing all sorts of cool charts and graphs and timelines with the students and getting jaw dropping responses when they go from “I don’t know, thousands and thousands of possible codes maybe?” down to “Holy crap! 210 possible entries! What the heck?”

I have worked cases as a first responder where people were stuck on either of the sides of locked obstacles. And I know that

just by chance, there has to have been a time where someone was locked out of an obstacle that was being held shut by either a four-digit wheeled padlock (10,000 entries) or locked out by a push button mechanical lock, and they must have said something like “I’ll never get out of here to safety! It would take so long to find the correct code, I guess I’ll just lay here and die”. It’s sad to think that that must have happened before. I would like to prevent that from happening to you or someone you care about some day.

I’m Pat Watson. I left two first-responder careers behind because I have a passion for teaching people cutting edge tactics (locked security bypasses and also training family-protection dogs). I wanted to dedicate 100 percent of my time to that, instead of a tiny fraction of my time. I love what I do, and if you want even more ideas and insights you can pick up my book *Tactical Lock Picking* or check out my podcast “Uncensored Tactical”. My Tactical Lock Picking “Video Master’s Series” course is coming soon to the *Uncensored Tactical* website. ✓

### 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.*



# ENTANGLED

## PISTOL ACCESS

BY ADAM SCHOLL | PHOTOS COURTESY SHIVWORKS.COM

**There are a myriad of skills that one must have if one wants to legally carry a concealed pistol for self-defense or in the line of duty.**

**A**fter safe gun handling skills and marksmanship abilities are instilled, one of the most overlooked skills is the ability to access the pistol while in a fight or entanglement of some kind. Many people go to the range and practice sub one second draws with a shot timer as their only challenge. People who take their defensive skills seriously also practice some form of combatives or MMA training at a local gym. Often these skills are not trained together as they are applied in real life.

In real life it is common that a situation

starts within arms distance. Some form of physical altercation often precedes the need to introduce a pistol into the equation. People who haven't thought about this problem, or trained for it, often attempt to access the pistol much too early. This can result in receiving a debilitating blow that could have been countered, or having the pistol knocked out of their hands, taken away and used against them. There are some two-day courses, such as Shivwork's Extreme Close Quarters Combat (ECQC), that provide great insight and experience for just this problem.

During a good entangled pistol course, you will probably learn a variation of upper body grappling techniques borrowed from wrestling that will help you manage the vertical clinch problem. Among them are under hooks, over hooks, bicep ties and wrist ties. These techniques are part of an operating system that is needed to understand how to manage the vertical entanglement and work to "earn the opportunity" to introduce your pistol into the equation. Aside from the legal question of whether it is appropriate to introduce a lethal force tool into the scenario, we



### The Shivworks' thumb pectoral index position provides maximum protection against gun grabs.

must also ask ourselves how and when it may be best to do so.

You must have one of the three following criteria in order to successfully deploy your pistol, while tied up with an adversary:

#### CONTROL

If I am in a position to control the limb closest to my weapon, generally speaking I can get my pistol out and in the fight without running the risk of having it knocked out of my hand or taken from me and used against me. If I can control both of my partner's limbs (arms), that further increases my chances of successfully introducing the pistol to the fight if I am facing only one opponent.

#### TIMING

If I have time (sometimes translated in a fight as distance) and I know how much time is required to successfully draw my weapon (not just under ideal circumstances but under real pressures) then I should be able to get my pistol into the fight. Additionally, if I am in an entanglement and I can create an opportunity where my opponent is moving in the opposite direction from me (push off) or I am behind his or her shoulders, I generally have the time to access my pistol. This is directly related to how good I am at one- and two-handed draws from concealment and knowing my own capabilities time-wise.

#### POSITION

Generally, position will go hand in hand with either control or timing, but there are certain positions that make accessing my firearm inherently easier. A simple example of this is anytime I am behind my opponent.

You can work these three elements with a partner and an inert blue gun and see exactly how challenging it can be to get your pistol into the fight when the other person is working to stop you. I encourage you to start there and eventually graduate to airsoft or Sims/UTMs if you have the resources and ability to build these training scenarios safely. Be sure to wear appropriate protection, especially for the eyes. This type of training has traditionally been conducted with FIST helmets, but more recently I have started using helmets from Redbeard Combatives. Also, be aware of the risk to the shooter's trigger finger getting broken from the leverage of the trigger guard. Some trainers have mitigated this risk by cutting the trigger guard off their blue guns and their airsoft training guns.

The next most important thing is the ability to employ different body positions. In entangled gunfighting we need to find other techniques that allow us to move the pistol into appropriate extension or compression based on the proximity of the adversary. Sometimes we may be able to get two hands on the pistol, but at this close range, even

with two hands on the pistol we will likely be shooting from compression (pistol pulled back toward our chest). In this configuration we must be sure to leave enough room for the slide to reciprocate as well as understand what our sight reference will look like. It won't be equal height and light to our angle on the front sight tip, but that doesn't mean that we can't observe our sights in reference to the target and still achieve consistently accurate (enough) shots on target at short distance. As we get shots on target and put distance between us and the target, we can begin to extend the gun until we eventually reach our normal, fully extended presentation. It is important in an entanglement not to rush to extend the pistol. Doing so offers the adversary the chance to get their hands on our weapon.

Often, when drawing a pistol from entanglement we will only have one hand on the weapon and our non-dominant hand blocking, pushing or controlling our opponent.

#### ON GUARD POSITION

This position was commonly taught to law enforcement officers, and in some places is still the gold standard. This method involves drawing from a strong side holster and essentially dunking your firing elbow into the strong side holster, thus presenting your pistol at waist level just in front of your body. There are several variations of this technique, but ultimately most of them are quite vulnerable to exploitation. The pistol is "floating" out in front of you, so it is relatively easy for an adversary to get their hands on it. I do not advocate this position for one handed entangled shooting.

#### RETENTION SHOOTING POSITION

This position is similar to the first position but instead of dunking your elbow into your holster you would drive your elbow back until your wrist is aligned with your rib cage and turn your palm up, thus canting the gun sideways. Advocates for this technique argue that it is less likely to snag on clothing or inhibit slide movement. This is true, but the position still offers little in terms of control should the adversary attempt to grab your pistol. I am not a fan of this position either.

#### THUMB PECTORAL INDEX

This position was advocated by Craig Douglas of Shivworks and is a position taught and

advocated for all Shivworks courses. The position involves drawing your pistol and driving your firing elbow straight back and up as high as you can (you will feel a knot in your trap/delt area when done correctly) while simultaneously flagging your thumb on your firing hand. The flagged thumb allows for some standoff between the weapon and your clothing. This position can orient the pistol in a diagonally downward fashion and rounds fired from this position will likely strike the adversary in the pelvic girdle or mid-section. This position is easy to learn, train and offers the maximum protection against gun grabs. It is also the position I



**In a scramble for your life, it's important to have the skills to be able to retain and access your firearm.**

I advocate. It must be practiced carefully. The shooter is within arms distance of the target and is putting rounds into the ground. This is best trained outdoors and caution must be practiced as shooting towards metal target stands on the ground at such a close distance can also cause safety issues. This skill should be practiced in a crawl, walk, run fashion from blue gun dry fire to live on paper, then slow to faster with airsoft. I recommend going to the Shivworks ECQC course. They do a good job and both safety and performance depend on an outside set of experienced eyes observing.

A SIRT training pistol allows you to check your lines of fire via the laser, and ensure you are not placing parts of your own anatomy in the line of fire unintentionally. It sounds silly, but when working from entanglement it is very possible. I could have my arm behind my opponent's waist for example, and shoot rounds through his belt line, which would place my hand behind his waist in the line of fire. These are the things we need to work to deconflict during training.

### DRILL 1

Start with your opponent facing you and take an underhook with your non dominant hand. For a right handed shooter this places my left arm under their right arm and allows me to grab their front deltoid. While placing my head in their nearside ear, I will establish a bicep tie with my right hand at the crook of their left elbow. From this position I will

slide my right hand down to their left wrist (wrist tie) and remove my left underhook, taking an arm drag on my partner's left arm (palm facing me, above the elbow) and pull my partner's left arm across my body thus exposing their back to me. While maintaining my grip with my left hand on my partner's left tricep, I will access my pistol with one hand, bring it into the thumb pectoral index and ensure that my hips are facing my opponent before simulating firing the rounds into my opponents pelvic girdle with my inert blue gun. This drill can be repeated until the movements become second nature and after I develop proficiency I can allow my partner to give me some resistance as well.

### DRILL 2

A second drill that can be performed starts from the same starting position, but this time we will work to bind two of our opponent's limbs with one of ours, thus giving us the time and opportunity to introduce our pistol to the fight. Starting with an underhook with your non-dominant hand and a bicep tie with your dominant hand, push the opponent's left elbow backwards via your bicep tie while you simultaneously step close enough to them to place your belt buckle on their near side hip at their three o'clock. Your underhook arm will reach across to your opponent's far side hip and you will be able to thread your arm through their elbow and grab their forearm. Once you have grabbed their forearm, using your large muscles in your back (lats), you

can pull their arm into their hip and control it with only your underhook arm (left arm for right handed shooters) allowing your firing arm to come off of their wrist and go to your inert blue pistol. This position is referred to as the split seatbelt position and it is a very dominant position that binds both of your opponent's limbs, with one of yours.

There is no substitute for hands-on training with a skilled and experienced instructor for this skill. The material described above is clearly taught in the Shivwork's ECQC course which focuses on the entangled pistol problem. Other members of the "Shivworks Collective" such as Chris Fry, Cecil Burch, Larry Lindenman and Paul Sharp also teach material that supports this methodology. I recommend learning directly from the sources. There are other people teaching techniques to address this problem, but I have not seen any who do it as well. Carrying a pistol and not knowing how to access it from an entanglement is setting yourself up for failure. After safety and basic marksmanship, this material is one of the most important things anyone who carries a pistol should learn. ✓

### BIO

*Adam Scholl (www.schollsecuritygroup.com) was 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.*

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This article should be read as a companion to the March 2020 Tactics and Preparedness article "Why We Lost Afghanistan".



# UNDERSTANDING THE THREAT TRAIN-THE-TRAINER COURSE

BY **KEN JAVES**

On August 27, 2021 former Marine officer and former FBI counter terrorism division agent, John Guandolo, issued the following statement:

**L**ike the generals who came before him, CENTCOM Command[ing] General Kenneth Frank McKenzie Jr. (USMC) is responsible for the deaths of men America entrusted to his care because he made an affirmative decision not to know and understand his enemy. His decision not to do basic due diligence to know the enemy is unprofessional. When people die because of a person's unprofessional conduct, the law calls that "Criminal Negligence." We put doctors and lawyers in jail for that. Today, 10 Marines, 2 U.S. Army soldiers, and 1 Navy corpsman are among the 73 dead

in a martyrdom attack by jibadis in Kabul, Afghanistan.

General McKenzie, like most people in the U.S. national security apparatus, made an affirmative decision to never read/understand any Islamic Law/sbaria despite the fact...[the Taliban]... tell us they are "muslims waging jibad in the cause of allah" to establish a "caliphate under allah's divine law/sbaria."

In a press conference on Thursday, McKenzie said, "(We are) reaching out to the Taliban, who are actually providing the outer security around the airfield to make

sure they know what we expect them to do to protect us, and we will continue to coordinate with them going forward...We share versions of this information with the Taliban, so that they can actually do some searching out there for us. And we believe that some attacks have been thwarted by them."

This level of stupidity and unprofessionalism is staggering. It would be interesting to ask General McKenzie if he knows what binds together Al Qaeda, the Taliban, Hizbollah, ISIS, the Muslim Brotherhood/Hamas, the constitutions of Iran, Egypt,



*Afghanistan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, et al, the Heads of State of every Islamic nation on earth (57 members) under the OIC, all of the prominent U.S. Islamic organizations, and the “terrorists” who perpetrated attacks against the West over the last 20 years including in Boston, Fort Hood, Arlington (VA), Pensacola, New York, Chattanooga, Canada, France, Spain, Italy, Germany, UK, Belgium, and today in Kabul. The answer is: Allah’s Divine Law - sharia.*

Shariah is cited by the Taliban and each jihad inspired insurgency is guided by shariah at the tactical, operational, and strategic levels. Knowing these guiding principles makes their actions understandable and predictable. I previously had the opportunity to attend John Guandolo’s Understanding the Threat train-the-trainer course in 2015 ([www.understandingthethreat.com](http://www.understandingthethreat.com)).

UTT trains law enforcement officers from the small number of local agencies that are not forbidden from seriously studying jihad and political warfare operations

as well as large numbers of politically active citizens who are standing as the last line of defense for their communities.

Reading is required prior to attending; I would recommend that anyone interested in participating read *The Qur’an, Milestones* by Sayyid Qutb, *Rules for Radicals* by Saul Alinsky, *Raising a Jibadi Generation* by John Guandolo, and have a working knowledge of U.S. history, the Declaration of Independence, and the U.S. Constitution.

#### DAY 1

The first day of the course consisted of travel, introductions, review of the course format, goals, and an inventory exam to gauge students’ understanding of the pre-course requirements, threats, and the founding principles of the United States. This was followed by a discussion of the “Cold War” and the unrestricted warfare strategy employed by the Reagan administration to bring about the collapse of the Soviet Union. The calculated military build-up, economic strengthening, and

support of resistance movements and proxies used to defeat the Soviets are the same techniques adopted by current adversaries and subversive movements to attack the pillars of our society.

#### DAY 2

The day was dedicated to an in-depth study of the history of Islam following the Qur’an and Bukhari Hadith, two mutually supporting documents. One is believed to provide the revelations and word of Allah; the other consists of stories from the life of Muhammed, who, as the “perfect example,” sets the template for emulation by all who subscribe to the Muslim faith. Examining one text without the other gives an incomplete picture when trying to decipher statements, actions, or policies enforced under shariah law. The history lesson started with the birth of “the prophet” Muhammed in Mecca in the year 570 AD and the conditions in Arabia at the time. Tribal warfare was a constant, there was no central government, and neither the



**Taliban enjoying a victorious ride in a HMMWV courtesy of the US government.**



## The Taliban enforcing shariah on women in public.

Byzantine or Persian empires laid claim to the area. His development and the founding of the Islamic faith occurred during a time when both the Roman and Persian armies were exhausted and depleted from conflicts between the two empires, which allowed an insulated environment for the growth of the movement without persecution from either side. His first revelations occurred in 610 AD and Muhammed began to form a small base of followers from among the population in Mecca, leveraging his influence as a merchant to spread his prophecies. The teachings at this time are the ones most often cited as the basis for the “peaceful and tolerant” view of Islam. However, Muhammed’s views shifted towards a less tolerant and more militant approach as he gained more followers and influence after moving to the city of Medina in 622. This is where the concept of abrogation is introduced in that any prophecy or action of the prophet that occurs later, chronologically, cancels any conflicting view from the past. This is a key military and political strategy being employed by the Muslim Brotherhood, Hezbollah, ISIS, the Taliban or any other guerilla movement that seeks the overthrow of a system of government. Following Muhammed’s example, these groups claim persecution and preach “tolerance” until they have sufficient infrastructure and military strength to ensure a victory. We can see this at work in the Arab Spring movement, the rise of ISIS, and the Taliban’s victory in Afghanistan for example. Other topics discussed included the development of the Qur’an, how science is

viewed in the Islamic faith, and some of the controversial views toward women under the system of shariah.

### DAY 3

Day three began with short student presentations on a topic of our choice based off of the previous day’s instruction. The purpose was to gauge each student’s understanding of the topic, presentation ability, and comfort speaking to a group. Immediately following critiques of the presentations we delved into the main topic of the day, which was an overview of Islamic law/shariah. The most common misunderstanding among the general public is that the religion of Islam and its practice is separate from the exercise of the shariah legal system, economics, and governance. In reality, per the highest Islamic scholars and authorities, there is no differentiation.

The practice of Islam is all-encompassing and provides a complete way of life for the practitioner. It is impossible to practice true Islam without also abiding by the rules and regulations codified under shariah. In Western society, we have developed under a system that allows the separation of secular law and government from religious practices, which makes it difficult for many to comprehend living under a system as total as Islam. Another interesting factor is the observation of Muslims who practice their faith to varying degrees, or in moderation, and do not espouse the overthrow of our way of life. This gives us individuals who can be peaceful and moderate Muslims, but full adherence to Is-

lam cannot be moderate and is only peaceful under certain circumstances. Again, the actions of ISIS, when analyzed and compared to shariah, show absolute compliance in their efforts to bring non-compliant governments and apostates back to the “true” path. Our misunderstanding has led to “outreach” programs which have been utilized by operatives from named terrorist organizations to gain access to political, religious, and economic figures in our society. The study included examination of the sources for Islamic Law, which included: The Qur’an, Hadith, and a condensed, or tabletop, reference produced as a guidebook for compliance for the average practitioner titled *Reliance of the Traveler*. The day concluded with a study of the concepts of sacred-space, slander as defined by the extremists, language and terms, and yet another pen run dry.

### DAY 4

We began the day with a quiz to gauge our retention of the material presented so far and a review. Next was a brief overview of the global Islamic movement, with particular emphasis on the activities occurring in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Iran, and the pendulum-like swings between secular governance and implementation of shariah in each of these countries throughout history. This led to an examination of key Muslim Brotherhood documents captured in counter terrorism raids conducted against various leaders starting after September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001. The captured documents outline the Brotherhood’s strategy of “Civilization Jihad” and the methods advocated for use in penetrating educational, legal, and political systems, government offices, intelligence apparatuses, media, and the military in order to subvert these systems to further the implementation of Islamic law in the United States. These documents were all entered as evidence, and confirmed by the defense, in *The United States vs. The Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development Trial of 2008*. This was the single largest terrorism finance trial in U.S. history. The documents portray a very organized and efficient Muslim Brotherhood movement that has been operating here since 1963. We discussed the past and current structure of the Muslim Brotherhood, its various fronts and organizations, lobbying efforts, and lines of operation. Comparisons were then drawn between subversive or totalitarian movements throughout history, how they were successful in breaking the

## Shariah is cited by jihad inspired insurgencies at the tactical, operational, and strategic levels and makes them understandable and predictable.

four pillars of society and rising to power. We finished the day with a philosophical discussion of Saul Alinsky's *Rules for Radicals* and the downfalls inherent in the corruption of language and its relationship to truth brought to light in Josef Pieper's *Abuse of Language*. We capped another late night off with an exploration of Just War Theory.

### DAY 5

The fifth day started with another quiz, which led to a historical examination of the differences between the Sunni and Shia sects of Islam, where the power centers for both currently reside, and how many Westerners overestimate the significance of the conflict between the two. Special emphasis was placed on the Shiite philosophy prevalent in Iran and the dangers that would result if the Iranian government came to possess weapons of mass destruction. We also discussed a number of subversive, criminal, smuggling, and funding schemes perpetrated by Iranian agents and proxies in the United States to provide funding for Hezbollah and Hamas. Most of the afternoon consisted of discussions about shariah finance, zakat, and how these various mechanisms are used to provide funding to jihadis worldwide. This includes many major U.S. financial institutions where widespread ignorance of shariah-compliant financial practices has resulted in millions being funneled to adversarial groups and organizations. The remainder of the day consisted of discussions on the founding principles and origins of the United States. Without understanding the unique value of our system, articulating why it should be defended is difficult at best. This included an examination of Natural Law, value systems of the times, and how the weight of deciding to conduct an armed revolution weighed on the founders. The founders also understood that freedoms could not be extended to those who would seek to destroy it. The night concluded with an enlightening comparison of the U.S. Constitution, the Iranian Constitution, and shariah.

### DAY 6

Day six began with another round of student presentations on various topics from the

preceding week of instruction, followed by discussions and critiques. The remainder of the day consisted of an analysis of the language and symbolism being used by jihadi groups that is typically missed by the general public. We also looked at examples of how true intentions have been misinterpreted by our media and political leadership. Once there is an understanding of the philosophy, language, methodology, and symbolism jihadis use, the goals and statements made by these individuals are remarkably clear. Unfortunately, many rely on overly generous assumptions of our enemies rather than the words they speak to their own constituents. The day concluded with a short graduation ceremony and parting words.

Political warfare is widely misunderstood in America. Political leaders take advantage of this ignorance and provide unfounded reassurances while both internal and external adversaries demonstrate that deceptive political warfare operations are their main efforts with acts of violence secondary. Media outlets rarely reveal deep levels of insight into this discipline and are incentivized to spin and censor what they report on it. If it has occurred to you that the global jihad is reinvigorated now and is more than a disparate mix of unrelated criminal incidents committed by individuals practicing their own religion incorrectly you may wish to study this subject with people who have relevant insight. If you want to understand political warfare operations (beyond jihad) with specificity and use this knowledge to help your community today, I recommend attending one of John Guandolo's Understanding the Threat courses. ✓

### BIO

*Ken Javes (www.shibumitactical.com) has over 20 years of military and security contracting experience to include multiple combat and contract deployments to South West Asia. He has served with Marine Infantry and Force Reconnaissance units. He possesses instructor certifications from multiple agencies and organizations, and has trained with some of the top military and competitive shooters in the country.*

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# PROFILES OF COURAGE

**Whether your highest priority is tracking and supporting the forensic audits of the 2020 election in all 50 states (visit: Telegram, search: America First Audits) or getting to the bottom of the COVID-19 (Wuhan Virus) misrepresentations (visit: americasfrontlinedoctors.org for the censored side of the debate from US doctors and covid19assembly.org for UK doctors) or whether you are simply interested in navigating the contemporary wilderness of censorship and deception for your own family, it is encouraging to see how selfless human beings can be. This account is the August 2021 statement of a Marine battalion commander. He was relieved of command and baited into resigning his commission. If you know anyone dedicated to supporting and defending the Constitution of the United States within the U.S. government, urge them to demonstrate integrity, and urge them NOT to voluntarily leave service.**



## STUART SCHELLER

I have been in the Marine infantry for 17 years...[I'm] not making this video because it's potentially an emotional time, I'm making it because I have a growing discontent and contempt for my perceived ineptitude at the foreign policy-level. And I want to specifically ask some questions to some of my senior leaders. And I'll say, as a person, that's not at 20 years, I feel like I have a lot to lose. If you play chess, you can only see two to three moves out, because there's too many variables... we'll just stick with the Marine Corps. So, in the current fallout of Afghanistan, a lot of Marines were posting on social media. And in response to that, the commandant published a letter, which is the service chief of the Marine Corps, and I'm

going to read from it, it was dated 18 August, so only a week ago. That commandant, sir, you wrote, "Some of you may be struggling with the simple question, was it all worth it? We want you to know that your service is meaningful, powerful and important. You fought for the Marine to your left and the Marine to your right, you never let them down." Then you go on to say that...if we're struggling, we should seek counseling...And that's fine...But the reason people are so upset...right now is not because the Marine on the battlefield let someone down... we have a secretary of defense that testified to Congress in May that the Afghan National Security Force could withstand the Taliban advance. We have Chairmen of the Joint

Chiefs...who the commandant is a member of that...who's supposed to advise on military policy. We have a Marine combatant commander...did any of you throw your rank on the table and say, 'Hey, it's a bad idea to evacuate Bagram Airfield, a strategic airbase, before we evacuate everyone?'... [We] don't have senior leaders that own up and raise their hand and say, we did not do this well in the end. Without that, we just keep repeating the same mistakes. This amalgamation of the economic / corporate / political/ higher military ranks are not holding up their end of the bargain. I want to say this very strongly: I have been fighting for 17 years. I am willing to throw it all away to say to my senior leaders; *I demand accountability!* ✓