

TACTICS AND PREPAREDNESS

SKILLS AND SURVIVAL FOR ALL SITUATIONS

COMPETE WITH YOUR SUBCOMPACT PISTOL

BY JAMES WASHINGTON
PHOTOS BY OLEG VOLK

Many people know the importance of consistent training with the tools you carry on a regular basis.

However, the desire to perform at the top of the pack and to position yourself in the best possible way to win at anything in life normally drives us to only put our best foot forward. In the domain of competitive shooting this usually means full size guns with enhanced triggers and non-duty sights drawn from holsters without retention devices. I understand the desire to compete and win more than the average person, but these opportunities to test and improve your skills with the guns you carry concealed when you are *continued >*

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out in the world off-duty or as a CCW holder, need to be just as sharp, if not more so, than our skills with duty and competition guns.

First, we must come to the agreement that competing in shooting matches improves your combat shooting skills in all of the areas needed to survive a violent encounter such as: gun handling, marksmanship, mindset and thinking before, during and after acting. All tactical shooting scenarios rest on a foundation of needs for speed balanced against needs for accuracy, and this is precisely what competition reveals and helps refine. Many institutional firearms instructors defend not participating in any dynamic shooting competitions on the assertion that they do not represent real world shootings only to see at the next annual training or qualification that they have drills and scenarios to complete that mimic miniature stages of combat shooting events. For a soldier or law enforcement officer to compete at a local match, he or she has to be willing to be publicly compared to a local butcher, baker or candle stick maker (often not favorably) and improve from there. The psychology of false pride is something all humans are bettered by striving to overcome.

This has always caused me to pause and count to ten to ease my nerves and try to ignore the fact that most of these guys failed to see that they are ill informed and fail those in their charge. By getting out into the world and just trying something new, with an open mind that can think critically, instructors and individuals will be able to position themselves for more success and reap greater benefits for their efforts. An example of this phenomenon I have encountered is how an instructor for the organization I find myself working for holds the importance of the 2 and 2 Drill. This is often carried out by having the shooter engage an IPSC target 3 yards with two rounds, move back to cover at seven yards and engage it again with two more rounds. This is timed on a shot timer and scored.

My point is not that drills like this one are not important to learning and developing gun handling skills. My point is that this drill in and of itself is just part of the process and journey to developing and mastering real world skills by adding lateral, diagonal and linear movement off the line of force or to cover. These drills are often done at the same distance and with the same size targets. This is okay in the beginning, but if you are going to shoot them static you should train these at 25, 50, 75 and 100 yards as well, while still in-

corporating the use of a timer and compressing the times down to establish your personal zone of competence at each distance. It is worth remembering that the production pistols out today are far more accurate than most shooters are capable of delivering in the beginning of this journey.

I see instructors and experienced shooters using the times from this drill as the destination instead of realizing it is just a small piece of the puzzle. I understand time constraints, range availability and ammunition cost factors. Getting the most out of training time and dollars requires dry practice and competition to make big leaps forward. The one thing many people fail to recognize with competitions is the "match nerves" they provide.

The ability to calm yourself, control your adrenaline and complete a stage in the way you prescribe before the buzzer sounds on

How efficient are your tactics in execution? Compete to find out.

a consistent basis is an excellent way to improve your ability to handle real world distractions and complications. This in much the same way that competing in physical combat events like wrestling, boxing and martial arts can have for hand-to-hand combat skills. I have experienced and depended on this type of self-calming ability numerous times in my life, from being on the "L" platforms travelling from the South side to the Westside of Chicago in high school to answering calls for service in the public housing developments as a police officer. This familiarity with stress management and confrontation aided in getting through these encounters and avoiding others from escalating to the point of violence because offenders sometimes recognized this comfort.

The tactical advantages that can be gained from participating in action pistol matches, if you adhere to your tactical principles, is how efficient your tactics really are in execution. Do I crowd cover to the point it takes away my ability to maintain a proper shooting stance or am I giving up too much field of view of the visual combat area? Can I get closer to cover with a shorter barrel or is the standoff distance the same? Does appendix



Smaller guns mean grip adjustments to compensate for magazine release buttons and grip indexing.

carry of my magazine work when shooting prone or do I roll out too far from cover to reload? Because the grip of my compact is usually shorter do I have to change grip while shooting prone? In the tactical world, appendix carry is all the rave, especially when it comes to carrying compact weapons. Shooters need to find out the capabilities and limitations of their skills and their gear before they are challenged on the street.

You may have to change something with how you hold your compact CCW gun as opposed to your full-size gun while in the prone, and this may be the case in other areas too. Because of the differences in the frame size, even within the same manufacturer and barrel length full size, compact and subcompact guns. Slight differences of these guns will cause you to miss the magazine release button or adjust your grip to hit the button. Smaller mags will force you to adjust the index points on your non-firing hand while reloading.

The amount of real estate on the gun is reduced, making it easier to “Over Grip” when trying to drive the gun hard and shooting matches will put you in this position often without you even seeing it coming. You can wind up in this position when you flub a draw or a reload because of poor indexing into the magazine well. When other competitors or the guys you went to the match with,

have an exceptional run and you are next in the queue, this usually ignites your will to win and you might step on the gas pedal.

Don’t forget the possibility of missing what are usually easy shots due to a shorter sight radius. I highly recommend practicing one shot drills from the holster at 50 and 100 yards on a steel silhouette within the same time restraints you have for your standard pistols to gain knowledge and confidence that you can make those same shots with additional attention paid to the small details. Ample dry practice is the foundation for accomplishing this goal. I know that shooting Bulls Eye Matches are as exciting as watching paint dry but there is a reason this is the basis of many police academy training programs. The skills developed in this type of shooting become even more important with a shorter barrel and sight radius.

The final part of your tetrad of combat survival skills is *mindset* and, in my opinion, this is the most important one of all. It does not matter the tools one chooses to defend themselves or the amount of time spent practicing techniques or drills. If you are not able to remain calm in a Rudyard Kipling “If” kind of way when facing challenges and it is time to do battle, then none of those other skills will matter. Many modern criminals have been conditioned by their experiences, environment and associations to be at ease with

violent confrontation and can work their way through minor attempts at resistance. Frequently subjecting yourself to even minor stressful situations and problem solving scenarios like you experience during matches will only help. Gain the experience, retain what is most beneficial and reject what is not.

Another beautiful advantage we have as Americans is our ability to seek out training and knowledge in any area of interest. Very few police agencies do not have a Force on Force (FOF) program for their officers because the benefits of these programs are significant and reveal to the individual officer their shortcomings. This encourages them to find ways to enhance their skills, behaviors, and responses to the onset of felonious incidents. There are private companies that also offer F.O.F training classes equally valuable for citizens. Reading books and articles about those who have stood up to the beast in times of adversity and prevailed is useful.

If your mind becomes submerged in doubt and hesitation you may enable the reactionary gap to extend to the point that you will not be able to overcome your adversaries. By repeatedly experiencing the test of competition you will expose your weaknesses and know what to work on. If you carry a subcompact CCW, I encourage you to compete with it. If you can handle your gun safely, I encourage you to train dry and then live to meet the same standard you currently meet for time and accuracy for a draw and single shot with your full size pistol at the 25 yard line. If drawing your subcompact pistol for time from your CCW holster would not be safe then don’t do it...*and* don’t carry it in the future. Next, go shoot a local match with it even if you have never shot a match before. The officials and fellow attendees will happily walk you through the process once you sign up and arrive (early). The learning curve will be awesome. You can keep making gains over time, but even doing this just once will be an eye opener. ✓

BIO

James Washington served as a patrol officer, field training officer, firearms instructor and police sergeant. He served on the FBI Gang Task Force in Chicago for six years and is a firearms & tactics instructor for multiple agencies and armed citizens.



WAR ON THE RUN: THE EPIC STORY OF ROBERT ROGERS AND THE CONQUEST OF AMERICA'S FIRST FRONTIER

WRITTEN BY **JOHN ROSS** | SUMMARY BY **JOHN STEVENSON**

In the mid-eighteenth century old world powers clashed in the wilderness of the New World along the American frontier in a struggle for colonial hegemony on the new continent.

The English were struggling to come to grips with “deep woodland warfare” as practiced by the French and their allies: the native Indian tribes.

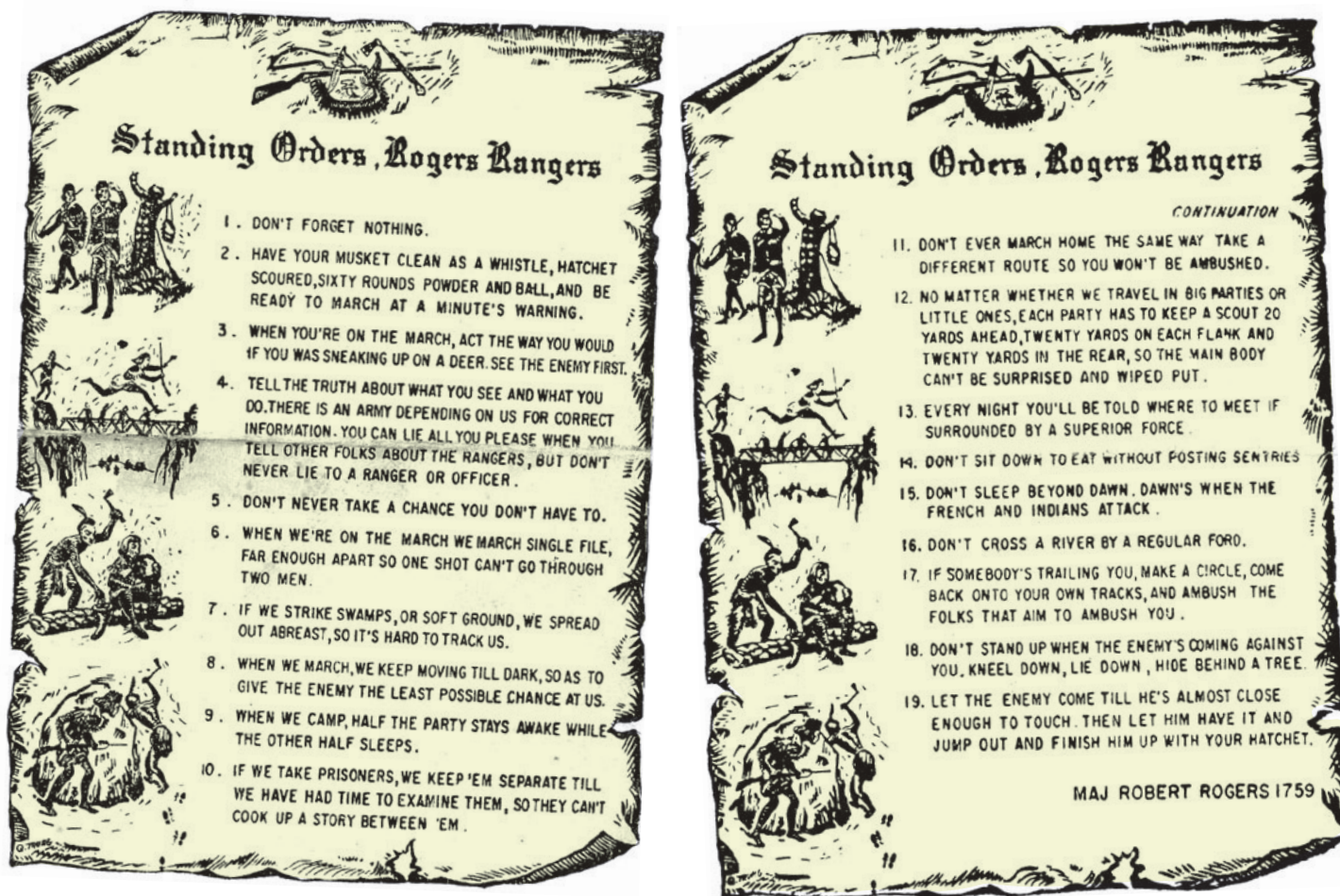
Born in the 1730s in New Hampshire, Robert Rogers grew up in the woods hunting and fishing. He frequently encountered woodland Indians of whom he could not ask enough questions. He learned all that he could about their cultures and skills. According to John Ross: “The Indians and his own observations taught him not only good hunting practices but how to think about warfare.”

Rogers got his first taste of military life in 1746 after an Indian attack that killed some men from his village. He enlisted in a local militia scouting and ranger company. This first experience of scouting and tracking Indians would be the beginning of Rogers’ application of the lessons that he’d learned growing up in the woods to his new calling: irregular warfare.

When the French and Indian War (as the North American portion of The Seven Years War became known) began in the New World, Rogers was called upon to run a scout-

ing expedition with two other men to assess enemy strength between the upper end of Lake George and Fort Saint Frederick, to determine if the French were building new facilities in the area and to determine whether the English could build an artillery supporting road along the route. The main war effort was to be focused in this area after the recent routing of General Braddock’s army by a much smaller French and Indian force near Fort Duquesne.

Rogers set out by boat with his chosen team. They scouted the French fort and



Rogers placed great emphasis on the training and preparedness of his men, and departed from the military doctrine of the day.

sketched maps of fortifications and recorded troop strengths and dispositions until they departed to rendezvous with their extraction boat. When Rogers and his men arrived at the rendezvous site, they discovered that they had been left. The party had to traverse thirty miles of Adirondack forest in order to make it back to camp. Rogers went straight to his commanding officer and made his report.

Rogers was dispatched again and again with much stronger units to scout, ambush and harass the French in and around the area of Lake George, forcing them to commit valuable resources hunting and attempting to counter Rogers and his ranger's efforts. Rogers, in particular, became well known for his skills and daring as a leader and his stock continued to rise with the English as his scalp became more valuable to the French.

Rogers was unafraid to go directly against the established norms of warfare. He would launch operations in the depths of winter when the main armies were quartered for

the season inside of their fortifications. He operated with small to medium-sized units, moving over great distances with incredible speed and stealth enabling him and his rangers to achieve complete surprise on most occasions.

Rogers would usually start out each mission setting an exhausting pace for his men to follow. His reasoning being that, "should a ranger be carrying a lingering cold or a touch of lameness or some other weakness disregarded or hidden in his eagerness to join the scout, a fast and early push would bring it to light. Time and again Rogers shed as many as half his contingent in the earliest days. The exhaustions ahead would make matters only worse, risking the less than totally fit men's lives and their comrades' too; by being too tough to be sensible, a single man could jeopardize the mission and the security of the frontier." By this and similar methods, Rogers showed that he, "intuitively grasped that the more supreme the demands an organiza-

tion exacts from its members, the more demandingly deep its' obligations run toward them—and from each individual member to all others." For the time, this was a sea change in how military units were viewed by their leaders.

In March of 1756 Rogers was given the opportunity to recruit and command an independent company of rangers by William Shirley, the governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. In Rogers, Shirley saw, "the raw potential to put to work the as-yet-inchoate strengths of the New England frontier and to forge a long-range force that could counter the acknowledged present superiority of the French and Indians in woodland combat."

By July Rogers was leading them on raids deep into French controlled territory, taking prisoners, destroying supplies and disrupting the French Army's ability to operate. In late January, 1757 while on a raiding expedition on the shores of Lake Champlain between the French Forts Carillon and Saint-Frederic,

Rogers and his seventy-four rangers ambushed a column of sleds filled with supplies out on the ice. They were able to take several prisoners and capture seven of the supply-laden sleighs.

The temperature had unexpectedly risen enough to produce a heavy fog that obscured the rest of the supply column. The weather that helped to hide Rogers and his men had also concealed the second half of the French outfit. They escaped back to Fort Carillon.

Within an hour the survivors arrived at the Fort and raised the alarm. Knowing that it could only be Rogers, the French commander dispatched his own expert in “woodland warfare” to ambush the rangers. Rogers spent the time getting his men prepared to trek out through the deep snow. They cleaned their weapons ensuring that the muskets had dry powder and were freshly charged, they tightened the straps on their snowshoes, packed their gear and crammed down some food to fortify them for the journey ahead.

Preparations made, Rogers and his men set out, breaking new trail so as not to violate one of Rogers’ most fundamental rules: never retrace one’s previous route, because it’s an invitation to ambush. Despite Rogers’ adherence to his “Rules of Ranging”, the French commander, ensign of the provincial militia, Charles Michel Mount de Langlade had anticipated their route and prepared an ambush for Rogers and his men after picking up their trail in the snow. Rogers took a musket ball across his temple in the initial volley, but remained on his feet and firmly in command of the situation rallying his men into a defensive formation as their rear guard moved up to cover their disorganized retreat and provide covering fire.

Rogers’ insistence on his men taking the time to prepare their weapons and making sure that they were in operational shape before departing in addition to his adherence to a disciplined formation including a flanking screen and a rear guard ensured that even after his main body was surprised by Langlade’s ambush, the battle did not turn into a rout. Rogers’ leadership skills and focus were also keys in preventing a disaster. He and his officers held the men together until nightfall, fighting from behind cover and repulsing numerous enemy attacks. After dark, Rogers retreated.

Rogers and forty-eight of his exhausted rangers carrying six badly wounded men pressed homeward towards Fort William-



FREDERICK REMINGTON

Rogers had become the pack leader of a lone-wolf institution that could go out faster and encompass actions beyond regular imagination or endurance.

Henry through the night. The next morning, Rogers confided to one of his officers that the wounded could not survive the passage back. That officer, John Stark, volunteered to take two men and race ahead to the fort to fetch help. They reached the fort that evening and brought back 15 men along with a sleigh for the wounded thus allowing all of the survivors to reach the friendly fortification without further loss.

The mission’s cost had been high: 14 killed, six wounded and nine missing, but Ross tells us: “in that Dantesque struggle homeward, Rogers Rangers were born.” Rogers placed great emphasis on the training and preparedness of his men. He demanded that they practice marksmanship regularly. He also required that his men memorize and be able to recite their 28 tactical rules. The rules were simple and clear and are used by rangers and recon teams today.

Rogers’ writing departed from military doctrine of the day. He admonished that most of what he had learned was subject to change according to, “a thousand occurrences and circumstances which may happen that will make it necessary, in some measure, to depart from them, and to put other arts and stratagems in practice.” Then he stated: “every man’s reason and judgement must be his guide ... and preserve a firmness and presence of mind on every occasion.” This statement was revolutionary in that he gave ordinary men the freedom to think for themselves.

Rogers’ insistence on men who acted and

thought for themselves was not universally accepted then or now. His success at gathering accurate intelligence was galling to many in the British Army. He fought not only the French and their Indian allies, but also British officers who quietly worked to undercut him.

No matter the obstacles, Rogers created an organization that endured. He held it together by instilling esprit de corps. Ross states: “A volunteer found himself joining an institution already full of shared stories, as well as resolute expectations and warrior ambitions. The rangers had bloomed beyond simply being Rogers’s followers, however large his presence still loomed; they were now members of a team whose authority came from sharing the inexplicable and incommunicable experience of suffering, then overcoming and pushing beyond the humanly possible... Rogers had become the pack leader of a lone-wolf institution that could go out faster and encompass actions beyond regular imagination or endurance.”

Ultimately, the author concludes: “Rogers awoke in his comrades, something new, a powerful sense of interior discipline and possibility. His teachings transcended the idea that greatness came only from the situation of one’s birth, but could be summoned up by anyone.” ✓

BIO

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



BRAVE II PISTOL TRAINING AT GUNSITE

Gunsite's Brave II is designed to develop tactical skills often neglected in core-based training.

BY **BOB WHALEY** | PHOTOS COURTESY **GUNSITE ACADEMY**

Core skills, as related to firearms, are framed around the ability to safely run the equipment, get accurate hits on target, perform certain movements and keep the gun in the fight.

Tactical skills present information and develop plans to respond to more specific events such as home invasions, vehicle defense, street crimes and other related topics. Both levels of training are necessary, but students often do not have the money or time to fulfill both. It appears to me that many shooters gravitate toward one or the other.

The BRAVE classes are designed to facilitate development of tactical skills often neglected in core-based training. Gunsite Academy requires the foundation of a 250 pistol

class for BRAVE and BRAVE II and .223 Carbine for BRAVE Carbine ensures students have developed core skills before adding the complexities of tactically related classes.

Building on tactical skills presented in BRAVE, BRAVE II moves on from single shooter skills to the world of pairs-based actions. Like BRAVE, the class begins with an assessment phase on Training Day 1 (TD 1) to knock the rust off the necessary 250 core skills with a BRAVE twist. Since students have attended 250 and BRAVE as a base, the BRAVE II assessment consists of three circuits of five-round

precision shots. Circuit one is fired from low ready, circuit two from high ready and circuit three from the holster. Each shot and each circuit is a stand-alone drill. Instructors and students have the opportunity to assess the individual and group skills and tailor instruction to the needs of the class. Although basic core skill training is not part of any BRAVE class, review of skills is presented as needed.

From the initial assessment phase, the class moves into two-person team movements that also affords an opportunity to review and perfect the use of cover. Six cover points



Students learn how to defend in and around a vehicle, and also learn bailouts.

are aligned as sets of two positioned on the five, ten- and fifteen-yard lines. The first drill involves a forward bounding movement with the right-side partner advancing first while the left-side partner provides covering fires. Once student one has reached his next position and is providing covering fire, student two will move. The pattern is repeated until both partners are behind the five-yard cover points and the targets have either edged away or the “target down” command has been issued from the instructor. At that time, students work through a coordinated reloading process, medical assessment and practice a 911 call with the instructor acting as the emergency operator. Live fire repetitions are preceded by dry evolutions so any rough spots in the movement can be smoothed out before introducing the live element. A rearward or break contact movement follows the forward bounding movement. Lateral peels (left and right) and flanking movements are added throughout the day.

One feature of TD 1 is the introduction of a two-person counter robbery drill. In

addition to building skills to enhance team movements, the drill presents a realistic response to a sudden street robbery based on investigation of past incidents and combines several individual skills. Two students start one behind the other with the lead partner on the three-yard line and partner two one arm’s length behind partner one. When a single target turns facing the pair, the students work through a pre-arranged conversation designed to lead the “robber” to believe he’s in control of the situation and the “victims” are compliant. At a certain point in the encounter, partner one will execute an explosive lateral movement, complete his presentation to the target and engage with a pre-determined drill. As partner one performs his lateral movement, partner two moves in the opposite direction at an oblique, forward angle coming on line with number one. Two presents his pistol as he moves and like one, engages the target as he comes to rest. The entire movement is designed to first play into the psyche of the criminal that he is in control, then create and exploit a micro second

of advantage through explosive movement to engage and disable an armed suspect before he can harm innocents.

Training Day 2, like TD 2 in BRAVE, finds us back in the classroom for hand combat training. BRAVE emphasizes stand up, striking skills with an introduction to ground defenses while BRAVE II reverses the operation. TD 2 begins with a medical review (you can’t get enough medical experience) then goes right into a short review of ground tactics from BRAVE. As the day progresses, additional techniques are introduced for defending against a suspect standing over you throwing punches and kicks, defenses against common street level grips and grabs such as headlocks and finally an introduction to neck restraints and chokes.

I was a policeman for over thirty years. I have studied a variety of martial concepts for over fifty years now. (Yes...I am an *old* bastard). For a good portion of both the above endeavors, my teacher and mentor was an old-school judoka (a student of judo) and a police officer. From the time I walked into

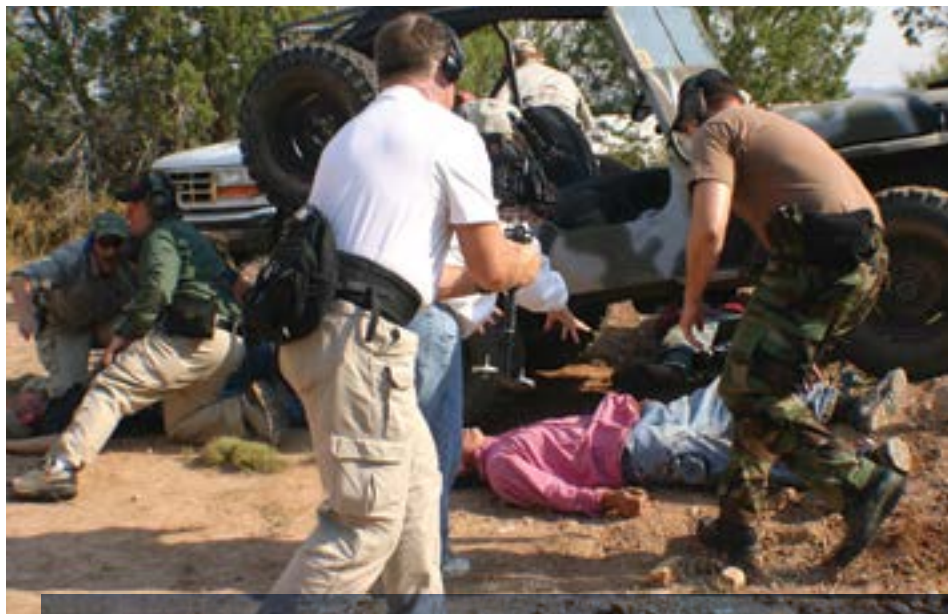
my first dojo, I was schooled extensively in a variety of choking techniques since that was an integral part of the judo curriculum and competition in which I was involved. Throughout most of my police career, I employed chokes or neck restraints as a primary means to control violent offenders. In all that time, I never had a suspect from a physical altercation have to be admitted to a hospital for an injury sustained during the fight. Competent chokes are the most humane, least injury prone means to control a resisting person I can show a student. That's why we teach them in BRAVE II.

After presentation of the ground portion of the class, we move on to additional standup tactics. We review strikes, then move on to issues with weapons, specifically disarming a suspect armed with a gun or knife. We take a bit of a different view of the problem. The root problem is not viewed as the weapon, but the person wielding said weapon. The tactics we practice teach students to close inside the effect angle of the weapon, pin the weapon, then disable the person attached to the weapon. Somewhere in the process, you are likely to separate the weapon from the person because that person is no longer capable of holding onto the device. Problem solved.

Training Days 3, 4 and 5 present skills related to team responses to home invasions and vehicle/street crime defenses and introduce single-shooter response to active shooter scenarios. BRAVE II is primarily a team-based class, however, active shooter skills are a new skill presented in the BRAVE set of classes so we begin the instruction on a singleton level.

For "active shooter", instruction begins by working in extended linear environments reproducing the circumstances students might find in an office building, school or shopping mall. We then progress to a single room defense practicing an entry to a room under assault and a third evolution defending a single room from an attack emanating from outside the location. The decision regarding what skills to address are based on our read of the most likely circumstances that might be encountered by a student. We have looked at dozens of attacks and have paired it down to the above three scenarios. A responder using the skills acquired in BRAVE II is likely to have a distinct advantage over someone who has not considered or practiced such a response.

Students attending BRAVE II have already



Active shooter and team drills provide stressful stimuli for students to address.

worked on home defense skills, so we move directly into team (two person) entries and movements from outside to inside the structure. Considerable time is spent with dry runs perfecting the timing needed for a pair of responders to efficiently enter a space through a doorway.

Anyone who has spent time in a team environment tasked with making building entries knows there is more to the activity than just walking through the door. The last thing you want is to get hung up with your partner in a doorway with a hostile suspect on the other side. We spend time practicing the timing, footwork and coordination needed to move through a choke point efficiently and stop at a point of domination to exert control over the space if you need to enter. From there, students practice reading the room to identify danger zones and dead space and determine the best angles from which to reduce threats.

Once we have the outside-to-in problems worked out, we begin work on the inside-to-out problems. Instructors present a stimulus for the students to respond to and then we introduce systems for effecting link ups and movements to crisis zones.

Once the initial problem is solved, whether moving from the outside in or inside out, the next phase of training involves what you need to do after the shooting stops. If you never practice what to do you likely will either do something ineffective or nothing at all. Neither situation is good. In BRAVE II,

students learn to coordinate responsibilities between partners so security is always maintained while medical issues are attended to and a 911 call is made to coordinate a safe linkup with police.

BRAVE II combines training in vehicle defense and street crimes into a single event. First out of the gate is a review of cover points around a vehicle, then we practice two-person vehicle bailouts. Skills for this event are grounded in the two person movements presented on TD 1 on the flat range. We begin with a review of the process for dismounting a vehicle (put the vehicle in park, get rid of the seatbelt, get the door braced open, then dismount) then bring in the element of doing so as a team. As with most team events, one partner will be security while the second partner dismounts, then roles are reversed. This action culminates with a two-person lateral peel using different positions of cover around the vehicles.

Students start seated in a vehicle facing forward without the ability to drive. Targets are set in line with two to three additional vehicles which are set at different angles to present a variety of cover options. On the *engage* command, students begin firing through the windshield space (windshields are removed for safety issues). On the "dismount" command from the instructor, students work through a predetermined procedure for first the driver, then passenger to dismount their vehicle and begin working a right-to-left peel across the vehicle range engaging targets

until the “targets down” command is given. Students continue their movement until they reach a predetermined strong point where they work through their post shooting sequence of “weapons up, check medical, call 911” coordinating movements so only one weapon is out of the event at a time. The drill is repeated from left to right with a response to an attack from the rear of the good guys’ vehicle during the second sequence.

After the team bailouts and movements, students are instructed in tactics for fighting in the “V”, the space between their open car door and body of the vehicle. We see several assaults occur in this space since bad guys recognize how limited you are in that confined area. They can pin you with the door, crush you into the space with their bodies or generally dominate if you don’t have a plan.

Instruction starts with students practicing hand combat striking techniques from a standing position then transitioning to kicks from inside the vehicle, lying across the front seat simulating having been pushed back into the car. Once students are comfortable with those actions, students execute a drill from the standing position in which they start by knocking a freestanding target over with strikes then engage a target at longer range with their handgun. A second repetition is performed from the standing position in which students engage a near target with strikes, transition to a retention position firing position and engage then engage a longer-range target with a



A set of drills become trained responses.

two-hands, eye-level shooting position. From there, the student moves to a strongpoint and performs a post shooting sequence.

From the supine position, students practice engaging a near target with kicks, ideally knocking over a free-standing target. Students then perform a supine presentation and engage a target at longer range before exiting the vehicle and moving to a strongpoint. Before the drill is brought to a halt with the “endex” command, the student will perform a post shooting sequence.

All BRAVE classes are designed to present a set of drills which then become trained responses. Think of them as the “battle drills” for self-defense. Throughout BRAVE II instructor development is stressed so students can

take their newly acquired skills to their home range and share them safely. Instructors for the class have decades of training and real-world tactical experience. ✓

BIO

Bob Whaley (www.Gunsite.com) is a retired St. Louis County Police lieutenant. He spent 15 years assigned to his department’s Tactical Operations Unit (SWAT). Other assignments included: patrol, intelligence and crimes against property. Bob has received training from and holds certifications in a variety of tactical applications and weapons platforms. He attended his first Gunsite class in 1989 and became a staff instructor in 2005.

GEAR REVIEW



APPLEGATE BOOT KNIFE

A good knife can help meet all of your emergency needs. It can be used to make fire for boiling water and carve containers for transporting it. It can cut cordage for traps to provide your dinner and for centuries it has served as a primary weapon for individual self-defense. A knife is silent, it never jams, it never runs out of ammo, and in skilled hands it can rapidly deliver

more lethality than a firearm. Rex Applegate was the legendary trainer of WWII OSS agents and this boot knife inspired by his designs is the perfect gift for practicality and it is the perfect gift for those nostalgic for the days when American military leaders set the examples of courage and competence for the world. **Bokerusa.com**

Not every situation calls for lethal force, and there are places where you are not allowed to carry a firearm.

BRAZILIAN JIU JITSU FOR STREET COMBAT

CLOSING THE GAPS

BY GREG LAPIN

I tell my students daily that fighting is about controlling distance. Distance management is a massive part of the equation for fighting.

Distance is the reason we have grappling, elbows/knees, hooks/uppercuts, jabs/crosses, kicks, knives, pistols, subguns, carbines, precision rifles, etc. I consider myself a Brazilian Jiu Jitsu practitioner, primarily because I'm getting older and more broken. I have studied boxing, Muay Thai, Eskrima, and have professionally carried a gun for the better part of the last two decades.

Skillssets and knowledge are important, and people are not normally naturally good at fighting. Fighting is a skillset like any other learned skill. Some people can be more receptive to various learning methods, or have better mobility, athleticism or be faster learners in general, but you have to put time in to acquire a new skill or higher level of ability.

My opinions are the product of my experiences: 20 years of law enforcement operations and overseas high-threat contract work, many use of force encounters, a few lethal force encounters, some gun fights and *maybe* one or two scuffles with some buddies and a guy named Jack Daniels in my earlier years.

When asked about self-defense I tell people to get a pistol, learn how to use it at a high level and carry it everywhere (that is legal). A pistol gives people of any sex, any size and any age an effective tool for lethal force self-defense after they have learned the skills for safety and proficiency. Of course, there is more to it than just that. Not every situation calls for lethal force, in fact, very few do. Secondly, there are places where you are either not allowed to con-

ceal a firearm or it is not feasible to carry.

Many encounters happen in what is called "point blank" or "contact" range, meaning really close. That means you or they can reach out and touch one another. In many self-defense shootings we see there is a scuffle of sorts before or during the encounter, so you had better know how to bridge the gap of shooting to utilizing your hands, head and/or body for fighting and create that opportunity for you to be able to get away or shoot.

I went to my initial police academy with a young, petite woman. She spent a few months on the street after she got out of FTO (Field Training Officer) phase. Shortly thereafter she responded to a call of a suspicious person. She got her baton out, she got her pistol out, and she was subsequently beaten to death

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SGT. WALTER D. MARINO II

with them. Having a pistol does not turn you into Superman or Wonder Woman.

So, what's next? Grappling is what's next. Learn how to grapple. Any of it, all of it, whatever is closest, easiest and most sustainable for you. I don't care if its folk-style wrestling, catch wrestling, sambo or Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, it can all be useful. I frequently hear untrained people say: "I don't want to go to the ground in a street fight". I agree, but guess what. To not go to the ground, you must know how to stay on your feet, which means you must know take down defense, which means you must know take downs. In my academy, our curriculum focuses on self-defense based BJJ. This means we concentrate on take downs and dominating our opponent with a heavy

**Author Greg Lapin (left).**

pressure top position. This also allows us to slam them on the ground and disengage or control them on the ground and increase our level of force or to disengage, if need be.

Many—sometimes most—fights end up on the ground. One or two punches get swung wildly, two guys get winded quickly, they start grabbing at one another and then one or both fall. Bam, there's your grappling match.

A. Buy a pistol and get trained, check. B. Join a Jiu Jitsu gym, check. Is that good enough? Well, yes and no. To be honest, that will probably carry you through ninety percent of any encounter you may find yourself in, but we've only tackled two distances, contact/grappling distance and then pistol gunfighting distance. What about the in between? What about creating that distance or closing that distance?

Do we need striking skills? Do we need knife and/or stick skills? Well, that depends on you. What type of person are you? What kind of work do you do? Where do you hang out? For me the answer was yes. For a couple of years, I studied boxing and Thai boxing. Being able to throw a jab to keep someone at the range you want is invaluable. That, and I have used a teep kick (a big push kick) on people rushing me on several occasions to get someone out of my bubble and back into pistol range. Do you have to become a golden

gloves boxer? Do you have to spar? It is up to you, but like with anything, the more knowledge and skills you have, the more success you will have.

Knife and stick training have a place. I am not a subject matter expert on knife/stick fighting, but I train enough to be able to mount some valid attacks should I be overwhelmed physically. Ask any Eskrimador what they would do if someone pulled a knife on them and the guys that I know, who have given me an honest answer without bravado said: "run and/or make distance and shoot them." Entangling with even an untrained person with a blade will likely result in your getting cut.

For me, a knife is an offensive bridge to create distance if my physical skills and abilities cannot get me to safety or allow me to go to my gun. Knowing how to produce a knife from likely positions, wield it without endangering yourself, and target deliberately will make your cuts, slashes and stabs more effective.

One of the most underrated tools for defense out there is a stick. How we swing sticks directly translates to our knife skills, so you are killing two birds with one stone when you train to use these tools. Your stick may be a collapsible baton, a baseball bat or



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simply improvised from a branch or a mop handle.

First things first: go get quality firearms training and safely practice regularly dry and live. World Speed Shooting Champion Max Michel's new book *Range Time* (<https://www.doublealpha.biz/us/range-time-book>) is a great place to turn for ideas. Next, go find your local Brazilian Jiu Jitsu academy and sign up immediately. Start off by training 2-3 times a week. It is not just skill building, it is better for fitness than getting on a treadmill, plus it's fun. This is my recommended foundation for everyone. As you figure out your training schedule and tempo, you can work in some of those accessory skills. Many BJJ gyms also have striking classes or coaches.

Today, BJJ has exploded in popularity and there are increasing numbers of people developing jiu jitsu skills that do not yet have firearms skills. There are people who enjoy training and even competing in BJJ that have not fully assessed the gaps they have within their self-defense abilities.

An individual accustomed to BJJ training may want to ask themselves: Have I practiced these skills "no gi" and in common street clothes and carry gear? Have I practiced incorporating strikes from and against my opponent? Have I practiced retaining or draw-

ing an inert blue gun from my holster under pressure? Have I done that with a rubber knife? Have I experienced my opponent producing these during training? Have I experienced handling multiple opponents?

Some of my favorite training props to use are big, fat, red sharpie markers. Grapple with those suckers and you will see everywhere you got hit or cut. If you want to make it a little zestier, invest in a Shockknife. You will definitely start learning to focus on and control the knife, so you don't get hit.

There is no weekend or even weeklong course that is going to make you proficient in any of these. You can learn some skills there, but you have to take them home and mesh them into regular, safe, and deliberate practice. If you are not at least dry firing every few days, and not in the gym training grappling a few days a week, you will likely have a difficult time effectively bringing these skills to bear in a real altercation.

Training is about time and quality. It must be sustainable. You need time on the trigger, you need time on the mats, you need time striking and you need time behind a blade to be able to flow between those skills and there has to be some time mastering the transitions between them and then safely training those transitions under pressure. Useful training

is recent and repeated. Find a regimen that you can enjoy doing and guys that are on the same path and do it. Be capable in all things, make it part of your life, and learn how to control and manage the distance. Train safely, train legally, and train smartly. ✓



BIO

Greg Lapin was a detective in the New Orleans Police Department's Criminal Investigative Bureau. He served on U.S. Government protective security details in high-threat regions and conducted classified operations in non-permissive environments. He is a principal of VATA Training Center in Slidell, LA (www.vatatrainingcenter.com).

One of China's man-made islands at Subi Reef in the Spratlys.

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EXCERPT FROM CHAPTER 1 OF THE BRAND NEW HISTORY AND TACTICS BOOK: **PELELIU PROGRESS**

BY H. JOHN POOLE

**U.S. forces haven't decisively won a ground war since WWII.
How could capabilities 77 years ago still enhance national security?**

By noting that the modern-day firepower- and technology-driven U.S. military no longer relies upon separate fireteam maneuvers. So, neither it nor any foreign Army it trains—can quickly advance through severely broken terrain. It has no way of handling all that compartmentalization at once. *Peleliu Progress* (from the author of *The Last Hundred Yards*) reveals what GIs learned the hard way on Peleliu that allowed their parent services to win the final WWII battle at Okinawa.

It shows how U.S. units must now prepare to take back Great Natuna at the entrance to the Straits of Malacca from the Chinese. That former part of Japan's Co-Prosperity Sphere is also made up of jumbled terrain with underground passageways.

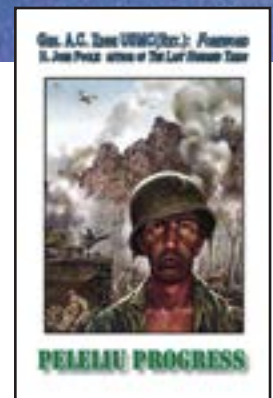
CHINA CLAIMS OWNERSHIP TO THE ENTIRE SOUTH CHINA SEA

For decades, the People's Republic of China (PRC) has gradually consolidated its hold over the Western Pacific—to include the 1.35 million square miles historically called the South China Sea. (See *Maps 1.1 and 1.2.*) That 1947-born nation's justification for this “power grab” is that no one disputed Chinese sovereignty over the region prior to 1930.¹ Beijing protects its sea lanes for strategically vital materials by fortifying certain islands in that broad expanse of ocean. It's also interested in the vast petroleum reserves that lie beneath them.

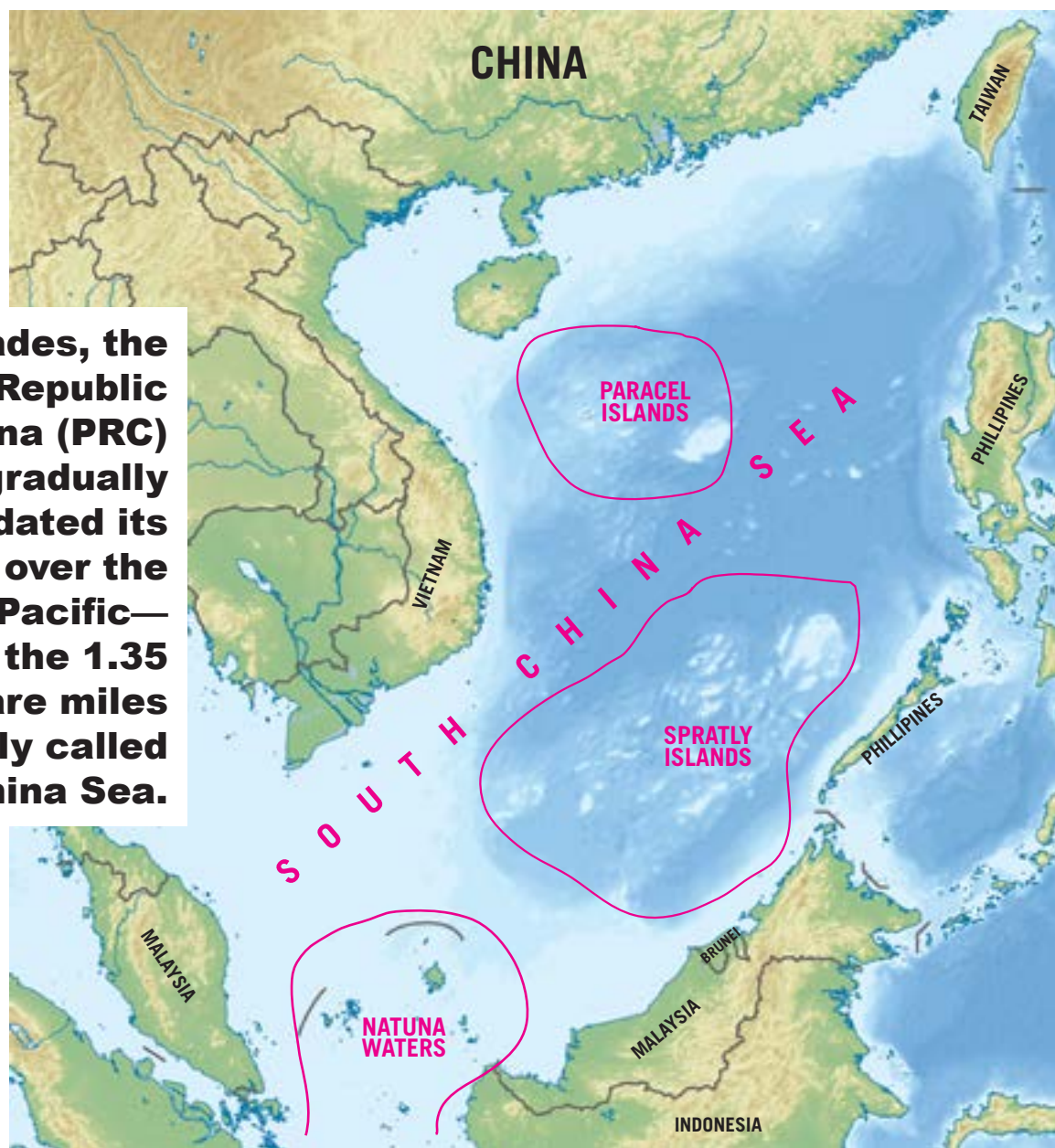
While America reshuffles priorities every

four years, the PRC has doggedly stuck with the same long-term plan. The Economist Magazine offers the most revealing look at the veiled aggression. Because of Communist China's expanding economic interests, it considers this huge body of water a trade zone so exclusive as to be guarded by the PLA (People's Liberation Army) Navy.² Seven sovereign nations have suffered from it: Japan,³ Taiwan, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia,⁴ and Brunei.⁵

While energy exploration in the Spratly Islands of the South China Sea has so far produced very little, they are still thought to be sitting atop huge reserves of oil and natural gas.⁶ So, China wants this string of islets, reefs, and shoals for more than just shipping-lane protection. (Look again at Map



For decades, the People's Republic of China (PRC) has gradually consolidated its hold over the Western Pacific—to include the 1.35 million square miles historically called the South China Sea.



1.1.) Of the 100 Spratlys, the PRC had occupied seven by 1999, Vietnam retained physical control over 27, the Philippines eight, Malaysia seven, and Taiwan one.⁷ In 1988, China sank three of Vietnam's ships and drove its troops off Fiery Cross Reef. Four years later, the National People's Congress of China claimed sovereignty over all Spratlys and authorized the PLA Navy to "evict trespassers."⁸ In 1995, Beijing took over Philippine-owned Mischief Reef.⁹ It has since dredged that reef's entrance to create a harbor for large ships. It has also fortified that harbor against foreign assault.¹⁰

But, the PRC's designs on this region go back further than that. In 1974, Chinese troops forcefully evicted South Vietnamese forces from some of the South China Sea's Parcel Islands.¹¹ On Woody Island, it has since built port facilities, ammunition bun-

kers, fuel tanks, gun emplacements, and a runway long enough for its largest aircraft.¹² Taiwan also lays claim to some Paracels.

U.S. military intelligence personnel claim that what has happened to the Spratlys and Paracels is part of "China's 'outward expansion' to move forward on its 'island chain strategy' . . . to control all the territory stretching in the huge arc from Japan to Indonesia."¹³

AMERICAN EFFORTS TO STEM THE TIDE

While Washington seems only mildly perturbed by China's warlike activity in this vast swath of open ocean, it continues to insist upon unobstructed travel in the region for all nations. As recently as February 2021, it dispatched naval contingents [to] its most

heavily defended parts.¹⁴ In October of 2015, a U.S. destroyer sailed to within 12 nautical miles of "one of China's man-made islands" in the Spratlys. Most prominent are those at Subi Reef and Mischief Reef. At the latter, China is now building runways for military aircraft.¹⁵

In the Paracels, the PRC has had advanced fighter jets stationed at a fully operational airfield on Woody Island since November 2015.¹⁶ In February 2016, NPR News reported HQ-9 surface-to-air missiles on nearby Tree Island. Such armaments are capable of shooting down any airplane within 100 miles. Even more disturbing was the NPR announcer's final comment—this was the PRC's "sovereign territory" and America "will have to get used to it."¹⁷

HOW THE PRC DEFENDS ITS ACTIONS

China has been calling its land reclamation projects in the Spratlys a “public service.” But, her neighbors perceive them as something else—airfields from which the PRC may enforce an illegal claim over the entire South China Sea.¹⁸ One might expect a few dump truck loads of rock at the end of one or two prospective runways. But, this construction project has produced some “3,000 acres of artificial islands in the South China Sea using sand dredged from the ocean floor.”¹⁹ That’s enough landmass for many long airstrips, each with its own harbor and ring of defensive emplacements.

Though dredging took place near Fiery Cross Reef in May 2016, the PRC’s overall effort in the Spratlys has also produced many above-ground improvements.

The Defense Department said three of the land features in the Spratly Islands now have nearly 10,000-foot runways and large ports in various stages of construction.

And it [China] has excavated deep channels, created and dredged harbors, and constructed communications, logistics and intelligence gathering facilities²⁰

— MSN News (from AP), 14 May 2016

THERE HAS BEEN A SURPRISINGLY RAPID TRANSFORMATION

In May 2016, Time Magazine published a detailed satellite photograph of how much Fiery Cross Reef had changed in two years. What had been a solid reef with a tiny weather station on two exposed rocks was now a deep water port surrounded by a full-length military airstrip and every support facility imaginable. In effect, the Chinese had dredged out the center of the reef to create a more solid periphery.²¹ According to Time, this is just one of seven artificial islands built by the Chinese since 2014. After radar and surface-to-air missile batteries were added to the defense of Woody Island in the Paracels, the Head of the U.S. Pacific Command accused the PRC of “militarizing the South China Sea.” If what had previously been Fiery Cross Reef were further reinforced with Dongfeng 21D anti-ship missiles,²² it would severely threaten Free World shipping. Concentric rings of similar bastions between Hainan Island and the Straits of Malacca might guarantee an uninterrupted flow of petroleum and minerals from the Middle



China is militarizing the South China Sea, pushing away the claims of other countries, and threatening worldwide shipping.

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East and Africa back to China in time of war.

After revealing a Chinese commentators’ on-line plans for turning formerly Philippine-occupied Scarborough Shoal into another “weaponized” artificial island, Time disclosed the PRC’s method of takeover. First, scores of Chinese fishing boats show up with a couple of “coast guard” escort ships. Then, “fishing militiamen” storm ashore. Among the trawlers at the Tanmen port on Hainan Island are some big “military boats.” When President Xi visited Tanmen in 2013, he first “praised the local maritime militia, composed of well-subsidized fishermen and decommissioned soldiers, for plying distant waters.” Then, according to State media, he urged its members to “support the construction of islands and reefs.” Of course, this was the same militia that had seized Scarborough Shoal in 2012 after a failed diplomatic effort by Washington to support the Philippine government.²³ . . .

LIKELY TARGET AT SOUTH END OF THE PRC’S PERSONAL OCEAN

For full access to the Straits of Malacca, the PRC would need allies or outposts all along the coastlines of Malaysia and Indonesian Sumatra. It would also occupy a few islands at the Straits’ eastern entrance. At the very edge of the South China Sea, the Anambas and Natuna Besar also have access to its petroleum reserves.

INDONESIA’S NATUNA ISLAND REGENCY

The Anambas and Natuna Besar (a.k.a. Great Natuna) both have some elevation to them. Great Natuna is mostly composed of easy to dig sandstone and limestone. Its highest

point is Mount Ranai at 3,396 feet. Imperial Japan occupied Great Natuna as part of its Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere in World War II (WWII).²⁹ That means the island is still laced with underground emplacements and passageways. While now outposted by 1000 Indonesian soldiers, it could be quickly seized by the Chinese PLA in time of war. At that point, the U.S. Marines might be called upon to take it back. To do so, they would need every bit of what’s been learned from previous wars in the region.

Great Natuna is at the same latitude, but far to the west of Peleliu. Both are comprised of coralline limestone forced upwards by sea-bottom pressures. Through rainwater run off, such rock develops natural caves and crevices—so many that Peleliu became nearly impossible to seize in WWII. Now, other PLA bases along either side of the Malacca Straits may have enough protruding coral to allow for a Peleliu-like defense. ✓

Editor’s Note: Please buy John’s fascinating new book, share what you learn, and post a review on Amazon!

BIO

John Poole (posteritypress.org) served 28 years as a commissioned and non-commissioned infantry officer. A Vietnam veteran, he retired from the United States Marine Corps in 1993. Since retirement, he has researched the small-unit tactics of other nations, traveled extensively behind enemy lines, and written numerous tactics-and-intelligence-manual supplements. He has also conducted multi-day training sessions for 41 battalions, nine schools, and seven Special Operations units.



AGENT RECRUITMENT

FACE LIFE WITH A TEAM

BY CHAD SCOTT

Collecting information is one of the key skills that you need to accomplish during any mission and within your everyday life.

You collect information from being situationally aware about your surroundings and your general safety. You collect information about the larger community through neighbors, friends and family members. You collect information about the world outside your direct observation through podcasts, social media, television, communicating with travelers and from other sources. Whether you realize it or not, you vet and evaluate (often informally) each for reliability and past accuracy as best you can determine.

Human Intelligence, otherwise known as HUMINT, is more than just being able to talk to people. It is understanding nonverbal communication, placement and access, approach, reliability of the source, the type of informa-

tion you need, and methods. Natural ability can be a head start when it comes to HUMINT collection, but all of these are skills that can be learned and sharpened. One of the exercises that we put the students through during my time teaching HUMINT Operations and Investigations was what we called “The Party”. We would set up a location that would resemble an embassy party. All the individuals within the party were either instructors, experienced HUMINT officers, counterintelligence agents and their spouses. Everyone at the party would have a legend or a script of who they were and their personality. Some of the folks would have key pieces of information and if approached effectively and good rapport was achieved, they would be amenable to recontact or a follow-on meeting.

The students would have their own legends to stick to, and they would be tasked with finding a certain individual with certain access to a given piece of information. The students would not be given a picture or any information on the person they were trying to recruit or collect the information from. The students would need to apply all the tradecraft, personal experience and knowledge they had acquired up to that point.

This was not an easy task. The student had to keep to their scripts and legends while socializing, communicating and interacting. Everyone in that room had the advantage of knowing background information about the students. They knew who was good at collecting and who was not the best. They would know when the students were using



If you are after information in a local area, steer away from giving fake names or backgrounds. Someone you know could approach and derail your entire fake cover.

real background, scripted background or were making up background “off the cuff”. The student had to be able to engage one person in conversation as an active listener and be able to listen to nearby conversations to collect information on others to find their intended target.

The students had to learn how to engage and disengage a conversation with an individual in a natural way so as not to insult the current individual. The students had to deal with the second part of the “personality of the instructors”. Some would be wary of unknown people and would not share information unless the student created a good rapport. There were others that were ramblers of conversation and others still would be in a position of high stature and may not be bothered with the students unless they somehow intrigued the subject.

There were targets that had no intelligence or useful information. They simply tie up the students in conversations or tried to trip them up on their legends. There were also role players that were intelligence and counterintelligence officers from other countries that were trying to stop the students and identify them.

The end goal of the exercise was to get to the next part of the training; having follow-on contact with the source that was identified at the party for future exploitation.

There is a lot of setup and moving parts for an exercise of that magnitude, but you can do similar training using the general population and everyday locations. Consider this movie scenario that you may remember: *Top Gun 1986 - “Bar Scene - You’ve lost that loving feeling.”* Maverick and Goose walk into the local bar in their dress whites and Maverick states “This is what I call a target rich environment.” A bit later in the scene Goose bets Maverick \$20 for the famous bet of “You must have carnal knowledge of a lady (this time), on the premises.” Maverick responds with “...I think that she has lost that loving feeling.”

This is a great example of a collection operation within a real environment. Maverick, once understanding the needed information, selected an approach to his intended target. I am not telling you to grab ten friends head out to a bar and start a karaoke song to approach someone to collect information, but it was a bold and decisive approach. Often

the process is less about one big swing for the fences and more about continued slow recruitment and selection.

Here is how you can work on your own collection skills in your local environment. Select a location where people gather on a regular basis that you feel comfortable with. This can be a bar, donut shop, coffee house, church, VFW or anywhere people sit around and talk with their friends and sometimes strangers. Strike up a conversation with a stranger. Uncover a mutual interest. You may be cued for items of mutual interest by a book they are reading, the location, something they are wearing, or something they said. Be approachable and not creepy, understand when to engage and when to pull back. See if you can collect simple information such as a name, hometown, job or a bit of life history. Again, this is going to be a delicate balance of collecting, giving some information about yourself to get some information, and not being too pushy. If you are doing this in your general area then I would steer away from giving fake names, fake background or being disingenuous. Someone you know could walk up and yell your true name or sit down

and derail your fake background. Every fake piece of info you share would have to be sustained and potentially made real. It is beneficial not to complicate things any more than is necessary.

Work with a buddy and bet who can collect the most information or the most useful information from various individuals in each location in a given amount of time. You can attempt to collect a certain piece of information from the individual such as steering the conversation to a hometown or a college attended. You can raise the bar and make things more challenging in future games.

These are two different approaches to this exercise. The first of collecting any and all information is something to be used later as a future contact or acquaintance. They may be useful for getting background information as the person may have access to the real target and you need an "in".

The second approach of trying to collect a single specific piece of information is following the placement and access approach. The individual that you are targeting has either a position that should have a certain set of information by the nature of the position or has access to a facility, group or another individual with the desired information. When in doubt, just sustain a natural conversation then, when useful, steer it for a moment without behaving unnaturally.

Treat any conversation as training for a collection operation. Talk with your neighbor over the fence and when he talks about his background or things in his life you just gained experience. You gain the knowledge of what he has done in the past that may be useful in the future. You may learn about his hobbies such as he likes to work on cars, loves going to the range on the weekend and hikes the Appalachian Trail whenever he can. If the SHTE, would it not be good to have a good relationship with the neighbor that knows his way around a gun, that knows how to hike and camp or that can work on a busted engine? Life calls for a network of individuals that have different skill sets and you can assess how you can be useful to others too. You cannot watch your own back 24/7 and it is good to be in demand.

Building your network of friends and information can be a fun and valuable exercise. Collecting information about your surroundings and local area will help you understand your resources. You have heard when talking about finances that you need to diversify

your portfolio to make sure you do not have all your eggs in one basket. The same holds true with HUMINT, you do not want all your networks in the exact same business or only among those who do the exact same thing. You need a network that has different skills, different knowledge and different experiences as you never know what skill set you will want to call upon.

Robert Kiyosaki described the same concept employed a little differently in his *Rich Dad, Poor Dad* books. He articulated that in

when you asked a friend to see if a certain girl liked you. You didn't ask the question directly and you created a plausible deniability factor.

You never know where an important piece of information will come from or where you will be able to validate a piece of information using multiple sources. HUMINT officers know that a source that does not seem like they have the right placement or access today could get promoted or change jobs and become a valuable asset tomorrow.



PIKABY - ALDZ

Strike up a conversation with a stranger. Uncover a mutual interest. You may be cued for items of mutual interest by a book they are reading, the location, something they are wearing, or something they said.

school you were discouraged from "cheating" on your homework. He also pointed out that in the real world you are rewarded for building teams. For financial success he specifically advocated building long term relationships with bankers, lawyers, tax specialists and others you build trust with who have specific knowledge that you don't. People often gravitate to building relationships with people the same as themselves, yet people often learn the most from cultivating relationships with people who have the most different experience or expertise.

Never discard a source of information; it is neither "good" nor "bad"—have a good understanding about the *validity* of the type of information you are being given. All contacts can have value in certain contexts. A "bad" source may have a good piece of information due to their access or placement with the collection target. Think back to grade school

Some of us are shy, some of us habitually keep to ourselves, but all of us need a network to face life. Starting a conversation with a stranger can be practiced daily. Lightly steering the conversation can be practiced, and making it natural for that person to talk to you again is a skill that can be learned. This is your key to making more sales, this is your key to better dating, and this is your key to building a team of experts and specialists for facing the challenges and opportunities of life. Go recruit some agents. ✓

BIO

Chad Scott is a former U.S. Army counterintelligence agent. He worked within the Intelligence Community (IC) for the last 30 years and was a senior instructor, and course chair, for the Joint Counterintelligence Training Academy (JCITA). He currently works for a U.S. Government contractor.

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), getting to the bottom of the COVID 19 (Wuhan Virus) misrepresentations (visit: covid19criticalcare.com), or securing America's beleaguered borders, it is encouraging to see how selfless human beings can be. This account is the citation for one of Colonel David Hackworth's Distinguished Service Crosses. Hackworth authored the autobiography *About Face*, a memoir regarded by many, as the most valuable account of American combat leadership ever written. Happy Birthday Hack!



DAVID HACKWORTH

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918 (amended by act of July 25, 1963), takes pleasure in presenting a Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of a Second Award of the Distinguished Service Cross to Lieutenant Colonel (Infantry) David Haskell Hackworth, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Battalion, 39th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division. Lieutenant Colonel Hackworth distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions during the period of 23 to 25 March 1969 as battalion commander while his

unit was engaged with elements of two Viet Cong battalions. After one of his companies came under attack from a numerically superior hostile force, Colonel Hackworth landed his command and control helicopter amid heavy enemy fire to resupply the unit with ammunition and to evacuate casualties. Remaining with his forces on the ground, he led a patrol in pursuit of the withdrawing enemy and, after learning the enemy's withdrawal plan from a captured soldier, directed the insertion of other elements of his battalion into blocking positions. As the conflict developed into a large scale battle, he again took to the air and flew through intense anti-aircraft fire to adjust artillery fire and direct the movement of his men. He repeatedly landed to coordinate with his

ground commanders, lead assaults against hostile positions, and evacuate casualties. When a friendly scout element sustained several casualties and became pinned down near the communist emplacements, he disembarked from his helicopter to maneuver through the hostile fusillade and assist the wounded men to his aircraft. When he had insured that the injured were being evacuated, he adjusted supporting fire on the enemy fortifications until the enemy was soundly defeated and their weapons and supplies confiscated. Lieutenant Colonel Hackworth's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. ✓