

TACTICS AND PREPAREDNESS

SKILLS AND SURVIVAL FOR ALL SITUATIONS



COMPETE WITH YOUR CARBINE

BY SHANNON SMITH | PHOTOS COURTESY OF SHANNONSMITHSHOOTING.COM

I recently read *Undaunted Courage* (by Steven Ambrose), the account of the Lewis and Clark expedition with the Corps of Discovery.

One of many things I found interesting was that Captain Lewis had rifles commissioned to pick up at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. Upon arrival he was not pleased with the 42-inch barreled rifles. He had apparently requested “short” rifles and he had gunsmiths cut them down to 33 inches. Today, we don’t think of a 33-inch barrel as a short rifle, but as a former infantryman I appreciate his

thought process. We had a saying: “ounces equal pounds and pounds equal pain”. These guys were about to walk across the country - all the way across - (and somehow cross the Rocky Mountains) and he was rightfully concerned with weight.

I’m pretty certain a soldier is a soldier and whether it be Lewis and Clark, Revolutionary War, World War II, Vietnam or GWOT if you get young men together

with rifles there will eventually be a challenge issued and competition will ensue. I know we did in my time: how far can you hit? How tight of a group? How fast can you shoot? How fast can you reload?

Any match I am familiar with that allows carbines also allows rifles, and I don’t know where to draw a line that makes a rifle a carbine anyway, so many skills will apply to both. Our wonderful [continued >](#)

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You'll discover that moving with your carbine is much different than standing at a static range.

ATF has determined a rifle with a barrel under 16 inches is considered a Short Barreled Rifle (SBR) and as such, you get to ask for permission and pay them extra money to own one. But I have heard 16-inch guns referred to as Carbiners also.

ORGANIZATION

There is no national organization devoted to competition with a rifle caliber carbine. US-PSA does have a Division for PCC (Pistol Caliber Carbine). There are many matches across all disciplines that are well run and not under a national entity. We call them outlaw matches and they are quite successful. You will need to read and understand the ruleset of whatever match you are attending. That matters as certain matches will allow or disallow certain rifle configurations, optics and gear. Having a 1-8 variable power versus a red dot with magnifier could put you in a different division or could even be disallowed at a particular match. Some matches, you can have a muzzle device, some you can't. You just have to ask questions.

THE GEAR

Match Directors (MDs) present a challenge, then competitors and manufacturers come

up with a better way to solve that challenge. So the MD makes the challenge harder and the competitor invents new gear to meet the challenge. This is a never ending cycle and while frustrating at times, competition is where development and testing of equipment is done. The technology on your truck tires came from racing and improvements to firearms training and gear comes from competition too.

I decided to get more into 3-gun many years ago. I had a run of the mill 16-inch AR with carbine length gas system, stock BCG (Bolt Carrier Group), JP trigger and had recently upgraded from a red dot to a 1-4 optic. I don't even remember the manufacturer, but it was not expensive. It was fine for the game at the time, but I was practicing with a friend and he had me try his rifle. Holy cow! As a former military man, I really didn't think there was any recoil to the AR, until you shoot a rifle that has been properly set up. It was truly night and day, I was definitely taken aback at how much difference there could be in two seemingly similar platforms. So I upgraded in a big way.

Getting involved is the highest priority. The gear isn't going to hold you back for quite some time. Just go run what you have. What



There are numerous options available, with a dizzying array of accessories. You will have to find what works best for you.

you want is also dictated by the match you're going to. In many carbine matches the bulk of the stages have targets inside 30 yards with one stage out to 50 and maybe two stages out to 200-500 yards, but there are some with more targets at distance, that may affect how you want to set up your rifle.

If there was a "normal" set up I'd say it is a 14.5" barreled 5.56 with pinned and welded muzzle device (this makes it legal at 16"), mid length gas system and a quality variable power optic 1-8 or 10. I have a 16-inch gun as described with lightened BCG. I also have an 18-inch gun with standard BCG and honestly don't notice a difference in performance. I usually go with the 16 for maneuverability. I have 20, 30, 45 round magazines and also carry a 60 round drum mag. There are times you want less weight, or you have an awkward position where a small mag is needed and there are times you want to bring the kitchen sink.

One of the many great things about the growth of the sport is the number of manufacturers, their support and development. I didn't mention companies because there are so many great ones. I like what I like, use what I can afford and personally I'm averse to experimenting. I like to find what works for

me and practice. That said I'm running a 1-8 and 1-10's are becoming more prevalent and affordable so I'm sure I'll be looking at those soon. (Santa?)

If you are competing at matches with long range then bullet choice really does come into play. Something like a 77 grain Sierra Matchking vs whatever cheap 55 grain you have makes a huge difference when you're getting out past 300 yards. Target size matters also. Don't let this stop you from getting involved, but the more involved you get, the more stuff like this matters. It also takes a lot of experimentation to figure out what is best for your gun, what twist rate you have, etc. You can go very deep down the proverbial rabbit hole on this. As for the "norm", most carry both the 55gr cheap ammo and the heavier weight good stuff to a match and only use the good stuff when needed. As a match director myself, I didn't use targets smaller than 3MOA (Minute of Angle) at distance. At 600 yards for example that would be an 18-inch target. That was the minimum size I liked. My philosophy was this was an action match, not a sniper match. There are three techniques I feel most important especially if you are just coming into the game. Presentation, Position set up and Movement.

PRESENTATION

There are three main start positions I see. Low Ready as I define is muzzle below the buttstock. High Ready, muzzle above the buttstock and "buttstock touching belt". As a Match Director I like the last on the list as it is not open to interpretation. Your buttstock is either touching your belt or it isn't. Whatever the start position, it is paramount that you train getting the rifle mounted and aimed at the target efficiently. Just like our pistol draw and presentation, the rifle mount and presentation must be trained. Because we see more of the "Buttstock on belt" starts that means the buttstock isn't already in your shoulder. I like to "punch" or drive the rifle to the target with my support hand on the fore end and then pull the gun back in my shoulder. You want to drive the rifle a bit farther out from your body than you think. If you don't, you will eventually catch the buttstock on something; gear, shirt, whatever and that will result in a very poor or non-existent mount position. By pushing out a bit farther you will have much more consistent position getting you on target quicker. It is the little things that add up and this takes practice to make it clean and consistent. The dot of your reticle should land precisely between the spot on

If you want to evaluate your skills, your gear and your individual tactics, compete.



the target you are looking and your eye. It really just takes reps and is easily practiced in dryfire.

POSITION SET UP

While I have had many three-gun competitors and rifle competitors as students, the bulk of my rifle students have been from the tactical world; mostly military with some law enforcement. The progression of my typical class starts with a couple days pistol then switching to rifle. Inevitably on the day we switch over to rifle from pistol some student will say “whew, I shoot a rifle much better than I do a pistol.” To which I reply “No shit, so does everyone else in the world”. With a rifle you have three points of contact on the gun, longer barrel, lighter trigger, better sighting system, less recoil, everything that makes shooting easier. The art of shooting a rifle is getting into position quicker than your adversary or competitor. Once you are in a rested position, against a pole, prone, kneeling against a log, whatever; once the gun is set in position it really isn't

difficult to hit a given target in competition.

Whatever your available rest, imagine the recoil will take the path of least resistance. For example, if a right-handed shooter is shooting off-hand then the rifle will have a tendency to rise up and right, as your left hand, cheek weld and body are on the left side of the gun. So the path of least resistance is high and right. If you are using a rested position on say, a V-Tac style barricade with a 45-degree corner or notch the gun will want to move opposite of the corner therefore you'd want to drive, press or hold the gun towards the corner.

Another position I practice often I call *reverse gun prone*. For a right-handed shooter you roll the gun 90 degrees counter clockwise. (For a lefty it would be clockwise). The magazine will be pointed away from your body, buttstock more in your bicep than shoulder. This is useful for a super low prone position, it is the lowest you can get to the ground, if there is a super low port or similar. I also like this position for over the hood of a vehicle in tactical situations. Same reason, it

affords the lowest possible position behind the cover or concealment. Just watch out for the crest of the hood.

Achieving the position is the key. Once in a supported position shooting a rifle isn't that difficult if you have conditioned clean basic skills. I like to train from one step away from my position of support and move to establish the position on the start signal.

MOVEMENT

This area is a bit tricky with a rifle. Most shooting games have some semblance of what we call the 180 rule. From the center of the downrange berm or backstop, your muzzle can never pass 90 degrees. Up, down, left or right. We call it the 180 as you have 180 degrees you can move your muzzle at any time. If the muzzle ever crosses that point you are disqualified for the day. This is one of many areas where competition and the real world clash as we sometimes use competition techniques for movement that are not practical in a defensive environment.

You can imagine a right-handed shooter

moving laterally from left to right. This is a pretty easy movement direction, easy to keep both hands on the gun while swinging your arms and shoulders as you naturally would while running with a rifle. No real issues. The same shooter moving right to left however is a different ball game. You can visualize if the shooter were to keep both hands on the gun it would be very awkward to prevent the muzzle from breaking the 180 line. I usually release the fore end and hold the rifle just by the pistol grip, keeping the muzzle pointed down range similarly to how I would hold a pistol in the same situation.

Up and down range are similar stories, moving down range (towards the back berm) is pretty easy and you can move as you normally would. Occasionally a course designer will require you to move up range. This presents quite the challenge. For a right handed shooter I find turning to your right makes it easier to maintain muzzle discipline. If I have a long up range movement a technique I use is to grab the fore end over the top releasing the pistol grip. So you are facing up range but the gun is facing down range. This allows fast up range movement but it is slow to remount the gun for firing. You have to weigh the time savings of the movement against the time lost while dismounting and remounting the gun.

DRILLS

Drill 1

To work on your presentation from any start position, using a shot timer to start, mount the gun and fire one round to a 10 yard target. You can use the three common start positions we discussed. Do 10 or 20 reps from each position to establish an average time.

Drill 2

For Position Set Up, use anything on the range available for support. Barricades, if the range has them, are obviously great, but 55 gallon barrels, tailgate, tree, support post for overhead cover, anything. The target does not need to be far enough away or small enough to even require a rested position. It is better if it is, but it is not necessary. We are just working the act of setting up in position efficiently. On the timer, start a step or two away from the position and work the set up for a steady one round.

Drill 3

Three boxes or cones to indicate positions.

Place them in a triangle as far apart as you like. If you want to work on some fitness in this process, place them 10 yards apart. If you're just working the positions, 6 feet is fine. You can designate a specific target for each position or simply use a single target 10-20 yards down range. On the start signal, move from box to box engaging the target with one or two rounds. You can go clockwise for a few rounds, then reverse it. This will give you an opportunity to work your muzzle control in every direction simply.

PCC

At some ranges it can be difficult to train with a rifle. Many ranges don't allow them or limit what you are able to do. Specific steel targets may have similar limitations. USPSA has a Division for PCC (Pistol Caliber Carbine) which will allow you to practice most of these techniques with a very similar platform. If you are not familiar, a PCC can be an AR platform chambered in 9mm. Besides being super fun it is a great training aid to improve your rifle manipulation game and save money on ammo. Find a USPSA match near you and try it out.

If you want to evaluate your skills, your gear and your individual tactics, compete. Whether your priorities are tactical or sporting, all shots boil down to what you are able to safely and consistently deliver for speed and accuracy on demand while solving problems. Competition lets you work those skills, and have fun while observing and learning from the experiences of others as well.

I encourage you to train safely and get started with the gear you have. Even if you only plan to experience it once, find a local match on Practiscore.com, register, check in early and ask questions. Everyone from the competitors to the manufacturers want to see you there, but you will be the one who benefits the most. ✓

BIO

Shannon Smith (ShannonSmithShooting.com) is a national champion across multiple shooting disciplines. He competes in 8-10 events annually and is a veteran of six years with the U.S. Army's 2nd Ranger Battalion where he served as a team leader and a squad leader. He specializes in instruction for pistol and carbine skills for self-defense, competition, military and law enforcement. You can train with him in Florida and around the USA.

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WIKIPEDIA

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

WRITTEN BY HENRY DAVID THOREAU | SUMMARY BY CHRIS GRAHAM

I was driving past an Ascension Sacred Heart Hospital recently and saw a massive protest outside.

Women and men in surgical scrubs and professional attire were carrying signs. Some of the signs said: “No Mandates”, “My body, My choice”, “Do not violate the Nuremburg Code”, and “If it is not consensual, it is not medicine”. I stopped to learn more. A man with a hospital ID attached to his shirt pocket explained to me that President Biden acknowledged he did not have the authority to mandate Covid 19 (Wuhan Virus) injections, and then followed that statement up a few weeks later by stating that he was ordering OSHA to order compa-

nies to order individuals to submit to a series of forced Covid injections. Another hospital employee added that natural immunity has been demonstrated to be many times more effective than Covid injections, but is mysteriously not taken into account for mandates. She also asked me if I knew that Doctor Robert Malone, the inventor of the mRNA technologies used in the Covid injections, called these gene therapy injection mandates a “crime against humanity”. Another woman stated that the injectable Comirnaty curiously received FDA approval without com-

pleting standard testing and was not available to Americans, while Covid injections available had “Emergency Use Authorization” that clearly required informed voluntary consent to administer. A young woman was explaining to me that she had worked at the hospital shortly after earning her PhD, and was present to support friends when I looked up and saw a man holding a sign that read: “Civil Disobedience Now!”

The man with the Civil Disobedience sign asked me if I knew that millions of people around the world were protesting and dem-

onstrating against involuntary injection mandates, “vaccine passports”, and “lockdowns”. He commented on how bizarre he found it that these historic movements generally seemed not to interest conventional media outlets. He asserted that ever increasing numbers of men and women have initiated, joined, or supported lawsuits by groups like Liberty Counsel (lc.org) aimed at deterring, preventing, and ending unlawful activities by compromised officials and their corporate partners and that there were even people who chose to “roll the dice” taking Covid injections who were also standing up against global totalitarianism before it was permitted to progress any farther. He asked me if I had read Henry David Thoreau’s *Civil Disobedience*. I admitted that I had not, but promised that I would

Thoreau tells us in *Civil Disobedience* that he “heartily accepts the motto, that government is best which governs least...” and elaborates: “Government showed us how successfully men can be imposed upon, even impose on themselves, for their own advantage. It is excellent, we must allow. Yet this government never of itself furthered to any enterprise, but by the alacrity with which it got out of its way”.

He asks us: “Must the Citizen ever for a moment, or in the least degree, resign his conscience to the legislator? Why has every man a conscience then?” and states: “The mass of men serve the State thus, not as men mainly, but as machines, with their bodies”.

Thoreau observes: “Yet such as these even are commonly esteemed good citizens. Others— as most legislators, politicians, lawyers, ministers, and officeholders— serve the State chiefly with their heads; and as they rarely make any moral distinctions, they are as likely to serve the devil, without intending it, as God”. He questions: “How does it become a man to behave toward the American government today? I answer that he cannot without disgrace be associated with it. I cannot for an instant recognize that political organizations as *my* government which is the slaves government also”.

The author asserts: “I quarrel not with far off foes, but with those who, near at home, cooperate with, and do the bidding of, those far away, and without whom the latter would be harmless” and elaborates “A wise man will not leave the right to the mercy of chance, nor wish it to prevail through the power of the majority. There is but little virtue in the

action of masses of men. When the majority shall at length vote for the abolition of slavery, it will be because they are indifferent to slavery, or because there is but little slavery left to be abolished by their vote. *They* will then be the only slaves”.

Thoreau states: “Unjust laws exist: shall we be content to obey them, or shall we endeavor to amend them, and obey them until we have succeeded, or shall we transgress them at once?” and continues “... If it is of such a nature that it requires you to be the agent of injustice to another, then I say break the law”.

He predicts: “A minority is powerless while



“Government showed us how successfully men can be imposed upon, even impose on themselves, for their own advantage.”

it conforms to majority; it is not even a minority then; but it is irresistible when it clogs by its whole weight. If the alternative is to keep all just men in prison, or give up war and slavery, The State will not hesitate which to choose”.

The abolitionist quotes Confucius as saying: “If a State is governed by the principles of reason, poverty and misery are subjects of shame; if a State is not governed by the principles of reason, riches and honors our subjects of shame.” And said, “...the Chinese philosopher was wise enough to regard the individual as the basis of the empire”.

Thoreau concludes for himself: “It costs me less in every sense to incur the penalty of disobedience to the State than it would to obey. I should feel as if I were worth less in that

case.” And, “Thus the state never intentionally confronts a man’s sense, intellectual or moral, but only his body, his senses. It is not armed with superior wit or honesty, but with superior physical strength. I was not born to be forced. I will breathe after my own fashion. Let us see who is the strongest ... If a plant cannot live according to nature, it dies; and so a man”.

The author concludes for society: “However the government does not concern me much, and I shall bestow the fewest possible thoughts on it. It is not many moments that I live under a government even in this world. If a man is thought free, fancy free, imagination free, that which *is not* never for a long time appearing *to be* to him, unwise rulers or reformers cannot fatally interrupt him.” And, “there will never be a really free and enlightened State until the State comes to recognize the individual as a higher and independent power, from which all its own power and authority are derived, and treats him accordingly”.

Back in 2021, when I walked away from the protest, I noticed a message chalked in pastel blue and pink cursive hand writing on the sidewalk near my car. It read: “Dear Anthony Fauci, we know you are lying, you know you are lying, you know we know you are lying; we know you know we know you are lying ... but you are still lying- Aleksander Solzhenitsyn”.

Every human being who believes they have a soul or who contemplates looking themselves in the mirror has a ‘red line’ – a figurative line in the sand – they refuse to cross regardless of consequences. Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862) is famous for two components of *his* red line. He demonstrated and encouraged non-violent non-compliance to oppose slavery and to oppose wars he considered unnecessary. Generations of people have read, studied, and been influenced by Thoreau’s *Civil Disobedience*. If you want to understand how contemporary people are overtly and covertly resisting lawlessness, corruption, and abuse of power around the world– alone and in groups – study the ideas in *Civil Disobedience*. ✓

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.



GUN CONTROL LESSONS FROM MARYLAND

BY FRANCIS M. DUFFY

"TRUTHS" VS. FACTS

"We choose truth over facts"
(2020 Presidential Candidate, Joe Biden)

At the Spartan Firearms Training Group, we deliver high quality firearms training and we are certified to offer: concealed carry training for Maryland, and Washington D.C. and Utah wear and carry permits. Almost one-half of our training events are devoted to gun control laws relevant to Maryland, Washington, D.C. and Utah.

The United States has a long history with gun control ranging from inhibiting who has access to firearms (Maryland's Handgun Qualification License), to identifying by name which firearms may be purchased legally (National Firearms Act, Maryland's Handgun Roster—a list of handguns ap-

proved for sale in the state—and Maryland has banned the sale of eighty-one specific long gun models¹), to limiting ammunition purchases (California requires a background check) and magazine capacity (Maryland, New Jersey, New York and Washington, D.C.), to prohibiting the issuance of a wear and carry permit for self-defense (Maryland requires wear and carry applicants to have a "good and substantial reason" to get a permit, and self-defense is not considered good and substantial), and to confiscating legally owned firearms (nineteen states and the District of Columbia have extreme risk protection order laws, otherwise known as "red flag" laws,

that allow officials to confiscate firearms).

Gun control is an emotionally charged topic for some. The politics of gun control finds politicians and gun control groups framing messages intended to influence potential voters who are horrified by "gun-related" deaths. Some people who are opposed to gun ownership allege there is a cause-effect relationship between gun ownership and gun related deaths.

A basic understanding of research affirms that it is very difficult to establish causal (cause and effect) relationships in the social sciences. Nevertheless, anti-gun politicians and gun opposition groups continue to make

**19 STATES
CURRENTLY HAVE
RED FLAG
LAWS.**



**THE DESTRUCTION OF FIREARMS
AFTER A BUYBACK PROGRAM.**

an unscientific cause and effect relationship the core of their argument to control or ban firearms.

“TRUTHS” VS. FACTS

A colleague tells a story about a conversation he had with the father of one of his friends. He gave the father some data points on firearms deaths to which the father replied: “Using statistics and data in the gun control debate is counterproductive.” In the 2020 Presidential campaign Candidate Biden famously proclaimed “We choose truth over facts” (video can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/15RjcRJ3Z70>). This perspective explains some of the resistance to gun ownership in the United States, and the consequent gun control efforts to restrict gun ownership.

Facts and data about firearms in the United States get in the way of the gun control advocates’ “truths.” Facts are important, because many of the most relevant are being left out of the conversation from anti-gun activists. Some have manipulated the language, (for example, gun deaths versus gun homicide) to inflate the numbers to make the case that firearms must be severely restricted or confiscated. The facts conflict with the anti-gun-

ners’ truth: guns are evil, used by crazy “white supremacists”, and therefore firearms must be severely restricted and even confiscated.

GUN CONFISCATION

Nineteen states and Washington D.C. have enacted some type of Extreme Risk Protection Order (“Red Flag” Law) since 2018. Those states are: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington. President Biden recently announced he would enact several gun-control executive orders to create nationwide “red flag” legislation for states to adopt. Red flag laws allow police to confiscate firearms based on the “word” of others against a person whom they allege to be at risk for hurting themselves or others. Some have observed that these laws violate Constitutional amendments IV, V, VI and the XIV.

Red flags laws may be well-intentioned, but the implementation of those laws has had deadly consequences. For example, in Maryland in 2018, the police served a red flag order in the early morning hours to a man living in Anne Arundel County. He refused to

surrender his firearms, a struggle ensued, and he was killed by police inside his house².

In Potomac, Maryland, in 2020, a SWAT team arrived to a house at 4:30 a.m. to serve a red flag order. The man who was the target of the order was shot through a window and killed in his bed while sleeping. His girlfriend asleep next to him was wounded³.

Hurricane Katrina had a devastating impact on New Orleans and its suburbs. Several neighborhoods were essentially destroyed. Police officers went house-to-house in the aftermath of that tragedy to confiscate firearms⁴.

MINORITY POPULATIONS

The population demographics of large American cities like Baltimore, Philadelphia and Chicago largely fall into a category termed “minorities.” The dominant minorities in those urban areas tend to be Black and Hispanic.

Those same cities have draconian gun control laws that essentially and effectively prevent the good citizens of those minority populations from getting firearms⁴. Baltimore, Maryland, serves as one example. Maryland created a Handgun Qualification

TABLE 1: EXAMPLES OF GUN CONTROL ADVOCATES "TRUTHS" VS. GUN OWNERSHIP FACTS

GUN CONTROL ADVOCATES' "TRUTH"	GUN OWNERSHIP FACTS
There is an epidemic of gun violence in the United States.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gun ownership has increased 30% in the last 20 years while violent crime has fallen by 50% (2019, FBI statistics). • One estimate suggests there are at least 393,000,000 firearms in the United States (Global Small Arms Survey https://www.graduateinstitute.ch/communications/news/small-arms-survey). Another estimate suggests there are at least 434,000,000 firearms in the U.S. • Although there are at least 393,000,000 firearms owned in the United States there have been only 39,707 firearms deaths as of 2019 (.01% of the total). • Of the 39,707 deaths, 23,941 (60%) were suicides. • 14,414 (37%) were homicides (FastStats - Homicide (cdc.gov). • 486 (1.2%) were accidental • 520 (1.3%) were by legal intervention (police) • Between 1982 and 2021 there have been 172 mass shootings. 145 committed with a handgun, 57 committed with a rifle, and 30 committed with a shotgun (https://www.statista.com/statistics/476409/mass-shootings-in-the-us-by-weapon-types-used/)
"Weapons of war" should not be in the hands of civilians. The so-called weapon of war is the modern sporting rifle, also known as an AR-15 (and rifles with a similar design). The "AR" is said to mean assault rifle by gun control advocates. However, it actually represents the manufacturer, ArmaLite.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some of the gun control advocates actually believe that the "assault rifle" (weapon of war) can shoot rounds rapidly on an automatic setting. All of the AR rifles legally sold in the United States without a special tax stamp from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives are semi-automatic rifles that can only shoot one round at a time. • The AR-15 is a popular target for gun control advocates because it resembles a "weapon of war" that is used to kill a lot of people. FBI 2020 statistics tell a different story. Handguns, knives, fists and feet all kill more people than rifles. https://www.statista.com/statistics/195325/murder-victims-in-the-us-by-weapon-used/
We need more "commonsense" firearms laws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are thousands of gun laws in the United States (federal, state, and local).
We need more background checks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All retail guns sales already require background checks, whether it's at a brick-and-mortar store, at a gun show or purchased online. The buyer's information is submitted to the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) at the point of sale.
"The use of guns in self-defense by private citizens is extremely rare." Self-Defense Gun Use Violence Policy Center (vpc.org)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report "Priorities for Research to Reduce the Threat of Firearm-Related Violence" indicates a range of 60,000 to 2.5 million defensive gun uses each year. https://www.nap.edu/catalog/18319/priorities-for-research-to-reduce-the-threat-of-firearm-related-violence

License (HQL) that is required to purchase a handgun. The HQL law requires four hours of classroom instruction to include taking one live fire shot. In addition to the tuition for the training, applicants must pay a state police application fee and fingerprinting costs. The total cost is about \$230 per applicant. The training venues, for the most part, are not in Baltimore—they are in surrounding counties which often requires transportation.

Additionally, Maryland's concealed carry requirements essentially strip residents of their ability to use a handgun for self-defense outside their homes. To get a concealed carry permit in Maryland the applicant must provide a "good and substantial reason" to carry concealed. If a person doesn't provide an arbitrarily "satisfactory" reason, he or she doesn't get a permit. Self-defense is not considered a good and substantial reason.

Furthermore, Maryland's wear and carry

regulations also require 16 hours of classroom instruction and passing a firearms qualification course of fire. The average cost of that training is \$350 plus the cost of fingerprinting and application fees which bring the total fees to about \$500. People taking the course have to pay the tuition and fees upfront without knowing if the Maryland State Police will approve their application. The tuition and fees are non-refundable if the application is denied.

There are few people who would risk paying \$500 only to find out the Maryland State Police turned down their application. There are also only a couple of shooting ranges in Baltimore, thereby limiting opportunities to practice even if they were able to get a wear and carry permit. Most shooting ranges are in surrounding counties. Getting to those ranges requires the time and expense of transportation. It should be evident that these impediments function as a nuisance that is not an evenly distributed burden.

ments function as a nuisance that is not an evenly distributed burden.

In 1966 in Orlando, Florida, hundreds of women began buying handguns to protect themselves after a spree of brutal rapes. Editorials complained about women buying guns for self-protection³. The implication of the editorials was that women were incompetent to handle guns effectively. A publisher even demanded that the chief of police stop the sale of handguns to women. The chief did not comply with the publisher's request and ultimately the number of rapes significantly decreased. Who among us would especially benefit from being able to exercise self-defense with a concealed handgun? Women of all races, of course.

It has been asserted that members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (or questioning) (LGBTQ) population throughout the United States are at risk of



MAKESHIFT MEMORIAL OUTSIDE THE PULSE NIGHTCLUB AFTER THE SHOOTING.

personal attack because of their sexual identity. In 2018, LGBTQ people, and others, socializing at the Pulse Night Club in Orlando, Florida were the victims of a “mass shooting”. Restrictions on purchasing firearms or carrying concealed, put LGBTQ people at risk without the means to defend themselves while waiting for police assistance that came too late for 49 people killed in the terrorist attack.

FORECASTING

Gun control activists action a strategy called incrementalism. They progressively nibble away at our Second Amendment rights over time with this strategy. They also propose draconian gun control measures and continuously advance them wherever they are not

challenged by citizens and stopped by courts. For example, at the beginning of 2021 President Biden promised not only to ban the sale of semi-automatic firearms, but to launch a massive government gun confiscation scheme misidentified as “mandatory buy-backs”. He promised to ban the on-line sale of ammunition; assured gun control advocates that he would set-up state-level gun-owner licensing schemes; and appears to have strived to bankrupt the American gun industry.

Another example of a draconian gun bill is H.R.127—Sabika Sheikh Firearm Licensing and Registration Act submitted by Texas Representative Sheila Jackson Lee⁶. Although this bill has not come to pass it is likely that efforts like this will continue.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; ATF processed 54.7 million firearm documents from Federal Firearms Licensees (FFL) going out-of-business records in fiscal year 2021⁷. Private records for firearms transactions are sent to the ATF storage facility in West Virginia, when a FFL shuts down. Constitutional advocates fear that those documents will be used to create a national database to track American firearms owners in violation of Federal law.⁸

Supporters of the Second Amendment must be aware of efforts to implement unconstitutional gun control bills. The National Rifle Association—Institute for Legislative Action (NRA-ILA) sends legislative updates, by state, to people who sign-up for their service. There are also on-line gun law websites that provide valuable updates on firearms laws (e.g., www.handgunlaw.us).

The “truths” held by gun control advocates are often at odds with facts. Subversive gun control measures harm all Americans. These measures are incrementally expanded anywhere citizens and courts are not vigilant and it is evident that minority populations have

also been a victim of this infringement. The future of gun control in the United States will be determined by your vigilance and by your ability to communicate with and persuade your fellow Americans, of all backgrounds, to be equally vigilant. ✓

BIO

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THE COLONIAL PIPELINE ATTACK AND HACKER TACTICS

BY JIM LeBLANC

Hacking is the activity of identifying and exploiting weaknesses in a computer system or a network.

An example of computer hacking can be using a password cracking algorithm to gain access to a computer system. A Hacker is a person who finds and exploits the weakness in a computer system or network. Hackers are usually skilled computer programmers with knowledge of computer security. They work as individuals, and they work as members of transnational criminal groups. They are sponsored by governments and they are sometimes security professionals.

We can segregate hacking into different categories, based on what is being hacked. Here is a set of examples:

- **Website Hacking** – taking unauthorized control over a web server and its associated software such as databases and other interfaces.
- **Network Hacking** – gathering information about a network by using tools like Telnet, NS lookup, Ping, Tracert, Netstat, etc. with the intent to harm the network system and hamper its operation.
- **Email Hacking** – getting unauthorized access on an Email account and using it without the consent of its' owner.
- **Ethical Hacking** – often involves finding weaknesses in a computer or network system for testing purposes.
- **Password Hacking** – this is the process of recovering secret passwords from data

that has been stored in or transmitted by a computer system.

- **Computer Hacking** – this is the process of stealing computer IDs and passwords and gaining unauthorized access to a computer system.

SNIFFING

Sniffing is the process of monitoring and capturing data packets passing through a given network using sniffing tools. It is a form of “tapping phone wires” and getting to know about the conversation. It is also called wire-tapping applied to computer networks.

If a set of enterprise switch ports is open, then an employee or an intruder can sniff

the entire traffic of the network. Anyone in the same physical location can plug into the network using Ethernet cable or connect wirelessly to that network and sniff the total traffic.

In other words, Sniffing allows you to see all sorts of traffic, both protected and unprotected. In the right conditions and with the right protocols in place, an attacking party may be able to gather information that can be used for further attacks or to cause other issues for the network or system owner. This is one of the technical modes of compromise that was alleged to have occurred in the 2020 presidential election at various levels of systems including systems that were not overtly online.

One can sniff the following sensitive information from a network:

- Email traffic
- FTP passwords
- Web traffics
- Telnet passwords
- Router configuration
- Chat sessions
- DNS traffic

A sniffer normally turns the NIC of the system to the Promiscuous Mode so that it listens to all the data transmitted on its segment. Promiscuous Mode refers to the unique way of Ethernet hardware, in particular, network interface cards (NICs), that allows a NIC to receive all traffic on the network, even if it is not addressed to this NIC. By default, a NIC ignores all traffic that is not addressed to it, which is done by comparing the destination address of the Ethernet packet with the hardware address (a.k.a. MAC) of the device. While this makes perfect sense for networking, non-promiscuous mode makes it difficult to use network monitoring and analysis software for diagnosing connectivity issues or traffic accounting. A sniffer can continuously monitor all the traffic to a computer through the NIC by decoding the information encapsulated in the data packets.

PASSIVE SNIFFING

In passive sniffing, the traffic is locked, but it is not altered in any way. Passive sniffing allows listening only. It works with Hub devices. On a hub device, the traffic is sent to all the ports. In a network that uses hubs to connect systems, all hosts on the network can see the traffic. Therefore, an attacker can easily capture traffic going through.

The good news is that hubs are almost obsolete nowadays. Most modern networks use switches. Hence, passive sniffing has limited potential.

ACTIVE SNIFFING

In active sniffing, the traffic is not only locked and monitored, but it may also be altered in some way as determined by the attack. Active sniffing is used to sniff a switch-based network. It involves injecting address resolution packets (ARP) into a target network to flood on the switch content addressable memory (CAM) table. CAM keeps track of which host is connected to which port.

Following are the Active Sniffing Techniques –

- MAC Flooding
- DHCP Attacks
- DNS Poisoning
- Spoofing Attacks
- ARP Poisoning

Protocols such as the tried-and-true TCP/IP were never designed with security in mind and therefore do not offer much resistance to potential intruders. Several rules lend themselves to easy sniffing –

- **HTTP** – it is used to send information in the clear text without any encryption and thus is a common target.
- **SMTP** (Simple Mail Transfer Protocol) – is basically utilized in the transfer of emails. This protocol is efficient, but it does not include protection against sniffing.
- **NNTP** (Network News Transfer Protocol) – is used for all types of communications, but its main drawback is that data and even passwords are sent over the network as clear text.
- **POP** (Post Office Protocol) – POP is strictly used to receive emails from the servers. This protocol does not include protection against sniffing because it can be trapped.
- **FTP** (File Transfer Protocol) – FTP is used to send and receive files, but it does not offer any security features. All the data is sent as clear text that can be easily sniffed.
- **IMAP** (Internet Message Access Protocol) – IMAP is similar to SMTP in its functions, and is highly vulnerable to sniffing.
- **Telnet**– Telnet sends everything (usernames, passwords, keystrokes) over the network as clear text and hence, it can be easily sniffed.

Sniffers are not dumb utilities that allow you

to view only live traffic. If you really want to analyze each packet, you can save the capture and review it whenever time permits.

LAWFUL INTERCEPTION

Lawful Interception (LI) is defined as legally sanctioned access to communications network data such as telephone calls or email messages. LI must always be in pursuance of a lawful authority for the purpose of analysis or evidence. Therefore, LI is a security process in which a network operator or service provider gives law enforcement officials permission to access private communications of individuals or organizations in accordance with legitimate court orders.

Almost all countries have drafted and enacted legislation to regulate lawful interception procedures and standardization groups are creating LI technology specifications. Usually, LI activities are taken for the purpose of infrastructure protection and cyber security. However, operators of private network infrastructures can maintain LI capabilities within their own networks as an inherent right, unless otherwise prohibited. LI was formerly known as wiretapping and has existed since the inception of electronic communications.

TROJANS

Trojans are non-replication programs; they don't reproduce their own codes by attaching themselves to other executable codes. They operate without the permissions or knowledge of the computer users. Trojans hide themselves in healthy processes. However, Trojans infect outside machines only with the assistance of a computer user, like clicking a file that comes attached with email from an unknown person, plugging a USB without scanning, or opening unsafe URLs.

Trojans have several malicious functions:

- They create backdoors to a system. Hackers can use these backdoors to access a victim system and its files. A hacker can use Trojans to edit and delete the files present on a victim system or to observe the activities of the victim.
- Trojans can steal all your financial data like bank accounts, transaction details, PayPal related information, etc. These are called Trojan-Banker.
- Trojans can use the victim computer to attack other systems using Denial of Services.
- Trojans can encrypt all your files and the hacker may thereafter demand money to de-

Trojans create back doors to gain access to files and then encrypt them for ransom.

crypt them. These are Ransomware Trojans.

- They can use your phones to send SMS to third parties. These are called SMS Trojans.

TIPS

- *Install a good antivirus and keep it updated.*
- *Don't open email attachments coming from unknown sources.*
- *Don't accept invitations from unknown people in social media.*
- *Don't open URLs sent by unknown people or URLs that are in weird form.*

TCP/IP HIJACKING

TCP/IP Hijacking is when an authorized user gains access to a genuine network connection of another user. It is done in order to bypass the password authentication which is normally the start of a session.

In practice, one of the best TCP/IP hijack tools is *Shijack*. It is developed using Python language and you can download it from the following link: <https://packetstormsecurity.com/sniffers/shijack.tgz>

Here is an example of a Shijack command – `root:/bome/root/bijack# ./shijack eth0 192.168.0.100 53517 192.168.0.200 23`

Here, it is trying to hijack a Telnet con-

nection between the two hosts. Hunt is another popular tool that you can use to hijack a TCP/IP connection. It can be downloaded from: <https://packetstormsecurity.com/sniffers/hunt/>

All unencrypted sessions are vulnerable to TCP/IP session hijacking, so you should use encrypted protocols as much as possible, or you should use double authentication techniques to keep the session secured.

DDOS

A Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attack is an attempt to make an online service or a website unavailable by overloading it with huge floods of traffic generated from multiple sources. Unlike a Denial of Service (DoS) attack, in which one computer and one Internet connection is used to flood a targeted resource with packets, a DDoS attack uses many computers and many Internet connections, often distributed globally in what is referred to as a botnet. A large scale volumetric DDoS attack can generate a traffic measured in tens of Gigabits (and even hundreds of Gigabits) per second. Your normal network will not be able to handle such traffic.

BOTNETS

Attackers build a network of hacked machines which are known as botnets, by spreading malicious piece of code through emails, websites, and social media. Once these computers are infected, they can be controlled remotely, without their owners' knowledge, and used like an army to launch an attack against any target.

A DDoS flood can be generated in multiple ways. For example:

- Botnets can be used for sending more number of connection requests than a server can handle at a time.
- Attackers can have computers send a victim resource huge amounts of random data to use up the target's bandwidth.

Due to the distributed nature of these machines, they can be used to generate distributed high traffic which may be difficult to handle. It finally results in a complete blockage of a service.

Types of DDoS Attacks:

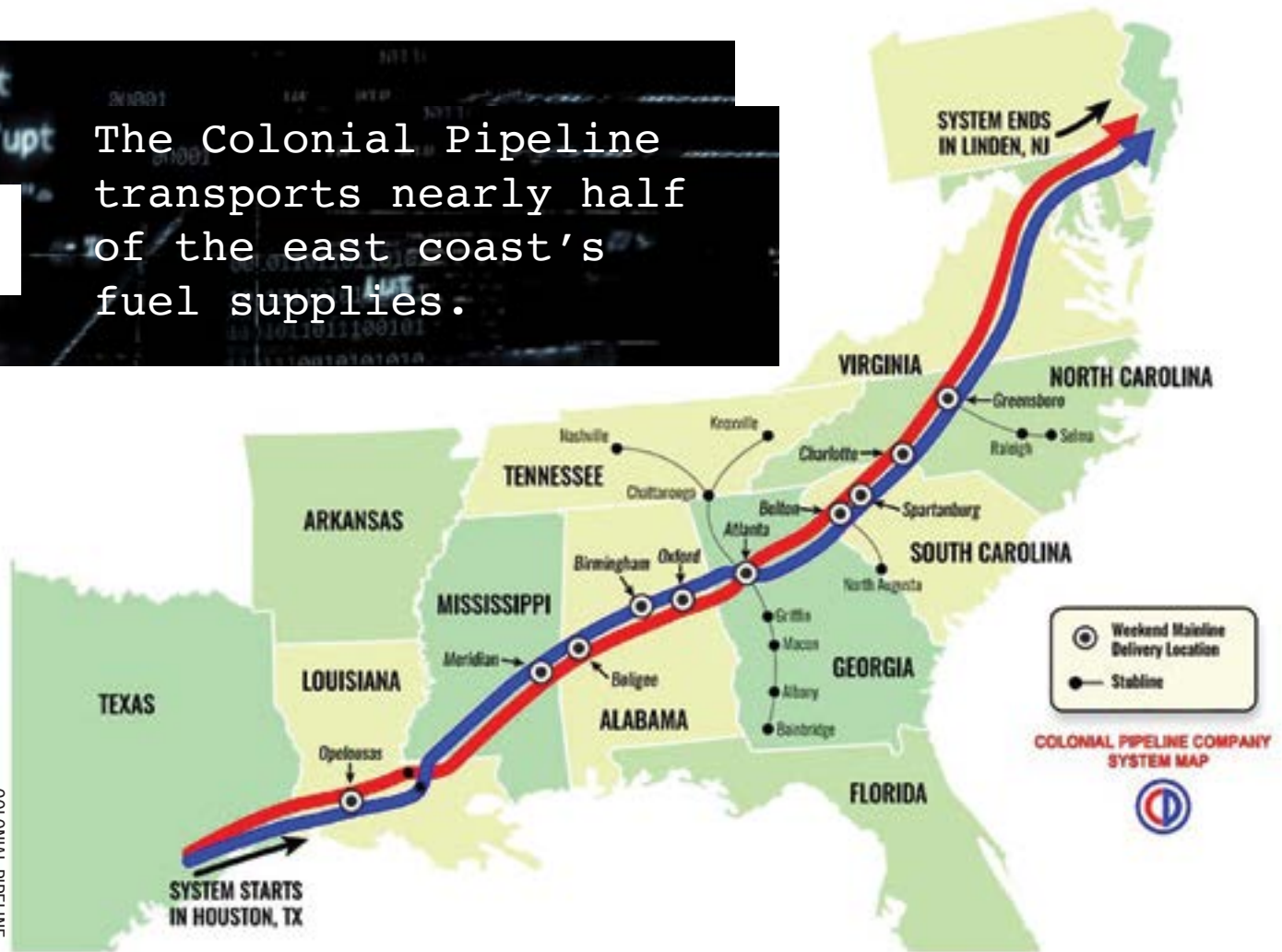
- Volume-based Attacks
- Protocol Attacks
- Application Layer Attacks

COLONIAL PIPELINE

The hack on Colonial Pipeline is one of the

The Colonial Pipeline transports nearly half of the east coast's fuel supplies.

COLONIAL PIPELINE



most significant attacks on critical national infrastructure in history. The pipeline transports nearly half of the east coast's fuel supplies.

For many people, the image of the oil industry is one of pipes, pumps and greasy black liquid, but the modern operation of Colonial Pipeline is extremely digital. Pressure sensors, thermostats, valves and pumps are used to monitor and control the flow of diesel, petrol and jet fuel across hundreds of miles of piping. Colonial has a high-tech "smart pig" (pipeline inspection gauge) robot that moves through its pipes checking for anomalies.

The Colonial Pipeline carries 2.5 million barrels a day. All this operational technology is connected to a central system. And as cyber-specialists such as Jon Niccolls, from CheckPoint explain, where there is connectivity, there is risk of cyber-attack: "All the devices used to run a modern pipeline are controlled by computers, rather than being controlled physically by people."

Direct attacks on operational technology are reportedly rare because these systems

are usually better protected. It is possible the hackers gained access to Colonial's computer systems through the administrative side of the business.

"Some of the biggest attacks we've seen all started with an email," Niccolls said.

"An employee may have been tricked into downloading some malware, for example. We've also seen recent examples of hackers getting in using weaknesses or compromise of a third-party software. Hackers will use any chance they get to gain a foothold in a network."

SECURITY

The simplest way to protect operational technology is to keep it offline, with no link to the internet at all, but this is becoming harder for businesses, as they increasingly rely on connected devices to improve efficiency.

"Traditionally, organizations did something known as 'air gapping,'" cyber-specialist Kevin Beaumont said. Colonial Pipeline says it was hacked on Friday 7 May, and Beaumont added:

"They would make sure that critical systems were run on separate networks not linked to outward facing IT. However, the nature of the changing world now means more things are reliant on connectivity." Systems that appear to be air gapped and even systems mandated to be air gapped are often found to have exploitable connectivity.

With the assistance of the FBI, Colonial Pipeline paid a ransom of 75 Bitcoin (or about \$4.4 million at the time, some of which was later claimed to be recovered) within several hours of the attack. The hackers then sent Colonial Pipeline a software application to restore their network.

RANSOMWARE

Ransomware is software that hackers deploy to lock up victims' data so they can't access or use it — in the worst case, essentially shutting down entire companies or government offices. Then, the hackers demand a ransom payment in exchange for providing a digital key that will unlock the files.

Over the past few years, ransomware has

grown from an occasional nuisance to an omnipresent threat. Victims have included hospital systems, school districts and the D.C. Police Department, as well as many small businesses. Acknowledged ransomware attacks increased by 37 percent from 2018 to 2019 and by 20 percent from 2019 to 2020, according to FBI reports. Recent years have seen a significant increase in ransomware, with the number of attacks more than doubling year-over-year, according to one report, with a particularly large surge in the health-care sector.

The Justice Department recently launched a task force to explore new solutions to the problem, but the problem continues to get worse as incentives grow, ransoms are paid, and it is unknowable how many incidents are not disclosed.

LIMITS OF SECURITY

The private companies that operate much of the United States' critical infrastructure — its power plants, dams, natural gas pipelines and other vital facilities — have often neglected to incur the costs of implementing government-recommended cybersecurity protocols, and government systems are frequently hacked as well.

Defending against foreign government hackers sometimes requires sophisticated technology that small critical infrastructure operators cannot afford, defending against ransomware may not. Using strong passwords, training employees not to click suspicious links and requiring workers to use multi-factor authentication — which involves typing in a randomly generated number after entering one's password — can prevent many hacks, including ransomware. Despite years of warnings many companies have not taken these steps.

Even the organizations that try to take cybersecurity seriously can be foiled by small gaps. A long-overlooked back-office employee or ancient computer in a closet is often the weak link that opens an organizations' doors wide to hackers.

By picking victims that they know cannot afford downtime criminals virtually guarantee themselves an easy profit, and they likely prioritize targets that are unlikely to publicly disclose losses or defeats. In addition, many ransomware operators have begun tapping into a secondary profit stream: reselling stolen data on the dark web, where sensitive personal information can fetch hefty sums.

KASEYA

On 2 July 2021, a number of managed service providers (MSPs) and their customers became victims of a ransomware attack perpetrated by the REvil group, causing widespread downtime for over 1,000 companies. Kaseya Limited is an American software company founded in 2001. It develops software for managing networks, systems, and information technology infrastructure. Kaseya is headquartered in Miami, Florida with branch locations across the US, Europe, and Asia Pacific. Since its founding in 2000, it has acquired 13 companies, including Unitrends.

The source of the outbreak was identified within hours to be VSA (Virtual System Administrator), a remote monitoring and management software package developed by Kaseya. An authentication bypass vulnerability in the software allowed attackers

Despite years of warnings, many companies have still not taken basic steps against hacking.

to compromise VSA and distribute a malicious payload through hosts managed by the software, amplifying the reach of the attack. In response, the company shut down its VSA cloud and SaaS servers and issued a security advisory to any customers, including those with on-premises deployments of VSA.

Initial reports of companies affected by the incident include Norwegian financial software developer Visma that owns Swedish grocery chain Coop. The supermarket chain had to close down its 800 stores for almost a week, some in small villages without any other food shop. They did not pay ransom, but rebuilt their systems from scratch after waiting for an update from Kaseya.

The REvil ransomware gang took credit for the attack and claimed to have encrypted more than one million systems during the incident. They initially asked for a \$70 million ransom payment to release a universal decryptor to unlock all affected systems. On July 5, Kaseya said that between 800 and 1,500 downstream businesses were impacted in the attack.

On 13 July 2021, REvil websites and other infrastructure vanished from the internet. On 23 July, Kaseya announced it had received a universal decryptor tool for the REvil-encrypt-

ed files from an unnamed "trusted third party" and was helping victims restore their files.

FUTURE TRENDS

One event that will change the future of hacking occurred recently when the People's Republic of China claimed what amounts to Quantum Computing. The Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported that Chinese researchers claimed one of their supercomputers is one million times faster than the nearest competitor, Google's Sycamore.

Further, they claim to have produced a second, even faster one that "uses light photons to achieve never-before seen results." The light-based Jiuzhang 2 can allegedly calculate in one millisecond a task that would take the world's fastest conventional computer 30 trillion years.

The Communist Party of China run Global Times reported, "It's the first time that China has reached quantum advantage in a superconducting quantum computing system." Helen Raleigh— an immigration policy fellow with the Centennial Institute in Colorado who was born and raised in communist China—tweeted in response to the Post's report: "While American public schools are teaching kids that math is racist, Chinese scientists have built two quantum computers which can calculate in one millisecond a task that would take the world's fastest conventional computer 30 trillion years."

If the Chinese quantum computers perform as advertised, they will be able to penetrate any system: banking, nuclear facilities, powerplants, government facilities, etc. Until that question is answered, observers can expect more hacks like Kaseya and Colonial Pipeline to drift into the public domain when they cannot be hidden, and concerned citizens will continue to demand transparency and verifiability rather than continued stonewalling and verbal assurances in response to the 2020 election audits. ✓

BIO

Jim LeBlanc is the owner of Contingency Planning Consultants, L.L.C. and is the former Vice President of the New Orleans Chapter of the InfraGard Louisiana Members Alliance. He previously served as the chief financial officer for a major chemical company for 23 years, and as a reserve deputy for his local sheriff's office. He is author of Real Risk Management (Center for Security Policy, 2016).



Salt, pepper and time over a proper smoky fire is all you need to make the best jerky.

MAKE YOUR OWN JERKY

BY JEREMY LEWIS

It was almost 21 years ago that I was introduced to various skills for evading enemy capture through SERE (Survival, Evasion, Resistance, Escape) training.

We were briefed on past tactics and cases where men evaded enemy capture. The stories were from WWII and the Vietnam War, with a few from Operation Desert Storm.

We gathered into two person teams and we moved out at night. During that week or so of training I had a very good instructor who revealed the time-honored survival skill of making jerky. Making jerky is easy to learn and it is a great way of preserving protein for surviving in the field.

Today, we are privileged to enjoy jerky in its various forms in everyday snacks, but in the past jerky has been a staple for the travelling man or woman. Modern commercial jerky has a shelf life much longer than anything homemade jerky has. One would have to be a chemical engineer to understand the plethora of preservatives that store bought jerky introduces to your digestive system. God knows I have consumed my fair share over the years, and that is likely what led to my extreme good looks and superhuman resistance to ageing.

Homemade jerky in its most basic form, is an excellent way to maintain protein supplies on the go. I believe the very best jerky is the most simple to make. I like smoked jerky over dehydrated jerky. I suppose both work well enough, but smoking is a craft and smoked jerky is the currency.

In SERE training we started with a cheap roast with some fat marbled into it. Fat is a vital energy producer and the best roast for jerky will have a good percentage of fat with in it. I know you may be trying to lower your





Natural jerky (such as the venison in these pictures) is loaded with protein, electrolytes, carbohydrates, fat, vitamins and minerals. It can keep for weeks, and it is easy to make.

WIKIPEDIA



fat diet to stay lean and mean, but in survival, fat is a necessary staple. This is why some of us have genes that retain and store fat easily. It is from our Paleolithic past and is expressed differently based on our access to good food over time. Our ancestors may not have eaten for days at a time and we have been granted the same genetic switches for storing fat.

To begin preparation for smoked jerky in the field, slice your jerky into strips with consideration for the surface area and “absorbability” of the smoke. Take salt and pepper and smother the meat with it. How much and how concentrated you want is based on your taste. Notice I didn’t say hot peppers, spices, brines or any of the other jerky tech-

niques you may be familiar with. Salt, pepper and time is all you need to make the very best of jerky I have ever experienced.

You must make a rack for the smoking process and a simple teepee with three poles is a basic way. We took our ponchos and wrapped the teepee with a vent at the top. About a foot and a half from the vent we tied-in drying sticks for the meat to hang on. At the bottom, we left about ten inches open for coals to lay on the ground and the smoke to rise within the meat and pass through the product. You must know a bit about the plants in your area because you want sapling deciduous trees for the smoking chips. I could only imagine the tragedy if someone used the wrong tree or

vine and coated their jerky with poison oak. You want a good fire going outside of your smoker and then you will continually feed the smoker with smoking chips from an oak or maple sapling. Feed the smoker with chips throughout the day and don’t get in a hurry. This is your basic survival smoker. Easy to build, easy to fuel, and the jerky is full of flavor and nutrition.

Now as a deer hunter, I have also sampled many different ways to make jerky to include using my oven on low with the door open. It works pretty well, but today dehydrators make this task even easier. In the past, preserving meat was a real problem. The lack of refrigeration made starvation a very real threat in ancient times.

It is hard to imagine, but in the past when someone killed an animal it had to be consumed pretty fast. In the cold North a carcass stayed fresh longer’ but in the tropical south, methods needed to improve. In the Americas salt was the only tool to preserve meat. In New England “salted Cod” was worth more than gold and was cast to coins from the English colonies.

We are far removed from the food supply problems our ancestors dealt with. Farming techniques and competitive free market logistics systems make hunger less likely today for Americans at the moment, but what happens if central planning aficionados continue get their way and what happens when you face a survival situation and you need an immediate protein source? Jerky has filled that gap and it can be carried for months.

I previously thought Native Americans were the inventors of jerky, but it seems early man all over the world discovered jerky as a way to preserve meat. The earliest evidence of jerky was found in the Tombs of Pharaohs from Egypt while Most notably, the South American Native Quechan tribes have a ver-

sion of jerky they called “Charqui” which translates to “dried meat” as early as 1550 and native North Americans had made “Pemmican” many years before Spanish explorers stepped foot on the New World. Pemmican was made from dried fruit with animal fat and meat.

Today’s jerky is produced by marinating beef, chicken, turkey, deer, Buffalo, elk etc. in a brine for the purpose of flavoring the meat and killing bacteria. Brine is made with salt as a base, and various flavors to include: red pepper, sugar, black pepper, fruit and numerous spices. Liquid smoke is used and sometimes the meat is just dehydrated in large vats. Dangerous nitrites and nitrates are now added to give jerky a longer shelf life keeping the cost low and the profits up. I suggest you research nitrites in preserved meats and you will find out about the many foods insinuated with this preservative. A Johns Hopkins medical study links the consumption of nitrites and nitrates to “mania, a mood disorder characterized by hyperactivity, euphoria and insomnia”. The same article asserts that persons with mania were three times more likely to be consumers of dangerous nitrites and nitrates.

Many of these companies are getting around the subject boasting “No nitrites added” to imply that nitrites aren’t used in the curing process. This play on words is simple to unravel by reading the ingredients. Nitrites are a carcinogen and have been linked to colorectal cancer. According to The Washington Post (“Before You Reach for that Artisanal Jerky, Read This”, 09/26/2018) “for every 50 grams of processed meat eaten daily increases the chance of cancer by 18 percent”. Many cold cut meats, hotdogs, bratwurst etc. contain these preservatives also. If the meat is cheap, then it is likely preserved with nitrites. The FDA does not hide this information, but apparently does not feel responsible to educate on the subject. In Europe many countries are petitioning bans on nitrites from prepackaged foods.

I can only imagine how common the cowboy, soldier, mountain man, sailor, explorer and other voyagers would have been with jerky on their person for the quick snack and or just for the perfect survival food. In ancient times meat was a privilege for many, and due to spoilage, this preservation technique was of great value, especially

when spices were not readily available.

The simple process of making jerky with common ingredients ensures that even the most novice person can make tasty jerky with a little trial and error. Natural jerky is loaded with protein, electrolytes, carbohydrates, fat, vitamins and minerals. It can keep for weeks, and it is easy to make. It is a valuable option for preparing meat for moderate storage times and on the go for evasion or in the event of a catastrophe.

I recommend experimenting with recipes, different meat types and seasoning that will please your palate. The process is enjoyable and satisfying and is an opportunity to learn a valuable historical skill in the company of friends and family. ✓

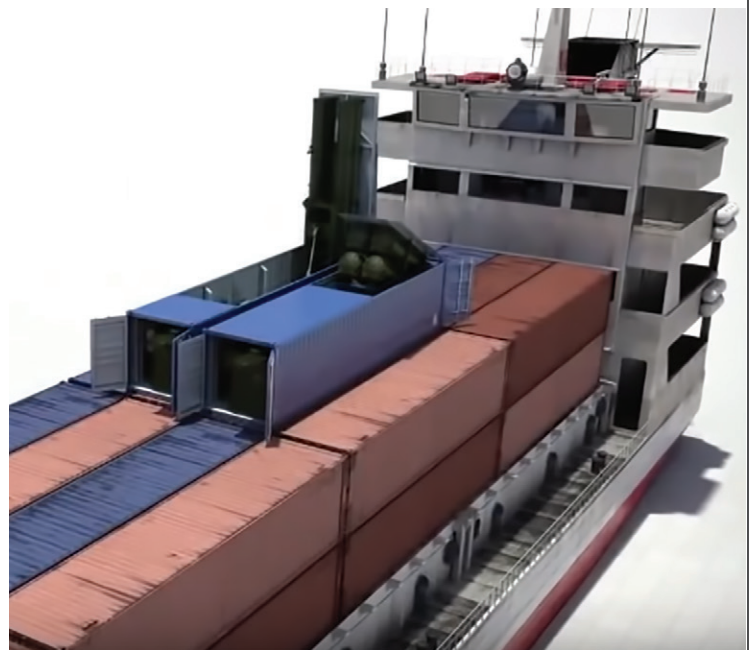
BIO

Jeremy Lewis is a 20-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force, and Mississippi Air National Guard. He is a flight medic and instructor for land navigation and combat medicine. He works internationally as a security contractor in high-threat environments and continues to practice and teach survival and resilience skills.

GEAR REVIEW

YJ-18C

The YJ-18C is a Chinese surface-to-surface missile system concealed in a commercial shipping container similar to the Russian Club-K missile system. The U.S. Navy reports having fewer than 300 ships. National and non-State adversaries fielding concealed shipping container missiles can effectively turn thousands of commercial ships at sea into a witting or unwitting undercover navy for pennies on the dollar. Missiles such as these can be fired from the decks of ships or the backs of trucks and trains near, or even within, an enemy’s borders. They may deliver nuclear, biological, and chemical or conventional munitions for traditional or electro-magnetic-pulse attacks. In the near future they may be controlled by artificial intelligence. If one or more external adversaries wish to combine kinetic attacks with their current political warfare campaigns after the current DOD purge is completed, deceptive strategic weapons such as China’s YJ-18C will likely be at the forefront of such an attack.



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: globalcovidsummit.org) 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.



DR. ROBERT MALONE

Dr. Robert Malone is the original inventor of the mRNA and DNA vaccines that are the foundation for the COVID 19 (Wuhan Virus) Emergency Use gene therapy injections currently mandated for involuntary recurring subscription-style administration to citizens throughout many nations previously referred to as the “free world”. Teaming with his wife, Dr. Jill Malone, he created a “Declaration of Independence From the Decisions of Institutions That Lack Integrity”.

Their points include: Establishing the free and open exchange of information and requiring the full disclosure of all sources of funding regarding any citation noted or references made pertaining to any matter under consideration. They stand in opposition to censorship and do not accept the representations of parties holding within themselves values that conflict with principles of free expression. (Visit rwmalonemd.com for the entire doctrine.)

Dr. Malone is also a signatory to the International Alliance of Physicians and Medical Scientists’ Global Covid Summit Physician’s Declaration stating: Natural immunity is the most protective defense, and naturally immune persons are at the lowest risk of transmission. Early intervention with numerous, available agents [e.g. Vitamin D, Zinc, Ivermectin and Hydroxychloroquine] has proven to be safe and effective. Negligible clinical risks from SARS-CoV-2 infection exist for healthy

children under eighteen. Permanent physical damage to the brain, heart, immune and reproductive system associated with SARS-CoV-2 spike protein-based genetic vaccines has been demonstrated in children. (Visit globalcovidsummit.org for the entire declaration.)

A great deal of coordination and expense is evident in the proliferating Covid Information Operations¹. Despite threats and smear campaigns, Dr. Malone has courageously challenged the legitimacy of mask mandates, “lockdowns”, and “vaccine passports” that require free men and free women to obtain permission to move around and participate in a free market economy from a central planning authority. Dr. Malone has identified significant lies from the Chief Medical Advisor to the President, Anthony Fauci, and called for him to be immediately relieved of duty.

CDC data confirmed that Covid 19 has better than a 99 percent survival rate with most victims reporting minor symptoms and many unaware they ever had it. Outside Sweden, what is the motive for inexplicable Covid policies throughout the world? Outside Florida, what is the motive for inexplicable Covid policies throughout the USA?

A 2009 Department of Justice press release stated: “Pfizer paid \$2.3 billion, the largest health care fraud settlement in the history of the [DOJ], to resolve criminal and civil liability arising from the illegal promotion of certain pharmaceutical products.”²

In November 2020, Brook Jackson, a supervisor involved in Pfizer Covid vaccine trials came forward as a whistleblower stating that research included “falsified data”. While Pfizer denies this, she submitted documents, photos, audio recordings and emails to the British Medical Journal.³

The media slogan “follow the science” that was widely used to give the misimpression that an appeal to authority fallacy was actually an application of science may need to be replaced by the investigator’s slogan “follow the money”.

Your investigation must evaluate both the claims of officials and their partners in the pharmaceutical industrial complex as well as reviewing the censored side of the debate from independent medical experts like Dr. Robert Malone. See his daily news leads on Twitter: @RWMaloneMD. ✓

NOTES

1. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/05/14/scientists-admit-totalitarian-use-fear-control-behaviour-covid/> accessed 11/30/21.
2. <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-announces-largest-health-care-fraud-settlement-its-history> accessed 11/30/21.
3. <https://sharylattkisson.com/2021/11/read-whistleblower-says-pfizer-vaccine-trial-included-falsified-data/> accessed 11/30/21.

Ed.: Independently confirm all medical advice with a qualified physician who prioritizes scientific rigor above political directives, revenue streams and groupthink.