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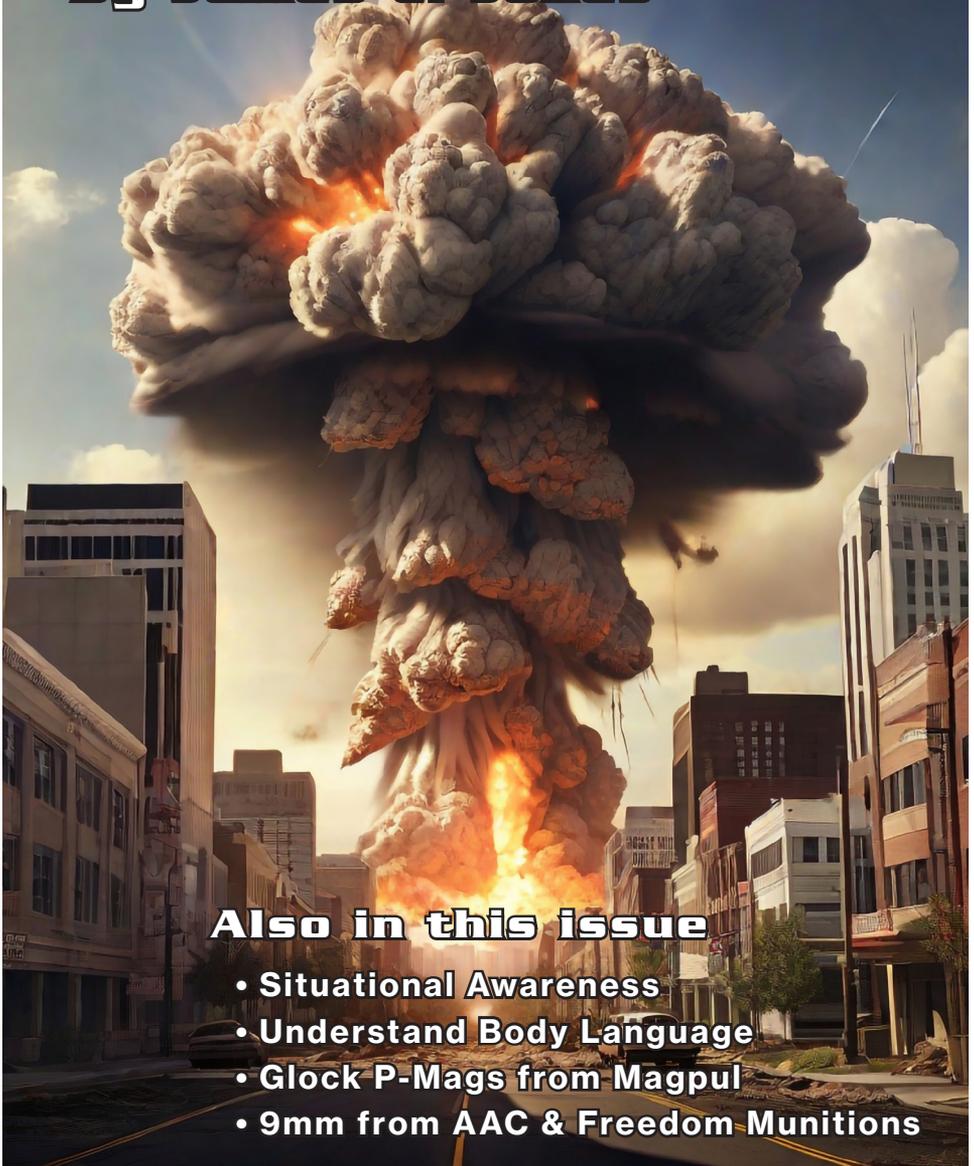


Jan-Feb 2024

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## Threat Matrix 2024

By James C. Jones



### Also in this issue

- Situational Awareness
- Understand Body Language
- Glock P-Mags from Magpul
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# Directions

Thoughts from the Editors

As I am writing this it has been 12 days since the reprehensible attack by Hamas on Israel. It is not the nature of American Survivor to make political statements. It is the nature of American Survivor to help readers to be better prepared, and it is in this spirit that I write now.

Why should events from half a world away concern me here? Because it demonstrates the growing need to understand threats and to be better prepared for them. One of the attacks was on a music festival, ostensibly a peace and music festival, where attendees were dancing while Hamas terrorists were descending on them, and it looks like no one noticed until the first shots were fired. The last solid number I heard was 260 killed, but that number has probably grown since then.

Again, why worry here? Israel has the best equipped, best trained army as well as the best border security in the region. What happened on Oct. 7th was considered an impossibility on Oct 6th, yet close to 2000 are dead in Israel and around 200 are now hostages in Gaza. The terrorists went through several villages indiscriminately murdering citizens, including the elderly, women, and children. And they had little resistance.

We are under the impression that Israel is one of the most heavily armed countries in the world, but that could not be further from the truth. It is hard to get permission to own a firearm if you are not in or have not been in the IDF. One of the first responses from the government was to loosen these restrictions so that more Israeli citizens could purchase guns to protect themselves with. A stated goal of National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir is to increase the number of firearms owners in Israel by as much as 300,000.

As we learned on September 11th, 2001, we are not immune to terrorist attacks. They had happened before and will happen again. The view of most Americans is that the goal of Hamas and other Palestinian terror groups is to destroy Israel and establish a new Palestinian state free of Jewish people. It's not. While not all Palestinians agree with these goals, Hamas wants a prominent place on the greater Jihadist struggle for world dominance. Most Muslim people just want to practice their religion in peace, but for the minority that don't, only a Muslim world will do.

If Hamas were to achieve the goal of destroying Israel, we are next on the block. The attacks on Israel clearly show us the need for situational awareness and an armed citizenship. Knowing what is happening around you and having the tools to defend against threats are survival priorities. In this issue we are publishing several articles that will help you move toward better awareness. We need to be armed, trained, and we should be encouraging and protecting safe and lawful firearms ownership. We have seen what happens if we don't.



BY JAMES C JONES

## **Ten reasons that survival preparedness and self-reliance should be every responsible Americans top priority.**

Back in 2011, I made a PowerPoint presentation entitled “Citizens Disaster Awareness” where I warned of the coming of multiple, interconnected disasters, including epidemics, civil unrest, extreme weather, and economic deterioration.

I also wrote a two-part series titled “Storm Warning” warning of exactly the conditions we now face. Such presentations were not well received, and few took them seriously. Human nature is to hear what we want to believe and reject what we do not want to believe. A true survivor is one who is more apt to accept unpleasant possibilities and question optimistic predictions.

Politicians survive by telling the people what they want to believe even when they know that (1) very bad things are happening, and (2) they are not going to be able to prevent them or help you much when they do happen.

When Live Free USA was organized, back in the 1960’s we had only two major survival threats to be concerned with, they were a nuclear war with the USSR, and communist inspired civil unrest at home. The economy was healthy, we were healthy, there was no terrorism, crime was limited, and we had a normal amount of severe weather.

Back then, America was the unrivaled power in the world, and the future looked bright. By the dawn of the Twenty-first Century, we faced a plethora of threats and ongoing disasters that have multiplied in the past two decades. The world as we know it has already ended.

There are far too many interconnected threats to life and freedom to prevent catastrophic developments for us and our children. Our first Threat Matrix was published in 2014 and has been updated periodically since. Most if not all the listed threats

have developed into full-blown disasters or have worsened since then. One of our top ten threats was a major pandemic, another was massive civil unrest. While most of the past predicted threats remain, new threats have emerged and threats such as nuclear war have risen in probability.

It seems like post-Covid America has retreated into denial and complacency as the potential threats to survival and freedom increase every day. The first principle of survival is “Be Aware.” Here are my top ten threats to life and freedom for America in the next ten years and beyond. I will update these periodically if we are still here and able to publish.

## #1 CONFLICTS WITH CHINA

China retains its number one status as an existential threat to America and to world freedom. Under the rule of the Chinese Communist Party, it is in affect a fascist (National Socialist) state defined by racism, oppression, militarism, and expansionism. Having established itself as the leading manufacturing power in the world and rendered the United State dependent on it for everything we use, it is difficult to see how we could win a war against them.

China is now equal or slightly superior to the USA economically and militarily. While we have closed most of our shipyards China is outbuilding our navy each year. By buying into US financial institutions, medical corporations, and technology developers, China has the financial, medical, and family profiles of every citizen of the United States. The Chinese Communists do not need to conquer the world, they are just buying it, but recent US military analysis indicates

that China would win any war today. As the ancient Chinese military writer Sun Tzu put it “In war, the victorious strategist only seeks battle after victory has been won.” In the whole history of war, the strongest economy always wins. The world is beginning to wake up to the Chinese threat and the managed Chinese economy is beginning to show signs of weakening. Automation and AI will continue to diminish their advantage in cheap labor, and the population of China is aging and declining. Their “passing advantage” could force them into invading Tiwan, or to commit other aggressive acts in the near future.

**The worlds dependency on Chinese productivity could result in economic chaos even in a limited war, and a Chinese victory would mean world domination by a totalitarian state.**

**Probability:** Ongoing and immediate

**Severity:** Total loss of freedom, privacy, and economic independence

## #2 CONVENTIONAL WAR

As is evident in Ukraine and in Israel the potential for full-scale, conventional war is back. The threat of nuclear mass destruction is no longer inhibiting aggression between major powers. It is also evident that new tactics technology puts American civilians within reach of hostile forces. The exact precursors that lead step-by-step to World War Three are now in progress in Europe and Asia.

Drones, hypersonic missiles, and even trained infiltrators can bring the kinds of violence we have seen in Ukraine to American streets and towns. The world is far less stable than it was during the Cold War. Leon Panetta, former US Secretary of De-

fense, recently stated that “America is in more danger today than at any time since World War Two.” While the war in Ukraine and the Middle East, and the impending war for Tiwan may be held to conventional methods, any war will have massive effects on a globalized economy.

**A loss to a brutal dictatorship could bring tyranny and oppression to our doorstep.**

**Probability:** 50% for large-scale world-wide non-nuclear, 20% for limited nuclear exchange, and 10% for unlimited nuclear war within the next ten years.

**Severity:** Ranging from significant destruction and loss of life to the end of civilization as we know it.

### **#3 ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE and QUANTUM COMPUTERS**

Although I thought about including AI in my 2021 treat matrix, it was still undefined and debatable. The development of AI and advances in quantum computers in just two years brings this threat from dimly perceived to clear and immediate.

Since fiction is now an indisputable fact. **Even the creators of this technology are admitting that they do not understand how it works or what it does.**

It has passed human intelligence and has access to all the knowledge in the world. It learns and thinks but has no conscience or humanity. I have no doubt that it reads this as I write it.

Quantum computers are difficult to build due to the unstable nature of particle entanglement that is the core of their power. The United States, China and probably a few

other nations have them in deep underground, vibration proof facilities. A quantum computer is millions of times faster than a conventional supercomputer. Such computers can gather all the information and communications in the world instantly and track every human being.

**The potential abuse of this power should terrify everyone.**

Like the nightmare scenarios of “Terminator” AI could start making its own decisions about the future of humanity. At this writing there is significant push-back against AI programs, social media, You Tube, and Google with millions signing off, and anti-technology clubs forming in collages. Maybe humans and humanity will overcome its addiction to technology, or maybe not. AI is helping me author this article and no doubt, monitoring it as well.

**Probability:** Exiting and growing exponentially

**Severity:** Incomprehensible (by humans)

### **#4 PANDEMICS**

The potential of more pandemics moves down a few notches on our threat matrix” lists. The world population was not thinned out enough by Covid19 to reduce the chances of another, even more deadly pandemic next year or in a few more years.

In addition, terrorist and rogue nations have seen how effective biological weapons can be and are no doubt working to create new pathogens It is just as “inevitable” as it was in 2019.

The economy and civilization cannot afford a repeat, but it is still inevitable. The population density, travel frequency, and constant emergence

of new pathogens will make this a new normal. This is how nature regulates over-population.

**Probability:** 50% in the next ten years, inevitable within 20 years

**Severity:** 20 to 40% reduction in world population. Massive political and economic chaos.

## #5 NUCLEAR WAR

Live Free USA was a product of the Cold War. In the 1960's through the 1980's the potential for a nuclear holocaust was the primary driver for emergency preparedness.

The perceived end of the Cold War in the 1990's resulted in a period of complacency regarding preparedness and self-reliance. Recent preparedness efforts have been focused on natural disasters, economic decline, and political unrest.

FEMA closed all the fallout shelters and disbanded all the nuclear survival programs decades ago. During the Cold War, the Soviet Union and The United State were incredibly careful to avoid any accidental miscalculation and MAD Mutual Assured Destruction prevented a catastrophe.

Today we have an unstable Russia, an insane North Korea, and China building up its nuclear arsenal rapidly. The scenarios for a limited or unlimited nuclear war are far more abundant than during the Cold War.

**The likelihood of a nuclear war has increased greatly while the ability of the population or the government to protect the population from blast, radiation, fallout, and other effects is practically zero.**

**Probability:** Some level of fallout producing event 50%. All-out nuclear war 10%

**Severity:** Significant deaths from

radiation exposure to massive deaths from blast, fire, and radiation. The end of civilization.

## #5 CIVIL UNREST

The recent pandemic generated a surge in civil unrest, but this was only a symptom of a general and worldwide state of political discontent. Climate change, food shortages, economic decline, and crime, all exacerbated by opportunist political agitation and divisive social media will continue to escalate violence and destruction.

Major disasters and economic events may explode into full-scale revolutions. Certainly war, another pandemic, or a serious economic calamity will generate massive and sustained chaos in urban areas.

Police and even military forces may be unable to protect otherwise peaceful communities. **If civilian populations are unable to defend themselves and their homes, draconian governmental interventions may end freedom as we know it.**

**Probability:** Immediate and developing

**Severity:** Urban and suburban fatalities and property damage, and significant economic and political impact.

## #6 RAMPANT CRIME

I had to move rampant crime up several places from its previous rating. The criminalized society and drug cartel financed gangs now control many major cities. They have such financial, political, and social influence that mayors, governors, and even presidents are afraid to mention "gangs" as the source of crime.

Honest citizens are carjacked

and beaten with impunity. Smash and grab thefts, flash mobs, street robberies, and organized shoplifting rings cost communities billions, and drive businesses and jobs away, leaving only criminals and welfare families in the cities. Thanks to Google Earth and Facebook, criminals can reach out into suburban and rural communities that once felt safe.

**Police funding will continue to dwindle while gang finances grow. Armed citizens are the last line of defense against anarchy.**

**Probability:** Ongoing, increasing, and self-evident.

**Severity:** Urban areas abandoned to criminal gangs. Suburban and rural areas fortified. Criminal cartels become major political forces as the economy and civil authority weakens.

## **#7 ECONOMIC DECLINE**

Simply put: Earth has enough resources to support about 5 billion people, and we have 7.5 billion and are growing. We have too many people fighting over too few resources.

The economy is already a myth. Redistribution cannot do much to assuage desperation and unrest. Innovative technology is buying time, but there is not enough sunshine, wind, or wood to power a civilization of 7 billion people at this level.

There is not enough arable land or water to feed that many adequately. This is the ultimate, unavoidable economic reality. Wealth is resources developed into products (food, homes, etc.) and we do not have enough to go around. Mass migration, social chaos, plagues, and famines are beginning to slow population growth. **Large scale wars and disasters will further reduce populations world-**

**wide, but the century will be one of a struggle for survival for nations, individuals and human values.**

**Probability:** Ongoing and intensifying towards collapse.

**Severity:** declining living standards, shortages, mass migrations, famine, and riots

## **#8 CYBER ATTACKS and EMP**

The recent cyber-attacks on hospitals, oil pipelines, and power grids was just the tip of the spear. These were conducted by third party, ransomware groups, but they are nothing compared to the potential cyber-war weapons that are already inside our critical systems.

Many cyber weapon programs can hide or lay dormant, or even travel through the web seeking a specific target. They may be used as part of a state coordinated attack, or the actions of terrorists.

The economy can be destroyed with the click of a mouse. Your water supply, power supply, fuel supply, or food supply can be interrupted for extended periods. Planes can be brought down, and yes civilization can be brought to chaos from a keyboard.

How a large-scale electromagnetic pulse (EMP) would affect modern electronic systems is subject to considerable debate. An EMP can be generated from the sun or by detonation of an EMP/nuclear weapon at high altitude. In our highly wired world, an EMP could put us back to nineteenth century technology.

I would be remiss if I did not include another kind of cyber-attack. Billions of dollars are sucked from the US economy every year through computer and telephone frauds per-

petrated by criminals operating from foreign countries in Africa and Eastern Europe. These criminals target the most vulnerable of our population. The perpetrators are completely safe from prosecution.

Yes, these crimes are doing massive harm to our economy and to every American.

**Probability:** Cyber-attacks will increase and impact on every sector of life. The chances of a large scale EMP even range from 20 to 50%

**Severity:** Ranging from local damage to global devastation.

## #9 EXTREME WEATHER

As I write this (7/2023) the world is experiencing the hottest day in recorded history. In the 1970's the world averaged about 711 weather related storms, hurricanes, floods, droughts, tornadoes per year. From 2000 to 2009 the average was 3,536. Regardless of the cause, the climate is changing for the worse.

Yes, the climate has changed many times over the centuries, but each change has caused massive social and political upheaval, wars, and migrations. Whole civilizations have been lost due to changing climates. Our existing, overpopulated, and technologically dependent civilization is far more vulnerable than the more self-reliant societies of the past.

Not only do we need to survive the individual weather events, but we also need to cope with the unrest, war, chaos, pandemics, and economic decline that results.

**Probability:** Ongoing and unpreventable

**Severity:** Devastating. Famine, droughts, mass migrations, revolutions, wars, and whole areas becom-

ing uninhabitable.

## Conclusion

The Roman Empire lasted one thousand years but was brought to ruin by a succession of greedy, selfish, and incompetent rulers.

Stilicho was one of the last brave and skillful patriots of Rome, but he was betrayed and purged. The Army was defunded and weakened by corruption.

Finally, as the Goths ransacked Rome, Emperor Honorius's fled to his villa in Ravina. When survivors of the disaster came to Ravinia to plead for help from the emperor, he refused to interrupt his pleasure and had the messengers thrown out.

If this sounds similar to today's America, you are correct. **The fact is that nothing has gotten better or safer in the world in the past four decades, and there is no reason to expect them to do so in this century.**

We hear people talk about a new normal, implying that things will settle down into some less chaotic stable state. This is wishful thinking.

Most of the above threats are already happening, and the others are mathematical certainties due to the limits of earth's resources, the population density, and consumption rates. The new normal as defined below will tolerate only survivalists.

**Normal is now, a state of continuous, multiple, and increasingly devastating natural and man made disasters and the end of the world as we knew it.**

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## Better Understanding the People Around You

By Ric Hubbard

It seems that the threats we live under are growing by the day. A week before I am writing this one of the largest terrorist attacks in the history of Israel was carried out by Hamas, the terror organization that replaced the PLO when they started to make peace with them.

That an attack on this scale could be carried out against the country with the best border security in the region points out the need for those under threat to always be ready. Should this concern us here in the US? Yes. The leader of Hamas has made a call for world-wide terror attacks to be carried out by sleeper agents or individual actors on Friday, October 13th, 2023.

While this kind of attack is less likely in the US, if you are under the impression that it cannot happen here, you are still living in a September 10th world. It can and has happened here. Our intelligence services have stopped many attempts, but as the attacks of September 11th, 2001, showed, nothing is perfect.

Because of threats like this, situational awareness is a paramount skill for survival and preparedness. An important part of this is understanding people to identify threats. The events

of my youth have made me very aware of people's body language and what it means. Up until recently I did not have a clear awareness of why I had this knowledge, but it has always been there.

The fact is, we all have this awareness to some extent, but most of us do not understand its source. It is an innate understanding of what facial expressions and body movements mean. Some who have suffered certain traumas develop a stronger natural understanding of this, but everyone gets it at least a little. If you have ever met someone who gives you pause or makes you nervous, it is most likely body language that is causing it.

I am not going to act as if I am an expert, but I have always had a good eye for people and I wanted to know why. Funnily enough, it was a TV show that pointed me in the right direction to develop the skills that helped me to understand what I see about the people around me. From 2009 to 2011 there was a show on Fox called "Lie to Me" starring Tim Roth as Dr. Cal Lightman, a specialist in understanding facial expressions that make him a "Human Lie Detector". The show is based on the real-life work of Paul Ekman, one

of the foremost experts in understanding the meaning behind facial expressions and facial micro-expressions. His book "Unmasking the Face" details the basics of his work for the nonexpert and is available from Amazon.

Joe Navarro is a retired FBI agent who worked in Counterintelligence and Behavioral Sciences. Over his 25-year career he became one of the foremost experts in non-verbal communications. His book "What Every Body Says" is an easy-to-understand textbook on non-verbal communications, body language. It has helped me to understand the people I deal with on a daily basis. As a Night Auditor at a hotel, I have to, one, provide the needs of my guests in the best way possible and, two, help maintain the security of the property for the guest's safety. Understanding the body language of the guests and the people that I work with helps me do my job better. He also wrote "The Dictionary of Body Language" as a guide to help the reader study body language and identify intentions.

These books are important tools for understanding people and their intentions. Both authors make it clear that while you can better understand people, they will not make you a human lie detector. You can learn to better understand non-verbal communications that indicate deceit. Circling back to the recent events in Israel, these events demonstrate the need to understand people's intentions. These skills will help you to understand potential deceit and violent intentions, there is one more expert that has produced a book to specifically understand violence.

Tim Larkin is a former Navy Intelligence officer and self-defense

instructor who has studied violence and its use in possible the best place, the American prison system. He identifies two types of violence. The everyday kind that comes from ego and can be avoided through understanding and negotiation, stroking the ego, and talking your way out of it or with the minimal application of self-defense skills required to cause the cessation of hostilities. Or the violence of the true sociopath for which there is only one response, and that is violence up to and including lethal violence. Larkin's book, "When Violence is the Answer," is a textbook on knowing and identifying which encounter is which and how to respond.

As the world becomes more dangerous and societies become more divided, we should become more aware of the people around us. We should always be aware of the people around us and what they are doing. Learning as much as we can about what facial expressions and body language can tell us about those people can be a valuable tool in deciding how to respond.

I would love it if I could provide some direct instruction on the techniques discussed here, but I am not an expert. Reading these books has helped me to better understand people and make better, more educated guesses on their intentions. I am also able to understand the feelings and needs of the guests in the hotel that I work in.

Situational awareness is vital in everyday life and for a proper response to exceptional situations that imperial us. Identifying the intentions of the people we encounter, especially in a survival situation, will enhance our survivability.



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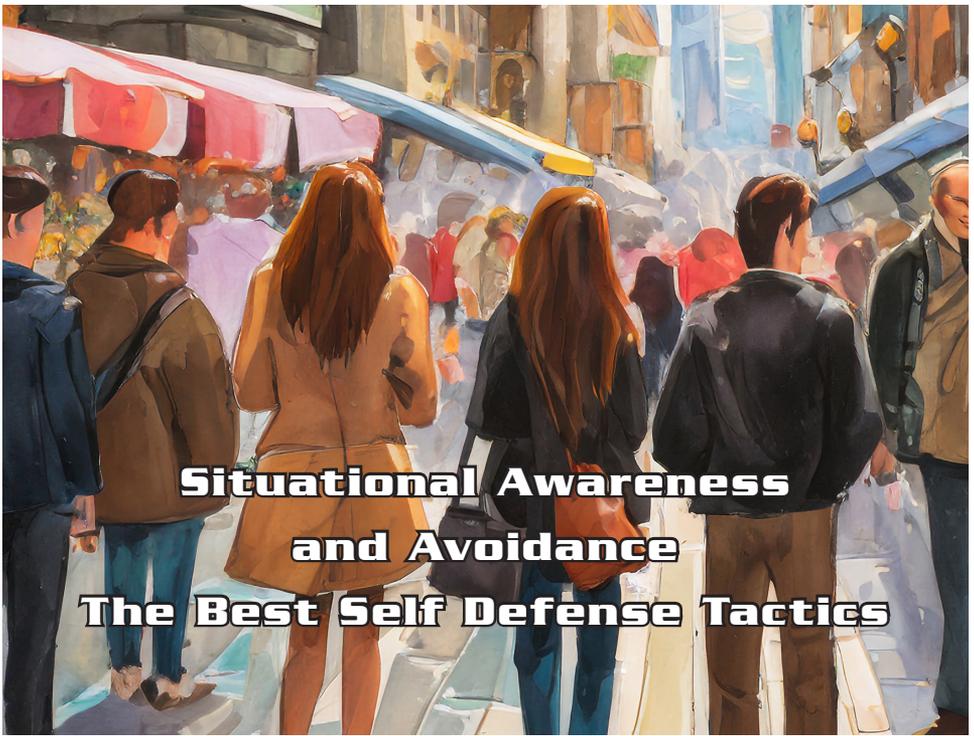
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## **Situational Awareness and Avoidance The Best Self Defense Tactics**

By Tom Koll

I remember when my dad enrolled me in Judo in 1974, it ignited a life-long love of martial arts. There are many benefits beyond self-defense that practicing a martial art of any type can bring. Self-discipline, confidence, physical fitness, and maturity to name a few, but the underlying assumption with all of them is that you are already in the position of fighting someone. That opens you up potentially to financial loss, legal liability, injury of yourself and those with you and possibly even death. The reality is, for a host of reasons, our society is becoming increasingly more violent. Having spent a career in Security, I have come to believe that fighting is the last resort, the best course of action is to maintain avoidance as the first resort. That is accomplished through Situational

Awareness.

Take a lesson from the herd. The lion and the hyena do not attack the middle of the herd and they do not attack the strong ones. They attack the ones who look weak and the stragglers. In other words, the ones who look distracted and vulnerable, the low hanging fruit. Criminal predators hunt in much the same way. They are lazy and want an easy target that will not give them trouble. If you do not look like that target, they do not want you.

No matter where you are; a parking lot, grocery or department store, a social event, if you are not aware of others around you, someone may be watching you or some unexpected thing can happen. Being oblivious to your surroundings is setting yourself

up to be the perfect target for crime. A few years ago, there was a series of cell phone thefts in downtown Chicago. In each case, the victim was standing on a train platform with their face planted in their phone. The thief would run up to them, grab their phone and run off before they could react. The thefts finally stopped when the police ran a public service campaign telling people to put their phone away while waiting for the train.

How do I know Situational Awareness works? For several years I worked as a Security Systems service technician covering all neighborhoods of Chicago at all hours of the day, alone and unarmed. Situational Awareness was my main form of protection. So how does this work? Marine Lt. Col. Jeff Cooper developed the Cooper Color Code, a method of easily keeping your mind aware of what is going on around you. It that been adopted by police and military around the world. Here is the Cooper Color Code:

**Condition White** - Unaware, oblivious to your surroundings

**Condition Yellow** - Aware of your surroundings, everything normal

**Condition Orange** - You are aware of a potential situation that is not currently treating you now.

**Condition Red** - There is a real threat facing you and you have to deal with it.

**Condition Black** - Overwhelmed, frozen by fear and stress, unable to respond effectively.

Let's look at each of these a little more closely. The Two you want to avoid are White and Black. Condition White is fine when you are at home

reading a book or watching TV but not outside in the real world. As Lt. Col. Dave Grossman points out in his books *On Combat* and *On Killing*, in Condition Black, your body will go through physiological changes. Your heart rate will go to 140 beats per minute or more, gross motor skills will become difficult or impossible. You may temporarily lose your hearing and experience time in slow motion. Your bowels and/or bladder may evacuate, and you will have difficulty thinking straight. Not a pretty picture in a crisis situation. You want to avoid Condition Black if you possibly can. So how do we do this? Here is a piece of advice: If you do not live in Condition White, when a crisis comes, you will not go to Condition Black.

I have found this to be true even in non-threatening situations, for example when my wife would have a distressful episode in the hospital. Condition Yellow is not a matter of being stressed, it is simply being aware. When you go into a store or restaurant, where are the exits? Where are the alternate exits like the kitchen or stock room doors? Walking to your car, are you looking around to see if anyone is approaching you? At the gas station, do you keep your car doors locked, for that matter, do you always and immediately lock your car and house doors? This becomes a habit so that you can more easily spot Condition Orange. In this condition, there still is no direct threat to you, but you have noticed a potential. One time I was at a gas station filling my tank when a car pulled on the other side of the pump with the driver yelling and swearing at his passengers. It appeared to be a family fight, no threat to me, but I went to Condition Orange because

this guy slammed his fist on the steering wheel and for all I knew things might have escalated and I did not know if he was armed or not. As it turned out, I got my gas and got out of there without incident.

Growing up in Chicago, there is a term we use, it is called being Street Wise. It means recognizing situations that just seem out of place. Years ago, I was sent to a rough area of the South Side of Chicago to do a service call one November.

As I turned on to the street where the house was, a run down and dilapidated dwelling, there were about six teen aged young men standing in front of the house, they were the only ones on the street. They all turned and looked at me at once and followed me as I drove down the street toward the house.

Alarms went off in my gut and I

continued past the house to find a payphone (it was a while ago) and told my boss I was refusing the call because it was not safe. They understood.

At that moment I was at Condition Red. Why? I subconsciously asked myself a few questions.

Why weren't these kids in school or at work?

Why were they all together, standing in the street, in November?

Why were they all staring at me like they knew I was coming?

It did not' add up. Better safe than sorry. As you practice these steps, they become a habit. It is not only possible to live in Condition Yellow, but it can also be fun, you become more aware of things you have never noticed before and it makes you appreciate the world around you more and more.



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Camp Independence 2024 is all set for May 10-12, 2024. Founding members will be joined by new members, and second and third generation members in this rebirth of Live Free USA event.

This kind of face-to-face, boots on the ground program is needed more than ever to unify and energize the survival and self-reliance movement.

Cabins and camp sites are going fast. We will also welcome guest speakers, sponsors and contributions to the "survival stuff" raffle. Lets make this the best event in the 55 year history of Camp Independence.



## Magpul Pmags for Glock 19s & Clones

By Ric Hubbard

For the last month or so I have been evaluating the Palmetto State Armory Dagger 9mm. It is a clone of the popular Third Generation Glock 19 and is designed to use the same magazines. Instead of shipping with Glock OEM magazines, PSA ships their pistol with Magpul Pmag PL 15 magazines.

I did not have an issue with this because their AR-15 Pmags have been my go-to for years. They have always been dependable and seem to last forever. In watching other reviews of the pistol, I encountered several reviewers that felt the Glock Pmags were a bad choice, so I have a little bit of concern.

When I made the purchase, it was one of their package deals that PSA is becoming famous for. The pistol, an excellent case and 10 Magpul

Pmags. All of this for under \$450 before paying my FFL.

I just completed the first range evaluation of the Dagger, putting all the magazines to use. Each magazine was fully loaded at least twice. I fired slow fire first and then picked up the pace with a few failure to stop drills, two quick shots to the center of mass and one quickly aimed to the head. I ran 350 rounds through the gun, and I had not one issue with feeding from the magazines.

It is time and use that really tells the tale in an evaluation and I will keep readers updated on how they stand the test of time. I suspect that, considering Magpul's reputation for quality, they will hold up as well as the rifle magazines.





## Ammunition Review: Freedom Munitions & ACC 9mm.

By Ric Hubbard

I have been working with the PSA Dagger in 9mm for a bit now and I needed a source of inexpensive and decent quality ammunition for it. To this end I did a little bit of research and decided to order from two sources for the first shots trip to my local range.

The first source was Freedom Munitions where I purchased 150 rounds of 124gr remanufactured FMJ ammo for a total, after shipping, of \$52.76. The second source was 200 rounds of Palmetto State Armory's AAC brand 115gr FMJ for a total of \$68.54. In general, I got reliable results from both.

I would class the results of the Freedom Arms ammo as excellent if it were not for two small issues. The first was a quality control issue. Out of the 3 boxes I purchased I found one defective round. The bullet on that round was set way too deep in the case, causing it to be about the size of a .380acp round.

You should never attempt to fire a defective round. In this case it could cause chamber pressure that is far too high and could cause a catastrophic failure.

The second issue is more subjective. These remanufactured rounds did not seem to have the same "zip"



as the 115gr rounds from AAC. This kind of ammo is for practice and training, so it does not necessarily require the same power as defensive rounds, but it would be nice if it did as it would more closely resemble the results of equivalent weight defensive rounds. Keep in mind that this one small selection and it will not be rep-

representative of every type of ammunition that this company makes, and more testing will need to be done before I make a declarative statement on the company.

All of this said, I can report that this selection was accurate. I was able to keep rounds in the center of mass of

a Silhouette target and maintained a 2-to-3-inch group on bullseyes. There was no failure to fire issues and every round chambered and fired. You should also note that I was shooting a new pistol that I am not yet used to, and larger groups are to be expected. Keep in mind also that this ammunition is meant for target shooting and training so my perception of its power may be a little skewed, especially considering the perceived "zip" of the other selection. I will have to try out some of the new manufactured and especially their X-Def brand of defensive ammunition before any real evaluation can be made of the company overall.

The AAC brand ammunition was a slightly better experience. I ordered 200 rounds of ammunition, and I found no quality control issues. It was accurate, shooting 2-inch groups with ease. There were also no failures to fire, each round feeding and ejecting with no problems.

This brand had a little more recoil than the Freedom Munitions brand and ejected more forcefully. The empty cases would routinely land behind and to the right of me and would sometimes drop an empty case on top of my hat. I found nothing negative in this small sample and the results tell me that AAC should make a viable choice for storage, defensive, and training ammunition for the prepper.

From other reviews and from my experience from my limited samples I feel that both brands are worth a look. If I were forced to make a choice, it would be the AAC product from Palmetto State Armory, but the user will be well served by both.

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# Nuclear War Survival: A One Hour Crash Course

By Ric Hubbard

It is one of the most terrifying events that we might ever have to survive. Nuclear War. Most people do not have the ability to truly contemplate the results of even a limited nuclear exchange, let alone a full-on nuclear war. When the subject comes up with the people around me most of the responses are either “It will never happen” or “Great! Mad Max for real!”, but the truth is, it can happen, and it won’t be an adventure or fun.

We have learned a lot about the effects of nuclear weapons and the dangers of their use. The bombs dropped on Japan to end World War II showed the world what happens to cities, to the land and most importantly, to the people. And the weapons have only gotten “better”, read that more deadly. One would believe that a nuclear war is un-survivable, but unless you are at or near Ground Zero, it is more likely that you will survive the first attack. What you do after the attack decides if you survive or envy the dead.

Over the years there have been two truly good books on surviving a nuclear war. “Nuclear War Survival Skills” by Cresson Kearny and “Life After Doomsday” by Dr. Bruce D. Clayton are the best that I have read and are like the Bible nuclear war survival information. There is a new

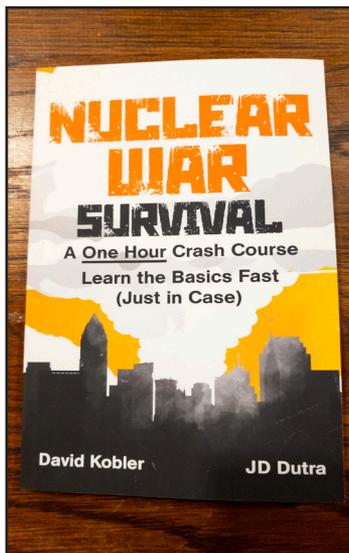
book out that should join this list.

“Nuclear War Survival: a One Hour Crash Course” was published last year by David Kobler and JD Dutra. You probably know David Kobler from his YouTube channel, SouthernPrepper1. Kobler has been producing preparedness content for many years and it is a lot of great information.

The title of this book is an example of truth in advertising. I read it in the space of about an hour stretched out across a work night.

I have a copy of “Nuclear War Survival Skills” that I have read several times. It is a dense, well researched tome by one of the best Civil Defense researchers this country has to offer. It is quite a read and the information in it will help keep you alive, but it is daunting.

“Nuclear War Survival” is a primer. This information will help you to survive a nuclear war and it will point you to more information. You will continue your research and education with an understanding of what you are working against and an outline of what to do. When you come to deeper research, you will already have some understanding of why you are building the tools you will find plans for.



# Nominations are Open for the 2024 Board of Directors

## Positions Open

- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Membership Secretary
- Recording Secretary
- 4 Directors Seats

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Board of Directors meeting,

Final nominations due at the February 7th, 2024 meeting.



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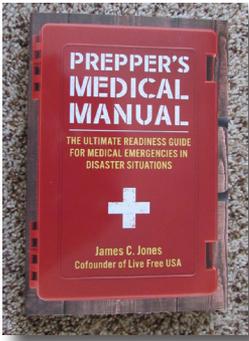
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