

# AMERICAN SURVIVOR

SURVIVAL INFORMATION FOR THE NEW AMERICAN

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**SPECIAL ISSUE: Threat Matrix 2022 and Beyond. Ten Principles for Surviving the Coming Dark Ages, Smoke Bombs**

## **THREAT MATRIX 2022 and BEYOND**

By James C. Jones

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 don't 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 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 bad 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 interconnect threats to life and freedom to prevent catastrophic development for us and our children. At the end of my 2011 presentation a slide said that "we are firmly attached to an inclined plane wrapped helically around a central core". Translation: "were screwed"!

Here are my top ten threats to life and freedom for America in the next ten years and beyond.

### **#1 CHINA**

The objective of the Chinese Communist Party is world domination, using its economic and technological power. Americans and all other people would be subject to tyranny beyond the dreams Hitler or Stalin. The day before the US exit from Afghanistan, Chinese diplomats were posing for photos with Taliban leaders. China is now equal or slightly superior to the USA economically and militarily. They are not a "trading partner", they are an enemy far more dangerous than the old

USSR ever was. They use social media to create confusion, hate and division in America. They use the wealth that we have given them to bribe, foreign politicians, infiltrate schools, and buy into corporations. They profited from the pandemic while our economy was ravaged. 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 don't 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 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. They are the primary source of drugs that drive crime in our cities. Most of the threats listed below are either caused or deliberately exacerbated by China's war on America. It may already be too late.

Probability: Ongoing and immediate

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

## **#2 PANDEMICS**

Before 2019 scientists predicted that a world-wide pandemic was inevitable. It was at the top of our previous "threat matrix" lists. Nothing has changed! The world population was not thinned out enough by Covid19 to reduce the chances of another, maybe even more deadly pandemic next year or in a few years. It is just as "inevitable" as it was in 2019. The economy and civilization cannot afford a repeat, but it's 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. Some scientists predict that the

population at the end of this century will be the same as it was at the start of the twentieth century. Even as we go to press, a new and more dangerous variant of Covid-19 is emerging!

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

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

## **#3 CIVIL UNREST**

The recent pandemic generated a surge in civil unrest, but this was only a symptom of a general and world-wide state of political discontent. Climate change, food shortages, economic decline, and crime, all exacerbated by communist agitation and divisive social media will continue to escalate violence and destruction. Major disasters and economic events may explode into full-scale revolutions. Police and even military forces may be unable to protect otherwise peaceful communities. If civilians are unable to defend themselves and their homes, draconian governmental interventions may end freedom as we know it.

Probability: ongoing and increasing world-wide

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

## **#4 ECONOMIC DECLINE**

Simply put: Earth has enough resources to support about 5 billion people, and we have 7.5 billion and growing. We have too many people fighting over too few resources. The economy is already a myth. Redistribution cannot do much. New technology is buying time, but there is not enough sunshine, wind, or wood to power

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 economy reality. Wealth is resources developed into product (food, homes, etc.) and we don't have enough to go around. Two years after Pearl Harbor eight battle ships was two-day ship production for American industry. In four years America destroyed Japan and Germany, while saving the USSR. Twenty years after 9-11 ground zero is still not reconstructed, and the Taliban is victorious after a twenty-year war. This should tell us all about the end of American economic supremacy.

Probability: Ongoing and intensifying towards collapse.

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

### **#5 CYBER ATTACKS and EMP**

The recently 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 a 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 be put us back to nineteenth century technology.

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

### **#6 WAR**

Back in the 1960's when Live Free USA was founded, nuclear war was the primary driver for survival preparations. Now, as we are beset by multiple threats, it is easy to forget that the United States, Russia, and China still have thousands of nuclear armed missiles ready to launch. In addition we now have a growing number of rogue states with limited, but still deadly nuclear weapons. There are plenty of scenarios that could initiate a limited or unlimited nuclear exchange. The world is far less stable than it was during the cold war. Leon Panetta, former US Secretary of Defense, recently stated that "America is in more danger today than at any time since World War Two".

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.

### **#7 REVOLUTION**

In the Jan/Feb issue of American Survivor I wrote the article "Is America Headed for Another Revolution?" I based this on my studies of the underlying conditions that sparked revolution in the past. There were a lot of small cracks in the socioeconomic

system that were being magnified by social media. These divisions and discontent were being exploited by China and Russia through disinformation and bots that spread hate and confusion. The pandemic was the match that initiated the mild/semi-insurrections of 2020. Certainly politicians, and foreign agents poured gasoline on every dispute. Economic decline, shortages, natural disasters, and grid failures will continue to fuel unrest and violence throughout the world. With the exception of the one in 1776, few revolutions have ended with expanded freedom. Most of the world's population today is oppressed and desperate.

Probability: More than 50% in the next ten years for all countries including the United States due to economic instability.

Severity: Revolutions are unlikely to improve conditions and may result in the rise of oligarchies, and oppression.

## **#8 TERRORIST ATTACKS**

Terrorist are certain to be emboldened by victory in Afghanistan. The adjoining, unstable Pakistan with its extremist population and nuclear weapons provided the opportunity for nuclear terror in the future. The pandemic must inspire the imagination of would-be bioterrorists. The use of drones and even remotely controlled planes and trucks provide new methods of delivery. Imagine what a major terror attack could have done in the midst of the pandemic and civil unrest. Technology and our dependence on it is a major force multiplier for even small groups of misguided people.

Probability: Inevitable.

Severity: Ranging from bombings and shootings, to biological and even nuclear attacks.

## **#9 EXTREME WEATHER**

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 worst. 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. Our existing, over populated, 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, we also need to cope with the unrest, chaos, pandemics, and economic decline that results.

Probability: Ongoing and unpreventable

Severity: Devastating. Famine, droughts, mass migrations, revolutions, wars, and whole areas becoming uninhabitable.

## **#10 RAMPENT CRIME**

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. Stray bullets kill children. Working tax paying citizens and business's flee the cities leaving only criminals and welfare families. Thanks to Google Earth and Facebook, criminals are able to 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 declines.

## Conclusion

Back in 2011 most of the above (except for terrorism) threats were not yet recognized or were just on the horizon. The tendency towards denial, and the “normalcy bias” forced them from the public mind, and survivalists were outliers. The fact is that nothing has gotten better or safer in the world in the past 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: a state of continuous, multiple and increasingly devastating natural and manmade disasters and the end of the world as we knew it.**

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## Ten Principles of Survival for the Coming Dark Ages

By James C. Jones

The term “Dark Ages” may seem dramatic, but the similarities between what is happening today and the fall of the Roman Empire \* are unmistakable. Like the Roman Empire, America and the Free World is not going to be destroyed in one

cataclysmic event, it is disintegrating in a series of internal upheavals, a crumbling economy, and external pressures. **Like the Romans, Americans will never know exactly when their glory ends and the Dark Ages begins.** Unrest, revolution, crime, shortages, recessions, hate, confusion, famine, invasion of immigrants fleeing terror and famine, are all happening now as they did to Rome. Yes, the enemy is at the gates, and the wolf is at the door. Those who persist in denial, complacency, and inaction betray their country and their children. **The world as we know it (or knew it) has ended, and chaos is the new normal.** The challenges to survival and individual freedom in the coming decades are massive, and only those with a survivalist mentality and courageous determination will be able to preserve their lives, liberty and property.

**The “Ten Principles of Survival” have been proven applicable to wilderness emergencies, urban calamities, and world-wide disaster.** In fact these principles apply to everyday life and must become the essential elements of life for all those who hope to survive the remainder of this century and beyond. **It is essential to inculcate these principles into our youth in order to preserve the essential knowledge,** values and ideals that have made America great. With that in mind, I am applying the Ten Principles more specifically to life and freedom preservation in the new normal and the new Dark Ages of the future.



## #1 Anticipate

If you or your children and grandchildren anticipate that life will return to something like the “normal” of the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, they are doomed. As a child in the 1940’s we all anticipated an ever growing economy and a bright future of freedom. Sadly, today children cannot anticipate a better and freer life. **Politicians will persist in concealing the truth, and massive distractions of social media, games, and drugs are intended to mislead the masses while the elite fortify and secure their families for the storms to come.** Exactly how events will affect you and your family depends on your location, finances, and level of preparedness, and self-reliance, but things will get worse and more dangerous for all as one disaster after another drags down civilization. Ultimately you can just stay in denial and keep trying to recover “normal” after each event, or you can anticipate more challenges and threats each year and be prepared to prevent, avoid, or survive them, while building and organizing your bastion of self-reliance.

## #2 Be Aware

Situational awareness is a well-established necessity for survival. While we often associate it with urban-street, or wilderness survival, in the broader sense we need to be aware of our whole life situation. Unfortunately, the true situation is often lost or camouflaged by too much conflicting information. The truth is often not “politically acceptable” and “studies” can be created to prove or disprove anything. Social Media algorithms are designed to (1) attract followers by posting the most controversial and abnormal ideas, and (2) to send participants only what they want to hear. Just because

someone or a “study” says it so, and others (possibly bots) agree does not make it true. Reading books, getting involved, learning about history, and understanding how humans think can help you sort out facts from fiction. Be perceptive: what’s actually going on in your community? What makes sense? Verify all critical information by more than one or two sources. Trust experts over panic peddlers and politicians. **Turn off your cellphone get off of Social Media and get involved. Develop a wide range of information sources from a variety of viewpoints.**

## #3 Be Here Now

**The whole Social Media and cellphone culture is designed to distract us from our situation and waste time that we should be devoting to becoming wiser, stronger and more self-reliant.** Idle communication is not personal productivity and self-improvement. The enemy is at the gate and the wolf is at the door, while we are distracted by useless games, mass entertainment, and meaningless information. The survivor must focus on the here and now, and on identifying and preparing to cope with immediate and future threats. Conspiracies are irrelevant since you can’t do anything about them even if they are true. How things got this way and who to blame is irrelevant since it’s already happened. Actions must be based on preventing, avoiding, and surviving what is happening now and in the future.

## #4 Remain Calm

As the world we know slowly dissolves into something much less free and secure, we may suffer from slow-developing panic. This panic is evident in the increased suicide rates, random violence, and anti-social behavior we see today. Recent generations have been raised on

guaranteed safety, comfortable living, and needs gratification. Those who have never experienced fear, hardship, and struggle, they are mentally incapable of coping with survival situations, in short: they cannot anticipate and are not aware. Just handling the new declining normal is difficult, but if food is not available, the hospital is closed, criminals and looters roam the streets, then panic and poor decisions will kill-off the unprepared. **We owe it to ourselves and our communities to prevent panic through intelligent planning, preparedness, and adaptation to the unfortunate and challenging realities of our times.**

### **#5 Evaluate**

Once you have anticipated a future of multiple threats and disasters generating a breakdown of society, and you are aware of the specific nature of each threat and the necessary actions you and your children must take, you have to evaluate your options for survival and freedom. **Your choices will be wholly dependent on your level of self-reliance, and preparedness.** Evaluation is a process of asking what if, and then answering the question with constructive action as detailed below.

What are the most immediate threats to my life and freedom? Unemployment, health, crime, civil disorder? **Plan to deal with these first.**

What are the short term threats to my security and survival? Severe weather, food shortages, revolutions, depressions, and more pandemics? **Plan and prepare to get through these as they occur.**

What truly catastrophic events that could alter the entire civilization? War, climate shift, mass migrations, national or world

dictatorship, Ascendant Artificial Intelligence? Some of these are highly probable or already in process. **Surviving and or preventing these kinds of events will require extreme measures ranging from complete isolation to forceful resistance.**

What are the slow developing threats over years and decades that will bring us to the same situation as Armageddon? Over population and limited resources combined with the rise of artificial intelligence and centralized power will grind away individual and family prosperity and freedom, leaving increasing crime, disorder, and desperation. Much like the Dark Ages of the past, the rich will have gated communities and guards, while the outlands will be dominated by warlords and bandits. **It could take centuries to restore a free and prosperous society, unless good people unite, and act construct to manage these threats.**

### **#6 Do the Next Right Thing**

**The first right thing to do is not do the wrong thing.** Don't get involved in illegal or extreme activities. Don't quit your job, or run for the woods. Financial, social and family stability will be the foundation of this long-running survival struggle.

The first right thing to do is get out of denial and complacency, and start adjusting your lifestyle and priorities to becoming more self-reliant, independent and flexible, as the system and the dependency grid become more and more unreliable and oppressive.

**If you have children and/or grandchildren, the first right thing must be to start preparing them mentally and physically for the hard times ahead.** Their lives and freedoms will depend on your legacy of knowledge and values.

The right thing to do now is to make specific plans for each disaster and combination of disasters (economic, political, social, natural) that may impact you and your family in the coming decades. These plans must be updated and reviewed with all family members regularly.

### **#7 Take Control**

**One of the Live Free mantras is that you should happen to things before they happen to you.** While the future may be challenging, it is up to you to own it. Prepare, educate, organize, act, build, and hold on to your freedom and your values. If you do not take control other will control you and your children's future. In the words of Edmond Burke "all that is required for evil to prevail is for good men to do nothing". Whether it is an immediate short term emergency such as a storm, or criminal assault, or the ongoing breakdown of civilization. **You, yes you must take control!**

### **#8 Have What You Need**

If this article has just wakened your concern and you are still dependent on others and the grid to keep you safe, alive, and comfortable in the future, then you need to start investing in solid self-reliance and emergency survival gear and supplies immediately. Simply saving water, stocking up on canned goods, candles, and flashlights is a start. Investing in a camp stove, fire extinguisher and reliable firearm will improve your basic short-term survival capacity. If you are already in the process of becoming better prepared and more self-reliant, keep going, but adjust your goal to cope with multiple and long-term disasters without recovery or support. **There are plenty of lists and recommendations in my books "Advanced Survival" and "Total Survival" from Skyhores**

**Publishing or Amazon.** There is no such thing as being totally prepared or totally self-reliant, it's an ongoing, life-long process.

### **#9 Use What You Have**

You never know when a survival situation will develop or where you will be when it does. No matter how much you spend on supplies and equipment, you may not have enough. Or you may not have the right stuff to cope with a situation. **Survival knowledge, and the ability to improvise will be critical in the day' and years ahead.** Being able to make things, fix things, and use things for multiple purposes like the pioneers and or forefathers did will be critical to preserving one's life and independence. Get away from wasteful habits, consumerism, and disposable thinking. Acquire tools, and skills, because the supply chain and the economy will become less reliable and the repair guy or gal may have to be you.

### **#10 Do What You Must Do**

Few modern Americans have experienced true hardship or deprivation. We live in heated and air-conditioned homes, have easy access to food, water, and medical care, and can depend on the police, fire, and EMS services in emergencies. Even the slight inconveniences of school closings, shortages of some goods, and the need to wear a simple mask traumatized many. **As we face critical survival situations ahead we will be faced with lose-lose choices.** We may be forced to abandon our friends and neighbors who become dangerous to our families. We may need to trade valuables for basic necessities. We may have to resort to urban foraging and hunting for food. It may be necessary to use force or threats to protect ourselves from looters, criminals or

even governmental oppression. Hardship and hard choices are in all of our futures. **Sometimes what seems right and what is absolutely necessary will be in conflict.** Good mental preparation and a strong will can make these decision easier. I read about a depression era family crying as they ate there pet raccoon. A Russian woman recounted how she traded her diamond jewelry for toilet paper and cabbage when the Germans surrounded Leningrad in 1941. **Ask yourself, what would I do to survive and to protect my family?**

### **#11 Never Give Up**

As a child I lived in an unheated house, with no electricity for periods of time. I was cold and hungry for years. I walked miles through snow and ice to get to school and to menial jobs, just to get by. I did not have access to a TV or a telephone and only had a small fan to keep cool. This was my survival training. When I see kids commit suicide because they can't play soccer or have been bullied on social media it is difficult for me to understand. **Live Free USA has experienced challenges and extreme ups and downs over 50 years, but never stopped trying to help good people stay alive and free.** The current and future generations will face disasters, defeats, and hardships, but so have your ancestors. There is an old saying that "If you're going through Hell, keep going". The Japanese say "fall down seven times, rise up eight". **You must be the heroes of tomorrow.**

### **Conclusion**

While survivalist, where preparing for "Dooms Day" and "Armageddon", the end of the world as we know it was creeping forward, and continues to do so at an accelerating pace. Instead of the "boom" of

Armageddon we have a crumbling of civilization. Denial and a longing for a return to "normal" is a very human tendency, but complacency and inaction will only exacerbate the problems and prevent the preservation of life and freedom for our children. **We all should enjoy our lives, enjoy our families and enjoy our freedom today, while taking responsible action to provide sustenance, hope, and light through the challenges to come.**

*\* Gibbon's "The Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire" traces the rise of the Roman Republic, through its great achievements, internal corruption, division, and ultimately its disintegration and destruction at the hands of barbarian forces. The fall took place over decades, and was followed by the classic Dark Ages.*

### **Survival Smoke**

There are times in an emergency where being very visible is good and other times when being *invisible* is a must. In both cases smoke bombs can be a real lifesaver. A few small colored (red, yellow) smoke bombs carried in your field survival kit can bring help to you if you are lost or injured. In an urban situation a few smoke bombs set in cans (to prevent a real fire) can create the impression of a fire to discourage looters and even real arsonists from entering a building. Smoke screens have been used by the military for centuries. Two or three smoke bombs thrown out to screen an area you must cross or a person that must be rescued can keep you from being a visible target. Smoke bombs burn only a few minutes and you must carefully consider the wind direction, wind velocity and timing. A wind shift that puts you in front of the smoke can silhouette you for a shooter. How many smoke bombs you have will be dependent on what kinds of situations you anticipate and what areas you may need to get through. I have found that yellow and

orange smoke is the most effective for screening as well as for getting attention. White smoke is better if you need to create a diversion or smoke screen without attracting too much attention. You can get fused multi-colored smoke bombs at fireworks stores for about \$3.00 each. These are fairly effective, but the paintball game business has made a variety of better smoke “grenades” in all kinds of colors that are ignited by pulling a ring. I found smoke grenades ranging from 25,000 cu/ft. of smoke for \$10.00 each to 70,000 cu/ft. for \$20.00 each at gun shows. They now make “cool burning” grenades in the same price ranges. These would be advisable for use in urban and wooded areas where starting a real fire could be a hazard. In addition to paintball supply stores and fireworks stands, there are lots of sources online. One good source is at [www.hustlepaintball.com](http://www.hustlepaintball.com). They offer a wide variety of smoke devices.



Left to right: two typical fireworks stand smoke bombs that require matches to light the fuses. Two wire pull smoke bombs often used by paintball gamers, four commercial smoke bombs used for industrial testing and training. Any of these could be helpful in a variety of survival situations as signals, diversions, or

concealment. Consider adding some to your home stocks and survival packs.

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## **SURVIVAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS AT CABELA'S CONFERENCE CENTER IN 2022**

Live Free USA will be conducting survival, self-reliance, and self-defense related presentations at the Cabela's store, second floor Conference Center starting in October of 2021 through March of 2022. The store is located just south of the US 41 exit from Interstate 80/94 in Hammond IN. These events are an opportunity to recruit new members, reorganize programs, and reboot the organization prior to the March Annual Meeting. The dates and tentative subjects for these programs are as follows;

- Saturday January 15<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 PM: Cyber Security, 2:00PM: Home Preparedness
- Saturday February 19<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 PM: Outdoor First Aid.
- Saturday March 26<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 PM: Live Free USA Annual Meeting

### **Annual Meeting Information**

Due to the pandemic and the unavailability of facilities Live Free was unable to conduct an annual meeting in 2020 or 2021, as a result all of our officer's terms will have expired by March of 2022. The offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Recording Secretary, and seven Directors will all be open for nomination and election.

*\* Directors are expected to volunteer for specific task within 30 days of election. Task include Fund Raising, Public Relations, Website Management, Security, Events Organizing, Chapter/Affiliate Support, Training, Publications, etc.*

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As a professional in the tactical and preparedness space, I get it- how hard it can be seeing attacks and tragic environmental disasters in the news, and wanting to reach out to these people to support them.

That's why I was so thrilled when my friend, **Kelly Nogueira** told me she was hosting an interview series all around this topic, which was actually born out of her own research project as an **everyday civilian, learning from a multitude of professionals** in the field HOW to prepare for the unexpected and become tactically aware for herself, her family and friends.

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Staff

**Executive Editor:** James C. Jones, survivorjj@aol.com

**Managing Editor:** OPEN

**Distribution Manager:** OPEN

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