

AMERICAN SURVIVOR

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The Future of Live Free USA

By Ric Hubbard

I first became aware of Live Free decades ago. My membership may be less than two years old, but I have been familiar with the organization for a long time. As a kid I had parents that did not support my belief in preparedness or my being involved in survivalist activities, so I never joined then.

As I grew into adulthood, the Cold War ended, the world came to the collective decision that the threat was over, and the interest in preparedness took a dive. The minutia of daily adult life took over, but it became clear over time that preparedness should be a concern of all of us. Starting in 2001, I started to bring preparedness back to the front of my mind. A few years ago, I discovered that Live Free was still around, still running events, and still producing quality content.

So, I finally joined. It became clear that the organization needed a fresh infusion of people who can keep the good work that this organization has been doing for more than 50 years. In my case, I have a BFA in Communication Design and I had the skills to keep the publications going and to improve them. This is the future of Live Free, people who step up to take the baton from the people who have been here since the late '60s and keep running with it.

At one time we had chapters all over the world. But with the end of the Cold War, interest and motivation dwindled. In the last few years, it has become more and more clear that personal and community preparedness should never have been placed on the back burner. More and more people are coming to this realization, and, with the membership's years

of experience of the membership, we have the structure to help people become better prepared.

In the end, we are the future of Live Free. There are only a handful of active chapters right now. We have directorships open, waiting for those motivated to keep Live Free going and to help make its members safer. I was offered the directorship that manages publications for the organization because I let it be known that I had this skill set. There are many other areas that need talented people with a little time. There are individual members all over that would benefit from a local chapter.

What is the future of Live Free? It is people who take a step and put a hand up. People who help others help the organization to flourish. People who have preparedness skills and want to teach them to others. People who will organize chapters in their area. America needs Live Free and Live Free needs us.



**America Needs
Live Free and
Live Free
Needs YOU!**

Join Live Free USA today and help build a better tomorrow.

<http://americansurvivor.org/join>

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Directions

Thoughts from the Editors

Image: Freepic.com



GET READY FOR LIVE FREE'S 53rd ANNUAL MEETING on Saturday March 25th, at 1:00 PM in the Conference Center at Cabela's Hammond Indiana Store. Nonmembers and guests are welcome to attend. There will be exhibits of items from Live Free USA history and the following agenda items.

1. Opening remarks by the founder
2. The President's State of Live Free report
3. Election of officers

4. Proposals and resolutions
5. Planning for Camp Independence

There are six offices to be elected or reelected this year, and we encourage members to consider self-nomination or nominating others. The open offices are President, Vice President, Membership Secy., Recording Secy., and two directorships.

It's almost time for Camp Independence. The event is back home at Tippecanoe River State Park in Winamac, Indiana on May 20th, 2023. Hopefully you have made your plans to be there to take part in the classes and networking that will be on offer. Keep an eye on Live Free social media for further announcements.

Speaking of Camp Independence, I will be making the drive from Texas to Indiana for the event. Anyone traveling from this region who wants to caravan up, drop me a line at ric.hubbard@outlook.com and we can set it up.

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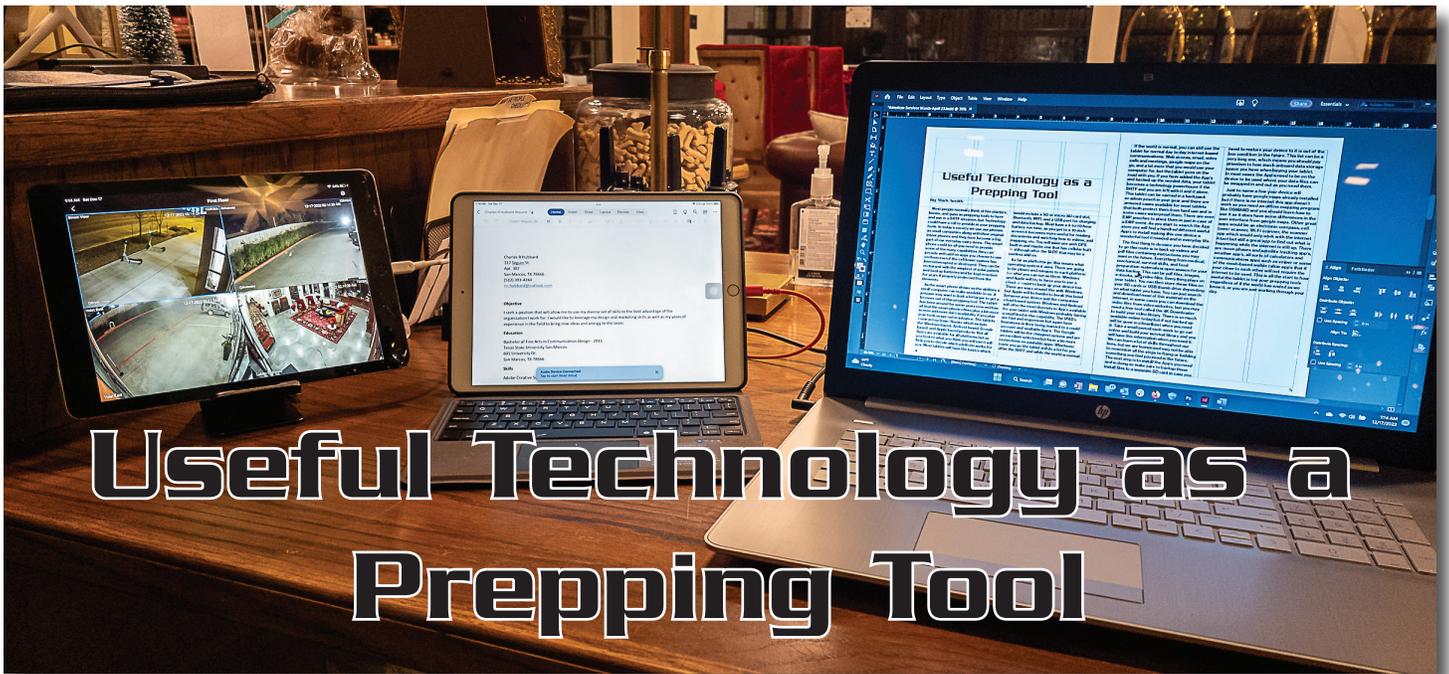
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Useful Technology as a Prepping Tool

By Mark Smith

Most people normally think of fire starters, knives, and guns as prepping tools to have and use in a SHTF situation, but Technology could have a roll to provide in your prepping tools. In today's society we use our phones as small computers along with their original intent phones and they have become a big part of our everyday carry items. The smart phone could be all you need to provide some of the many capabilities they can provide with add on apps you choose to use on them even if the cell tower system has been interrupted or destroyed. They can be recharged with the simplest of solar panels and backup batteries and be kept in action for years if properly protected from the elements.

As the smart phone shows us the abilities a small computer can make available to us. A prepper may want to look a bit larger to get a lot more out of this prepping tool. The tablet has been around for some years now and has all that the smart phone offers plus a bit more screen and more data availability if you plan your tools usage out in advance. The tablets come in four basic flavors which include the Windows based, Android based, Google based, and Apple based products. Not all

App's are available for all platforms but as you look to what you think you will use it will help you to decide which platform works for you. Most tablets will have the basics which would include a SD or micro-SD card slot, Bluetooth, WIFI, and a USB port for charging and data backup. Most have a 6-to-10-hour battery run time, as you get to a 10-inch screen it becomes more useful for reading documents and watching how to videos, and mapping, etc. You will want one with GPS built in and maybe one that has cellular built in although after the SHTF that may be a useless add on.

As far as platforms go, this means what operating system it uses. There are going to be pluses and minuses to each platform for what you can run on them. Windows and Apple will try to force you to use a cloud account to back up your device too. There are ways around this with Windows, but Apple will be harder to break this bond between your device and the companies cloud based system. Windows and Android will offer the most diversity in App's available for your tablet with Windows probably having a small lead in this capability. The IPAD's are fast and responsive but again have

limitations in their being married to a could account and available App's. The Google tablets will be the cheapest options and are an excellent selection but have a bit more restrictions on available apps. Whichever route you go the tablet will do a lot for you after the SHTF and while the world is normal.

If the world is normal, you can still use the tablet for normal day to day Internet-based communications. Web access, email, video calls and meetings, google maps on the go, and a lot more that you would use your computer for, but the tablet goes on the road with you. If you have added the App's and backed up the needed data, your tablet becomes a technology powerhouse if the SHTF and you are left with it and it alone. This tablet can be carried in a backpack or admin pouch in your gear and there are armored cases available for most tablets that both protect them from hard use and in some cases waterproof them. There are even EMP pouches to place them in just in case of a EMP event. As you start to search the App store you will find a hundred different useful App's to install making this one device a wonderful tool if needed and in everyday life.

The first thing to do once you have decided to go this route is to back up videos and pdf files containing instructions you may want in the future. Everything from medical, mechanical, survival skills, and food preparation materials is open season for your data backup. This can be pdf files, images, e=books, and video files. Everything plays on your tablet. You can then store these files on your SD cards or USB thumb drive depending on what tablet you have. You can just search and download most of this material on the Internet, in some cases you can download the video files from video websites, but you may need a free tool called the 4K Downloader to build your video library. There is so much available online today but if not backed up will be gone in a heartbeat when you need it. Take a small period each week to go out online and build your survival library and you

will have this information when you need it. We can learn a lot of skills throughout our lives, but we are human and may not be able to remember all the steps to fixing or building something you find you need in the future. The next step is to install the App's you need and in doing so make sure to backup these install files to a separate SD card in case you need to restore your device to it is out of the box condition in the future. This list can be a very long one, which means you should pay attention to how much on-board data storage space you have when buying your tablet. In most cases the App's need to be on the device to be used where your data files can be swapped in and out as you need them.

Just to name a few your device will probably have google maps already installed but if there is no Internet this app doesn't work so you need an offline mapping program like OSMAND and you should learn how to use it as it does have some differences in the user interface from google maps. Other great apps would be an electronic compass, cell tower scanner, Wi-Fi scanner, the scanner app which would only work with the internet intact but still a great app to find out what is happening while the Internet is still up. There are moon phases and satellite tracking app's, weather app's, all sorts of calculators and communications apps such as voiper or some of the mesh-based walkie talkie app's that if your close to each other will not require the internet to be used. This is all the start to how useful the tablet is too your prepping tools regardless of if the world has ended as we know it, or you are just working through your day.

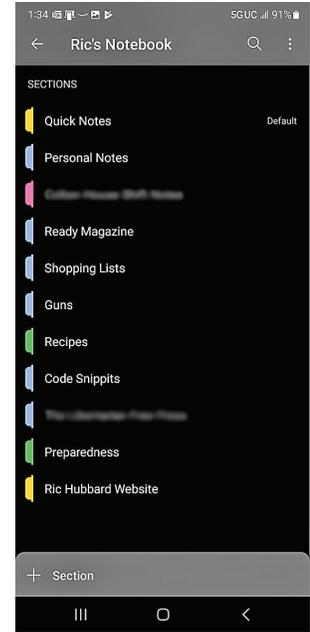
Some Examples of Preparedness Apps



Land Navigation



Inventory Wolf



One Note

Strellok Pro

by Ric Hubbard

Mark Smith's article on useful technology that appears in this issue points out the just how valuable modern technology can be. The many apps that are available on either Android or iPad, and often both, can provide the user with tools and abilities that we might not have thought possible not too many years ago.

One such tool that a user might find useful is a ballistic calculator. One such tool is Strellok Pro, available for Android. While shooting is a relatively easy skill, understanding ballistics requires a serious understanding of the math. I suffer from Dyscalculia, a lack of mathematical ability, so figuring ballistics is a tough task for me.

Strellok Pro and other apps like it take the complicated math out of the user's hands and returns the results that you need in short order. By setting up each of your rifles with the ammunition that you will be using as a data point in the app, setting out the range, and gathering local weather information you can get accurate ballistics charts for your gun and your situation.

There is a large data base of factory loads in hundreds of calibers for you to choose from. The data base includes all the essential information that the calculator will need, and it even includes a long list of scope reticles so that you know what to expect to see when you take aim for real. If you have a dot reticle, it will even give you hold-overs.

There are other tools that are useful, but it would require much more space than I have in a sidebar, but I will be working on a more in-depth review, and you should rest assured that it is worth the \$11.00 that they ask for it. This is just one example of the many apps worth considering.



“O” Pen, Roving Blue Water Purifier

by James C. Jones



There are two actions required to render water safe to drink. Filtration is necessary to remove particulate materials, and chemical contaminants. Purification kills biological pathogens that can cause serious illness or death. The “O” Pen device is intended for use in clean, but potentially infected water.

Water from wells, clear streams, ponds, rain runoff. Snow melt, and other questionable but clean appearing water can carry a wide variety of biological contaminants. Even water from municipal systems can be contaminated during floods, earthquakes, and other disasters. One must always be suspicious of water sources outside of the United States. There are a variety of water filtration and purification devices available to preppers, travelers, and campers, including filtration straws, purification tablets, UV light devices, and filtration canteens.

The “O” Pen generates ozone to effectively destroy a wide variety of micro-organisms in water. Ozone is used by many municipal water treatment facilities throughout the world and is proven effective in destroying. Salmonella, Streptococcus, Dysentery, Hepatitis, Gardai Bacillus, Tuberculosis, E-coli, and other dangerous pathogens in water.

This device is high-end and high-tech as water purification devices go. It is designed for and marketed to hikers, and travelers more than for preppers, but it is portable, rechargeable, and effective, and can be used

anywhere. While the “O” pen can only be recharged via a USB port, most modern survival packs include a solar charger and several of my emergency radios have solar, crank, and battery power with a USB charging port, so the “O” Pen can be a useful addition to your water purification system.

It is important to remember that the water must be effectively “clean” prior to purification with the device. All silt dirt and particulates



must be filtered or settled out, although some discoloration can be tolerated, and still be rendered safe. The “O” pen disinfects one glass of water at a time using the following steps.

1. Be sure the pen is fully charged. Charging is via a short USB port plug.
2. Fully submerge the electrode end of the device in a 16 oz. container of water.
3. Turn on the pen according to instructions.
4. One cycle takes about 40 seconds, and two cycles is recommended for 16 oz.'s of water.
5. Wait three minutes for the ozone to disinfect the water.
6. A green light will indicate when the water is safe to drink.

The Roving Blue “O” Pen comes in a metal carrying case. And includes the six-inch-long pen like device and an eight-inch USB recharging cord, priced at \$149.00 from www.RovingBlue.com



Dutch Military Surplus for Bug-Out Gear

by Ric Hubbard

Over the last few months, I have been building a new bug-out set-up. For the load bearing portion, I decided on military surplus equipment from the Netherlands, sourced from Varusteleka Oy in Helsinki, Finland. My reasoning for ordering from them has a lot to do with price, and wide availability of the equipment from one source, compared to US sources.

There are some things that one should know when buying any military surplus. One; the essential element of military surplus is the, generally, lower prices for quality gear. Second; unless you are lucky enough to find new, as issued surplus, you are getting used gear. This means that there is a chance there will be some defects. Generally, you will find a grading system to give you an idea of what to expect when you get the product. Varusteleka does not supply a grade, but they do inform you that quality may vary, so

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they're honest about what to expect.

The first thing that caught my eye was the Lowe Alpine style "Sting" rucksack. It has a few qualities that made it an excellent choice for me. It is constructed of a strong Cordura-equivalent, Infrared Reflective nylon in a Disruptive Pattern Material (DPM) camouflage pattern – very much like the old British DPM, and like the old American Woodland pattern.



The lid to the pack has a large pocket to store items you need to retrieve quickly. That was the one defect in my pack; the zipper was not closing properly. A quick search on YouTube, and a pair

of pliers, and it was functional again. The front of the pack has rows of PALLS/MOLLE to add pouches for extra gear.

The main compartment has a sleeve for a hydration pouch, but it is otherwise just a 60-liter tub that you load from the top. There

is an additional twenty liters in the “rocket” pouches on the sides of the pack, and they were the asset that most sold me on the pack. They are removeable by zipper, and once removed, they zip together and become a day pack with the included backpack straps.

The pack itself has an adjustable suspension system, comfortable shoulder straps, and a good hip belt to help make the bag comfortable to carry. There

are variations in the packs – mine has daisy chain straps under the rocket pouches and on the top of the flap pocket that allow for more attachment options.

Being that I live in Texas, I feel like the 80-liter pack is big enough for my needs and helps me avoid over-packing. If you want to carry more there is also the “Saracen” rucksack, which is just a 120-liter version of the Sting.

The rucksack is where I will be carrying most of my bug-out gear, but there are tools that I may need to access while on the move. Trauma kits, various tools, compasses, and the like should be kept easily reachable, and a Load Bearing Equipment (LBE) vest will make that easier. It made sense to me to stay with the Dutch family of equipment for a Bug-Out Vest.

This series of Dutch surplus includes a modular vest that I find superior to most surplus LBE on the market. Like most modern gear, it is a PALLS/MOLLE style vest that gives the user a lot of choice. It is highly adjustable to fit most people. On the left and right front of the vest there are zippered pockets for maps and other flat items. Inside the right-side pocket is a holster for a small pistol. The MOLLE webbing covers the entire vest, front and back, to which you can add pouches for

gear. They can be found in green, black and DPM.

Varusteleka carries a wide selection of matching pouches in assorted sizes, and for different uses. I bought two three-magazine pouches, a small, general-purpose pouch, and a first aid/admin pouch from the gear selection. I also bought an admin pouch, a trauma kit pouch, and a tool pouch in OD green from



Condor. All these pouches fit on the front of the vest. It leaves the possibility to add more pouches to the back of the vest, but in my case, I will be using the rocket

pouches for short trips away from camp.

The Dutch gear is proving to be of excellent quality, and functions as expected. Despite their reputation, I have been using Condor gear for years, and I find the quality to fits my needs just fine. In the next issue, I will start discussing what is going into the system, as well as a first-line belt kit. Your milage may vary, but I am happy with where this set up is headed. The Dutch equipment is popular in Great Britain, and you can find some excellent reviews if you look on YouTube, so doing a little further research will be easy.

Sources:

Varusteleka Oy

<https://www.varusteleka.com/en>

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Survival Carts and Trailers

by Mark Smith

Age, physical condition and carrying capacity makes one wonder how to handle a true SHTF situation when all else has failed and it is time to bug out. One thing travelers, outdoorsmen and less advanced countries all know is that your body may not be up to the job of carrying a loaded backpack. The very fact that water alone is 6 lbs. per gallon, and we drink at least a gallon a day, means your load out is going to be more than you can carry.

This is multiplied if you haven't prepared your body by eating healthy and spending time at the gym. How is one to carry the weight of a true nomadic bug-out bag if all else fails you? The trailer or cart may be the answer and it comes in many forms to help you pull or push the load.

Hunters have been using deer carts, and many different types of carts are used in

less automotive countries to move groceries and other items. The cart or trailer can put the weight of the cargo on a wheel, or set of wheels, rather than your back. This allows for an average person to move a 100 or 150 lbs., rather than only 30 or 40 lb.



In the United States, you might say, "Well, I'm loading up my car, truck, or even my RV, and I'm going", but this isn't a complete plan to truly bug out of your home. You may need to transport your supplies by foot, and this brings us back to considering a trailer. There are many trailers on the market, and you can

pick from many different designs.

There are a lot of D.I.Y. videos available on how to build your bugout trailer. These trailers are built on everything from a single-wheel to a 4-wheel wagon and some fold up when not

in use. Some are designed to be used with bicycles and by hand. Some will allow you to pull them and others are designed to be pushed. There are even some built with an E-Bike hub motor in the wheel, allowing for easier usage when you're able to use solar or wind to recharge the battery.

What should we be looking at when picking a trailer for a bugout piece of gear? Well, a lot has to do with how much weight your load will be, and what terrain you think you will be using it on. The single-track or one-wheeled trailer is very nimble and can be used on very thin trails, on or off-road. They can be turned around on a dime and handle easier off-road for traversing the terrain. They are compromised in how much weight you can manage, and they require more skill and muscle to balance and use. They do come in both pull and push designs. The manufactured ones are a bit pricey also.

The 4-wheeled wagon designs are much more stable and can carry larger loads, but they normally are a pull-only design that performs poorly on small trails. They do come in fold-up models, which can be very convenient at a bugout location to lighten the burden when moving loads around the property. This design has been around for many years and can normally be found for a lower cost. There is one hunting cart built with 4 wheels which is designed to be pulled or pushed and the wheelbase can articulate large obstacles in the field. This is a one-of-a-kind design but worth a look. The Crawler™ can be found for around \$160.00 on sporting websites and on Amazon.

The third trailer design is the 2-wheeled version. This "trailer", more often referred to as a cart, comes in many flavors and can be

pushed or pulled. It handles as much weight, or more, than the single-wheeled design but can balance the weight in the cart rather than putting it on the user. The shortcoming of this design is that it can't be used on very thin trails, otherwise, it does manage on or off-road conditions very well. Most of your deer carts are of this design and with some DIY changes it can be both pushed and pulled in the field.



A lot of these trailers and carts can be pulled, in some cases, with the use of a

belt/harness connecting you to the trailer. This allows for your body to do more of the work to pull the weight and allows you to use your hands for other things while traveling. When looking at a trailer or cart design for your bug-out use you should also look at the ease of turning the cart around and keeping the backpack in the cart's shoulder so you

can pick up the trailer's load when traversing cliffs or mountainous terrain. This may be an asset if needed and is overlooked by a lot of these designs. This item can be as cheap or expensive as you decide to go. There are video's online that describe the manufactured trailers, and some very cheap to build ones using old bicycle parts and readily available hardware.





by Travis Worlock, Lead Instructor at ATAC

I retired from the US Army Special Forces after serving as both enlisted and an officer. I experienced various survival conditions in third world-countries devastated by war, from Bosnia to Afghanistan. I witnessed and assisted people surviving in those desperate environments. Those experiences left me to consider “what if” I had to endure such conditions in America. My first concern was determining the best survival caliber to stockpile. The selection process began by defining the requirements of the survival caliber. Below are my top six requirements to select the best caliber for survival.

1. The survival caliber must provide both hunting and defensive capabilities.
2. The survival caliber must enable me to produce baseball size group accuracy, under a myriad of conditions, at 150 yards with a rifle and fifty feet with a pistol.?
3. The survival caliber will not create a recognizable signature at 50 feet and be undetectable at one hundred feet with a suppressor.

4. I must be able to carry fifty survival rounds, concealed in one pocket, comfortably.
5. The survival caliber must be affordable to stockpile 36,000 rounds. This allows fifty rounds a week for approximately 15 years.
6. The survival caliber ammunition stockpile must be small and light enough to conceal and quickly access.

In my opinion, the best survival caliber is the .22, specifically the .22 subsonic hollow point when paired with a suppressor. After studying the capability of the .22, I discovered that Americans have historically chosen the .22 for more than just plinking. These other uses include hunting, military, and criminal applications.

Recommending the .22 as a self-defense cartridge to Americans, much less a survival caliber, is a hard sell. Why? Because America was built on the concept that, “Bigger is Better!” It doesn’t matter what product or service is purchased: if it is bigger, it has the perception of being better...and God bless

America! However, there is an exception to every rule: When considering a survival caliber, smaller is better.

In support of the .22 as a self-defense and survival caliber, I created the acronym L.E.A.D. to define the competency of the .22 caliber for both applications.

L = LETHAL. A self-defense and hunting caliber for survival must have a lethal capability. Many generations of Americans have selected the .22 caliber because of its lethality. The first .22 caliber used by the US government was the High Standard paired with a suppressor, in WWII. The .22 was selected over every other pistol caliber for killing Nazis quietly at close quarters. The American unit that chose the suppressed .22 was the Office of Strategic Service (OSS). After WWII, the OSS split into the CIA and the US Army Green Berets.

US pilots flying the notorious U2 spy plane, during the cold war, were issued the same suppressed .22 High Standard. Those pilots were conducting highly classified missions over Soviet bloc countries. The Department of Defense armed these top-notch pilots with a suppressed .22 caliber firearm over every other pistol option. In the event they were shot down, the suppressed .22 would allow the American pilot to engage the enemy at close range without producing a signature that would compromise their location.

You might argue that my .22 caliber recommendation is antiquated by offering examples that are over half a century old. Many of you may not be aware that the US Special Operations forces employed the S&W Victory with an integral suppressor in both Iraq and Afghanistan. The suppressed .22 Victory earned the nickname the Widow-maker. It was responsible for more kills against ISIS and Taliban fighters lounging on rooftops between one and five a.m. in the morning than other calibers. Israel also recognized the lethal utility of the .22 caliber. The Israeli Mossad, Sky Marshalls and the Syert Matkal Commandos employed the Beretta model seventy, chambered in .22 on multiple occasions, killing

terrorists on civilian airliners. These are just a few examples of the lethality of the .22 caliber.

E = EXPECTATION to not over-penetrate. Over-penetration is not a common consideration by American ammunition manufactures. Why? Because bigger is better! Creating the most damage is what Americans want in their caliber performance, and the customer is always right, right? So, the American firearms industry produces ammunition based on consumer demand. Ammunition manufacturers are only concerned with what the consumer wants, not what the consumer needs. Rarely does firearms training in America consider the consequences if people miss after discharging the 45-caliber jacketed hollow point projectile known as “a flying ashtray”. That concept is absent from the American calculus when it comes to ammunition selection and firearms training. Why? Because the good guy always wins, never gets shot, and only the bad guy gets wounded in movies. Exposure to Hollywood’s fantasy, coupled with the firearms industry manufacturing the most causality-producing round, leaves the American consumer to conclude that bigger must be better.

If you live in a condominium, townhouse, apartment complex, modular home park, or in a neighborhood, where houses are built within feet of each other. Have you ever considered what happens when you miss with a high-performance centerfire caliber? Even if you live in a rural area and you have others in your house, you should consider how many walls a centerfire bullet will zip through before it stops. In a survival situation, creating unintentional injuries (or worse) may not be in your best interest. When considering a caliber for a survival situation, you should understand both the penetration and over-penetration capabilities of the round you select. The .22 typically does not produce an exit wound, and it loses most of its ballistic energy after striking the first object it contacts. That is a good thing in a survival situation: it makes the .22 caliber predictable.

A = ACCURATE shot placement. Everybody can shoot more accurately with a .22 than with a larger centerfire caliber; it is simple physics. Americans have been subjected to misinformation when it comes to killing a man in defense compared to killing an animal in a hunt. For some reason, we believe a human being is more susceptible to gunfire than an animal of equal size. Ever wonder why hunting rounds designed for deer are more powerful than self-defense rounds designed to stop a man? How many hunters chamber 9mm over 30-06 for shooting deer? How many self-defense firearms owners select a 30-06 for self-defense over a 9mm?

When considering a survival caliber, the question to consider is this; how big does a caliber have to be to kill someone if you don't hit the brain or the heart? In Afghanistan, a Taliban soldier was hit in the pelvis with a 50 cal. It took us a few minutes to cross three hundred meters of desert before we reached him. He was still alive; the blood had coagulated as he lay on his back motionless. He was able to talk for another minute before he expired. If he had a weapon, he could have been using it against us even after being shot with a 50-caliber round. If you are facing an armed aggressor, you must stop the signal from the aggressor's brain to their trigger finger. That requires accuracy to hit the brain or the heart. The accuracy of a bullet fired takes precedence over the size of the bullet fired. In this case, a bigger caliber creates more recoil management requirement, generating anticipation, which causes one to flinch, diminishing accuracy.

Both IDPA and ISPC require a calculation known as Power Force. Power Force combines the bullet weight and the amount of energy generated by the propellant. That combination

provides a numerical value that represents recoil. A firearm must create a minimum amount of recoil, or power force, to compete in IDPA or ISPC. The .22 caliber is excluded from these competitions because it doesn't produce enough recoil. If you used a .22 caliber in an IDPA or ISPC competition you would have an advantage. Using a .22 increases accuracy as recoil is decreased. In a survival situation – when points are not at stake, but your life is. Accuracy is paramount!

D = DEPENDABILITY. In my firearms training course, we use .22 caliber CCI Suppressor ammo. We fire thousands of rounds without experiencing a misfire. I consider the CCI Suppressor ammunition mid-grade quality and I believe it meets a minimum standard to



invest in for survival ammunition. If someone doesn't have the confidence in mid-grade .22 ammunition, for a survival situation, there are numerous match-grade ammunitions to select from. These companies include Norma, Eley, Tenex and Lapua to name a few.

If the .22 caliber is such a good survival caliber choice, why doesn't the firearms industry recognize those qualities instead of discounting it as a plinking caliber? The firearms industry has enough data at their disposal to recognize a top contender for the best self-defense or survival round, but they will not. Why, because as soon as they identify any one caliber, they immediately kill their market space in every other caliber both above and below it. That is not good for business! As consumers, we should understand that the firearms industry is more interested in their sales than your safety. The .22 caliber is the lowest-profit-producing ammunition in the industry. Capitalism is a good thing, as I am a capitalist, but consumer beware, because profit drives marketing and manufacturing.

Let me end with a few stand-alone points to support the .22 as a good survival caliber.

1. In the US, a considerable number of criminal homicides are committed with the .22 caliber.
2. In Australia and New Zealand, .22s have killed more people than any other type of caliber.
3. According to the FBI, the most common type of STOP is psychological. Shooting at someone or hitting someone, even with a non-lethal shot, stops a criminal. In combat, it has been my personal experience that people just don't stand there and let you shoot at them. If I shoot at you with a .22 you will run just as fast as if I was firing a forty-five at you! Like Jeff Cooper stated, "I would rather hit you with a .22 than miss you with a .45."
4. In 1953 Bella Twin, of Alberta, Canada, was checking her trap line when she saw a grizzly bear following her scent trail approximately thirty feet behind her. Armed only with a single shot, bolt action .22 she killed the bear with a head shot. She said it collapsed after the first shot. That day, a 63-year-old woman, armed with her .22, killed the 1953 world record grizzly bear! The .22 caliber penetrated the grizzly bears skull. Certainly, that justifies using the .22 as a hunting caliber in a survival scenario, addressing anything from a world record grizzly bear to smaller game.

Frequently we provide Church security training. Caliber selection is always a point of contention until we present these two questions:

1. When you miss your target under the enormous adrenaline dump encountered in an armed altercation and strike an innocent bystander, like a child, what do you want to be chambering that day; a .22 round nose or a high-performance centerfire jacketed hollow point.
2. If you are struggling for control over your

firearm and it gets turned against you what do you want to be chambering that day; a .22 round nose bullet or a high-performance centerfire jacketed hollow point?

Whatever caliber you chose for your survival needs the caliber must meet your requirements. If your requirement is to stop light-skinned vehicles, the .22 should not be considered. If you are looking for self-defense and hunting applications in a survival scenario the .22 provides accuracy and signature mitigation with the use of a suppressor. Those two requirements, accuracy and suppressed fire, are two requirements that cannot be comprised when selecting the best survival caliber!

God bless America, Travis

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