



The Network: With You at Home and On the Road

by Marty Hayes, President

As the Network grows (over 10,500 as of this writing) we receive an increasing number of calls and e-mail questions asking how Network members can access the benefits of the Network while traveling and in their home areas, too. Consequently, the lead article for this month will describe in detail this facet of Network membership benefits. While the topic is in the spot light, we will, in addition, attempt to educate members about the realities of interacting with the police and courts after a self-defense incident, whether on the road or at home. Let's first discuss at home.

If you live in an area where the Network has one or more Network Affiliated Attorneys, (click <http://armedcitizensnetwork.org/members/affiliated-attorneys> to see list for your home state—member log in required) then we would strongly recommend getting to know them before a self-defense incident. This can be as simple as a ten-minute meeting, or lunch, or a full consultation.

Then, that attorney (assuming you and the lawyer agree to it) will become your go-to attorney after a self-defense incident. The attorney, being a full member of the Network knows that he or she will be paid an up-front deposit against fees by the Network to start your legal representation if you call him or her for help after a self defense use of force. In rare circumstances, the attorney may require you, the member, to pay an initial deposit. If that occurs, the Network will reimburse up to \$10,000 of that amount.

If you have not yet sought out and made friends with a local attorney, but have had to use force in self defense, all is not lost. That is when you look at the back of your membership card, on which you will find two phone numbers. The first phone number, our office phone number, is the number you will call during the business day. I usually do not have the Network cell phone with me during the workday, so to reach the Network, call the office number first. If a call for assistance comes in during the day, then we will drop everything we are doing and help you whether by connecting you with one of the Network Affiliated Attorneys in your state, or with

a non-Network attorney we locate in your area. Please understand that this might take a little while, which is why we would prefer you have your own attorney ready to call. Let's use a recent incident involving one of our members as an example.



Recently, a member was forced to shoot and kill a home invader. This happened in the early morning hours, and of course the police were called. While the police were on-site investigating the homicide, the member called the Network. I talked with him, and found out that he had not yet secured an attorney. While on the phone with him, I told him that I would contact an attorney or two and have them get in touch with him directly. Within an hour after the call, our member was linked up with an attorney from his area. He asked us to pay the attorney \$10,000 to begin representing him and we happily did so. Within another hour, that attorney was on the scene interacting with police and the news media.

In summary, at home, your first priority should be to locate a local attorney and have them available for you to call. But if that cannot or has not been accomplished, the Network will reach out to local Network Affiliated Attorneys and arrange for the member and an attorney to meet, and if they agree, to form an attorney-client relationship.

If there is no Network Affiliated Attorney in your immediate vicinity, we will get busy in the office contacting other members or local instructors, to get a referral. And, if that doesn't prove fruitful, a Network representative—probably myself—will fly to your location, meet with you and/or your family and help you find a local attorney to provide representation as described at <http://armedcitizensnetwork.org/boots-on-the-ground> (member log in required).

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Members, should you and I be involved in any of the preceding options, I will be urging you to remember that you should not give any formal statements to police investigators until you have legal representation. So, that deals with accessing Network benefits while at home, but what about on the road?

Well, being on the road, having travelled away from your home locale, means that you don't have access to your own, pre-selected attorney. Beyond that, the Network's assistance to you is provided in just the same way as described on page one. Since you likely will not have an attorney of your own to call, then you would call the Network (as outlined on the previous page) and we get to work on your behalf, either finding an attorney through our resources, or getting on a plane and flying to your location. In preparation, however, there is one thing you can do for yourself: look at the list of Network Affiliated Attorneys for the states you will be traveling through, and print them out and take that list with you. Then, you will have a head start on the process if you ever find yourself in a strange location, needing legal representation.

Please understand that the Network does not try to force you into a one-size-fits-all, cookie cutter approach to providing access to Network benefits. That is by design, because we know that each person and each circumstance will be different. Between 2008 and 2016, we have provided benefits for twelve Network members upon their request after a use of force in self-defense incident. In one case, a mother called, in another case, I learned of the situation when a father telephoned. Most cases found the member calling some time after the incident, ranging from a couple of hours to a couple of days. How could we be satisfied with providing just one approach to handling member requests for services? It simply would not work.

Now, you may be thinking that it would be a lot easier if you could just call a number and have an attorney show up to represent you. And in fact, some aftermath legal plans promise just that. If you don't care about the quality of legal representation you receive, then I guess that is an option. However, when I started this

organization, I knew that I wanted a program where I could select my own attorney, and frankly, fire that attorney if I didn't think the legal representation was what I thought it should be. When you buy into a pre-paid legal scheme, where the company promises to provide you with an attorney, then that is what you are buying. Realistically, how can that company promise, with a straight face, that they will provide the best legal representation available? To do that, they would have to have vetted every attorney in the jurisdiction where the incident occurred, and then objectively rated the skills of all the attorneys before that claim has any validity. Any claims such as this are pure puffery.

We also want to make sure that you, our Network members, understand that whomever you decide to hire, that is ENTIRELY your decision. We may suggest the name or names of attorneys, but you are the person who is ultimately in charge of your legal representation, and if it goes to court, you also have the final say in your legal defense. The only other way that you could be totally in charge of your legal defense is if you foot the bill yourself, as some insurance type products require, which then promise to reimburse you the legal fees after a not guilty verdict. Obviously, there are major problems with that system, and many of our members have expressed that there is no way they have a hundred grand in cash lying around and available to pay for attorneys, investigators and experts. I know I don't.

So, where does that leave us? Knowledge is power, and having the understanding of how the Network provides your post-incident assistance is the first step in having the power to successfully resolve a legal issue after using force in self defense. For your sake, we sincerely hope you never have to use our after-incident support, but you can sleep well at night knowing that if you do, you will have help. Keep your membership card with you, and if needed, call the after-hours emergency number or during business hours, call our office number. That one phone call starts the process, regardless of whether you are at home or on the road.

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Please enjoy the next article.]*



President's Message

Gravitas

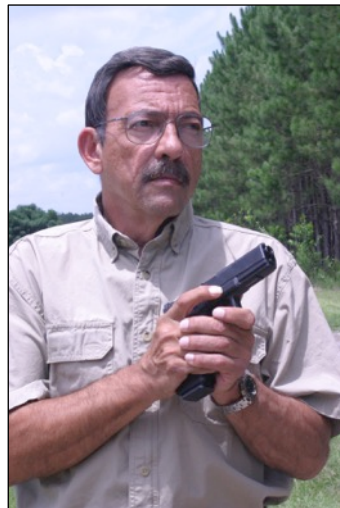
by Marty Hayes, J.D.

Gravitas is defined as:
*Seriousness or solemnity
in demeanor or treatment.*

I was with Gila heading home after SHOT Show and we were discussing our advisory board dinner and meeting, when it struck me that what we do here at the Network is described by the word "gravitas."

When I started the Network, I sought out those firearms trainers whom I thought would add an air of gravitas to the Network. Nine years later, I only wish our late friend Jim Cirillo could have enjoyed the last nine years with us, as he was one of those first gentlemen who agreed to join the Network's advisory board in the early days. He was tragically killed in an auto accident shortly after the Network got off the ground. We miss him. Jim had gravitas.

So do Massad Ayoob, John Farnam, Dennis Tueller, Tom Givens, Manny Kapelsohn and Jim Fleming. Each of our advisory board members exudes gravitas. I started learning from Massad Ayoob way back in the early 1980s, when I first became a cop. He was writing for police magazines and I was an eager to learn rookie cop, who worked graveyard shift in a small Eastern Washington police agency. When a new magazine came into the office, I would usually have it read by the end of the shift, copying any articles I found that I wanted to add to my research library. By the late 80s, I had become disenchanted with police work, having seen the ugly, political side of the inner workings of law enforcement. Feeling like I had more to offer than being a ping-pong ball for some chief or mayor, I left the full-time work I loved and went into business, but also remained active working part-time in law enforcement. I could walk away



anytime I felt like it, which I did on several occasions, to pursue business-related activities.

In 1988, after leveraging my volunteer police work into becoming a police firearms instructor, an opening arose at a local gun range for a firearms instructor to teach the civilian sector how to use guns for self defense. That is when I first heard the name John Farnam. I had started collecting all the available books in the field of firearms use for self defense, and one of those books was

Farnam's excellent book *The Street Smart Gun Book*. It is still a classic and a must read for any instructor and folks serious about the gun.

During that time, I also joined a fledgling police instructor association, the International Law Enforcement Firearms Instructor's Association. They published a quarterly magazine, which is where I first was exposed to the

excellent writing of Emanuel Kapelsohn. He was on the board of that association, and what he wrote for their magazine was good common sense, sprinkled with legal

issues involved in police firearms training. In addition to being a police officer and firearms trainer, Manny was also an attorney, and wrote extensively about the legal issues a police firearms trainer and department faced. When I found out he was teaching for Glock and had scheduled a course in my area, I jumped at the chance to train with him. We became friends then, and have remained so ever since.

Unfortunately, he is not nearly as well known in the civilian training sector, as he

is in the police world.

Kapelsohn's presence on the advisory board lends it a certain gravitas.



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By the early 90s, I had trained extensively with Massad Ayoob at his school Lethal Force Institute, and one of the things Mas did was bring in "heavy hitter" instructors to teach specialty classes at LFI.

One of those guys was Jim Cirillo, who had just retired from instructing at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, after a first career working for the New York Police Department. I had heard the name Jim Cirillo before, and when I found out he was doing some private teaching, I invited him out to the Pacific Northwest to teach a class for my then-new business, The Firearms Academy of Seattle. I was able to learn from him for close to two decades thereafter, until I received a call from his son, Jim Jr. telling me about the accident that took his life. One of the remarkable things about Jim Cirillo was that despite his record of winning gunfights with the New York Police Dept. Stake-Out Unit, he was a humble and spiritual man, and we discussed his views about the afterlife many times. I know his spirit lives on, and when we pass, too, he and I will re-connect.



During the 90s I also heard about a Utah cop, who was at that time a sergeant for Salt Lake City Police Department. Of course, that name is Dennis Tueller, someone who had become a living legend in the police and civilian firearms circles. You see, he was the one who figured out that if facing a knife-wielding assailant, you better have your gun in your hand, because if you didn't, you were facing an up-hill battle if that assailant attacked. The concept, illustrated by the Tueller Drill, is discussed further in this article from the May 2008 edition of the Network *eJournal* downloadable as a PDF at <http://www.armedcitizensnetwork.org/images/stories/journal/2008/5-08eJournal.pdf> and is explain by Dennis in person on our fifth Network DVD. Dennis, who retired from police work as a homicide lieutenant certainly lends gravitas to our advisory board and to the Network.

As does friend and teaching school



colleague Tom Givens. If you live anywhere near the Southeastern United States, you have undoubtedly heard of Tom. For many, many years, Tom ran an indoor shooting range and school called RangeMaster, in Memphis, Tennessee, and was the go-to guy for top-notch firearms training in that region. He came to national prominence when he started hosting a yearly Tactical Conference (<http://rangemaster.com/2016-tactical-conference/>). The first time I attended one was back in 2002, where he and I fought it out in the tactical shooting competition that is held in conjunction with the training segments. Tom was shooting a .45 ACP 1911 and I had a .40 caliber Glock. We both competed in the Stock Pistol category. When the smoke cleared, it was Tom and me at the top. Shown is my second place plaque!

Interestingly, Tom now routinely carries a .40 caliber Glock, and I carry a 1911. Tom's tactical conference has been written up in our *eJournal* several times, as I believe it is



one of the greatest values in training that a person can attend. In fact, the formation of the Network was announced at the 2008 RangeMaster Tactical Conference, and some of those attendees have membership numbers below 100! I will be going back again this year to teach an emergency disarming course Tom also holds the distinction of having had more of his students involved with and winning gunfights (over 60 at the latest count). That experience is certainly worthy of the gravitas label.

Lastly, if I were to need a trial attorney to defend me after a justified shooting in self defense, on my short list of attorneys to call (and it is a very short list), would be the name of Jim Fleming. It must have been in 2008 or 2009 when we first came in contact with Jim, when he responded to a call for attorneys to help build up the Network Affiliated Attorney facet of the Network. Within a couple of years of talking with him over the phone, sharing e-mails and coming to understand his depth of knowledge as a defense attorney, firearms instructor and writer, we decided we needed him on the advisory board, and he agreed.

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It is great to have a trial attorney of 30+ years experience lending his credibility and wisdom to the Network, along with putting his experience and education to use when we need some serious legal advice. In the years since we first came in contact with Jim, he has embraced even more his role as a self-defense legal specialist, and recently wrote a book titled *Aftermath*, and if you recall, he was the attorney Massad Ayoob and I teamed up with when we offered



some Continuing Legal Education seminars through the Network, a few years back. Jim and I share many "off-duty" likes, among those being fine whiskey, fishing and motorcycle riding. Jim Fleming is my kind of guy.

What led me to write about the Advisory board was enjoying our first-ever complete get-together in January of 2016. In years past, we would get together at

SHOT Show (<http://shotshow.org>), but were always missing one or two members during our annual gathering. This year, we all had clear schedules. We spent an enjoyable evening together eating steak and sharing stories (some about one other) and then the following day, got down to discussing the activities of the Network, both current and future.

I am humbled to be part of this group, and perhaps by associating with them, someday someone will say that guy that started the Armed Citizens' Legal Defense Network has a certain amount of gravitas too.

*[End of column.
Please enjoy the next article.]*

Photo below, L-R: Hayes, Vincent Shuck, Massad Ayoob, James Fleming, Tom Givens, Dennis Tueller, Emanuel Kapehsohn and John Farnam.



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Attorney Question of the Month

For the past few months, this column has been dedicated to protecting the armed citizen's rights after self defense. We started by studying what if anything the armed citizen should tell the 9-1-1 operator. Now we wrap up a multi-month discussion of statements, if any, given to investigating officers. The new question is—

If a Network member has threatened to use force in self defense up to and including display of a firearm without shooting, what should he or she say or not say to responding law enforcement officers?

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You ask what a member should say if the police respond to a situation where you have threatened to use deadly force, but not discharged the firearm. In Florida, this is a very delicate question because in 2014 the laws of self defense were radically changed such that a “threat” of using deadly force may only be made if reasonable to stop the imminent commission of a “forcible felony,” or if reasonable to stop or prevent imminent death or great bodily harm to yourself or another. This should mean that “in the hand” display will almost always be a “threat,” and technically, even if such is “reasonable” in a non-deadly force situation, it will not be legal.

So, the starting point in determining what to say is whether saying anything beyond, “I really need an attorney before I can speak to you” is a good idea. To be honest, if there is any doubt that the situation was less than a forcible felony or one involving a reasonable belief you were faced with death or great bodily harm, you better read my book (*Florida Firearms Law, Use & Ownership*), because there's no way I can answer that in a few paragraphs.

On the other hand, if the situation does fit Florida's new laws, then the old advice is the same: Advise the officer you were forced to use self defense, and were in fear of your life. If the other person was armed, make that known. If you don't know, or the cop says they weren't, never acknowledge they were not armed, even if you did

not see a weapon. “I don't know” is not an acceptable answer. “I thought they were armed” is the absolute most you should say before saying, “I really don't want to discuss that further, without first seeing an attorney.” Unless they were in a bikini, discussion on this point will only lead to disaster.

Point out any evidence that shows a point of entry, or what crime the other individual was involved with. Show any injuries you received. State you would like to cooperate more, but are really shaken up, and need to speak to an attorney before doing so. Do not go into details of what you did beyond the generalization of using self defense. Details sink ships! However, if the other individual was involved in a robbery, forceful burglary, rape, kidnapping, or attempted homicide, then you are likely just a “witness” and the conduct of that individual should be fully described. However, if it ever seems you are being targeted as having done something illegal, you must immediately state you need an attorney before answering any more questions and other than your name, date of birth, social, phone, and address, shut up!

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I think I would generally advise that statements to law enforcement in a situation like this be restricted to the criminal conduct of the other party that caused the fear of death or great bodily injury instigating the responding threat of deadly force. Say what they did, say you want to press charges, say you want to speak to an attorney before answering any other questions, particularly regarding the draw or display of a weapon.

Person: “He tried to rob me, I was in fear for my life, I want to press charges against him.”

Cop: “He says you were just mad at him and stuck a pistol in his face.”

Person: “He was trying to rob me. Sorry, guys, but I

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need to speak to a lawyer before I can make a more detailed statement.”

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To answer this question, you need to choose from two crucial options:

(1) Do you want to try to avoid arrest as much as possible, or

(2) Do you want to protect your legal rights as much as possible?

If #1 is most important to you, then you tell the police exactly what happened. The reason for this is that the perp is going to lie his *** off about how you pulled a gun on him. He is going to lie, and lie, and lie, and lie. Not particularly because he hates you, but because he knows what you don't: that the first guy to tell his story to the police usually gets the most credit. So if the perp says such and such, and you say nothing, the police are likely to believe him and arrest you. So, if arrest is what you are trying to avoid, tell your story.

If you choose this option, understand that the police will question you over and over to see if you change your story. And you will be speaking at a time when you are in no real emotional state to be saying anything. But once you go down this road, you are committed. Clamming-up thereafter will be assumed to be an attempt to conceal, and only will make the police more suspicious of you.

If #2 is most important to you—your ultimate legal fate—then you say NOTHING except that you will make a statement to your lawyer, and ask for your lawyer. Every time you are asked anything, just answer that you want to speak with your lawyer. Give them your ID if they ask for it, but don't answer anything. And this is my advice to everyone.

If you've already made a 911 call and reported the incident, then you've said plenty already, and even if you haven't called 911, you don't need to say anything at this point...and should not. Let them arrest you; you'll make bail that afternoon or the next day, or may not (under the circumstances) need to post any bail. Arrest

is not the worst thing in the world. Conviction and imprisonment is far worse, and if you say things that sound goofy, or you contradict yourself badly, or you accidentally mis-speak and say something opposite of what you really meant, or you pull a *My Cousin Vinny* without realizing it, "I shot the clerk? I shot the clerk?" then you will be very sorry later that you said anything to the police.

Your lawyer will explain later about how you acted responsibly by taking his good advice never to say anything without talking to him first. But your lawyer is not a magician. He can't magically make disappear anything you've already said.

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Say nothing. Talk to you lawyer so they can vet your story before you attempt to articulate it to police. You may want to think hard even before calling police in the first place. Get to a safe place before calling 911. Consider securing your weapon before meeting police in a neutral place. Assume that they will think that you're one of the bad guys, as some police don't like the idea of civilians carrying firearms.

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It is important to keep in mind that when the police respond to an incident like this that they have two different objectives. First, the police are going to secure the scene to make sure that it is safe. Second, they are going to conduct a criminal investigation. Deploying a firearm, even when it is not fired, could constitute Aggravated Assault depending on the circumstances and is a serious felony.

The armed citizen should do everything possible to help the police with their first objective, scene safety. This would include advising the police that the citizen is armed and asking how the officer(s) would like to address that. Depending on the officer, they may want to disarm the citizen or have the citizen make the weapon

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safe. The citizen should not touch or move their firearm without specific instruction from law enforcement to do so. This is for the safety of both the citizen and the officer and will help reduce the likelihood of a secondary confrontation.

Next, the citizen should advise law enforcement about the other suspect or suspects. If the suspect or suspects have fled the scene, the citizen should give as complete a description as possible including the suspects' physical descriptions, their vehicles, and weapons. The citizen should also identify any potential evidence for law enforcement such as discarded weapons, clothing, or other items of significance. The next part is critical, under no circumstances should the citizen start talking about what happened prior to law enforcement's arrival.

The citizen should make clear that they are willing to cooperate with investigators but that they will only do so once they have spoken with their lawyer. If the citizen has not already contacted their lawyer, they should request to do so immediately.

Despite the fact that a shooting did not occur, the incident itself was likely still extremely stressful. Because of the physiological responses to high stress situations (often referred to as critical incident amnesia) it is preferable for the citizen to not give a criminal investigation interview about the incident for at least one,

and preferably two, sleep cycles. This ensures that the citizen provides law enforcement with the most accurate statement, if any, and reduces the likelihood of providing conflicting or inaccurate statements.

Once the citizen has been able to talk to his lawyer, the lawyer can make the determination whether the citizen will make a statement at that time. If the facts are clear, and the likelihood of criminal liability is low, it may be preferable to give an immediate statement if doing so avoids arrest. If there appears to be criminal liability, it may be preferable for the citizen to refrain from making any contemporaneous statement, even if that means that the citizen is taken into custody. This gives the citizen's attorney the time needed to conduct an initial investigation and prevent the citizen from making potentially incriminating statements.

To summarize, the citizen should tell law enforcement about any ongoing safety concerns and potential evidence, but refrain from talking about what took place until they have spoken with their lawyer.

A big "Thank you!" to all of the Network Affiliated Attorneys who responded to this question. Please return next month, for the March 2016 edition of this online journal, when we will introduce a new but related question.

Book Review

Left of Bang: How the Marine Corps' Combat Hunter Program Can Save Your Life

By Jason A. Riley and Patrick Van Horne

Black Irish Entertainment LLC (June 13, 2014)

<http://shop.blackirishbooks.com/products/left-of-bang>

ISBN-13: 978-1936891306

MSRP: eBook: \$9.95; paperback: 228 pages, \$19.95

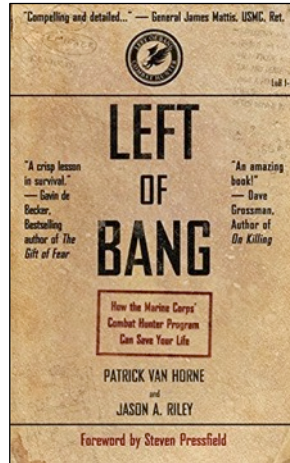
Reviewed by Gila Hayes

Left of Bang had languished in my reading queue for several months until Guy Rossi, the defensive tactics expert giving this journal's January 2016 lead interview, cited its value in honing awareness and acting on warning signals to avoid attack. I am glad he recommended it!

Written by two USMC veterans, and based on the Marine Corps' combat hunter training, this book teaches recognition-primed decision-making, by which "people with expertise intuitively identify a pattern in a situation and quickly determine a course of responses, without any analysis or comparing different courses of action." Intuition is fed by experience, however, and unless one grew up "in tough, do-or-die neighborhoods," how can we filter the incredible volume of sensory input to know what equals danger?

The authors note that while perfect solutions may not be produced, the outcome is often good enough and under extremely tight time constraints and rapidly changing circumstances, "good enough" is better than tragic. Although most decision-making training is "nearly exclusively" taught as analysis, weighing pros and cons, comparing risks and gains, "You will never have all the time or information you need to make the perfect decision," they note later.

Enter combat profiling, as taught to deploying Marines. Amongst the foundational principles of situational awareness, baselines and anomalies, critical thinking and decision making, is the "ability to determine what indicators are important and directly related to your safety," so you can act on what is vital. A thin slice of information can provide enough warning to avoid danger, with only a few seconds of time available, if you know what to look for and know what decisions to make, the authors explain.



A system of identifying what is out of place, "establishing a baseline and determining anomalies," drives the process. Under the Marines' Combat Hunter training, three identified anomalies forces a decision, so the danger cannot be ignored or denied out of fear or uncertainty about what to do. Military and police have different mandates, but for the private citizen, the required decision entails options of creating distance

(running), hiding and fighting.

A great deal of discussion is dedicated to determining a baseline of normalcy for the current situation, and recognizing anomalies quickly. Because we do not have the luxury of profiling based on gender, race or nationality (consider, after all, Timothy McVeigh and any other number of domestic terrorists), the thin slice of information that determines the anomaly must focus on behavior. *Left of Bang* cites considerable research into body language, but focuses on the more universal body reactions. "Iris widen due to certain stimuli, adrenaline flows, muscles tense or relax; we smile, we cringe, we bare our fangs," the authors write, and go on to discuss universal actions that "telegraph intentions to do harm."

The observer is taught to study human behavior through six domains that span conscious and subconscious body language, biological autonomic responses, interpersonal spatial interaction, environmentally influenced behaviors, and more. The authors assert that for the most part, humans are not good at deception, and the truth is easiest to detect when the suspect is distracted or multi-tasking, for example. Without sure knowledge of a person's intentions, the combat profiler looks for "clusters" of behaviors, the authors write. "The more indicators leading to the same conclusion, the more accurate combat profilers will be in predicting a person's emotions and actions. To confirm a cluster, one needs to observe at least three indicators," they explain.

The indicators might include body language, especially unease demonstrated in the lower body, gestures that disagree with verbalization, physical changes, like a significant change in eye pupil size or other biometric cues to the emotion felt—and the authors provide a

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detailed discussion of many responses that are outside our control. Distances maintained, as well as moving toward or moving away from people and the space they occupy communicate relationships, attitudes and intentions, the authors explain.

Although the USMC focus is operating in a hostile region, *Left of Bang* attempts to apply the combat hunter principles to every walk of life, with the emphasis on establishing baselines, recognizing anomalies and making fast, effective decisions. “Any effective method of decision-making should have a threshold of decision,” they teach. “This is the point at which, no matter what, you *must* make a decision. A threshold of decision guards against hesitation and indecision due to over analysis or waiting for additional information. The combat profiling threshold is called the *Combat Rule of Three*: When you observe three anomalies or indicators, you *must* make a decision. Do not wait for more information.”

At times the instruction seems to repeat principles taught earlier, as the authors move from factors used to establish baselines and recognize anomalies into a discussion of applications of the combat hunter principles to daily life. Still, I liked the final section on *Applications* the best of the entire book, with the summaries like identifying a three-step approach to “quicken your ability to understand your surroundings, speed up your ability to identify anomalies, and ultimately increase your decision-making abilities...with a few simple questions: First, what is going on here? Second, what would cause someone to stand out and why? Third, what would I do about it?”

Although *Left of Bang's* instruction is drawn from military operations, the range of responses and actions are broadly applicable to civilian life. “Action may simply be contacting the person to ask some questions and observing them up close,” they write, adding that, “a civilian in the same location might consider report, alert (i.e. sound an alarm), or run.” In other words, while we can learn much from the book's instruction on being alert and observant, the applications taught can easily be converted to our daily lives in middle class America. As the authors emphasize, “Regardless of what situation you find yourself in, or what role you are playing at the moment, you must have a set of pre-established decisions to make based on what you observe.

Otherwise, you'll freeze, take too long, or make a decision that is not in your best interest.”

Realistically, confident decision making benefits all aspects of our lives, and *Left of Bang* contributes much to learning and practicing good decisions made more quickly, and avoiding what some have called the paralysis of analysis. For armed citizens and anyone who takes steps to avoid criminal victimization, this preparation takes on an entirely different level of importance. As *Left of Bang* concludes, the authors comment, “Those who prepare and train themselves for the possibility of violence will react differently than those who do not. Those who are not prepared will likely panic and will ultimately become helpless (Condition Black). Those who are prepared will still experience anxiety but will be more likely to maintain awareness and act effectively in a stressful situation (possibly going as far as Condition Red). Rather than a ‘survival mindset,’ we recommend that you have a ‘combat hunter mindset.’ ”

They go on to highlight situational awareness—going about our daily activities in Condition Yellow, identifying pre-event indicators, being aware of behavioral indicators and making a decision to do something about what you have observed. During a valuable discussion about workplace violence, the authors comment, “Quite often, many people see one or more pre-event indicators leading up to an insider attack but fail to do anything about it. They brush it off, rationalize it, don't report it, or don't make a note of it and ultimately forget about it.” The combat hunter lifestyle *requires* a decision, an action when three or more indicators are observed.

The book closes with advice on building observational and decision-making skills, practice routines, and teaching that daily practice is required for the skills to be ready for use in a genuinely dangerous situation. Know your limitations and work hard to improve, the authors advise, adding that combat hunter skills do not rely on intelligence as much as experience, and “we can systematically set about gaining the experience necessary.” A lot of additional resources are referenced at Patrick Van Horne's website <http://www.cp-journal.com>. I will be using those resources including his very informative blog at <http://www.cp-journal.com/blog/>.

[End of article.
Please enjoy the next article.]



News from Our Affiliates

Compiled by Gila Hayes

Business is booming in Las Vegas, NV, and that is without even considering the recent influx of SHOT Show conventioners to that fair city. Our Affiliated Instructor Eric Loden, of ADAPT – Academy of Defensive and Protective Training recently asked if we could double his supplies of our educational foundation's booklet *What Every Gun Owner Needs to Know About Self-Defense Law*, having "passed out the last of the pamphlets at the NSSF First Shots event that we hosted with the Nevada Firearms Coalition." He added that ADAPT has even more special events coming up, at which he plans to give out this publication.

A quick cruise through his website at <http://www.adaptacademy.com> shows an extremely full February calendar of NV and UT CCW permit classes, advanced concealed carry courses, three gun programs and more. In addition, training in a mobile combat simulator is available, as are close contact combat programs and programs just for women, including a 40-hour close contact combat course focused on "the most probably scenarios or threat situations that the applicant might encounter in their professional careers, and day to day life." This is some good stuff! Learn more at <http://adaptacademy.com/store/category/2-courses/>.

We were pleased recently to renew our acquaintance with Kevin Collins, our affiliated instructor at Be Safe With Guns, in southeastern MN. With a focus on getting concealed carry licensee applicants off to the right start in their CCW classes, Collins also teaches the Combat Focus Shooting program, is a lifetime NRA member and certified instructor, and comes to the discipline from a rich history in competitive shooting. He is the handgun director at Pine Island White Pines Sportsman's Club. Learn more about Kevin's classes at <https://www.besafewithguns.com/class-info.html>.

Network member Ron Kauffman has been quietly building up his concealed carry training business over the past three years, until just a few days ago, he explained that he is on track to teach two sold-out classes per month for the foreseeable future. He asked how he could participate as a Network Affiliated Instructor, and in that discussion, I found that he focuses his efforts on training men and women of all ages in a two day program that culminates in the NC state

required firing range qualification. Ron is introducing a lot of new concealed carriers to the Network! Learn more about him at <http://www.concealedcarrywnc.com>, or email conservativewnc@gmail.com for details or call Ron at 828-696-9799.

Another long-time Network member recently requesting affiliation for his instructional enterprise is Eric Lamberson of Sensible Self Defense, Inc. in San Antonio, TX. "Our classes strive to prepare you for the real world and what you may face there," writes this retired military officer. Eric is a grad of Massad Ayoob's Use of Deadly Force Instructor course and is a training associate with the Massad Ayoob Group, Suarez International affiliate instructor, certified in Force Science Analysis, Gunsite grad, Defense Training International grad, one of Andrew Branca's Law of Self Defense Instructor Program grads, to identify only a few credentials. Learn more about Eric at <http://www.sensibleselfdefense.com/Articles.asp?ID=253> then look through his course offerings and get into one of his training courses. He's the real thing.

We recently heard from our affiliated instructor, David Faust, in Grayslake, IL, who reports that he sees a lot of repeat students in his training courses, starting with gun safety and CCW training for IL, and going forward with him into more advanced level skills. If you're looking for a certified NRA Instructor and Range Safety Officer, Glock Armorer and ILCCFI Instructor, contact him at david@ccwiltraining.com or phone 312-480-7054.

Our affiliated instructor Joe Faletra has recently relocated to the warmer climes of Arizona. In addition to permit classes for both the AZ and the UT concealed carry permits (with their considerable reciprocity), Faletra offers coaching in gun safety and use for families with children, as well as adult level classes based on NRA First Steps, Basic Pistol, Personal Protection Inside the Home, Personal Protection Outside the Home and several NRA rifle courses. Reach out to JTF Firearms training at its new home, 15015 N 63rd St., Scottsdale, AZ 85254, <http://www.jtffirearms.com>, joe@jtffirearms.com or phone him at 480-719-0583.

We recently visited by mail briefly with Chuck Cabaniss, about the state of training in Maine. He commented, "The training has fallen off sharply since Maine went to constitutional carry but I am still providing booklets." We appreciate Chuck's continuing efforts, even during the lean times. Really, more gun owners should be reaching

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out and taking advantage of this instructor's life time experience with firearms and defense issues. His interesting history starts back in 1976 when he was the first student working campus security at his college to be sworn in as a law enforcement officer and authorized to carry a firearm. He went on to serve as a law enforcement officer, where he was involved in training. Now he operates his training and gun shop businesses in Vassalboro, ME, is active in his church and community and is a high-producing NRA Recruiter, as well as a valued affiliate with the Network.

In light of his extensive background, you can see why I encourage members, even if ME has changed its concealed carry laws, to get to know Chuck and enjoy some training with him—perhaps to obtain a UT carry license for out of state travel. You can read more about him and his gun shop/training facility at <http://www.foxfirearmstraining.pro>, reach him by phone at 207-622-3686 or email FoxFirearms@roadrunner.com.

We recently resupplied MI firearms instructor and author Skip Coryell, so all of his students are getting copies of our educational foundation's booklet *What Every Gun Owner Needs to Know About Self-Defense Law*. Skip is an interesting instructor who loves to hunt and be outdoors. He is a USMC veteran, and formerly served as MI director for Ted Nugent's United Sportsmen of America. Skip is also author of numerous books, and the publisher at White Feather Press, providing a large number of other titles on various topics, both fiction and educational. See <http://www.whitefeatherpress.com/our-story.html>.

In addition to teaching the MI concealed pistol permit class, Coryell offers advanced concealed carry classes for students of higher skill levels through Midwest Tactical Training. Learn more about Skip's classes at <http://www.mwtac.com/course-descriptions.html>, email him at skipcoryell@hotmail.com or telephone 269-838-5586.

Network members who have joined our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/221594457860509/>) are probably familiar with the questions posed by affiliated instructor Thomas Kral of Chicago, IL. He is an active participant in the many self-defense legal issues discussed there and people in his own part of Illinois can learn from Kral through his defensive pistol, concealed carry and NRA basic pistol classes. He offers both private group classes, or students can join one of his publicly scheduled course. In addition, Kral blogs at

<http://www.alphakoncepts.com> with topics including best guns for concealed carry, details about reciprocity with the Illinois Concealed Carry license and more.

Networking our members, affiliates and attorneys is the goal of this column, so we're always pleased to get an announcement like the one recently coming in from Will Parker, of Freddie Merc's Gun Werks in Kalispell, MT. "Andrew Branca [Law of Self Defense] is coming to my classroom to teach his LOSD Seminar on March 19, 2016. My goal is to have Andrew come out every year to offer this seminar," Parker told me, asking if MT Network members might be interested. Gun law education with Andrew comes highly recommended from the Network, so if you are in MT, check out <http://lawofselfdefense.com/events/category/montana/> and members from other states would do well to check Andrew's website for Law of Self Defense seminars closer to home!

For additional lawyerly instruction and commentary, I recommend that Network members put Affiliated Attorney Manasseh Lapin's blog (<http://www.armeddefenselaw.com/blog/armed-defense-law-news-special-texas-open-carry-edition>) in their favorites file. Several days after release of our January journal, Attorney Lapin directed my attention to his post questioning the TX state constitution and local law enforcement's detention of TX citizens carrying guns openly. It is an interesting analysis, and it led me into several hours worth of interesting reading on his other blogs and recommended reading linked on the same web page.

Affiliates, please send me an email if you have any special events like open houses, seminars, classes or other interesting tidbits that we can announce in this column. If announcing an event, about 60 days advance notice is best since we publish only once a month.

Also, please let me know when you need more copies of the Armed Citizens' Educational Foundation's booklet *What Every Gun Owner Needs to Know About Self-Defense Law* and our tri-fold brochures by emailing me at ghayes@armedcitizensnetwork.org or calling 360-978-5200.

We're all in this together, so let's work as a team to get the word out so armed citizens in your community have a better understanding of lawful, judicious use of deadly force and what to expect in the aftermath.

[End of article.
Please enjoy the next article.]

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Guest Commentary:

Perception is a Strange Thing

Occasionally a Network member tells a story so full of lessons that although it is not specifically focused on the legal aspects of armed self defense, we must find a forum in which to share the report with other members. The following is told by our member, Tony P. of North Carolina. We appreciate his interest in telling us his experience so we can all learn.

-- Gila Hayes

Although it is possible to be involved in a lethal force encounter on any given day, in many respects I was not adequately prepared for when it visited my world. What follows are the details of what happened to me, or perhaps to be more accurate, what occurred "around" me.

Although I've legally concealed carried for many years, I'd only been a member of the Armed Citizens' Legal Defense Network for a short while. I'd watched the videos provided with membership, took some notes, and made a concerted effort to incorporate the practical teachings offered into my mindset. In retrospect, I can tell you that I was able to practically use some of those principles, while other principles I ignored completely. I was smart; I was foolish.

As is the norm, while commuting home from work I travelled a busy interstate highway. About half way home it becomes apparent I need to get gas. A short distance ahead I see a tall gas station sign and take the exit. It is daytime and the area looks "ok." In my mind getting gas was the priority at hand.

The gas station is only about 100 yards from the interstate exit. I am sitting at the pump with the engine running, while talking to my sister through an in ear Bluetooth headset, the radio is on and playing music on low. From the pumps behind and one row over I hear a commotion. At the time, it sounded to me like a woman was angry at someone (perhaps a child) and was loudly urging them to comply with something. My mind tells me "It's no big deal, just stay in the car until it's over, and don't get involved in other people's business." That assumption was wrong!

Within what seemed just a few seconds I see a number of people at the pumps rush to get in their vehicles and

drive away at what seemed near light speed. Now I know something is very wrong! I shut off the radio, tell my sister I've got to go, rip off my headset and look around. From the front left of my car I see a tall, slender man with white hair and a stainless revolver moving forward and shooting past me but not far past! Was he robbing someone? Will he point it at me? Whatever is going on, it isn't good. I retrieve my holstered gun from my jacket pocket, pull it out of the holster, open the door, step out of the car, duck a little and look for cover. I was surprised that I was able to do all that reasonably well. I remember thinking "Is it safe to take cover behind a gas pump?" I chose the big pole next to the pump that holds the roof up. I believe there is a steel girder contained inside and is probably my best cover. Not sure. I notice I am having tunnel vision out of fear, and I am trying to fight that.

The man moves forward and it becomes apparent he is not shooting at me. That's good and what a relief! As I look to the left I see a man on the ground next to a car with a broken out rear window. Did the white haired man just shoot him? Looking further back I see two masked armed men grab a small aluminum case and a suitcase from the man's car. They get in their own vehicle to make an escape. In their haste they drop the large suitcase and its contents spill out on the ground. The masked men flee. The white haired man holsters his weapon. Things calm down. At this point there are only four of us left at the scene (including the victim). I holster my weapon and return it to my jacket pocket, and come out from cover. I change hats to now become a First Responder. I approach the victim to see how badly he is hurt. Fortunately, he is only bruised, has a small head contusion, and is not shot. He is confused and shaken. He can barely speak. We help him up and get him to sit in his car.

I ask if anyone has called 911. No answer from anyone (which seemed strange to me at the time). I make the call. I tell the dispatcher what just happened and give details as requested. It seems as though the dispatcher is keeping me on the line unnecessarily long. I want to get off the call as I have a fear that the gunmen could return (they didn't). I hang up. The police arrive on scene in less than three minutes. I have my driver's

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license and concealed carry permit at the ready. When first questioned, I let the police officer know that I am armed and possess a concealed carry permit. He asks where the gun is. I tell him in my pocket. He asks to see my driver's license and concealed carry permit. He was a little surprised I had them ready, and thanked me for that.

After questioning it became clear that it was daylight armed robbery in which a Good Samaritan stopped the crime and forced the masked gunmen to flee. The shouting I heard was the gunmen yelling, "Down, Down, Get Down!" over and over. To this day we do not know if either of the masked gunman was hit. Thankfully, the victim was not seriously hurt. The Good Samaritan was not charged. Early in their investigation, the police took possession of his weapon (but did return it to him just before we all left). Everyone on scene was asked to separately give detailed statements.

Apparently, I was the only one on scene that was able to provide a description of the gunmen and their vehicle (including a partial license plate number). I gave details such as height and weight, but could not tell their race as they were both masked. The police asked if I saw their hands. I did not think to look at their hands. I cannot even tell you if they had gloves on.

What did I learn from this? I made several mistakes that could have gotten me injured, killed or worse. Yes, to me there are worse things than getting shot. I also made a few good decisions and acted accordingly.

Firstly, my level of situational awareness in public needs great improvement! A Bluetooth headset might add driving safety for talking on the phone, but once off the highway (or anywhere in public) it's time to take them off and be aware! I will also be turning off the radio in public.

Additionally, if I hear any commotion I will certainly pay attention to see if there is a threat! There is no substitute for being aware of your surroundings.

Most importantly, having learned from the Armed Citizens' Legal Defense Network videos: unless you know exactly what the situation is, or you are directly threatened with lethal bodily harm, do not shoot! Personally, this was my best takeaway from this incident.

If you are witness to a crime it is important to try to be observant and make that 911 call as soon as possible. When talking with the 911 dispatcher let them know there is currently no threat on scene. Once law enforcement arrives, comply with their directions. Keep in mind the police do not know "the players" when they first arrive on scene. Do not do anything to make them suspicious or nervous.

The training received in the videos provided by the Armed Citizens' Legal Defense Network may have stopped me from shooting someone in error!

This account was difficult to write. I still get emotional when reviewing in my head what happened that day. I try not to dwell on it too much. My hope is that it might help someone else in a similar situation.

I've recently renewed my membership for three years and plan to attentively watch the videos again very soon. I have more to learn. It may become a Thanksgiving holiday tradition for me (for several reasons).

God bless you all.

*[End of February 2016 eJournal.
Please return for our March 2016 edition.]*

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In addition, material presented in our opinion columns is entirely the opinion of the bylined author, and is intended to provoke thought and discussion among readers.

To submit letters and comments about content in the **eJournal**, please contact editor Gila Hayes by e-mail sent to editor@armedcitizensnetwork.org.

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