



2018 State of the Network Message Happy 10th Birthday to the Network

by *Marty Hayes, JD*

This month we celebrate the tenth year of the Network's existence. It all started with an idea

and a few precious dollars out of the pockets of our Vice President Vincent Shuck, Gila and I, along with the very much appreciated support of Mas Ayoob, Tom Givens, John Farnam and the late Jim Cirillo, all who embraced the concept of the Network and signed on to the advisory board when it was launched. (Unfortunately, Jim passed away unexpectedly before seeing the Network born, but I think he is proud of us nonetheless).

For those first few years, things were pretty lean, but we made a commitment not to borrow money to promote the Network, but instead, use the most powerful advertising known to man, relying on word of mouth, to get out the message about the Network. So, instead of going into debt to promote, I reached out to about a hundred of my friends, colleagues and acquaintances in the firearms training industry to help spread the word, and the Network Affiliate Instructor program was formed: Instructors throughout the nation, recommending the Network to their students.

We also received some great initial free advertising and endorsements, and our fledgling organization started to take off. With the skeletal structure of the Network in place, we started getting membership signups and we started putting 20% of the proceeds into a separate bank account. I was very happy when we reached \$5,000 in the Legal Defense Fund, because for the first time, I knew we could send some money to an attorney for the representation of a member after self defense.

Soon, we had \$50,000 in the Legal Defense Fund, and in 2011 and 2012 a couple of members requested

assistance, which we funded out of that \$50k. Fast forward to the present, for our current track record: We have—

- Funded the complete legal defense for 15 Network members, to the tune of \$210,000.
 - Charges against a number of those members were either dropped, or charges were never filed or the member accepted a plea to a lesser charge.
 - To date, a Network member has never had to fight prosecution in court.
- Built the Legal Defense Fund to over 1.2 million dollars.
- Built the membership to over 15,000 dedicated members.
- Produced and distributed eight educational DVDs to our members, with two more still in the works.
- Built a network of over 400 affiliated attorneys.

Frequently, people who are thinking about joining an “after self-defense” plan call and ask how we differ from the other plans. First, I tell them we are not selling insurance. Unlike insurance, we don't reimburse you for your legal fees after you win an acquittal or get charges dropped. We provide the funding for your legal defense of self defense up front, when you need the legal and monetary help.

Then I explain to the caller that we are not a pre-paid legal or legal services scheme. At the Network, you can choose the attorney you want to represent you. At the Network, you don't have to settle for an attorney with whom you are not comfortable. People tend to not understand that attorneys ARE NOT FUNGIBLE, meaning you cannot just substitute one lawyer for another and expect the same level of skill, competence or service. If you are a member in the Network, you have the luxury of choosing your attorney for yourself.

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January 2018

To me, that is a huge advantage, and since it is the only way I personally want to go, it is the way the Network operates.

As a result, the Network is stronger than ever, we have lots of money set aside for our members' legal defense, and we continue to be the leader in innovation and self-defense expertise. For proof, just look at the back issues of this online journal. If that doesn't convince you that we know the self-defense legal field, then I guess nothing will.

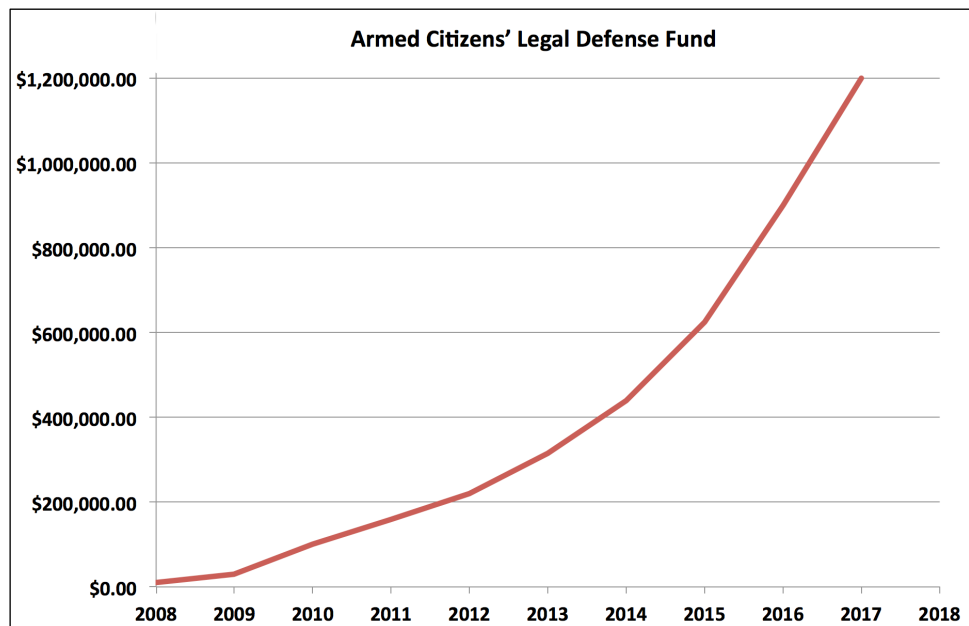
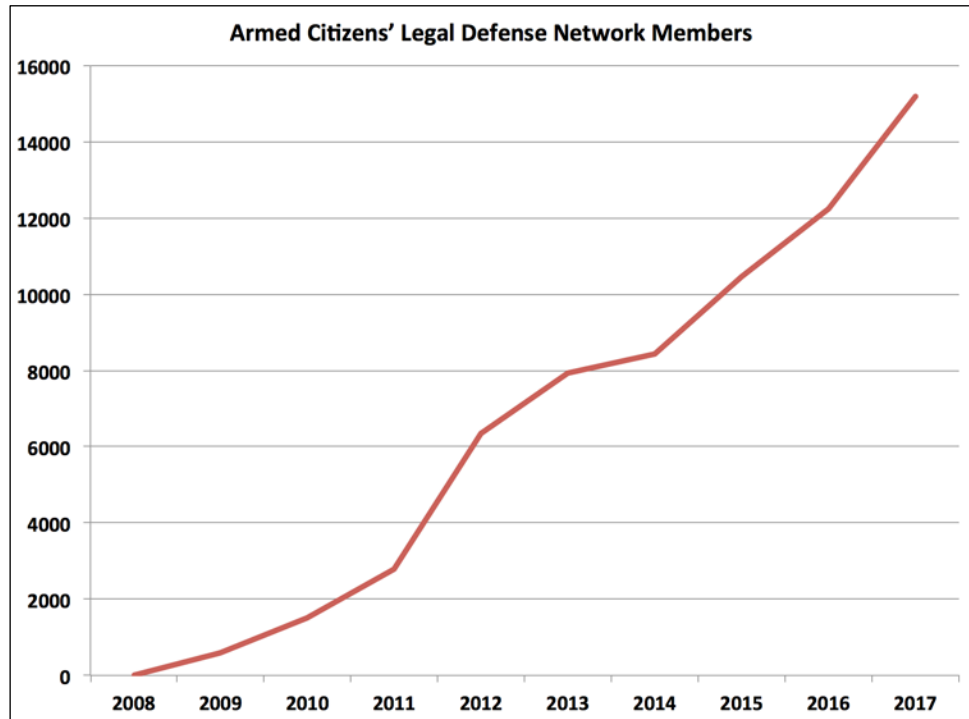
The charts illustrate how a timely idea can grow from nothing into a full-fledged service. In comparing the charts, one can see they do not follow each other exactly. This is due to the Network starting to pay out benefits to members, so the Legal Defense Fund did not rise as quickly as membership back in 2011 through 2013.

So, where do we go from here? The Network continues to grow and evolve. I predict that our next business move will rock the self-defense aftermath market. We still have a lot of details and preparatory steps to work out, so disclosing anything now would be premature. I'm hoping to announce the next phase of our development within a few months, and much as I'd like to lay it all out, for now, we must keep the details private. Keep

your membership up to date (don't let your membership expire or you will miss out on a great opportunity, folks).

Thank you to all our current members, for believing in us and for supporting the Network.

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January 2018



President's Message

by Marty Hayes, J.D.

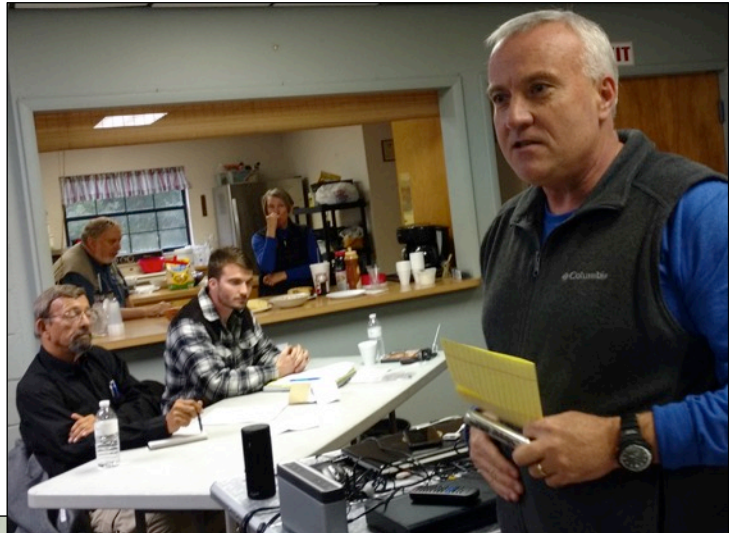
I start this month's message sitting at a portable table on the private range of Herman Gunter III, who is a Massad Ayoob Group (MAG) staff instructor and host of MAG classes in the Florida Panhandle,

near the city of Live Oak, FL. I just spent three days assisting with a Deadly Force Instructor course, certifying 17 firearms instructors through MAG to teach the nuances of use of deadly force by armed citizens in self-defense.

It is a calling and passion Massad Ayoob and I share. We thoroughly enjoy interacting with the top quality individuals in the class. In this class we had four attorneys, including a law professor. Each indicated that our curriculum went far beyond what is covered in law school. In fact, one of the attorneys said he had received NO EDUCATION about use of deadly force law in law school. I don't know about you, but personally, I find that frightening. When I attended law school 13 years ago, we actually had 90 minutes of instruction on deadly force

law, but most of that was wrong. This is why we are teaching this course, and why we invite attorneys to come and get the training. One of the highlights of the course for most of the students is participating in the day-long mock trial, where each student participates as one of the testifying witnesses, a juror, or in the case of the attorneys, the judge, prosecutor or defense attorney. Attorneys can usually get CLE training credit for their participation, if they take the syllabus and run it by their bar association.

This class is limited to active firearms instructors and to members of the Armed Citizens' Legal Defense Network. In fact, Network members receive a \$100



L-R: Massad Ayoob, Alex Ooley and Michael Ooley participate in a mock trial. Both Alex and Michael are Network affiliated attorneys.



Emeritus Professor of Law Joseph Olson.

discount off the \$1,200 course tuition. Previous LFI or MAG graduates get a \$200 discount, although you can't claim both discounts. For five days of training, the tuition is surprisingly affordable. The one Use of Deadly Force Instructor course scheduled for 2018 is happening in a month in Austin, TX. Here is the link to KRTraining (<https://www.krtraining.com>) where the class is listed toward the bottom of the page. Karl Rehn of KR Training is hosting the course. There's more information about the class at <http://massadayoobgroup.com/deadly-force-instructor-class>, but you should call Karl to register.

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January 2018

Advanced Training

But back to my Florida travels: After wrapping up the Deadly Force Instructor training, we went right into a MAG 120 class. This is Ayoob's third level training course. He calls his MAG 120 graduates his black belts (equating it to traditional martial arts black belt). I have been one of his staff instructors since 1990, and if my teaching at The Firearms Academy of Seattle had a martial arts designation, Ayoob would be my sensei.

So, why am I sitting at the back of the range observing and writing this article instead of helping on the range? That is because it is the day that 16 students in this class serve as the instructors for a group of home-schooled children (and a few of their moms and dads). The children are guided through their first shots from a handgun. I remember participating in this program myself as a student/instructor back in 1990. Thinking about now, I wonder where that young man I worked with back then is, and I wonder if he carries a gun now.



Southern Hospitality

This is my first experience of spending any prolonged period of time in the Deep South. Like most Northerners, I have heard all about the famous Southern hospitality. Well, I can now attest that it truly exists. What a treat to be invited into the home of Herman and Lieschen Gunter for a week! They were wonderful hosts and just very fine people who went out of their way to make me feel welcome. They don't have the students stay in their home, of course, but typically a class like this involves a half a dozen staff and many



stay with the Gunters during the week-long training course.

The Bible Belt

Like most Northerners, I had also heard of the

"Bible Belt" although I never really knew what that meant. Well, the city of Live Oak, FL, has 93 churches and, I am told, only three bars. I think that explains what the "Bible Belt" means. Herman, as it turns out, is also an ordained minister. When his church fell on hard times a few years ago, he arranged to purchase the church property and now he actually owns his own church! I was privileged to attend a Sunday night service officiated by Reverend Gunter and was very impressed with the whole thing, even though my singing was pretty rough.

The story would not be complete though, without mention of Lieschen's world famous sourdough bread. Every morning she bakes fresh bread and takes it to the classroom for the students to nibble on throughout the day. It is so good, that even though I have never baked sourdough before, I am going to try the recipe she gave me when I get home.



My hosts, the Gunters.

Sitting here pondering this experience, I am reminded of why we started the Network. It was for people like those with whom I've spent this week—the Gunters, the MAG staff, MAG students and the people we all touch in the world of the gun. The Network is not going to solve the world's problems, but I hope those people who join the Network sleep a little easier at night.

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Please enjoy the next article.]*

January 2018



Attorney Question of the Month

This discussion with our Network affiliated attorneys is based on a hypothetical scenario: An armed citizen is arrested after use of force in self defense and his or her state-issued license to carry a concealed handgun is revoked. We asked our Affiliated Attorneys to comment on the following:

1) If charges are dropped before trial, in your state what is involved in getting the citizen's license to carry reinstated?

2) How (if at all) does that differ from pursuing carry license reinstatement after defending self defense in a trial and being found "Not Guilty?"

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In Utah it should be as easy as making sure the Bureau of Criminal Identification (BCI) is aware of the dismissal or acquittal. The defendant should get a certified copy of the order dismissing the case from the court clerk and send it to BCI at:

Bureau of Criminal Identification (BCI)
PO Box 148280, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-8280

or take it to BCI at:

Bureau of Criminal Identification (BCI)
3888 West 5400 South, Taylorville, Utah 84129

John Monroe

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In my state (Georgia), the license is not revocable until a person is no longer eligible. Theoretically, having felony proceedings pending against a person would make the person ineligible for a license and therefore subject to revocation, but I have never heard of that happening. Still, in a high-profile case, I could see it being considered or even happening. Just being arrested would not be sufficient. Actually legal proceedings would

have to be commenced. If they were commenced, and the license was revoked, there would be due process considerations of revoking a license before conviction. There is no particular provision for reinstatement after revocation, but state law requires a hearing before revocation.

If there were a revocation, the normal appellate process would apply. In the second example, where a person was acquitted, if the license had not been revoked upon charging, state law would prevent the revocation at that point.

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In Ohio if a CCW licensee is found not guilty or charges are dismissed the suspension of the license is automatically ended. See R. C. 2923.128. Also if the original charges are reduced or amended to an offense that does not require a license suspension, the suspension would also be terminated.

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I have not found in the Constitution an explicit reference to the "Presumption of Innocence," but I believe that concept goes to the question asked. The presumption (found as far back as in Roman law) appears to be based on the concept that, in a criminal case, the burden of proof rests solely on the accuser; the prosecution.

In the instances of a matter dropped before trial or acquittal after trial, the right to carry either constitutionally or by state issued license would not have been removed. This is because the revocation of that right should be based only on a conviction, either by verdict after trial or plea of guilty.

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January 2018

After conviction each state may have a procedure, set out in the statutes, for reinstatement of the right to possess and carry a firearm. There is, however, a complication to this. There seems to be no viable federal mechanism (there is apparently, but it has never been funded) to restore firearm rights. This creates a situation that, even if a person is restored to his/her firearm rights at the state level, there is another hurdle to navigate for the person to be removed from the NICS data base in order to lawfully purchase a firearm.

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Indiana Code 35-47-2-5(b) covers reinstatement of a license and directs the State Police Superintendent to reinstate upon acquittal or upon the dropping of the specific charge which triggered the license suspension/revocation. To get reinstated, a person needs to contact the Indiana State Police Firearms Licensing Unit (and yes, it's a stupid name because they provide handgun carry licenses, they don't actually license firearms) and provide them with stamped copies of the acquittal order or the dismissal order. In some Indiana counties, the Court or prosecutor may take care of this, upon request. A person should not assume they are reinstated, however, until they have their license back in hand, as the Superintendent may have other grounds supporting a suspension or revocation.

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In Maine, things depend a lot on why they were dropped. There is a Maine case dealing with a dropped case not invalidating consideration of the underlying conduct. See *Hider v. Chief of Police*, 628 A.2d 158 (Me. 1993).

My impression: if case is dropped due to exoneration, and the revocation has not been processed, one could win an appeal. However:

"The issuing authority shall revoke a permit on the basis of one or more of the following determinations:

... C. The permit holder becomes ineligible to possess a permit under this chapter. Ineligibility is determined on the basis of the criteria contained in section 2003 ["good moral character" as determined by government documents]

AND

"Except as specified in this subsection, no person, otherwise eligible, who has had a permit revoked, is eligible for reapplication until the expiration of 5 years from the date of revocation."

Thus, in Maine, you might well get found "not guilty" or have the case dismissed, and still end up with a five year disqualification based on underlying conduct. It depends.

You don't get a complete wash after five years, though it is close. If you remain a "prohibited person" under either Maine or US law, you are still out of luck. Maine law is slightly more inclusive in terms of who is a "prohibited person." We include some juvenile crimes. Also, our definition of a disqualifying offense is one day more severe than the feds'.

All that assumes that nothing else pops up within the five year period.

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In CT if the permit was surrendered to DESPP (State Police) we typically email the detective in charge and the permit is returned or re-issued. Either local PD or State Police will be holding the firearm and typically I need a copy of the Nolle from the DA to get the pistol back. On occasion I have needed a court order to return the firearm.

In 99% of cases no shots are fired, firearm was just displayed. And in those cases sometimes I can work with the police department and no charges are filed, but be careful as they have up to a year to file charges.

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New York is not a "shall issue" state, but a "may issue" state, and pistol licensing is discretionary with the licensing officer. Among other things, licensees must have good moral character and there must not be any good cause for license denial. With carry licenses there is yet another level of discretion: "proper cause" for issuance.

While *Heller* and *McDonald* have turned this permission system into a right, at least regarding home possession, the extent to which the right can be restricted is an open question in New York, and our traditional case law gives licensing officers "virtually unbridled" discretion. That will remain the rule until a court finds otherwise.

Persons with a completely clean record usually qualify for a home possession or business possession license, but with carry license applications the "proper cause" standard commonly is used to find insufficient need for issuance. This is the case in downstate counties such as New York County, Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester. Upstate counties are more lenient, and carry licenses frequently are issued, but even some upstate locations have become restrictive, such as the City of Buffalo.

The same discretionary standards for license issuance are applied to suspension and revocation, and so the return of the licensee's pistol license after a successful criminal case will not hinge entirely, or even at all, on whether the charges were dropped or if there was an acquittal; though an acquittal might be considered more favorably by the licensing officer. What is most important is the local regulations applied to licensees and the attitude of the local licensing officer (e.g., did the licensee timely inform the licensing officer of the arrest; did the licensee escalate the underlying incident, thus increasing the likelihood that force would be necessary; did the licensee cooperate fully with police; etc.).

The matters into which the licensing officer can inquire about the licensee's character almost are endless, with the good cause bases similarly vast. And since various New York jurisdictions have licensing officers with anti-gun mentalities, it is no surprise that even small things have been used to revoke licenses (e.g., lapse of auto insurance coverage...strictly speaking, a violation of

state insurance regulations, and thus proof of bad character).

A not too infrequent situation is where the criminal lawyer advises his client to make no statement to the licensing officer, as it might be used against the client in the criminal case. The client follows this advice, wins the criminal case, and then finds himself with a revoked pistol license for failure to cooperate with the licensing officer. There is no constitutional right against self-incrimination in a licensing proceeding; only against self-incrimination in a criminal proceeding.

Even if the licensee is acquitted, and even if he fully cooperated with police in the criminal and licensing cases, the mere fact that an allegation was made against him can, and very often is, used to revoke the license. The standard of proof used by licensing officers is not the criminal court standard, but a very relaxed standard of "reasonableness." If the licensing officer reasonably believes the evidence shows that the licensee did something wrong, that is more than enough to revoke the license; and it is astonishing how unreasonable reasonable can be, and will be permitted by the courts. This also would be true even without a criminal case. Accusations alone, without arrest, very often result in license revocation (e.g., domestic disturbances where police are called, but no arrest is made and no order of protection is issued).

License suspension/revocation proceedings vary by jurisdiction. Some licensing officers hold formal administrative hearings, while others make decisions upon written submissions from the licensee or his attorney. Where the licensing officer is a judge, as often is the case, there may be a court hearing. Whatever the format, if a revocation occurs it can be challenged in court, but in most cases the revocation is upheld.

So in New York, once the police become involved in anything concerning the licensee, and regardless of whether there is an arrest, the administrative machine has been awakened, a license suspension almost certainly will occur, and the return or revocation of the license essentially will rest upon the administrative discretion of the licensing officer. Welcome to New York, Comrades!

A big "Thank You!" to our affiliated attorneys for their contributions to this interesting and educational discussion! Please return next month for additional responses to this Question of the Month.

January 2018



News from Our Affiliates

by Josh Amos

Hello to all of our affiliates, members, and armed citizens everywhere! I know, I said this last year, but where did the year go? The Armed Citizens' Legal Defense Network had a great year of growth and achievement, and we thank you all for coming along with us. This growth benefits our members in that we have more in our Legal Defense Fund, we have more affiliated attorneys in more states and wider outreach with our Foundation's educational booklets.

Our affiliated instructors and gun shops deserve a special commendation. When an affiliate takes five or ten minutes to give our booklet and recommend membership in the Armed Citizens' Legal Defense Network to students, customers, and friends, it really makes a difference. Not only do more people join the Network, but more importantly our affiliates reach the kinds of people that we want to join. You see, we have specifically chosen to grow the Network by admitting quality members who share the Network's core values of responsibility, education, and good training.

In 2017, we considerably expanded one of our membership growth incentive programs to help our affiliates recruit new members who share our Network values. For several years, established affiliates have had the option to offer their students and customers a coupon to save a little money on first time, full price memberships. We customize each coupon to identify the affiliate to whom it is issued. A neat secondary effect was that through coupon codes we got to see and recognize the performance of our affiliates. There are big time instructors who deliver big numbers for us, but there are also smaller-scale operations that proved that their geographic locations or smaller populations were not going to keep them from giving a good account of themselves. Each week I try to phone or email affiliates who've sent us new members because I like to say thank you.

Speaking of which, some affiliates have switched out of our old commissioned recruiting incentive to the coupon promotion with astounding success. Jeff and Robyn Street from Step by Step Gun Training in Naples are an outstanding example. Since switching to couponing, the Streets' new member outreach results have quadrupled or better. Many affiliates find it easier to "sell" Network membership with the coupon offer and we thank them for their enthusiastic efforts.

We ask that our affiliated instructors and recruiters pass out booklets to 200 of their students and customers each year to maintain their standing as a Network affiliate. This outreach keeps the Network competitive in the face of our competitors' non-stop, big budget media campaigns. Affiliates, if you don't teach that many students, or the market is slow, I want you to understand that you can give out our booklets at ranges, gun shows, matches, clubs and the many places shooting

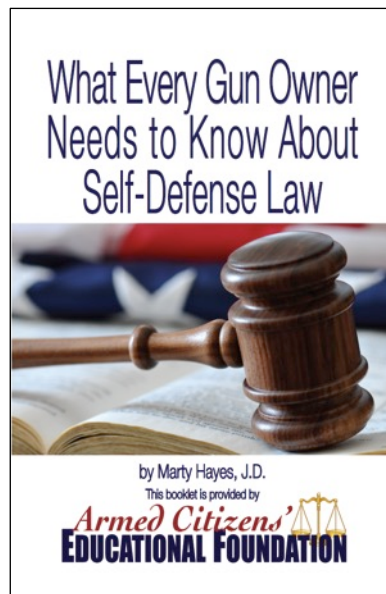
enthusiasts gather. Take our Foundation's booklet wherever you meet responsible armed citizens and tell folks there why you value your Network membership.

The Network is not content to rest on our past performance. Each year we are able to budget more money to reach out to armed citizens and build Network name recognition. Our 2018 budget for magazine advertising is bigger than in years past, so you will see more of us in GUNS, SWAT, American Handgunner and Gun Digest Magazine. In addition, we are going to be running spots with Gun Talk® Radio and we continue to work with

podcasters all across the spectrum. Our goal is to educate armed citizens about the aftermath of use of force in self defense while increasing name recognition, which in turn makes it easier for our dedicated affiliates to introduce us to their customers and students.

2017 was a great year for the Armed Citizens' Legal Defense Network and we are planning on an even better 2018! We really appreciate our affiliate instructors and gun shop owners telling their friends and customers why Network membership is essential for responsible armed citizens.

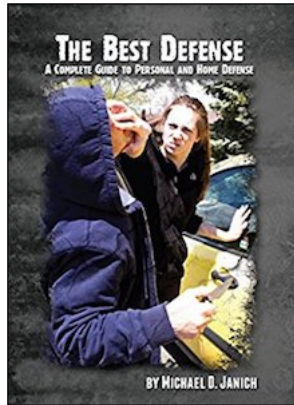
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January 2018

Book Review

The Best Defense: A Complete Guide to Personal and Home Defense



by Michael Janich
 Martial Blade Concepts
 ISBN-13: 978-1939467003
 Softbound and eBook
 available on
Amazon.com

Reviewed by Gila Hayes

Over the years, I've read quite a lot of Michael Janich's writing and watched many of his videos and I've learned a lot from him. This prolific author has distilled many of the self-defense problems and solutions in 15 succinct chapters in *A Complete Guide to Personal and Home Defense*. His philosophy may be best distilled in a paragraph found toward the end of the book: "Before you start selecting weapons or planning tactics, it's a good idea to remind yourself of the actual goal in personal protection: to keep yourself and your loved ones safe, period. It is not about winning fights, teaching the bad guy a lesson, or doing society a favor. Ideally, it means that you recognize and avoid problems before they happen. If you can't avoid them, you use non-physical skills like verbalization to talk your way out of a situation. And throughout the entire process, you ensure that your brain is always stronger and smarter than your ego." This absence of bravado characterizes the approach to personal safety the book teaches.

Janich starts this book by addressing home defense. He explains that at one time, businesses were attractive targets for robberies, but as security measures get better, robbery is pushed into residential areas where homes make easier targets. Crime statistics show a high percentage of assaults and rapes are committed during home invasions, he cites.

"First of all, you should take a look at your home from a criminal's point of view and assess it from the outside," Janich advises, commenting later, "remember that perception is reality." Signs reading "Beware Dog" or large dog toys or bowls left out in the yard and alarm company decals on windows contribute to "the perception that your home is a hard target." Actually

hardening the exterior entails alarms, lights, doors and windows, he continues. Illustrations and specifics are included and while some are costly, others require only a modest investment and some time to install.

Sometimes, a home intruder gets in because someone in the home opens the door, Janich observes, warning that security chains on doors can't withstand a kick in attack. If a dangerous intruder makes it inside, keep in mind the priority that life is worth more than belongings, so run to safety and avoid injury or death. He suggests drills to assemble in a safe room as well as family escape drills that do double duty as fire safety practice, including code words to designate a rally point to meet at once out of the home. The family needs to know exactly what to do without stopping to ask questions.

Janich details how to outfit a safe room, including using the 9-1-1 capabilities of an old cell phone no longer in regular use, having a written script of what to tell police dispatch, weapon considerations, protective cover, lanes of fire, first aid supplies, spare house keys, and more. This section is the kind of personal safety training we can share with anti gun friends and family to improve their security. While a gun certainly increases survival odds, details like fire escape ladders, the 9-1-1 script, high intensity flashlights and more are equally if not more important.

Don't mistake personal protection training as exclusively involving fighting and shooting, Janich urges. A predator should have to "dig through layer after layer of ... defenses," he explains, and the outer layers are awareness, avoidance, de-escalation and boundary setting, he writes, expanding on each point. Be sure to study the list of 14 pre-incident indicators he describes, visual or behavioral cues that you're being sized up as a target for crime. Even if you don't know what's "off," stop, turn back and regroup. Sometimes just reacting to unknown dangers is enough to throw the predator out of his groove.

Janich goes on to detail how good boundaries prevent predatory approaches, including verbal responses and gestures and how to keep up your guard when the aggressor attempts to get too close. Verbal boundary keeping is a progression of both word choice and vocal intensity, he teaches. Body position needs to be ready, balanced, but non-aggressive. A raised fist or similar

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January 2018

gesture will be remembered by witnesses as participating in a fight, he illustrates.

Janich details how to meet the gaze of people who approach without giving a “hard look can be interpreted as a challenge or a sign of disrespect.” Instead, he recommends, direct your vision toward the chest where you can keep an eye on the beltline and the elbows. He gives further arguments for the slightly lower gaze and suggests practicing, “The next time you’re in a crowd, keep your eyes level and try to get a feel for the number of people around you and their locations and distances. Then lower your gaze to pick up more of the ground around you. You’ll find that it’s much easier to gauge who’s around you and where they are with a slightly lowered line of vision.”

Describing physical fighting skills, Janich summarizes, “The ultimate goal of all self defense is your safe escape.” One solution is to destroy the assailant’s mobility. Janich makes a good argument for shin and ankle kicks. He advocates, “learning to apply a few basic movements to defend against a broad range of circumstances.” Throughout the book, movement principles and strategies are kept simple and similar patterns apply to empty hands and impact weapons.

The next chapter addresses improvised weapons, which Janich introduces by noting that despite restrictions on purpose-built weapons, your choices are not limited to going unarmed or breaking the law. “By understanding the how to recognize and use innocuous, everyday objects as improvised weapons, you can bend the rules and ensure that you always have a capable weapon available no matter where you are.” He later categorizes attributes that increase reader awareness of everyday items that can be pressed into service. He warns against self-delusion, explaining, “The last thing you want to do is to fool yourself into relying on something that doesn’t have a high probability of really hurting your attacker.” Still, an improvised weapon coupled with solid physical defense skills can “create an opportunity for a true disabling strike,” he encourages.

Whether instructing on empty hand methods or improvised weapons, Janich returns the focus to disabling the attacker, generally with low-line kicks, and he explains that “your real source of stopping power is eliminating the attacker’s mobility so you can get away.” He suggests practicing techniques he describes on a rug or mat rolled and taped up to simulate a leg and suggests additional practice drills for hand-held impact

weapons, too. In discussing various physical force techniques, he teaches uniform, reflexive striking and kicking patterns, clarifying, “If it sounds like I’m repeating myself, I am. Have a plan, and work your plan.”

Improvised weapons aren’t just for the last resort, Janich writes. “Make a habit of having a pen, flashlight, or other improvised weapon in your hand and ready to go when you’re out on the street. In this way, you can literally walk down the street ‘armed’ without raising any eyebrows.” He offers a chapter of flashlight uses, ranging from lighting, threat detection, vision disruption and impact weapon. The great versatility of the flashlight, in his view, is freedom to carry it openly where no threat is apparent, use it to dissuade attack, then if the situation deteriorates into deadly force, hold the flashlight in one hand and shoot with the other, a point for which he makes a cogent argument.

In a chapter about carjacking, Janich reiterates the principle that no material goods are worth loss of human life. Carjackers use surprise to get control of the driver, so he stresses the necessity of “awareness, avoidance, de-escalation, and boundary setting.” He bullet-points warning signs including people loitering near your car, sitting in nearby cars, following you or cruising parking lots. Be particularly alert to people hidden behind dark windows in nearby vehicles and places “behind, under, or in your car.” The key is getting safely inside, locking the doors and getting the vehicle moving. He adds, “Remember, the basic rule when you are behind the wheel is, ‘When in doubt, DRIVE.’ The easiest and most effective way to escape danger and call attention to your situation is by stepping on the gas.”

Additional chapters address workplace dangers, concerns for people with physical challenges, knife, pepper spray and cane use for personal protection, and quite a lot more. The philosophy throughout is, “Self-defense is simple: It is all about stopping your attacker...by either disabling him or causing enough direct, unavoidable pain that he chooses to quit and victimize someone else.”

Simple, of course, is not the same thing as easy, and the skill development necessary is spelled out well in this short but comprehensive book. Not only is it a good review for those long immersed in the self defense mindset, it is also a good book to give those for whom a gun is not the best choice. I recommend it.

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



Editor's Notebook

by Gila Hayes

Closing out 2017

I had the best of intentions: I'd decided to let our Network advertising taper down during the final quarter of 2017 to accommodate a staffing

disruption that came up when Melissa, our team member in charge of new memberships, moved out of state to accompany her husband who has started a new job. We were very sad to lose her, but we figured we could cope.

We rearranged job duties to make best use of the great skills, talents and grit that Jennie, Josh, Belle and Linda bring to their roles on the Network operations team. Nowadays, when members and prospective members phone in, Josh or Belle answer their questions, address their concerns, assist with their membership orders and then, behind the scenes, Linda enters it all into membership records. Jennie expertly manages all the renewal work, and I fill in where gaps open up—as can happen when a team member lands in the hospital and is restricted to reduced work hours during recovery, suffers a bereavement, or simply spends a few days with school-aged children during the winter holidays. Unfortunately for me, all those disruptions hit simultaneously during the last two weeks of December, so it's been pretty interesting. I'd have to say, 2017 is going out with a bang, certainly not with a whimper!

Even so, the work flow would have gone pretty well if I'd stuck by my idea of letting business taper off a little at the end of the year, but I got an offer from our friends at S.W.A.T. magazine for a great buy on "remnant" ad space that fit our preferred 2/3 page format perfectly, and I took advantage of the offer. Silly me. The ad performed very well indeed, and while our very short-handed team has kept up with membership growth, it has taken just about every ounce of our energy and ingenuity.

As we close out 2017, I'd like to give a big, "Good job!" and virtual pat on the back to each team member for all their hard work.

Not a License to Shoot

Recent discussions over the Network phone lines have been interesting, as members and potential members have been wondering if they shoot in self defense or to stop an active shooter or a church shooter (all three variations were asked about in December) but their shot missed or over penetrated and hit the figurative nun or pregnant mother with a three year old toddler in stroller, or other terrible misfortune, would the Network help pay off the expected and financially devastating award of damages a civil court judge is likely to order.

After listening to one of my staff struggle valiantly to help a caller understand that armed citizens are personally responsible for every shot fired, it occurred to me that as armed citizens struggle to come to grips with what they **can, should** and subsequently **might** do if using their gun to save innocent life, some have forgotten that no matter how horrible the scene playing out in front of our eyes, there are times when shooting is not the best solution. If the area beyond an attacker you've decided needs to be shot contains innocent people, shooting immediately may cause more mayhem than moving first to change the angle of your shot to mitigate the risk to innocents "downrange" from your position.

Despite the considerable time and effort we put into mastery of a handgun carried for self defense, we need to exercise great care not to start to consider the gun our first, best solution. If we let our thinking become clouded by the tool, we blind ourselves to risks we accept if we decide to shoot.

*[End of January 2018 eJournal.
Please return for our February 2018 edition.]*

January 2018

About the Network's Online Journal

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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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