

Training to Stop an Active Shooter

by Marty Hayes, J.D.

This past month two active shooter/killer incidents, one in El Paso, TX, and one in Dayton, OH, put mass shooter interdiction in the spotlight. As news coverage breaks, questions arise about tactics and strategies for Network members who may be caught up in an active shooter attack. For several years, my school, The Firearms Academy of Seattle, has been teaching its own curriculum on how to stop an active shooter (See <https://firearmsacademy.com/handgun/active-shooter-interdiction>). For my own continuing education, this year I attended two similar courses taught by well-respected instructors. I came away from those experiences with both a clearer understanding of the problem and a newly committed resolve to keep offering this training, as it is critically needed.

I'd like to share brief snapshots of the classes I took and my own viewpoints as reflected in my Active Shooter Interdiction course.

John Farnam Defense Training International

Our regular readers should need no introduction to John Farnam. He is a Network Advisory Board member, has appeared in this *eJournal* on a regular basis and is featured on one of our educational DVDs. He came out with his training to stop terrorism and mass shooter events a year ago, and I was anxious to

learn more about his viewpoint on the issue. When I took his course earlier this summer, I was happy to see that his offering is similar to that of FAS, with an emphasis on shooting under stress, although he trains students to use both rifles and pistols in the fight.

Farnam's course, entitled *Armed Response To A Terrorist Attack*, is designed to prepare armed citizens to counter the threat of terrorist violence and other active-shooter events (See <http://defense-training.com/training-courses/>). Farnam explains his focus in this manner:

“Current events indicate a steady increase in terror-related attacks against westerners. Violent

extremists and other savages are actively targeting LEOs, military servicemen and women—as well as their families—to be butchered in public. In addition to LE/MIL individuals and families, we see a rise in these types of attacks on virtually any target of opportunity. Even members of their own culture/faith/ideology are martyred for their depraved cause! This trend will likely continue for the foreseeable future.

“For that reason, we have seen the need to develop this specialized firearms course with a focus on armed response to these unique dangers in our modern world.”

In the classroom Farnam covers “practical options and tactics intended to give individual operators the life-saving mindset and skill sets

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John Farnam discusses a point on the range during his course.

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for prevailing against such attacks.” Out on the shooting range, students participate in drills that simulate attacks in movie theaters, restaurants, shopping malls and other active-shooter scenarios.

Live-fire scenarios include drills in which “the student starts with his pistol, then goes and retrieves his rifle, gets it running, then finishes the drill. We do a lot of exercises where threats are mixed-in with non-threats. Expect long-distance pistol shooting!” Farnam warns. He notes that his course is intended for serious shooters with prior training and isn't suitable for beginners.

One of the biggest differences between John Farnam's program and mine at The Firearms Academy is that Farnam includes rifles in his training. I think that is commendable! The reason we do not include them at FAS is that it is illegal to carry a loaded rifle in a motor vehicle here in WA state. Having said that, being able to grab a rifle to confront a rifle-wielding threat makes a lot more sense than confronting the same threat with a pistol. If you can legally carry a rifle in a motor vehicle, that's great and is recommended. Just be sure you can secure it correctly. In urban and suburban areas where you might logically need such a weapon, you are in the same environment where the most car prowls and thefts take place.

Lt. Col. (Ret) Ed Monk Last Resort Training

Lt. Col. (Ret) Ed Monk is one of the newer instructors on the national scene. He runs Last Resort Firearms Training (<https://www.facebook.com/Last-Resort-Firearms-Training-180316642038491/>) in White Hall, AR, and is a Rangemaster certified instructor. Rangemaster Firearms Training Services is the school run by Network Advisory Board member Tom Givens and his wife Lynn. His association with Rangemaster gave him instant credibility with me as an instructor. If you are close enough to Arkansas, you would be well served by attending his training.

I first met Col. Monk when I attended the Rangemaster Tactical Conference a couple of years

ago when it was held in Arkansas. He gave a four-hour classroom presentation entitled *Active Shooter Threat and Response*. I was so drawn in by the depth and breadth of the presentation that I attended it twice that weekend and detailed what I learned in an article at <https://armedcitizensnetwork.org/april-2018-editorial>. I think I can safely say that there is no single person who has done as much research into the active shooter phenomenon as Ed Monk. His classroom presentation, a synopsis of that research, is both riveting and entertaining. He takes full advantage of the Power Point method of presentation and uses it to good effect.

I invited Monk to come to Firearms Academy to teach a three-day *Active Shooter Threat and Response* class to include the seminar contents as well as the range exercises that accompany his training course. I was not

disappointed! I believe the most important take-away from this class is to understand the time factor inherent in a mass shooting attack. When a mass shooting is under way, an innocent person is shot

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Above: Monk (left) and a student check hits on a 3-D target.
Below: Monk's students using dummy guns to practice movement toward the target and cover in a crowded environment.





every six to 10 seconds. If it takes police five minutes to respond, up to 50 people can and likely will be shot during that time. An immediate response is required to minimize the carnage, and typically that necessitates an armed individual on the scene or within hearing range.

enough to make the shot. Both concepts have merit. Students in Monk's class reported that they appreciated the simplicity of the exercises. Using three-dimensional targets in simulated incidents was widely considered the most worthwhile exercise.

Monk's course goes far beyond studying in the classroom. Range training consisted of both shooting drills to increase student confidence and exercises to determine the outer limits of student shooting ability. Once students have a good understanding of how close they need to be to get good hits, scenario training is incorporated into the class. Scenarios are as big a part of Monk's course as of Farnam's, but their approaches differ a little. Farnam's emphasis was getting to cover and taking relatively safe shots, whereas Monk's focus was on moving closer—both by shooting while moving

Firearms Academy of Seattle, Inc. Active Shooter Interdiction

After the San Bernardino, CA shooting in December of 2015 that left 14 dead and several more wounded, I decided that I wanted to start addressing this specific threat in my training courses. I estimated that a good number of my students would rise to the challenge and attempt to stop an active shooter if necessary, as opposed to fleeing. I am not passing judgment on those who would flee instead of staying and trying to take out the shooter; I'm just offering the training for those who would stay.

and moving
in close



In an FAS *Active Shooter Interdiction Course*, our emphasis is on training students to shoot their handguns accurately under stress at long distances. We spend a portion of the first day diagnosing shooter errors and correcting as needed, then establishing the distance where the student can be

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Above: Andy Brown demonstrates pistol accuracy at long distances.
Right: Andy Brown leads a dynamic role play exercise.

expected to get a stopping hit under range conditions. This is done on paper targets on our square range. Then we go to a 50-yard range, which we have specifically set up to train for long-distance shots under stress. The range is equipped with five rows of barrels from 10 to 50 yards at 10-yard intervals, so five students can work through the exercises simultaneously. The steel targets include an eight-inch round plate, a 16-inch round plate, and a full-sized silhouette. The students run forward from barrel to barrel to simulate seeking and shooting from behind cover and engaging the steel targets while under the physical stress of running.

We break the class into teams and have them compete in a variety of exercises as a team. The competitive exercises are designed to train the students to hit under moderately stressful circumstances, but also to show students where their limits are. Some people can hit the eight-inch plate consistently at 50 yards, others at 20 yards. But all the students end up hitting the full-sized silhouette at the 50-yard line.

We then leave the range and put the students in tactical scenarios, much like both Farnam and Monk do. The purpose of these scenarios is to enact common active shooter scenarios so the students will have experienced something similar in their training in case they encounter it in real life. Finally, we do force-on-force training with airsoft guns, something neither Farnam nor Monk includes in their programs. This segment includes six scenarios. Incidents range from a church, a grocery store and a subway train as well as other situations and we reenact some real-life examples from the past. The students get to experience the events from the standpoint of someone caught up in the middle of an active killer attack. De-briefs about their responses are part of the learning.

Additionally, in the FAS Active Shooter Interdiction Course, we draw on our relationships with two people who have stopped active shooters. The first is former Air Force Security Airman Andy Brown, author of *Warnings Unheeded*, who in 1994 shot and killed a rifle-wielding killer on Fairchild Air Force Base, outside of Spokane, WA. (See also <https://armedcitizensnetwork.org/psychological->

[aftermath-of-justified-homicide](#)) Andy still lives in the Spokane area, and when he can, he comes over and assists in the teaching of our course and gives a presentation on what happened and how he stopped it. When he can't make it, we have his lecture on video.

In June of 2018 one of our own FAS students was in a Walmart in Tumwater, WA, when a mentally disturbed individual started shooting in the Walmart. Once outside the store, he kept shooting and ultimately shot and paralyzed one individual. Before he could do more damage, David George shot and killed him as reported at <https://www.ems1.com/ems-heroes/articles/385052048-Firefighter-EMT-speaks-out-about-taking-down-Walmart-shooter/>. He has spoken several times at my school and we play a video in which he relates his experience during lunch time classroom sessions in our course.

Summary

One thing Col. Monk discusses is the response of active shooters to being challenged. He says that if the active shooter is a domestic, mentally-ill individual, they typically although not always cease their shooting rampage and turn the gun on themselves or attempt to flee. On the other hand, the terrorist active shooter will likely not stop their rampage, but instead, turn the gun on those trying to stop them. I have concluded that the armed citizen who decides to engage an active shooter had better have a high skill level and carry a full-sized gun in at least 9mm. Before the San Bernardino shooting, I would find myself on occasion slipping a five-shot J-frame revolver into my pocket on warm days. I stopped doing that the day after the San Bernardino shooting. After that, I started carrying a full-sized pistol at all times.

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Please enjoy the next article.]*

Next month we feature a one-on-one interview with Ed Monk exploring "never give up" survival strategies for a variety of situations, including times when we're denied access to firearms.



President's Message

No News on OIC Investigation

by Marty Hayes, J.D.

Many members have e-mailed and asked whether or not there is any new information regarding the

Washington State Office of Insurance Commissioner's investigation into the Network. The latest is we have heard nothing from them in over a month. I don't know what to make of that, so I am just reporting the fact.

Interestingly, I have become a reasonably well-educated person on the inner workings of the OIC, now that I have read over 2,500 e-mails and other documents sent back and forth between individuals working at the OIC. That material was not about the Network but were documents regarding their investigations of other companies, such as the NRA, USCCA, US Law Shield and others made available through the Freedom of Information Act.

I have also been reading court cases regarding insurance issues, both Washington cases and other state's judicial rulings, and have found nothing that works against us. That is good news. Ironically, I imagine that there are attorneys in the WA Attorney General's office who have been reading the same cases, but with a different goal in mind. One thing is for sure—if our case ends up in court, we will be making new law. I will keep you updated when I know more.

Service With a Personal Touch

I am seeing advertising for at least a couple of our competitors in which they boast about having over 300,000 members! Well, bless their hearts! I cannot imagine the headaches a business that serves 300,000

members must produce. We have our hands full just enrolling, renewing and providing what I feel is great customer service to over 17,000 members. Remember, my original goal was 5,000 members, figuring that number would accommodate providing personal service, and generate enough income to be able to fund any member legal defense needs. Going well over that number has caused us to hire a few people to handle the increased workload, but it also allowed us to grow the Legal Defense Fund to over two million dollars. That is pretty good security, in my opinion. We have done this without relying upon insurance underwriters who may or may not decide we are worth continuing to do business with.

Having said all that, I want each and every Network member to know that if you need something from me personally, just call me. I am reachable by phone if you have a question or concern, or also by e-mail. I talk to many members each month, and occasionally answer the business line when everyone else is talking to other members. If you have a question or concern, just call. There is no "press 1 for English" answering machine, just a recording if you call after-hours or all the lines are tied up. Most of the time, William, Josh, Belle, Gila or I will personally answer the phone and try to help, and if you do get the answering machine, please leave your name and phone number, and we will call you back just as soon as we can. My whole business life, I have operated on the simple philosophy that I want our customers treated like I myself want to be treated.

In the event you have been involved in a self-defense incident, you will not be shunted off to a "case manager." I will personally be involved in making sure you have the best legal defense we can arrange. That is my promise.

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Please enjoy the next article.]*

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Attorney Question of the Month

This month's Attorney Question continues a discussion started in last month's edition of this journal, discussing the legal implications of gripping a holstered handgun while issuing verbal commands to stop an assault. If you missed the first set of attorney responses, we encourage you to read them at <https://armedcitizensnetwork.org/august-2019-attorney-question> as they are instructive. Here is the question we asked our Affiliated Attorneys:

In many states, a person has committed the crime of assault when he or she verbalized a threat of force accompanied by threatening actions.

This can create a problem when an armed citizen only puts his or her hand on the grip of the holstered pistol and gives verbal commands to stop a threat without actually drawing the gun. If a citizen in your area does that, with what crime are they likely to be charged? If convicted, what is the likely punishment?

What should a Network member do to avoid facing charges after that kind of situation?

We received so many responses from Affiliated Attorneys that the following is the second installment of multiple answers to these questions.

Jim B. Fleming

Fleming Law Offices, P.A.
P.O. Box 1569, Monticello, MN 55362
763-291-4011

<http://www.jimfleminglaw.com/about-1.html>

Trying to guess what a prosecutor is going to do, or is likely to do, in a given set of circumstances is an exercise in futility. As an example, I've had clients charged with felony discharge of a firearm, in an accidental discharge situation. So, an assault charge is certainly possible, and with a very aggressive prosecutor it might be charged as an aggravated assault where an element of the charge is the use of a weapon. Touching the gun would be considered a "use" of a weapon. Whether in that given set of circumstances the prosecutor can gain a conviction on such a charge is a

completely different issue, deserving discussion at another time.

Self defense is an "affirmative defense." That means that in using it, the defendant is stating, "Yes, I did take that action, but I was justified in doing so, because I did so in self defense." The burden of proof varies somewhat between stand your ground and castle doctrine jurisdictions, but the accused is, in almost all states, going to have to provide some level of proof that he/she was facing a legitimate need for self-defense situation.

So, the best advice is to keep the hand completely off the gun unless the actor reasonably feels that their life and/or limb is in jeopardy, and they can articulate, at the proper time, why that was so. Prosecutors are going to do what prosecutors are going to do. All the law-abiding citizen can do is to understand the nuances of the law well enough to make good decisions quickly, and not engage in endless "yahbuts" about what "could have happened."

S. Magnus Eriksson

14362 N. Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd., Ste. 1000,
Scottsdale, AZ 85260
480-766-2256
magnuse@cox.net

Here in Arizona, Arizona Revised Statute 13-421 actually protects "Defensive Display of a Firearm," including putting the hand on the gun and verbally informing "the perpetrator" that you are armed, so long as it is otherwise reasonable to do so. I would treat it the same way I would treat pointing the gun or shooting at someone.

Call 911, stay at the location or as close to as is tactically safe. Then summon your lawyer, tell responding officers that you fully intend to cooperate with the investigation after talking to your attorney. Tell the responding officers you will do a walk-through of the scene as soon as your lawyer is present. Be prepared to describe clearly why you HAD to do what you did. Explain why you were at the location, to show that you were there engaging in lawful activity. Explain the perp's behavior and how and why you interpreted that as

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making it necessary to put your hand on the gun and issue a warning.

If the responding Law Enforcement Officers, or a prosecutor reviewing the case don't believe you, you could be charged with, at a minimum, misdemeanor "Threatening and Intimidating," with a max sentence of six months in jail. Or in the worst-case scenario you could be charged with Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon, with a prison range of five to 15 years. Be aware that you can be one third-party witness (who didn't see what precipitated your action) statement away from possibly being charged with a crime you didn't commit. It happens frequently that a witness is not drawn to look at what is happening in an altercation until the person acting in self defense makes a move and the witness therefore in good faith believes that the justified person is the perpetrator. Of course, this is always a risk in every case involving self defense.

I appreciate the legislature's attempt to make lawful self defense display of guns legitimate with this statute, and I can see situations where it would be sufficient to resolve a situation without drawing and firing the gun. However, I would advise to be very cautious with any "Defensive Display" of any kind because you can expose yourself to criminal charges if you are unlucky. Of course, we must always balance that risk against the risk of losing a fight and ending up dead or maimed for life because we were too cautious. And be prepared to draw the gun if the "display" does not stop the aggressor, and to fire if necessary. Also be prepared to de-escalate if the "display" makes the aggressor back off. So, there are several potential pitfalls with "Defensive Display of a Firearm" even in a state which specifically makes it legal.

Stay relaxed but alert, know the law, and if need be act swiftly and decisively.

Nick Wooldridge

LV Criminal Defense

400 S 7th Street # 401, Las Vegas, NV 89101-6914

702-623-6362

<https://www.lvcriminaldefense.com/about-firm/>

Background: In many states, a person has committed the crime of assault when he or she verbalized a threat of force accompanied by threatening actions. This can create a problem when an armed citizen only puts his or her hand on the grip of the holstered pistol and gives

verbal commands to stop a threat without actually drawing the gun.

Question 1: If a citizen in your area puts their hand on the grip of the holstered pistol and gives verbal commands to stop a threat without actually drawing the gun, with what crime are they likely to be charged?

Answer: This is an important question since gun owners in Nevada are at risk of being wrongfully charged with a felony offense if they are involved in an incident where a firearm was readily accessible. In the specific hypothetical scenario described in the question, there is a chance that a gun owner could be charged with committing "assault with a deadly weapon." According to Nevada Revised Statute § 200.471(2)(b), an assault with a deadly weapon occurs when a person is placed in reasonable fear of immediate bodily harm due to the use of a gun, knife, or other lethal object. This statutory provision is a sub-part of § 200.471, which defines assault generally as someone deliberately making another person feel as though they are about to be physically harmed. The specific statutory language defines assault as (i) unlawfully attempting to use physical force against another person or (ii) intentionally placing another person in reasonable apprehension of immediate bodily harm.

Question 2: If convicted, what is the likely punishment?

Answer: If a gun owner is convicted of committing assault with a deadly weapon, they will have a category B felony offense on their permanent record. This felony crime is punishable by having to serve between one and six years in a Nevada State Prison, along with having to pay a fine of up to \$5,000.

If you are convicted of a lesser offense, such as basic assault, you will have a misdemeanor offense on your record, which is punishable by having to serve up to six months in jail and pay a fine of up to \$1,000.

Question 3: What should a Network member do to avoid facing charges after that kind of situation?

Answer: Contact an attorney who is experienced in defending gun owners against these types of charges. There is an array of different defenses that could be presented in an effort to have the charges reduced or dropped entirely. For example, if a Network member is charged with committing an alleged assault with a

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deadly weapon, they can raise the following defenses:
The Network member had no criminal intent (i.e. they had no intention of actually harming an individual);
The Network member did not cause another person to have a reasonable apprehension of being harmed;
The Network member was in compliance with Nevada self-defense laws (e.g., Nevada is a "stand your ground" state, meaning there is no legal obligation to try and retreat if you have a reasonable belief that the aggressor poses an immediate threat to you or another person, and you inflict no more force than necessary to resist the aggressor's threat); and/or no deadly weapon was actually involved.

James E. Leuenberger

James E. Leuenberger P.C.
5200 SW Meadows Rd Ste 150
Lake Oswego OR 97035-1684
503-679-8473
<http://www.fights4rights.com>

In Oregon, menacing is a crime that is commonly alleged under the circumstances described.

2017 ORS 163.190¹

Menacing

(1) A person commits the crime of menacing if by word or conduct the person intentionally attempts to place another person in fear of imminent serious physical injury.

(2) Menacing is a Class A misdemeanor. [1971 c.743 §95]

Menacing is misdemeanor with a maximum sentence of 364 days and a fine of \$6,250.

Matters can turn south if the state charges the defendant with a felony and then adds "with a firearm" to the indictment.

To reduce the likelihood of being charged with a crime, the person should not take any steps which can be construed as being the initial aggressor.

John William Boelke

Boelke Law, PA
3495 Maebert Rd., Mims, FL 32754-4946
321-427-1271
<http://boelkelaw.com/>

In FL, any overt act (such as uncovering a concealed weapon) can be deemed a threatening gesture and a crime unless it is done with the intent of defusing a volatile and potentially dangerous situation.

As an example, if, during an argument you show to the other party you have a weapon that can be considered assault and if the weapon is removed from the cover it is the crime of brandishing. The exception is if the motion coincides with an act that can be considered conciliatory like backing away from the encounter and using words like, "I don't want to fight." Then you may have a case for defusing.

Brandishing is a common charge when it is done solely to intimidate or as a threatening gesture, members can be well advised to only do it when, in Florida, they have an actual fear for the safety of themselves or another and seek to calm a situation. Until their fear is genuinely of great bodily harm or death it is best to neither reveal nor draw a weapon.

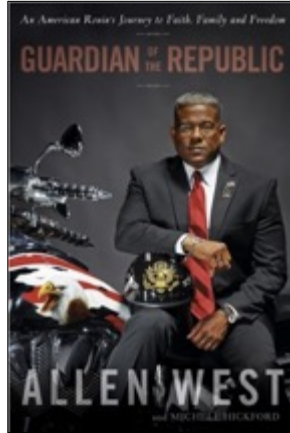
A big "Thank You!" to our affiliated attorneys for their comments. Please return next month for the final commentaries from our affiliated attorneys on this topic.

Book Review

Guardian of the Republic

By Lt. Col. Allen West
The Crown Publishing Group
ISBN-10: 9780804138109
Hardcover: 224 pages
\$11.60 at Amazon or Kindle \$6.99

Reviewed by Gila Hayes



I have long been concerned by the trend of calling America a democracy and not a republic, although I have questioned my reaction, wondering if it really is as big a problem as it seems to me. After all, there are quotations in which the Founding Fathers seem to hold up democracy as the model for good government, so I'm moderately sympathetic to the younger folks like my niece who, a few years ago, asked, "Isn't America a democracy?"

Her sincere question spurred me to begin some reading to clarify my own understanding. Most recently, I stumbled across *Guardian of the Republic* by Lt. Col. Allen West as part of that ongoing study. "America stands today as the longest-running constitutional republic," writes West, who consistently uses "republic" and clearly explains why.

Although his book was written in 2014, West's concern about politicians spouting promises of change "fundamentally transforming America" seems to me to retain a particular pertinence in 2019. After a fairly detailed biographical introduction, West outlines the philosophical influences that America's Founding Fathers considered during the establishment of our nation. He discusses the influence thinkers like Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau exerted on Madison, Jefferson, Hamilton, and Franklin, et al.

He explains, "One of the fundamental premises that enabled our Founding Fathers to establish America was the theory of a 'social contract,' the notion that the ruler and those over whom he ruled agreed upon their respective roles and obligations. Of course, in history there have been many differing perspectives on those roles, but the underlying implication was that the ruler governed by the consent of the governed."

West identifies six governing principles upon which he believes America was founded. These he enumerates as, "limited government, fiscal responsibility, a free market, individual sovereignty, a strong national defense, and an understanding that all of man's freedoms come ultimately from God."

In painstaking detail, West describes the roots of conservatism and the roots of liberalism, the various government programs that the latter has propagated, and why bigger and more intrusive government is put forward as the answer to poverty, inequality, and most any other problem inherent to the human condition. Instead of independence, the recipients of all this government help get "subjugation and subservience," he explains. The government's true mandate, West writes, is "promoting the general welfare and providing for the common defense," but little more.

While some of the political commentary is outdated, readers paying close attention should still find relevance in West's writings on societal factors, political strategies and campaigns by the media because although the names of the players have changed, I think the problems in 2019 are even more extreme. The Founding Fathers' vision was one of limited government, he points out, then lists all the Marxist objectives implemented over the past decades "more actively engaging" government in citizens' lives "at every level."

In a long chapter on race relations, West discusses factors that have destroyed the black family unit to the extent that these days more than one-third of black children is being raised by a single parent, usually their mother. Economics, education and self-reliance all come into his discussions, and he asserts, "Through economic freedom it is possible to break the bonds of disenfranchisement and gain greater influence, especially for the black community," adding later, "Self-reliance makes you politically important, but dependency makes you nothing but a pawn to be used in the chess match of political expediency."

You may be wondering if I ever found the answer that led me to read Lt. Col. West's 2014 book in the first place. Yes! Yes, I did and I felt a little better when he voiced the same concern about terminology that originally led me to research the question of democracy

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versus a constitutional republic. He writes, "If there is to be a future for our nation, it means understanding America is a republic, not a democracy. The future of the American republic depends first and foremost on ensuring the citizenry and the voting electorate understand the basic framework of this grand experiment."

He adds, "In its purest form, democracy is government of the masses, where authority comes from the direct expression of the crowd's will. In its worst expression, pure democracy can devolve into mobocracy, discontent, and anarchy." He later adds that the Federalist Papers make it clear the Founding Fathers rejected that option when forming our government. He quotes Alexander Hamilton who said, "Real liberty is never found in despotism or in the extremes of democracy," and he notes that "John Adams had an even more dire prediction: 'There never was a democracy yet that did not commit suicide.'"

West offers for comparison, "In a republic the law is administered in accordance with established principles of justice. From its founding, America was designed to promote statesmanship, reason, liberty, justice, and advancement for its individual citizens. Lately, however,

it seems some folks want to rebrand America as a representative democracy."

"This is one of my biggest frustrations and concerns about America. Our electorate doesn't have a freaking clue about who we are or from whence we came," West writes. The problem, he writes later, is that many Americans, having sided with one party or one cause, then adopt their group's opinions without any real understanding of the issues. I thought that made a lot of sense, in light of attacks common against politicians in which their policies and voting record go largely ignored, eclipsed by condemnations of a personal nature that have little to do with their accomplishments and failures in office.

Lt. Col. West's warnings against progressive socialism are only truer today than when the book was written five years ago. "The herd mentality overtaking the American electorate will be its downfall. When we no longer see ourselves as individuals, we surrender the power granted by our Creator and fall for political gimmicks," he warns.

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Please enjoy the next article.]*



Editor's Notebook

Responses

by Gila Hayes

Let's start off with an interesting note I received from a Network member. We always enjoy it when Massad Ayoob has time to give an interview. Not only do we get to learn interesting and important things from chatting with him, but we often hear from members who enjoy what he has to say just as much as we do. Last month's lead interview with Massad brought the following letter from a member:

I just finished reading the August 2019 journal. As usual, a lot of good, timely information.

A few months ago, I became aware of ccwbreakaways.com from one of your articles. I bought two pairs of these pants and I absolutely love them. This is the perfect way (at least for me) to carry concealed. As I was reading the August journal there were two articles that I felt the CCW pants addressed: the Summer Carry Compromises article and the Attorney Question of the Month article.

The CCW pants allow you to wear any kind of cool shirt you want. Since the gun is in the pants pocket (or shorts pocket) there are no issues with printing. That really frees up the shirt wardrobe constraints.

On the attorney question about an armed citizen putting his or her hand on the grip of the holstered pistol, again the CCW pants eliminates that issue. You can calmly put your hand in your pocket, grip your handgun and be ready to pull it out and use it quickly all without giving any appearance of threat (or assault, in legal terms).

I just think the CCW pants are a really great option. Massad did mention pocket carry, but this always seems to be associated with carrying "little guns" which many people think are not adequate. With the CCW pants, I carry an S&W M&P Shield 9mm and it's VERY comfortable. This is not typically considered a pocket carry type of gun. But the CCW pants make that possible.

I know there are all kinds of opinions, different situations etc. I just wanted to add my two cents to these discussions. Thanks for a great journal and a really great organization.

--Tim in Colorado

They Keep Calling it a Democracy

Last month, I sat down to write this column and asked, Do we know the meaning of the words we use? Do we care whether our form of government is a republic or a democracy? Wanting to be sure my concerns had some foundation in reality, I stopped and did some more reading (and yes, I think I've clarified my own thinking as mentioned in this month's book review), and now I feel all the more strongly that we must quit parroting the idiocy in which the media, education establishment, and power-hungry politicians all keep trying to drown us.

Political hacks, news reporters and commentators, influential people in the so-called institutions of higher learning and an awful lot of other leaders keep calling the United States of America a democracy. I keep grinding my teeth in frustration! Some wags have gone so far as to suggest that the words "democracy" and "republic" are too similar to quibble over—the words have become interchangeable, they say, but I think that's a trick to promote their agendas at the expense of patriots who still cherish the U.S Constitution.

Somewhere along the way folks got the idea that democracy was a superior form of government. As long ago as my youth, we were told we were sending American soldiers to war to "spread democracy." Had the politicians and news media been telling us the truth, we would have been told that the military was being deployed out of concern for national security and a recognized need to prevent Communism from taking over large parts of the world. I guess language pollution intended to further a political agenda is nothing new! Now, however, we are reaping the results as politicians, ostensibly running on agendas claiming to be concerned for the welfare of common citizens, enact policy after policy that steal our basic human rights.

*[End of September 2019 Journal.
Please return for our October 2019 edition]*

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The Armed Citizens' Legal Defense Network, Inc. receives its direction from these corporate officers:

Marty Hayes, President

J. Vincent Shuck, Vice President

Gila Hayes, Operations Manager

We welcome your questions and comments about the Network.

Please write to us at info@armedcitizensnetwork.org or PO Box 400, Onalaska, WA 98570 or call us at 360-978-5200.



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