



## Psychological Aftermath of Justifiable Homicide An Interview with Andy Brown

Interview by Gila Hayes

*When I first met Andy Brown in 2009 at a class taught by Massad Ayoob, he modestly spoke about experiences leading up to and following his nearly 70-yard shooting, which stopped a mass murderer who was killing people at the Fairchild Air Force Base hospital on June 20, 1994.*

*I was pleased recently to learn that Brown has written a book, Warnings Unheeded, in which he details the events preceding the shooting, as well as another deadly incident at Fairchild Air Force Base in June of 1994. Both stories emphasize how dangerous it is to delay resolving known dangers. This book is reviewed later in this journal, and for those unfamiliar with the Fairchild AFB hospital shooting, reading the book review first may help to set the context for this interview.*

*Brown kindly provided a pre-release copy of Warnings Unheeded, an impressive analysis not only of the many warnings that predicted tragedy, but also details of the incidents as well as candid observations about the aftermath. Unfortunately, Brown's heroic act created a lot of private suffering for him. In hopes of helping others avoid some of what befell him, Brown agreed to an interview focusing on post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) difficulties after a critical incident.*

*Let's switch now to our Q & A format, to learn from Andy Brown, in his own words.*

**eJournal:** Before we delve into specific questions about the aftermath of your critical incident, could you give a brief overview of what happened to you on June 20, 1994 to put our discussion into context?

**Brown:** I was 24, I had been in the Air Force for five years and Fairchild was my third assignment. I was a patrolman. I normally rode in a patrol car, but I was on bike patrol, which was a new program. That was only my

second day on bike patrol. I was about an hour into our swing shift that started at 2 p.m. I had patrolled through some housing areas and stopped at a gate shack to visit with a friend of mine. I was planning on riding out of that gate into an area we leased from the county. It was still part of the base, but wasn't fenced in. There were two housing areas and the base hospital was between the two housing areas I was going to patrol.

**eJournal:** So the hospital and that housing were not inside the area controlled by the gate guards?

**Brown:** It was outside the base perimeter, but it was still considered base property, so it was something that we patrolled. It was concurrent jurisdiction—the county sheriff also had jurisdiction in that area—but we considered it part of the base even though it wasn't fenced in.

As I was inside the gate shack talking to the gate guard, a call came over the radio, "Fairchild Police to all posts and patrols, we have an alarm at the ER. Informational, we have an individual in the hospital running around with a shotgun." So I started riding toward the area, about three tenths of mile away, down a two-lane road that led straight to the hospital. There were a lot of cars driving away from the hospital area toward me. Some had windows rolled down and people were yelling and trying to communicate with me, but I couldn't hear them. Their urgency made me realize that something serious was going on at the hospital.

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There was a long, narrow three-story annex building that used to be an old dormitory that had been converted into doctor's offices and administrative offices for the hospital. As I approached and that building started to come into view, I saw a crowd of people wearing civilian clothes, Air Force uniforms and hospital whites, all urgently running away from that area. I scanned the crowd to see if any of them were a threat, because at that time I did not have a description of the man with the gun. I didn't see any threats, so as I rode through the crowd, I was asking, "Where is he?"

As they continued moving away from the area, they all pointed behind them, "There is a man with a gun and he is shooting people. He is over there." I continued towards the hospital campus and as I got closer, I saw a man dressed in dark clothing holding a long gun at his hip, firing to his left and his right. I veered to the right and rode up on to a sidewalk in front of the annex and took a kneeling position. I drew my pistol and identified myself as police and yelled at him to drop the weapon. He continued to fire to one side and the other. I saw movement and I knew there were people in the area, in my line of sight, so I was hesitant to fire.

I yelled at him again. As I was challenging him, I noticed people hiding behind vehicles on either side of him, in front of him and behind him. I think he either heard or saw me and he focused his attention and his rifle on me. When he started to fire toward me I knew the risk he posed outweighed the danger of me firing in the vicinity of others. That is when I made the decision to fire.

I didn't know how far away he was at the time, but I had trouble finding him in my sights because he was so far away that his body was obscured by the front sight of my pistol. I could hardly see him behind it. I managed to get a sight picture and continued the trigger press and started to fire at him. I fired three rounds, which didn't seem to have any effect on him. On the fourth round, he jumped up in the air, spun around and landed flat on his back. (An investigation later determined the final shot was made at a distance of between 68 and 71 yards.) At that time, I stood up and started moving toward the last position of cover between me and him—a silver pick-up truck parked perpendicular to the road. I leaned over the hood of that truck and yelled at him to not move. But he was motionless, out of the fight at that time.

**eJournal:** In *Warnings Unheeded*, you indicate that the

final round entered at the bridge of his nose, but before that, didn't your second round hit him in the shoulder?

**Brown:** One of my first three rounds did hit him in the shoulder. At the time, we were only allowed to carry 9mm NATO ball ammo. That has since changed, thankfully. From what I understand the security forces are now issued hollow point ammo. But, the autopsy report showed that the round that hit him in the shoulder, passed superficially through flesh only and went through and through with no effect.

There was a witness, and reading his statement, it sounded as if the first shot was what hit him in the shoulder. That was the only witness I could find that wrote a statement regarding seeing him react to a shoulder hit. It sounded like it was the first round, but I really couldn't say that with any certainty because eyewitnesses are not totally reliable.

**eJournal:** Well, the important point is that from 70 yards away, you hit with two of the four rounds you fired and stopped him from killing more people. Let's also remember that investigators later found 19 more cartridges in his rifle magazine, so that certainly equates to lives saved and suffering that you stopped.

**Brown:** Yeah.

**eJournal:** You'd been an Air Force Security Police patrolman for about five years before the shooting and in those years you were refining not only your shooting skill, but perhaps more importantly you took seriously your mental preparation for a critical incident while on duty as a patrolman. Can you assess how your preparation strengthened you for your encounter with Mellberg?

**Brown:** I had always worked with the assumption that it "could happen to me" and did all I could to prepare accordingly. I had gotten into a daily habit of mentally rehearsing lethal force scenarios and visualizing how I would effectively respond. Our only official pistol training was to qualify on the M9 twice a year, so I bought a clone of the Beretta M9, a Taurus PT-92, so I could practice on my own time. My friends and I would go out into the woods and practice long range, precision shooting, which for the most part was really just shooting

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at pinecones and pop cans. I also did a lot of dry fire work to be able to pull the trigger without disturbing the sight picture.

When I responded to the shooting, those preparations allowed me to react right away instead of wasting time in denial. When I encountered the gunman, my mind wasn't overwhelmed by the novelty of the situation. Although I had never imagined an incident of that magnitude, I had faced men with guns trying to kill me, hundreds of times before in my mental rehearsals so I was able to remain calm. Because of the muscle memory I developed during practice, once I made the decision to fire, operating the pistol was automatic.

**eJournal:** In *Warnings Unheeded*, a compelling report of what you experienced, you wrote that as you were driven by the Office of Special Investigations (OSI) officer from the perimeter to help search the hospital, you stopped a medic and asked "There's a woman out there on the road. I'm sure my background was clear, but I'm worried one of my bullets might have—" and he assured you that the only rounds that struck her had been fired by the gunman and she had died before you arrived on the scene. Was that relief lost in your self-doubt about lives lost (what you describe feeling the night of the shooting as a "faint sense of failed duty")?

**Brown:** The only concern I was aware of while I was on the scene was my fear that one of my rounds had somehow struck an innocent person. I was emotionally numb afterward and it took a while for me to realize I felt guilty about not saving more lives. The guilt was there, and it was affecting me, I just didn't realize it right away.

**eJournal:** Well, that is even more understandable in light of the difficulty you had obtaining counseling later. I've been lucky to hear you speak and read the advance copy of *Warnings Unheeded*, but this will be your first introduction to many readers. Can you explain the timing and what caused you to first reach out for counseling and why you stopped receiving that help?

**Brown:** It must have been three months after the shooting, because the investigation took about three months before I got to go back to working armed, in patrol. People kept asking me if I felt guilty about killing somebody, and I didn't. A lot of them were ignorant, and one said don't you feel guilty for murdering somebody, to which I took offense and corrected him and let him

know it was justified homicide, not murder. At least that's how I felt about it. So I was thinking that maybe something was wrong with me, for not feeling any guilt for killing the killer. I decided to go see a counselor just to make sure I was dealing with it properly.

If I knew then what I know now, I would have gotten treatment a lot sooner. I think I was still suppressing any emotions that I had about it and was still emotionally numb. I didn't realize that I was bothered by it as much as I was or I might have done it differently. I was affected by it a lot more than I realized and I was suppressing it, trying to be like John Wayne from the movies where nobody's bothered by having to shoot somebody or seeing so much trauma and violence.

When I did finally seek counseling, I'd had my weapon returned to me and I was working patrol. It was good to talk to somebody and I was planning on continuing the counseling but then I was relieved of duty and couldn't work patrol any more. [The Air Force removed him from armed duty for the duration of the counseling.]

At my next appointment with the counselor, I told her what was going on. I wanted her to write a letter to my command and let them know that there was nothing wrong with me and that I could continue to work armed duty, which she did. She seemed to be angry that I'd been relieved of duty just for seeking counseling, but she wrote the letter and I went back to patrol and I never saw her again.

**eJournal:** Your choice between working armed and getting counseling echoes current concerns about gun rights restrictions enacted against people who seek counseling, especially veterans. If you'd known then what you know today, might you have taken a different course of action? What options do you think an armed citizen should consider to avoid the prolonged effects of inadequately treated post-traumatic stress disorder?

**Brown:** I have since learned that the longer trauma-related symptoms go untreated, the worse they can become and the harder they are to treat, but it is never too late to get help. If I had it to do over again, I would have stuck it out and pursued counseling even though it meant I would be relieved of weapon handling duty. My

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advice to others who experience trauma is to seek counseling immediately regardless of the obstacles or consequences, and if one type of treatment doesn't work, seek out another.

More importantly, employers and governments should be working to remove obstacles and negative consequences that may deter people from seeking help. I eventually developed severe PTSD symptoms, but I never felt suicidal or homicidal. I am sure there are many people who continue to struggle as I did and would benefit from therapy. The arbitrary threat of denying those persons their right to bear arms is definitely a negative consequence and an obstacle to their effective treatment.

**eJournal:** Before the shooting, you were an avid student of Chuck Remsberg's *Street Survival* series. Did those books discuss the psychological aftermath or was the focus more on winning the fight? What mental aspects of post-incident survival would it have helped you to know about in advance?

**Brown:** As a young patrolman, I didn't own Remsberg's books; they weren't cheap and I had to read copies that were kept in our training room when I could find the time. I have since acquired a set of the books and believe they do cover post-shooting trauma, but I must not have been interested in the subject at the time because I don't recall ever reading about it.

I think it would have been helpful to know in advance that I may experience guilt, second guess my response, and develop post trauma symptoms. If I knew how to recognize the symptoms and knew they likely wouldn't go away on their own and would probably only get worse, I would have known I needed to get help before they began to jeopardize my career and affect my quality of life.

**eJournal:** After the shooting, your duty gun was taken as evidence, and when you returned to the squadron building and told you couldn't finish your shift, you sat alone in the interview room, and couldn't even phone your family. Would prior knowledge of such procedures have changed your reactions?

**Brown:** I would have considered the taking of my duty gun to be a negative consequence even if I had known it was going to happen in advance. I understood I had to

surrender it as evidence, but would have felt better about it if I had been able to exchange it for one that was not needed as evidence.

The isolation I experienced immediately after the incident was rough; knowing about it in advance would not have made it any easier. I don't believe it was done intentionally, at the time there were no procedures in place for officer-involved shootings so no one knew what to do with me. I hope the military has developed a plan since then, if not, I hope they read the book and realize they need to develop procedures or revise their existing policies.

**eJournal:** How could you have avoided that isolation? Can armed citizens establish resources in advance to help? What might one do to prepare?

**Brown:** My situation can be used as the example of what not to do after you are involved in a shooting or other traumatic incident. I was a single airman and lived alone, but I had several friends I associated with and family members who were only half a day's drive away. Not long after the shooting, I accepted orders to Hawaii and moved away from family and friends who knew me. I made new friends, but they didn't know me well enough to notice changes in my behavior. My advice to members of the Network is don't isolate yourself from family and friends, find someone who will listen when you need to talk, and listen to them if they tell you they are concerned.

**eJournal:** You wrote how the intrusive memories of June 20, 1994 followed you after you left Fairchild. What were you up against?

**Brown:** The intrusive thoughts were more like constant anxiety-causing memories of the incident that were triggered by common everyday situations. Some were caused by subconscious reminders of the shooting. There were obvious things like being in a crowd, going to a hospital or hearing a balloon pop, but also subtle things like warm, sunny days, the smell of fresh-cut grass or hearing the first name of the shooter, a victim or a survivor.

After the shooting, I was initially able to perform well at work and would occasionally socialize with friends off

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duty, but as the anxiety increased I began to avoid people and public places. I tried to avoid thinking about the incident and tried to ignore the symptoms, hoping they would go away in time. I spent most of my off-duty time alone in my dorm room and drank beer to calm my nerves.

The isolation led to depression, which only made things worse. I think the intrusive thoughts were my mind's way of attempting to process and make sense of the incident. Those unwanted memories went away after I finally found a therapy that forced me to discover what was troubling me and then worked to resolve it.

**eJournal:** Do you believe there is a place for prescription medication in PTSD treatment?

**Brown:** I didn't like taking the many medications that had been prescribed to me over the years. The side effects were often worse than the symptoms they were supposed to address and I didn't stick with any of them. I have a problem with the medical community throwing pills at things that can be corrected through lifestyle change or other means.

I think medications may have a place in PTSD treatment. If a person needs to suppress their symptoms in order to leave their home and attend therapy, medication might be the answer. I don't want to say that nobody can benefit from it, because I don't know what they are going through. In my experience, I did not think medication was something that was necessary for me in the long term. But I'm no doctor, so I don't want to say that nobody needs it.

**eJournal:** In *Warnings Unheeded* you wrote, "Over the years, I read countless books on trauma, PTSD and finding peace as I searched for the secret—the quick and easy cure. I would eventually discover my path to recovery from PTSD consisted of a series of deliberate steps." For you, of what did those deliberate steps consist? How individual do you think effective treatment is – or do most survivors follow similar steps toward recovery?

**Brown:** What I meant by a series of deliberate steps is that I didn't find one therapy that resolved all of my symptoms quickly and easily.

I think the steps are going to be different for everyone, what works for some may not work well for others. I found something useful in most everything I tried. Some were more useful than others and I think some therapies work better depending on where you are in the healing process.

I have read some trauma recovery self-help books that I didn't get anything out of, but when I read the same book at a later stage in my recovery I found them useful. I think a lot of it has to do with your attitude at the time. You have to want to get better; it isn't easy.

Finding my wife was my first step toward healing. The risk of losing my family was a big motivator for me to keep searching for peace. Changing my attitude was another step, and removing the negativity from my life was another. Finding a way to calm my anxiety without using alcohol also helped. Finding a therapy that addressed the root cause of my symptoms instead of masking the symptoms with medication was a major step in the right direction. Finding a job that gave me a purpose was a big step.

**eJournal:** What is your current work? Have you been able to fulfill your life-long drive to help people through law enforcement?

**Brown:** At the time when I was going through the healing process, I was working a lot of industrial jobs, and they weren't very fulfilling. It was difficult enough just transitioning from the military world to civilian life. I was applying for other jobs and found a position with the Border Patrol working in their radio room, like a desk sergeant, working with the agents in the field, calling out alarms, running records checks for the agents, and that's what gave me some purpose in life. It was a big step, being in a law-enforcement related job again where I felt like I was doing some good.

Now, I've been moved from that radio position and I work as a seized property specialist, where I help process the property that the agents seize: firearms, currency, drugs and vehicles. That happens to be a badged position, and I work armed. It is good to be entrusted with a firearm and a badge again and to be able to continue to help the agents.

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**eJournal:** From what we are learning about threats against our country, your support of Border Patrol agents is very important. I'm glad you're back on duty.

**Brown:** Yeah, it is good to be there.

**eJournal:** You've written that a big step in your recovery came in 2008 when you were finally able to listen to law enforcement dispatch recordings of the Fairchild incident. Was any rationale given for why it took so long to get the dispatch recordings?

**Brown:** No credible rationale. People with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations Freedom of Information Act division repeatedly told me they did not possess the equipment necessary to make a copy of the reel-to-reel audiotape containing the police radio and telephone transmissions. After several years of repeated requests, someone dug deeper into the case file and found that one of the original investigating officers had already copied the audio onto a cassette so they sent me a copy. I was pissed off and elated at the same time.

**eJournal:** Of first hearing that recording, you wrote, "At that moment, I finally began to forgive myself." I know it is impossible to turn back time, yet I have to wonder if a shroud of secrecy had not covered the mass shooting for all those years, how the truth would have encouraged your acceptance of what you were called upon to do and the extraordinary skill you demonstrated. Was worry that you somehow should have arrived on the scene sooner the pivotal point in your suffering?

**Brown:** I could see that I most likely saved lives that day and I was proud of my actions but at the same time I needed to find out how long it took me to arrive on scene. Due to the time distortion I experienced, it felt like it took forever to get there. I have never understood survivor guilt when I saw it in others and I know it doesn't make sense that I felt responsible for the dead and wounded, but I did. Being a law enforcement officer and one of the few people who were allowed to carry firearms on the base may have added to that sense of responsibility. Discovering that my response time was remarkably fast did help quite a bit in my recovery, but it was just one of several steps. Thankfully, I no longer feel responsible for those I could not save.

**eJournal:** Have treatment strategies for PTSD advanced such that the relatively new programs you

mention in *Warnings Unheeded* substantially differ from earlier therapies? Would you be comfortable explaining the prolonged exposure therapy and the cognitive processing therapy, and how it worked to alleviate your symptoms?

**Brown:** The previous therapies and counseling I received was just talk therapy, "Tell me what's bothering you," and "How does that make you feel?" It was good to be able to talk to someone, but it didn't give me any long-term benefit.

Cognitive processing therapy involved working with a counselor over several sessions and using a process that forced me to dig deep into the incident to discover what about it was bothering me. It also taught me that the incident had changed the way I thought about the world around me and that those thoughts were affecting the way I felt. By uncovering and addressing the cause of the symptoms and changing the way I thought, I began to feel better. It helped me get unstuck from the negative cycle I was in.

The prolonged exposure therapy forced me to go to places I would normally avoid and use breathing techniques to control the anxiety that was caused by the environment I was in. In doing so, the environments that I usually avoided began to become more tolerable. The depression I was experiencing subsided when I stopped isolating and began to enjoy life again.

**eJournal:** In earlier conversations, you commented that there is much more to be learned from the Fairchild shootings beyond our conversation today. That's something we would like to talk about later, but until then, what should we look for in your book, *Warnings Unheeded*, to help us pick up on those lessons?

**Brown:** The book provides an in-depth view into the life of a mass murderer in the making. Police trainer Lt. Dan Marcou developed a list of five phases that a mass public murderer typically goes through as he progresses toward his crime. Those phases are listed in the back of *Warnings Unheeded*. As you read the book, you can see the killer progress through each of those phases and you can see how the people who interacted with him,

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ignored or rationalized those warnings signs. The ones who saw what was happening and tried to warn people were ignored and dismissed.

I like to read nonfiction books about crime and criminals so that I might be better prepared to protect myself and my family from being victims. This book will help others to prevent or intervene in mass public murder. It is the book that I had always hoped someone would write, but I ended up doing it myself.

**eJournal:** I'm glad you wrote it and cannot thank you enough for sharing your experiences so openly with us. It is extremely valuable to learn from one who has gone before. I know that through your strong and positive influence our readers are now better prepared for what may befall them. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart!



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*Andy Brown grew up in Port Orchard, WA and joined the Air Force in 1989, shortly after graduating from South Kitsap High School. He served as a law enforcement specialist in the Security Police/Security Forces career field and was stationed in Greece, ID, WA, HI and NM.*

*He now lives in the Spokane, WA area and works for the Department of Homeland Security.*

*After seven years of research he wrote Warnings Unheeded. The book is part of his ongoing effort to share the lessons learned from the mass public murder and fatal B-52 crash at Fairchild Air Force Base, as well as the heroic actions of those involved and his experience with the effects of trauma. Learn more about this story at <http://fairchildhospitalshooting.com/> as well as this month's book review of Warnings Unheeded.*

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Please enjoy the next article.]*



## President's Message

### Gun Safety and Reloading

by Marty Hayes, J.D.

Network member Rob from Ohio sent me this email after reading last month's *President's Message* regarding gun safety and unintentional

discharges. I found his question thought provoking, and wanted to answer it here.

*Marty:*

*I just finished reading your journal article on safe gun handling and would like to have your position on reload technique. I have read and seen the reload technique of raising the pistol to eye level with the barrel pointed skyward. The justification being that you can watch the mag into the well. Using this technique, there is no way of knowing where a negligent discharge will land. The club to which I belong has a "muzzle down" policy and will eject any member who fails to follow this policy.*

*I personally have been trained in Rob Pincus' CFS (Combat Focus Shooting) program where reloads are accomplished at the low ready position and rely on practice and muscle memory to get the mag into the pistol. Beyond safety, this allows you to continue scanning while reloading.*

Rob, you bring up several valid concerns. To respond, I think a little history lesson is in order. Modern firearms training for the most part started at Gunsite Academy in 1976 and was based upon firearms skills tested at that time in practical shooting competition. The theory was that what worked best in simulated gunfights would likely work best in real gunfights. And that theory has proven to be mostly true over the past 40 years. One of the techniques was the "chin level reload." To clarify, the concept is that you can both see the magazine well and look over the gun downrange, so to me the "scanning while reloading" concept isn't that big of an issue when considering the position of the gun. But, of course, where the muzzle is pointed is a concern.

Once upon a time, ranges were primarily outdoors with lots of wide-open, unpopulated space around them. The occasional round going over a safety berm was not a big deal, as the likelihood of it being a problem was remote. But now, with the proliferation of both indoor ranges and urban encroachment upon the outdoor ranges, I believe the "muzzle down reload" has some real merit.

But even a blanket "muzzle down" policy doesn't address the whole issue. What about reloading a revolver? To eject the spent cartridges, one must point the muzzle skyward, then hit the ejector rod. Of course, the gun is empty, but then again, so is the semi-automatic when the slide is locked back when empty. In theory, a semi-auto reload with the slide locked back is the same thing.

But we also know the shooter becomes conditioned to perform a reload the same way, either with the slide locked back or slide forward. To train to different ways to reload the semi-auto pistol would seem counter-productive. And that doesn't even consider the "tactical reload" when one swaps a partially loaded magazine for a full one, in the oft discussed "lull in the action" of a deadly force encounter.

So, to get back to your question, my answer is "it depends." If you train and normally shoot at a range in rural America, you likely do not have a real problem. But if you train and shoot at one of the increasingly popular urban shooting centers, the muzzle down reload policy makes a whole bunch of sense. And frankly, the muzzle down reload isn't that much (if any) slower than the chin level reload. It is just different, and there is the negative aspect of casting your eyes downward for a second or two if needed during a critical time.

The bottom line is that with most other endeavors, a cost-to-benefit analysis should be undertaken to decide which pathway to take.

### Negligent v. Accidental v. Unintentional Discharges

You also brought up in your question the term "negligent discharge" (commonly called an ND). As a legally educated individual, I know the word "negligent" can

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attach negative legal consequences, either criminal or civil, depending on the circumstances. At one point in our short history of firearms training, the most commonly used term for firing a gun other than purposely was the term "accidental discharge" (AD). But, for whatever reason, perhaps to impart a more serious tone upon the act of firing the gun unintentionally, the term "negligent discharge" came into favor. And even more recently, the term "unintentional discharge" has worked its way into the discussion of these actions. And frankly, "unintentional discharge" is a term that I use with more and more frequency.

If a person shoots guns enough, they will invariably experience an episode when they discharge the gun unintentionally: either prematurely as in during a draw stroke when the round strikes the ground in front of them, or perhaps when they are manipulating the gun as in the case of clearing a malfunction. It is my belief, that if all other safety protocols were in place (primarily pointing at a safe backstop or the ground in front of them) that they weren't negligent. If buffered by overlapping layers of safety procedure, it was likely an "unintentional discharge." Conversely, if the discharge resulted in severe injury or death to another person, then the term "negligent discharge" may indeed describe that act correctly.

In addition, I have personally experienced "accidental discharges"—once during a shooting match when my pistol suffered a mechanical failure, and twice during training when the same gun (I sense a pattern here) malfunctioned again. The gun has since been repaired!

So, without going into a full legal discussion about negligence (if you want more on this topic, search the Internet for "negligence" and you can spend days reading about it), I recommend a more circumspect usage of the term "negligent discharge," replacing it with the more innocuous term "unintentional discharge," at least until you know the complete details of the incident.

In closing, as I mentioned last month, we have asked our Network Affiliated Attorneys to weigh in on the question of whether or not someone should self-report an unintentional firing of a handgun. The responses we received were both varied and educational, so keep reading the next few pages of this journal to get a sense of the legal profession's thoughts on the matter.

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Please enjoy the next article.]*



## Attorney Question of the Month

Recently, one of our members called to chat about having an unintentional discharge of a firearm, which exited his house and possibly struck a neighbor's house. The neighbor was not aware of it and did not suffer any harm from the incident. The member wanted to know if he should call the police and self-report the incident. It was such a good question, subject to variables like political climate in one's specific location and other concerns, that we pushed the question out to our affiliated attorneys as this month's question. Here is what we asked—

***If this person had been one of your clients, how would you have advised him, and why?***

### **Royce Ferguson**

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The crime of reckless endangerment was committed the moment the bullet left the barrel. My advice at any point afterwards is to remain silent. The client should not run to the police to confess. Remaining silent is the best policy. The issue is likely to go away.

### **Benjamin M. Blatt**

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I actually had to advise a client about this very issue a couple of months ago.

If your AD/ND strikes a neighbor's home, call the police. Here's why: Yes, you might wind up facing criminal charges and expending money on criminal defense, but if you don't report it, and the neighbor later spots and reports the damage, you have lost control of the narrative. Instead of being an apologetic neighbor who had an accident, the police will be looking at you as someone who may have attempted to harm or intimidate your neighbor for any number of reasons.

It's like brandishing a firearm to dissuade a criminal act. If you fail to report it initially, and the would-be criminal calls the police instead, you go from victim to perpetrator in the space of a phone call.

### **Dale Carson**

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No! To charge you with a crime there need only be probable cause! If you talk about this to anyone, anyone at all, you are likely to create probable cause. If anyone comes to your door or calls asking questions, about the AD, say nothing and get a lawyer. Under these circumstances, the questioner is not your friend. They are seeking an admission. Admissions against interest are never in your better interest. After all it is Biblical, to keep silent, better to be thought a fool than to speak and remove all doubt.

Today, there is more. There is now a dangerous new twist. We (speaking here as a former cop and retired FBI agent) never thought of charging citizens for lying to us. Why? Everyone lied to us at one level or another. We could not charge everyone. Today, things are different. In Florida if you lie in connection with a capital felony you can, and likely will be charged with a first degree (30-year) felony. Go figure!

### **Marc S. Russo**

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It says "possibly" struck a neighbor's house. Unless the person was a trusted friend or relative, I would advise him not to report it. Especially if it happened some time ago and no one ever made any noise about it.

*[Continued next page...]*

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Nowadays especially, you never know what quagmire you could step into, even if no law was broken and no harm done. After all, you could have been "endangering minor children in your household through improper storage." Maybe your concealed carry permit or hunting license should be lifted due to improper training or knowledge of safety procedures. In some of the more anti-gun jurisdictions they might go after you for "illegal discharge of a firearm" or "reckless endangerment." Almost all cities and many towns and municipalities have laws against the former, even in rural areas with respect to "the town limits" or "within 100 feet of a house" or school, or something similar. If it ain't broke don't fix it!

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I would not self-report. This was an accident and if the neighbor is not worried about it, there is no reason to invite scrutiny from the local police.

If the neighbor does report it, be honest with the police. If possible, have a knowledgeable attorney along.

Stay quiet, retain an attorney and protect yourself. In sum, feel a little shame, and do not embarrass yourself and your lineage by pointing out your actual stupidity.

Finally, who could possibly benefit from your disclosure except those who would act to harm you?

**Eric W. Schaffer**

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As I sometimes tell clients do not confuse legality with morality. They are two very different concepts that do not always overlap. I think the November 2016 Network Attorney Question highlights this since there is both a legal and moral component to the question.

From the legal perspective if this person consulted with me I would advise them not to report the discharge. You have no duty to self-report, with your right against

self-incrimination being enshrined in the Fifth Amendment. If you do the consequences could be severe. At a minimum you would be charged with reckless endangerment. This is a five-year misdemeanor in this state, which upon conviction would mean an immediate lifetime ban under Maryland law from ever touching a firearm again. There are certainly also civil ramifications with the potential of being sued.

It is only then after being fully advised of the legal ramifications of the different possible courses of action, that I would suggest the person considers the morality of their situation. They must square this with their own moral compass and decide what they should do. That is not something a lawyer can or should do.

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Can't imagine why on earth anyone would ever even consider doing that in the described circumstance. If there is an investigation, he [can] then think about providing an explanation of what occurred, but whether he is contacted in the course of the investigation could bear on the decision, even in that case.

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We had a similar action occur here within the last three months. Young man was cleaning a revolver, it discharged, traveled through his wall and struck the neighbor's home. My advice is to not contact law enforcement but rather to contact the neighbor. I treat this as though my lawnmower had thrown debris against my neighbor's home. Offer to pay for the damage and explain to the neighbors why this won't happen again.

Once upon a time, law enforcement would have lectured the gun owner, offered some education and moved on. Today, when law enforcement is called, the  
*[Continued next page...]*

LEOs want to charge the gun owner. A wanton endangerment charge, either felony or misdemeanor, can be difficult and expensive to defeat. The negligent firing of a firearm is just that, negligent; but juries often cannot understand the difference between negligent behavior and wanton behavior.

By the way, my guy actually called the police. As predicted, he was charged with Wanton Endangerment 1st Degree. He pleaded guilty to misdemeanor wanton endangerment, took 30 day of probated time and forfeited the gun.

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I can't think of any reason for calling the police. Would you call the police if you were not sure if the light had changed when you entered the intersection? If you might have torn the tag off your mattress?

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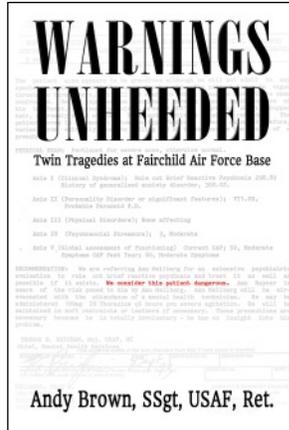
*A big "Thank you!" to all of the Network Affiliated Attorneys who responded to this question. Please return next month for the rest of the responses our Affiliated Attorneys submitted on this topic.*

## Book Review

### Warnings Unheeded: Twin Tragedies at Fairchild Air Force Base

By Andy Brown, SSgt, USAF, Ret.  
To be released Nov. 5, 2016  
ISBN: 978-0-9978634-0-6  
372 pages, paperback, \$19.99  
Purchase at  
[fairchildhospitalshooting.com/book](http://fairchildhospitalshooting.com/book)

Reviewed by Gila Hayes



Writing the foreword to the new book *Warnings Unheeded*, our advisory board member Massad Ayoob comments that Andy Brown literally “rode to the sound of guns,” adding, “Andy reminds us all that uncorrected recklessness can be every bit as deadly as unchecked madness and malice.” With this insightful comment, the reader is introduced to an extraordinarily detailed analysis of two tragedies suffered at Fairchild Air Force Base in 1994. The parallel stories are told by the Air Force Security patrolman who responded to one of those incidents and subsequently made the 70-yard shot that stopped a shooter killing doctors, patients and staff at the base hospital, but is much wider-ranging than just his experience, weaving together reports, written recommendations, post-incident reactions and many other documents into a compelling narrative.

In 1994, Airman Dean Mellberg, who after several years of psychological problems was discharged from the Air Force, returned to Fairchild AFB’s mental health unit and the adjacent hospital and there killed five—including both his psychiatrist and his psychologist—and wounded 22 other staffers and patients at the hospital. The hospital was located outside the Air Force Base gates, allowing Mellberg to enter with a drum-fed rifle inside a duffel bag.

*Warnings Unheeded* is a chronology of Mellberg’s assignments from one Air Force base to another, the story of the pilot of the B-52 that crashed and claimed four lives only four days after the murders, along with just enough of the modest Brown’s personal history to set the stage of his preparation, shooting and the aftermath that he endured.

Brown told me, “This book will help others to prevent or intervene in mass public murder. It is the book that I had always hoped someone would write, but I ended up

having to do it myself.” Mellberg’s mental deterioration follows phases identified as common to mass murderers by researcher Lt. Dan Marcou, quoted in Brown’s book.

Throughout his enlistment in the Air Force, Dean Mellberg was cause for concern, starting in 1992 at basic training at Lackland AFB, where his bizarre behavior resulted in recommendations for “immediate administrative discharge and referral to civilian mental healthcare,” Brown introduces. A senior master sergeant at Lackland concurred, but a major who had only commanded the training unit for two weeks ordered the staff to keep him in the program.

A pattern of passing off the troubled airman continued through his assignment to technical school, his first duty assignment at the Spokane, WA Fairchild AFB, during psychiatric treatment at several bases, and multiple professional assessments that Mellberg needed to be separated from the Air Force. These steps detailed in *Warnings Unheeded* make it clear that many knew that Mellberg was not suited to military life.

During 93 days of treatment at Lackland AFB’s psychiatric ward, Mellberg confided that at about seven years of age, he had been forcibly kidnapped and sodomized by an older boy. Mental health providers at Lackland were further troubled by his interaction with his mother when she came to visit. Testing produced a “current working diagnosis of autistic disorder in presence of high intelligence, well compensated by supportive structure provided by patient’s mother,” Brown reports.

The doctors again recommended his discharge from the Air Force, but the autism diagnosis interfered with separating him from the service immediately. The mentally ill airman was moved to several bases, and after being denied one assignment, he pledged he would “pay back” Air Force doctors he blamed for his problems. Brown outlines relocations Mellberg went through before eventually being discharged, then making his way back to Spokane, WA.

Back at Fairchild, Mellberg saw a MAK-90 AK47 rifle advertised on a dorm bulletin board. The dorm manager connected him with the gun dealer. At the home of the

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dealer, he filled out the ATF Form 4473, lying about his 93-day treatment in the TX Air Force medical center. No one could verify his responses, and even today, mental health treatment records are protected under privacy rules, Brown notes.

Mellberg paid \$450 cash for the rifle and stowed it inside its shipping case in his gym bag. After checking into a motel, he went out and bought 80 rounds of ammunition and the next day bought an AK-47 drum magazine, but could not figure out the complicated loading procedure. He complained to a clerk at the Sportsman's Surplus store that the drum magazine was defective, but the clerk fixed his mistakes and Mellberg left with a functioning magazine.

Viewed as a composite, Mellberg's final days all point toward mass murder, but standing alone, each single interaction was merely weird, including stashing personal belongings in the motel dresser drawers before he checked out and went to Fairchild's medical complex. There, he hid in a restroom stall to strap a knife to his waist and pull the rifle from his duffle bag before seeking out the doctors who had treated him earlier.

During some of the time Mellberg was being moved from one base to another, author Andy Brown had been stationed in Greece, but returned to WA in May of 1993, reported for duty at Fairchild AFB's Security Police Squadron and began working patrol. After a brief assignment in the Middle East, Brown returned to Fairchild and was assigned to the new bike patrol. On the second day of that assignment, Brown queued up for ammunition, radio and pistol, reluctantly accepting a temporary firearm, since his usually assigned handgun was tagged for maintenance. He function checked, loaded and holstered the Beretta, received his assignment, and with the rest of the patrol shift watched a training video on responding to mass casualty incidents. After patrolling the base housing, he paused at a base gate before heading out to check the housing areas on either side of the hospital. Before he could do that, he was dispatched to the mass shooting at the hospital, where he interdicted Dean Mellberg.

*Warnings Unheeded* details how Mellberg left the men's room and walked down a hall carrying the rifle, and passed two men so closely that his rifle barrel briefly brushed one's midsection. One yelled a warning, as Mellberg pushed a door open and shot his former doctor then walked to an adjacent office and shot another

doctor who had treated him, then went through the hospital and parking area shooting patients and staff.

Brown outlines the survivors' mix of initial denial, mistaking gunshots for slamming doors, construction noise or cars backfiring and panicked escape attempts, making this chapter very instructive. At one point, the AK-47 drum magazine ran out of spring tension, and Mellberg had to stop to rewind the tensioner. Knowing the AK-47 system allowed an NCO at whom Mellberg had been shooting to escape during the pause required to get the drum magazine working again.

These details are enlightening for anyone training to survive a mass casualty attack, and although the entire story is detailed and quite interesting, these pages have particular value for our readers. In addition, Brown reports his responses, both at the scene and afterwards. His candid analysis of his post-shooting reactions are similarly instructional, and readers are encouraged to buy *Warnings Unheeded*, not only for the compelling reportage, but to learn from this man's honest self-analysis of what the body and mind does after a deadly force incident.

Afterwards, the Air Force sent Brown to one mandatory counseling session along with two dozen other first responders. Brown was taken off patrol duty and worked unarmed tending prisoners in the confinement section. He worked alone, and members of his squadron seemed "apprehensive to approach me, let alone talk to me," he recalls. He was lauded in print and received awards, including the Airman's Medal for heroic acts of courage, but a reluctant Brown was stuck in memories of the carnage he'd seen. He second-guessed his actions, felt that it took too long for him to arrive on scene, and was deeply affected by the death of the eight-year-old girl Mellberg shot.

Brown eventually transferred to Hickam AFB on Oahu, HI, but even there he writes, everyday sights and smells "triggered an unwelcome memory of the dead, the wounded, or the gunman. Along with the thoughts came an ever-present anxiety. I hoped the memories and anxiety would fade with time, but they only seemed to get worse. I couldn't sleep, and I became increasingly irritable and intolerant of others." Off duty, he holed up in his room and only socialized when drinking, he adds.

When the anxiety was unbearable, Brown left patrol and became an investigator, work at which he excelled.

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Inside, though, Brown still suffered and became more isolated as he took to his room studying anything he could find on the developing field of post traumatic stress disorder treatment. Requesting psychological help subjected him to a battery of psychometric tests having nothing to do with his problems and for this he was again relieved of duty until the psychologist asserted that he was OK to work.

Brown candidly reports the career steps that led him to acknowledge, "that the job I loved had become just another source of stress. It was apparent that I could either be a cop, or receive mental health counseling, but not both." He accepted a medical separation from the Air Force, returned to Spokane, WA, married, and started a family. His PTSD persisted, but so did his quest for solutions. Here, *Warnings Unheeded*, becomes an inspirational story of one man's courage to address the source of his trouble and heal it.

Brown's closes *Warnings Unheeded* with an Afterword addressing armed citizens in particular, encouraging them to carry regularly, train seriously, and be ready. He includes study resources to sharpen perception of a pending mass attack and discusses America's failing

mental health system, noting, in part, "The New York Times conducted a study of 'rampage homicides' that occurred between 1949 and 1999 and published an article on 9 April 2000, where the Times concluded, of the 100 incidents studied, 'At least half of the killers showed signs of serious mental health problems' and '48 killers had some kind of formal diagnosis, often schizophrenia.' Similar studies have reached the same conclusion," he stresses.

*Warnings Unheeded* has much to offer Network members—an unforgettable illustration of the deadly result of failing to address dangers, lessons in personal preparation, passages that explain how people react to a mass shooting event, and the chance to understand how the most justifiable killing affected the man tasked with that duty for decades afterward.

Brown is scheduled to release *Warnings Unheeded* in just five days, on November 5th. See his website <http://fairchildhospitalshooting.com/book> for details on how to purchase it, once the book is publicly available.

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



## News from Our Affiliates

Compiled by Josh Amos

It is November and time for a networking update for all of our members. As we gear up for 2017, a lot of good things are happening here at the Armed Citizens' Legal Defense Network. Our newest development is that we have launched a second Facebook page to serve as a sister site to our popular legal issues discussion page on Facebook. The new page, focused on promoting Network membership, can be found at [www.facebook.com/Armedcitizenslegaldefensenetwork.org](http://www.facebook.com/Armedcitizenslegaldefensenetwork.org). You will know you have the correct page when you see our name and logo with the scales of justice superimposed over the picture of our advisory board. Please come and have a look at all the content on the page and then give us a "Like." Then I ask that you please take that next step and share us with your friends. This will help us reach more armed citizens and in turn, build a bigger, stronger, and more unified Network for all of us. I understand that Facebook has a reputation for goofing off, but we are using it as a business tool to reach out to armed citizens everywhere.

There's lots of good content on our Facebook site, we post articles twice a day, educational book reviews specific to armed citizens, and we are growing a video library, as well. All of our content comes from industry giants like Massad Ayoob, John Farnam, Tom Givens, Dennis Tueller, Jim Fleming, our Network President Marty Hayes, and many other guests who are experts at what they do.

In addition to Facebook, we are continuing to strive for wider distribution for our educational foundation's booklet *What Every Gun Owner Needs to Know About Self Defense Law*. If you know other responsible armed citizens, please give them a booklet. Those folks might be beginners or advanced, students, or fellow shooters; they can be single action shooters or tactical shooters, they can be recreational shooters or professional competitors, as



long as they are responsible, educated, and believe in good training, we are happy to have them along.

You can order or reorder booklets by contacting me at [Josh@armedcitizensnetwork.org](mailto:Josh@armedcitizensnetwork.org). On the outside chance you've not yet seen this publication, you can download a PDF for your own review at [http://www.armedcitizensnetwork.org/images/stories/Hayes\\_SDLaw.pdf](http://www.armedcitizensnetwork.org/images/stories/Hayes_SDLaw.pdf) and then let me know how many copies you'd like.

One of my favorite duties here at the Network is recognizing people for doing good work. First, let's head out west so I can introduce

several of my affiliates who are doing great work in NV and CA. Just outside of Las Vegas, The Green Valley Range in Henderson, NV is a place you need to put on your must see list. The Green Valley Range (<https://www.greenvalleyrange.com>) is a shooter's destination with a fourteen lane shooting range, classes that span beginner to expert, an on-staff armorer, and full auto rental program. The operations manager Isaac Espejo (above, right) and owner Jerry Tumminia (left), have been big supporters of the Armed Citizens' Network and they operate a clean and classy place that fits the needs of a wide variety of shooters.



If you are in NV and want a top notch shooting experience, go to The Green Valley Range, and tell Isaac, Jerry, and the rest of their crew "Thank you for supporting the Armed Citizens Network!"

Next, we go to Sacramento, CA and meet Wesley Lagomarsino (left), who owns and operates Lagomarsino's Firearms Institute, Inc. <http://www.lfiguns.com/credentials>. Wesley has been an affiliated instructor for the Armed Citizens' Legal Defense Network since 2012. His extensive training and experience makes him the kind of instructor

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who can help shooters of all levels and skill sets make noticeable improvements. Wesley promotes the same core values of responsibility, education, and good training on which the Armed Citizens' Network is founded. Wesley also expands his students' opportunities to learn by hosting a variety of guest instructors like Massad Ayoob and Mike Seeklander.

Wesley has a great range of courses for every skill level. If you are a beginner, or maybe you are better with a pistol than a rifle, Wesley will help strengthen your weaker areas, and he does it in a way that encourages you to want to do more than you ever thought possible. If you are an advanced shooter who really wants to move up to the next level, Wesley was a high level competitor in IDPA and will use his skills and experience to get you where you want to go. I have to say that working with Wesley on a

professional level is great and I have no doubt that if I lived in Sacramento, Wesley would be getting my money!



Finally, let me wrap this up with a word of thanks to Craig Jones of Defensive Dynamics of Virginia, LLC in Henrico, VA. Craig is an affiliated instructor and a great supporter of the Armed Citizens' Legal Defense Network. Craig sent us this picture of a tidy display from his classroom, including two of our tabletop membership sales posters, and one of our member education items, Massad Ayoob's book *Deadly Force: Understanding Your Right to Self Defense*. Well done, Craig!

That does it for this month folks. Please have a great Thanksgiving and thank you for supporting the Armed Citizens' Legal Defense Network!

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



## Editor's Notebook

### Attorney Selection

by Gila Hayes

The Network started affiliating with attorneys back in 2008 when, in response to our member-education lectures on DVD about

preparing for the legal aftermath of a shooting, members told us they were having trouble taking action on recommendations to select an attorney before needing to call one after self defense. "How hard can that be?" we innocently exclaimed.

Well, as we were to learn, taking that advice was actually quite a challenge. Not only were many Joe and Jane Average members exceedingly uncomfortable reaching out to the legal profession, the receptionists answering the phones at law firms really didn't know what to do with people calling in without a pending legal matter, and if the poor armed citizen actually made it into the attorney's presence, they sometimes met with uncomfortable asides like, "What are you planning to do? Shoot someone?" because a lawyer who is not "one of us" but rather spends the day defending burglars, car thieves and drunk drivers too often simply could not understand why an armed citizen would try to get their legal ducks in a row to prevent catastrophe later.

Obviously, some assistance was required. Drawing on our advisory board members' professional contacts, those of our affiliated instructors and our own contacts in the world of the armed citizen, we began to offer complimentary membership with full membership benefits to attorneys who would make their contact information available to Network members. It was—and still is—our goal to affiliate with lawyers who share the bond common to armed citizens and thus make getting to know an attorney a little easier for our members.

That initial outreach netted us our first cadre of affiliated attorneys, but as the Network grew and members joined from all across the nation, it became obvious that we needed many more affiliated attorneys, so we spread our nets wider, investing quite a bit of time reaching out to gun friendly attorneys to build these important affiliations. To this day, attorney recruitment is an ongoing effort and now that it is a mature facet of our program, we further invest a portion of one team

member's working hours to maintain those relationships through periodic contact to keep our listings up to date. Lucky for me, she's a former paralegal who well understands law firm operations.

That's why we have always chosen to restrict access to the affiliated attorney listings to members, despite some pretty outrageous pressure from lookie-loos who don't want to join without first knowing the names and pedigrees of attorneys we're affiliated with in their neighborhood. At first blush, that might seem a reasonable demand, and I guess requiring review of our affiliated attorney lists before joining would make sense IF the Network only paid affiliated attorneys to provide representation for members after self defense. To the contrary, however, the Network is the post self defense funding arm that pays the lawyer, any lawyer, the member designates. We have always emphasized that the Network member never gives up that all-important decision. Choosing your own attorney is one of the defining differences that sets the Network's membership benefits apart from the more common pre-paid legal schemes marketed today.

I can only guess that the latest snippy email I got about not making affiliated attorney lists public came from a non-member who stopped reading after I wrote, "The names and contact information of the affiliated attorneys in your state are reserved for Network members only," and missed the next words, "but please understand that the Network isn't an attorney referral resource, and the affiliated attorneys are only one of a variety of membership benefits for which our members are joining. In addition, members are never required to use a Network Affiliated Attorney in order to receive Network assistance after a self-defense incident."

Bottom line: We do not assign attorneys to members! That would be a lot like having a doctor assigned to you, and then realizing that you really do not like or trust your assigned physician. Oh, wait! That is what my health insurance does, and by the way, I despise that insurance cooperative. The last thing I want is to create that kind of dissatisfaction amongst members!

Besides, if the Network assigned attorneys, we would be in the untenable position of needing to sit in judgment over the skills, abilities and suitability of 420 lawyers serving all the states of the Union. Could we legitimately

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impose that level of supervision and oversight? Not in a million years, and especially not if we are to increase the numbers of affiliated attorneys, not cut back that valuable resource.

The Network, despite the pleasure we take in our relationships with our affiliates, simply cannot make an endorsement for any of their skills and abilities. Our members, much like a medical patient needing a physician's care, has to take personal responsibility and decide if the lawyer they confer with either after the incident or hopefully, before, is a good fit for the member's needs.

Of the 13 members who have used force in self defense since we opened the Network, I know that most have at one point or another in the progression of their case phoned Network President Marty Hayes and hashed out questions about one or another confounding aspect of their legal defense. He has been able to act as a sounding board, serving as a friendly listener, but at the end of the call, he always leaves the decisions that affect the member's liberty in the member's hands. To do otherwise would be extremely unethical.

I bring this up, because of the very human propensity to believe what we want to be true and hear what we want to be told. I understand! Living responsibly is sometimes a lot of work. Sometimes I get tired of being a responsible adult, too! But friends and fellow Network members, life's important decisions cannot be made for us by others, or, for that matter, assigned to a surrogate by paying a yearly fee. (Besides, membership dues are paid for financial assistance with legal expenses after self defense and for preparatory education, not for access to an attorney referral list!)

Some steps, the responsible adult has to make personally. Can we help? Sure, we can provide insights into how legal processes work, including sharing knowledge that may help members know what to ask an attorney or decide whom to call for legal help. We've written on this topic multiple times in years past: <http://armedcitizensnetwork.org/finding-an-attorney>, <http://armedcitizensnetwork.org/44-our-journal/263-finding-the-right-attorney> and <http://armedcitizensnetwork.org/index.php/editorial>, to name a few of our most-cited examples.

We live in a society that likes to contract out critical personal decisions! People pay advisors to manage their money, counselors to make decisions about their personal lives, and expect government to manage just about every other aspect of their lives! That is not the way we roll, here at the Network.

I started this commentary hoping to correct mistaken beliefs about Network attorney affiliations to which members and non-members cling. There is one more topic to clear up. Last month, a member contacted me with a request that affiliated attorneys provide a no-fee initial consultation to Network members so the possible client could get to know the attorney before needing his or her services after a self-defense incident.

First, the Network does not impose any such requirement upon our diverse group of affiliates, although some have written in past commentaries that they do offer no fee meet-and-greets, as a few indicate at page eleven of our March 2013 journal [Network\\_2013-03.pdf](#), page seven of the April 2013 edition, [Network\\_2013-04.pdf](#) and page nine of the May 2013 journal, [Network\\_2013-05.pdf](#).

Yes, some offer no-fee consultations and some do not, but seriously, folks, such a requirement is far outside the scope of our agreement with the attorneys. If we made that a requirement for participation affiliated attorney resource would shrink dramatically. It simply asks too much. The solo practitioner might be able to work it into his or her busy day, but what of a young armed citizen in the legal profession who is a junior member at a large firm? How is he or she to explain that half hour of non-billable time to the firm?

Instead of putting up obstacles to participating with us as affiliated attorneys, I would strongly prefer to GROW our affiliations with the legal profession! Indeed, I aspire to double and treble this resource in the years to come. I'm committed to maintaining our affiliated attorney list as the vigorous wide-reaching list of various skills, talents and abilities spread all across this great nation that we originally envisioned, have worked so hard to build, and continue to invest in maintaining and growing.

*[End of November 2016 eJournal.  
Please return for our December 2016 edition.]*

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## About the Network's Online Journal

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Do not mistake information presented in this online publication for legal advice; it is not. The Network strives to assure that information published in this journal is both accurate and useful. Reader, it is your responsibility to consult your own attorney to receive professional assurance that this information and your interpretation or understanding of it is accurate, complete and appropriate with respect to your particular situation.

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](mailto:editor@armedcitizensnetwork.org).

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](mailto:info@armedcitizensnetwork.org) or PO Box 400, Onalaska, WA 98570 or call us at 360-978-5200.



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