



Beneath the Radar An Interview with Ed Lovette

Interview by Gila Hayes

Network members commit a fair amount of time and money to training to defend against violent crime. Generally, their trainers advise them to do all in their power not to go to guns unless absolutely necessary, but often that's said in passing without much actual instruction about how. It goes without saying that slipping beneath the predatory criminal's radar is best, yet it is assumed that folks just naturally know how to fade into the background. Not so!

Years ago, I met Ed Lovette at an event hosted by SIG Academy in NH and was impressed by his common-sense instruction. Lovette is a retired CIA paramilitary operations officer, who also served as a captain in the U.S. Army Special Forces and worked for a decade in domestic law enforcement. How, I wondered, had he adapted the safety skills he used in hostile foreign countries, to the daily practice of safety in private life? Fortunately, Lovette very generously answered my questions and contributed a number of additional ideas about running beneath the radar. Our conversation follows.

eJournal: Thank you for helping with my questions on staying below the notice of criminals. Can you tell us a bit about your background?

Lovette: Although I am retired now, my experience started out in the military. I had the great good fortune to serve in Special Forces. They take operational security very seriously as you can imagine. As an example, we were preparing for a deployment and during the pre-deployment briefing we were strongly advised (ordered) to maintain a low profile in the country we were being sent to. Shortly after our arrival one of my teammates decided to ignore this directive and in very short order he found himself on an airplane back to group headquarters.

In my Agency experience, we wanted to avoid anything! For us to get into a confrontation, especially an oral confrontation, was a disaster on several levels and not just to us personally. If we were no longer the invisible person out there trying to make the mission happen, we couldn't gather the information or complete the particular assignment. We could blow a mission with national security interests for our government. We had to be awful good at staying out of trouble.

When I got out, I was asked to give some classes and it dawned on me that I had never taught private citizens. I did a whole bunch of research on these particular issues, so I've looked at all the different sorts of situations that you can get into. I think that is where your interest and mine overlap.

eJournal: I agree. Is blending in a lifestyle or as you retired and returned to private life, did you apply that career skill only situationally?

Lovette: It is a lifestyle. It would be like me asking, "Why didn't you carry a gun today?" And you answering, "Well, I didn't think there would be a problem." That doesn't work, and this is the same. You have to commit.

The minute you leave the house, you need to start paying attention. You can self-check yourself on that



Now retired, Ed Lovette enjoys hunting and other quieter pursuits than in his military and CIA careers. He now volunteers to keep schools safe and is currently working on the third update of his book on the snubby revolver.

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and pretty soon, you do it automatically. That is what I mean when I talk about “turning on” and “turning off.” Col. Jeff Cooper used to talk about instantly going into Condition Yellow when you put on your gun. Because you may not be able to carry a weapon under some circumstances, I’ve added that when you leave the house and lock your door to go to work, you need to “turn on.” You can’t let disruptions interfere—whether that is a fight with your wife or trouble with the kids or anything else that happens. You have to cut that off and turn on your awareness to see what’s going on around you.

eJournal: Are we sufficiently fortified inside our homes that we can “turn off” the awareness inside the home?

Lovette: The importance of the home is that it lets you decompress. I realized when I came back from an overseas assignment that it would literally take me several days to decompress. I could feel it mentally and in my body. The importance of the home or the hotel room is that it gives you that chance to shut off, to decompress. You simply can’t run with this sort of energy and effort for 24/7. You get sloppy and you start making mistakes, just like anything else when you get tired.

eJournal: Well, that’s a reality check. We’re taught to be continually aware, to have your head on a swivel to scan and not miss cues. We fail to talk about the energy needed to maintain that. We fail to talk about recharging in a safe place so that when we go back out, we’re sharp again. I have never heard anyone address the necessity of down time.

Lovette: You mentioned how people are taught the “head on a swivel” for awareness and I have to say, I think it is very bad advice. I don’t know why people are teaching it. Instead, if you’re walking down the street and you want to see what is going on behind you, the simplest thing to do is, number one, just stop and look in a shop window like you were looking at the merchandise; use that window’s reflection. You can do the same thing with the window glass when you are getting in your car. Use your car windows to see if anyone is getting too close behind you.

The second thing is to actually go into the store and go in deep enough that you’re not going to be quickly noticed, then turn and look through the glass behind you. If there is somebody up to something, they may

stop and scratch their head or mutter to themselves, or finally, they may come in the store.

eJournal: That’s a nice tactic that also gauges how dedicated they are to reaching you.

Lovette: That’s a fact. If you’re sitting in a shopping mall for example and there is a loud noise—if there is a reason that you can turn around, that’s fine, but otherwise, I’m not comfortable with obvious scanning.

They even teach turning to look in all directions on ranges—you shoot and then you look behind you. If I am in that situation, I would much rather get my back up against something. Is there something I can get against really quick? A wall? A refrigerator? I don’t care what it is, if I can get my back up against it, that takes part of the approach opportunities away from other people.

eJournal: Something that’s related is the great body of conflicting advice given about making eye contact. This ranges from looking strangers in the eye so they know you identified them to the opposite idea that eye contact will challenge them to fight. Can eye contact be too aggressive and be mistaken as a challenge?

Lovette: I think it can, and if you’re armed and depending on all the other factors, you may want to do that because it may be what it takes to shut this person down. But there is another way if the last thing you want is a confrontation. The best way I can describe it is like a glance. You look at them just long enough to let them know that you see them and then you look at something else. A lot of the time, if you take that element of surprise away from them, it just is not going to be fun anymore because they’ve been spotted.

That is pretty easy to practice. Some people call it a soft focus. The best way I know to describe the glance is like using a flashlight—you don’t shine it in their eyes, you just swipe the light across their face. That glance is like that. It is “on” for a couple of seconds and then it moves on to something else. It is long enough for them to know that they have been seen but not long enough challenge them.

eJournal: Criminals need victims and we’d rather not be chosen. What characteristics do you think affect victim selection?

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Lovette: The determining factors I'm seeing seem to be race, sex or age. Those are the things I think make somebody vulnerable to an attack.

eJournal: That's ironic since it doesn't work for us to evaluate threats based on age, gender or race. How do we gauge how big a threat a stranger might be?

Lovette: I tell people not to look at the person by their race, age or sex. Instead look at the person's actions and look at their interests. If they seem unnaturally interested in something that causes you to wonder what in the heck are they doing, that is all you need to see right there. Someone needs to follow up on what that person is doing. That is not profiling! You are just acting on what you are seeing and what the person is doing. You don't care about their nationality.

eJournal: Perfect! Reporting the action eliminates worry that authorities suspect we're racists calling about someone of another race walking through the neighborhood. You've taught us to describe actions that suggest preparation to commit a crime.

Lovette: Say, "Here is what they were doing; here is where they were." You are looking for something that is out of place; you are looking for actions that are out of place. That is the guideline.

You see teachers standing outside the school waiting for students on school buses to either come in or load up and leave. The teachers need to watch for someone standing around the bus loading and unloading area who is unnaturally interested. We have found over time that in a lot of these cases, the person the teacher reported was a sexual predator looking for vulnerable children. Without somebody telling the teacher what to look for, that teacher might not have noticed. Now, having been told what to watch for, teachers can attribute some sort of meaning to what they saw and report it.

eJournal: So, applying this to the average citizen's daily life, let's say one of us comes out of the Post Office and walks to the car. Applying the standard of "what does not belong," what might we detect early enough to avoid getting caught by a predator?

Lovette: Back in my daily life at the Agency, we knew that if something was going to happen to you, it would happen near your home or the office because they had

been watching you. That's not quite what you asked about, but it sets up my answer.

I don't know where you live, I don't know what the neighborhood is like, but without knowing anything about that, I bet you a nickel that when you get in your car and you drive to where you turn on to a major road, you know everything that is supposed to be on the street you just drove down. What will stand out is what shouldn't be there. That is what you are looking for! You might ask, "Why is that car parked there? There are two guys sitting in it. Are they waiting for someone to come out to go to work or is there something wrong?"

Once you turn off a busy road where a lot of activity makes it difficult to tell if something is going on and you turn in to your neighborhood to go to your place, it gets pretty easy to tell if there's somebody watching. That is the difference. Those are what we call chokepoints. That's where you begin to see what's out of place.

You are looking for what's unusual. In your example, you come out of the Post Office—this has happened to me. I start walking toward my truck and about two lanes over I see this guy who looks like a scarecrow. Well, sure enough, he comes toward me just like he was on a string. I have enough time to see him coming and I'm able to set myself up so that if anything is going to happen, at my advanced age, I will be able to do what I need to do. I can't turn my back to get into my truck until he goes away. Of course, he wants money and so I talk him out of it.

It is going to be the same if you see something unusual. In this example, normally if someone goes to the Post Office they are going to get out of their car and go do something. They aren't just going to stand there, right? That would be an indicator. You'd ask, "Is that person waiting on somebody?" Then you would have to run down your check list and look around and see what else is going on.

Once you get to a certain age, you know subconsciously what is normal; it doesn't grab your attention. What grabs your attention should make you ask, "What am I looking at? What am I seeing?" That is all you need to do. Don't make any more of it than that. Avoid paralysis by analysis. You don't need to see where something goes or what happens later.

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eJournal: Another facet of that paralysis plagues folks who find it hard to trust their instinctive “Something’s not normal” warning. We get mired down in concerns that “it’s nothing” and we fear looking foolish, especially if we wonder if we should report it to 9-1-1, just leave the area, or stay extra alert and go about our business. Have you any advice on how to determine the severity of a “That’s not normal!” observation?

Lovette: While some of this is dependent on your “gut check,” ordinarily, you’re not going to see something extreme right away. Most of the time, you’re just seeing something that’s out of place. Obviously, you’d know to call if you saw somebody being assaulted in a parking lot.

This may not apply exactly, but if we saw something around our home, or office, or on the way to work that we thought was unusual, we would write it down in a database—the date, time, our names and a description of what we saw. Everybody in that office could access that database. Over time, if there was something there, we would start to get a pattern, and then we would say, “See? I wasn’t imagining this after all. There is something going on here.”

I have been working with my local school district to put this kind of system together. Right now, we’ve been putting first aid kits in the classrooms, but the guy I’ve been working with knows where I’ve been and yesterday, as he and I were getting ready to leave the school, he said to me, “You know, one of the teachers was telling me that there is a car that parks over here every day and the people just sit in it. I don’t think she’s reported it to anybody.”

You would think around kids that reporting it would be a no brainer so we are going to get a reporting system in place. That is an example of what you are talking about and it still is a problem. Sometimes the police contribute to it if they won’t respond or they make you feel kind of silly for bothering them.

eJournal: No one wants to be the little boy who cried “Wolf!” People second guess their intuition and are embarrassed to have reported a problem where there was none.

Lovette: Exactly. A book I recommend is Gavin deBecker’s *The Gift of Fear*. In it he said women are way more sensitive to the intuitive part of this than men.

I have found that to be true. I tell people if you are out with a wife, sister, whatever, and she says, “I think we have a [safety] problem,” get the hell out of there. If you are in a restaurant, for example, get up, pay the bill, do whatever you have to do to leave. You may never find out what it was but don’t waste the only heads-up you may get that something’s not right. The bottom line? If you see something, and you stay out of trouble at that moment, maybe that is the best you can do. You saw it and you didn’t walk into it.

eJournal: We’ve talked about keying on unusual behavior in others. What about our own behavior? When we were planning this interview, you commented about the vulnerability created by using smart phones in public. Let’s talk about that and to start that topic, let me ask, what does catch the eye of the predator?

Lovette: Clint Smith has a pretty good description. He says, “If you look like food, you will be eaten.” Walk with a purpose and look like you are paying attention to what is going on around you. Go to the mall or other public place and look at people and you will see it and the exact opposite, too. A real concern of mine is for young mothers. Take a young mom with a small child or several. She is absolutely clueless to what is going on around her because all of her attention is focused on these little kids. That is the exact opposite.

A buddy of mine said it best. You need to be “Walking tall while feeling small.” You need to look like you know what you’re doing; you’ve got a purpose; you are paying attention. The way you walk shows that you are in shape. They don’t want to mess with that. They’ll look for somebody easier—the young mom, the old lady using the walker, the old guy with the cane.

eJournal: Those examples make me wonder, how much of the “walking tall” projection can we fake? We are all one twist of fate away from being the disabled person using a walker.

Lovette: That’s situational and yet it seems to me that walking tall works more often than not. They do not want to mess with anybody that is not easy. They will tend to go for somebody that looks a little easier. The problem you may have is doing all that but being in a location where there is just nobody else around. Everybody else has gone into the store. That dynamic may change this. Then, he and his cohorts will stand out, as well.

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eJournal: Yes, what about multiple assailants?

Lovette: If you recognize that there are more of them, you're in big trouble. It is that much harder for you to do anything about it if there is no one else out and about who is paying attention. It is especially bad if you're not armed. There is only so much you can do.

There are a couple of ways to prevent that. When you pull up to where you are going, before you unlock the car and get out, look around. When you come out of somewhere and you are going to walk across the parking lot, especially in the evening, before you leave the comfort of the store, just take a look around for anything that is unusual.

If you can see where your car is parked and there is now a van parked next to it that wasn't there when you parked, I'd be thinking, "I don't like this, not even a little bit." Now more than one thing is bad; it is a series of things. If that van's sliding door is next to your driver's side, all they have to do is slide it open to snatch you. There's probably nothing that makes me more uncomfortable.

Location is a factor. Where I live now, I don't hear about street crime happening like I did when I was working in big cities. Some of what we talk about is going to be more or less applicable based on where you live.

eJournal: My next question is about the opposite of being targeted where you are alone. Are there skills from your overseas experience to help ordinary citizens move more safely through crowded areas where we're packed in shoulder to shoulder with crowds of strangers? Those situations make me very uneasy because it's hard to see if one shows an unusual amount of interest in you or is closing the distance. How do you operate in dense crowds?

Lovette: I have faced this in big cities, mostly when we were overseas. In addition, the problem with being in the middle of the crowd is what happens if something spooks them. If you fall down, they are just going to run over you. I started getting comfortable with being either on the store-side or the street-side of the crowd. That way if anything happened, I could either step into the street between two parked cars or I could step into a store front. I was not in the middle of the crowd.

Crowds really become a problem if you are on the third floor when a fire starts and you have to go down the

stairs. The very best I could ever come up with is to get to the edge of the herd, keep your back to the wall and maybe hang on to a rail and then at least you only have to take care of one side of yourself.

eJournal: We've covered a lot of behavioral issues—both in what we do and what we watch for in others. You said that criminals profile for race, age and gender. I would like to ask if in today's social environment clothing and appearance is less of an issue than it used to be?

Lovette: It used to be you always considered clothing. I'll throw out some examples. Let's say you live in a decent neighborhood and when you get up in the morning, you have got to wear a dress and heels and your husband has to put on a tie. Then there's somebody that lives down the block that works at a tire place and they have to wear their tire uniform or somebody else works at a fast food place and they have to wear their fast food uniform. So, the question is: does clothing set people off any more? I do not think so; I think we are used to seeing people wearing different things.

I think what will set them off is being the wrong color in the wrong neighborhood. For example, it would be foolish for me to try to do something, whatever it might be, in a black neighborhood, an Indian reservation, Chinatown, or Minneapolis/St. Paul's Somali neighborhoods. That will get you into trouble, but I don't know that anyone pays attention anymore to what you wear.

One thing I'd like to add before we move off the subject of clothing: when we talk about clothing, for some reason, we all tend to forget shoes. My bottom line is no matter how you dress, you should wear shoes that you can either run or fight in. That's why women may sometimes wear their high heels only at the office. They may not look as fashionable as they'd like on the way to work, but they change shoes when they get to work. People walk by here all the time in flip flops and that sort of thing and I don't think it is a good idea.

eJournal: What about the things we carry—brief cases, purses, back packs, courier bags? When you have to carry a laptop or other gear, how do you prefer to carry it?

Lovette: The first thing I want to ask is do you have to carry any of it? I will give you an example. When we

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were overseas, I found passport cases that you could wear around your neck. I got some for the ladies in my family and when they weren't traveling, they put some money in it and they did not carry a purse. On the flip side, when I had to go in to work every day, some days I had paperwork that I had to carry plus we had to carry handheld radios so that we stayed in contact, so I used a shoulder bag.

You have to do a personal evaluation and ask, do I really need to carry this, and if the answer is yes, as much as I don't like purses, I would almost always favor a purse or shoulder bag over a briefcase. The reason I don't like briefcases is that they tie up your hands.

eJournal: Some of us who have to take work home on laptop computers went to backpacks for the hands-free result, but the back pack is not without its own set of issues.

Lovette: With the laptop you can get some shoulder bags that aren't terrible. If you've got to carry something like that I would really like for you to have your hands free. I'm not going to tell anybody not to use a backpack, but I have an issue with them. This started when I was still working for a living and it has continued now that I am involved in how to counter an active shooter.

In a lot of the terrorist incidents overseas, they carried backpacks because it was the easiest place to put their explosives if they weren't wearing a suicide vest or belt. We are seeing the same thing with active shooters because that's where they put their guns and their magazines. Now that doesn't mean that everyone that wears a backpack is a suspect, I just don't want to have that image. Doesn't your backpack cause you problems if you have to go to the Post Office or the bank? I don't know the answer to that.

I am in a school every couple of weeks and every kid in there has a back pack. Some schools are forbidding them now or they have to be clear or mesh. We are in transition. Keep an eye on the issues of backpacks. It may become more of a problem in some circumstances.

eJournal: Well, if our goal is to just go about our business unnoticed, we need to understand what draws attention so I'm glad you mentioned it. Do you have any educational resources that would help me and our readers pursue further studies on threat detection?

Lovette: I have a list you and your readers might like. In the book *Defensive Living* that I wrote with Dave Spaulding, the first four chapters spell out what you need to know, what you need to look for and how to get up to speed for looking for it. Bill Langlois' *Living in the Age of Fear* is another good book because Bill writes so that anybody can understand. He doesn't try to get technical.

Another book is Ayoob's most recent book, *Straight Talk on Armed Defense*. Get it for Craig Douglas' chapter. Up until sometime last year, Craig Douglas had a DVD, *Principles of Unarmed Combat*; the real good stuff was in about the first half hour. Not only does he talk about all the street skills but he shows you what to do about common issues. If somebody's starting to approach that you don't want to get close, how do you deal with that? One is circling, where you'll have a guy in front of you trying to distract you while another one is trying to slip around behind. Those kinds of things. It is just excellent. He is the best, in my opinion. The chapter he does in *Straight Talk* writes about it, but to be able to see it on the DVD, that makes all the difference and it speaks right to the heart of what you and I are talking about.

Do you know Chris Bird? The seventh edition of his book *The Concealed Handgun Manual* covers this. John Benner and I taught this information in his *Active Shooter Response for the Private Citizen* that Chris attended. The first chapter in the seventh edition of his book is all about situational awareness, and in that class John Benner and I took it a step farther when we talked about criminal surveillance and terrorist surveillance.

eJournal: My copy of *Defensive Living* is copyrighted in 2005, so I am compelled to ask how much of what we need to know about avoiding danger consists of timeless principle and conversely, are there details that change with the times?

Lovette: That is a good question. In what Dave and I wrote, quite frankly we used a lot from others like Colonel Cooper, and that, I think, is timeless. I tried to wrap my head around it and I don't know how well I did. When you look at actual crimes, be that a purse snatching or a sexual assault, I have a feeling that has changed. I'll give you an example.

I live in a small, growing community where we have a lot of black on black crime. It also seems to me a real high percentage of these crimes are connected to narcotics.

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That's a change, so yes, when you see the crimes that happen, the dynamics have changed. I am not going to say that we don't have the car jackings and purse snatching crimes, but where I live, that is not the big thing. I think in a bigger town you may see more of that.

eJournal: If there's one key lesson about safety we should learn, what do you think that is?

Lovette: I want to go back to one of our very first words, because it is one that I like: "Blending." I think that is really, really key. If you wonder how to dress, dress to blend in with everybody else. You want to drive a car that looks as much like everyone else's. You can actually find studies of what are the most popular cars and car colors. There are things you can do that will help you become less visible.

eJournal: What are other things that identify us that we should avoid making public? Perhaps we could talk a little about removing "target identifiers" – and I think this goes deeper than throwing out the "Don't honk, I'm reloading" bumper sticker your brother in law thought was funny.

Lovette: I don't know why people put those out there. I live in a town with two Marine bases, so you see all the time "I'm a Marine" or "Retired Marine" and I'm not so concerned about that as I am about the person that has the H&K sticker in the back window of his pickup.

I say that because one of the reasons for blending is to strengthen the element of surprise. If you look like you are just trying to get through the day but you have your shootin' iron, your knife, your OC and whatever else you can carry without falling down, and they try something that you simply cannot get away from and you surprise them, wham, suddenly that puts the fight in your favor.

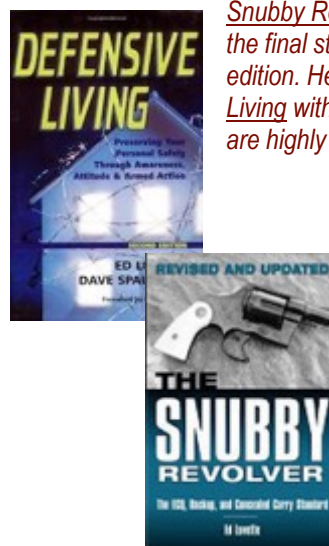
They are mentally prepared to do whatever and damn it, you just aren't playing along.

eJournal: Yes, becoming less visible is the ideal. I have become fascinated with the grey man idea and am not finding much of use to teach me how to do it.

Lovette: Well, it is a matter of dedication and commitment. Blending is a lifestyle. Once people get into it, it really is not that hard to do. Well, like I say, that's how for the last part of my working life we had to live. I really saw the value of it. It sounded a lot better than getting shot at.

eJournal: We also should not forget that, as you noted when we started talking, your ability to blend in had even larger implications than your survival—you also impacted national security issues, safety of other agents and a lot more. The reason you became expert at these skills had much larger implications than being robbed or suffering a beating. While most Network members will not carry those responsibilities, their safety still is important to a lot of people. Thank you for great instruction about these security issues.

Readers will likely already be familiar with our interview resource through Ed Lovette's work as a magazine columnist, as well as author of the popular book The Snubby Revolver, which he tells us is in the final stages of revision for a third edition. He is also co-author of Defensive Living with Dave Spaulding. Both books are highly recommended.



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President's Message

A Big Thank You

by Marty Hayes, J.D.

I want to start by saying thank you to those who contributed to the [GoFundMe](#) page I set up for Spencer Newcomer and thank you also to

those who sent in money to help Spencer. At time of publication, we had raised over \$12,000. I had originally set a goal of \$20,000, with the money to go toward first paying off his legal bills of approximately \$8,000 and if there were additional funds, we wanted to help Spencer get his feet back on the ground. For those who missed this, please go back to the March newsletter (<https://www.armedcitizensnetwork.org/en/the-anatomy-of-a-self-defense-shooting-pt-3>) and read the lead article.

I would like to ask one more time, for those who found Spencer's willingness to share his story with members valuable and if it helped you understand many of the issues surrounding legal self-defense, then please consider dropping a few bucks at <https://www.gofundme.com/help-spencer-newcomer> or send us a check payable to Spencer Newcomer and we will forward it to him.

Now, in my original request, I said we would run a three-month fundraising campaign. Because of the first month's success, we will drop that back to two months, so give now if you are so inclined because I plan to close it down at the end of April.

One of the most interesting aspects of the Spencer Newcomer case is the fact that we were able to obtain the full trial transcripts. This doesn't happen often, but it was available for this case. Those of you who have limited experience in trial law—and especially criminal trial law, specifically self-defense trial law—will find spending some time reading the transcripts valuable, I think. The transcripts are at <https://www.armedcitizensnetwork.org/en/members/resources> and you will need to log in as that aspect of the *eJournal* is reserved for our members only.

The whole trial transcript is over 600 pages, so it is like reading a true-crime mini-novel. If you don't have the time to read the whole thing, I would recommend at least reading Spencer's testimony, which starts on page 255. Once you read that, if you want to read my testimony and to see the district attorney badger me during voir dire, my testimony starts on page 389.

When I am finished with this missive, I will be packing up the booth to be shipped to Indianapolis for the NRA Annual Meeting. All the details are in our *Vice-President's Message* a few pages farther into this edition. In addition to all the business we conduct, at least for me the biggest benefit is simply a re-charge of the old batteries, and believe me, they are old. Sometimes I feel like an old lead-acid "D" cell in a world of Lithium 123 batteries. Still, if I give that old "D" cell a fresh charge, it's good to go for a while.

Use of Deadly Force Instructor Courses

This week, I was approached by two attorneys in separate parts of the United States, to consult and perhaps provide expert testimony at trial. I had avoided taking any cases for a while, but these two have considerable merit, so I agreed to work on them. I mention this because there is a dire shortage of knowledgeable firearms/use-of-force experts in the country who are willing to use their knowledge and expertise in legal cases. Most legal defenses involving firearms do not end up with a defense expert or two, simply because there are no experts in the area and there is not enough money to hire one of the high-priced experts who would travel. I should add that I am not one of those high-priced experts.

Anyway, I bring this up because there are a couple of training opportunities coming up later this year that would help prepare the potential expert witness for this role. These are the *Use of Deadly Force Instructor* courses that are taught by the [Massad Ayoob Group](#), in cooperation with my school, [The Firearms Academy of Seattle, Inc.](#) Mas and I have been teaching these courses occasionally for the past couple of decades,

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and have recently ramped up the number of offerings, primarily to help address the shortage of competent experts in the firearms field, along with helping local CCW instructors build their knowledge base in deadly force law. Most instructor certification courses either gloss over this aspect of the discipline, or avoid it altogether, resulting in the newly minted instructor being incapable of answering student's questions. The end result is the instructor's students perhaps committing crimes because their instructor was not fully versed in teaching deadly force concerns.

In addition to addressing the deficit of qualified experts, the course also prepares the instructor to teach separate blocks of instruction on use of deadly force in self defense. Many graduates of our course add a separate "deadly force" class to their curriculum, resulting in enhanced revenue streams for the instructor, and literally paying for the course within a class or two. Lastly, the course is also simply good education on use

of deadly force in self defense. Can you imagine the power of your testimony when you can explain to the jury that you acted legitimately, and you know you acted legitimately because you are an instructor in the discipline?

We will be offering a course in August near Philadelphia, PA, and another near Sacramento, CA in November. Click this link for complete information and to sign up. <https://firearmsacademy.com/activities/deadly-force-instructor> and phone the academy with your questions 360-978-6100 or email info@firearmsacademy.com.

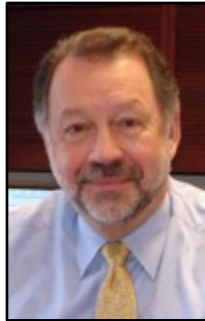
That is all for this message, I hope to see many of you in Indy at the end of the month at the NRA Annual Meeting in Indianapolis!

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



I had a little fun at a Use of Deadly Force Instructor course Massad and I taught in 2015 when I attempted a panoramic photo of all the students who raised their hands to indicate they are Network members. I'm looking forward to seeing other members in the Philadelphia and Sacramento courses later this year.

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Vice-President's Message

NRA Returns to Indianapolis

by J. Vincent Shuck

Join the Network staff and about 80,000 other like-minded patriots at the Indiana Convention Center in Indy, April 26 – 28 for the NRA Annual Meetings & Exhibits. The Network will be among the 800+ exhibitors in the 15 acres of guns and gear, shooting accessories, knives, hunting outfitters and priceless firearms collections for you to see.

Enjoy a little Hoosier hospitality and attend exclusive seminars, luncheons, and celebrity and political speaker presentations. Exhibit hours are:

Friday – 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Saturday – 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Sunday – 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Admission is free to NRA members and family.

We will be in **Booth #3136** on Friday, Saturday and Sunday focusing on our primary missions of recruiting

new members and saying hello to current members. If you are a Network member and attending, please stop by the booth and say hi, or if you are rushing to another event or exhibit, at least wave on your way by.

A special event in the booth will occur during the first hour of each day. Paul Lathrop, the owner and co-executive producer of the Polite Society Podcast (www.politicsandguns.com), will be conducting interviews with notable luminaries in the shooting and self-defense field as well as some of the Network's corporate sponsors.

On Saturday afternoon, most of our Advisory Board members will be available to meet and greet members or respond to questions from nonmembers. Massad Ayoob, John Farnam, Jim Fleming, Manny Kapelsohn and Dennis Tueller are scheduled to be available. Another good reason to stop by the booth.

For more information on the NRA meeting, pre-registration, travel and housing assistance, go to www.nraam.org. We hope to see you in Indianapolis later this month.



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



At the 2018 NRA Annual Meeting, Network members enjoyed the chance to talk with our Advisory Board and leadership, shown (L-R) Network President Marty Hayes, Advisory Board Members John Farnam, Jim Fleming, Massad Ayoob, Dennis Tueller and Network Vice President Vincent Shuck. We missed Advisory Board Members Tom Givens and Emanuel Kapelsohn at that gathering.

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Attorney Question of the Month

Many states are considering or already have "red flag laws" to allow a police agency to confiscate guns from an armed citizen if someone believes they pose a danger and can get a judge to issue an order to remove their firearms.

Network President Marty Hayes, in response to many members' questions about extreme risk protection orders (ERPOs) and Red Flag Laws, sought out our affiliated attorneys' opinions on the following questions—

1. *What are a citizen's options when the police knock on the door with a warrant and want to confiscate the citizen's guns?*
2. *Assuming the guns are securely locked in a gun safe, do you advise the citizen to comply and open the safe?*
3. *What consequences do you anticipate would result from refusing to open a safe?*

Mark Seiden

Mark Seiden, P.A.

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There is likely no topic in American jurisprudence more complex and controversial than search and seizure. In a nutshell, as a result of the abuses perpetrated on American colonists by King George and his minions, the Fourth Amendment was conceived to prevent such abuses. One of the requirements of the Fourth Amendment is that no place is to be searched absent the issuance of a warrant by a neutral magistrate upon oath or affirmation and a finding of probable cause. A search warrant is a court order commanding law enforcement officers to enter the specified premises and search for and seize the items listed in the warrant. The warrant must describe with particularity the premises to be searched and the items to be seized. You will not be given advance notice that law enforcement is coming to serve a warrant.

If the police arrive at your door with such a warrant, DO NOT resist them or argue. To do so will likely result in your arrest and additional charges for obstruction,

etceteras. They will likely sit you down in a neutral area, searching both you and the area for weapons. One or more officers will be designated to stay with you in that area during the search. They can ask you questions but cannot force you to answer them.

If you refuse to tell them where the safe and/or firearms are located, they can literally tear the house apart looking for them. If you refuse to disclose the combination to your safe, the police can forcibly open it, including the use of a cutting torch if necessary. They must seize whatever items are specified in the warrant, plus any contraband that is in plain sight. Hypothetically, suppose your checkbook is on the kitchen table. They cannot seize, copy or examine the checkbook unless the checkbook is also specified in the warrant.

The police will prepare a receipt of the items they seized and will also leave a copy of the warrant. However, they do not have to provide you with the factual sworn affidavit they provided to convince the magistrate to sign the warrant. You can obtain that affidavit at a later time.

The best thing to do would be to ask to telephone your lawyer and rely upon his/her advice and above all, do not resist!

Jerome M. Brown

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First of all, generally you are not going to have a problem. Depending upon your state and locale, the claimant seeking to seize your weapons is going to have to make a significant initial showing to convince first law enforcement, and then a judge, to issue an order permitting the police to enter your home with a warrant to seize those weapons.

They are going to have to present significant proof that mental health or other issues demonstrate that an individual is going to be a danger to themselves or

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others. These instances seem fairly rare, in some states just a few dozen cases a year. Thus, the probability that this will happen to you is rare.

If the police come with a warrant, be cooperative and take them to your guns. If you resist in any fashion, you could be charged with myriad crimes such as obstruction of justice or assault on a police officer. This could lead to your disqualification from being able to own a weapon, period, permanently under state and/or federal law.

Moreover, you just give the police reason to search everywhere in your premises and trash the place if they do not like your attitude. There is nothing you can do about it. In fact, if you are not cooperative, they will become suspicious and think you are hiding something and will search harder and more thoroughly.

If you have weapons in a safe and do not open it, they will just take the safe with all your other valuables stored inside and they will have every right to do so. You will then have issues getting your non-weapon valuables back.

Thus, if this rare situation occurs, contact an attorney immediately. Hearings to have your weapons returned should occur quickly and the period of confiscation is generally temporary for periods up to a year. Plus, I would bet that if someone wrongly uses this process, you may have legal recourse including recouping your legal fees and/or other remedies if you want.

While I know that many of you fear this threat, chances are that this will never happen to you. So, relax and do not worry about it. If it happens, call an attorney.

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Robshaw & Voelkl, P.C.

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<https://www.robshawlaw.com/About-Us/Jeffrey-Voelkl.shtml>

1. What are a citizen's options when the police knock on the door with a warrant and want to confiscate the citizen's guns?

First, ask for a copy of the warrant and do not let anyone in until you have had an opportunity to read the warrant.

You will likely have to read the warrant right at the open door in the officers' presence. Remember that when police execute a warrant, they are simply carrying out the order of a judge. For a warrant to be issued, the judge must have been presented with witness testimony and evidence to establish a legal basis for the judge to believe that firearms are possessed and located at the exact location listed on the warrant. Make sure the address on the warrant is the correct address the police are attempting to enter. If the warrant has the wrong address you can lawfully deny the police entry. If, however, the address is correct, you should comply with the police request. Remember the police are only carrying out the judge's order, and that order was based only on one-sided facts which are probably not the full story.

There are many legal defenses to these types of allegations. There will be a time and place for you to respond and tell your side of the story. Getting agitated and not complying with the police who are there only to carry out a judge's order that the police must presume is valid is not the time and place and will escalate an already tense situation and could result in criminal charges being filed against you. Thus, it is best to remain calm, comply with the lawful requests of the officers, and call your lawyer so your rights can be protected in court.

2. Assuming the guns are securely locked in a gun safe, do you advise the citizen to comply and open the safe?

If the warrant indicates the police are to remove all firearms located in the premises, and the premises are correctly identified in the warrant, then the fact that they are locked in a safe may not be a valid reason for you to not comply. Remember, these warrants are typically to remove firearms from persons believed to pose a threat. The fact that the gun is locked, but the person who poses a threat has access to the locked safe will not be persuasive to the police.

3. What consequences do you anticipate would result from refusing to open a safe?

The police would likely arrest the individual for multiple charges including Obstruction of Government Administration (NY Penal Law 195.00).

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If you have never had an adversarial former spouse, angry child, or disillusioned business partner, you are fortunate, because any of these or your doctor can file a motion for an Extreme Risk Protective Order in at least 14 states. If you've crossed swords with a police officer who wants to get even with you for embarrassing him in court or for filing a complaint against him, you should be worried about Red Flag Laws going into effect in your state. That being said, as a municipal prosecutor and retired police lieutenant, I will offer my professional opinion for those who have "had their constitutional right to due process limited" by legislative action.

1. What are a citizen's options when the police knock on the door with a warrant and want to confiscate the citizen's guns?

You have NO Options. Be polite and cooperative; you are basically considered a "dangerous armed adversary." Call your attorney as soon as you can, not to stop the seizure but to start the appeal process to get your property back. Resistance could get you arrested or worse - shot. You can't ask Mr. Gary Willis of Ferndale, MD, anymore. He was shot to death by Anne Arundel County Police at 5:17 A.M. on Nov. 7, 2018, when an Extreme Risk Protective Order was served on him. Police said he answered the door with a gun in his hand and was combative. How many of us wouldn't arm ourselves if someone came banging on your door before daylight?

All preparations should be made prior to the police showing up at your house. All firearms should be inventoried and photographed prior to the arrival of police—in other words do it NOW. They will not give you time to do that when they come for your firearms, though they probably will give you some kind of receipt for what they take. It's better to have your own inventory taken when your blood pressure isn't 195/110.

I'm not advising anyone to violate a judge's order, but some may want to consider having another firearm stored in a fireproof gun safe at a trusted friend or relative's house so that he will have some means of protecting himself if a dangerous situation arises before the firearms are returned. Some orders may allow a

hearing within a week or 10 days. But they can remain in effect for a year if the judge is anti-Second Amendment and delays a hearing to determine whether there is risk to yourself or others. The protective order will likely go to the FBI National Instant Criminal Background Check Center. If the order doesn't prevent you from buying another gun, the NIC notification will.

2. Assuming the guns are securely locked in a gun safe, do you advise the citizen to comply and open the safe?

YES. The safe may be taken (unlikely because police officers are government employees and, by their nature don't like the physical work involved in moving the whole safe) or opened by force, to include destruction of the locking mechanism. The Red Flag Court Order gives them that authority.

3. What consequences do you anticipate would result from refusing to open a safe?

It depends on how your state's law is worded but expect arrest for P.O.P. (pissing off the police). It may be termed as "interfering with officers in the course of/performance of their duties," harassment, assault, and/or violating an extreme risk protective order (remember an order was signed by a judge who conducted a hearing without you present), and they will pile on by adding "resisting arrest." Try getting a concealed carry permit after conviction for a couple of those charges.

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The police are going to follow what their warrant says. I would make sure that you have the information regarding the firearms recorded. Give them the firearms if they have a lawful court order and fight it out in court. Any case has the potential to be a test case for overturning one of these laws.

A big "Thank You!" to our affiliated attorneys for their responses. Please return next month when we run the second half of the comments about red flag laws we received from our affiliated attorneys.

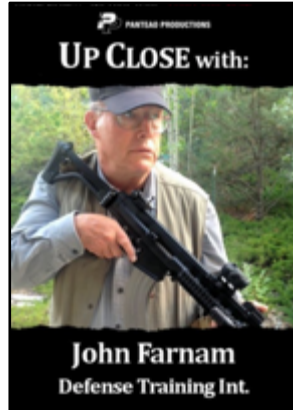
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Video Review

Up Close with John Farnam

Panteao Productions, 2015
<https://panteao.com/product/up-close-with-john-farnam>
 49 minutes
 \$19.95 per month for streaming

Reviewed by Gila Hayes



Modern firearms are “about as safe as it is possible to make a gun and still have it useful for any practical purposes,” he opines.

By far, the most dangerous stage of gun handling is holstering, Farnam continues. The serious gun owner who carries a gun every day, has to handle that gun at least twice a day, “not for the purpose of shooting someone, but for the purpose of getting it into a particular condition or putting it in a particular place,” he accounts. The best place for your gun is carried on body where it is under your control, and when not, make sure it is “adequately secured.”

The absence of true high-speed internet in my area makes me forget the extent to which videos have replaced books and that’s reflected in this column. That changed this month when I saw on Panteao Productions’ website, a video biography of our own Advisory Board member, John Farnam. Myself a devotee of Farnam’s instruction, I pledged to keep my cool despite the latency in the streaming (a constant curse at my end of the broadband cable and absolutely no fault of Panteao’s) and enjoy listening to Farnam talk about his life’s work. I enjoyed it so much that I’d like to recommend it through this review.

Introducing himself to video viewers, John Farnam explains that as a young man, he earned his third purple heart on his 51st day in Viet Nam a Marine 2nd Lieutenant. The war shaped “how I looked at things for the rest of my life,” he states. When he left active duty in 1970, he wrote a paper called “Living with Guns” in which he explained that at Quantico, Marines like him were taught how to operate guns, but not how to “live with them.” The predictable numbers of accidental shootings, injuries and deaths, created in the young Farnam both a lingering bitterness but also a drive to change the deficiency. He has for the balance of his life, lectured and taught courses on the “art and science of defensive shooting.”

Now in his early 70s, Farnam remains driven to share those lessons with “the next generation of American shooters.” Gunshot wound statistics show that about 75 percent are accidental, self-inflicted; a goodly number beyond that are suicides. Only one to two percent of gunshot wounds, he asserts, result from one person purposely shooting another person. Farnam observes, “Statistically, the most important thing you can learn is how to handle guns correctly, because the one person in your life that represents the greatest threat to you, more than all the criminals in the world combined, is you!”

Farnam defines the conflict between serious gun ownership and alcohol or legal drug use, explaining that “these are issues most of our students are unacquainted with, they are things about which they never even thought. Well, it is time to think about it,” he urges. Although he doesn’t tell people what to do, Farnam educates about how “the system will react,” to a lethal force event. He comments on the permanent after-effects of shooting someone and of being shot, explaining that one doesn’t “get over it; it is a matter of putting it in perspective.” Do not allow that single event to define you, he urges.

Farnam warns that excessively expensive equipment is no substitute for skill development. “In my experience, the amount of money people lavish on their guns is inversely proportionate to their skills,” he asserts. People want skill without effort, he comments, noting that attending his classes is hard work. Know why you are attending training, he advises. Students who go to classes “on a lark,” as recreational fun, are in for disappointment in a Farnam class, he comments. His courses discuss being caught up in the criminal justice system, interacting with police, role play to learn how to disengage and avoid an escalating approach from a criminal through learned “tape loops.”

“Most lethal shootings are avoidable,” he comments a bit later. “How? Don’t go to stupid places, don’t associate with stupid people, don’t do stupid things. Be in bed by 10 o’clock. Have a normal appearance. Most of all, don’t fail the attitude test. With the police, with anybody, don’t fail the attitude test. Just be a pleasant person and you will probably avoid 99 percent of the fights you are ever likely to get involved in.”

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When you carry a gun, Farnam stresses, you can't afford to get in a fight you can avoid. To that end, he teaches avoidance, how to disengage, and recommends not "being there to begin with." If you have had to draw your gun, "statistically, the odds of you shooting at that point are one in 30," he states because most assailants will disengage. When they do not, he continues, "nine times out of 10...they don't see the gun. They don't understand what is going on," the posture of holding a gun out "is not particularly distinctive," he mimes. His classes combine use of the gun with verbal challenges to encourage the assailant to disengage, he explains. "That is a relatively happy ending. Now, have you still committed an aggravated assault? You sure have, and so you need to be the first to the phone to call the police...but no one got hurt, and with any luck your actions will be looked upon as reasonable."

He comments that armed citizens neither like nor want to have to draw a gun on another person, "but under some circumstances, it is a good thing to do." If the assailant runs away, that's a good thing. You might be arrested or sued, but the happy part of the ending is that no one was hurt or killed. In less favorable outcomes, shooting may be required. Then, "we are going to shoot in a way that is most likely to end the fight quickly" to avoid the likelihood of being seriously hurt, Farnam continues.

A homicide investigation follows a pattern, he explains. The responding officer can't pretend not to hear an injudicious comment made at a crime scene and Farnam urges listeners to work out what needs to be said and rehearse saying that and no more. The aftermath is complicated by previous brushes with the

law. If you've had a drunk driving conviction or an illegal drug arrest in the past, that "will not be helpful," he stresses.

Discussing post shooting concerns, Farnam states, "There's not much good news. You are going to have to hire a lawyer, maybe more than one, you may be charged criminally, there is a very good chance you will be sued for wrongful death or something like that by the estate of the decedent. Expect it; don't become a victim of it. This is part of what we call the 'inoculation effect.' When the student knows ahead of time, it is not so scary when it happens. You've been inoculated, 'OK, they said something like this might happen, I'm OK.'

"The unrealistic expectations are the biggest danger. When students think they are going to get thanked or they are going to be regarded as a hero or something like that. When those things don't happen, then their world starts to fall apart. Students need to know what to expect; how to handle it; and we need to assure them that whatever it is, you're ok...you'll put it into perspective and you are alive to worry about it, which a lot of people are not, so be thankful for that."

This dose of reality is classic Farnam, and it was good to hear it again, this time on Panteao Productions' *Up Close with John Farnam*. If you've never had the chance to train with Farnam or have and miss hearing his engaging lecture style, I think you will enjoy this streaming video as much as I did.

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



Editor's Notebook

by Gila Hayes

In a month, over half of the Network crew will head to Indianapolis to meet with old friends and new at the NRA Annual Meeting. Our VP Vincent Shuck gave all the exhibit details in earlier pages of this edition so

let me concentrate on some of the people with whom we're hoping to reconnect. One reason we'll be looking up our friends is to say a big "Thank You!" You see, from the beginning, the Network has been blessed with the support of a lot of the leaders in the industries that supply the guns, ammo and accessories used by armed citizens.

The support of our friends takes multiple forms—

- Recommending Network membership to friends, clients and those in their sphere of influence;
- Monetary donations to the Network's Legal Defense Fund;
- Product donations that we auction to raise money for the Legal Defense Fund; and
- Distributing our Foundation's booklet or our membership brochure to increase awareness of legal issues that follow self defense.

We appreciate the generosity of the many friends who have made the Network's growth a priority in their charitable giving. You can't beat a broad base of support, each person giving what he or she can to further build up the Legal Defense Fund. Thousands of Network members support us in that fashion and we hope we get the



chance to shake many hands and say, "I appreciate what you do for us," many times over.

Because the NRA Annual Meeting Exhibit hall is filled with gun-centric businesses, this is a great opportunity for us to express our gratitude to a number of business people who support the Network.

For many years the following businesses have gone out of their way to make sure the Network's Legal Defense Fund remains strong for defense of members.

Black Hills Ammunition is owned by Jeff and Kristi Hoffman. Years before the Network was formed, Jeff and Kristi were in my personal circle, providing ammunition for gun reviews during my days as a writer. Their kind support has continued with the birth and growth of the Network and the maturing of Black Hills Ammunition from a startup remanufactured ammunition company in the early 1980s to a premier source for self defense ammunition, rifle ammunition, cowboy action ammo, and yes, their line of factory remanufactured ammo is as great as it was when I got to know them all those years ago. (<http://www.black-hills.com/about-us/>)

Jeff and Kristi donate several cases of their ammo per year for auction to build up the Legal Defense Fund. Their generosity continued even through the Obama years' ammunition shortages, and last year, in addition to a case of practice ammo, they donated a case of the premium Honey Badger self defense ammunition.



Above: [L-R] Vincent Shuck expresses the Network's gratitude to Galco's Mike Barham at an earlier convention.

Our first fund-raising auction was an exotic leather shoulder holster with a gorgeous alligator finish donated by Galco Gunleather. Each year since, Galco's Mike Barham has made sure the Network had another gift certificate for an ostrich, alligator, stingray or sharkskin holster, magazine pouch and matching belt. (https://www.galcogunleather.com/exotic-holsters-custom-shop_8_458.html) One Network member in particular watches for those auctions and has prevailed in several of those bidding wars to carry

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his guns in these special Galco rigs. Suffice it to say, Galco has been a wonderful friend to the Network and we cannot thank them enough for their dedication to the Network's mission.

Marty and I have known the good folks at Crimson Trace since it was a startup in



Portland, OR, because a friend and student joined their team to publicize the value of aiming lasers on pistols to law enforcement and armed citizens.

(<https://www.crimsontrace.com/company/about-us/>)

Through our friend Clyde Caceres, we met Crimson Trace founder Lew Danielson, and although both gentlemen have since retired, Crimson Trace continues to support the Network through donations of LaserGrips for auction so the Network's Legal Defense Fund remains strong. It is interesting to be three decades into relationships like we have with Black Hills and Crimson Trace, and we are grateful for their belief in the value of the Network.

Our Advisory Board member John Farnam deserves credit for introducing us to a lot of people in the industry, including Steve and Kate Camp of the Ravelin Group's Safe Direction ballistic containment products.

(Check out the video at <http://store.ravelingroup.com>)

Over the years, Steve and Kate have donated a variety of safe backstop items for fund-raising auction including their rifle-caliber-safe backstops and pistol caliber ballistic containment pads in many formats. Once, they even donated a reactive steel target system! That one was interesting to ship.



Their generosity has ranged from donations of my favorite, the Academy Pad, a very portable 7-by-10 inch NIJ IIIA Handgun Rated Ballistic Containment System that fits in a three-ring binder and is super portable for travelers, to ballistic containment pads in a variety of range bags, dryfire armor board suitable for either pistol or rifle, and even a pad that can be inserted into a backpack. The goal, of course, is that unloading, loading or dryfire practice literally receives an added layer of safety against accidental discharges. Steve and Kate have generously supported the Network with their donations.

When I first coveted a ROBAR rifle, the company was under the able and enthusiastic guidance of its founder,



Robbie Barrkman. Robbie is one of a kind—and stopping to chat with him at industry conventions was always an experience. When we founded the Network, Robbie agreed to include copies of our Foundation's booklet *What Every Gun Owner Needs to Know About Self*

Defense Law when delivering custom guns to his clients. About five years later, booklet resupply requests began coming

from none other than Freddie Blish, who became general manager and later purchased ROBAR when Robbie retired.

<https://robarguns.com/blog/2018/09/14/meet-the-robar-team-president-ltcol-usmc-ret-freddie-blish/>

The name Freddie Blish was prominent in Pantaeo instructional videos, and other instructional media so I was a little amazed to get emails from him requesting booklets. Nowadays, Freddie contributes several gift certificates redeemable for gun refinishing and when we auction the ROBAR certificates, they are enthusiastically received and as with the Galco donations, one member in particular vies for the win and now several of his pistols are protected by the famous ROBAR NP3 finish.

A number of years ago we exhibited at an NRA Annual Meeting in Charlotte, NC.

There we met "The Nates." Nate Johnson and Nate Beard, under the imprimatur of Nate Squared Tactical (N82 Tactical <https://n82tactical.com>), were just then introducing comfort-focused neoprene-backed concealed carry holsters, so they were also exhibiting at the event, which just happened to be in their home state. We meet the best people at these meetings – and now you know why we continue to exhibit at them.

Since that day, the Nates have included a copy of the Network's tri-fold brochure in each shipment. I remember one NRA Annual Meeting when, at the end of the show, I sent a box of brochures we hadn't used home with them, but most years we ship brochures to them and they just keep sending them out with their holsters.

Georgeann and Jay French were also NRA Annual Meeting recruitment successes for the Network. We met the French family at the 2011 convention in Pittsburgh, PA – when we were visiting for the convention, and they were attending in their home state. I stayed in touch with Jay through ups and downs of

[Continued next page...]



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manufacturing and selling khaki trousers, jeans and shorts with specially-designed holster pockets. It has not always been easy for this entrepreneur (the garment industry is one of the toughest) but the Frenches have persevered and CCW Breakaways came back strong a few years ago and hasn't looked back.

Read about them at <https://www.ccwbreakaways.com/about-us/>.



The front pockets on their purpose-made trousers have heavy duty snaps hidden beneath the garment's waistband. A deep, sturdy pocket holds the pistol with stiff fabric to break up its design. Armed citizens who order a pair or two of CCW Breakaways also get a copy of our Foundation's booklet with their holster trousers and thus they learn about the Network.

Many years ago, a fellow instructor waited until after class had dismissed to show me how he was carrying his backup gun. That was my first look at a Recluse Pocket Holster, a popular deep-carry product that is made just a hundred miles or so from where I live. It is ironic, then, about the only time I see Recluse owner Tod Cole is at the NRA Annual Meetings. Several times a year, we mail Tod cases of our Foundation's booklet *What Every Gun Owner Needs to Know About Self Defense Law* and we have a number of members who report learning about the Network when they got their Recluse holster. See the details of Tod's work at <http://www.recluseholster.com>.

In addition to these generous businessmen and women, word about the Network's mission goes out to students of armed self defense from our affiliated instructors and gun shops. We always enjoy hearing how things are going from these good folks, too, and look forward to getting caught up with our affiliates when we all go to Indianapolis for this year's convention.



I want to close by talking about our newest corporate sponsor. When Ammo.com purchasers specify the Armed Citizens Educational Foundation as their charity of choice, Ammo.com donates 1 percent of their order to our Educational Foundation as described at

<https://ammo.com/donations>. Now, this model is a little different than the direct donations to the Network's Legal Defense Fund, although the end result remains a stronger Network. You see,

the other big supporter of our Educational Foundation is the Network itself, through the purchase of advertising pages in *What Every Gun Owner Needs to Know About Self Defense Law* that tells each recipient of that booklet how the Armed Citizens' Legal Defense Network came to be and why being part of the Network is so very crucial to anyone who carries a gun for self defense.

By being able to afford to print thousands upon thousands of copies of that booklet and provide them free of charge to gun businesses that ship to customers, to firearms and self-defense instructors for distribution in their

classes and to gun shops to give to their customers, our Foundation is able to create better-educated armed citizens who may avoid some of the problems gun owners with zero education encounter. Through the Network's advertising pages in that booklet, those readers also become aware of the Network's mission of supporting members after use of force in self defense. When those booklet readers join the Network, we all benefit by having access to a Legal Defense Fund that is continuously growing in strength.

Over the years, corporate sponsors have come and gone, but these have continued each year to do what they can to keep the Network's Legal Defense Fund vital and growing to assist Network members after self defense. I'm looking forward to seeing as many of these good men and women as I can during the NRA Annual Meeting and all the rest of our great Network members, as well.

*[End of April 2019 eJournal.
Please return for our May 2019 edition.]*

About the Network's Online Journal

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

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