



## Interrupting Violence *An Interview with Marc MacYoung*

by Gila Hayes

*Network members are, for the most part, enthusiastic students of self defense, but no one wants to have to apply their hard-earned skills against a real-life attacker. Thus preemptive action is on many members' minds. Sadly, solid strategies to defuse a simmering fight with an angry neighbor or deter an aggressive victim interview are not taught as earnestly as shooting skills.*

*This article began when an affiliated instructor asked about articles on decisively deterring human predators without looking like a willing participant in a fight. In his latest book, *In the Name of Self-Defense*, Marc MacYoung wrote about getting off the road to violence in the pre-attack stage, emphasizing disengaging emotionally as well as physically. We review that important book at*

<http://armedcitizensnetwork.org/our-journal/316-september-2014-network-journal?start=14>.

*MacYoung has long studied conflict, threat assessment, disengagement and why we so often fail to stop a budding conflict, so let's switch to Q & A to learn from him in his own words.*

**eJournal:** How can the armed citizen decisively deter violence without engaging in mutual combat or appearing to do so? We preach avoidance, but let's say there's no opening to leave. Perhaps your neighbor and a big guy you've seen hanging out next door with him flank you menacingly in your driveway. We have immediacy of the threat combined with the ability to do violence. We worry that it is escalation to draw a gun defensively too soon, while at the same time, we need to disengage forcefully enough to stop them. How can we do that?

**MacYoung:** We are going to have to cover a lot of territory to get to why that is not a simple question. One of the problems is our tendency to think, "What if?" rather than "If (fill in the blank), then (blank)." We ask ourselves, "What if?" and we don't realize how easy that question is to ask, but how difficult it is to answer.

Now, we have to take a step further back and realize that we are dealing with variable and mutable problems that, depending on the circumstances at the time, will determine what is the appropriate answer. There's the operator's maxim of, "the situation dictates," which is true, you won't know the details of a situation—and by extension the appropriate answer—until you're in it. But

how do you assess these? The way I describe it is that you have to be able to do the math. When you are looking at a math problem, there are certain fixed issues: "When you see this, this means that."

At the same time, there are also "predictable variables," a term I am beginning to use, because you do not know what these variables are until you are in the situation, but you do know that these variables will always be changing. You learn to look for those predictable variables, and assess them so you can do the math and come up with the appropriate answer.

**eJournal:** So, we have got our predictable variable of the two big guys flanking us...

**MacYoung:** Right! That's an example! Unless those two big guys flanking us happen to be EMTs trying to get us on to the stretcher.

**eJournal:** We should be able to differentiate between hostile neighbors and first responders. Let's say that maybe we've exchanged harsh words with this neighbor earlier.

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**MacYoung:** So take a situation and break it into three stages: the pre-incident, the physical incident, and then the aftermath. People want to focus on only one aspect, the incident itself and the physical skills you need. I consider this a serious failing in what is being taught whether empty handed, knife or firearms.

Now, when I look at a situation, I look at all three of those stages and see how they interface with one another. In "what if" questions, most people will paint a scenario and they won't give you what has led to it. I ask, what was your behavior in this?

Recognizing that what you do before a situation becomes physical has a strong influence on what happens afterwards is a major shift in thinking. Don't distinguish between the two of them; don't say they are separate issues. What you do before a situation becomes physical not only has a strong influence on the aftermath, but it has a strong influence whether it even goes physical.

For example, before a situation goes physical, make a good faith effort to withdraw.

**eJournal:** Even if you are on your own property?

**MacYoung:** If at all possible, try to make the effort to withdraw. This gives you articulable facts that you tried and it didn't work. Now, overwhelmingly, violence comes with instructions how to avoid it. When somebody gives you a good faith offer of, "Shut up or I am going kick your ass," that is not the time to make a comment about that individual's sexual habits, but egos kick in and we do that, then we're surprised that it goes physical. Worse when the cops are investigating, such a response undermines your claim that it was self defense.

Walking away has an amazing track record for preventing violence—especially if someone has told you to leave. Oh, and for the record, when you make a good faith effort to withdraw from a situation, that does not mean walking away and over your shoulder calling out about him and his mom again. If you did, you just broke the deal. He offered you a chance to leave peacefully and you had to get that final shot in. That is why I say, "Make a good faith effort to withdraw." There's always the question, "Well, what if he's lying?" Forget about that: that is one percent of all situations.

**eJournal:** The other argument against retreat you'll hear is, "If he sees me running away, it will ignite his prey drive and he will chase me down."

**MacYoung:** Oh, no, no, no! When people talk about that, usually, it isn't them running that ignited it, it was that comment they made about his mom. That is not a good faith effort to withdraw; it is getting that last dig in. They say, "He's going to chase me if I run." Well, no, but he is going to chase you if you say something and then run. Odds are good he will let you go if you don't get that last dig in.

**eJournal:** That's a good example of fears based on inaccurate beliefs about violence. It is important to acknowledge at this point that you, Marc, are someone who has done this dance, as opposed to someone who is afraid of the dance and is speculating about it.

**MacYoung:** Correct. Well, if you want to bring that up, I tell people that I have a different scale of "bad" than most people and when somebody says something is "bad," my first question is, "Did the person live?" If no, "How many parts was the body found in?" I have a really seriously different scale of bad than most people, not like the social justice warriors, the "I have rights" people who tend to respond, "You don't understand the trauma this would cause."

**eJournal:** No, our concerns are more serious than hurt feelings. If we're considering bringing a gun out into a confrontation, the level of seriousness is life and death—whether or not it was before, so how we got there had better be justifiable.

**MacYoung:** Yes! Recognize how many off ramps there are before we get to that point!

**eJournal:** Don't those off ramps appear during the pre-incident stage, the first of the three stages?

**MacYoung:** Yes! If I can withdraw, if I have the patience to deal with it later, I can resolve the situation without use of force.

**eJournal:** What do you mean by having the patience, Marc?

**MacYoung:** Remember the three brain model: human, monkey, lizard? (See <http://conflictresearchgroupintl.com/the-monkey-brain-marc-macyoung/>) The monkey wants to solve things NO-O-OW! It's got that adrenaline urge – it's got to be done now, now, now! The human brain allows us to stop and say, "OK, let's step back, calm down, find another

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way to handle this." When we are in the mode of "I want to solve this NOW," we actually don't see the options that we have, we only see the options that the monkey brain gives us.

Think in long-term strategy: Let's say there is a video camera of the soon-to-be shooting—when I am talking to Detective Friendly in the presence of my lawyer, I want the video to back up my story. I want the video to show me extending my hands and saying, "I don't want any problems; I'll just leave," and the video will show me backing away, so the video corroborates my story.

The good faith effort to withdraw has the added benefit that it often works! Guess what? I didn't have to shoot anybody; I can go home! Yeah!

But if our hands are forced, and if we are left with no other options but to use lethal force, we'd better explain WHY. If I can articulate later, what I did to try to avoid it and how it didn't work, I have just put a serious torpedo into the prosecutor's attempt to say, "Well, you were participating in this. Why didn't you walk away?"

I can say, "I DID."

"Well, why did you stop?"

"It wasn't working."

The good faith effort to withdraw keeps my self-defense claim from being undermined when he asks, "Why did you make that comment about his mother that the witnesses all heard?" Never forget: What you do before has major consequences afterwards.

**eJournal:** Under adrenal stress, how can you stay in your rational mind to make those good choices, to control your mouth and avoid excessive force in defense to stop the threat?

**MacYoung:** It is the ability to do the math. One of the things that I teach is assessing somebody's attack range. When you are talking about knife or empty hand, somebody's attack range is the distance from their eyebrows to the floor, laid out on the ground. That distance is the distance that he can attack you without taking a step. Divide that in half and that's pretty much an arm's reach.

This is one of the things about adrenal stress: We hyper focus on the threat and the threat looks bigger. Do you know that I have never had a gun pulled on me, a knife

pulled on me? I have always had cannons and swords pulled on me! Talk about spatial distortion!

When people get involved in shootings and they're asked, "How close was the guy?" and they say about five feet, and the video shows he was fifteen feet away, "Boo! You're lying. What else are you lying about?" Well, no, under adrenal stress, spatial distortion is common.

Measuring the distance is one way to break the grip of adrenaline. Quit looking at the threat and look at the distance between you. All it takes is an eye glance. Remember that really fascinating article you wrote about the Tueller Drill?

**eJournal:** Dennis Tueller gave us a really great interview on the topic back in May, 2008 (see <http://www.armedcitizensnetwork.org/images/stories/journal/2008/5-08eJournal.pdf>).

**MacYoung:** The Tueller Drill teaches you all kinds of wonderful things, but how many people have turned it into the 21-foot rule?

**eJournal:** Too many, and I well remember Tueller expressing how much he disapproves!

**MacYoung:** And I'm with him! Too many people want to turn it into an over-simplistic sound bite. It's not. You have to learn how to do the math. You have to learn how to assess the predictable variables and once you have the skill to do that, it becomes the art of reading the situation.

People automatically assume they have the skill sets to do this stuff. Like driving, this is a multi-tiered situation. At the base of driving, there are *skill sets* of steering, braking and accelerating. The skill set of braking isn't just applying the brake, it is knowing how to apply the brake at this speed to stop in this distance. It is a really, really involved, complicated process. We've driven enough that we have integrated the skill set into a different part of our brain. It is engrained so much that we don't have to devote conscious thought to it.

Now, drawing your gun effectively, without shooting off important bits and bobs, should be a *skill set*. You should not have to think about it, it should be so engrained that it's done and the only thing you should be thinking about at that time is, "Do I have to shoot?" You're not wasting brain cells on drawing the gun.

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Then you come to *skills*. This is assessing the given circumstances. How do you mix steering, accelerating and braking, given the circumstances you are in, whether you are coming around a corner or whether someone is merging into your lane. What is the appropriate response? What is the combo? Those are the skills.

Take that into a shooting situation. As I said, you are not even thinking about pulling the gun. Once you're there, you're going, "Do I have to shoot?" So all your brain cells are in "shoot or don't shoot," assessing the circumstances.

What is really important about this model is that we think this way all the time. As a situation changes, our reactions change. Let's go back to driving: You're processing how to get through the curve as you're driving, but once you get out of that curve, you have to change your behaviors. You are constantly doing these calculations. So there, you're pulling your gun, you're getting ready, and all of a sudden the guy turns around and runs away. What's the important thing to do right now?

**eJournal:** I believe most of us would get that part right and stand down.

**MacYoung:** Really? That is where the monkey brain still says, "Shoot him! Shoot him! He's still a threat!" when indeed the threat has passed. See, the part that is actually doing the calculations is your lizard brain, not your monkey, but the monkey is going, "Shoot him! Shoot him! He's still attacking," and in the meantime, the lizard is saying, "Shut up, monkey."

So you have the *skill set*, you have the *skills*. Really, the skills are based in the ability to do the math. Train your lizard brain to calculate, "If (blank), then (blank)," instead of asking, "What if?" By the way, to give proper credit, Jeff Meek is the one who thought up the "If (blank), then (blank)" model. (See [http://carryoncolorado.com/About\\_Us](http://carryoncolorado.com/About_Us))

In the art of driving, you have those skill sets down so well that you almost become psychic. Looking at a situation, you know what predictable variables are changing, and what you need to look at so you can predict what is going to happen in the future.

**eJournal:** How do we learn to recognize predictable variables in conflict?

**MacYoung:** First of all, you have to have the first two things in play: getting those skills and those skill sets, then learning how to function and make decisions under adrenaline, understanding human beings and their behaviors. In pretty much everything I've ever written, I talk about the five stages of violent crime. (See [http://www.nonenseselfdefense.com/five\\_stages.htm](http://www.nonenseselfdefense.com/five_stages.htm)) When you know that stuff, you see the system, you have a baseline of reliable knowledge that you can use to assess and do the math.

There is a process here, like a good mechanic who can literally walk up to a car and just by the sound know what the problem is. Developing that amazing "woo woo" is not something that you get to over night. You have to methodically work, practice, get training, work with this stuff, have experience where people say, "Hear that? When you hear that sound, that means..." The good mechanic may be gifted, but without the ability to do the math, it is nothing.

**eJournal:** Applying this to self defense, how do we gain the experience without ending up in the hospital repeatedly?

**MacYoung:** Talk to people who have been there, done that and listen to the small details. Somebody who has actually been there will have a different set of priorities than somebody who has not. For example, I will commonly say, "Look, you need to make a good faith effort to withdraw." That is a priority; it's got many reasons and I am able to explain to you why it is important. Somebody who has not been there will only fixate on the physical incident or their feelings. When you listen to many people who have "been there" you will hear certain things that are stressed over and over again. [pauses] You know some very, very dangerous people. Tell me how polite they are.

**eJournal:** Exceedingly.

**MacYoung:** Why?

**eJournal:** Because they know how serious it is if conflict is not managed on a civilized basis.

**MacYoung:** Yes. The other thing they know is that politeness and proper etiquette or behavior will cause a lot of situations to settle down, and if you present a social script and if there is not a problem, people will follow that script. Somebody not following that script announces their intentions.

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**eJournal:** We need better coaching to accurately recognize what subtle cues like going off script indicate. In addition to talks with you, I treasure memories of the honest been-there, done-that stories Jim Cirillo used to tell, because he spoke so frankly about his on-duty shootings, without bragging and he talked about fear and other affects.

**MacYoung:** In talking about those things, I'm sure he said things that had you saying, "I never thought about that." Experienced people have encountered problems that inexperienced people have never imagined. For example: Shooting somebody is relatively easy, but how do you handle it if you decide not to shoot?

**eJournal:** That's complicated...but that is how we hope to manage it.

**MacYoung:** It's ALL complicated, but shooting is just one small, small sliver of that complication. Fine, you don't shoot somebody, but the next thing you know, you've got the cops knocking on your door for brandishing. These are the kinds of real-life problems that you'll face.

I don't train people for "if this ever happens," I train them for "when it happens," because when it happens there are going to be certain reliable issues that you must address. This is not emotional. I teach, "If this happens you are going to have to deal with this." We've handed it over to the lizard brain that is not going to get freaked out like the emotional monkey brain, because the emotional monkey is going to give you excessive force.

If you can control your lizard brain, once the threat goes away, you stop pulling the trigger. This is the difference between stopping shooting when the threat stops versus walking over and putting a couple more rounds in him while he's lying on the ground.

**eJournal:** How does that calculating lizard brain work in the immediate aftermath, when we are dealing with witnesses who will give statements, including responding law enforcement, with whom we must interact?

**MacYoung:** A friend of mine once said, "Your thinking is done in practice." Your thinking and problem solving says, "What about this variable? Does this answer solve the problem?" Having experience with adrenaline is like the difference between swimming in a pool and swimming in the ocean. We should get our swimming skill sets developed in the pool first. We don't just jump into the riptide to learn to swim.

I recommend anybody who does shooting should go out and take scenario-based training empty handed because that gives adrenal stress inoculation. It teaches how to function under adrenal stress. It introduces the waves and currents and how to function in them. Then you integrate that into shooting. You watch the predictable variables to tell you which one that is going to be. When you do the math for these situations, it is not that there are ten thousand possibilities given the circumstances. There are some very predictable outcomes! [pauses, then asks suddenly] Do you know why I love deserted parking lots?

**eJournal:** I didn't know that you did! Why?

**MacYoung:** Because they are deserted, nobody is there! It is when a parking lot isn't deserted that I tend to go, "Uh, oh." Let's say I am in a dark parking lot in the middle of the night and I see a stranger. As long as he is doing his own thing, walking to or from a car, no problem. But it is not normal behavior for a stranger to walk up to me in a parking lot at night.

Now, if he tries to engage me, that doesn't necessarily mean a bad thing, but if he does try to engage me, how he does it is pretty important. If he stops 15 feet away and he says, "Excuse me, sir, do you know where..." he's just hammered down a certain set of variables. The fact that he has stopped 15 feet away is important. That's normal. You don't approach strangers closely in lonely areas.

If this guy is pretending to ask me where the gas station is, but he keeps approaching, that is a predictable variable, and I'm thinking, "This isn't right!" The next thing I'm watching for is for him to "show me his appendix scar," because this is not normal, and he has now done some very predictable things that will lead to this particular conclusion: this is an attempted robbery. Know why I dislike the appendix draw? Because that is how criminals carry their guns. So if this guy has a gun on you and you do the same motions that he does to draw his own gun—hmmm...let's do the math.

Where do I draw my gun in the process? That varies. See, I'm a firm believer in having the weapon in hand but out of sight before he gets close enough, but that is just me.

**eJournal:** You're not going to be mute through this progression, either.

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**MacYoung:** No, that's the thing: I can talk to somebody with my firearm out of sight. I can be very polite, while saying, "That's close enough, what can I do for you?" That is me taking control of the situation instead of leaving him in control of the situation.

**eJournal:** Now you have rewritten the equation.

**MacYoung:** In order to rewrite the equation, you have to understand the math.

**eJournal:** I thought your latest book, *In the Name of Self-Defense* went far to help us recognize predictable variables. I have been reading your books for years, and the last one to explain these equations with such clarity was *Safe in the City*, written 20 years ago. That comparison has me wondering, what aspect of your self-defense viewpoint has changed most radically since your first book came out 25 years ago?

**MacYoung:** I no longer put myself into situations where I need to act. I have done things that I have to live with. I can look at those things and live with myself because they were self defense, however, I now realize that I had put myself into a situation where self defense was necessary. I had to own my actions that put me into those situations.

How many of our actions are selfish, even when we don't think before we do it? If someone cuts us off in traffic and we flip them off, that's self-soothing. That makes us feel better for a moment. There was a lot of my behavior that I found to be rather self soothing. In hindsight it was insulting, hurt the person, and they reacted negatively. I created the situation that I was involved in. Sure he attacked me, but I really shouldn't have said that. You can be self righteous about it, but there comes a time when you really do have to own it. It is far, far better if you can own it rather than having a prosecutor try to make you own it.

**eJournal:** I would hope that all of us reading this can share that realization about our contributions to the situations where we want to say, "He did that to me."

**MacYoung:** When you have the ability to take a human life, you have to realize that. I can kill somebody with my bare hands in under ten seconds and that is not a boast, it is a burden, it is a responsibility, it is something that I have to live with and I cannot abuse. I have to hold myself to a higher standard so as not to hurt people who don't deserve it.

For most people, the ability to take a life requires a tool. When you pick up that tool, you pick up that responsibility. I can't ever put that tool down. People who carry firearms should for one month in all their dealings, consider themselves to be armed. Maybe you don't carry at work, so how does that affect your interaction with other people?

**eJournal:** At the core, you're measuring the quality of the person. Carrying a gun does not automatically change habits or behavior.

**MacYoung:** Correct. It is funny for me to be sitting here sounding like, "Those young whippersnappers these days..." When I was a kid, I was taught how to be polite; I was raised on how to act like a gentleman. Granted, I didn't do it a lot, but I had that resource when I needed it, so I could refine those skills and get back into practice. Now, I see a lot of people out there who have not been trained. They don't have any other skills other than being, shall we say, a street punk. They don't know how to shift gears.

I would often find myself in a situation where a young guy had come up to me, he was being stupid, and he'd suddenly realize that if he continued on his current course of action, I would be playing show and tell with his vital organs. But he didn't know how to withdraw from the situation. So I'd actually have to kind of coach him, like, "Here is how you exit this situation safely. Now, say this...good boy, good. Now back away slowly, yes, there you go, see it worked! Yeah!" I would manipulate and manage the situation so this young guy could have a face-saving exit.

**eJournal:** Doing that needs to be an addition to our people management skills.

**MacYoung:** Yes, because these kids don't have it.

**eJournal:** That is sobering.

**MacYoung:** Yes, it is. You are dealing with people who have very little impulse control and a lot of times they need to know how to behave. If this guy doesn't know how to get out of a situation, you are going to have to guide him through so you don't have to shoot him.

**eJournal:** We have to learn how to manage that uncivilized human. To what resources can we turn to learn this?

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**MacYoung:** You know, I'm working on that!

**eJournal:** What are you currently writing?

**MacYoung:** I just finished writing *Violence for Defense*. I have another book that's in process, which is *Outside Suburbia*, which is basically how to deal with the rest of the world when you've been raised in the white, middle class world. It is not just how to deal with people from different economic and racial backgrounds, but also like going to college, getting a job, all the stuff that kids today are not being taught. Those two are already in process, and I've returned to Conflict Communications, from which I had to take a break, but now I'm back to it.

**eJournal:** Talking with you is a great gift and an opportunity to urge Network members to read your website, get your latest book and preorder the ones that aren't out yet, because you explain subtleties that no one else is talking about. We are trying so hard to prepare members to think these things through in advance, but to do so realistically. It is easy to say, "Here is what I imagine," when what is truly productive is instruction in the principles, as you have given here

today. Thank you for the time you've taken and for sharing your experiences, thoughts and knowledge with Network members!

**MacYoung:** The principles are learning to do the math, just as you have to learn the principles of math in order to do math. Is this addition, multiplication, subtraction, division? No, wait, is it Base 8? Again, you won't know what the exact circumstances are until you are in the situation, so you need to know to look for those predictable variables and what they mean.

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*Marc MacYoung is the featured speaker on the fourth video lecture in Network's member education package. He is a prolific author, having written 15 books and five videos over the past 25 years. Read more at [www.nonenseselfdefense.com](http://www.nonenseselfdefense.com) and follow his blog at <http://macyoungsmusings.blogspot.com>.*

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## President's Message

### Network Adds Bail Assistance to Membership Benefits

by Marty Hayes, J.D.

***“Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.”***

The above sentence is the 8th Amendment to the US Constitution and part of our Bill of Rights. As our members know, we here at the Network home office have been studying whether or not the Network should offer our members a “bail assistance benefit” as part of our overall member benefits package. So, after a considerable amount of research, this message will serve as notice to our members of the addition of a member benefit of bail assistance of up to \$25,000.

Before we lay out the details of the bail assistance member benefit, a little education is in order.

Bail is typically required by the courts to insure that the person arrested appears in court. It is believed that if a person puts down enough money or other collateral, they will not flee the jurisdiction of the court, but instead come to court and go to trial. Additionally, each state's courts handle the issue of bail differently, so there is no hard and fast rule to cover the entire country. For example in the Larry Hickey case, (see <http://armedcitizensnetwork.org/images/stories/Hickey%20Booklet.pdf>) the court imposed a “cash bail” where the judge set the bail at \$100,000 and required Larry come up with all of it in cash. That is something that can be done in Arizona and other states, as well. In some states, bail is not available for a first degree murder charge, so the arrestee sits in jail until trial. Consequently, if it were me, I would make sure that I understand how my local jurisdiction handles the bail issue.

As far as the mechanics of arranging bail after being arrested, once a person is arrested and transported to jail, they will be given the opportunity to contact a bail agent to arrange for bail. Only if the person was arrested for a misdemeanor and the bail is a low amount, will the person likely be able to post bail immediately (before being booked). For any felony, expect that you will be

booked into jail (belongings taken, jail uniform issued, mug shots, fingerprints and perhaps even DNA swabs taken). Then you will be given the opportunity to contact a lawyer. For a serious felony (likely including any self-defense case for which you were arrested), do not expect bail to be set immediately. There will be an arraignment where your attorney requests bail, while arguing for a low amount of bail, with the prosecutor arguing for a high bail. There are exceptions, of course. One exception might be if you are a fine, upstanding member of the community with a good job and a family to support. In that case, you might be released on your own recognizance, if the judge does not believe you are a flight risk. But that rarely happens, so you need to be ready to arrange for bail.

For purposes of this discussion, let's say you were arrested for aggravated assault (as was Larry Hickey) and the judge sets a bail amount of \$100,000. At that point, you have two choices. If you have \$100,000 lying around (or could raise the money with help from friends or family), you could simply arrange for that money to be deposited to the court and you would be released. No bail agent would be involved in the transaction, and you would have that money returned to you (less court costs and/or fines) after trial.

If you could not put your hands on the \$100k, then you likely would need to hire a bail agent to post a bond for you. The bail agent has already worked out the details with the court, to be able to go to the court and promise that they would either make sure you appeared in court at each and every hearing and trial, or if you fail to appear, they would pay the court \$100,000. The bail bond agent does not bring a hundred grand in cash to the court, but instead promises to pay that amount if you don't show up for trial.

For that service, they are going to charge you a fee, typically 10% of the bail amount. In our example of bail set at \$100,000, that fee would be \$10,000. This \$10,000 paid to the bail agent is not refundable, it is their fee for risking their \$100,000. But understand that it is not this simple, so PAY ATTENTION HERE...

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In addition to the \$10,000 fee, the bail bond agent could also require collateral for the remaining \$90,000. This collateral is typically in the form of a mortgage on your house, or on the house of a third party (like parents or other family). So, just because you can raise the \$10,000, that does not mean you will be released from jail pending trial. This is an extremely important fact that I don't want you to miss, and here's why:

Effective Oct. 1, 2015, the Network leadership has decided to add a bail assistance member benefit, meaning that if a Network member is arrested after an act of self defense, we will assist the member in arranging for bail. We have decided to make up to \$25,000 available from the Legal Defense Fund to pay the bail agent's fee, but the member may still need to provide the collateral to secure the rest of the bail amount. Using our \$100,000 example, the Network will pay the \$10,000 fee to the bail agent, but the member may still need to pledge \$90,000 in collateral. That is how the bail bond system works, and as we announce this member benefit, we wanted members to have a crystal clear understanding of how this works.

In addition, there is one more aspect of this new member benefit that we want you to understand: Granting bail assistance is subject to the same requirement as awarding Legal Defense Funds beyond the initial deposit against fees paid immediately to your attorney. In other words, there must be sufficient evidence to make a reasonable argument that the use of force incident was self defense. Just as we would not agree to fund the legal defense of someone who actually committed a murder, we would also not assist that person in gaining his or her freedom from jail. We will need to be convinced that your use of force was a self-defense incident.

Having said that, we are very excited to be able to offer this benefit to our members and to armed citizens for whom a bail assistance benefit is a make-break factor in

deciding which post-incident support plan to join. We have struggled to figure out how to add this benefit without depleting the core member benefit of paying an attorney for immediate representation for the member after self defense as well as assistance with attorney, expert witness and other trial expenses, if it goes that far. Prior to making this decision, the feedback we received from members was that they felt those benefits were less valuable to them if they were stuck sitting in jail because they could not make bail.

Given the incredible variations on how bail is handled from one state to the next, we realized bail assistance may require a degree of financial participation from the member himself or herself. Members must understand that assistance with posting bail may not meet in full the requirements of the bail bonding agent, and in all likelihood will require financial participation from the member, as well. Bail assistance is a lot more complex than a check mark on the comparison grids advertising so many of the Network's competitors.

Despite this complexity, we work hard to be responsive to Network member requests and feedback. Dedicated journal readers will remember that I began exploring the question of adding a bail assistance member benefit to Network membership benefits back in the May and June issues of this journal. During discussion, I received a lot of feedback from members, the great majority of whom indicated that adding a reasonable program to provide bail assistance to Network members was of utmost importance to them. That's why I'm so pleased to make this announcement that the Network has added bail assistance to Network membership benefits.

For further research, see  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bail\\_bondsman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bail_bondsman)

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



## Attorney Question of the Month

One of the most hotly debated issues in the armed citizen's world is how to interact with the police after a shooting. Some people say you should immediately invoke your right to counsel and say nothing until you have your attorney at your side. Others say that if you do not explain to the police what occurred, you will be immediately suspected of murder and arrested.

Preceding the police arriving and wanting to question you, however, comes the 9-1-1 call. For the next several months, we will explore these issues through our Network Affiliated Attorney Question of the Month. We will start with the 9-1-1 call.

### **We asked our Network Affiliated Attorneys:**

*Assuming the immediate violence is over, the armed citizen and his or her family is safe, should the armed citizen call 9-1-1, and if they do, what should they tell the police dispatcher?*

#### **James B. Fleming**

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This question assumes that the armed citizen is going to be in any kind of shape to personally call 911, which I strongly believe to be a dangerous assumption. In many cases the armed citizen may not be in any kind of physical or mental condition to make that call effectively. Whoever calls 911 should limit the interaction to the following:

Who you are. Where you are. Why you need emergency responders.

"My name is Dorothy Smith, I live at 1818 Erving Lane in Hoboken, N.J. There has been an incident at my home where my husband was forced to shoot an intruder in self-defense. People are injured. Please send officers and medical assistance to this address immediately."

The 911 dispatcher will attempt to keep the caller engaged and will continue to ask questions. I do not recommend any further interaction with the dispatcher, nor are you obligated to follow her directions, or answer any additional questions.

#### **Jerold E. Levine**

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Assuming that the armed citizen has shot the perp; that there is an injured or dead perp on the ground; and that the citizen will not try to deny that he/she shot the perp, then definitely call 911. To fail to do so, under the claims that the citizen had no obligation to do so and did not want to self-incriminate, will make him appear calculating and heartless. We want him to appear compassionate and moral.

As for what to say, this is the most difficult thing, because under the intense emotional pressure of the moment it will be almost impossible for the citizen to control his actions. But control himself he must. He should tell 911 his name, his location, repeat the location, that there is a seriously injured person who is bleeding, and to send an ambulance and police right away, repeat send an ambulance and police. THEN THEY SHOULD HANG UP.

It is very important not to stay on the line and keep talking. 911 often will try to keep a caller on the line until police arrive, and the entire conversation will be recorded. (The citizen's lawyer can give good reasons later for why his client could not stay on the line.) And the citizen should not answer the phone when it rings thereafter. It will be 911 calling back, or the police.

#### **James E. Leuenberger**

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Heck no. Call defense counsel. Defense counsel should call police from the scene.

*[Continued next page...]*

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**Thomas C. Watts III**

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This is a great issue to raise. The lawyer's gospel on this issue is to say nothing at all. There is wisdom to this approach. There will likely be a civil lawsuit following any self-defense event. The burden of proof is much more relaxed. What is said in a well-intentioned attempt to aid enforcement and their investigation, may come back to haunt in a civil proceeding.

Then, of course, there is that pesky issue of a criminal complaint where you are likely to spend a day or two in jail, then a year or two fighting your way out the criminal justice system at your own expense.

Yet, there is the idea that carefully limited communication is appropriate. The thought is to take some ownership of what has occurred.

Yes. . . call 911 or make sure somebody else calls. The investigation should start while the evidence is fresh. More importantly, the investigator should start with the premise of self defense in mind, rather than the premise of what type of crime may have occurred.

We know that the Primacy Bias tends to start people thinking along the lines of the first set of understandable and credible facts that are presented. Once established, Confirmation Bias tends to result in the adoption of consistent facts and the rejection of facts that do not fit within the preferred hypothesis.

For example, we are told that a group of college kids together on a Friday night, are planning to go a mountain cabin the next morning. We further learn that they are playing music, without any supervising adults and all together in a single room, eating and drinking. It will be pretty hard to be convinced that they are holding a Bible study. On the other hand, if we are first told that these kids were together studying a Bible, playing music, without any supervising adults are all together in a single room, eating and drinking, it will be difficult to accept that the Bible they are reading is a demonic cult manual.

This guides us on what might be stated in a 911 call regarding a lawful shooting in self defense. The facts

pertaining to self defense ought to be pressed at the first possible opportunity.

In my state of California, there are jury instructions that tell the jury what facts must be shown in order to prove the existence or non-existence of a proposition. Let's take a look at Judicial Council Of California Criminal Jury Instruction 505 as of May 2015 (Westlaw). Parts have been edited or deleted for clarity.

*The defendant is not guilty of (murder/manslaughter/ attempted murder/attempted voluntary manslaughter) if (he/she) was justified in (killing/attempting to kill) someone in (self-defense/ [or] defense of another). The defendant acted in lawful (self-defense/ [or] defense of another) if:*

*1. The defendant reasonably believed that (he/she/ [or] someone else) was in imminent danger of being killed or suffering great bodily injury or was in imminent danger of being (raped/maimed/robbed/ other forcible and atrocious crime);*

*2. The defendant reasonably believed that the immediate use of deadly force was necessary to defend against that danger;*

*AND*

*3. The defendant used no more force than was reasonably necessary to defend against that danger.*  
(The balance of the instruction appears at the end of this discussion for the reader's better understanding.)

There will be plenty of evidence of a homicide or bodily injury at the scene. My thought is that the 911 call is the first instance where a citizen, lawfully exercising their right of self defense has the opportunity to shape the course of the investigation by stating to effect that there has been a shooting that occurred when the perpetrator put the citizen or others in the immediate danger of being killed and would not back down or flee or otherwise retreat from the scene. Further, if the threat has not been fully neutralized, the citizen might describe the scene to the operator, whether the citizen is still armed. If appropriate the citizen should state that they are at the ready to cooperate and comply with enforcement once they have arrived to secure the scene. An envisioned call to 911 might sound something like:

"I need to report a shooting. I was forced to shoot an intruder who was going to stab my daughter with a knife. His arm was in the air with the knife in his hand. I didn't have time to get him to stop. He was going to kill her. He is not moving. I believe he is dead. I am not certain he

*[Continued next page...]*

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was alone, but there does not seem to be any other threat. We have not been physically injured. Please send help. The front door is opened; I am sitting in the kitchen with my daughter. My weapon has been made safe. I will comply with any instructions of responders when they arrive on the scene.”

In this call, the citizen is stating observations and relaying information rather than trying to explain or justify.

The operator would ask for identification and location information, but not much else. If the decision is made not to speak to enforcement (a different discussion, but with many of the same considerations), the citizen is on record from the outset with facts supporting a complete defense to criminal and civil liability.

This discussion is intended as a general comment on an important issue with many different viewpoints. It is not intended as specific legal advice to be universally applied to every situation.

The rest of the jury instructions I cited earlier continues:

*CALCRIM 505 (continued)*

*Belief in future harm is not sufficient, no matter how great or how likely the harm is believed to be. The defendant must have believed there was imminent danger of death or great bodily injury to (himself/herself/ [or] someone else).*

*Defendant's belief must have been reasonable and (he/she) must have acted only because of that belief. The defendant is only entitled to use that amount of force that a reasonable person would believe is necessary in the same situation.*

*If the defendant used more force than was reasonable, the [attempted] killing was not justified.*

*When deciding whether the defendant's beliefs were reasonable, consider all the circumstances as they were known to and appeared to the defendant and consider what a reasonable person in a similar situation with similar knowledge would have believed. If the defendant's beliefs were reasonable, the danger does not need to have actually existed.*

*The defendant's belief that (he/she/ [or] someone else) was threatened may be reasonable even if (he/she) relied on information that was not true. However, the defendant must actually and reasonably have believed that the information was true.*

*[If you find that the decedent threatened or harmed the defendant [or others] in the past, you may consider that information in deciding whether the defendant's conduct and beliefs were reasonable.*

*If you find that the defendant knew that the decedent had threatened or harmed others in the past, you may consider that information in deciding whether the defendant's conduct and beliefs were reasonable.]*  
*[Someone who has been threatened or harmed by a person in the past, is justified in acting more quickly or taking greater self-defense measures against that person.]*

*[If you find that the defendant received a threat from someone else that (he/she) reasonably associated with <insert name of decedent/victim>, you may consider that threat in deciding whether the defendant was justified in acting in (self-defense/ [or] defense of another).]*

*[A defendant is not required to retreat. He or she is entitled to stand his or her ground and defend himself or herself and, if reasonably necessary, to pursue an assailant until the danger of (death/great bodily injury/<insert forcible and atrocious crime>) has passed. This is so even if safety could have been achieved by retreating.]*

*[Great bodily injury means significant or substantial physical injury. It is an injury that is greater than minor or moderate harm.]*

*The People have the burden of proving beyond a reasonable doubt that the [attempted] killing was not justified. If the People have not met this burden, you must find the defendant not guilty of (murder/ [or] manslaughter/ attempted murder/ [or] attempted voluntary manslaughter).*

*We extend a heartfelt “Thank you!” to all of the Network Affiliated Attorneys who responded to this question. Please return next month for more commentary from our Affiliated Attorneys on this important topic.*

## Book Review

### The Big Bloody Book of Violence: The Smart Persons' Guide for Surviving Dangerous Times

By Kris Wilder and Lawrence Kane

Stickman Publications, Inc., Aug.15, 2015

337 pages, 7.5 x 0.8 x 9.2 inches,  
paperback, illustrated

MSRP: \$19.95 at amazon.com

<http://www.amazon.com/Big-Bloody-Book-Violence-Self-Defense/dp/0692503447>

Reviewed by Gila Hayes

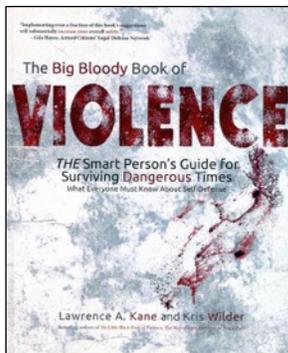
As soon as I got past the title of *The Big Bloody Book of Violence*, I was hooked on the knowledge compressed into Kris Wilder and Lawrence Kane's latest book. It's a keeper, so I may have to tear off the cover—I'm a bit paranoid about titles on my bookshelves from which others may draw false conclusions about my mindset. Its title derives from Kane and Wilder's 2009 bestseller, *The Little Black Book of Violence: What Every Young Man Needs to Know About Fighting*. In contrast, *The Big Bloody Book* teaches the very adult task of taking responsibility for your own safety, and in its over 330 pages, does it very well.

Taking responsibility starts with understanding why you may be victimized. "Understanding the criminal mind and recognizing the goals by their actions allows you to see the violence from their perspective, because seeing it from any other perspective is a denial of what is actually happening," the authors write. Each chapter starts with a story or news vignette, illustrating a specific danger, then the crime is analyzed and solutions and defenses offered. It is an effective format.

Early on, the authors discuss Americans' increasing hesitancy to take responsibility for personal safety. "Intentionally or unintentionally, society is teaching us from a very young age to outsource responsibility for our safety and security to authority figures, be they school administrators, law enforcement officers, or legislators," write Wilder and Kane.

Under the guise of "socialization" citizens are taught that any violence is unacceptable. Zero-tolerance policies create huge victim pools, easy pickings for bullies, thieves, and more serious predators. Kane and Wilder

add that violent crimes occur in the heat of the moment and "when guns aren't available knives, vehicles, bludgeons, and a whole host of impromptu weapons take their place."



The fifth chapter urges us to understand what is important enough to fight for and that list is surprisingly short. Escape is #1, and they outline dangers inherent in fighting to control a threat or intervening to protect another person. Know your goal, they urge: "You will markedly increase your odds of survival. And, you'll have a leg up in the aftermath as well since you'll be able to paint a clear picture of why

you had to do whatever you did as well as why it was necessary. It's valuable to think this stuff through ahead of time, practice scenarios, and get a little experience under your belt since it's very hard to think logically during the heat of battle."

Next, the authors analyze specific hazards, suggesting a variety of avoidance and survival strategies. Workplace violence leads the discussion, including how to address workplace safety concerns with management, decrease your target profile, implement a buddy system, fall back plans for both hiding from an attacker and for escaping, avoiding predictable patterns in parking, commuting and where you customarily sit, and more great advice the reader can immediately put into practice.

I also liked the chapter about safety while using public transportation, in which the authors advise, "Pay attention to your fellow passengers, observing anything unusual or suspicious. Pay attention to impromptu weapons at your disposal such as flashlights, fire extinguishers, soft drink cans or bottles, belts, books, briefcases, or laptop computers, to name a few...Choose an aisle seat if you can and be prepared to act if something untoward actually occurs."

Surviving in crowds is addressed in a later chapter, with a very good explanation about riots and panic behavior, including this advice, "Any sudden change in the demeanor of the crowd, unforeseen gathering of onlookers, agitators overseen encouraging a confrontation, or people rapidly moving into your space may be warning signs of impending violence."

[Continued next page...]

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The authors also cover dangers from gangs, and among their recommendations, pass along advice to, "Learn how to make proper eye contact. Locking eyes with someone can be perceived as challenging, not a good thing generally but especially bad when gang members are involved, but breaking eye contact can cause problems, too. If you look up it is considered dismissive, a sign of arrogance. If you look down, it's weak, indicating you're a victim. Always break contact by looking sideways; it's the least threatening action."

You've got to love the chapter about "Nike-do:" the honorable art of running away. The authors advise, "Simply running is not good enough, it must be done strategically." They go on to explain that escape and evasion are not as simple as all-out flight. Disable immediate threats first, then move to safety—don't just run blindly. When possible, leave obstacles behind. I loved this chapter! Who knew that running and hiding was an art?

A complicated chapter on what could be called burning off the fog of war explains why it is so important to ignore the many inconsequential distractions present in a fast-breaking critical incident and key in on what is actually happening. Recognize pattern disruptions, the authors teach, advising scanning and pausing to see what is happening. Ignore others at the scene who rush right by and put their backs to the threat.

The chapter on home invasions makes the important distinction that this crime is not a simple resource predation aka burglary, since most burglaries are committed when the home is empty so that the criminal can get away with the most stuff. Home invasions, on the other hand, include follow-home robberies where you may not even get out of your car port before you are attacked, the authors account, and add that home invasions are most likely to include multiple and armed offenders, since a violent blitz is often the leading act in overwhelming the home's residents into compliance.

Recommendations include specifics about choosing where to live, layering home defenses, and reducing your attractiveness to this type of criminal. For gun owners, they add, "In a home invasion scenario you will likely be facing one or more armed assailants. You will rarely have enough time to go and get your gun, so you'll need to have it with you." They conclude the chapter with, "Few things are as adrenalizing as fear for your life and that of your loved ones due to a sudden, violent, and overwhelming ambush in your home. Home invaders don't just bust in, more often than not they bust in violently—shooting, stabbing, clubbing, punching, or kicking. Such incidents are critical and fraught with danger, but prevention and preparation can help you get through," closing with a strong recommendation for professional, hands-on training.

Next, victim selection processes are outlined, as is a good review of pre-attack indicators, the difference between racial profiling and behavioral profiling and other hints and clues that danger is afoot. The next chapter moves forward into surviving if assaulted, stressing the importance of mental toughness and determination, and recognizing when to stop to preserve your self-defense justification.

This review only scratches the surface of this detailed book. Each chapter ends with a good bullet-point summary and from beginning to end, the illustrative stories make the many lessons memorable.

In our area of concern, victory is a fight avoided. Wilder and Kane's latest book is an excellent resource in learning what to avoid, why and how to stay out of the predator's view, and what to do if preemption fails and we do have to defend ourselves.

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



## News from Our Affiliates

*Compiled by Gila Hayes*

Here we are well into the fall season, a time of year that calls to some armed citizens for whom the first introduction to firearms and gun safety was hunting. Our NY State affiliate Joe Valone, proprietor of Pheasants on the Flats in Batavia, NY, did some major firing range improvements over the summer and posted pictures on his Facebook page showing his clientele enjoying the new ranges. It looks really nice! It looks like he has some great hunting opportunities, too. Check out his new Facebook Page, POTF SHOOTING RANGE <https://www.facebook.com/pages/POTF-Shooting-Range/1632347697043013>.

Joe is an enthusiastic Network promoter, even when he heads for Florida's warmer climes for the worst of winter. Before he gets away this year, if you're in his part of the country, go check out his range. You can learn more at <http://www.pheasantsontheflats.com/index.html>, or if you have a specific question, email [PheasantsOnTheFlats@gmail.com](mailto:PheasantsOnTheFlats@gmail.com) or call Joe at 585-770-4971.



We learned recently that our MN Affiliated Instructor Rolf Penzel of One Defense is a new graduate of our Advisory Board Member Tom Givens' Instructor Development Course. What a small world! We know how challenging Givens' Instructor Development program is, so congratulate Rolf on attaining this high level of training. Read more on his One Defense blog (<http://www.onedefense.net/rangemaster-certified-instructor-one-defense-blog/>).

One Defense has a Defensive Rifle II program on Oct 10th and on Nov. 7th, they're teaching "Informed Choices Before You Buy." He offers group discounts, discounts for returning alumni, and discounted and sometimes free training for women. Learn more at <http://www.onedefense.net> or phone 612-562-9141 or mail [rolf@onedefense.net](mailto:rolf@onedefense.net).

The Network brought in a strong number of new affiliates during September, so let's switch our focus and make introductions. We strongly encourage Network members to get to know affiliates in their area, because the affiliates are a powerful part of the Network's outreach and publicity, bringing in new members so that our Legal Defense Fund grows and we are better prepared to provide assistance to members after use of force in self defense.

A warm Network welcome to our new affiliates, starting with David Maglio, and his firearms instruction business, Concealed Carry Associates, LLC of Saukville, WI. Maglio has been among Network Advisory Board member Massad Ayoob's instructor cadre for years and is now the sole trainer authorized by Massad Ayoob to teach the Massad Ayoob Group Instructor Course (see <http://massadayoobgroup.com/mag-ic/>). For information about upcoming courses by David Maglio in Wisconsin email him at [trnhrd@gmail.com](mailto:trnhrd@gmail.com).

Orville Wright, one of the most recent firearms instructors to join the Network, combines his love of RV travel with firearms and teaching, going on the road to teach carry permit classes and NRA courses. Wright has a great sense of humor. When we checked on the mailing address for his box of

Foundation booklets, he indicated that it was OK to send any size or weight of package and added that we should keep that in mind when the Christmas gift season rolls around! Check out his classes at <http://www.1stopccwpermitinstruction.com>, call 949-769-9099 or email him at [orville@ccwpi.com](mailto:orville@ccwpi.com).

Another new Network Affiliated Instructor is Jeff Walters of CHL Oregon in Tangent, OR, who has started using the Foundation's booklet *What Every Gun Owner Needs to Know About Self-Defense Law* in his Oregon and non-resident Utah concealed carry license courses. For more information, give Jeff a call at 541-740-8658 or email [Jeff@chlOregon.com](mailto:Jeff@chlOregon.com).

Also new to Network affiliation is Mark Vieta, Emergency Training Associates, Jackson, MI. Mark has created a multi-discipline curriculum that includes the NRA classes, *[Continued next page...]*

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pepper spray certification, several first aid and medical care classes, wilderness survival, fire safety and more. The latter offerings reflect Emergency Training Associates' origin as a training resource for fire, EMS and hospital professionals. Check out his website at <http://www.emergencytrainingassociates.us>, call him at 517-315-5335 or email [emsmarkv@gmail.com](mailto:emsmarkv@gmail.com).

Now, let's turn our attention to growth in the Affiliated Attorney cadre. We were pleased recently to welcome Arthur R. Medley from Dothan, AL into the Network after a member recommended that he contact us. A former assistant District Attorney, where he rose to the position of chief trial attorney, Mr. Medley has been active in several political campaigns in his area and his public statements in that venue have a strong-pro-gun flavor.

Our latest Michigan Affiliated Attorney is an avid firearms instructor, so he contacted us about both providing representation for Network members and to obtain copies of our booklet *What Every Gun Owner Needs to Know About Self-Defense Law* for students in his classes. Henry Lievens practices law in Monroe, MI and offers criminal defense, family law, and wills and estate services. He also has a history in politics, having served as a Monroe County Commissioner where he garnered kudos for his support of law enforcement in his district.

We're detecting a wonderful trend: our newest Maryland Affiliated Attorney also teaches firearms classes. Marc Schifanelli, of Schifanelli & Associates in Annapolis, MD has been practicing law for 11 years since retiring from the US Army as a Special Forces operator. In addition to being available to represent members in MD, he is licensed to practice law in Washington, D.C. and West Virginia.

From neighboring Virginia we were happy to welcome former prosecutor Shannon Taylor into the ranks of our affiliated attorneys. Ms. Taylor has "practiced on both sides of the courtroom and understands how cases progress from the moment of the arrest, including the gathering of evidence, the District Attorney's decision whether or not to file charges, and how the prosecutor goes about building the case and pursuing a conviction." She is part of the Arsenal Attorneys group that puts out an interesting blog at <https://www.arsenalattorneys.com>.

There are lots of Network members in Southern California and fortunately there are a lot of Network

affiliated attorneys there, too. Recently, Michael Jones of M. Jones & Associates in Santa Ana, affiliated with the Network. His military experience includes serving as a judge advocate general in the U.S. Army National Guard, as well as deploying into combat zones in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. While much of his practice is in bankruptcy and consumer protection, he also provides criminal defense services, an echo of his Army service where he is senior defense counsel for trial defense services in CA.

Also coming to us from So Cal, is new affiliated attorney Kasey Castillo, the managing partner at Castillo Harper in Ontario, CA. Castillo is also a panel attorney for a CA Police Officers Legal Defense Fund, and she handles the criminal defense of peace officers, responding to officer-involved shootings, major uses of force, and other critical incidents. Before entering private practice, Castillo was part of the San Bernardino County DA's career criminal prosecution unit.

I enjoyed sharing some emails back and forth with our new affiliated attorney Tom Watts from Corona, CA who commented that he'd logged on to the member only portions of the Network website and watched most of the member education videos in their streaming format. He gave a nice compliment to Advisory Board member Massad Ayoob when he wrote, "There are subtle differences in the advice that each of the presenters give on what to say to first responders as well as investigators. In my opinion Mr. Ayoob cuts the straightest trail." You'll also find commentary from Attorney Watts in this month's Attorney Question of the Month.

Networking at its best brought attorney Michael R. Smith, of Las Vegas to affiliate with the Network. Smith explained that his friend Isaac Espejo recommended that he check out the Network. Espejo is a long-time Network affiliated instructor, operating Safe and Secure Firearm Defense as well as working out at the Green Valley Range, in Henderson (see <http://www.greenvalleyrange.com>).

Each Network affiliate is a valued member of our team. Members, we encourage you to support the affiliates in your home area.

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

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## Editor's Notebook

by Gila Hayes

As September fades into its final few days, workloads at the Network seem extra heavy. One reason September was particularly busy was all the activities that took key staff members out of the office. A few weeks

ago, Jennie Van Tuyl, who handles membership renewal work and ships out new membership packages, had the opportunity to go to Tulsa, OK to shoot the International Defensive Pistol Association (IDPA) World Championships. Naturally, we all pitched in to pick up the slack so she could enjoy that extraordinary opportunity. Her enthusiasm for firearms education and the shooting sports is contagious, and we've all gotten a little boost out of hearing about her experiences there.

As I write this column, our Network President Marty Hayes and Vice President Vincent Shuck are at Gunsite Academy in Paulden, AZ for five days of pistol training, fellowship with other serious armed citizens, and to soak up a few days of heat and sun. I personally have such fond memories of attending Gunsite about twenty years ago, that when they began talking about going to Gunsite this fall, all I could say was, "You guys go!"

Marty has made our biggest announcement of 2015 in this month's President's Message. Bail assistance is a big addition to Network member benefits, and one with which we have struggled for quite some time. Influencing every Network leadership decision is the concern, "What course of action will provide the most critically-needed support for the largest number of Network members over the years and decades to come?" We must serve the immediate needs of members who've just come through a critical self-defense incident, while increasing resources to continue to provide higher levels of support for members in the future. That requires continued membership growth. Growth depends on positioning the Network as the top choice for well-trained armed citizens who are deep thinkers who can see beyond advertising hype.

### Thoughts About Member Education

I was a little surprised this month when a member who has been part of the Network since early 2009 contacted me to ask for replacement of one of the DVDs in our

member education lecture series. He commented that he had only now made time to view the lectures. I was happy to mail a replacement for the missing disk, and found myself pondering the continuing challenge of educating members.

The Network's member education lectures on DVD are optimized for admissibility in court as evidence of the member's prior knowledge before using force in self defense. Unfortunately, DVDs are not always easy for members to use. We were reminded of that in mid-2014 when a new member abruptly withdrew his membership upon receiving all the DVDs, complaining that he was unable to set aside the time to watch eight hours of lectures. In what amounted to an exit interview, he said that he could have coped with that volume of material had it been in book form.

Thus, in November of that year, we negotiated a volume purchase of Massad Ayoob's comprehensive new book, *Deadly Force: Understanding Your Right to Self Defense*, that covers many of our key member education topics and more. Despite the greater expense of providing a book to all Network members old and new, we jumped at the chance to increase education accessibility through that format.

That is just one example of how we continue to fine-tune access to member education. Here's another: Over the past summer, we've added seven of our member education lectures in streaming video to our website at <http://armedcitizensnetwork.org/members/lectures-on-video>. While we remain convinced that the member still must maintain his or her physical copies of the lecture DVDs for court admissibility, the streaming video considerably expands accessibility for members who do not customarily use an old-school DVD player and television. Now member education can "go on the road" with members who can fit in some education or review during a road trip, whether traveling for business or pleasure.

These upgrades—whether the huge increase of the bail assistance program, or the small detail of the streaming video lectures—are exciting and continuing evidence of the Network's expanding membership benefits. We couldn't do it without you, our members. Please tell your friends and fellow armed citizens about the Network so we can continue to grow.

*[End of October 2015 eJournal.  
Please return for our November edition.]*

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## About the Network's Online Journal

The **eJournal** of the Armed Citizens' Legal Defense Network, Inc. is published monthly on the Network's website at <http://www.armedcitizensnetwork.org/our-journal>. Content is copyrighted by the Armed Citizens' Legal Defense Network, Inc.

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

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

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We welcome your questions and comments about the Network.

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