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"The beauty of the Second Amendment is that it will not be needed until they try to take it away." - Thomas Jefferson

"To preserve liberty, it is essential that the whole body of the people always possess arms." - Richard Henry Lee

"Arms in the hands of citizens may be used at individual discretion for the defense of the country, the overthrow of tyranny, or in private self-defense." - John Adams

"Civilian ownership of firearms is not only a constitutional right, but also a fundamental aspect of the American identity, rooted in our history, culture, and tradition." - Ronald Reagan

"A free people ought to be armed." - George Washington



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You can also find our "DEAL OF THE WEEK" there.

Go to: northernplainsgunworks.com

LESS-LETHAL FORCE EXPLORED

by John Wilson

Last time we discussed various types of sticks/batons. This month we will discuss the use of tasers/stun guns! As always, still looking for volunteers to be "test dummies" under reasonably controlled conditions, only people in good health may apply.

Basically a taser is built around the principle of a capacitor in laymen's terms. It is a device capable of storing a large amount of voltage/amperage and when activated unleashes that stored energy in a short amount of time as a "burst". As my electronics teacher in high school used to say, "it is not voltage that will hurt you, it is amperage". Believe it or not, as little as 1/10th. of an amp can kill a person, if it takes the "perfect path" thru the human body to ground. Which is why you can stick your finger in the light socket, and only feel the notorious "tingle" that most of us have experienced at one time or another. That is 110 volts of AC current.

Yet, experience a similar "tingle", knock yourself to the ground, (or WORSE) from a 12 volt car battery depending on how you contact the terminals. A car battery is DC current, it's all in how that current flows, or "dispersed" the voltage is irrelevant. I once knocked myself clean out touching an old style TV screen with a rag...My man cave is heated/cooled, I opened the door to move a vehicle (had a NASCAR race on), came back in and the screen had a light film of condensation on it from the abrupt temperature change, stood on a bucket to reach up and wipe it off, saw the room go dark, and woke up disoriented on the garage floor. That is very similar to how a good taser/stun gun will work under ideal conditions...



An old school TV, literally amplifies 110 AC, into thousands of volts to transmit the picture to the picture tube to produce the picture, which is why they told you in the owners manual (which most of never read), to never use liquids to clean the screen while the TV is on lol. Luckily I survived to relate the story...

Which is why using a taser/stun gun relies on several factors to be truly effective and you need to select the best of the best for them to have any possible effects. The ones at the C-store or "big box" "Amazon" etc... may or may not be your best option! Like any other self-defense option, quality and reliability costs \$\$\$...There are lower cost options out there that will actually work, and some that are absolute junk.

The key here, is to look for the "Joule" rating of the device, not the voltage, Joules has a direct correlation to what is actually dispersed in terms of physical "oomph" in basic terms. And obviously companies that specialize in "self-defense" equipment actually objectively test their devices to determine effectiveness. And that is where the cost factors in, research and development as well as possible "liability" from use/mis-use, it all goes hand in hand, we live in a "lawsuit happy" society.

Which again, I cannot stress it enough, read, study, learn, proper application has 100% to do with how your device will perform.

And how, when, and why you use it, will determine whether you get prosecuted or sued afterwards...

And like any other tool, there is no guarantee it will be perfect 100% of the time, but they will have an effect a good share of the time. And as well, YOU need to do your homework beforehand, as to whether it is the tool you need.

I will however, leave you with a clue as to how to find items that you will want to consider...If the company sells to Law Enforcement/security services, even their "civilian" models will function, they just may not be quite as powerful, again do to levels of training required vs. liability level...

And in certain situations, even LE will admit, that "less than lethal" just doesn't always take care of the situation...

Next time, we will do an overview of "other options" likely Pepper/mace devices...But the Squirrel may deflect me.

Be safe, be aware...



Going Off-Grid: Avoid Detection with the Gray Man Mindset

The “gray man” creates, nourishes, and maintains a polytropic (able to take many courses of action, adaptable) personality. This personality responds to external stimuli as necessary in the pursuit of a single goal: moving undetected. Likewise, the gray man survives worst-case scenarios by trusting his mindset, attitude, and skills. This mindset helps the gray man in his pursuit of going off-grid for undetected movement in any environment.

Becoming a gray man is far from being an enigmatic concept that is beyond the reach of most. It actually has a lot to do with personal improvement. The following 32 gray man skills can help you blend into and move through your surroundings effectively.

The basic motivation for possessing these skills is crystal clear—no one wants to be an easy target in a SHTF scenario. Therefore, it is important to understand that you can attract attention for several reasons. These include how you dress, how you talk, how you act (gestures, smiles, etc.), and how you express your emotions.

To transform into a gray man, you need to first analyze your outward appearance and actions. Then, work to reduce any personal characteristics that draw attention to you. In fact, even the smallest physical or behavioral details can cause you to look like a potential victim to predators.

Making a list of what you should work on in this regard is the ideal starting point. (It could be something as small as smiling too much.) In fact, awareness of your body language is the first essential skill for any prepper who desires to blend in with the crowd.

And in order to blend in, there are many considerations, along with understanding how they inevitably influence each other.

1. Mind

Everything starts from the mind and its strategic power. In order to learn and master the skills necessary to turn yourself into a gray man, you need to approach your everyday life differently. Likewise, you need to recognize potential threats in the world around you.

Self-analysis and thoughtful self-criticism should guide you in this pursuit. Likewise, it is important to be rational, determined, and have a strong will to survive.

2. Attitude

Your attitude will always affect how you respond to threats, concerns, panic, and fear. Without a proper attitude, we cannot achieve our goals or effectively learn and fully master new skills.

3. Behavior

An aware and trained mind paired with a proper attitude is what triggers specific behaviors. Learning how to purposefully control your body language and how to control or conceal your emotions will allow you to progress toward becoming a gray man.

4. Skills

Real life requires real skills. Being able to accomplish what you must with the tools you have is the essence of self-reliance. This is true whether your environment is urban, rural, or fully off-grid. Again, the quality and breadth of your abilities will enable you to either be 100% independent or fall short in a bug-out situation.

5. Gear

Knowledge weighs nothing that’s for sure. However, proper gear, despite its weight, also helps! The best thing to do is go out into the field and examine/evaluate your equipment. Specifically by testing it on different types of terrain in different weather conditions and so on.

An awareness of every possible use of your gear is essential. For example, a “shemagh” is a large scarf that can be used for, among other things, gathering berries, filtering large debris from water, and protecting yourself from the elements.

6. Urban Scenario Gray Man Skills: Camouflage In An Urban Environment

Wearing attire that doesn’t “stick out” and allows you to appear to be a member of the local populace is a crucial skill that requires forethought and much self-awareness. This type of “material” camouflage involves wearing clothes that allow you to go unnoticed and blend into the crowd. However, proper selection also enables you to run, jump, or climb if the need arises.

Behavioral awareness involves controlling your body language and gestures so that you don’t appear to be an outsider. If you want to become gray, you need to dress and behave in a gray way.

7. Reading the Environment

This implies four subcategories, the first of which is man and animal tracking. Tracking is an essential skill every survivalist should know. Most people are more familiar with the idea of tracking in a rural landscape.



Going Off-Grid: Avoid Detection with the Gray Man Mindset

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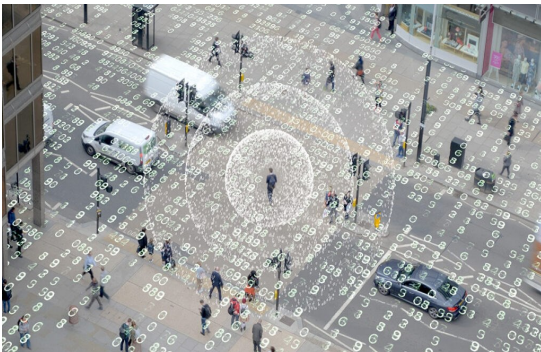
However, the ability to read tracks in an urban environment, although sounding tricky, is not impossible. In fact, signs of passage can be detected anywhere. This includes public parks with soft ground, oil stains at gas stations, or any object that was left behind on a street or sidewalk. (Think: a particular brand of cigarette butt known to be smoked by a targeted individual.)

Furthermore, reading signs can help you avoid potentially dangerous situations. Not to mention, tracks can tell you a lot about those who made them.

Next, cyber-tracking involves “reading” digital environments and is indispensable in this day and age. The skills required to use computers to extract and extrapolate data is a cutting-edge skill for any gray man. Correspondingly, a person’s digital footprints are often the most revealing.

Sensory awareness is another necessary aspect of assessing an environment. Good nostrils and sensitive ears can really make a difference in detecting possible threats or opportunities. For this reason, avoid wearing earmuffs or anything else that might block acoustic signs.

The ability to gain useful information from smells can also be quite valuable. Burnt plastic, for example, has a strong and distinctive smell and could be the result of a fire that should be avoided.



8. Profiling Potential Threats

Profiling people is a final means of reading an environment. Not only can it help you to interpret what you see in people, but it helps differentiate reliable individuals from liars or people who just want to take advantage of you and your resources.

Creating or becoming a part of a solid and trustworthy community is important in a bug-out scenario. For this reason, knowing how to profile those around you, especially strangers, is a top-notch gray man skill.

9. First-Aid Fundamentals

Medical aid is often an underrated skillset. However, it is also one that can save your life or the lives of others. Professional training is essential for this to be fully effective. And wilderness first aid is especially important where first responders are nonexistent, or rescue is hours or even days away.

10. Gray Man Skills: Beyond Urban to Off-Grid

When leaving urban environments to go off-grid, a gray man should know land navigation and how to read topography. Likewise, you should know how to do risk analysis relevant to the threats posed by nature and the people who may be found there.

An off-grid gray man should possess knowledge of any territory he inhabits. For example, how it may be accessed, its exits, its resources, and so on. In addition to this, skilled risk analysis allows the gray man to understand which routes are safest to take.

Likewise, survival skills are absolutely necessary to survive once you go off-grid. Being able to stay alive in such a context includes knowing how to:

- Navigate land - Tie knots - Collect tinder and start a fire - Build an improvised shelter in a safe place
- Collect and purify water - Hunt/skin animals, process meat, and preserve meat and food in general
- Carve wood to make tools - Model clay and birch bark to make containers for multiple uses - Make primitive weapons
- Gather herbs and berries - Sew and, generally speaking, fix everything related to your clothes and gear
- Read human, animal, and vehicle tracks - Eliminate or minimize your presence in a given area (“anti-tracking”)
- Create improvised explosive devices - Handle and use both firearms and bladed or other handheld weapons

Use and fix comms and radios - Skillfully drive and repair vehicles - Be proficient at medicine and first-aid basics

This is only a general list; the territory and circumstances you find yourself in may require additional skills. Understanding what you need is only possible after methodically scouting the area you are in. This allows you to identify the resources you can take advantage of without exploiting them.



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Going Off-Grid: Avoid Detection with the Gray Man Mindset

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How To Learn Gray Man Skills

Attending different kinds of classes (for example, survival skills, man-tracking, herbal seminars, profiling workshops, etc.) can offer you a solid starting point. Receiving instruction from true professionals and experts helps you to learn in a systematic way. Likewise, it aids in understanding and correcting your mistakes and acquiring the correct approaches to problem-solving and working in groups.

Your next step is to create a personal plan to develop your training and provide you with a daily routine. Likewise, refresh your wilderness survival skills whenever you have the chance to go out. Even better, share them with the rest of your family.

Conclusions

Gaining these skills will help you not only face any emergency situation but also to detect and consequently avoid threats before they emerge. Some skills, like tracking, profiling, and risk analysis, can be clustered into the category of “prevention.”

The remaining ones may be considered a second category, which we can label as those pertaining to “execution.”

Be sure to realize that knowledge alone is not enough. Confidence in your skills and the ability to survive requires attitude, strong will, determination, and lots of patience and practice.

Starting today toward becoming a gray man is an honorable thing. It is a matter of respect for yourself and your loved ones.

Remember, facta, non verba! (Deeds, not words!)



REDUCING RECOIL IN YOUR AR-15 BUILD



For the discerning AR-15 aficionado, muzzle brakes are the first line of defense against punishing recoil. Not only do they curb the rearward force by venting gases to the side, but they also mitigate muzzle rise, keeping your sights steadfastly on target. A popular choice is Spike's Tactical R2 Muzzle Brake. This brake has extremely large side ports for diverting the gas followed by the projectile outwards for excellent recoil management, ensuring your follow-up shots are as steady as your first.

However, you may need to look inward. The heart of recoil management lies within the buffer system. Here, the delicate dance of weights and springs can greatly influence your shooting experience.

Experimenting with different buffer weights and spring strengths allows for a custom recoil response. RightToBear.com provides a diverse selection of buffers and buffer springs. For many AR-15 rifles, upgrading to an H2 buffer could help reduce felt recoil and muzzle movement. A heavier buffer will provide more resistance to the cycling of the bolt carrier group, thus reducing felt recoil. When it comes to buffer springs, using one that's tuned to the rest of your rifle's setup is important. A spring that's too strong can increase felt recoil, while one that's too weak can cause reliability issues. A standard carbine spring is a common choice, but for reduced recoil, you might consider a slightly weaker spring to slow the bolt's return to battery.

ADJUSTABLE GAS SYSTEMS

An adjustable gas block gives you the ability to fine-tune your AR's gas system for optimal cycling. This can significantly soften the felt recoil by reducing the amount of gas - and thus energy - cycling through the rifle.

Whether you're a seasoned marksman or a “weekend warrior”, integrating these guidelines to your AR-15 can result in a more comfortable, controlled and accurate shooting experience. With each shot, you'll appreciate the reduced fatigue and improved performance, keeping you in the action longer with greater enjoyment.



LESS-LETHAL FORCE EXPLORED

by John Wilson

As we discussed last time, less than lethal options. Listening to the radio this morning an interesting story caught my attention, "DOG ATTACK". How many of you out there walk your dogs (or yourself) in your neighborhood every day? For some this would be a common thing, just out for a walk on a nice day, suddenly, another dog(s) charges you and your pup! In this case two Rottweiler sized dogs attacked a woman and her 2 dogs, resulting in injury, and 1 dog losing it's life! Oddly Fargo police, did not release info on this for almost a week...

Or say you do deliveries for a living like I do, and your employer prohibits your carrying your weapon of choice? Or even just a walk your neighborhood for a little clean air and exercise? And suddenly that aggressive breed dog that some choose to own attacks you?

Again, situational awareness, helps you identify things from a distance (I can't enforce that enough), but your choice of defense will be a key here. And again, we live in an "extreme" environment, and choosing the right method is key. Your choice must be easy to carry, deploy, and be capable of working in the cold, the heat, and very important here, THE WIND!

Back to situational awareness for a second...How many of you notice the number and/or breeds of dogs in those areas you might venture out in? Or how those dogs might be secured, or whether the owners of those dogs obey simple things like the "leash laws", or clean-up after the dogs, little things like that can tell you a lot. Or how they keep the dogs secured from "wandering", out of their immediate yard?

All these things add up!

BTW shameless plug, situational awareness classes are available at the Red River Range in West Fargo, sign up!

As my testing continues, I have found a lot of products, commonly sold in the stores, fall far short of the mark for effectiveness, however... There are some that touch the border of what Law Enforcement uses, and there is a reason LE uses them, THEY WORK!

However, the reason YOU cannot buy them, is because they require PROPER TRAINING/PRACTICE! The stuff they get to use, can easily become a serious issue if used improperly, or for the wrong reasons.

With that said, there ARE products that can be reasonably effective (again nothing is 100% in life). And the ones that hit the mark will be available at Northern Plains Gunworks for sale in the near future, some will become "in stock", some will be special order at Howard's discretion.

And training and discussion in a class type setting, will hopefully be available in the future (tentative fall of 2024) at the Red River Range in West Fargo.

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Lets start with a very simple item...A BIG STICK, or variations of them. And it's application to say, the above mentioned "dog attack", or other type of attack.

In reality, it is a very simple weapon, been around since the dawn of man...And depending on what you procure, can easily be quite legal (think cane, or personal assistance device). After all you can (again choice matters here) carry it legally virtually anywhere, like those pesky places that are posted no gun/no knife, places like Federal buildings, post offices, schools... The key here, is does it look like a personal/medical need, or does it look freaky like a serious beating stick/weapon/Ninja/fight club item...You might even consider more than one variation depending on where it will be used/needed...

Nice thing about a stick, it gives you some separation distance between you and the attacker, not a lot (3 feet), but...add in your arms length and closer to 5-6 feet. However, your selection has to be sturdy enough not to break, your typical cane, is made of lightweight steel or aluminum, and will likely bend or break easily once you start swinging it around.



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REMEMBER — YOU CAN NEVER HAVE TOO MANY GUNS OR TOO MUCH AMMO!

NP Northern Plains Gunworks

LESS-LETHAL FORCE EXPLORED

by John Wilson

(Continued from Page 7)

Weight will also be a factor, the heavier the better, but just like selecting a hunting rifle, you are going to be lugging it around with you on that walk around the neighborhood, also you have to factor in, will your dogs leash, or loose and/or bulky clothing (winter coat) get in the way for example

Batons (fixed or collapsible) can be a good choice as well, however, you likely are going to run into limitations as to where you are going to allowed to carry it quite quickly, anyplace that has a security screening can mean you are likely going to have to leave it behind...Also, their shorter length may decrease your "separation distance" by another foot or more...

There are training techniques on how to use sticks. In reality, special forces training classes teach you a wide range of methods, hand to hand combat, again, has been around since the dawn of man. And they can be effective in many situations, no one likes to get hit or poked in the ribs, groin, eye, etc...Or smacked from a stick swung to the head, knees, ribs, etc...

Again, like any weapon of choice, proper selection, training/technique, practice, and actually having it with you is the key here...

Next, we will discuss tasers, and "stun guns"... Squirrel...



Isn't it a little odd for a party to push the idea of "first woman president" when they can't even define what a woman is?



He started believing things I knew weren't true. At first I thought it was Alzheimer's...




But then I caught him watching The View.



GOVERNMENT WASTE FUN FACT!

The Department of Energy was created in 1977 to lessen our dependence on foreign oil. It has ballooned to over 16,000 employees with a budget of \$24 billion a year and we import more oil than ever before. 36 years to get it right, and it's a dismal failure.




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You may also go to www.silencershop.com and if you find what you want there, you can make your purchase and select us as your dealer. That will start the ball rolling for the Form 4 paperwork required by the ATF.

Current processing time from submission to approval, as published by the ATF, is about 60 days for individual Form 4's and a bit longer for multiple purchases or Trusts. Processing times continue to be reduced.

If you have any questions, please contact us.



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