

TACTICS AND PREPAREDNESS



SKILLS AND SURVIVAL FOR ALL SITUATIONS



A SNIPER'S STALKING TIPS FOR HUNTERS

BY: JOE CHAMBLIN / PHOTOS BY OLEG VOLK www.a-human-right.com

Stalking is the term used when the lion hunts on the savannah and the tiger prowls the jungle.

It is also the term used to define a specific type of movement or patrol. In a military environment, it is the term used to describe a sniper moving in to make a kill. A stalk is usually the final movements of a sniper or sniper team at the end of a patrol that puts the individual or unit inside of their hide site or final firing position, and in range of his intended target or targets. There are many variations that may be implemented

depending on the mission, enemy, support available and terrain. Whether you are a soldier approaching a skilled enemy, a civilian fleeing danger or a hunter seeking sustenance, it pays to study some of the sniper's skills. What can you learn from a sniper's training?

Prior to stepping off on an exercise, the scenario will be outlined. The sniper will be given information regarding [continued on next page](#)

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Once the sniper has established his shooting position, he must next range the target and time its movements in his "window."

the area, the terrain, the enemy composition and the target. Usually during the training, another sniper or snipers are role playing the enemy observers watching for and trying to catch him. Once the sniper receives the information, he will look at the area and determine a primary and secondary route based upon the maps and imagery he has available. These decisions will be based on the cover and concealment provided by vegetation and micro-terrain and the known enemy movements in the area. These considerations will also factor in to the gear and equipment he will bring with him on the mission. If the area is a rural field and or wooded area he will more than likely use his ghillie suite and wear a removable kit he can stash at his objective rally point or cache site. If it is an urban area he will bring materials for an urban hide site and bring all his gear with him on the stalk. When a sniper conducts stalking exercises he usually starts from the end of a regular patrol or movement. For the training, he has reached his objective rally point or staging area.

Once the sniper has reached his objective rally point he will stash the gear he will not be needing for his stalk. This will be the sniper's first look at the area he will be working in and will be when he reassesses his initial route selection and adjusts as necessary. After he has determined his primary route and has cached his gear in a good concealed position, he will begin to camo up and cut and add vegetation to his person and gear. Usually for this the sniper will use a drag bag for his sniper rifle. This will need to be camouflaged as well and is usually hooked to his belt by a line for the inevitable slow drag through the brush. Contrary to popular belief, the sniper is usually not on his stomach the entire stalk. He utilizes different methods of movement based on the terrain. Four common movement techniques are: the weasel or crouched walk, the hands and knees crawl, low crawl and skull drag. Each of these techniques move the sniper progressively lower to the ground and are done at a slower pace the lower you go. The weasel walk is done when the enemy

is farther away and the terrain allows for upright movement. The hands and knees crawl is done when the vegetation and terrain is lower or less pronounced and the enemy is closer. The low crawl is done when you need to lower your profile further, movement needs to be slowed and the enemy is close. The skull drag is a painfully slow form of movement done in sparse vegetation when micro-terrain is minimally concealing. Movement is measured inches at-a-time with this technique. The terrain and proximity to the enemy will dictate which movement type will be used and for how long. It is important to remember that a stalk is like a marathon, not a sprint.

As the sniper moves, he must be very cautious not to disturb the vegetation and wildlife around him. This is done by using very slow and deliberate movements. The sniper must be aware of everything around him and continually keep in mind the location of known enemy positions. He must be careful to push or pull the vegetation toward or away from observers and not to bump tall plants or structures that will telegraph his movements. As the sniper moves, he also needs to be aware of the changes in vegeta-

tion and change out his personal and gear's camouflage accordingly. If he finds himself in very restrictive vegetation he will need to slowly cut himself a path with his veg clippers or find an alternate route. He must take advantage of every piece of micro-terrain, cover and concealment that he can.

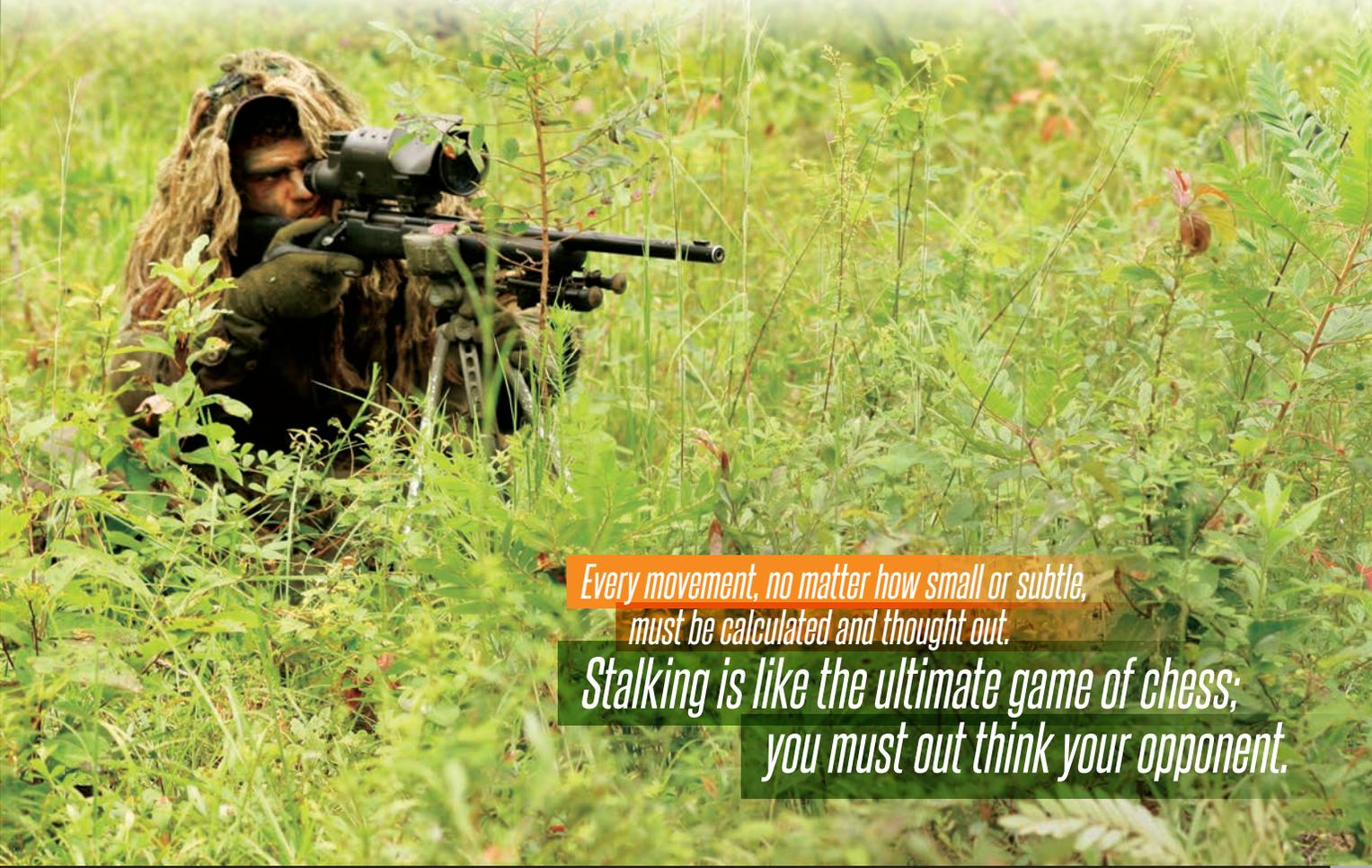
One may ask, "How does the sniper know how far he has travelled and where his location is?" This is done by using checkpoints that are very distinct terrain features and by knowing from experience how long it takes to move. The sniper should have a good pace count or time hack based on the type of movement he is using. The sniper needs to know how long it takes to go 100 meters in his kit using all forms of movement. This will allow him to have a very accurate gauge on how far he has moved and where he is in relation to his rally point and target.

The sniper must continually scan the target area and his surroundings thoroughly at every stop or break. He should have mental check points on his route where he must stop and scan the area. He should never move unless he knows exactly where his next stop or stops are. He should never move unless he knows he is undetected.

Every movement, no matter how small or subtle, must be calculated and thought out. Stalking is like the ultimate game of chess; you must out think your opponent.

Once the sniper reaches his final firing position or hide site, the slow and painful process of identifying the target and setting up his shooting position starts. Just like everything else, this must be done with deliberate precision. The sniper must first identify his target. This will be done by utilizing existing loop holes or openings in the vegetation, terrain or structures. The smaller the opening the better. The sniper will scan the target area until all or a portion of the target is identified. Then he must work his opening by pulling back his position or moving laterally until he can see the target and maintain the most concealment and cover that he can. It is a dual between observation and security. The sniper is looking for the perfect balance that will allow him to take his shot without producing a signature that will compromise his position.

Once the target and loophole is identified, the sniper must build a stable shooting platform. This can be done utilizing available materials or by using bipods, tripods or shoot-



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Stalking is like the ultimate game of chess; you must out think your opponent.

ing sticks. When constructing the shooting position, the sniper must remain especially vigilant. He must continue to calculate every movement. The camouflage process is still continuous and he must make sure his person and gear match his surroundings. He must remember every piece of gear he is using in the target identification and the shooting position must be properly camouflaged before it is brought up into place, to include his rifle. It is a very deliberate process.

Once the sniper has established his shooting position he must next range the target and time its movements in his "window." When it comes to live targets, there is no such thing as a stationary target. The sniper can range the target calculating from his reticle or with laser range finders or even map data and known references. He is now almost ready to take the shot. Before he pulls the trigger, he needs to make sure he is ready to move. All unnecessary gear needs to be stowed. The sniper needs a mental plan of actions to follow the shot, and he must have a predetermined primary and second-

ary exfiltration route. He needs to have a plan in place for a slow egress or stalk out of the area and a plan for evasion and escape in case his position is detected after he shoots.

Once the sniper takes the successful shot, he must hold fast. He needs nerves of steel because the enemy now knows he is there. If possible stay in position until nightfall and move. During a training exercise, staying until dark may not be an option. This forces the sniper to practice withdrawal under the observation of the "enemy" snipers. Once again everything must be done very slowly and deliberately. The shooter must move directly away from the observer and get down into the vegetation and micro-terrain as far as he can. At this point in the game you really want to become one with the worms. As he moves back to his cache, he makes sure to maintain camouflage discipline and stick to the terrain that offers not just concealment, but cover as well. Remember, *concealment will hide you, cover will protect you* and you must know the difference. As a rule of thumb during any movement to a target,

you want to use the most inhospitable and disgusting terrain or avenue of approach available. Go where everyone else doesn't want to.

Whether you are trying to get away from danger or sharpen your hunting skills, there is much that can be learned from the military sniper. You must be able to evade the senses (sight, smell, hearing, etc.) and technology of your opponent(s). Many of these techniques can be practiced with friends or family if safety is kept paramount. A great way to practice is to do a lot of spot and stalk hunting on both big game animals and predators. Like most things in life you will get out of it what you put into it. ✓

BIO

Joseph W. Chamblin is a former Marine Scout/ Sniper and instructor. He has completed multiple deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan and other locations. Mr. Chamblin is business owner, instructor, and he is the author of Into Infamy: A Marine Sniper's War.

GEARREVIEW

SURVIVAL SNARE AND FISHING PACKAGE

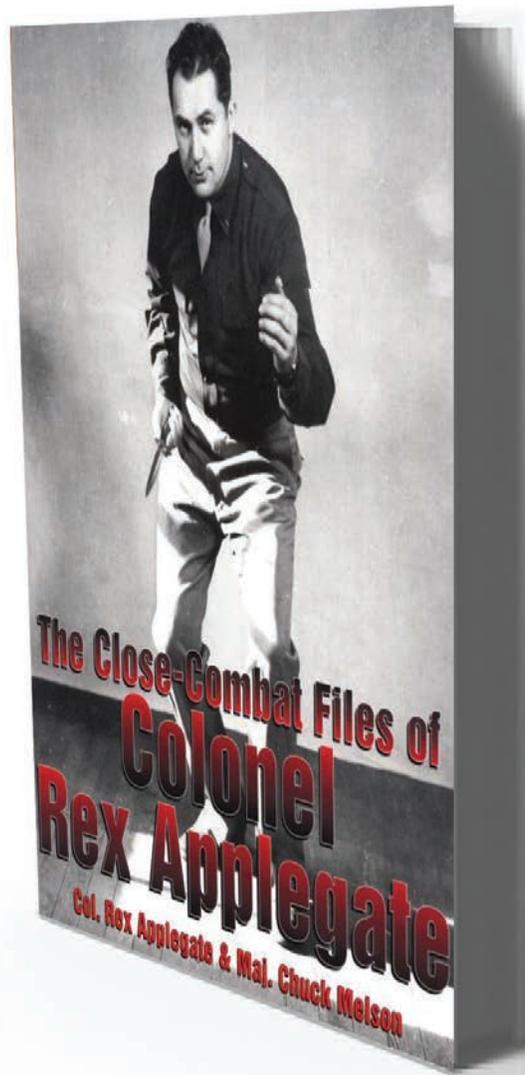
This package is designed to be easily stashed in a vehicle, go-bag or cache and is intended to provide meat while you gather firewood, build a shelter or take care of other tasks. Three different sized snares are included that allow catching animals from rabbits up to hogs. The kit also includes two YoYo Automatic Fishing Reels, four fishing hooks, and four prepared baits. www.dakotalinesnares.com



THE CLOSE-COMBAT FILES OF COLONEL REX APPLGATE

BY COL. REX APPLGATE
AND MAJ. CHUCK MELSON

REVIEWED BY: CHRIS GRAHAM



Rex Applegate was born in Oregon in 1914 and grew up hunting and shooting.

He was reportedly taught marksmanship by his uncle, Gus Peret, a famous exhibition shooter and professional hunter of the time. Applegate was commissioned in the US Army and was developing close quarter combat courses when he was recruited for the Office of Strategic Services to run tactical training. OSS director Bill Donovan had Applegate learn all that he could about armed and unarmed fighting from former Shanghai policeman William E. Fairbairn, the British special operations instructor. He was influenced by interaction with fighters and martial artists of the time and later spearheaded the Military Intelligence Training Center.

The Close Combat Files of Colonel Rex Applegate provides historical context to Ap-

plegate's perspective as well as detailed explanation of the fighting techniques he advocated. These techniques were used by American special operations personnel in WWII and U.S. Marines in subsequent decades.

The book provides an introduction and eight chapters: *What Did You Do in the War?*, *With the Special Operations Executive*, *From Coordinator of Information to Office of Strategic Services*, *The Military Intelligence Division and Training Center*, *MITC: Quick or Dead*, *MITC: Gutter Fighting*, *MITC: Go for those Family Jewels*, and *Since 1945*.

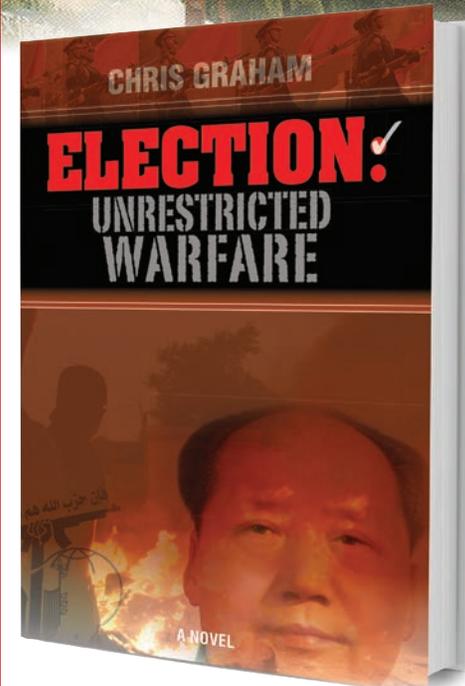
"With the SOE" provides information on the British organization's dependence on subject matter experts who gained experi-

ence as police officers in violent Shanghai. Applegate spent time with them and describes an early shoot house that had moving targets and forced shooters to engage them under low-light conditions. The authors provide insight into effective point shooting techniques.

"From COI to OSS" explains that training was undertaken to prepare agents for espionage and to prepare agents for sabotage and guerrilla activity. This chapter reveals that OSS instruction prioritized: competition, developed leadership, fostered cooperation, recorded performance and observing students as individuals and team members. It also encouraged students to "never be unarmed," to be alert, and to "get tough." OSS training

FROM
TACTICS &
PREPAREDNESS

CHRIS
GRAHAM



After the Iranian revolution, the new Islamic Republic of Iran instigates a series of terrorist attacks around the world. For what purpose? Col. Qiao Liang and Col. Wang Xiangsui unveil a modernized version of Sun Tzu's tactics. How could this be unfolding in current events? A corruptible American President approaches re-election... who is trying to manipulate her?

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"Chris Graham writes the way he flies: low, fast and hair raising. He's one of the best brightest and bravest Marines I've ever known. Now he's proven himself to be a sharp-edged master of suspense." - Oliver North



**APPLEGATE BELIEVED
AMERICAN WARRIORS
NEEDED MORE
UNARMED OFFENSIVE
TECHNIQUES.**

From *Unarmed
Defense for the
American Soldier.*

sought to teach the lightest weapon in its class first (before moving on to heavier weapons,) to zero from the prone, to orient weapons to the ground (not air) when not firing and to police brass and garbage.

"The MI Division and Training Center" describes Applegate's return to the Big Army to update some of their intelligence and counter-intelligence training. One innovation was a "house of horrors" shoot house. Applegate drew several conclusions from what he observed of students in the house of horrors: 1) target shooting alone is not generally adequate combat preparation 2) point shooting is the best technique for using pistols without sights 3) the house of horrors was a good measure of unsighted combat shooting skill 4) that training must address physical and psychological stress.

"MITC: Quick or Dead" details specific lessons learned, refined and put into use at MITC. Applegate provides detailed explanation for point shooting pistols and submachineguns such as the Thompson. He provides great detail of the students' weapon preference findings related to all small arms commercially available at the time. Among other interesting facts, the 9x19mm Browning Hi-Power was heavily favored over the 1911 and other options.

"MITC: Gutter Fighting" provides in-depth information on knife fighting and bayonet combat. Applegate again provides a detailed comparison of popular edged weapons of the time.

In "MITC: Go For Those Family Jewels" Applegate offers a brief history of jujutsu, judo and their introduction to the United States in the 1920s. He states (in a 1943 memo) that

the United States had an ample supply of material on "unarmed defense," to include an army field manual titled *Unarmed Defense for the American Soldier*, but he suggested that American warriors needed instruction in "Unarmed Offense." Applegate made a study of real-world unarmed combat and shares the highlights in this chapter.

"Since 1945" concludes with the story of Applegate after WWII. He was medically retired from the army, moved to Mexico City and sold the Mexican government firearms and tactical training. In accordance with his lifelong study of tactics, he visited Korea and Vietnam. The book states that "Applegate believed that the average American lacks the time, patience and usually the interest to become a genuine expert, but can be quickly turned into a dangerous, offensive fighter by concentrating on a few basic principles of combat..."

The lessons of Rex Applegate have certainly evolved over the years, but every change is not an improvement. If you are a student of tactics and wish to perfect *your* skills for *your* circumstances, I recommend you study historical schools of thought, compare them to contemporary conventional wisdom, and ask yourself, "what accounts for the differences?" ✓

BIO

Chris Graham is the former commander of a military anti-terrorism unit and author of the highly acclaimed new novel *Election: Unrestricted Warfare*, and creator of 30-10 pistol training (www.3010pistol.com/recon).



The National Firearms Act of 1936 and Gun Control Act of 1968 set out the definitions, rules and procedures for dealing with firearms other than Title I conventional rifles, shotguns and handguns.

Title II covers machine guns, short barreled shotguns and rifles, silencers, destructive devices and a catchall category called “Any Other Weapon” (pen guns, smoothbore pistols, disguised firearms and other oddballs). When the NFA was originally conceived, the legislators understood that they could not simply ban given categories of weapons, so they came up

with the idea of a registration and tax which they believed would be constitutionally acceptable and achieve the same end.

As a consequence, the majority of shooters have little if any chance to familiarize themselves with a variety of these items. One might also note that usage of NFA firearms in both crimes and personal defense is very limited.

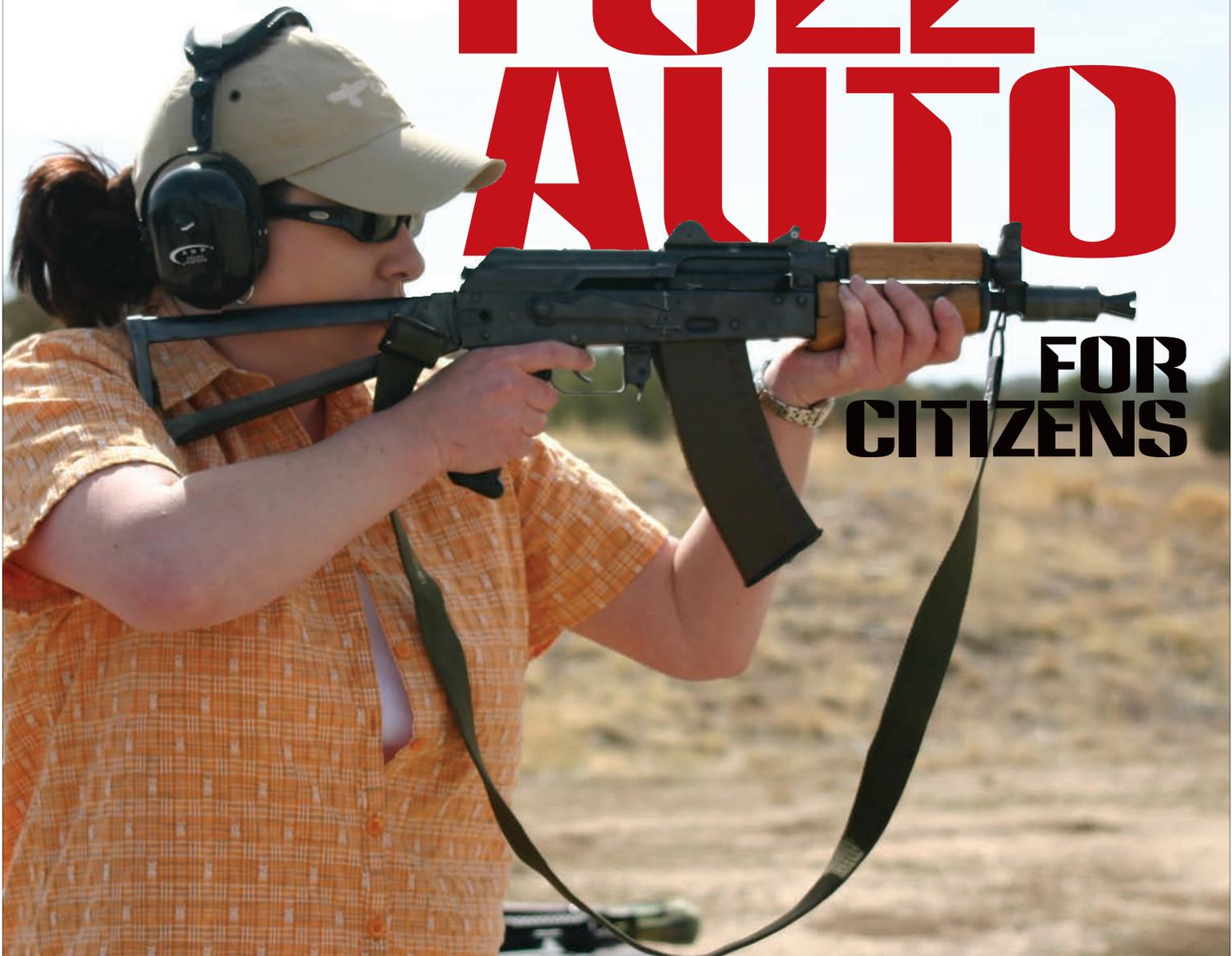
Since legislators understood that they could not simply ban given categories of weapons, they created a registration and tax which they believed would be constitutionally acceptable and achieve the same end.

BY: CORY TRAPP

PHOTOS COURTESY GUNSITE www.gunsite.com

FULL AUTO

FOR CITIZENS





The Automatic Weapons class at Gunsite provides individuals a unique opportunity to get live fire experience with more than 25 different automatic firearms.

Firing the PKM while prone.

Only a few crimes have ever been committed with registered NFA firearms, and one of those was by a police officer! ATF identified twelve instances of a registered NFA owner being convicted of a crime between 2006 and 2014, but no evidence that an NFA firearm was involved in the crime.

I can only note three instances of self-defense using an NFA firearm: one where a sales rep for a major manufacturer was involved in a gunfight using a personally owned Ruger AC556 and one where a gun shop owner shot the perpetrator of an armed robbery of his store with a S&W Model 76 9mm SMG. That same shop owner also responded to a burglary in progress one night with that same Model 76 and several other guns. He ended up in a gunfight with five assailants and fired 105 rounds. Look up Harry Beckwith when someone tries to tell you that you only need a ten round magazine.

Title II weapons other than the AOWs have a "transfer tax" of \$200 that must be paid to the Treasury Department each time the weapon changes owners (AOWs are only \$5.) In 1936, median family income was a little over \$1000 and an average automobile cost \$600. A \$200 tax was a serious restriction on an average individual. It's a tax, not a license. You don't give the BATFE the right to search your home anytime they

want and you don't end up on some special list. In fact, ATF cannot disclose any details about NFA registrations to anyone other than the registered owner without a warrant. It's a tax act, and like your income tax information, it is protected by law.

Machine guns that can be legally owned by an individual are referred to as "transferable" and due to a last minute amendment to the Firearms Owner Protection Act of 1986, no more transferable machine guns can be manufactured. This has led to a fixed supply and ever increasing prices. Most NFA items other than machine guns and true collectables are reasonably available, but you may have to do some searching to find the machine gun you want. Once the particular item has been located, the transfer process begins.

As this is written, WI, WA, RI, NY, NJ, MN, MA, IO, IL, HI, D.C., DE, CA all have basically complete prohibition on private ownership of NFA firearms outside of law enforcement agencies. While permits might be technically available, they are rarely issued. The rest of the states have little restriction, and rely on the Federal laws.

Individual transfers are made using a Form 4, while dealer to dealer transfers are made on a Form 3. The major difference is that Form 4 transfers are tax paid, where

Form 3 transfers are tax free between FFL dealers that have already paid the Special Occupational Tax to deal in NFA firearms. As you must purchase the firearm from either a dealer or individual located in your state, this can add some additional expense and time to the process.

If the firearm is currently registered to an individual in another state, it must first be transferred to your local dealer tax paid on a Form 4, then from the dealer to you, again tax paid on a Form 4. Transfer times can run from 90 to 120 days or more, so this is no small thing. Despite advertisements to the contrary, firearms are not "on" a Form X, they are simply registered to either an individual, SOT or government agency. What form is required is determined by the nature of the transfer taking place, not the last transfer that was made. Other forms that may be used are the Form 5, which is a tax free transfer for repair, from an estate or for certain law enforcement transfers, and the Form 1, which is an application to make an NFA firearm by an unlicensed individual.

Yes, you can make your own NFA firearm, other than a machine gun. If you'd like to have a 14-inch barrel on your AR15 rifle, you can fill out a Form 1 and submit it to the ATF along with your \$200 check, fingerprints and photographs. When the form is

returned to you with the approval stamp affixed, go buy a 14-inch upper. In fact, at this point the lower receiver is now registered as a Short Barreled Rifle and you can use any length and caliber upper you like.

Transfers can be made to unlicensed individuals in a few different ways, each with its own set of advantages / disadvantages. The registered owner can be an individual, corporation or trust. The main advantage to a corporation or a trust is that multiple people may access the firearm. If a firearm is registered to an individual, it must remain in the possession of that person at all times. You must be present for anyone else to access the firearm, even other family members. Your son or friend cannot just take it to the range, you must be there. In a trust or corporation, authorized members may each have access at any time.

Recent changes (January, 2016) to transfer procedures have altered some prior differences between individual transfers and corporate/trust transfers. Rule 41P elimi-

nated the Chief Law Enforcement Office (CLEO) approval signature on the forms. Transferees now simply provide notification of the transfer. In some jurisdictions, that signoff was more or less impossible to obtain, causing many individuals to form a trust, which did not require the signoff. Each responsible party in the trust or corporation must now provide fingerprint cards and photographs for an FBI background check, just like an individual.

If a trust or corporation is to be dissolved, the weapons must be transferred, tax paid, before that dissolution. If an individual owner

dies, the estate may transfer the firearm to any legal heir tax free on a Form 5. A trust simplifies estate issues, as no transfer would normally be required unless the trust is to be terminated.

Remember that AR15 we registered as a

WEAPONS LIST FOR GUNSITE AW CLASS

SMGs	Assault and Automatic Rifles	Belt fed MGs
1928A1 Thompson - .45	1918A2 BAR - .30-06	Vickers Mkl - .303
M1A1 Thompson - .45	BREN MkIII - .303	1919A4 - .30-06
MP40 - 9mm	RPD - 7.62x39	MG42 - 8mm
STEN MkII - 9mm	RPK - 7.62x39	PKM - 7.62x54R
Sterling MkIV - 9mm	AK47 - 7.62x39	FN30 - 7.62x51
Port Said (M45) - 9mm	AK74SU - 5.45x39	1919A6 - 7.62x51
HK MP5A2 - 9mm	Colt M4 - 5.56x45	M2HB - .50 BMG
HK UMP - .45	Galil SAR - 5.56x45	
FN P90 - 5.7x28	STG 44 - 8mm Kurz	
Colt 635 - 9mm		
IMI UZI - 9mm		
IMI Mini UZI (CB) - 9mm		
M3A1 Grease Gun - .45 ACP		

Student fires the HK MP5A2.



The ATF cannot disclose any details about NFA registrations to anyone other than the registered owner without a warrant.

Short Barreled Rifle a few paragraphs back? You cannot just put the AR15 rifle upper back on that and take it down to the gun show and sell it. It's a registered NFA firearm, no matter its current configuration. Make certain you have NFA firearms clearly marked and be sure the paperwork can be easily found so that you or a family member does not commit an accidental federal felony.

It is possible remove an SBS, SBR, DD or AOW from the registry by informing the NFA Branch that the gun has been returned to a Title I configuration, so it can go to a "normal" firearms status if desired. No, you don't get the \$200 back. The ATF rule on machine guns however, is once a machine gun, always a machine gun. You cannot take a registered machine gun and make a Title I firearm, even if you disable the full auto mechanism and end up with a semi auto of correct barrel length. The receiver needs to be destroyed according to the ATF spec to render it into a "parts kit", something that is no longer a firearm or "readily restorable" into a firearm.

One way to get hands-on experience with NFA firearms is the Automatic Weapons class at Gunsite Academy, Inc. (www.gunsite.com) in Paulden Arizona. The Automatic Weapons class provides individuals a unique opportunity to get live fire experience with more than 25 different automatic firearms from 9mm sub-machine guns up to and including the mighty Browning M2HB .50 caliber belt fed machine gun. The class tuition covers ammunition (100 round for each SMG and MG, 80 rounds each for the Assault and Automatic rifles and 25 rounds of .50 cal) and all the firearms are provided by Gunsite. You need to bring eye and ear protection.

The class is three days long, providing ample time for classroom sessions on the different weapons systems provided. Enough ammo is provided to get several magazines through each of the provided firearms and extra ammunition may be purchased if you want to do some more shooting. The instructors for the class work with the clients on proper stance, ready positions, trigger control and weapon manipulations. The emphasis is on proper tactical employment of each weapon system. These are, after all, fighting tools not toys. Cameras are welcome at all times. After all, how many times do you get to shoot a 1921 Thompson with a 50 round drum magazine—who doesn't want to record that event?

DAY ONE

The first day begins with a briefing on range safety and procedures. Generally, the provided weapons and feed devices will be laid out on the line and you'll work with each weapon in turn, loading magazines or belts and shooting that particular gun before moving on to the next weapon. You'll also act as the assistant gunner on each of the belt fed guns while one of your fellow students is acting as the gunner on these crew served weapon systems. After the safety brief, the first classroom session covers the National Firearms Act and provides a guide for private ownership. While the class cannot possibly cover all situations and the laws of all fifty states, you'll have a good understanding of how these firearms are regulated and can ask questions about your specific area of interest.

After a break to visit the Pro Shop and collect ammunition for the class, you'll spend the rest of the morning going over the history and development of the Sub Machine Gun and the specific guns provided for live fire in the class. After lunch it's off to the range. Everyone gets a chance to fire all the provided guns and there will also be some demonstrations of various sound suppressor systems. When the range session is complete, everyone returns to the classroom for field strip and cleaning of the SMGs. This gives you a chance to see just how and why the guns are designed as they are.

DAY TWO

The next day covers history and development of assault rifles from the German Stg44 to the modern M16 and automatic rifles like the BAR and BREN. The range session is split between morning and afternoon, with the SMGs from day one also available for those with more ammo to burn. As was the case with day one, day two then retires to the classroom for cleaning and detailed looks at the designs of the firearms.

DAY THREE

Day three brings out the full size, belt fed machine guns. After discussion on the history and development from the early crank fired Gatlings through the modern PKM and M240, each gun for the firing session has its own presentation on the details of operation. After lunch, students head to the range once more to fire all the belt fed guns and any other guns they wish to fire again until the ammo runs out. The range session ends at 16:00hrs after which you'll go back to the classroom for graduation. All the guns are available for more hands on field stripping or photographs and discussion until about 18:30. ✓

BIO

Cory Trapp is a U.S. Army Special Forces veteran and instructor at Gunsite Academy (www.gunsite.com) in Paulden, Arizona.

HAVING A BLAST WITH THE WATER-COOLED VICKERS MK.1.



DISCLAIMER: This education offered is on an informational basis only, and is not intended to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Always seek the guidance of a qualified health provider before making any adjustment to a medication or treatment you are currently using, and/or starting any new medication or treatment. All recommendations are "generally informational" and not specifically applicable to any individual's medical problems, concerns and/or needs.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH)

INFECTION PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

BY: CHRIS CASSELL

Since the beginning, the human race has dealt with infection, either knowingly or unknowingly.

Generally, infection in today's terms can be defined several ways. Simply put, it is the invasion and growth of an alien organism to the body. Some current theories consider disease (and war) to simply be population mitigation for the resource competitions we have on this planet; but for the educated and practiced individual there are many resources to keep these bugs at bay. Let's review a little history and consider priorities of work applied to this dilemma.

Historically, the human race has utilized a variety of potions, chants, incantations, molds, tinctures and binary compounds to help rid our bodies of simple and deadly infections. Sometimes they are acute infections that can kill in days like rabies or in other circumstances a disease that kills over a period of years like HIV. Either way, the mind has proven to be limitless when considering a cure. Through-

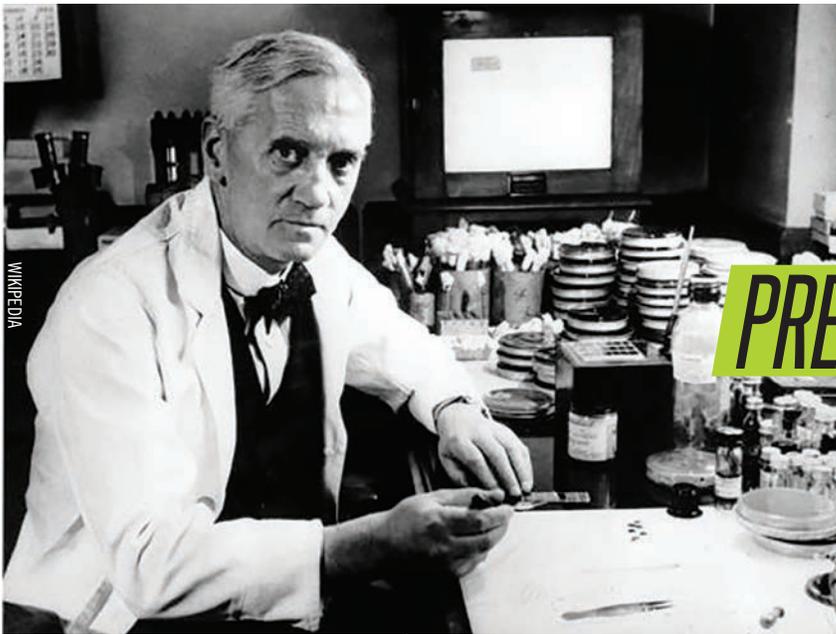
out history two methods stand out as the basic way to end infection: isolation and burning. Unfortunately, the latter method means a post mortem application which doesn't do much for the currently infected. As for the first method (isolation) it is often not practical and again does not do much for the currently affected. Most of these methods target viruses or toxins, but I would like to focus on bacterial infection.

A little anatomy and physiology microscopic view would show that we have our skin to protect us and this could be thought of as the wall that keeps bacteria out. When you get cut, your system begins a clotting cascade. Many boring steps of which ultimately lead to a scab or clotted blood as a result. This is really a reaction to shore-up the hole in the skin. Then the body sends in the "troops": white blood cells (leukocytes.) These white blood cells ba-

ABOVE: METHICILLIN-RESISTANT STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS (MRSA).
BELOW: LEECHES WERE COMMONLY USED FOR MEDICAL TREATMENTS, AND ARE STILL USED TODAY.



PIXABAY-ELIMI



WIKIPEDIA

above: In the 1920s, British scientist Alexander Fleming was working in his laboratory when he discovered penicillin.

right: Quinine is an alkaloid extract from the cinchona tree that was used extensively and was very effective in treating malarial infections. It is still used.

sically eat the bacteria and white puss can be a result. While this is not the favored outcome, it is an example of the byproduct. With that said, there are multiple ways to treat infections ranging from the topical methods before infection starts to an internal medication that is most commonly known as antibiotics. A note on bacteria and antibiotics use is the fact that microscopic bacteria reproduce to a doubled population in 20 minutes or less. Because our world exists on the survival genetics principle, mutations happen at a rate so fast that by the end of the day a bacteria that wasn't killed by the antibiotic can develop its own immunity; this creates what is now known as a superbug. MRSA and VRSA are two common strains that are antibiotic resistant and cause huge problems in hospitals and school athletic programs. When prescribed, ensure that the use of antibiotics is as specific as possible to the bacterial strain at hand and take the full course of antibiotic which is usually 10 days.

Countries around the world have all developed and continue to develop medicine at different rates. In China, for example, herbal medicine was used to relieve infections and is still a widespread treatment methodology. Too often, though, these medicines were (and still can be) toxic compounds that have heavy metals. Even when these techniques did not kill the patient they often did not cure them. During Roman times, an herbal topical called *Silpbium* was used to fight infections. The plant was so widely used (without replace-

ment) that it is now extinct. In the middle ages in Europe, there was a popular method still in use today. Leeches were used to "blood let" a victim. This was often a psychological treatment to render psychological disorders, but it was in wide practice to remove what was considered to be infected blood, either from demons or bacteria unknown at the time. Quinine is an alkaloid extract from the cinchona tree that was used extensively and was very effective in treating malarial infections. It is still used to fight malaria. For the more bold and less cautious there is the current use of parasites or leeches and maggots. Medical leeches were cleared (again) for use around 2004 once a baseline for raising them in an environment where they could be harvested and used on a human patient was established. The saliva of a leech has been found to contain anesthetics, inhibitors, antibiotic properties and a vasodilator. When applied correctly and at the right time, leeches can help localize the wound and produce better blood flow. This is nothing new. Maggots were utilized by military personnel in World War II. While eating and debriding the dead flesh from a wound, they also give off an important enzyme that has disinfectant qualities for the very wound they are working on.

In the 20th century there was the discovery of antibiotics. This may be the most significant medical achievement of the 20th century. There are several types of antimicrobials—antibacterial, antifungals, and anti-parasitic drugs. Antibacterial drugs are used to treat bacterial

infections both internal and superficial (on the skin.) At any given moment there are over a billion microscopic bacteria alive on the skin, mouth and in our intestines. While this sounds bad, almost all are harmless to us. The ones that are not are called *pathogens*. These pathogens can cause infections in open wounds, mouth, ears and other parts of the body. Penicillin is known as the "silver bullet" of antibiotics, but with the rapid rate of mutation there are many infections that are labeled penicillin resistant. In the 1920s, British scientist Alexander Fleming was working in his laboratory when he discovered penicillin. During his research he noticed colonies of bacteria being killed in a petri dish by a mold that was growing on the same plate. Through trial and error he was able to determine that the mold produced a substance that could dissolve the bacteria. He ended up calling this substance penicillin.

A challenge with antibiotics is the speed at which they demonstrate improvement. When taking antibiotics there is a huge problem with patient compliance. Treatment rendered is individually halted when the patient feels better. Who wants to drink horrible tasting medicine when they "feel" fine? People often quit taking antibiotics before the typical 10-day period instructed. This leads to a very tiny population of bacteria surviving and eventually mutating to become resistant. Hence MRSA (*Methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus*) and hospital acquired VRSA (*Vancomycin resistant staphylococcus aureus*). Because of these built up

KEEPING A WOUND CLEAN IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT STEPS IN PREVENTING AN INFECTION.



PIXABAY-GOKALPISCAN

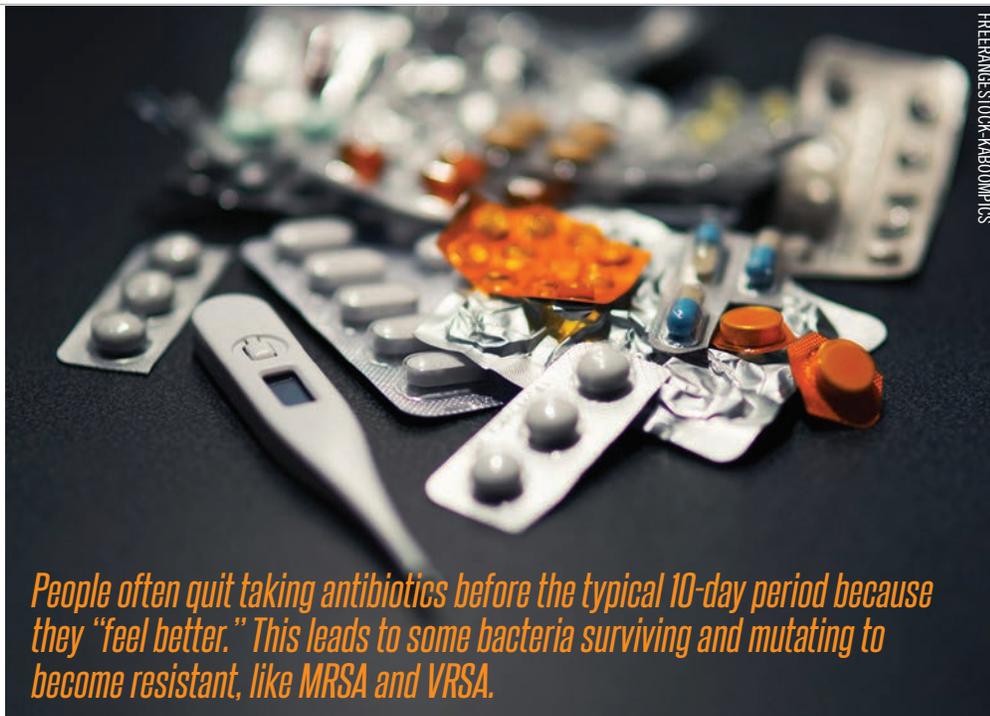
resistances doctors have become much more careful in the way they prescribe antibiotics.

There are volumes and volumes of literature about wilderness medicine, tribal medicine, and even untranslated Amazonian rainforest medicine texts. Because bacteria are living organisms, we tend to use processes that kill, harass and ultimately denature the proteins in these microscopic invaders. The bark of a *Curare lianas*, in Latin America, contains d-turbocuarine, used to treat such diseases as multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease and other muscular disorders. It also has anesthetic qualities. In Madagascar, Rosy periwinkle is used and claimed to have anti-tumor agents. Commercial sales of drugs derived from this one plant are in the millions of dollars. Australian Aborigines used a eucalyptus and tea tree bark for infections. While the literature and plant based medicine can work, there is no real substitute for a Z pack or 10-day course of Ciproflaxin. But, there are ways to bandage and treat yourself to maximize your chances of survival if you are not able to reach medical attention.

So rather than starting a leech farm or an exotic plant farm you might want to consider these treatments first if forced to provide self-care. Ironically, the best antibiotic available today is warm soapy water. Today's market almost exclusively sells antibiotic soap. What else kills bacteria in turbid water? Boiling it. So, while you can't wash your wound in boiling water without creating a new problem, washing with warm soapy water is the best method to combat current and old growth bacteria. One of the most urgent parts of wound care is treating the wound immediately after the initial injury. This involves keeping it clean and possibly doing an aggressive wound debridement. Trying to figure out the correct treatment for injury can be problematic. If the injury is from infections or burns treating the wound is the priority in order to save an extremity or even the life of the person. In a hospital or medical care setting, more severe wounds need sterile, or clean dressings and wound care. Wound dressing types are the initial success to breaking the chain of bacteria growth. Some ideas for wound dressings are as follows:

DRY DRESSING

This is pretty much a standard gauze or bandage that not only is dry, but sterile (or clean) and will cover up the wound preventing exposure or leeching. This can be critical because the bandage getting wet can pull dirty fluid



People often quit taking antibiotics before the typical 10-day period because they "feel better." This leads to some bacteria surviving and mutating to become resistant, like MRSA and VRSA.

through the bandage like a wick and actually infect the wound. Use this dressing to promote healing and protect the wound. Change often. If the dressing is wet and appears full then change immediately.

WET DRESSING

This works only if applied correctly. There is a grave potential for infecting the wound if not done properly. This is performed when there is no dead tissue and the gaping wound has been debrided (a process where dead tissue, burnt or otherwise, is cut away surgically.) The basic principle is to pack a wound with wet sterile dressings to the surface and then a dry dressing would cover the entire area completely sealing it off. Once covered it is wrapped tight; this essentially creates a barrier from the outside. A few days later, during the very first dressing change, when the dressings are being pulled out, they will have adhered to dead tissue and assist in the debridement process. This can be very painful. These dressings have the potential to take out dead tissue, as well as infection. In a clinic or hospital, wound vacs are the method of choice. There is a constant draw on any excess fluid that would build up in the wound and create a cesspool.

TRANSPARENT FILM DRESSINGS

This type of dressing is essentially a clear piece of plastic that creates a water and bacteria barrier. Large pieces of plastic also act as a temperature sealant much like cellophane. Burn patients can benefit from this, as one of the latent killers of severe burns is hypothermia.

Medicine has a long history with antibiotics,

antivirals and anti-parasitic. Sugar can help in a pinch to heal an open wound laceration or burn. The process is simple, but when sugar is packed into a wound it can create a highly concentrated medium in which bacteria cannot live. There are different mixtures to use with some using honey because it has active "good" bacteria as well. To apply, use a piece of sterile gauze to cover the wound after the sugar has been placed. Change, flush and dry the wound every 3-4 hours. Using honey to mix in with the sugar will allow it to stick or stay in place. This does not offer any antibiotic treatment, but will create an environment where potentially no bacteria will grow. This can allow the wound to heal.

Antibiotics have a great history and work very well when used correctly. I have been in countries that, due to their third world development, have never been exposed to a modern-day Z-Pack (*azithromycin*) or even *ciproflaxin*. In those locations, infections can be treated with a first-generation penicillin, erythromycin, or tetracycline. This essentially means the bacteria has not mutated or built a resistance that requires a new generation medication. ✓

BIO

Christopher Cassell is a U.S. Navy Special Operations Independent Duty Corpsman (SOIDC) and works as an independent contractor teaching tactical medicine for U.S. government agencies. He has experienced multiple combat deployments providing medical and tactical team support with Marine Reconnaissance units.



Long before men began keeping historical records, early people used herbs and plants as medicine.

Indigenous cultures and native peoples from Africa, China, India, Egypt, Babylon and the Americas were all herbalists. They used herbs to heal a vast array of physical ailments.

Some ancient societies developed coordinated systems for wellness and treatment of disease. In India, “Ayurveda,” one of the oldest holistic healing systems, began almost 3000 years ago. Traditional Chinese healers began their herbal care hundreds of years before the birth of Christ.

The early Romans and Greeks were also skilled herbalists. Surgeons who traveled with the Roman army spread their herbal knowledge throughout the Roman Empire, and their handwritten records about herbs

became the basis of medical knowledge well into the Middle Ages.

During the Middle Ages, religious monks living in monasteries throughout Europe translated the works of the ancient Greek herbalists, nurtured herbal gardens and trained lay physicians in the curative power of herbs.

In the mid-fifteenth century, the printing press was invented and finally the common people had access to copies of herbal instructions written by the ancients. Herbal medicine became the norm. Special skills weren’t needed beside the ability to grow herbs and apply them according to the prescribed dosage and instructions. We call them “essential oils” today, but they used to be called “aromat-

ic oils” by ancient cultures who used them in religious ceremonies and for healing the sick.

The ancient Egyptians were well-known for their use of aromatic oils, ointments, incense and perfumes. They transformed plants into powders, pills and medicinal cakes. They used myrrh and cedar in embalming and traces have been discovered on mummies. Egyptian society elevated the significance of herbal medicine and restricted its use to priests who counseled the pharaohs. During the height of Egypt’s glory as a civilization, each pharaoh had his own special blend of aromatic oil for use in specific instances - war, love, etc. Even with their extensive use of aromatic oils, the Egyptians did not distill their own and instead traded heavily for them.

Herbal Medicines and Essential Oils

OREGANO

BY: JOHN GALT

OREGANO OIL IS USED TO KILL BACTERIAL AND FUNGAL INFECTIONS, PARASITES, AND VIRUSES. IT ALSO EASES INFLAMMATIONS, COMBATS ALLERGIES, AND TREATS CANDIDA AND YEAST INFECTIONS.

EXCERPTED FROM THE NEW BOOK, **ORGANIC MEDICINE CABINET** (AVAILABLE FREE THROUGH WWW.PERMACUBE.COM)

Ancient Indian Vedic literature names more than 700 elements including ginger, cinnamon and sandalwood as healing agents. Ayurvedic healing considered aromatic plants a divine part of nature.

Hippocrates (460-377 BCE), a Greek physician known as the Father of Medicine, recorded the healing effects of hundreds of plants including peppermint, thyme and saffron. Greek soldiers carried the ointment of myrrh into battle to ward off infections. Hippocrates left behind literature and principles including this truth: "Above all the purpose of a doctor is to awaken the natural healing energies within the body."

FROM SEED TO ESSENTIAL OIL: OREGANO

Oregano was first used by the Greeks who believed that it originated from their goddess, Aphrodite. Through conquests and trade, the use of oregano as a medicinal herb spread throughout Asia and Europe.

Herbalists consider oregano a natural antibiotic. Oregano oil is used to kill bacterial and fungal infections, parasites, and viruses. It also eases inflammations, combats allergies, and treats candida and yeast infections.

GROWING OREGANO (ORIGANUM VULGARE)

- **Family:** *Lamiaceae* (Mint family)
- **Tolerance to Cold:** Hardy plant can survive outside in the cold. For extreme cold weather, take pots inside and set in a sunny spot.
- **Sun:** Full sun for at least 6 hours each day
- **Germination:** About two weeks

Oregano is a slow-growing herb. It is easy to grow for a beginning gardener because it is a hardy perennial that comes back year after year without much effort on the gardener's part. Older plants' leaves are still delicious when used in cooking, but the leaf's medicinal potency decreases after three or four years.

You can start Oregano from seed, but it's much easier to use cuttings from another healthy Oregano plant to propagate a new plant. Get a rooting hormone at any garden supply store, along with a substrate like peat or Rockwool. Cut Oregano sprigs from the mother plant, wet the tips and dip them into the hormone powder. Use the substrate to wrap the sprig in. When you can see about 5 to 10 roots sprouting from the cutting, it's time to transplant. This process could take about 6 weeks from start to sprouting.

Plant Oregano in light, moderately fertile soil that drains well. Oregano doesn't like too much water, and it can be susceptible to root rot. Water only when the soil is dry. The flavor and potency of Oregano's leaves intensify with the amount of sun it receives. In your garden, Oregano will grow up to two feet tall and 18 inches across. If you grow it in a pot,

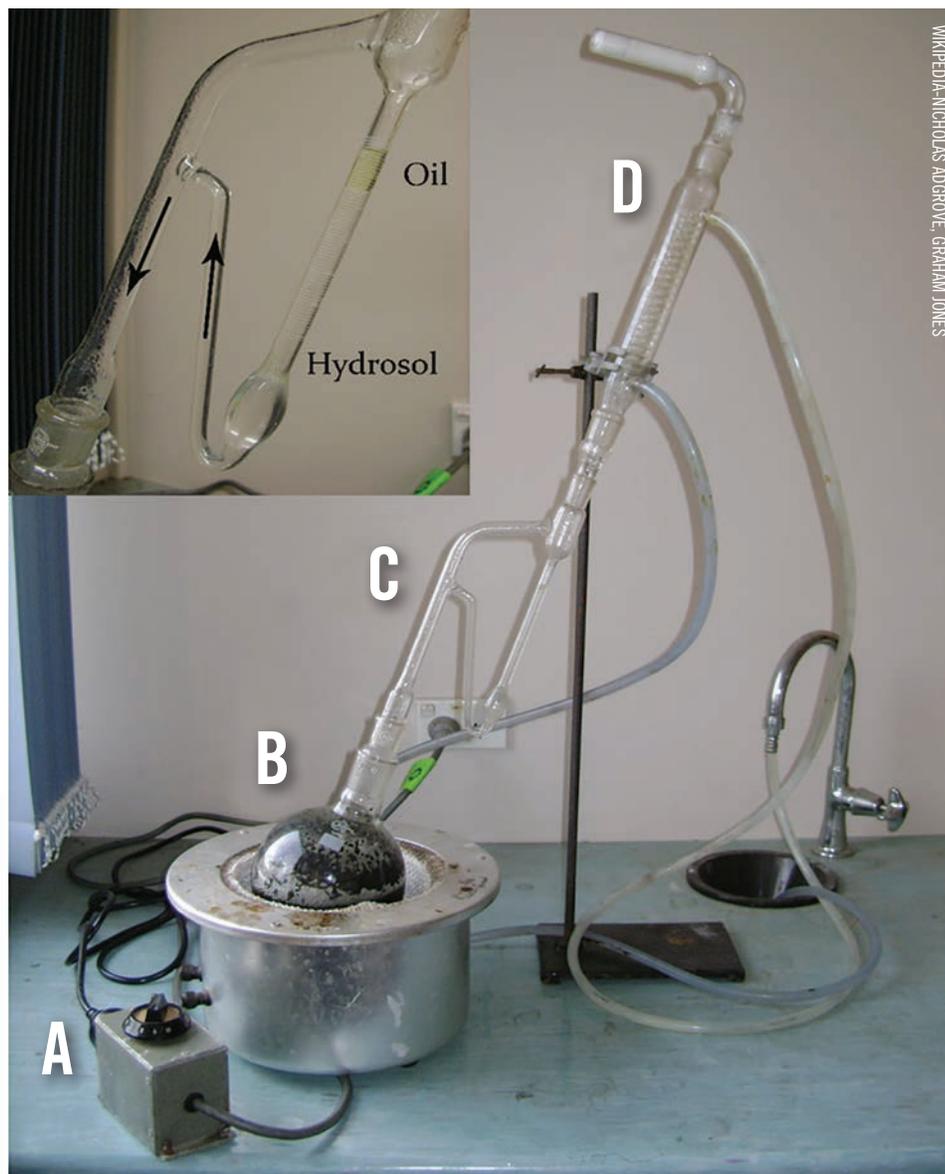
start with at least a 12 inch pot because Oregano is known to spill over the top quickly.

HARVESTING

Oregano takes about eight weeks to be harvest-ready after transplanting. The stems should be at least four inches tall. It's safe to cut back up to 2/3 of the plant. This will promote new growth. Once your Oregano plant is well-established, you can harvest the tips every 3-4 weeks. Oregano leaves are at their optimal potency just before the plant flowers, even though you may not know exactly when that is going to be unless you watch the plant carefully.

OREGANO ESSENTIAL OIL

If you want to use Oregano as herbal medicine, then you will need to get the curative essential oils stored in the plant's cells. In



WIKIPEDIA-NICHOLAS ADGROVE, GRAHAM JONES

Hydrodistillation using the Clevenger-type apparatus:

- Power regulator
- Heating mantle with round bottom flask containing water and oregano leaves
- Clevenger-type apparatus which returns the hydrosol to the still and maintains the essential oil phase, but only for essential oils that are less dense than water and therefore float
- The condenser

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FREEMANGETOOK-KABOOMPICS

**IF YOU DON'T WANT TO
GROW AND HARVEST
YOUR OWN, YOU CAN
PURCHASE OIL OF
OREGANO FROM MANY
REPUTABLE SUPPLIERS.**

Oregano, these oils are stored in its aromatic leaves and tops. “Expressing” essential oils from a plant requires a process called “distillation” which uses water, steam or both.

WATER DISTILLATION

This is the simplest method. Water distillation is for dried plant material that boiling won't damage. With Oregano, you are using the leaves and tops only. Immerse the leaves in water and boil. Make sure the water doesn't boil down and burn the leaves. The essential oils of the plant and the steam begin rising out of the hot water and then cool down; this produces condensation which you will collect. You will have two products: The Oregano essential oil and condensed floral waters called *hydrosols*. Water distillation can also be done under vacuum pressure; this lets the temperature be kept lower than the boiling point and it preserves more of the delicate plant materials.

WATER AND STEAM DISTILLATION

Water and steam is the second type of distillation. This is used for fresh or dried plant material that would be damaged by boiling. The plant material is put onto a perforated grid. The water level is under the grid and

low pressure steam passes through the plant material. The unique aspect of this distillation method is that the steam never gets hot and it's always at low pressure.

STEAM DISTILLATION

With direct steam distillation, the steam is hotter and passes through the plant material at a higher pressure. The plant's cells are broken open by the hot steam and reveal the essential oils of the plant. The steam and oil pass into a cooling chamber. Just as with water distillation, you will have two products: the Oregano essential oil and floral water called *hydrosols*.

AFTER DISTILLATION

Once your Oregano essential oil is cooled, store it in dark glass containers to maintain its strength for medicinal uses. The hydrosols (floral water) are truly unique because they contain a small portion of the plant's essential oils. Hydrosols are mild and have many uses, such as a scented skin wash or a light aromatic air deodorizer. They maintain some of the healing properties of the plant that they were derived from. ✓

BIO

John Galt is a pseudonym. He has more than 10 years of experience studying and using essential oils. He treated his son's molluscum with oregano oil and coconut oil and has treated his own strep throat with water and oregano oil. This article is excerpted from the new book Organic Medicine Cabinet (www.permacube.com).



MAIN: PLENTIFUL AND STUPID, PIGEONS ARE AN EASY SOURCE OF MEAT.

BELOW: YOUNG PIGEONS, ALSO KNOWN AS SQUABS, ARE COMMONLY EATEN IN MANY COUNTRIES.

PIGEON

FOR DINNER



WIKIPEDIA-TSENAMWILM

BY: KELLY ALWOOD



One of the easiest non-traditional protein sources available to us everywhere is birds.

We can find them in the deserts, forests and even abundantly available in our largest developed cities. They are quite easy to obtain and rapidly turn into a meal, but people often don't consider them as an option. Pigeons are the most common bird in our cities and they are by far the easiest to procure. In Chicago alone, there are over 300 species and tens of millions of pigeons! If you have ever walked around any of our major cities and watched them, you will

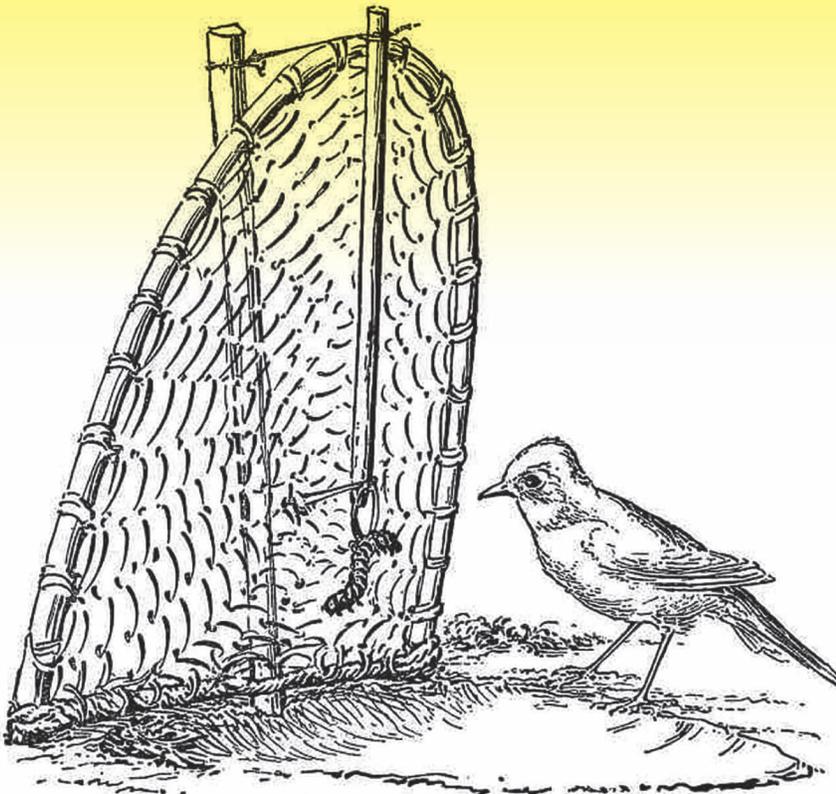
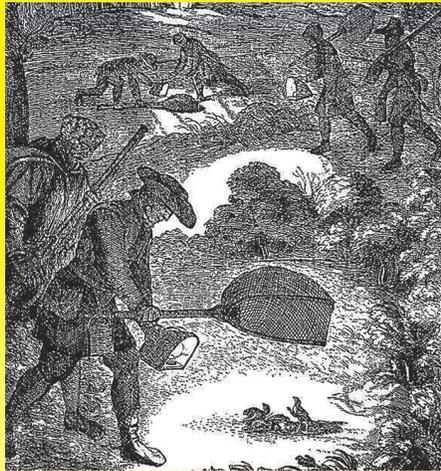
notice they are an extremely vulnerable target because they are very domesticated, used to people being around constantly and quite close to them. Because it is taboo in our society to harm these birds, their behavior in the presence of people is benign, as though they don't really see us as predators any longer.

When it comes to procurement of these animals we have many easy options. The first is to get close and simply net them. We can use an actual net that we purchase or easily

manufacture one using any type of cordage. An even easier way is to use a sheet or even your jacket as a net. These are made even more effective by attaching some weight to the edges for ease, speed and accuracy for your short throw. Another setup for these nets is to lay them flat on the ground with cordage attached to at least three points, put bread crumbs in the middle and just sit there until the birds, usually several, flock into the middle, and simply yank the strings. To keep



WILD BIRDS HAVE BEEN PROCURED ALL THROUGHOUT HISTORY. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF WAYS TO CAPTURE THEM, FROM DEADFALLS, NETS, OR MORE ELABORATE TRAPS.



TUNISIAN NIGHTINGALE TRAP.

them from getting loose, immediately after yanking the strings, swing the net around in a circle to use centrifugal force to keep them from escaping. Pull on the strings as you swing, tightening the net until you have the corners in your hand.

Another easy way is simply to grab them. I have been on many a street in US cities and abroad where I grabbed the pigeons with my hands. If there is a cat or population of cats around the pigeons will be scared of them, and more watchful and suspicious of their surroundings. Prime pigeon hunting time is in the daytime when the cats are sleeping and out of the way of people. Blowguns are another option that works very well, as you can improvise one from many common objects in the city and can get within feet or even inches from birds in the city. Another way to capture these creatures is by using snares. Birds, especially in cities, tend to be quite predictable, meaning they will land and walk in the same place over and over. This does not mean that every single bird has a pattern that we need to study; this means that the birds as a group or collective will flock to certain spots on a regular and predictable basis, making our trapping easy. For this, you can go as simple as a self-initiated foot loop snare that you jerk when he steps into the loop, to a more passive snare that you set and leave, so that it trips when the bird finds its way in. Passive foot snares work the best when placed on a perch, something like a tree limb, branch, sidewalk fence, gate, etc.

After capturing our prey, we need to process it for eating. Birds are much the same as any other creature that we hunt. The only difference is the feathers. For all of the other meats that we eat, we seldom consume the skin. When we look at products we buy in the store, only the birds tend to have the skin on them. Hamburger, pork loins, steaks, bacon and most everything else is processed with the skin off. I have found this to be the easiest way to process a bird as well. Bird preparation is only an issue when you are trying to remove the feathers and keep the skin. This is very doable, but takes time and resources to do. By simply gutting and skinning the bird as with any other animal we make this a small chore and a readily available meal after procurement.

As we do with other animals, start first with gutting the mammal. This is done by finding the sternum, starting our cut center and slic-

ing down to the rectum. Do not go too deep as you will slice through the internal organs, making it stink and contaminating the meat with bacteria. Make a shallow cut all the way down, open the chest and pelvic cavities, and pull out every part that you can. On larger animals, we sometimes find cutting loose internal organs an expedient way to facilitate this, but most of the time it is not necessary with birds. Feel free to do so if it helps you, though. After removing the internals, you can separate them into useful (edible) parts and throw-away parts. The throw-away parts will be kept—not discarded—and used for bait.

The heart is the best part of the internal organs. It can be fried or cooked with the rest of the meat. The next step is to skin the bird as you would any other mammal. Start by cutting and separating the skin along your gut cut line. As you cut about an inch, separating it from the meat (intercostals muscle) you can then use your hands to pull and separate the skin from the muscle tissue. When you have de-gloved the animal to its neck and paws or feet, simply cut them off. A strong hand yanking on the skin will provide the required force to accomplish this whole task in just a minute or two. You have a couple options now for how you want to proceed. You can cut the bird into smaller pieces as you would a large bird such as a turkey, you can cut it into slices as with larger animals discussed in previous sections of this series or you can leave it whole and cook it that way.

For most other animals, the best benefit is to cook the entire animal in a pot of water, making it a soup. This preserves the most calories and protein for consumption. However, with these small birds combined with their abundance and ease of procurement you may just want to use the fast way and leave them whole to cook. These particular mammals have very little blood, so draining and waiting while you hang them is not necessary. Plucking the feathers takes a lot of time, effort, calories and tools, so you can ignore this step and just skin them. Cut off the heads and feet, skin and keep the wings and you are ready to cook.

There is a host of options for cooking these critters. If you are still sheltered in place, they are easy to boil. This option preserves the most calories. You can add spices and other things such as vegetables to the stew to make it even richer and tastier. We also have the option of baking. This option also keeps most of



Pigeons are so plentiful in cities that you can easily bait them and wait for large groups to arrive.

the nutrients we seek, while making sure it is safe to eat. Frying is a good option as well, as it keeps most of the nutrients and also adds calories by using oil. Of course, grilling them is a popular option as well. You will lose any fat content (or most of it) this way, but it can be easily flavored and can ensure the meat is well cooked for consumption.

If you are mobile, moving from location to location or on the streets, we still have some good cooking options. The easiest way to cook the birds is to use a skewer. Simply find a branch from a tree, a chopstick, metal wire or anything similar and place your bird over an open fire until all of the meat is cooked. We do not want to see any red meat in our birds as we cannot afford any medical complications. A fire is easy to make in any urban environment simply from the paper, cardboard, wooden skids and other trash laying around in the streets and dumpsters. We still have the option of boiling the bird and making a stew. If you are mobile, this means that you are moving and using a lot of calories and this method is your best option. You can also build a makeshift stove or oven by using blocks and bricks found in the streets. Start a fire inside, leave one inlet hole for air, and enclose the structure as completely as possible. The downside to this is that it takes a lot of scavenging to get all the bricks and it also takes much longer for the meat to cook. One

good idea is to boil enough for your immediate needs and smoke the rest to save as you travel on. For this you can use a smoldering fire, build an oven to use as a smokehouse or simply cut the meat into strips and let them dry completely. This will give you portable food as you continue on your way to your destination.

Remember, as we discussed, do not throw away or discard any part of the bird. Anything that we cannot eat can be used for bait to attract and procure other species. The feathers are extremely attractive to cats, and using those for bait is a very good way to lure them in. The internal parts (guts) are very attractive to dogs and will bring them in. Whatever we do not use, plan on using those parts to further your pursuit of protein sources and grow your assets with every catch. ✓

BIO

Kelly Alwood has served as a security consultant in Southeast Asia, and Southwest Asia including: India, Iraq and Afghanistan. He provided security services in support of Hurricane Ike, Hurricane Gustav, Hurricane Katrina and the Asian tsunami. He is a partner in OnPoint Tactical, and provides instruction in urban escape and evasion, tracking and survival. www.kellyalwood.com.

PROFILES OF COURAGE

Whether you are confronted by AK-47 wielding jihadists, facing the challenges of providing for your family, or looking for the courage to speak an unpopular truth, there are times when each of us can use a little inspiration. Sometimes it helps to put your challenges in perspective. Sometimes it's encouraging to see how selfless human beings can be. This account is taken from multiple open source reports.



STEVENS,
REPORTEDLY A
COMPETITIVE
SHOOTER,
EFFICIENTLY DREW
HIS GLOCK...

GREGORY STEVENS

Just before 7:00 p.m. on the third of May, 2015, Elton Simpson tweeted, #texasattack: "May Allah accept us as mujahideen." Moments later, he approached a free speech convention hosted by the American Freedom Defense Initiative to honor the winner of the first annual Muhammad Art Exhibit and Contest at the Curtiss Culwell Center in Garland, Texas. Between him and his objective was a car with police officer Gregory Stevens and an unarmed security guard inside.

Elton Simpson and Nadir Hamid Soofi, a Pakistani muslim, deployed from their car and sprayed fire with AK-type rifles. Officer

Stevens, reportedly a competitive shooter, efficiently drew his Glock and shot both terrorists down. Conflicting reports suggest that SWAT officers arriving later may have finished the jihadists off.

The security guard was hit in the ankle, but recovered and Stevens was uninjured. Unlike the jihadists at *Charlie Hebdo*, Simpson and Soofi went to the morgue after unsuccessfully attempting to enforce Islamic blasphemy laws. They had been armed with rifles and pistols and equipped with body armor. Abdul Kareem was later arrested for helping Simpson and Soofi prepare for the attack.

Of course, jihadists often exhibit traits that appear to be symptoms of mental disorder to non-muslims. Like the January 2017 Aashiq Hammad (born Esteban Santiago) Fort Lauderdale Airport shootings and numerous other incidents it has been asserted that the Garland attackers' motive is unknowable.

Officer Gregory Stevens' fast and effective response is clearly responsible for ending the attack and saving many lives. Sadly, Stevens and his family will find it necessary to employ heightened security precautions for the foreseeable future as the reward for his heroism. ✓