

SPY + SURVIVAL BRIEFING

LIFESAVING STRATEGIES FROM FORMER CIA AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS PERSONNEL

"BLACK CASH" ECONOMY FUNDS CARTELS AND CROOKS

Use This Tactic For Your Personal Survival

By Jason Hanson

Former CIA Officer

It can be (relatively) shocking when you look hard at government budgets and see where the money actually goes. And the U.S. government itself admits there are scores of areas and budgets that are ripe for fraud and waste.

That's because siphoning "hidden" money off of government contracts is an age-old scheme. The money can then be pocketed or used for other purposes — some deadly and dubious.

Here are a few examples: \$3.9 million for rearranging desks and offices at



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the Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington, D.C. Or \$2.6 million for training Chinese prostitutes to drink more responsibly on the job. And, of course, we are familiar with how the Conservation Reserve program pays farmers \$2 billion a year to not farm their land.

The U.S. is certainly not alone when it comes to bad spending habits. One country that takes the cake is Russia. An expert on Russian organized crime said most of the money comes from "corrupt proceeds of corrupt people doing corrupt things."

Russia's foreign intelligence service is known for siphoning and laundering massive amounts of money. They do this through different tax-friendly countries such as Panama and Switzerland. The money is siphoned off government contracts and used for bribery and to spread Russian influence. This so-called "black cash" is even used to pay for assassinations around the world.

An investigation by the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project exposed that Russia has siphoned up to \$80 billion through foreign banks. This type of money-

laundering occurs with help from significant political leaders, including Putin.

Some of the black cash was sent to the Center for Geopolitical Analysis. This is an organization in Poland known for pushing Russia's agenda in Europe. The leader of the organization was arrested on charges of being a Russian spy. The Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project reports that 80% of the black cash from Russia is distributed to ghost companies with unknown owners.

There is a lot of this untraceable black cash circulating in the world. And it moves through some of the world's top banks. It has funded political movements, and promoted Russia's agenda. You can buy a lot of influence and fund a massive amount of fake news with \$80 billion.

Obviously, I would never condone any illegal activity on your part. But, in the spy world, black cash does come in handy. As for you and me, we should have our own "black cash" that nobody knows about and we can use for emergency purposes. Just remove a few dollars each week from the bank and it quickly adds up.

The most important thing is that you store this cash properly so that you can access it in a crisis. I once had a client who was a very wealthy businessman and he collected rare coins. In his house, he had a large gun safe. However, this safe was a dummy safe. He had a few things in it, but it was just a decoy. Elsewhere in his house he

had a floor safe - a safe buried in the floor. The chances of someone finding this were tiny and this is where he stored his cash and rare coins worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. If you're interested in a floor safe, check out the ones made by Hayman, Protex and Barska.

Another great place to store cash is a small storage unit so that you don't keep all of your cash in one place. Get a storage unit that's about the size of a closet that won't cost you much each month. Put random boxes in it and in the bottom of a box of old clothes, have a fireproof safe with your cash. Sentry makes affordable fireproof safes that will serve this purpose.

Lastly, you can bury cash on your property or on a relative's property. This cash should first be put in a mylar bag with an oxygen absorber packet or two. Then put the mylar bag inside an ammunition can or some other container. (PVC pipe works well.) This cash is clearly to be used as a last resort since you

want to make sure it's buried well. Depending on your means, storing away a couple hundred or couple thousand dollars in \$20 bills will do the trick.

When it comes to financial survival, you should have a goal of saving up at least six months of living expenses and have it spread out in various places. While I cannot predict exactly when, you and I both know that the collapse is coming and we need cash on hand to be thoroughly prepared.

"80% of the black cash from Russia is distributed to ghost companies with unknown owners."

Cloud Defensive Ammo Transport Bag

Cloud Defensive is known for producing some of the best weapon lights you can find. And now, they've started manufacturing an ammo transport bag.

You're probably familiar with ammo cans. But an ammo transport bag gives you an added dimension for storage and easy transport. The bag can carry a lot of ammo, but it can also be stored inside a backpack or range bag.

The ammo transport bag is made of Cordura, which makes it lightweight and durable. The soft design protects your ammo from drops and falls and it can hold about 900 rounds of 9mm or 500 rounds of 5.56.

It also has a pouch that can hold five pistol magazines. The pouch attaches to the top of the bag, on the outside. You can also remove the pouch and use it for something else if you don't want it on the bag.

The biggest advantage of the transport bag versus other ammo storage is that it's modular, meaning it can be used for a variety of purposes. Also, the bag can carry two different types of ammo without mixing them together thanks to a divider.

The Cloud Defensive Ammo Bag comes in four different color options and sells for \$50. If you are looking for a new ammo container, this is something you may wish to consider.

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MARK TWAIN STUMBLES ONTO THE “GOLD BULL MARKET” FORMULA

5 Historical Markers Could Skyrocket Today's Gold Prices

By Forest Hamilton
Universal Coin & Bullion

Mark Twain once said, “History never repeats itself, but it sure does rhyme a lot.” I’ve always loved this quote. It perfectly embodies the concept of using history and human behavior to find patterns and cycles, then using those patterns to help predict future events.

I am going to give you a historical timeline of the last few major bull markets for gold and silver coins, and I don’t think it will be hard for you to see the patterns of history rhyming once again.

This year, 2021 marks the 50th anniversary of the true uncoupling of gold and the U.S. dollar, finalized when President Richard Nixon closed the Gold Window on August 15, 1971. At that time, gold had been trading at a fixed rate of \$35 per ounce for over 40 years.

Gold and gold coin sales immediately took off from that artificial price and gold rose to \$190 by the end of 1974. This contributed to a major bull market in gold and rare coins. That time was also marked by political unrest — the Watergate scandal, the end of the Vietnam war, President Nixon’s resignation, and the Yom Kippur war leading to the OPEC oil cartel with the immediate doubling of oil prices.

This led to extreme financial distress with the worst postwar stock market crash to that date — the 45% 1974 stock market crash, amid high inflation and a doubling of interest rates from 4% to 8%. During that time, one major rare coin index rose 348% between 1972 and 1974.

The key elements driving increased gold and rare coin prices and sales then were political uncertainties, a stock market crash, rising interest rates, rising energy prices, and rising precious metals prices. It didn’t take long for that formula to repeat itself in a much stronger manner from 1976 to 1980.

Gold corrected to just over \$100 per ounce in late 1976, on hopes that the new president, Jimmy Carter, would solve all our problems. But Carter proved to be indecisive in the face of a second wave of OPEC oil price increases, Russian expansion around the globe, the Iranian hostage crisis and another deep recession amid double-digit inflation (“stagflation”).

The Dow Jones index fell 25% from 1976 to 1980 in “nominal” terms, but adjusted for inflation, it fell about 50%. Oil prices more than doubled again, from \$14 to \$35 a barrel, and there were gas lines all across the nation.

In Carter’s last year in office, gold shot up from \$300 to \$850 an ounce, and silver reached \$50. The dollar kept falling, and bonds were losing value due to inflation. But one investment was beating all others: The leading rare coin index rose 1,195%.

After a five-year recovery during the early Reagan years, tensions built up again driven by the Iran-Contra scandal, the burgeoning Savings & Loan scandal and Wall Street speculation that led to a massive 35% stock market crash in 1987.

But, the rare coin market began its second-best surge in modern times, though gold bullion prices only rose gradually. The major rare coin index rose 665% while gold peaked at \$500, well below its 1980 high.

Today, oil prices are soaring again. Gold prices and sales rose

strongly last year and are poised to rise further this year. The stock market’s sky-high valuations may mean a serious correction soon. And global tensions are returning since a weaker U.S. president is in office.

The Biden administration is running up massive deficits and printing trillions of dollars to finance new giveaway programs, which will fuel inflation. We could see Jimmy Carter-style inflation — similar to the late 1970s.

And while past performance does not guarantee future results, the fact that the same 5 factors were present with each of the historical major gold coin bull markets — and are present today — has my attention. I wouldn’t wait to add physical gold and silver to your portfolio.

[Publisher’s Note: For questions about buying gold and silver coins you can contact Forest Hamilton directly at foresthilton@universalcoin.com or call 800-822-4653. Please know, if you purchase any coins from Forest, we don’t receive any compensation from him. We simply know he’s one of the good guys in the business that can be trusted.]

"In Carter's last year in office, gold shot up from \$300 to \$850 an ounce."

COMMUNICATE COVERTLY IN AN EMERGENCY

How to Keep the Upper Hand When Your Tongue is Tied

By Tom Lavin

Bodyguard to the Stars

A day in the life of Halle Berry is a great example of how to use non-verbal cues to communicate in an emergency. Ah, to be a celebrity. She was traveling, being presented with an award at a film festival, doing media interviews and scheduled for a nightclub appearance — all in one day. As a protection agent, the situation was in constant flux and we were there to protect her in every way possible.

Nonverbal codes helped Halle let us know if she felt stressed out or in danger. One concern expressed by Halle's publicist was that she had an extremely tight schedule. If we didn't stick to it, several of her obligations would have to be cut short on time. According to her publicist, Halle was "so nice that she wouldn't say no to anyone who requested to talk to her, take a photo or sign an autograph."



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So, I offered to be the bad guy. I have no problem intervening in situations when needed. Even though I was also helping to manage Halle's itinerary, my primary objective was to protect her. Nonverbal communication served to accomplish both tasks.

If Halle felt uncomfortable, she would make a fist with her thumb extended and scratch her eyebrow. This was my cue to make this person in front of her go away immediately. If we were running out of time, Halle's publicist would fold a piece of paper with the agenda on it in half. This was my cue to interrupt and remove Halle from the event.

These are not uncommon tactics. Protection agents, spies and undercover operatives regularly use nonverbal communication during covert operations and protection details. Every client has slightly different requests and preferences, but all of them want to feel safe and crave some degree of comfort as they go about their day. Celebrity clients are often placed in awkward social situations, and as their protector and facilitator, I'm significantly more effective if I can communicate with them nonverbally.

The reciprocal is also true. If the client can use body language to communicate with me, especially in potentially threatening environments, I am much more successful in completing my mission objectives safely and fluidly. Take golfer Lee Trevino. One event I worked for him had so many attendees expecting to meet and greet him, but Lee didn't have time to interact with every single guest. In true golf fashion, we arranged a code playing off of the golf warning "FORE." If Lee got stuck talking to someone

for too long, he simply put his arm straight down with four fingers. That was our heads-up to move the guest along.

Nonverbal codes even work with clients who don't interact with us directly. On several occasions, I've worked with Sir Richard Branson of the Virgin companies. He doesn't particularly like to have "security guys" around him. So, we adapted and arranged his security in layers. A female agent stays close, looking like an assistant, and other agents are deployed close by. The female agent needs only to signal silently to the other agents if there is a need for intervention.

You might think these are just fun, inside stories about celebrity life. But you can apply this nonverbal signaling approach to situations in your own life as well. If you're in a situation and don't feel safe, you can use it to communicate calmly and quietly to your family members. Or if you find yourself in a dangerous situation and you're not at liberty to speak openly about your concerns.

Your child can also use it to tell you that he or she doesn't feel safe or is in danger. Or you can alert your significant other if you're annoyed at a party and just want to get away from the people in the room. These techniques will significantly increase your ability to stay safe in a variety of circumstances. I strongly recommend that you work out code words and nonverbal emergency signals in advance with your family. Whether it's a hand sign, a body gesture, a certain stance or a noticeable facial expression, you can escape danger without saying a word.

THE “HANSEL AND GRETEL” SECRET OF SPY PERSUASION

Implant Your Idea So Forcefully, They’ll Insist It’s Their Own

By Michael D.

*Former Clandestine Officer, CIA,
DIA, NSA*

Does this sound familiar? I was the “newbie,” (a.k.a. the “new guy”), so none of my previous accomplishments meant squat to the leaders of the unit to which I had just been assigned. I was treated and spoken to like I was impaired and not expected to last long enough for anyone to waste their time or attention.

I was awarded such noble assignments as being the first one in every morning, opening all of the high-security vaults and safes, starting the coffee and checking-in with the Operations Flight Commander or “Chief of the Ops Shop” (a position that I had filled-in several times in the past when I was a senior Airborne Recon operator in the Directorate of Operations) on any matters of significance that had occurred in the last eight hours. Now I was just the “Intelligence Analysis and Reporting Division” — or “Spy Shop” — flunky that swept-up and locked-up at the end of our dayshift.

“The Ops Shop” conducted the collection, decoding, translating, and interpreting of the raw intelligence we gathered during our reconnaissance missions. That raw intelligence was then culled for valuable intelligence and forwarded to my new assignment in the Spy Shop.

The Spy Shop was where all of the intelligence we collected on our recon missions was analyzed, studied, and — if deemed of urgent, high value, or critical — was reported through secure channels throughout the operational intelligence community.



Bob L. gave me a little project of my own — mostly to keep me busy and out from under all the real pro’s feet. Bob was a former Airborne Recon Vet from the Vietnam War. He retired, was recruited by the National Security Agency and embedded in our combat wing.

Bob, a really nice and good man, asked me to correlate all of the intelligence we had on the logistics of the target country. Whether it was shipping manifests, train loads, trucking rosters, or in any other way transported, I was to account for what went where in or outside of the country.

He asked me to create a kind of flow chart showing the logistics routes and the general class of items that were being moved along those routes. The goal was to build a strategic model that could be used for future actions. It was not sexy or an adrenaline rush. There was not a set time to produce my findings, I could take as long as I

needed (a clear sign that I was not being asked to save the world).

About two weeks into my boring, laborious task, I realized that an amazing number of rice bowls were being sent to a very small village just across the border in the neighboring country. Lots of rice bowls. Lots of boots. Lots of farm tools. I began to think that I had discovered a secret troop build-up just across the border of the target nation. As I watched and closely examined the manifests, it became clear to me that the troop build up was already complete and these were actually cover terms for combat armaments. The “rice bowls” were AK-47s, the “boots” were rocket propelled grenades and the “farm tools” were medical supplies.

I was sure that I had just single-handedly uncovered a clandestine military operation by the target country to invade a province of the neighboring country.

Trying to be cool, casual, and self-confident, I asked Bob if I could have an hour with him the next day and he agreed.

I produced all of my conclusions and supported them with the substantiating intelligence, my analysis, and projections. After several hours of discussions, re-evaluations, translation checks and long consideration, Bob agreed with my findings. I wanted to run to the Commander and show him what we discovered and how big this intelligence coup really was.

But to my surprise, Bob told me, “No.” And it was one of the greatest lessons I learned about espionage and intelligence operations. Bob said that when things of this significance, especially something that had been right in front of us for years, was presented to top brass, they were hesitant to hear it or accept it. They were not, nor ever had been, Special Mission Unit Operatives or working level intelligence officers. They were career officers with goals of promotion and their next assignment. This kind of news would shake them to the core and could just get lost in the politics of careers and profile protection.

Instead, he told me exactly how we would do it to actually get it done. We would ask for an official meeting with the Commander to discuss some intelligence that we thought might mean something, but we wanted his permission to pursue our line of analysis. It would require time and resources and we were not sure that it was going to be worth it and wanted his approval before we dove into the matter.

When we arrived at the Commander's office, we began laying out the crumbs for him to assemble into a loaf of bread. It worked marvelously. In less than 45 minutes, he leapt to his feet and announced that those weren't rice bowls, boots, farm tools, or anything of the like. He said those must be cover terms for something they don't want people to know they are doing. He “explained” to us what all of this meant. He directed Bob to work on it and he told me to send out an “E-gram” (significant intelligence report) and to notify NSA, CIA,

and other Intelligence Community cohorts that he just discovered a secret military operation.

Bob had just taught me a valuable lesson: When you have arrived at radical conclusions from complex material, most people in leadership or positions senior to you will dismiss you and your deductions. However, if you take a few minutes to lay it all out for them and al-

low them to “discover” the answer on their own and feel as though the discovery was theirs, they will excitedly announce their (your) conclusions.

In the intel biz, we would say that there are two take-aways from this study: First, if you discover something radically new, ultra-significant, out of the ordinary, or just something that should have been obvious to any thinking individual, you must present that information gradually and in a format that will allow others to “figure it out on their own.”

And second, if you find that someone is introducing you to information that is leading you to a conclusion that you suspect they have already developed on their own, then know that they think you might not be open enough to get it without their spoon feeding you. So, don't be afraid to introduce your radical discoveries, unpopular views, personal assessments or your deeply held convictions to others because of concern or fear that they will reject your reasoning.

But, instead of just coming out and stating your informed analysis, remember the “lesson of the rice bowl” and use facts, evidence, and clear reasoning to lead the person you're sharing the information with to their own conclusions — the same conclusions you already knew.

**"They were not,
nor ever had been,
Special Mission Unit
Operatives."**



DO THIS TO CHEAT DEATH

How to Use What You Already Know to Stay Healthy and Alive

By Dr. Omar Hamada
Special Operations Physician

I was working in the Emergency Room a couple of weeks ago when we got a call from EMS that they were driving up to the scene of an 18-wheeler on top of a Toyota Corolla and expected multiple casualties. From all appearances, they felt certain there would be fatalities. But they asked for a helicopter on standby for emergency MedEvac to a trauma center if needed. The Highway Patrol shut down the interstate in both directions in preparation.

We waited in anticipation as we cleared and stocked our trauma rooms and got ready to gown up in the event that they headed our way. The crash was horrific. A young driver merged onto the interstate, but instead of staying in the right lane, he immediately drifted into the left lane. The driver did not notice the 18-wheeler going 75 mph coming up on the left. The 18-wheeler slammed on its brakes and laid on its air horn as it clipped the right rear of the Toyota Corolla and began to fishtail down the interstate.

The Corolla went airborne and flipped end-over-end 5 or 6 times, then it slid down the interstate along the guardrail. Meanwhile, the trailer of the 18-wheeler separated from the cab and rolled over the smaller vehicle. The cab of the semi-truck then also flipped onto its side and slid down the interstate.

As the Highway Patrol arrived on scene, they “knew” it would be a fatal crash, but what they found was remarkable. Though the Corolla was compressed from every side (including the roof), there was a very small space in the cabin where the restrained driver remained as the headrest held the roof off the



driver's head. Firemen took almost 30 minutes to cut the driver out of the vehicle before pulling the driver out. The driver was conscious and immediately stood on both of his feet with no injury or pain.

The same happened with the truck driver. Both were transported to our ER and soon walked out with only a few superficial scratches, abrasions, and small bruises. It was nothing short of a miracle. No doubt there were angels watching over them.

All respondents to the scene were certain that the accident was not survivable for either occupant of either vehicle. After looking at the pictures from the scene on the Patrolman's phone, I'd agree.

How did someone not die that day? Of course, there are many unknowns. Certainly, our vehicles are built to withstand great forces and are equipped with multiple crush zones. However, from the physical dimension, the most important reason no one died or was seriously injured was much simpler. Each driver did one thing right that morning as they started up their vehicles. They fastened their seatbelt.

As an Emergency Room physician, I've seen too many preventable traumas. Lost limbs, lost eyes, cracked skulls, broken spines, evis-

cerated abdomens, broken bones, deep lacerations, cut arteries, penetrating injuries, ruptured livers, lacerated spleens, open chests, and on and on. Many of those injuries didn't need to happen. Just by being aware, watching for threats, or wearing a seatbelt or helmet, they all could have been easily avoided.

So, today, one of the most important things you can do for yourself and your family and friends, is to do what you already know to do to prevent injury. I'm not saying that you need to live in a padded room. I am saying be smart about it and don't take unnecessary risks.

Sure, riding horses, motorcycles, and 4-wheelers are fun. Jumping, racing, driving, are a blast. But safety is paramount. Once you are injured, if you don't die, there is a good chance that you'll never be the same again because of paralysis, arthritis, chronic pain, scars, a limp, blindness, stroke, and so on.

Before you do whatever it is that you do, remember to put your seatbelt on, wear a helmet, wear gloves, boots, and a motorcycle jacket, make sure your gun barrel always faces downrange and you treat your weapon as if it is always loaded. You know the rules. Be kind to yourself and others. You don't want your kids changing your diapers for the next 20 years. Stay alert. Stay alive.

KEEP YOUR ENEMIES CLOSER

How Foreign Spies Live Among Us

By JAVELIN

Ex-CIA Operative

Several years ago, FBI agents arrested a couple known as Donald Heathfield and Tracey Foley on suspicion of being part of a Russian espionage ring tasked with gathering information on nuclear weapons, American policy toward Iran, CIA leadership and congressional politics, among other topics.

The KGB had recruited the couple in their early twenties and directed them to Canada, where they assumed their new identities. After the birth of their first son, the family moved to the U.S. They joined our society as Canadian-Americans with the knowledge and language skills necessary to blend in with their surroundings.

The FBI operation, known as “Ghost Stories,” led to the arrest of 10 Russian spies living in the U.S. These agents were part of an ongoing, deep immersion program that was believed to be shut down until a Russian spy betrayed his comrades. It’s rare to find an undercover operation running this long. These spies had been hiding for 20 years to build up their cover stories, which is no easy task. As someone who’s had numerous legends (cover personas), I can tell you there are three vital elements a spy considers when creating a cover persona:

1. Find a job that will provide access to the target or mission.

You want a job that will carefully and slowly ease you into the situation to avoid raising any suspicions. Any position too close to the subject that you assume too quickly will

draw unwanted attention. On the other hand, a job that provides more distance could become a loss.

2. Find a job you can assume quickly. This requires an accurate self-analysis of your job skills — both strengths and weaknesses. It’s vital to build a persona that matches your strengths with the target’s vulnerabilities. The Foleys had an extended timeline, which allowed them to attend universities in the U.S. Most jobs don’t allow you that much time. I’ve had assignments where I spent over 18 hours a day preparing for a new role.

3. Study and predict any risks involved with the cover you are assuming. Mrs. Foley worked as a realtor, which is a low-risk job, and Mr. Heathfield in a consultancy firm in Boston, which gave him access to high-profile clients. Understand that a spy is looking for a cover position requiring little know-how and little attention but plenty of access to valuable information.

Once in Japan, I created a cover persona to get close to a highly targeted Russian scientist. Many Russian scientists are either a spy or are working for one, so my mission was to obtain information from this scientist who was doubling as a spy working with biological weapons.

Now, I can’t give too many details, but here’s what I can tell you. In order to build up my persona, I posed as a college professor in Osaka to gain access to instruction manuals and study guides. Of course, anyone working with biological weapons is a valuable target.



A target of this caliber draws the attention of spies from across the globe. After discovering their objectives were identical to mine, I recruited two foreign female spies to assist me. Our combined efforts netted some of the most valuable information on Russian biological warfare ever obtained.

In America, Russian spies also assume the cover of scientists, as well as researchers and diplomats. The use of diplomatic cover is well-known to U.S. intelligence agencies. Our agents build relationships with the known Russian spies to obtain valuable information on targets of mutual interest. This orchestrated dance is a careful waltz of trading information back and forth without causing any damage to either side.

Based on my experience with Russian intelligence, there’s little doubt that Russia was behind several of the most recent hacks on our internet systems and will continue to be a threat in the future.

"In America, Russian spies also assume the cover of scientists, as well as researchers and diplomats."