

SPY + SURVIVAL BRIEFING

LIFESAVING STRATEGIES FROM FORMER CIA AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS PERSONNEL

WORLD WAR III WITH CHINA

Have Your Heard Of Volt Typhoon?

By Jason Hanson
Former CIA Officer

One of the most common questions that newsletter readers ask me these days is, “Jason, do you think we’re headed toward World War III?” Unfortunately, my answer is yes. It’s a slippery slope that we’ve been heading toward for a while. My belief is that it will be with China and it will happen before 2030, so just a few years away.

Now, I hope I’m wrong. I’ve got a wife and kids and have no desire to see the world erupt into chaos. But in the intelligence business, you always look for patterns and the patterns these days are pretty darn obvious. First, China has made it crystal clear that Taiwan is a target. Chinese President Xi Jinping has repeatedly said that Taiwan must be reunited with China. And unlike other world



politicians who talk tough but often do nothing, the Chinese Communist Party tends to play the long game.

They build for decades, they have patience, and then they strike. China has massively expanded its military over the last several years. Their navy is now enormous. They’re rapidly building aircraft carriers, hypersonic missiles, cyber warfare capabilities and nuclear weapons.

One of the biggest reasons I believe a conflict is coming soon has to do with China’s cyber warfare. More specifically, the Chinese hacking group known as Volt Typhoon. Most Americans have never heard of Volt Typhoon, but you absolutely should know about them. This group has been caught infiltrating critical US infrastructure. And I’m not talking about hacking some teenager’s lap-

top or stealing credit card numbers. I’m talking about power grids. Water systems. Transportation networks. Communications infrastructure.

It’s also important to note that the malware they planted was not designed for simple espionage. According to U.S. government officials, it is designed to sit quietly and wait until a future crisis or war. In other words, this malware is essentially a pre-positioned digital explosive.

Think about that for a second. The Chinese government-backed hackers aren’t just snooping around. They are preparing the battlefield before a shot is ever fired. And you and I both know that this is exactly how modern warfare works. Before tanks roll, before missiles fly, before troops land, the goal is to cripple important infrastructure.

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When China moves against Taiwan, they will likely launch cyberattacks against the US to slow our response and to create panic here at home. They will activate all of the malware that is currently “sleeping” inside our power grid and our water treatment facilities.

Remember, what I’m saying is not “theory.” We already know that China has pre-positioned this malware inside US infrastructure. The only question is, when will they choose to activate it? Will it be when they attack Taiwan? Will it be earlier? Heck, it could be tomorrow if they wanted to.

The average American will lose their minds in 72 hours with the lights out and when no fresh drinking water is to be found. I know that (thankfully) you are not the average American and are much more prepared. But time is running out. You and I are not going to get too many more warnings about getting our houses in order.

So, please think about what actions you need to be taking over the next 30 days. Do you need to stock up on medicine? Do you need to add to your food storage? Do you have your bug out bags ready to go? As for me, my food and water storage is pretty dialed

in. I’ve got a good distribution of survival meal pouches, canned meat, and #10 cans of rice, wheat, beans, etc.

However, I want to get more generators. I’ve got solar generators, gas generators and propane generators, but I still want backups to the backups. I also need to get some more propane for my camping stoves. I’ve got some empty propane tanks that I need to take to my local ranching supply store and get refilled.

Another thing I want to do is buy one of those more expensive laser trainers for firearms training. Yes, I do dry fire daily and go to the shooting range often. But I’ve always wanted to get one of those fancy laser trainers and I just need to pull the trigger on it. Of course, I do have plenty of guns and ammo and have just added another shotgun and revolver to my collection.

The bottom line is, in my experience, the people who survive crises are not the strongest people, they’re the people who saw trouble coming before everyone else did and made the necessary preparations. That is why I consistently prepare and will never stop, and I hope you are able to do the same.

Wicked Wax

If you own quality knives, then you already know that a good blade is an investment. And like any investment, if you don’t take care of it, eventually it might run into problems. That’s why, if you own good knives, you may wish to check out a product called Wicked Wax that is used on knives and knife sheaths.

Most people focus only on sharpening a blade. That’s obviously important.

But they completely ignore protecting the steel and leather from moisture, sweat and grime. That’s a mistake. I personally carry a small fixed-blade knife often. They ride on my belt, get tossed in bags, sit in vehicles and get exposed to dirt and sweat.

A little wax helps prevent rust and corrosion and also keeps leather sheaths from drying out and cracking. And if you’ve ever had a leather sheath dry up and get messed up, you know it’s a pain in the butt.

The good thing about the wax is that it doesn’t leave your knife feeling greasy. To use it, you put a light coat on the blade, wipe it down, and then you’re done. You can also use it on wooden knife handles, and it helps protect the wood while bringing some life back into it.

Again, nothing fancy here. Just practical knife maintenance that keeps your equipment working longer. And when it comes to survival gear, reliability matters. The last thing you want is to reach for a knife in a bad situation and discover rust on the blade or a ruined sheath because you neglected basic maintenance.

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TWO TYPES OF PRECIOUS METALS INVESTORS

Which Type Are You?

By **Forest Hamilton**
Universal Coin & Bullion

Most investors wind up loving either movement and volatility or stability and consistency. Neither approach is necessarily wrong. Both can make sense depending on financial goals, risk tolerance, and personality. But understanding the difference between the two mindsets helps explain why some investors gravitate toward bullion gold and silver, and others increasingly seek gold investment coins.

Today's market environment perfectly highlights this contrast. Every week brings another wave of uncertainty. Investors hear hopeful geopolitical headlines, only to watch tensions flare days later that cause wild market swings.

At the same time, inflation continues pressuring consumers across the country. Even when inflation numbers "cool," most Americans know prices are still dramatically higher than they were just a few years ago. Meanwhile, the Federal Reserve faces an incredibly difficult balancing act. Markets are trying to predict what comes next, and uncertainty is creating enormous volatility across financial sectors, including precious metals.

That volatility attracts one particular type of investor. I call them the "gambler." This investor enjoys movement. They watch spot prices closely and often thrive on large swings in gold and silver. Bullion fits naturally into this mindset because bullion prices react quickly to geopolitical developments, Federal Reserve policy, inflation reports, and global uncertainty. For this investor, bullion can almost function like a tactical market play.

But this investor also understands that volatility cuts both ways. A stronger dollar, temporary peace negotiations, or unexpectedly strong economic reports can quickly send bullion prices lower. That's simply part of the game for investors who

seek aggressive movement and short-term opportunity.

However, there's another type of precious metals investor I encounter every day, and their priorities are very different. This investor is not necessarily looking for excitement. Instead, they are seeking confidence and stability through uncertain times. They want assets designed to weather volatility rather than to simply react to it. This is where certified gold investment coins often enter the picture.

Over the years, I've watched many investors discover that the right certified gold coins behave very differently from pure bullion during periods of market turbulence. While bullion prices may swing sharply based on global headlines, many certified investment-grade gold coins are influenced by additional factors beyond the spot price of gold alone. Scarcity, collector demand, limited populations, historical significance, and certified grading quality all contribute to their desirability.

That distinction matters tremendously in uncertain markets. Bullion tends to trade primarily on emotion and short-term macroeconomic developments. Certified gold investment coins often attract buyers focused on long-term quality, stability, and tangible ownership. Investors seeking consistency frequently appreciate that certain certified coins have historically demonstrated resilience even during periods when bullion prices experienced extreme volatility.

Today, consistency has become very attractive. That's one reason certified gold investment coins continue attracting serious attention from long-term investors across the country, particularly among those thinking about retirement, wealth preservation, or family legacy planning. These investors are focused on acquiring quality tangible assets with enduring demand.

There is also a psychological advantage that often gets overlooked. Chasing volatility can become emotionally exhausting. Headlines change hourly. Fear and greed dominate decision-making. But investors focused on long-term certified holdings often approach market turbulence differently. Their focus is less about daily fluctuations and more about owning assets with long-term desirability and staying power. That perspective can create a tremendous peace of mind, and in today's world, peace of mind has become quite valuable.

In my experience, emotional investing is often expensive investing. Investors who panic-buy during euphoric moments or panic-sell during downturns frequently create their own problems. Meanwhile, investors who focus on quality, patience, and long-term fundamentals often position themselves more effectively through volatile periods.

That's why it's important for investors to understand what kind of precious metals investor they are. If you enjoy market swings, tactical trading opportunities, and aggressive price movement, bullion may provide exactly what you are seeking. But if you value consistency, long-term confidence, and tangible assets designed to endure uncertainty, certified gold investment coins deserve serious consideration. Either way, find a reputable gold and silver dealer that can accommodate your investing style and help accomplish your goals.

[Publisher's Note: For questions about buying gold and silver coins you can contact Forest Hamilton directly at foresthilton@universalcoin.com or call 409-926-7001. 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.]

TIMELESS LESSONS LEARNED

These Are Sacred And Will Never Change

By **Brian M. Morris**

*Master Sergeant (Retired),
U.S. Army Special Forces*

There are certain lessons learned over a lifetime of military service that never leave you. Some were taught in classrooms, some on ranges, some during deployments, and some through failure, pain, and experience. The truth is, most of the principles that make an effective Special Forces soldier also apply directly to everyday life.

Whether you are serving in uniform, raising a family, running a business, or simply trying to become a better person, the fundamentals remain the same.

First and foremost, be professional. Know your job. Too many people today want recognition without mastery. Professionals study their craft. They prepare. They maintain standards even when nobody is watching. Character is not proven when people are looking over your shoulder. Character is proven when you have every opportunity to cut corners and choose not to.

One of the simplest but most important military lessons is this: Be at the right place, at the right time, in the right uniform. It sounds basic, but it reflects discipline, reliability, and respect for the people depending on you. In the military, failure to do so could compromise a mission. In civilian life, it can cost trust, opportunity, or credibility. Timing and precision matter. Missing hard times by even a few minutes can create massive problems for everyone involved. That is why we used to say, "Ten minutes early is five minutes late."

Another hard truth is that perception is often nine-tenths of reality. Even on difficult days, carry yourself with confidence and professionalism. Look good even when you do not feel good. People take cues from your appearance, posture, and attitude. Confidence is contagious, but so is disorder.

In Special Forces, we also learned never to stand out unnecessarily. "Different means special, and special gets shot." The lesson was not about losing individuality. It was about understanding that ego, carelessness, and unnecessary attention can create vulnerability. Sometimes survival depends on blending in, staying disciplined, and operating as part of a team instead of trying to become the center of attention.

Teamwork itself is sacred. What happens on the team stays on the team. Loyalty and trust are everything. Loose lips truly do sink ships. Not everything needs to be discussed publicly, especially in a world where people constantly overshare online. Silence and discretion are still strengths.

One of the greatest misconceptions people have about success is believing that perfect conditions are required before action can be taken. The reality is that sometimes an acceptable plan ready to execute is better than a perfect plan that takes too long to prepare. Conditions change rapidly. Opportunities disappear. Action matters. At the same time, never forget Murphy's Law of Combat: anything that can go wrong will go wrong at the worst possible moment.

That is why preparation matters. Always have a PACE plan: Primary, Alternate, Contingency, and Emer-

gency. Have backup plans for everything because life rarely unfolds exactly the way you expect.

Another lesson learned through experience is this: Slow is smooth, smooth is fast. Rushing creates mistakes. Panic clouds judgment. Controlled, deliberate action almost always produces better results than reckless speed. The same principle applies to handling firearms, decision-making, and life itself. Never outrun your own headlights. If you move faster than your ability to think and process, eventually you will crash.

Mindset also matters. Pain is just weakness leaving the body. That phrase is not about ignoring injuries or pretending suffering does not exist. It is about understanding that growth requires discomfort. Physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual strength are all developed through hardship.

At the same time, remember to breathe. Controlled breathing clears the mind and restores focus. Trust your gut instincts. Human intuition is often your subconscious recognizing danger before your conscious mind fully understands it. Listen, think, pause, and then respond. Emotional decisions made in anger, fear, or frustration usually create bigger problems.

Most importantly, never quit. You have one life. Strive for greatness. Be part of something larger than yourself. It is always better to have tried and failed than to have never tried at all. And finally, beware of technology. Every innovation comes with a tradeoff. Sometimes we gain convenience while losing skills, discipline, or self-reliance. Never allow modern comfort to replace timeless capability. Freedom, competence, discipline, and resilience still matter. They always will.

"Confidence is contagious, but so is disorder."

THIS SECRET TOME CONTAINS THE IDENTITIES OF U.S. INTEL OPERATIVES

Lessons From My First Linguistic Assignment

By Michael D.

Former Clandestine Officer, CIA, DIA, NSA

I stood there, looking down on this large book with rows of numbers and names. Some names dated back over 10 years. Other names, like mine, were being added to the sacrosanct “Certified Operator Index” for the first time that day. This tome was labeled “Top Secret (Codeword)” and bore special markings indicating highly restrictive access, handling, and channels of transmission.

It was kept in a large high-security vault inside the main security vault, and manned 24/7 by several USAF armed Security Officers. The exterior vault was only accessible under the direct authorization of the Wing Commander. The inner vault that contained the book was under constant observation and access control.

The numbers in the book weren’t arbitrary or random. They were three-digit covert identification numbers assigned to combat recon intelligence operators. Going forward, outside our own unit, we would be known to other intelligence operators, organizations, or agencies only by our three-digit pseudonym.

Being assigned an Operator Code was the final step after over three years of training and a variable time (based on candidates and instructor needs) as a “Side Saddle” or apprentice to a certified intelligence operator who served as trainer and evaluator. There was a nice ceremony, along with a patriotic speech and an especially poignant segment dedicated to our brothers whose names will always be remembered for their supreme sacrifice.



Like the Memorial Wall at CIA, our unit had its own list of fallen operators. Their names and codes were highlighted in the Big Book. I had my newly assigned code name/number and knew that the next day I would get my first solo assignment. No trainer, nobody holding my hand, just me and what I could produce.

I walked in the next day expecting to make my mark. I was going to show everyone that I had what it takes to be very good at this kind of work. It was exciting and heady stuff. The Flight Commander handed me material and said something like, “Work this first, get it back to me, and I will get you started on some meatier material”.

It was a recording from a reconnaissance mission in the language I had studied and excelled in at the Defense Language Institute/Foreign Language Center in Monterey, CA. Not only had I graduated top of the class, but I had also been awarded the “Faculty Award” – the first they had ever offered – due to my language strengths.

Then, I was invited to stay for the Intermediate Course in the same language. That was extremely rare, and I knew I was on a good path. In my follow-up trainings, I had also excelled, so I had no doubt that I would set new standards and rise above all my predecessors. You really have to stay humble when you are this good at something (I jest).

I sat there with my headphones properly adjusted, the volume clear, and the special Form 33A (airborne water-soluble transcription paper). I filled out the head of the form. This was the first time I ever wrote my Operator Number into the box on the form labeled “Certified Operator ID”.

I listened intently to the same recording segment over and over again. I must have been there for almost an hour. But not one word on my transcription form. The Flight Commander came by to check on me. He asked how I was doing and I told him I was great and all was well. I kept my transcription log hidden under my hands, hoping he would not notice the only thing on the form was the admin portion. He



smiled and walked on.

My world was spinning. I was nauseous, freaking out, and terrified. I could not understand one word on that recording. It was the right language. I could tell by the sounds and rhythms, the tones, and the grammatical structure with the conjunctions like “and,” “but,” “first,” however, I had zero understanding of what was being said. I called a buddy over and begged him to help. He razzed me about being the “super linguist” but was quick to help.

He helped me understand that the words I was hearing are how they are actually pronounced by the working class. It was very different from what they taught us in language school. Even the grammar, sentence structure, and many of the word meanings had little resemblance to what we had been taught. He helped me stop trying to translate and transcribe word-by-word, and instead, learn to listen to the entire exchange over and over again.

By doing that, my own brain would start to fill in little pieces. Then I could compare what I thought they might be saying with the words I heard and try to see if I could allow my mind to hear those words pronounced that way. I was shocked because I thought he was suggesting that I fake it and fill in something. In fact, I pretty much accused him of that.

He smiled and explained that languages are living, that word sounds change, meanings evolve,

new words are invented, and slang replaces proper vocabulary. The truth is, he didn’t want me to fake it, he expected me to figure it out. There was much more involved than recognizing spoken words, I needed to learn to capture the entire concept and adapt my understanding of the specific words.

It took me a while, but I finally got it. Once you know what two people are talking about, you can start to learn the altered sounds, new uses, idiomatic phrases, and finally start to convert their discussion into accurate, understandable English.

You don’t translate word-for-word. You translate the meaning of the discussion, while retaining distinct data such as amounts, dates, feelings, and include English wording that captures the emotions and value statements in the original language material.

In this way, you make something that was not understandable into something easily understood. It’s as much art as it is science or vocabulary skills. And I have been able to apply that lesson to most of the other challenges that have come my way in life. When you step into someone else’s shoes for leadership, you can’t just transfer one-for-one. When you serve in any duty, you first have to understand what should be done, not just what is being done.

Your mind, more specifically, your subconscious, can resolve matters that appear too complicated. But for

it to work, you have to give your mind time, study the matter, contemplate, ask for help, and accept that answers don’t usually come prepackaged like a language course. The solutions require work, study, humility, and time.

If you ever find that you have an assignment that appears to be beyond your skill level, education, or intellect, just know that the answer and the solution are there. Don’t get hung up on what you don’t know, start working on what you need to know to get the job done. To adapt this to survival and prepping, you need to think through your plans, possible contingencies, and even tertiary plans to ensure you and your family are protected and can survive. Study, give yourself time, brainstorm with likeminded people, and create your plans, and you’ll be miles ahead of almost everyone around you.



SAVINT **YOUR MONTHLY** **SAVINGS INTELLIGENCE**

Happy 250th birthday America! I know you love this country as much as I do and I know you love freedom as much as I do. That’s why you’re getting early access to a very special knife that you’ve probably never seen or even heard about before. It’s a unique blade called the NOC (stands for Non-Official Cover). A few lucky folks will be able to grab one of these as part of the America 250 celebration. Go to www.NOcknife.com to see the pictures and videos of this knife.

DON'T LET FEAR CLOUD REALITY

Simple Steps For Staying Safe From Hantavirus

By Dr. Omar Hamada
Special Operations Physician

We've seen a resurgence of interest, fear, panic, and skepticism around viral disease and transmission brought on by the Hantavirus — one of those viruses most folks had never heard of until it showed up. So, allow me to shed some light on it.

Hantavirus lives in rodents, especially deer mice, without hurting them. But when we humans breathe in dust from their urine, droppings, or saliva, it can hit us hard.

Here in the U.S., we mainly see what is called Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome. It's pretty rare, but when it strikes, it's serious. About a third of the people who get the bad form die. You don't catch it from another person (except in one rare type down in South America).

It usually happens when you're cleaning out a garage, cabin, or storage building that mice have moved into. You sweep or vacuum, stir up that fine dust, and breathe it right in. That's the big one. A bite or touching droppings and then rubbing your eyes can do it too, but dust is

the main culprit. The good thing is that the virus doesn't "live" forever in the dust and droppings. It only lasts for at most a week or two - but usually just 3 or 4 days.

Symptoms usually start one to eight weeks after exposure. At first, it feels like a regular flu with fever, chills, bad headaches, muscle aches (especially in your back and legs), and an upset stomach. Then it can turn fast. Your lungs start filling with fluid. You get short of breath, cough, and it feels like you're drowning even though you're on dry land. If it gets that far, you need the hospital quickly.

There's no magic pill that kills the virus. Treatment is all about supporting your body with oxygen, fluids, and close observation. The real key is not getting it in the first place. Seal up holes in your buildings, keep food put away, and when you do have to clean a rodent area, wet everything down with bleach water or disinfectant first. Wear a good N95 mask and gloves. Don't

just sweep dry dust around. I tell my patients who have cabins or work outside to respect those wild mice. A few careful habits can save you a world of hurt.

Staying safe from Hantavirus is all about being smart around nature and old buildings. Like I said, early symptoms often look like the plain old flu. So, don't

"None of us want to spend time hooked up to machines in a hospital bed."

brush off sudden trouble breathing or feeling really wiped out, especially if you've been around rodents, traveled somewhere risky, or been near sick people. Get checked sooner rather than later.

Look, none of us want to spend time hooked up to machines in a hospital bed. We've got too much life left with work, family, hunting season, traveling, whatever keeps you going. A little common sense goes a long way. Wash your hands, protect your lungs, follow your doctor's recommendations, and don't take stupid chances with wild animals or obviously sick folks. Also, have stored with your survival gear some N95 masks and gloves. Hopefully, you won't need them, but it's good to have them on hand just in case. Plus, they're dirt-cheap to purchase and don't take up much space in a bug out bag.

Also, if something feels off after a possible exposure, pick up the phone and call your doctor or head to urgent care. Knowledge beats fear every time. Stay smart out there, stay safe, and keep living the way you want to.



5 LIES THAT COULD COST YOU

Do You Believe These Self-Defense Myths?

By **Matt Numrich**

Head Instructor Of Spy Black Belt

Self-defense is about more than quick moves or having the right tool on your keychain. For older adults, especially those over 65, safety strategies need to be practical, realistic, and based on accurate information. Unfortunately, many common beliefs about self-defense can actually lead to harm if followed in a real confrontation. Here are 5 widespread myths that deserve a closer look and what you should know instead.

The “One Punch Knockout” myth is the first that could cause harm to come to some of us. You see, many people believe that one powerful punch is all it takes to stop an attacker. It’s a nice idea, but real-life situations rarely work out that cleanly. For self-defense, relying on just one strike sets unrealistic expectations and can leave you vulnerable.

It’s much more effective to focus on combinations, a simple series of movements that can disrupt an attacker and give you a chance to escape. Practicing these kinds of sequences builds better habits and reactions than aiming for that one perfect punch.

Another common myth is that carrying a weapon always equals safety. Many older adults feel more secure just by carrying a weapon, whether it’s pepper spray, a stun gun, or even a firearm. But having a tool isn’t the same as knowing how to use it. Confidence in self-defense should come from preparation and possession. In a high-stress situation, it’s easy to fumble with something you haven’t trained with.

"You can buy these training dummies on Amazon and spend 5 minutes a day."



That’s why regular practice is so important. Not just to learn how the tool works, but to build the muscle memory to use it quickly and effectively. It’s also worth considering legal responsibilities and physical limitations, especially when carrying something like a firearm.

There’s a common idea that if someone attacks you, you should immediately strike back as this is the best option to protect yourself. However, not every scenario calls for direct resistance. If you’re outnumbered or physically overpowered, attempting to fight back could make things worse. Recognizing when it’s safer to flee is just as important as knowing how to throw a punch.

Also, just like any physical skill, self-defense techniques need to be practiced regularly to stick. Even if the moves are simple, repeating them helps build confidence and coordination. The body reacts differently under stress, and unless you’ve physically practiced the moves, your brain may not be

able to direct your body fast enough. Practicing with a partner or in a safe training space helps bridge that gap between knowing and doing. Even basic drills, repeated consistently, can make a major difference in how well you respond during a real threat.

Staying safe as an older adult means making smart choices about how you prepare. Separating myth from reality can help you build a more reliable approach to self-defense, one based on awareness, repetition, and practical thinking. One simple thing that you can do, and that many students I train do, is to buy one of the training dummies (called Body Opponent Bags.) You can buy these training dummies on Amazon and spend 5 minutes a day practicing various strikes on them. This will help you build muscle memory. I know Jason is a big fan of these training dummies and he uses his daily.

Lastly, to help you best, I demonstrate everything in this article in the video I made for you, which you can watch at this link: <https://fearlessstreetfighter.com/self-defense-myths/>