

# SPY + SURVIVAL BRIEFING

LIFESAVING STRATEGIES FROM FORMER CIA AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS PERSONNEL

## “BIG BUSINESS” IS TAKING OVER FOR “BIG BROTHER”

### Sneaky New Way Your Gun Purchases Are Being Tracked

By Jason Hanson

*Former CIA Officer*

Before the pandemic, there were roughly one million guns sold per month in the U.S. But by 2020, with the pandemic violence and protests, gun sales increased to nearly two million sold per month. And while gun sales have slowed down in 2022, there is no question that Americans will continue to buy guns, especially me.

Yet, gun owners need to rethink how they pay for their guns. Major credit card companies announced that they will use a new sales code for gun and ammo sales. Visa,



Mastercard, and American Express have agreed to use a new merchant code that specifies gun sales from the general merchandise category.

Gun control advocates claim the new code could stop illegal gun trafficking and prevent shootings. But those who oppose the new policy argue that gun buyers are already subjected to surveillance. Now that companies will track the sales it will be another step to hurt the gun industry.

Idaho Senator Mike Crapo said, “Categorizing firearm retailers under a separate merchant code is a dangerous step toward using the

*payment system to monitor and track politically disfavored industries.*”

One huge issue with the new coding is that it tracks the merchant. Not the exact item purchased. So that means, if you go to look at guns but end up buying a flashlight it will register as a purchase from a gun shop. Imagine what would happen if you bought thousands of dollars' worth of gear from a gun store. The next thing you know the FBI is knocking at your door asking why you spent thousands on guns.

As you can see, this change made by the card companies will be

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another step for big brother to track our gun sales, which is not a good thing for us gun owners.

That said, here are a few things you can do when buying guns. If possible, always use cash when buying guns or ammo. Of course, there is still a paper trail from gun purchases. But paying with cash prevents your bank from knowing your business. Another benefit to using cash is that credit card companies could be selective on where they allow their cards to be used. Since these companies have already caved to the political pressure by tracking the sales, their next step could be blocking sales from specific merchants.

Additionally, most people haven't read the terms and agreement of their card. But you should, because companies could easily use the terms to slip in some nefarious rules – things that could massively infringe on your privacy. For instance, typically, if law enforcement wanted credit card records, they would need to get a search warrant. Then, they would present the card company with the warrant and the records they are seeking. But companies could add a term or agreement to their user policy that allows law enforcement access to credit card records without a warrant. The card companies could give in to the pressure to make gun purchases open to government searches. The companies might do this since they don't want to anger the U.S. government.

**"But paying with cash prevents your bank from knowing your business."**

Finally, while I wouldn't advise anyone to go into debt (because, if not managed tightly it can spin out of control and become insurmountable), if you have no other way to buy guns or ammo, you could consider talking to your bank about a small loan.

For instance, if you are in good standing with your bank, you could likely get a small personal loan for \$1,000 or whatever you needed. You obviously don't have to tell them what it's for and there is no reason they need to know, especially with a loan this small. But again, I would only do this as a last resort.

The bottom line is this new policy by card companies is a step in the wrong direction. Whoever is obtaining the data from the companies won't know if you bought \$2,000 worth of guns or just bought a new safe. With the current administration labeling half the country as domestic terrorists and weaponizing government agencies against political rivals and citizens with opposing political views, your best bet is to keep your spending as private as possible, which is exactly what I'm doing. I always have large amounts of cash available — whether at home in a fireproof safe or in a storage unit that the government can't find and I encourage you to think about doing the same.

## Speedbox Endurance 40

For extreme storage solutions, the Speedbox collection is a family of heavy-duty containers and coolers designed by Special Forces veterans as a secure and durable way to move cargo. The boxes are designed to be stacked using the military's 463-L pallet system and they rest and lock into each other, so you can stack and organize them together.

The Speedbox Endurance 40 is designed to take a beating and keep your gear safe. It's built with a single-walled construction and no-flat off-road tires. It has a well-placed handle for pulling the box, even if it has a heavy load. From a security standpoint, the box has steel lock plates for padlocks. The lid is hinged and has a rubber gasket to keep the box waterproof and airtight.

When empty, the box weighs 51 pounds. It has a 40-gallon capacity. It is about 34 inches long, 21 inches wide, and 27 inches tall. The box has a 300-lb capacity.

The Speedbox Endurance 40 can serve a ton of purposes. You can use it for storing your survival gear, weapons, and food, or even use it as a range day box. It comes in black or tan colors.

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# CHINA “GOLD PLAN” TO OVERTHROW THE DOLLAR

## How Digital Currencies And Gold Stockpiles Threaten The U.S.

By Forest Hamilton  
*Universal Coin & Bullion*

In 2019, leading up to the 2020 COVID-induced recession, the share of foreign exchange transactions using the U.S. Dollar hit a healthy 88%. As the global health crisis blossomed and supply chains were disrupted, the U.S. budget deficits skyrocketed and countries looked within, making the dollar a less attractive worldwide currency.

For the first time since the late 90s, the dollar fell below 60% of global currency reserves. Many thought this was the beginning of the end of America's financial hegemony. But somehow, through global dollar dependence, business investment and consumer spending, the dollar has staged a comeback, reaching its highest value since 2002.

But this surge could make a quick reversal if China is able to finalize its digital currency plans. You see, China has been working on building its own, centrally controlled cryptocurrency since 2014 and it appears that we are nearing its inevitable release.

In 2020, The People's Bank of China (PBOC) filed 84 patents for a digital currency electronic payments system (DCEP). These patents were mainly focused on designing protocols meant to control the issuance and supply of digital renminbi and the framework for transacting interbank settlements, while integrating the new Central Bank Digital Currency with China's existing banking infrastructure.

This new digital currency will allow China's central bank to have an up to the second view of their entire financial picture by recording every

transaction made. China already collects an enormous amount of data on consumer spending through the more than 2 billion accounts registered between Tencent's WeChat Pay and Alibaba's Alipay, but this new digital currency would give them an unprecedented amount of data and global financial sway.

The global digital currency race has been churning beneath the surface for many years. But it appears to be coming to a head. The White House is hard at work on a digital dollar, recently stating it would help reinforce the role of the United States as a leader in the world financial system.

In March of this year, President Biden issued an executive order calling on multiple agencies to design a plan to regulate digital assets. This task force came up with nine reports, culminating with the Treasury Secretary, Janet Yellen, recommending that the U.S. “advance policy and technical work on a central bank digital currency or CBDC.”

So, if every major country is designing their own central bank digital currency, why would China's be a threat to the dollar? Veteran analyst and trader, Francis Hunt, believes that China holds the financial wild card: gold.

Hunt says that China has been hoarding gold in order to surprise the world by backing its digital currency with physical gold. On State of the Markets, Hunt said that all will be revealed when China launches its CBDC within months in the midst of the coming energy crisis.

**“For the first time since the late 90s, the dollar fell below 60% of global currency reserves.”**

“Russia and China — for credibility because this will be a new system — how will they be different? Everyone will be jaded on Government-based monetary systems. We are working our way into the final mega-problem to hit us, the northern hemisphere winter (and energy shortage). How do you get people to show confidence in a new system? Well, you're going to resort to something that is timeless, that is physical, and China's already been stacking.”

Hunt goes on to say, “there's your clue, I put it to you that people should be deep, deep, deep in physically held, non-ETF (Exchange Traded Funds) non-paper precious metals.”

While I'm not a famous financial analyst like Hunt, I have over 23 years of experience in the precious metals industry and couldn't agree with him more. I believe there will be a major energy crisis that China (and Russia) will strive to use to their advantage. Central Bank Digital Currencies are coming and now is the time to get physical gold while it is still available to the masses.

**[Publisher's Note:** For questions about buying gold and silver coins you can contact Forest Hamilton directly at [foresthamilton@universalcoint.com](mailto:foresthamilton@universalcoint.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.]

# BEST OPTION FOR ESCAPING AN EMERGENCY?

## Benefits Of A Bug Out Vehicle Versus Traveling On Foot

By EJ Snyder

*Former Army Ranger and Extreme Survivalist*

If you ever find yourself in an emergency where leaving home becomes essential to survival, implementing a pre-prepared bug out strategy - either on foot or in a bug out vehicle - can make all the difference.

If you have access to a car or other mode of transport, the decision to bug out by vehicle versus on foot will be largely determined by the conditions on the ground when disaster strikes (or is imminent), your geographical location, and the ability to get on the road before others have the same idea.

Additionally, I've outlined some of the major benefits of bugging out by vehicle, versus slinging a pack on your back and hoofing it.

The most obvious advantage of choosing to bug out by vehicle rather than on foot is the distance you'll be able to cover. If there's enough advanced warning of an impending event to get onto the road before everyone else, you'll be able to cover considerable distance on 4 wheels.

While a fully stocked bug out bag is good and should be included in your bug out vehicle regardless, a bug out vehicle provides more carrying space when you need to move fast.

So, if you want to evacuate an area with more supplies than a bag alone allows, or are leaving with a larger party, a loaded and ready bug out vehicle is your best bet.

To help you best prepare and stock your bug out vehicle, here is a list of the essential gear and supplies I recommend keeping in your vehicle:

A 2.5 gallon spare fuel can, heavy duty tow rope, seat belt cutter and emergency windshield hammer, portable vehicle jump-starter, Fix-A-Flat tire sealant, 5.5 gallon water storage can, a SurvFilter water filter, survival food and snacks like granola bars and beef jerky, folding pocket stove and fuel tablets, twenty-by-twenty tarp, long bungee cords, 100 feet of paracord, an emergency sleeping bag per person, a quality flashlight, survival first aid kit, shovel, axe, survival knife, and a good multi-tool. An optional addition would be a 40-channel CB radio and/or handheld walkie talkies.

In a disaster situation, mother nature is not necessarily going to be on your side and if conditions deteriorate, the protection offered by a bug out vehicle will ensure your progress isn't hindered by the weather. Similarly, with a few basic modifications, a bug out vehicle can serve as a good shelter for sleeping if required.

Weighing the pros and cons of preparing a bug out strategy for vehicle or foot should form the backbone of your preparedness planning. That said, if you decide a bug out vehicle is best for your situation and the needs of your current situation, it doesn't by any means make the need for a bug out bag obsolete.

If an additional disaster or emergency hits when you're on the road and you need to leave your vehicle for some reason, you must have a dedicated, standalone bug out bag as part of your preparations in your bug out vehicle.

The rule of thumb here is to still pack enough supplies in your backup bug out bag that should you need to ditch the vehicle and take off on foot quickly, you will have enough supplies to survive comfortably for at least three days.

Like a spare parachute in a plane, if your bug out vehicle runs into trouble on the road, you'll be glad your backup gear is close at hand. As I always preach, "Have a backup to the backup!"

So, use these tips and the essential gear list to help you decide the best option for your preparations and bug out planning. Whatever you decide, the most important part is to have a plan and let everyone in your family or group know about it and know their roles in the plan.



# DEVELOPING AN IRON-CLAD SURVIVAL MINDSET

## How To Effectively Use Bad News To Your Advantage

By Michael D.

*Former Clandestine Officer, CIA,  
DIA, NSA*

I had a trainee with me during his first combat pre-launch mission briefing. Like the other mission team members and I, he had invested over three years of intensive training to become qualified and prepared to serve as an airborne recon intelligence operative.

It was about 0330 hours local time and mission launch time was 0530 hours. We often had two-hour or longer mission briefings and launch prep time before wheels up for our missions. Our pre-mission briefings included a great deal of tactical and strategic information.

We had meteorologists brief us on all weather conditions, intelligence briefers addressed current events that could impact our mission, and the maintenance crew leader told us about the physical condition and special concerns with the airframe and electronics packages.

Additionally, we had a steady stream of special operations briefers that covered the areas of “special threat” briefings from our tactical advisory team, mission-specific intelligence targeting and details on any other US assets that would or could be in our area of operations during our mission time frame.

The weather briefings were always of great importance for several reasons. All airborne operations are affected by weather and that goes double for missions that require stealth and accuracy of navigation and target penetration. Because our missions were critical combat activities, they were prescribed directly from the JCS and that meant that little things like



typhoons did not stop our missions.

Our front-end crew (pilot, co-pilot, navigator) had to adjust to go through or around the weather obstructions. Standing down was not an option, and I flew many missions in storms so severe that they were a greater threat to our survival than the enemy aggressions against us.

Our intelligence briefers covered the more strategic threats that would be evidenced in enemy tactical activities. For instance, if our target country was in a specific dispute with Washington D.C., we could expect very hostile and unprovoked assaults as a token of their displeasure with America.

On one mission, our President had just made public remarks about the leader of the country we were targeting for recon. Remarks that were far more than just disparaging. He basically called the foreign leader an idiot and Satan.

Our intel briefer informed us that

our enemy had moved special advanced combat intercept aircraft to airfields along our flight path. It was the first time those threat packages were deployed to be specifically in range of American activities.

Furthermore, intelligence collection revealed that they intended to shoot down our mission aircraft that day with their new toys to send a very clear message to Washington and especially to our President. While we faced the risks of being shot down on every mission, briefings like that one helped us be better prepared to avoid their attacks.

To the best of my recollection, every briefing by maintenance included a rather lengthy list of “damaged, non-operational, intermittent, unreliable, and possibly malfunctioning” equipment, parts, or electronics on the airframe. A good example of items on that list was the “cracked-wing” waiver for bort number 315.



While coming in extra hot for the landing, the bird skidded and fishtailed so badly that the right wheel left the paved runway and dropped into the dirt. That dropped the right wing so much that the tip glanced along the ground and damaged the junction where the wing attaches to the fuselage. So, every mission in that airframe required the “cracked wing-waiver.”

But the briefings that usually caused the most concentration and note-taking were the ones that addressed threats to the mission. Threats that could blow us out of the sky in an instant. We would get detailed information on enemy naval vessels that would be in range of our aircraft with ship-to-air missiles, ground sites with active surface-to-air (SAM) missiles capable of reaching our mission aircraft, and enemy fighters and interceptors that could get close to us fast enough to shoot us down.

Based on continuous, intensive intelligence collection efforts against these targets, our detailed briefings included such deep-level particulars as the names of the crew members that were manning the weapons systems that day, modifications to the range, targeting, velocity, or weapons performance characteristics, and every other morsel of information that could possibly be helpful to us.

They would brief us on precisely how many missiles each specific weapon had on hand to fire at us, the probability of hitting us if fired

within specific parameters, the likelihood of each of the weapons crews firing at our plane, and our odds of survival based on the particular weapon targeted at us.

I noticed that my trainee was not paying close attention to the threats briefing. After the conclusion of the briefings, I asked him why he was so inattentive. He told me that he did not like bad news, especially bad news that he could not do anything about. He tried to explain to me that if a SAM site locked on and launched a missile at us that there was nothing that he could do about it, so why worry about it?

I hear that same sentiment voiced frequently nowadays. People do not want to hear any more bad news because they feel like there is nothing they can do about what is happening, so why pay attention to it?

This is what I told him and this is how I feel about the increasing phenomenon of ignoring bad news: Bad news is the most important news. Even though you cannot necessarily stop what might happen, you can use the information you get from the bad news report to predict, mitigate or avoid and possibly even make a plan for a more rapid recovery.

Most people react to bad news emotionally. They hear that an 18-wheeler plowed into several cars during heavy rains, and their thoughts go to the victims, and they might get angry at the truck driver.

A more beneficial reaction would be to pay close attention to your following distance and the distance of the vehicle behind you. Look for the cautionary advice in bad news and stop focusing on how the news makes you feel.

In the case of my trainee, I asked him what he would do during the mission if the Russian Moskva aircraft carrier was within 50 nautical miles of us and launched an aircraft in response to our presence. He said “double check my parachute and kiss my \*\*\* goodbye.” I told him it would be a wasted kiss because the Moskva only carried helicopters — none of which would be a threat to us.

Ignoring bad news does not make it go away, it only increases the odds of getting hurt by the threat. Learn to listen for details and information in bad news. Allow bad news to be your mission briefing. Actively choose to not get emotional about it. Instead, use that information to plan on how to survive the situation and deal with the consequences. “Bad news” will become instructive when properly viewed and interpreted.



## SAVINT

### YOUR MONTHLY SAVINGS INTELLIGENCE

We recently released our mystery spy gear. This piece of gear is awesome and you can get it for over 70% off if you watch the short video at [www.MysterySpyGear.com](http://www.MysterySpyGear.com).

If you’re like others, you’ll absolutely love what’s in this mystery gear box.

# PERSEVERANCE, SACRIFICE AND THE “ANGEL OF DEATH”

## Developing A Spec Ops Mindset For Uncertain Times

By Dr. Omar Hamada  
*Special Operations Physician*

Last month, we once again remembered the tragedy of September 11, 2001. You probably remember where you were that day — the day everything changed. But what you may not remember is where you were a year later. Twenty years ago, on the evening of September 11, 2002, I was aboard a USAF AC-130 Spectre gunship, also known as the “Angel of Death”, meting out justice on the terrorists below.

The Spectre is a flying fortress outfitted with a 105 mm hand-loaded M102 Howitzer and 100 rounds with a firing rate of approximately eight rounds per minute, a 40 mm L60 Bofors belt-fed cannon with 256 rounds and a firing rate of 120 rounds per minute, and two 20 mm M61 Vulcan six-barrel Gatling-style air-cooled electrically fired rotary cannons each firing up to 6,000 rounds per minute. It's got a whole host of other defensive countermeasures and offensive weaponry that are frankly amazing.

We had taken off from a secret Russian airbase in southern Uzbekistan and were flying over central Afghanistan. As a U.S. Army Special Forces Flight Surgeon, I basically had the run of the ship. I spent much of the mission on

the flight deck with the pilots and watched as they lazed the targets below, set the autopilot, and let the computers guide the aircraft as we flew a racetrack around the targets while the guns in the back let loose destroying the enemy. I flew a large U.S. flag on board that night on the first anniversary of 9/11. I still have that flag hanging in a shadow box on my office wall.

So, what does this have to do with survival medicine? It's a reminder that in life we sacrifice our safety and wellbeing for things that matter. The men and women on United Airlines Flight 93 certainly did. They chose to risk dying sooner and to experience a slower and more painful death than they had to in order to save others on the ground. Most times our sacrifices are ones of comfort and convenience. Cancelling dinner with friends to go to our kid's ball game. Spending savings to put our kids through college. Foregoing a planned vacation to help an ill colleague.

But sometimes, we are called on to stand up and sacrifice our own safety - and even our family's security — in order to preserve our faith, our lives, and our freedoms.

This October we're celebrating my Special Forces unit's 20th reunion from when we were on the ground fighting terrorists. Some I have not seen since our return. Others

spilled their blood on the battlefield and will not be there. Though I am excited and looking forward to our reunion, I am pensive about those lost - those who sacrificed it all. I'm sure there will be laughter. I am afraid there will also be tears.

It's no secret that our nation is in trouble and that we are living in very dangerous times. Many people are angry and it feels as though society is a powder keg ready to explode. But it's not just our nation — it's the entire world.

We're being distracted by constant chaos and rage meant to keep us from noticing the erosion of our freedoms and Constitution. We are distracted by wars and rumors of war. It's why the team here at Spy Briefing does what we do. We're here to help you prepare for what may come as society unravels and we seem to get closer to anarchy — or even worse — as we get closer to authoritarian weaponization of government against the citizens it serves with increasingly aggressive suppression of opposition and dissent.

We are here to help you build resilience during an unknown future. In fact, if you're prepared, the most aggressive growth is historically seen in times of great national and global stress. Today is where you make your legacy. Today is where you become the cornerstone for your sphere of influence.

No fear, no paranoia. Instead, preparation, hope, confidence, courage, and leadership. It's time to dial in your purpose, hold your head high, and lead well. Avoid evil, pursue what is right. Like Billy Graham once said, “No reserve. No regret. No retreat.” Be well and let us know what you need.



# THE (POTENTIALLY) FATAL FLAW IN MOST MARTIAL ARTS

## A Simple 3-Part Strategy For Surviving Mass Attacks

By Matt Numrich

*Head Instructor Of Spy Black Belt*

One thing my decades of martial arts training has taught me is to train for everything. As I've studied different martial art curriculums and observed lesson plans from a vast array of arts, I'm amazed at two commonalities.

The first is that different arts don't train for defending against multiple attackers. Second, people make many simple mistakes when it comes down to fighting off more than one assailant.

Much of the mass attack training I have seen reminds me of a "Billy Jack," or "Matrix like" strategy of going back and forth between multiple opponents. A sequence of martial arts photos usually shows a second or third attacker "frozen in time" as one guy gets pummeled. But this isn't reality. In a fight, there is the issue of constant movement which these experts don't really address. Attackers don't just line up and take a number to receive their beating.

The fact is that gang attacks, where two or three people attack one person simultaneously is not only normal out on the street, it's the main strategy used by attackers in the street to raise the probability of success.

I like to focus on three steps or important points to center most of my self-defense strategies around. A one step answer would be nice, but you need to plan and train to deal with contingencies. Therefore, there are three steps in my mass attack strategy. As a supplement for you, I've created a short video that will go over the three steps, which you can view by typing in the following URL: [www.KillStrikes.com](http://www.KillStrikes.com).

The first step when defending yourself against multiple attackers is to grab an equalizer. I define an equalizer as anything you can pick up to throw at or strike your opponents with.

Why is this the first step? Because when dealing with more than one attacker you are already at a disadvantage regardless of how tough you think you are. So, if you don't have a gun or a knife, picking up a tire iron, fist full of gravel, bottle, stick, or chair will at the very least make the attackers think twice, if not turn them off from attacking you.

Full disclosure: This may cause them to find a weapon as well, therefore, you must use your equalizer immediately if they decide to try and grab their own equalizer.

Whether you use a weapon or not, the second step is to "zone" around the aggressors. Zoning is the simple act of moving yourself so that you put one person in front of the other. This gives you an opportunity for a short burst of time to act on just one opponent while the others are forced to delay attacking you to move around their partner.

Zoning is vital because the worst thing for you is to get caught in the middle of two (or more) people. Getting in the middle is a cardinal sin.

Now, after you zone properly, use whatever one-on-one strategy you'd employ if you were just fighting one person. Use quick and brutal strikes like punches and kicks and



then incorporate the final step in the strategy.

The final step is to use continuous footwork to always keep that "one-on-one stack" that your zoning initially gave you. The second person in line will not wait his turn, so make your strikes direct and vicious, while continuously zoning, to keep one person blocking the other. This is the reason I believe tools such as elbows, jabs and even head butts work so well here.

It is easy for us to train what you are good at, and even easier to stay away from what you are not good at. But your goal should be to keep training the fundamentals, not only for one-on-one attackers, but also mass attacks. Break this strategy down into steps and leave any wild and crazy variables out until you have the basics down.

There is no doubt that fleeing a mass attack is the intelligent first choice. However, many times we don't have that luxury. Using the three steps of "equalizer, zoning and footwork" will increase your chances of survival in these dangerous assaults, which should always be the main goal of your self-defense.