

The Appalachian Messenger



VOL. 02, NO. 30

WWW.APPALACHIANMESSENGER.INFO

July 22, 2016

Bring It On

By Robert Gore, *Financial Editor*



Five words are important now: failure, exposure, rejection, repression, and war. The status quo has failed on multiple fronts. Its failures and corruption are being exposed, its governance and legitimacy questioned and rejected. The response is all too predictable: repression at home, war abroad. The Clintons represent the toxic confluence, the maelstrom's vortex, and Hillary Clinton will press the powers' response.

Anything but free market economics is a redistributive shell game with a sell-by date. Government debt, spending, and programs, redistribution, and central bank debt monetization and interest rate suppression have passed their expiration, leaving mountains of IOUs that will never be repaid and prostrate economies in the first thralls of a deflationary contraction that will be one for the ages. Particular rancid: illusory, credit-based wealth has gone to a small, well-connected coterie who access microscopic interest rates for financial engineering and speculative fun and games. Left behind: honest producers and savers, who have seen their incomes shrink and the economy wither.

Not content to lay waste to their own countries, the powers have visited their destructive and murderous mayhem upon wide swathes of the globe. Seeking to impose order they have instead promoted chaos, failed states, refugee flows, and the spread of terrorism. Stuck in costly and inconclusive quagmires in second-tier states, the US war lobby seems intent on provoking decidedly first-tier Russia and China, with a concomitant escalation of negative consequences. You can't get any bigger, or potentially more suicidal, than war with the second and third largest nuclear-armed powers.

Propaganda, indoctrination, a captive press, and widespread obliviousness and passivity will only take the incompetent and corrupt governing class so far. There's too much to be swept under the rug. Eventually notice is taken of the telling details. The economy is going nowhere. The US has been in Afghanistan for fifteen years and in Iraq for thirteen. The capital is an overflowing cesspool; the Clintons being the most visible and malodorous turds floating by on that river of filth. The Internet has shone a light on failure and corruption, but even the mainstream media take note, if only in passing, before it exculpates those responsible.

Exposure and anger concern the powers—they threaten the façade of legitimacy—but outright rejection would be intolerable. Never has an aristocracy exercised such power, lived so opulently, and received such publicity, adulation, and deference. Popular discontent given full vent and expression would threaten all that, and could lead to prison, or worse.

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SHTF Intelligence: Getting Started (Part One)

By Samuel Culper, *Intelligence Editor*

Why do I need intelligence?

Because everyone has blind spots. A common theme in the preparedness community is beans, bullets, and band-aids. We need food and water to survive, we need medicine to treat injuries and illness, and we need guns and ammo for defense... but against whom?

In a Shit-Hits-The-Fan (SHTF) or survival situation, if we're dumping hundreds or thousands or more dollars into beans, bullets, and band-aids, doesn't it stand to reason that we should investigate our surroundings as well? I think so. I was a military and contract intelligence analyst, and we in this country are likely to face a lot of the same types of situations that we dealt with in Iraq and Afghanistan:

Our neighbors and the populace -- are they for us or against us?

What are their politics and attitudes? Which households should we approach to build community security in a SHTF situation?

Which households will be adversarial to us?

Key Human Terrain -- who wields influence in the area? Where do the nearest tradesmen, engineers and medical professionals live in case we need their help?

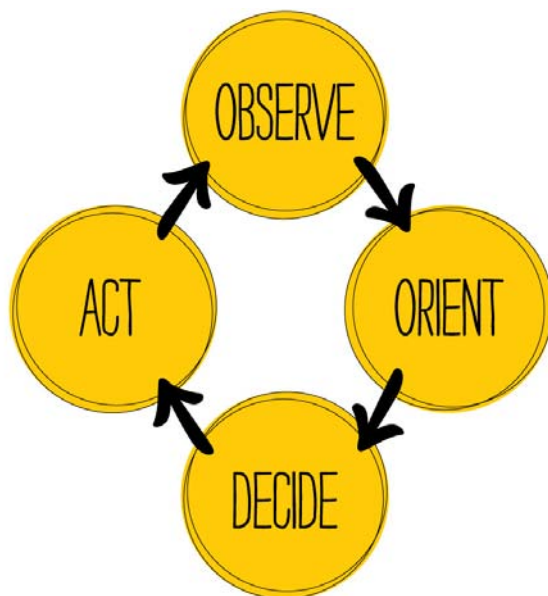
Known Bad Guys -- who are the active criminals and gangs in the area? What are their activities and how can we identify their indicators?

Future Bad Guys -- who's likely to engage in criminality in the future? Which parts of the population are going to resort to criminal behavior in a time of need? Most importantly, in what areas will they be active and how will they affect my community?

Law Enforcement -- how will they respond to a SHTF situation? If they're going home, as is often assumed, then where do they live and how can we work with them?

Critical Infrastructure -- what keeps the world spinning in our area? Do we have critical infrastructure that would invite armed security or suggest an increase in criminal activity? Where can we get the things

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Changing The World, Slowly

By Paul Rosenberg



Those of us who have seen beyond the noise and confusion of the present world system tend to become urgent about other people seeing the same things. And while this impulse may be understandable, it's not realistic. By refusing to let go of it, we frustrate ourselves and subvert our efforts to help others.

It makes no sense to sprint when the race is actually a marathon.

The Hurry-Up Method Doesn't Work

First of all, the "accept everything I say right now" method spawns bitter intellectual battles, requiring people to say, "You're right and I'm wrong; the foundation of my life is stupid." People won't do that, and demanding it turns us into intellectual bullies.

Second, people change in steps, not all at once. And those who do change all at once usually are unstable people who will change in a different direction soon enough.

Third, the demand for fast change drives us into totalitarianism. The only fast way to get everyone to live our way is to force them... which is why hardened ideologues always love a strongman ruler – he can force everyone to do as they wish.

Finally, the demand for instant change – followed by continual rejections of that demand – spawns an "us against them" mindset. And that leads to all sorts of dark places.

What Does Work

What works is the slow, persistent planting of good seeds: showing kindness, expressing clear and pertinent ideas, absorbing the knee-jerk abuse, and persisting in this over many years. Whether we like this or not, it's the only thing that works.

The seeds we plant do have an effect, but it's a slow process. We plant the seeds, water them if we can, and still it takes years for the fruit to show up. But again, whether we like it or not, this is what works.

If you'd like a historical example of this, look no farther than the early Christians. At first routinely hated, they persisted in behaving well, loving each other, and loving everyone else. And over time, they won over millions of Romans. The Caesars stopped persecuting Christians mainly because the Roman people (including millions of non-Christians) knew that the Christians were decent people and objected to them being abused.

A Double Illustration

At some point in my 30s, I noticed there was very little elegance left in the world. The only elegance I saw was a fake kind, like dressing in very expensive clothing and showing off at very expensive events. But that's a demonstration of status rather than elegance.

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Changing The World, Slowly

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I remembered real elegance, strangely enough, from the old "Negro" men and women I used to ride the bus with during my youth. These people had little money, riding city busses rather than driving cars, but they had authentic elegance. That is, they sat up straight, spoke clearly and well, and treated me, at perhaps nine years old, with kindness and with dignity. They also dressed nicely. It was easy to respect them.

I've never forgotten two of these people in particular, nor the dignity they displayed. So, this is the first illustration. Simple good behavior in daily life – in this case a few bus rides – left a lasting impression on a boy they didn't know and bore fruit that long outlasted their own lives.

And remembering that elegance led me to my second illustration.

At some point in the 1990s, and probably toward the middle of the decade, I noticed the inelegance of a very common interchange: "How are you"? "I'm good".

Grammatically, this is wildly incorrect. Our health may be good, or we may do good, but we ourselves are not good – that would be like saying "I am goodness." The correct thing to say is, "I am well." That's far more elegant than "I'm good," and it couples very nicely with "thank you."

So, beginning roughly twenty years ago, I began to routinely say, "I'm well, thank you." And I found that I liked it a great deal; it added a bit of elegance to my life and to the world around me.

So far as I could tell, however, I was the only person in the city of Chicago – or anywhere else – who was saying this. People looked at me oddly almost every time I used the phrase. They seemed confused, but they did comprehend my meaning. And so, liking the phrase and liking to inject a bit of elegance into the world, I kept using it.

And then, in only the past five years or so, I've begun to hear it from strangers. It has, apparently, caught on. Of course it's unlikely that this change is wholly attributable to me, but it still seems that my persistence paid off.

Things change slowly. In this case it appears to have taken 15 years of persistence.

This is how improvement really works. We have to let go of our demands for instant progress and latch on to the beauty of slow but real change. As the Bible says in one place: By your endurance you will gain your lives.

Persist, my friends; run the marathon; it's what works.

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War II. It embraces her not merely because she is emblematic, but because she will implement naked repression and wage wars, its last resorts to hold on to power. She's never met a "national security" measure or war she didn't love. The FBI's refusal to recommend charges despite Hillary's obvious criminality appears to be the aristocracy's take-off-the-kid-gloves moment.

In their folly, the rulers have isolated themselves from the ruled. Never underestimate the former's stupidity, born of isolation and arrogance, nor the intelligence and resourcefulness of the latter. Resort to repression and war is weakness, not strength, and in so doing, the aristocracy is taking a gamble it cannot win.

It is a curious sort of tyranny that extracts its sustenance from the tyrannized, must borrow from them, and relies on them to accept its intrinsically valueless scrip as a medium of exchange. How strong can a tyranny be if it can be brought to its knees if the tyrannized were to stop working, lending, or accepting its scrip? If that seems farfetched, observe the frantic exertions the powers undergo to stop systemic runs on banks and other financial institutions. Why? Because all financial institutions are leveraged speculators, and if what they hold as assets decline in price sufficiently, their equity is gone and they are bankrupt. Bankrupts by definition cannot pay all their liabilities, and those liabilities are the public's assets.

As we saw in 2008, once enough assets are meaningfully impaired (as they inevitably will be, again), the whole scrip-based financial system unravels. Ultimately governments backstop much of the financial system's scrip-based liabilities with...scrip based liabilities! The only thing that gives those liabilities any value are people's willingness to accept them and an implicit and often broken promise by politicians and central bankers not to create too many of them. Right now, they are breaking that promise and doing everything possible to undermine the value of their own scrip. That's Alice in Wonderland, not 1984.

If the aristocracy's dreams come true, they will destroy what's left of the illusion of value of their scrip and consequently, destroy their ability to acquire resources outside commandeering them, or theft. That's a one-off, as Venezuela has demonstrated. People stop producing; businesses close or flee. Totalitarianism isn't free. Prisons, concentration camps, weapons, soldiers, surveillance, and police cost money, and the expense is only partially offset by slave labor, which, once all its costs are properly accounted for, confers very little, if any, economic benefit.

But, never underestimate the stupidity of the aristocrats. Let's say the US government descended into full-on totalitarianism. This is the same government that couldn't subdue Vietnamese in Vietnam, Afghans in Afghanistan, Iraqis in Iraq, Syrians in Syria, Libyans in Libya, or Yemenis in Yemen. Nevertheless, it will attempt to subdue Americans in America, who collectively are far better armed (thank you, NRA) than any of the insurgencies in those other countries.

Of course, many Americans are sheep so the resistance would be a subset, but the daunting math of fighting insurgents on their own territory, according to military expert Richard Maybury, is about 20 military personnel for each domestic guerrilla fighter. So even if only a million US insurgents resist, probably a low estimate, it would require 20 million government personnel to suppress them, not to mention what would be necessary to maintain order should any collateral chaos and violence, including racial and ethnic animosities, erupt. Currently, there are a little over 2 million active and reserve personnel in the military, and about 1.1 million in law enforcement, and some of both are administrative personnel who would not participate in suppression or combat. The government is stockpiling weaponry, but where does it find at least 17 million recruits to pull the triggers and drive the MRAPS, and with what will it pay them?

Pity the police and the military. They will be caught between the dictates of an aristocracy that couldn't care less about them and an insurgency bent on killing them. They would be ordered to fire on fellow Americans: neighbors, friends, and family members. There are plenty of praetorian thugs who would do so, but some would quit. Some might join the resistance, providing expertise and leadership. Already retired police and military, disgusted by the current state of affairs, would be another potential resistance recruiting pool.

Incidentally, today's command and control systems require computers. The Chinese and Russians have hacked sensitive government computers with impunity. If the US government went after its own people, would there be any shortage of home-grown hackers volunteering to bring down its systems?

To paraphrase John F. Kennedy, **if the aristocrats make peaceful and necessary change impossible, they will make violent resistance inevitable.** It's not a war they can win, but if it's a war they are too foolish and arrogant to avoid, bring it on.

Westcliffe Open-Carry

By T. L. Davis



On July 4th, in small town America, a large group of intrepid patriots bucked imported liberal politics to stand up and walk behind a banner that reads: Southern Colorado Patriots Club. It has not been an easy road to get an Open-Carry contingent in the annual parade.

Mike Hess spoke passionately about the attempts to derail their efforts over the years. "They wanted to cancel the whole thing, rather than let us march," he said, sweating after the nearly one-mile hike at altitude in the hot sun. "One year, they wanted to let us march, but without even a banner or weapons, or at the end of the rally. There goes the Second Amendment and the First Amendment."

But in the rural, mountain town of Westcliffe, CO, where those marching with AR-15's slung across their backs call the Sheriff's Deputies by name and stop to shake their hands, the liberal fear of a gun takes a back seat. This is especially

true where Mike Hess and George Gramlich have taken on the local liberal newspaper by starting the Sangre De Cristo Sentinel, a conservative newspaper that boasts 20+ pages with extensive advertisements.

It was an honor to march with these patriots on the Fourth of July. At first, I came to support them, but as we moved down the crowded street and those watching from the sidewalks waved and cheered for this group of patriots, I felt like the one who was being supported. It is easy to fall into the habit of thinking that everyone is against patriotic feelings in America. No one remembers how we started this nation and the lives that have been given to maintain it for 240 years (depending on when you start the clock). However one might go to Westcliffe and discover that there are a lot of Americans who remember what it took and know what it will take to maintain the liberties we have come to rely on over that time.

At the end of the parade, I spent some time at the Sentinel offices where a number of people had gathered to give their thanks to Mike Hess and George Gramlich. Those gathered were and are as big a part of the success of the Open-Carry event and the newspaper as either of them, because without readers (such as those who read this) there is little one can do to spread the message of liberty. Without those willing to march down a street with weapons carried openly, the certainty of the Second Amendment is lost.



SHTF Intelligence: Getting Started (Part One) (Continued from page 1)

we need to maintain our survivability?

These are just a few questions that intelligence can answer. At the heart of intelligence is the ability to reduce uncertainty. If you're concerned about grid-down or financial collapse or the Golden Horde or some other event or threat, then some basic intelligence work should be at the top of your To Do list.

Ultimately, what intelligence brings to the table is an ability to make well-informed, time-sensitive decisions.

Colonel John Boyd, an Air Force fighter pilot, was the first to describe the decision-making process he called the **OODA Loop**. Because fighter pilots have to make split-second decisions, their ability to Observe a development, Orient to what that means, Decide which course of action they should take and then Act on it, is a critical part of their survivability in combat. Similarly, lots of tactical shooting trainers have incorporated the OODA Loop into their curriculum for the exact same reason.

That ability to Observe and Orient is the informational phase of the decision-making process. **Can you imagine getting into a gunfight if you can't see or hear your opponent?** Yet that's exactly what many are preparing to do on a larger level. We're limited by our field of vision and line of sight, but with an intelligence effort, we can begin to see well beyond just our line of sight.

So what intelligence allows us to do during a SHTF scenario is not just see our opponent, but potentially observe him before a conflict arises. This is called **Early Warning**, and it's one of the two key responsibilities of our community security element.

The second major responsibility is producing **Threat Intelligence**. Knowing that a gang is active in your area is a good first step. We need to move beyond our intuitive approach to information and start using a structured, methodical process to completely remove our blind spots. In essence, we need to graduate from mere information and start producing intelligence.

The difference between information and intelligence is simple: information is raw data, and intelligence is the evaluated, assessed, and synthesized information that answers, "So what?" Hearing that there was a murder in your community is not intelligence; it's just information. Identifying the perpetrator and his current location, finding out where and why the murder took place, determining how it's going to affect the community, and compiling it into a consumable product is intelligence.

We do this through the **Intelligence Cycle**. There are five phases and I'll briefly detail them in order. In Phase One, we understand our mission, assign analytic tasks and responsibilities, and begin generating our intelligence requirements (covered in the next section). In Phase Two, we task those requirements out for collection. Once that information is collected and reported, we start with Phase Three, where we analyze the incoming information. After filtering out the bad information, and analyzing the good information, we produce the actual intelligence. We provide predictive intelligence -- describing what might or is likely to happen in the future -- or estimative intelligence -- describing an organization's strength and capabilities. Finally, once we produce the intelligence, we need to ensure that it gets into the hands of the right people. In Phase Five, we disseminate the intelligence to our leadership, our community security team, or the community at large.

Let's start with Phase One. We need to generate some intelligence requirements, in other words statements or questions that describe intelligence gaps.

Let's say that you do have a gang in the area. What don't we know about that gang, but need to? Do we know how many members are associated with the gang? Do we know where those gang members hang out? Do we know where those gangs are criminally active? Do we know if certain areas are at a higher risk than others (and have we mapped out those areas)? There are potentially lots of intelligence gaps we have, especially if we expect them to be active in a SHTF scenario.

So we can take these questions and start a list:

1. How many members are in the Leroy Jenkins Gang?
2. What are the known hangout spots for Leroy Jenkins Gang members?
3. Identify all high-risk areas for Leroy Jenkins Gang activity.
4. Et cetera...

If we're building a house -- in our case, an intelligence product, then this list of requirements represents our building materials. This is all the information -- the lumber, nails, bolts, roofing shingles, doors, and windows -- we need to finish our intelligence estimate. Without knowing what we need, we won't build a very good house.

And thus ends lesson one. Head on over to our homework page for a practical exercise. I've also posted a video that will step you through the process of analyzing your community from multiple angles. For further information see www.readfomag.com/2016/07/shtf-intelligence-getting-started-part-one/.

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**CALENDAR OF
EVENTS**

Aug 9—DAV Monthly Meeting, Blairsville, GA, 7 pm – 8 pm. The Disabled American Veterans meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7pm in the Veterans Center. Held at the Veterans Building, 78 Old Blue Ridge Hwy. Blairsville. For information please contact Mike Ruback 954-249-2707.

Aug 9—Cherokee NC ARES Formal Meeting, Murphy, NC, 7 pm. Our regularly scheduled second Tuesday meeting at the Robert Penland Senior Center, 69 Alpine Street (behind the courthouse) in Murphy.

Aug 9—The Well Armed Woman, Georgia Mountain Chapter, Hayesville, NC. 5:30 p.m. A women's group dedicated to educating, equipping and empowering women gun owners. Meeting at Shooter's Exchange, 3280 NC Hwy 69, Suite 10, Hayesville, NC. For more information please contact Carrie Brekke at practicalpistoltraining@gmail.com.

Aug 11—The Well Armed Woman, Murphy Chapter, Murphy, NC, 6 p.m. A women's group dedicated to educating, equipping & empowering women gun owners. Meeting at Christian Martial Arts Center, 56 Valley River Ave, downtown Murphy.

Aug 13—Cherokee NC ARES Social Brunch, Murphy, NC, 10 am. Our regularly scheduled meeting on the third Saturday of each month. This is an opportunity for a social gathering and it will not involve any formal presentations or training. All those interested in amateur radio or just a good meal and fellowship are invited to attend. XYs welcome! Meeting at Main Street USA located on Hiwassee Street.

Aug 13—Western Carolina Amateur Radio Group Brunch, Murphy, NC, 10:00 am. Group meets on the second Saturday of each month at Main Street USA restaurant located on Hiwassee Street in Murphy.

Aug 20—NRA Basic Rifle Class, Murphy, NC. 8 am - 5 pm. This 8 hr. course teaches the basic knowledge, skills and attitude necessary for the safe use of a rifle in target shooting. Instruction will be taught by a Certified NRA Instructor and includes both classroom and range time. \$98. Instructor: Rick Klopp, Personal Defense Strategies. Class time to be held at 43 Tennessee St., Murphy. Contact David DeGerolamo, David@ncrenegade.com for more.

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