





**A Primer on Tactical Intelligence Collection** *(Continued from page 1)*

In the image found at the beginning of this article, we took information reported on local emergency frequencies and plotted those locations on the map using Google Earth. ‘Warfighter 33’ was the call-sign for the National Guard Tactical Operations Center, which was set up in the parking lot of the Target shopping center. We also pinned several National Guard posts as they reported their locations. It wasn’t rocket science, but it started to help us understand the security situation. This is a very rudimentary form of signals intelligence, or SIGINT.

Through the night, we continued to use photographs uploaded via sites and news articles in order to identify the photos’ locations. Then we plotted them on a map. Pretty soon, we had a very good idea of which areas were generally safe and which areas had the most activity as the riots progressed and eventually burnt out. Had we lived in Ferguson, we could have used this intelligence to navigate our way to friends and family, or to help friends and family navigate away from the threats. All this information was publicly available, so we call it Open Source Intelligence, or OSINT. (And with some very basic equipment, anyone can replicate this process for their own communities. Be sure to check out the [Ultimate ACE Startup Guide](#) at readfomag.com for additional information.)

**So what do I do if there’s a grid-down situation where there’s no electricity?**

That certainly complicates things. Before I answer that question, I want to ask you one: on a scale of 1 to 10, how important is intelligence in an emergency situation? (I would say 10, but I am admittedly a bit biased.)

First understand that there may still be electricity in a grid-down environment. As long as there are generators, and given that there’s not been an EMP, then someone somewhere will have electricity. My local law enforcement agency claims to have enough fuel for two weeks of backup power were things were to go sideways. That’s good to know, and it’s the benefit of intelligence collection before an event, as opposed to a post-event scramble. If they’re powered up and communicating during an emergency, or perhaps some ham radio operators are, then we still need the capabilities to listen in. Otherwise, we’re going to be at a severe disadvantage.

If there’s no power, then we’ll have to rely on Human Intelligence, called HUMINT. That means getting out and talking to people. It could mean a reconnaissance patrol. For hundreds of years before the advent of collection technologies, the horse-mounted cavalry were the eyes and ears of the commander. Snipers and forward observers sitting in hide sides, whose responsibility it is to get “eyes on target” — in other words, observing and reporting enemy activity — were often excellent intelligence collectors. An observation post equipped with a field phone, sending back intelligence information is another example of observing and reporting; in other words collecting and reporting intelligence information without electricity. A grid-down scenario certainly limits our collection capacity, but it shouldn’t negate it altogether.

**What are some considerations for human intelligence collection?**

Consider this: technology is a force multiplier. With SIGINT or OSINT, we can be very wide and very deep in our intelligence gathering. That’s a 1:n ratio. We have one collection platform, in this case maybe a radio receiver, and we can quickly scan radio frequencies to collect real-time or near-real-time information from anyone who’s transmitting. But when we deal with human intelligence, we’re often operating on a 1:1 ratio; that is, one collector speaking to one source at any given time. That’s a very slow and difficult way to do business.

So instead of 1:1, I want you to consider the scalability of that ratio. If one person is limited to gathering intelligence information from one person at a time, wouldn’t it make sense to scale the number of collectors upward? It absolutely would. Every set of eyes and ears is a sensor, so we as an intelligence element tasked with providing intelligence for community security should absolutely be interested in encouraging community members to passively collect lots of information. Every member of our community is a passive intelligence collector. They may not target individuals for recruitment or conduct source meetings, but we’re cutting ourselves short if we’re not consuming what they see and hear. All that information is reported back to us, and then we’re engaged in the arduous task of compiling and evaluating that information in order to create intelligence.

*Intelligence doesn’t produce itself, so it’s incumbent on us to build that capability.* The more accurate information we have, the more well-informed we can be. Without first being well-informed on the situation, making high-risk, time-sensitive decisions just got a whole lot more complicated.



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**Defeating Doomsday Derp: Part Three**

By John Meyers



*[The previous installments of this series (published in the 10/21/16 and 10/28/16 of The Appalachian Messenger) generated a number of comments. In an effort to help combat more Derp that is pervasive in the community, I offer part three. The purpose of this series is not to mock, but to educate. These tactical tidbits are an effort to save a lot of people time, money as well as mitigating a lot of bad habits and training scars. Let’s get right into it.] - JM*

**Israeli Carry**

**Often more hotly debated than 9 mike vs. 40sw vs. 357sig vs. 45acp vs. 46 vs. 10mm vs. 11 in some circles is whether it’s a good idea to actually carry a loaded gun.** The gun has a full magazine inserted, but an empty chamber. This is often called ‘Israeli Carry’ (IC) because it was and to my knowledge still is the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF).

The story as to how the IDF adopted the empty chamber method as explained by Jeff Bloovman of Armed Dynamics is said to have dated back to a time when the nation-state of Israel formed in 1948. The rag tag, untrained army had only mismatched weapons at the time, particularly pistols. With an amalgam of weapons ranging from Hi-Powers, 1911s, Lugers and others, it was hard to keep the guys from having Negligent Discharges (ND’s) and to teach all the myriad of different types of manipulations to work the safety on each different type of gun. So they came up with the idea of just having them run an empty chamber and having them rack the slide to load the gun upon engagement. While this SOP was developed for a specific reason, it’s lost on most modern practitioners. They believe themselves to be IDF operators, who upon contact will rack that slide, assume their half squat horse stance and get to work.

Entire YouTube video series exist about how a new concealed carrier can ease into working up to carrying a round in the chamber by using snap caps and other silliness. I could sum up this entire issue by simply saying, if you are not carrying a round in the chamber, you are WRONG, but let’s talk about some drawbacks to the method.

**Children.** It’s always the children. And Izzy Carry proponents waste no time in stating that carrying a loaded firearm in a quality holster around children lacks all sense. The argument is that a kid will rip the gun from the holster and shoot Tac-Dad in the head. This is merely a problem of not being in control of one’s own gun, which is probably one of the most important principles of responsible concealed carry.

This is a non-issue for a trained and responsible carrier. But let’s talk children for just one second. Imagine that the fight breaks out in whatever scenario gets your heart racing and you have the time and opportunity to draw a weapon in condition Izzy. You have your flailing and hysterical toddler in your other arm.

*(Continued on page 4)*

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 Benjamin Franklin

**Racist, Bigoted and Ignorant**  
*(Continued from page 1)*

**The average Trump voter has a job**, pays taxes and has grown tired of paying those taxes to a government that cannot enforce the simplest, most important laws where it concerns immigrants. It will gladly enforce those same laws against those already living in the United States legally of ALL races.

A lot of Trump voters voted for him knowing that the charge of "racism" was ridiculous. That almost every charge the fake news media spread about him was "fake news," so why should they pay any attention to it? The Melindas of the world believe the nonsense put out by the fake news media, no matter how many times it has been proven false, because they are, well, mentally ill. Anyone who believes ANY media as absolute truth at this point is an idiot, even when it concerns the "alt-right" media. We are no longer in a time when what appears to be true actually IS true. Educated people, like Trump voters, know this and use their own BS sensors to detect it. Pictures can be faked by the average 12 year old and memes can get started by a single Tweet. But, Melinda is incapable of giving the rural dirt dogs credit for actually being smarter than she is.

Trump did well with Latinos despite the fake news spread about his racist views. I know this, because I know numerous Latinos who voted for Trump and are proud of it, because it is their neighborhoods that are being flooded with cartel bag boys and Syrian jihadists. What the Melindas of the world don't understand is how utterly insensitive and racist it is to call all Latinos willing accomplices in crimes simply because of their race. That is the very definition of a racist, who sees a Latino as anti-American and criminal based on the color of their skin. In fact, some of the most patriotic Americans are Latinos who expect the government to protect their lands in Texas, New Mexico and Arizona that are being destroyed by the flood of illegal immigrants enticed to the United States by the promise of punishment-free carousing. Melinda appears to believe that these long-time American citizens would choose illegality over order based solely on their heritage. So, Melinda, is it a heritage thing that makes all Latinos criminals? Or, is it a racial thing? Either way, that is a very large demographic you just called criminals or complicit in illegal activity. It is racist, bigoted and ignorant.

What Melinda doesn't understand is that being bigoted against Christians includes being bigoted against millions of African Americans, Mexican Americans, Chinese Americans, etc. She is ignorant of the millions of Christians being persecuted in Muslim nations, or more likely just doesn't care. She does not understand that being racist against whites does not exempt one from being a racist, it just means they think they have found a "free target" for their racism, much the same, by the way, that white people felt about black people a few decades ago. What reflection will Melinda have when the rules change again in a decade or so and the racism being exhibited now against whites will be met with derision and scorn? Is she ready for that sudden awakening? The whites of 1960's have been humiliated for their "free target" racism of the past. Will the pantsuit be the next "white robe?" All of racism is against someone that is incapable of fighting back, who, for one reason, or another, be it race, nationality or religion, are in a weak political position. The fact is, I expect African Americans to lead the charge against white racism, because, unlike Melinda, I think there are millions of African Americans who are ashamed of the behavior of Black Lives Matter and thugs like her.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Jan 21—Introduction to SYSTEMA, a Russian Martial Art**, Blairsville, GA. 10am - 5pm. Popular among police and security forces, SYSTEMA focuses on breathing, relaxation, and fluidity of movement, as well as utilizing an attacker's momentum against him and controlling the six body levers (the elbows, neck, knees, waist, ankles, and shoulders) through pressure point application, striking, and weapon applications. To be held at 226 Gainesville Hwy, Suite C, Blairsville. \$49 (includes lunch). **Pre-registration required.** Contact Rick Klopp at PersonalDefenseStrategies@hotmail.com, 706.781.4526 to sign up.

**Jan 21—Tri-State Model Railroaders Open House**, Mineral Bluff, GA 10:00 am-2:00 pm. Come and see a model railroad layout depicting Copper Basin Railroading in the early. Learn how railroads played such an important role in the development of the Tri-State area and the unique history of the restored historic brick depot. From Hwy 60, to 150 Railroad Avenue, Mineral Bluff. Contact 828-361-2210 for further information.

**Feb 13—The Well Armed Woman, Georgia Mountain Chapter**, Blairsville, GA. 5:30 p.m. A women's group dedicated to educating, equipping and empowering women gun owners. Meeting at 226 Gainesville Hwy, Suite C, Blairsville, GA 30512. or more information please contact Carrie Brekke at twawgeorgiamountainchapter@yahoo.com for information.

**Feb 14—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.

**Feb 14—Cherokee NC ARES Formal Meeting**, Murphy, NC, 7 pm. Our regularly scheduled second Tuesday meeting at the Robert Penland Senior Center, 69 Alpine Street in Murphy.

**Feb 16—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. Contact Carrie Brekke at twawcherokeecountyncchapter@gmail.com for information.

**Feb 18—7<sup>th</sup> Annual Fire and Ice Chili Cook Off Festival**, Blue Ridge, GA. 12pm-4pm. To be held at the Downtown City Park, the festival will happen come rain, snow or shine! Mark your calendars for live music, ice sculptures and amazing chili! Buy a \$10 Tasting Card to sample the competition and vote for the People's Choice Award. Enjoy Live Music and entertainment from Blue Ridge Community Theater. An amazing display of individual and unique ice sculptures from the award winning, National Ice Carving Champion "Rock on Ice" including several ice carving demonstrations. Call 706-946-2030 for more information.

**Classes Announced -How To Prepare For Future Uncertainties**



The **Appalachian Homesteaders' Network** ("AHN"), an organization in Western NC and North Georgia, hosted a "Prepper Fair" on Alarka Road in October, to increase citizens' awareness of issues raised by FEMA. The demand for more information has been so great that a local affiliate of AHN, the "Bryson City Cannery", is hosting a series of programs to help people understand what they need to do to be prepared for the number of threats that we face to our way of life. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

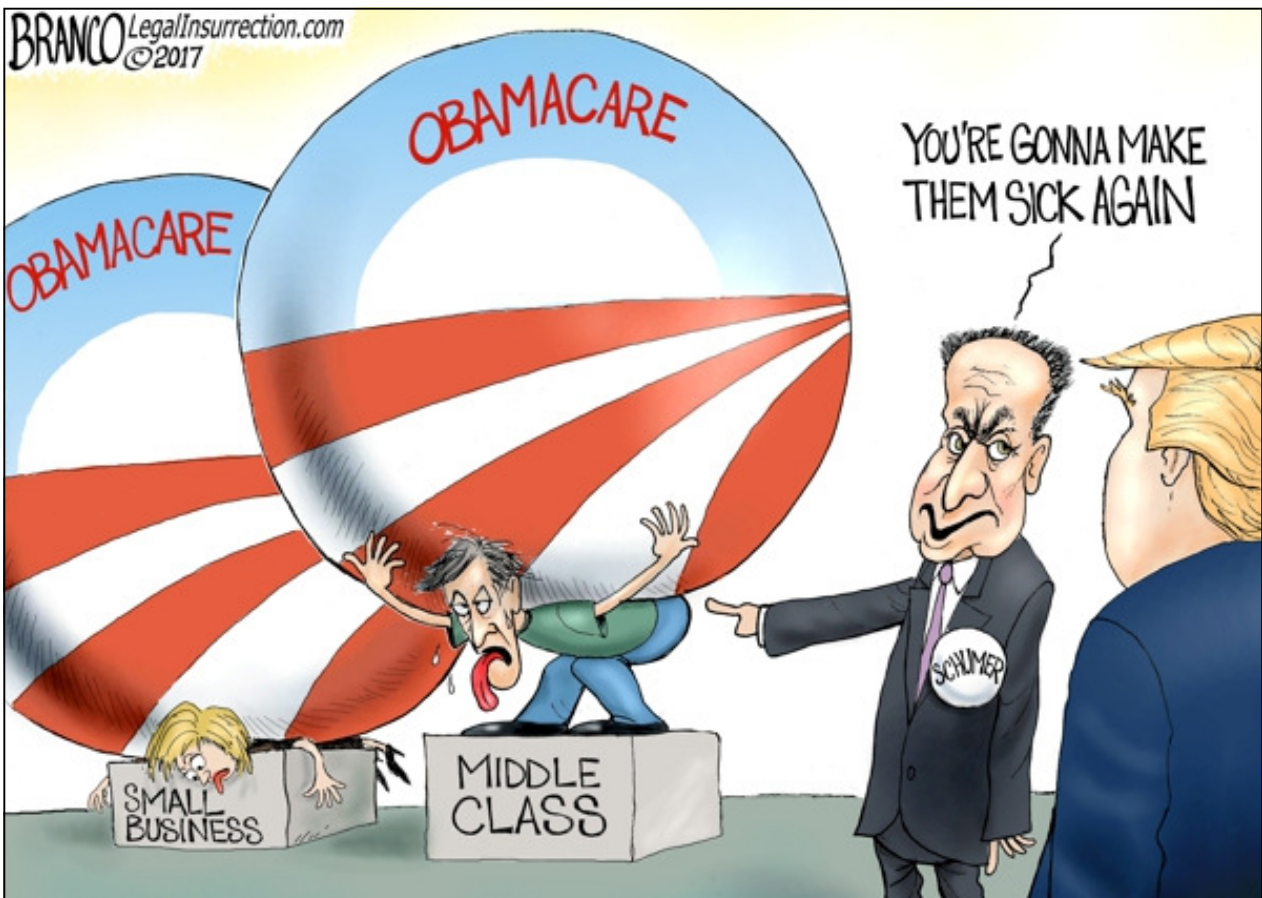
All presentations are from 7:00 - 9:00 PM and will be held in the Community Room at the back of the Marianna Black Library in Bryson City - 33 Fryemont Road which is the corner of Academy and Rector (south extension of Everett Street).

For now, the series includes:

- **January 24** - "Raising Critters - Chickens, Rabbits, Goats and Bees"
- **February 7** - "Energy Sources and Uses - Now and in the Future"
- **February 21** - "Food Preservation"

Other presentation will be announced in the future.

For further information, please e-mail [AliceSmith9876@aol.com](mailto:AliceSmith9876@aol.com).



By A. F. Branco, [legalinsurrection.com/tag/a-f-branco/](http://legalinsurrection.com/tag/a-f-branco/)



## Trenches, Human Nature, and Numbers *(Continued from page 1)*

**As trench-mates they'll have the media**, whose already vicious attacks will only intensify. In his 2002 book *Bias*, former CBS journalist Bernard Goldberg noted that media coverage of homelessness came and went with Republican and Democratic administrations. We'll soon see a jump in articles on homelessness and every other suddenly pressing socioeconomic problem imaginable. Those problems worsened during Obama's tenure, but the media refused to take notice. Trump won't even get a honeymoon before they're "rediscovered."

Good news will be distorted or ignored. December's unemployment numbers will be the last major economic statistic to receive favorable spin. Any stats positive to Trump will be discounted as Obama residuals (if his blame of Bush is any indication, he'll be taking credit for good numbers for at least four years), or the mainstream media will "discover" statistical flaws bloggers have been talking about for years.

How long before this war takes its toll on Trump and team? Human nature is human nature. Even if Trump is a rock, many of his team will go native in Washington. Why bear the slings and arrows, risking reputation and career for an amorphous cause like "Drain the Swamp," when it's so much easier and remunerative to play the power game? Washington and the media love nothing more than principled foes who turn into "pragmatic" friends. Ask David Brock.

**What principles will anchor Trump's presidency?** Social mood carries presidents and stock markets on its ebbs and flows. What happens when the ebullience ebbs, the stock market heads south, and the economy falters? Does Trump increase or decrease the government's intervention? Borrow more money? Raise or lower taxes? Who or what does he scapegoat if a wall, tariffs, promises of renewed corporate investment in the US, and infrastructure spending don't cure what ails the economy? Does he divert attention with a new war somewhere? Does he live with the inevitable criticism and dissent, or does he use the government's vast powers against his critics? Who knows? Human nature is human nature, and Trump is certainly human.

The numbers guarantee the ebb will come. Stocks fluctuate. Presidents are usually better off politically taking office when markets are down. Roosevelt assumed the helm the year after a major market low in 1932. Reagan took office a year and a half before another major low and thereafter was the beneficiary of positive social mood and a strong bull market. President Obama came to power just before the March 2009 low. Nixon, on the other hand, won a landslide in 1972 and was out of office two years later, after stocks tanked over 40 percent from their January 1973 peak. His fate is a caution to Trump supporters touting the current rally.

Stock market averages are unpredictable. More predictable are the consequences of two sets of hard numbers: debt and demographics. The national debt increased 88 percent during Obama's eight years, to \$19.976 trillion. A similar jump during the next eight years would take the debt to \$37.554 trillion.

The government paid \$432.64 billion in interest during 2016, at an average rate of 2.20 percent. Say historically low yields have bottomed and the trend is now up. If they return to the 4.785 percent the government paid when Obama took office, debt service on existing debt would be \$955 billion and \$1.797 trillion on that \$37.554 trillion. Nothing says a bull market in yields (a bear market in bonds) stops at 4.785 percent. The debt itself is not static, growing at close to 10 percent a year the last eight years, far faster than the US economy has ever grown. We're not going to grow our way out of this one. During the Obama administration real annual GDP growth never hit 3 percent.

Ugly demographics are kicking in. Baby Boomers are retiring. Birth rates having declined, fewer workers will be paying the taxes necessary to fund Boomers' old age and medical payments. Those entitlements follow the Ponzi model: promised payments are made from current contributions. Payments are not invested for the long-term and benefits do not come from investment returns (which the government requires for programs in the private sector). Payouts are already greater than pay-ins and the difference will only increase in the coming years.

Most of the developed world is facing the same debt and demographics issues. Total global debt tops 325 percent of global GDP. The nature of debt—one entity's debt is another entity's asset—and its dispersion throughout the world means that debt collapse and deflation will be global.

**Debt will define the Trump presidency.** Commendably, he has prompted a long overdue skepticism and perhaps rejection of the politics and governance that have brought the nation and the world to the edge of financial ruin. Some of the right questions are finally being asked. Trump may not be the right answer, but Washington is so far gone that there are no politically right—meaning acceptable to the electorate—answers. Spending will be cut, promises broken, and revenue raised as the government tries to bridge the ever-widening fiscal chasm. A soft default on government debt via hyperinflation or an actual default are strong possibilities.

Most of us who loathe and oppose the government and what it represents would take it as a victory if, at the end of Trump's presidency, the blob is slightly smaller, its tax receipts a little lower, it's marginally less powerful, and it's managing to live within its means. In a profoundly distressing way, as the government descends ever further into corruption and evil, it takes standards of acceptability, including those of its most ardent critics, with it.

## Defeating Doomsday Derp: Part Three

*(Continued from page 2)*

**You begin to develop tunnel vision** and auditory exclusion. You get an adrenaline dump. You have to clear your cover garment, and draw one handed. You cannot use your normal two-handed rack method. You are pressed against a wall so you cannot rack off your holster, one handed like you practiced at the range. Your front belt line is covered with your toddler's flailing leg. You are reduced to trying to bring your heel to your gun to rack that slide off of it. You lose your balance, fall and are now completely at a disadvantage in the fight. Would you rather have your gun loaded or unloaded in this situation?



### Let's talk about malfunctions

Lots of malfunctions are caused when chambering rounds. If you carry without a round in the chamber, during your load-under-stress sequence, if you get a failure to chamber, you just caused a whole other problem. You are willingly making the probability of a problem occurring during the opening of a fight more possible.

Let's set up another scenario. The fight begins, and you begin your Count Dracula draw stroke process, as soon as your gun hand indexes your holstered weapon, your strong side/weapon side arm gets shot. Your Brachial is nicked. Massive bleeding is occurring. That arm is useless. You cannot begin to work the MARCH protocol on yourself until you stop the guy from shooting at you. You must draw your weapon on your right side, with your left arm. You must then rack that weapon to chamber a round, and then get to work. In the mean time, the assailant's buddy begins to beat the ever-loving snot out of you with an iron pipe from 4 feet away. Do you believe it would advantageous to have a loaded gun in this instance or an unloaded one?

**People on the Internet make claims about these methods**, yet usually do not have any training time in any sort of real world context or force on force situations to actually vet their Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTPs) they are promoting as good advice. Not only does promotion Izzy carry generally show a lack of training from reputable sources, it also demonstrates a lack of confidence with the firearm.

We can demonstrably show which method of carry is more advantageous by simply suiting up, putting a UTM guy in your holster and letting your buddy start punching you in the junk while another restrains your arms and puts you in a head lock. Generally you get no Izzy Carry defenders volunteer to try this out. Just take an ECQC and I think you'll figure out quickly that empty chambers can get you 'kilt in da streets.' Some instructors go so far as to think it could even be a civil liability issue to promote IC. You do the math on it. I've already done it.

Head up, Gun up.

[See the January 27 issue for the next part of this series.]

**About the author:** *John Meyers traces his Appalachian ancestry back nine generations to the 1750's. He lives with his family on the high ridges of the Smoky Mountains.*

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