

SURVIVAL IN THE HEARTLAND©

“THE CHANGING NATURE OF SURVIVAL.HTML”-

Introduction-

No doubt, the news tends to get scarier as we go along. While we are not doomsayers, recent events give even the most reserved men and women reason for pause. For this reason we feel a detailed presentation on all aspects of survival is in order. At this writing, we hope that cooler heads will prevail, and that responsible people will act responsibly.

For a link to the latest economic calamity and some good advice: go to: ["Urban Survival.Com,"](http://UrbanSurvival.Com) and take note.

“The Changing Nature of Survival” is organized into 14 topic headings. The topic headings are as follows: 1) Basic Definitions, 2) The Beginnings, 3) Trouble in the Heartland, 4) Do we Know How to Fight, 5) Are Americans Too Old to Fight? 6) New Threat in the Heartland-Home Invasions. 7) The Survivalism Movement, 8) Survival Training, 9) Survivalism Worldwide, 10) Organizations You Can Join, 11) The Spirit of Survival, 12) Summary & Conclusions, 13) The Philosopher’s Corner, 14) References, Resources, & Endnotes.

Due to the length of this article, we have posted just the first three pages for your attention. However, by clicking on the Acrobat .pdf image to the left, you can download the entire article and print it.

1) Definitions--

Survival-

To outlive, outlast, survive; survive, pull-through, pull-round, come through, make it, to last through a mortally dangerous occurrence. To cling to life tenaciously and stubbornly, to live through failure, defeat, and dishonor with some modicum of pride or resoluteness.

Survival Training-

Techniques and skills needed to survive outdoors in the wilderness;_or especially designed courses for overcoming dangerous, life-threatening, overwhelming, &/or undesirable situations.

2) *The Beginning-*

To our memory, the **Shackleton Expedition** on the “**Endurance**” is the pre-eminent survival saga, where men were tested to their limits in stark adversity. Despite enormous tragedy and suffering, Shackleton and his men overcame extreme hardships and lived.

While tribes and clans in third world countries often “fight for their survival,” to most of us this term sounds arcane or out-of-date. People in India and poor countries “fight for survival” in terms of searching and hunting for food. Many people in the Middle East “fight for survival,” in their never-

ending quest for water.

But what does this term mean, if anything, to us? Will we ever need to “fight for survival?” Do we know what it is “to survive? Can some of us call ourselves “survivors?”

Recently, we sent our **Ace Surfer™** out one evening to “survey” the situation. His assignment- query the major web browsers and web-sites on 5 related topics. Ace was to report-back on the search-results for: 1) Do Americans know how to fight? 2) Are Americans fighters? 3) Do kids know how to protect themselves? 4) Do Americans know how to defend themselves? And 5) Are Americans Physically Fit?

Upon returning to our offices, **Ace** was distraught. “**Boy, we’re in bad shape!**” I only could find a report saying all of us are obese, and a blog article titled “Why do Americans fight like Cowards?” after searching all night!

Strangely enough, there are innumerable blogs and web sites on “arming for defense,” “self-preservation,” and “learning extreme survival skills,” authored by self-proclaimed “survivalists.” However, the U.S. newsmedia, government, and business leaders, teachers, and athletic stars seem to ignore the important roles surviving, fighting, staying physically fit, and defending oneself are in terms of succeeding in life. Being proficient in self-defense, fighting, survival, and acquiring physical fitness, is essential to maintaining a healthy outlook on life. Lacking these skills weakens the spirit; its absence robs the soul’s will power. We become depressed and slovenly in our appearance and demeanor. Not knowing the meaning of “right” and “wrong” and fighting for what is right, implies an ignorance of morality. Without morality, we are lost.

What are the merits in learning how to fight or to defend oneself? In addition, to be a “force to be reckoned with in the face of adversity,” the fighting sports such as boxing, wrestling, and the martial arts **teach discipline**. All three involve rules, require concentration, and co-ordination. Basic self-defense rules provide structure, set boundaries, and penalties for transgression.

But most importantly and perhaps subtly, fighters are taught how to communicate with their opponent through body language, signs, and gestures. **Fighters talk to each other when they are fighting! Amazing! In the not too distant past, boxing was a gentlemen’s sport, but all the media hyped was the guts and glory.** Unfortunately, people forgot the personal drama and expressions of that drama in what the fighters said about themselves, what they said to their opponent, and how they evaluated each other in the ring. The outcome of many a fight was changed by what one fighter said to the other in the final round. “The Fights” were real contests

of one's individual's will-power over that of another. What a valuable lesson to be learned! Words often carry more weight than the best placed glove.

Proper self-defense, a prerequisite for individuals, is the legal right of people to protect their life, the values they hold dear, and the possessions that they own. Therefore, fighting in self defense is a necessary response to the breaking of personal boundaries and the collapse of "civil" structure. If a criminal oversteps or goes beyond the rules, a swift and effective retaliation is warranted.

An armed response to an armed threat is recommended; but did you know that yelling, screaming, kicking, and biting scare grizzly bears? And that people actually die from laughing? The fear that you experience when confronted by an armed man should not paralyze you, it should focus on disarming him, shaming him, or persuading him that what he is doing is very unwise. This can be done forcefully with the proper words, with body language, with warnings, with noise, and lastly with physical force.

Regrettably, these concepts have all but disappeared from the public. Do Americans, particularly our youth, feel powerless when confronted by danger? Have we made "fighting" not a "politically correct" word? Do we freeze up and not know what to do?

Sadly, today's headlines are filled with a new form of lawlessness. No longer the dirty business of "sick" criminals, social deviants, and socio-paths, many "normal" Americans appear to be caught up in their own web of self-deceit, lying, stealing, dishonesty, and showing a complete lack of discipline- individual or group discipline. Personal and social boundaries are violated daily. We could fault the government for setting a poor example, but in reality, the responsibility lies with us.

Have we all become spoiled brats?

Has television, computers, and video games turned us into sponges- without any backbone?

3) Trouble in the Heartland-

It appears then, that our very survival as a Society, and as a Nation is in question. Here is our "evidence."

The July 2nd, 2008 issue of the **Ohio Statesman** contains an alarming article by Commanding

General William S. Wallaceⁱ. Entitled **“Fat, Stupid, and Lazy is no Way to go to War,”** General Wallace writes that “only **28 %** of 17 to 24 year old population” is able to wear to wear a military uniform. The other **72 %** fails to meet the minimum standards for education, character, health, and physical fitness.” Equally alarming, [Dr. David Walsh](#), a Minneapolis-based psychologist and President of the [Institute for Media and the Family](#), reports that there is an epidemic of Discipline Deficit Disorder among children and teens. Symptoms of **DDD** include disrespect, need for instant gratification, and a sense of entitlement, self-centeredness, and out-of-control consumption. Finally, on this point, in talking with children who spend long hours playing video games or on the Internet, Dr Walsh reports, “they do not know what the “beauty of nature” means”ⁱⁱ.

[Dr. Tedd Mitchell](#), in his book entitled **“Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder,”** has drawn similar conclusions from his study of adolescences who have “disconnected” from nature & the outdoors. According to him, symptoms include obesity, attention disorders, anxiety, depression, and stress when kids do not engage in outdoors play. However, physical, social, and intellectual development occurs when children spend 10 or more hours a week out-of-doors.

According to the latest survey (2007) completed by the [U.S. Center for Disease Control](#), 49 states reported severe or chronic obesity among adults (aged 20 to 64 years)ⁱⁱⁱ Separate studies reveal ever growing numbers of people suffering from depression and a lack of meaning in life^{iv}.” Suicide among college students is rising. Lastly, gyms, fitness centers, and sports clubs show decreasing membership rosters.

4) Are Americans Too Old to Fight?

The United States’ population is rapidly aging. By 2030, the number of Americans aged 65 and older will more than double to 71 million older Americans, comprising roughly 20 percent of the U.S. population. In light of this, the U.S. Center for Disease Control reported in their 2007 [“The State of Aging & Health in America,”](#) that 80% of older Americans have at least one chronic disease. Adults in the United States tend to become less active as they age. Many older adults are inactive despite efforts to promote the benefits of regular physical activity.^v

Just yesterday, September 11, 2008, Cpt. David French, a senior counsel for the Alliance Defense Fund and a captain in the United States Army Reserve, wrote an article for the [National Review-Online-“Why not join the Fight?”](#) Capt. French questions why more older Americans are not actively fighting or supporting the Armed Forces.” He is currently wrapping up his first deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Is there then, a connection or a relationship between being unfit (either from obesity, illness, or injury), being depressed, and not fighting, in not being outside, or in not having experienced survival close-up? We think there is.

An article in Time Magazine, written in August of 1982, contains still poignant lessons for the outdoors person. Fredrick Golden reports in “ **New Dangers in the Wilderness: Robbers, armed groups, and pot growers menace Park Lands,**” national parks and forests in Oregon, Wyoming, and California are often overrun by hoodlums. Two National Parks stood out as being particularly dangerous- Yellowstone National Park and Angeles National Forest. According to one official at the Angeles National Forest, “It’s the biggest dumping ground for dead bodies and stolen vehicles I’ve ever seen.” During the first five months of the year (1982), authorities reported eleven rapes, 27 aggravated assaults, 66 burglaries and 139 thefts and robberies, including 14 stolen cars in this park.”

This crime wave has continued as a Nov 07 article in the Orlando Sentinel details a raid on a marijuana farm in this forest. The Orlando newspaper goes on to say that organized crime has taken over illegal pot farms complete with armed soldiers.”

In May 2001, the Dept of Justice sponsored a study entitled “**Wisconsin Drug Threat Assessment.**” The **NDIC**, which is part of the U.S. Department of Justice, examined drug manufacturing and trafficking in Wisconsin prevalent in this state primarily due to its vast wilderness of forests. During 1998 to 2001, the **NDIC** reported a 47% increase in the manufacture and distribution of methamphetamine. The study stated that methamphetamine distribution from Wisconsin extended throughout the United States, with carefully honed forest trails throughout the Midwest into the Southwestern States and to the West Coast. In addition, to bobby-traps and explosives found at the drug sites, law enforcement officials find other toxic waste and human feces making restoration of forest land expensive and time-consuming.

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In July 2006, The Forestry School at Oregon State University released the findings of a three year report entitled, “ **If You Go Down to the Woods Today, You’re Sure of a Big Surprise: It’s No Teddy Bear’s Picnic,**” authored by Ddrrs. Tynon, Chavez, and Kakoyannis. Briefly, the summary and conclusion of this study are, “They soon found that much more was occurring in these western National Forests than they originally thought”^{vi}.

“A key finding from their study is that urban-associated crime is no stranger to National Forests in the western United States. Although many of the National Forest study sites are near large urban

populations, they found, unexpectedly, that rural forests also suffer from what interviewees termed 'urban spillover' effects. Urban-associated crimes and crimes that fell into the other category (e.g. armed defense of forest products, chemical dumping, dumping of household waste and landscape materials, homeless residency, and undocumented immigrant trespass) occurred in both rurally located Parks and Forests, and also those near large cities". Ddr. Joanne F. Tynon, Deborah J. Chavez, and Christina Kakoyannis indicated, "Many Park and Forest officials do not report all of the crimes occurring on federal land to protect the park's image. Another reason for underreporting crime, according to officials, was an inadequate reporting system."

This study cites that: "in 1991 National Park Service (NPS) rangers across the U.S. dealt with 17 homicides, 214 aggravated assaults, 632 burglaries, 3,897 larcenies, 185 motor vehicle thefts, 114 arsons, 1,321 weapons offenses, 501 sex offenses, 1,878 drug violations, and thousands more minor assaults and disorderly activities". Very recently, bombings and attacks on Park Guides have occurred^{vii}. A book written in 1996, "[Crime, Criminals, and Guns in Natural Settings](#)^{viii}," identified a 19% increase in national park crime and a 100% increase in national forest crime from 1989 to 1992.

Finally, the 3-year study reports on an alarming increase of forests and parks by "non-traditional users." The conclusion that crime and violent acts continue to plague public-land employees and visitors still rings true. The more dramatic reports include the **Wall Street Journal's 2000 report** asking, '[How Safe is that National Park](#)'. 'In March of 2000, the **BLM** reported on a double homicide when a backcountry recreationist found a burned out vehicle with the remains of two people inside. Initial findings indicated that both victims, who had been reported missing earlier in the month, had possibly been murdered elsewhere and then transported to public land administered by BLM in the Silverbell Mountains of Arizona. "While the media are likely portraying a sensationalized picture of the safety of the public on forest lands as a whole, it is also true that these crimes and other acts of violence have made the work of public land managers and law enforcement officers more hazardous, and that they jeopardize the safety of all who visit public lands or work there. It's certainly no teddy bears' picnic out there anymore. '[The Bureau of Land Management](#) gets many more bodies dumped and many more stolen cars are found there because the **BLM** is closer to the city.'"

In August 2006, the [Casper Star Tribune](#) reported on the increased violence among biker gangs. According to the newspaper's "**Biker gang violence reappears at South Dakota motorcycle rally**," police said two men affiliated with the Hells Angels shot and wounded five Outlaws Motorcycle Club members in **Custer State Park** earlier that week. Gang Violence has also occurred in the **Black Hills National Forest**, a patch of forest and valleys 100 miles

long and 50 miles wide on South Dakota's western edge.

Most recently, on May 12, 2008, the SC Now Network published an article entitled," [Police Memo details concerns over Violence between bike clubs](#), which reported that four national biker gangs are feared to disrupt the Annual Biker Week in Aug 2008 at Myrtle Beach. The four biker gangs mentioned were the infamous Hells Angels, the Pagans, Bandidos, and the Outlaws Motorcycle Clubs. Each group had established a Chapter near Myrtle Beach. The news web-site states because of an increase in violence between rival clubs nationwide, authorities are focused on these four groups at the Annual Biker Week. However one local police officer stated," bike clubs, like the Hells Angels carry a reputation with them that is often exaggerated."

While gang shootings and other gang violence do not happen frequently, it is a good idea to stay out of bikers way if caught out in the woods when you hear the sound of motorcycles rumbling your way.

But more to the point, why do we let criminals dictate what we do in the outdoors, or anywhere for that matter?

5) Do We Know How to Fight?

A story published in "[The Fighter's Forum](#)," may shed some light on this question.

The Blogger ([True Warrior© from Mexico](#)) stated, "I notice that most of the American and European fighters now only run and stare at their opponents. They are scared to go toe-to-toe and give the fans what they want. Why is this? You see fighters from the Latino Countries and Philippines give the fans a knockout and that is what people pay to see."

"When I see an American fighter like Maywather, Hopkins, Taylor Wright, Roy Jones etc. all they do are run and stare at there opponent. They are afraid of there opponent and that is why they are cowards. Even the European fighters like the Klitschkos, and Valuev Calzage fight the same way. Why is this? Do these countries not have any real pride in being real Men and true warriors? Pavlik is the only American warrior and Hatton is the only European warrior." And True Warrior concludes his comments by saying, "Culturally, the machismo is not part of the culture of Europe and US."

6) New Threat- Home Invasions

Perhaps the most frightening trouble in the Heartland, are **home-invasions**. The [New York](#)

Times ran an article called “**Cracking Down on Home Invasions,**” on March 30, 2008. In addition to home invasions in Minneapolis, where the home owners were murdered, other cities are reporting increases in this violent crime. While the F.B.I. does not report annual statistics on home invasions, its 2005 Uniform Crime Reports show that across the country, robberies in homes rose **29 %** between 2000 and 2004, **9.7 %** in 2004, and another **8 %** in 2005. Preliminary estimates, from the FBI for 2006, indicate law enforcement agencies throughout the Nation reported an increase of **3.7 %** in the number of violent crimes brought to their attention in the first half of 2006, when compared to figures reported for the first six months of 2005. The violent crime category includes murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

While legislators are debating new laws for punishing these criminals, police authorities are sanguine, arguing that there isn't much home-owners can do if they are asleep when a home invasion occurs. **We disagree strongly.** Lock all of your doors and windows, install and activate a security system, have a phone near your bed, and have a gun in your nightstand. One New Jersey law maker said, “If anything positive can come out of these home invasions, it will be that communities begin to take care of each other like we used to.”

7) On Survivalism & Survival Training-

The Survivalism Movement-

Our friends at Wikipedia.Com have compiled two interesting articles on **Survivalism** and **Survival Training**. A summary and links to these resources are presented below.

“Survivalism is a commonly used term for the preparedness strategy and subculture of individuals or groups anticipating and making preparations for future possible disruptions in local, regional or worldwide social or political order. Survivalists often prepare for this anticipated disruption by learning skills (e.g., emergency medical training), stockpiling food and water, preparing for self-defense and self-sufficiency, and/or building structures that will help them to survive or "disappear" such as in a survival retreat or underground shelter.”

The most recent wave of the Survivalist movement began after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York in 2001 and similar attacks in Bali, Spain, and London. This resurgence of interest in survivalism appears to be as strong as the first wave in the 1970s. The fear of a war or jihad against the West, combined with an increase in awareness of environmental disasters and global climate change, energy shortages resulting from peak oil, coupled with the vulnerability of humanity after the 2004 tsunami in the Indian Ocean and Hurricane Katrina on the U.S. Gulf Coast and avian influenza has once again made survivalism popular. Preparedness is once more paramount in the concerns of many people, who now seek to stockpile or cache

supplies, gain useful skills, develop contacts with others of similar outlooks and gather as much advice and information as possible. [James Wesley Rawles](#), [Editor of Survival Blog](#), quoted in the New York Times (April of 2008), revealed "interest in the survivalist movement 'is experiencing its largest growth since the late 1970s'". (Link to the entire Wikipedia.Com article is: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Survivalism>)

8) Survival Training-

Survival Training has two main components - mental competence and physical fitness. Mental competence includes the skills listed in this article, as well as the ability to overcome panic and think clearly. Physical fitness includes, among other abilities, carrying loads over long distances on rough terrain. Theoretical knowledge of survival skills is useful only if it can be applied effectively in the wilderness. Almost all Survival Skills are environment specific and require training for a specific environment.

Survival Training is broken down into three types or schools- 1) Modern Wilderness Survival, 2) Bushcraft, and 3) Primitive Survival Techniques. Modern Wilderness Survival teaches the skills needed to survive Short-Term (1 to 4 Days) and Medium-Term (4 to 40 Days) survival situations. Bushcraft is the combination of Modern Wilderness Survival and useful Primitive Survival Techniques. It normally splits its skill acquisition between Medium-Term Survival Techniques (4 to 40 Days) and Long-Term Survival Techniques (40 Days Plus). Primitive Survival Techniques teaches the skills need to survive over the Long-Term (40 days plus). Many primitive technology skills require much more practice and may be more environment-specific." (Link to the entire article at Wikipedia.Com is: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Survival_Training#Training)

9) Survivalism worldwide-

"Survivalist groups and forums--both formal and informal--are popular worldwide, most visibly in Australia^[20], Belgium^[21], Canada^[22], France^[23], Germany (often organized under the guise of "adventure sport" clubs)^[24], New Zealand^[25], Sweden^{[26][27]}, and the United States^[28]."

10) Organizations you can Join-

A. Basic Firearms Training-

1. [The National Rifle Association](#) Their basic training division states the following: "Whether you are interested in recreational shooting, competition, hunting, gun collecting, historical reenactment, home safety, or personal protection -- the basics are where to start! NRA Basic Firearm Training Courses teach you the safety principles and help you develop the knowledge, skills, and attitude that are needed to successfully pursue your shooting interests."

B. Self-Defense-

1. [The Warrior's Realm](#) here is no single style that can teach you everything you need to know for an altercation. Students of the MMA program at Warrior's Realm learn simple and effective responses to some the most common self-defense scenarios such as bear hugs, head locks, chokes, tackles, grabs and more. Our system includes leading edge conditioning programs and the structures of our MMA classes are always as exciting as they are practical. Whatever your reasons for beginning an MMA training program, our professional Martial Arts Educators can help you reach your goals and surpass them. At Warrior's Realm Muay Thai & MMA Academy, we especially teach authentic Muay Thai and Mixed Martial Arts training."

C. Wilderness Training-

1. [Outward Bound Wilderness](#) "Outward Bound Wilderness offers a wide variety of courses and activities that take place in amazing wilderness settings throughout the United States and internationally. Our courses will challenge you, raise your self-awareness, foster personal growth, and encourage teamwork. You will discover new places, learn things about yourself, and have the sense of great accomplishment as you learn to live and thrive in the wilderness."

2. [Wilderness-Survival.Net](#) "Don't worry about surviving in the wild. Instead, take action and educate yourself on survival techniques. Nature is unforgiving and you must be prepared to fight to stay alive. The content of our courses are taken from actual US Army training manuals. This is the same material used to train the best army in the world. You will not find a more complete resource on Wilderness Survival at our site. Prepare yourself for one day you may need it."

3. [Eti-survival.com](#). The Enviro-Tech Company is based out of Montrose, Colorado. Their professional crew of trainers & technicians has been training workers on how to work in remote locations around the world since 1978. ETI offers certification in the Emergency High-Altitude Rescue Technician Course. From their web-site we learn the following: "ETI's Advanced High Angle Rescue Technician course was created to give rescuers knowledge and experience in the advanced techniques of mountain high angle rescue and evacuation skills. This is an intense training program designed to increase proficiency and skill level and to present the latest advancements in rescue technology and equipment. Students must have completed the High Angle Rescue Technician course (or equivalent) before being admitted into the advanced course. The Advanced High Angle Rescue Technician course is an intense and challenging 40 hour training program of all emergency procedures & high altitude climbing".

D. Survivalist Training-

1. Savysurvivor.com, "An on-line military gear catalogue and discussion forum covering a wide range of survival topics, Savysurvivor offers a series of articles on how to survive in hostile territory."

2. Blackwaterusa.Com, Blackwater Worldwide is a great American company that provides innovative private sector solutions to US Government and non US Government clients. Founded in 1997, they were initially envisioned as a basic training facility to support the needs of local and regional law enforcement personnel. Today, Blackwater Worldwide is capable of providing much more. Operating as an independent contractor for the US government, Backwater supports the efforts of the US military in various missions throughout the world."

E. Other Survival & Outdoor Training Schools, Programs, Resources-

1. [The Boulder Outdoor Survival School](http://TheBoulderOutdoorSurvivalSchool).

"BOSS, or the Boulder Outdoor Survival School, is the oldest and largest traditional living skills and survival school in the world. Based out of corporate headquarters in Boulder, Colorado, we have had a field office in Southern Utah's small town of Boulder since 1968".

F. Citizen's Defense Groups-

1. Minutemanhq.Com, Otherwise known as "the Minute Men Civil Defense Corps, " Based in Arizona, their mission is to: "To secure our U. S. borders and coastal boundaries against unlawful and unauthorized entry of all individuals, contraband, and foreign military." They have several state chapters across the U.S.

2. Americanminutemen.org, "As the founding organization of the popular national Minuteman movement, we share our allegiance to the American flag along with other "Minutemen" groups all over this great land. As a California based non-profit organization, A.M.O. pioneered the re-birth of the modern, politically active Minutemen movement back in 1998. We would like to acknowledge and champion the efforts and success of one of our own, [Chris Simcox](#) who is one of our life time members that co-founded the Minuteman Project in 2001. Our web site attempts to present all Minutemen Groups, Organizations, and Blogs such as American Minuteman that have been started since our founding. We congratulate and support these all American and patriotic groups wherever they may be".

3. Armedfemalesofamerica.com This active non-profit organization is based out of Mesa,

AZ. According to one Arizona State representative, "We are pleased that they are now leading an intelligent, pro-gun women's group to counter the emotion-driven scare tactics used by anti-gun groups attempting to steal more of our hard-won rights". And according to their web-site, "The mission of the Armed Females of America is," to proudly represent all patriotic, strong, intelligent people who believe in not compromising at all on gun ownership. We believe that every intelligent citizen has the right to carry and use firearms in a responsible manner to protect and defend themselves against an enemy." However, the actions of our government serve to curtail that liberty."

4. Americansonsofliberty.com. Based out of Diamond Bar, CA, their mission is: " It is, therefore, the American Sons of Liberty's purpose to educate the American people about their Constitution, their history, and the current situations in America that are threatening the Liberties and Rights of America and Her people". We will provide resources through the American Sons of Liberty Historical Research Institute to promote accurate American history, as it actually happened to promote, inform, and teach all Americans of our Nation's true Christian heritage.

11) Summary & Conclusions-

So there is much work to be done for our survival. For in addition to our collapsing physical infrastructure, our social, spiritual, and psychological infra-structures are decaying.

At this juncture, it looks like the National Rifle Association isn't wrong in their mission to teach others the necessity of owning firearms. For right now, it appears that Americans have relinquished all self- defense, protection of the home, and the guarding of society to the police and the military. In so doing, Americans have forgotten or given-up their rights and responsibilities as citizens. Our Law Enforcement & Judicial System is undermanned and under funded. Our Armed Forces are under tremendous strain to fight the global war on terror. Therefore, we feel that self defense, survival training, physical fitness, and firearms training are inextricably linked to each other.

If we were to mount a Civil Defense program (similar to the Neighborhood Crime Watch Program) and if each of us took it upon ourselves to stay physically fit, then keeping a loaded gun in the house would not be necessary. However, we strongly feel that any Civil Defense program should be trained and monitored by law enforcement. By being physically fit, Americans have a much better chance of thwarting a criminal, standing up for their values and beliefs; their odds for survival are greatly increased.

In lieu of our strained military, a compulsory draft is not out of the question. Barring that, we support a mandatory physical fitness program for all Americans.

12) The Spirit of Survival-

The Lyrics of the Grateful Dead (a popular rock group) tell us that modern man/man in the 21st Century has been divorced /alienated by **Society and Nature**. Images come to mind, of the steelworker or the coal-miner who spends long hours in a dangerous and impersonal environment, who over time, loses his soul. A more current image perhaps is of the computer "techie" surrounded by machines and computers all the day long.

Shorn of his ties to Nature and rendered incomprehensible by the monotony/drudgery of hard repetitive work, and desensitized by drugs, man can no longer freely express his emotions. He finds no reason to question, ponder, or look closely at things, and think. The pressures of increased global competition have made his job all but meaningless. Surely, this "gestalt" or mind set will grow as people work longer and harder as the natural resources, which sustain life, are diminished.

Conclusions-

Survival in the 21st Century, though not quite as barbaric as prehistoric times, is concerned not only with our immediate needs, but the existential nature/meaning of our being in a world so complex and mind-numbing that only the most educated and well-off people seem to have any confidence for the future. In a society so "driven for speed", instantaneous consumption, and immediate gratification, the average man/woman is overwhelmed by the rush of technology/information; they have despaired any hopes for success and prosperity.

Further, as we continue to distance ourselves from our spiritual roots, our soul dies. Whether our soul rests on natural grounds or on a higher plane, we cannot ignore the value of eternal truths such as peace, forgiveness, generosity, honesty and truth itself. We cannot deny the ultimate source of our beginnings.

Finally, is there any hope for survival here, now, and forever without a belief a Supernatural or Spiritual Being? Can we survive without a Higher Power than ourselves to give us common sense, restore order in a terribly disorganized world, and give us the foundation to create a meaningful existence beyond our daily survival?

Only God Knows.

13) The Philosopher's Corner-

"On Reality"-

"Nature forever puts a premium on Reality. What is done for Effect, is seen to be done for Effect; What is done for Love, is felt to be Done for Love." ANON

"NATURE"-

"To go into solitude, a man needs to retire as much from his chamber as from society. I am not solitary whilst I read and write, though nobody is with me. But if a man would be alone, let him look at the stars. The rays that come from those heavenly worlds will separate between him and what he touches. One might think that the atmosphere was made transparent with this design, to give man, in the heavenly bodies, the perpetual presence of the sublime." Ralph Waldo Emerson 1803-1882.

"Most men, even in this comparatively free country-

Through mere ignorance and mistake, are so occupied with the factitious cares and superfluously coarse labors of life that its finer fruits cannot be plucked by them. Their fingers, from excessive toil, are too clumsy and tremble too much for that. Actually, the laboring man has not leisure for a true integrity day by day; he cannot afford to sustain the manliest relations to men; his labor would be depreciated in the market. He has no time to be anything but a machine." Henry David Thoreau 1817-1862.

Two Famous Quotes-

"Victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory however long and hard the road may be; for without victory, there is no survival." Winston Churchill

"Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty". - John F. Kennedy

14) References, Resources, Footnotes:

1. <http://www.wilderness-survival-skills.com/wilderness-survival-training.html>
2. <http://www.geosmith.com/wilderness/schools.cgi>
3. <http://www.press.uchicago.edu/Misc/Chicago/532445in.html>
4. <http://www.iht.com/articles/1995/04/27/edhoff.php>
5. "Fat, Stupid, & Lazy is no Way to Go to War" by General Wallace
6. "NY Times Article on Home Invasions Up in 2007"
- 8) Survival Training & Freebooters, at:
7. <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Atlantis/8820/fight.htm>
8. "Violence/Drugs in Wisconsin State Forests," NDIC DOJ report
9. "Article on Discipline Deficiency," by Dr. Kenneth Walsh
10. "Mother Nature Knows Best," from USA Sunday Weekly, Nov 18, 2007
11. "Reported & Unreported Violent Crimes on U.S. Parks & Forests" (First Published in Women in Natural Resources)
12. "Why do Americans Fight Like Cowards," from a Blog, called the "Fighter's Forum."
13. "SC Police Memo Details Concerns Over Violence Between Biker Clubs"
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<http://www.gregdavenport.com/index.php>. Greg Davenport is a world renowned survival expert.
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ENDNOTES-

ⁱ Gen Wallace is the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Training & Doctrine Command at Fort Monroe, Virginia. (Courtesy of McClatchy-Tribune Information Services.)

ⁱⁱ ["No: Why Kids Need to Hear it," by Dr. David Walsh, at Amazon.Com](#)

ⁱⁱⁱ ["007 Center for Disease Control Report on Obesity."](#)

^{iv} ["Depression among college students rising,"USA Today, Health & Science.](#)

^v ["2007 The State of Health & Aging in America," Center for Disease Control.](#)

^{vi} D.J. Chavez, C. Kakoyannis, & J. F. Tynon, 2006, "If You Go Down to the Woods Today, You're Sure of a Big Surprise: It's No Teddy Bear's Picnic," *Women in Natural Resources* Oregon State Univ, College of Forestry, (pg. 5)

^{vii} ["Violence in National Parks Remains High."](#)

^{viii} Pendleton, M.R. 1996. "Crime, criminals, and guns in natural settings", *American Journal of Police* 15(4): 3-25.