

# Hard Looks and Sound Choices

The world around us has changed drastically and is ever evolving. Time has come for us all to come to grips with the changes that have occurred. September 11<sup>th</sup> was the catalyst and the beginning of an awakening here in America and Abroad. WE all need to start depending on ourselves, each other and highly specialized and dependable tools for personal and family survival and protection.

What each of us has is the responsibility to become more educated and trained to deal with what ever threat may become evident. Stepping up and accepting the reality that our safety and survival is an individual responsibility and needs to be followed up by seeking the correct and most relevant training and tools to do the job safer and more efficiently.

Through years of experience in training individuals from all walks of life, business people, mechanics, doctors, nurses etc. All who have several traits in common, included but not limited to hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities etc. Just as with other outdoor activities, choosing the correct and relevant training and tools is extremely important to safety and enjoyment of the activity.

First, Lets examine what is the correct training and mindset needed to act efficiently and confidently in a survival or disaster situation, First and foremost, Training, Training, Training, “Never Stop Training”. The two most important facets that should be considered in deciding on training once you have determined the activity and scope of your goals are the experience and credentials of the instructor and the quality of the facilities where the training is going to take place. Poor instructorship, poor facilities can be a terrible mix and learning experience, Poor Instructorship, Quality facilities can be just as bad. A Quality instructor, Poor facilities is a better option as a quality instructor can make up for the lack of facilities through various instructional methods .What is recommended is Good Instructorship, Good Facilities as a minimum, part-time instructors don’t always have the depth of knowledge that is needed to make the course as comprehensive as possible.

This author has the privilege of being selected to conduct world class training at the Sigarms Academy located in Epping NH. Being selected as a Adjunct Guest Instructor with a brand new curriculum at such a world class training facility is a huge step forward and a privilege for myself and the firearms industry. The Training area consists of 128 acres of wilderness area which has been evaluated and a portion turned into a state of the art Land Navigation/GPS course designed to test everyone from the beginner to the self proclaimed expert. Also, onsite is a comprehensive Fundamentals of Survival training area as well. Designed to provide the greatest learning environment available with out traveling to a truly remote area, not always an option for most people.

The hub of this training area is a modern state of the art classroom area, indoor and outdoor firearms and tactics training areas, capable of real life training props to include full size vehicles of all descriptions. Every level of training is available here to prepare civilian and professional law abiding citizens alike to cope with any disaster or survival situation whether natural or man made.

Everyone out there reading this column is highly encouraged to take an honest hard look inside themselves and evaluate themselves separated from ego their actual knowledge and skill level when it comes to Map, Compass, GPS and Survival skills. If you find that you do not possess absolute confidence in your ability to get from point A to point B no matter what the terrain is or where you find yourself. How about fulfilling the five priorities of survival, 1) Water procurement, purification 2) shelter construction 3) Firecraft 4) Emergency Signaling 5) Food Procurement, Preservation. Firearms handling is a crucial component of survival as presented in the previous edition of the column. You should strongly consider seeking training for this to prepare yourself and your family to endure the survivable and not be a victim. These skills and more can be found at the Sigarms Academy taught by internationally known and highly experienced instructors with extensive credentials to back it up.

Now that an individual has recognized and addressed the basic needs they will require to survive and endure the survivable, we need to choose the right tools to assist us in our survival situation whether it be natural or man made. If everything has gone wrong the tools we select should not let us down no matter what conditions we find ourselves in.

Recently following the events of September 11<sup>th</sup> and Hurricane Katrina the Department of Homeland Security embarked on a quest to equip its personnel with the worlds most durable, reliable and accurate firearms. These Officers and agents will be embroiled in a daily battle of life and death, cat and mouse with those terrorist elements that seek to earnestly to do us harm. In doing so they came up with a testing regimen that put many manufactures submissions from the worlds leading firearms manufactures to the ultimate test of durability, reliability, accuracy the world has ever seen. Ultimately to see who can manufacture the iron man of firearms to meet the stringent standards of the contract.

After studying the testing criteria and reviewing the results from many manufacturers, the undisputed king of durability, reliability and accuracy has emerged with only one close competitor. After reading the results a personal test of the winner was in order to validate and have credible personal experience with the winning manufacturer. After personally firing several hundred rounds from my chosen firearm in my favorite caliber .45 ACP (tried, tested and true since 1911) the best all around caliber whether it be hunting, combat, personal protection or target shooting. I was convinced immediately why the winner earned the motto, "To Hell and Back Reliability".

Sigarms won the Contract hands down for 65,000 handguns a contract worth 23.7 Million dollars. A Survival and personal protection side note here, if your state or country has not adopted the Castle Doctrine I strongly encourage you all to contact your State Government Representative to vote to adopt it ASAP. This legislation is crucial for you to be able to survive and defend yourself, Family and belongings or Survival supplies from the Monsters that take advantage of a disaster (discussed in depth in previous issue).

In conclusion, I encourage everyone out there to take a Hard Look and make some Sound Choices before its too late. Please step up and prepare yourselves to not be a victim of the next disaster. Sigarms Academy is a one stop shopping for all your pre disaster survival and firearms training needs. Information on training available can be found at [www.sartac.us](http://www.sartac.us) ( 413.530.2736) Survival related training found at Sigarms Academy is provided by Survival and Rescue Training and Consulting or [www.sigarmsacademy.com](http://www.sigarmsacademy.com).

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