

Citizen Self Defense League

Chemical Weapon Savvy

By Jane Eden

Imagine. Aircraft streak over the city. Each drops a pair of cluster bombs. Small containers discharge from the main bomb units. When they're within 90 feet of the ground they burst open and release thousands of tiny tendrils of smoke or droplets of caustic liquid in the air that drift down on the people staring up from the busy streets below. Perhaps you are among them.

Chemicals? Gas? This scenario seemed impossible only a few short months ago. Now we know that we as Americans are not immune. The enemy has come to us; so you must ask yourself, do I really need to own a gas mask?

It could be gas. It could be a chemical vapor that would burn your skin and tear the lining from your lungs. Or maybe it's a deadly toxin produced from snakes, mold or fungi. What can you do to survive these and be in a fit state to protect your loved ones and to live on after the event?

If you are in the military you are issued Nuclear Biological Chemical (NBC) Individual Protection Equipment (IPE), a set of protective over-garments and a respirator, sometimes known by its World War I name of *gasmask*. However, most of us aren't in the military, so we'll have to fend for ourselves.

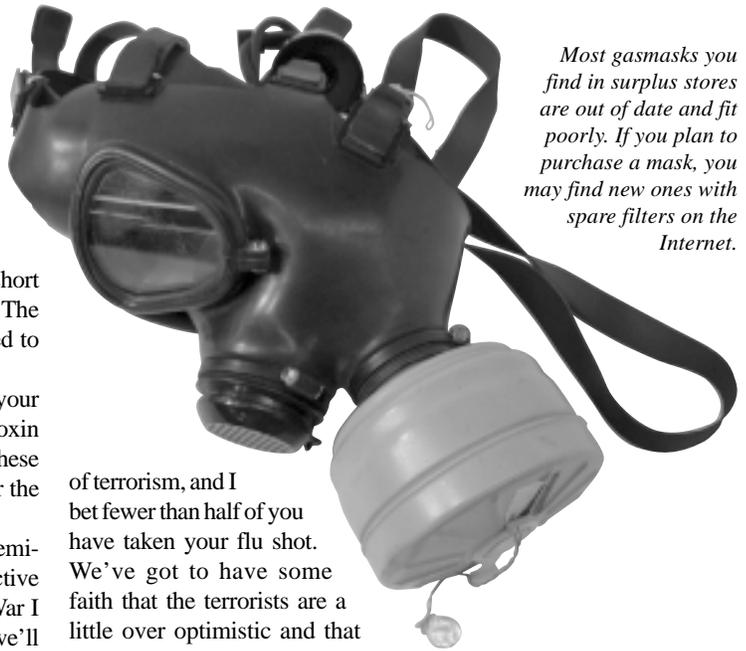
Gas and Toxins

It is standard practice for the Warsaw Pact countries to use contaminants both in European military exercises and in action. However for the first time the U.S. as a nation and we as its citizens are faced with the real possibility of dealing with chemical and biological weapons on home soil—where we work, play and sleep. Such weapons are unselective. They kill men, women and children alike.

In Israel they give away gas masks sized to fit every family member. All new homes are built with bomb shelters in the basement and during difficult times entire families sleep in the shelters with their masks on.

So should you rush out and purchase a rubber suit and gas mask? Many are. Should you start ripping up your floor and digging yourself a bomb shelter?

At this point, I'd say negative to both. Currently 20,000 people will die this year from the flu, more than 5 times the number who have died



Most gasmasks you find in surplus stores are out of date and fit poorly. If you plan to purchase a mask, you may find new ones with spare filters on the Internet.

of terrorism, and I bet fewer than half of you have taken your flu shot. We've got to have some faith that the terrorists are a little over optimistic and that our government knows what it's doing. However, if you decide to go ahead anyway, here are a few things to consider.

Gas masks in surplus stores are there because they are obsolete. And, there's a little more to wearing one than just slipping it on and looking funny. They come with filters that have specific life spans and they come in various sizes. While I suppose any mask is better than no mask, you are definitely better off to purchase a *new* mask. Masks from Israeli suppliers may be purchased over the Internet for under \$75. Take the time to learn about the mask. Try it on and make sure it's a good fit. Then consider carefully where you intend to store it. Won't do you any good if it's miles away when the chemicals start to rain down.

And about those rubber suits. They do offer some protection; however, they don't protect you completely. A rule of thumb is the thicker the material, the longer the protection. However, all barriers will eventually be broken. Most last no more than 4 hours with heavy exposure

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Remember, biological, chemical or toxic weapons are usually dispensed as a gas, smoke, mist or liquid.

Possible Chemical Weapons

1. An example of a blistering agent would be sulfur or mustard gas – as used in World War.

2. Nerve agents are Tabun, Sarin or Soman, which break down the nervous system.

3. Choking agents such as phosgene or chlorine make your eyes and throat swell and make you vomit.

4. Blood agents such as hydrogen cyanide, produce heart and muscle spasms.

Rules of Engagement

Essential Principles of Handgun Combat: Part 2

By Steve Krystek

In Part 1 of our discussion on the critical principles of combative pistolcraft, I highlighted important concepts relating to our fighting mindset and understanding of gunfight dynamics. In review, those points included: (1) being alert, decisive, and aggressive; (2) evading, escaping, and if no alternative exists, engaging; (3) action always beats reaction, and; (4) attacking the attacker. Now that we are mentally armed with the basics, let's address some of the physical actions of our tactical response.

Watch the Hands

Watching the hands of a potential or confirmed adversary is the number one key to making quick and correct use of force decisions. This principle simplifies target identification by narrowing down the search for danger cues to one area. We should constantly scan the hands of those individuals we perceive as dangerous for weapons of any kind. In a hostile confrontation, what is, or is not, in a person's hand(s) will determine the level of force, if any, with which to respond. Remember, a man's eyes will not kill you, but his hands will.

Once you've checked the hands, observe other major areas commonly used to carry and/or conceal weapons. Complete this prioritized mental checklist every time you visually pat down a suspicious subject. Keep it systematic and in order.

1. Check the hands again
2. Waistline area
3. Any backs, packs, or purses carried by the subject
4. Pockets (of pants/shorts first, then shirts or jackets)
5. Torso area under the arms
6. Ankles (especially the inside)
7. Neck area below the collar

Create Distance

The more distance you put between you and your attacker, the greater your chances of survival. Distance ultimately equals time, and in an encounter that statistically lasts only 3.7 seconds, time is a valuable commodity. Each second you remain alive in a gunfight brings you one second closer to "winning" the encounter. Creating distance provides the shooter more time to locate cover, assess the threat, react to the situation, and plan a tactical response. You can



create distance by withdrawing from the adversary in a lateral direction or straight to the rear. In some cases, moving past the adversary to gain distance is our only option. If the environment dictates that backing-up is impossible or impractical, advancing beyond the threat may be a feasible course of action. No matter what direction we decide to move, the goal is to maximize our distance from danger in order to minimize our exposure to it.

Move to Cover

Making use of available cover and/or concealment is vital for gaining a tactical advantage. Where concealment only serves to conceal you from the adversary, cover can protect you from being shot as well as hide or obscure your position. Fighting from behind cover in a "barricaded" position allows you more time to engage an adversary with well-sighted, accurate fire. Since you have some degree of momentary ballistic protection, your concentration can be dedicated to marksmanship and ending the fight as opposed to worrying about your vulnerabilities. In order to move to cover, you must first know where it is located. Always thinking tactically and being aware of your environment (i.e., fighting mindset) means taking note of and identifying positions of cover and concealment around you. Knowing where cover is located before a fight begins

is better than having to search for it during a chaotic exchange of gunfire.

Speed vs. Accuracy

The proper balance of speed and accuracy is determined by two factors... (1) the distance between you and the threat, and/or, (2) the size of the target. If your adversary is at a conversational distance, speed of engagement will be more critical than acquiring a perfect sight picture. If your adversary is at an extended range of 15 yards or greater, or a mid-range brain cavity shot is necessary, precise front and rear sight alignment will be more of a priority than speed. During mid-range engagement (between 3 to 15 yards), speed and accuracy are equally important. At these distances, the shooter must know their marksmanship abilities and how to apply those skills effectively within a time frame appropriate to the threat. It never hurts to err on the side of accuracy. Missing quickly does nothing but expend ammunition. Train for 100 percent vital zone hits and try to decrease shooting times while still maintaining that standard. If your hit percentage slips to 99 percent, slow down. Remember the old saying...speed is fine, but accuracy is final.

Continuity of Fire

Once you have responded to a threat of physical violence with your own counter-attack, do not stop fighting until the threat is non-existent. Your fire must be consistent and continuous to be effective. Knowing and having the ability to perform reloading or malfunction clearing techniques under stress will assist you in maintaining continuity of fire. Fight until your adversary is incapable of further action, beyond that, you are breaking the law. Once an attacker has been "stopped," carefully evaluate the situation. Any person armed with a firearm is dangerous as long as they are conscious; do not prematurely lower your guard. To summarize this point, maintain relentless aggression in the form of constant vital area shot placement until your adversary cannot fight anymore.

Our goal, if we are forced into a gunfight, is to hit our target (i.e., skill-at-arms) while attempting to avoid being hit (i.e., tactics). These actions will most likely prove futile unless they are supported by the third component of the Combat Triad...mindset. The principles examined here have only addressed the basics necessary for achievement of that goal. It is up to the individual to learn, develop, and enhance all components of the Combat Triad if he or she is to establish competency with a firearm. Sharpen your mind, polish your skills, and practice your tactics. As a committed practitioner of these ways, you will possess the confidence to oppose *any* force that may threaten your personal safety. ✪

Steve Krystek previously served as the senior team leader and trainer of a military special weapons and tactics team, and later as a member of the U.S. Department of Energy's nuclear protective force. He has trained with more than 120 law enforcement agencies, military units, and civilian groups throughout the United States and overseas in close-quarter combat, tactical firearms, and special operations. Steve is currently a full-time police officer for a major metropolitan police department. For information about training opportunities in your area, or through the Las Vegas-based Progressive F.O.R.C.E. Concepts, call (702) 647-1126 or email stevekrystek@cs.com.

Buffalo Nickels

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Of course we deny any knowledge. "They musta had explosives to blow up the joint and made a mistake," reports the State Department, "ya know, connected the blue wire with the yellow wire instead of the red one." Let foreigners tiptoe around our embassies after we leave. In fact, lets tell them we spray-painted the walls with a fresh coat of white anthrax just before we evacuated. It's a white lie, but I like the idea. Don't you?

Let's export explosive U.S. flags. The first protester who lights up the corner of old glory in downtown Raghead will touch off a minor explosion. The blast will provide just enough range to plaster 15 feet of radical dancing fuckers against the nearest camel. Happy and chanting one minute. Up in smoke the next. Wouldn't you like to see that...just once? Come on! Be honest now. Up in smoke.

Where dey go? Nobody knows. Dey up in smoke.

Let the CIA open "Taliban Strip Clubs" here in the USA. Since these holy men, are so dedicated to their cause that they gave up their lives for a world where they won't even let their women unmask their faces, yet somehow justify frequenting American strip clubs and booze it up; ergo we need to ensnare them in these very special meeting places.

My wife wants me to apply for the new sky marshal job. But I think she just wants me gone most of the time. I will, however, apply for this strip club job. Forty hours a week and willing to work overtime, I will pretend to be a regular guy sitting at these clubs drinking non-stop martinis, on the lookout for terrorists. Instead of olives, I'll have tablets of Cipro floating around in mine though. Now if they have topless dancers on planes I might re-think about the sky marshal thing. But hey, let's all pull together for this strip club thing because I need a good retirement job.

So tighten up your combat boots America. Stay out of the shark water and ...coffee?

Well, yes thanks...but I'll take mine black.

Bye-bye. ✪



"Buffalo Nickels is a retired US Army special forces operator who does occasional consultant work and wishes to remain anonymous so he may put in his five cents worth on life, liberty and the pursuit of whatever he sees fit."

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Ask Major Corrigan

War veteran, Major Dale Corrigan, retired British Military, has spent decades with the Gurkhas and was once one of their training commanders. In his regular column he answers questions on British military history and combat.

Question: Where does the term Commando come from?

Reply: The term commando comes from the Afrikaans word meaning a military unit, and originated in the South African War (or Boer War) 1899 – 1902, where the Boer republics and the British clashed over who was to rule southern Africa. The Boers, who had no regular army, formed Commandos, which might be as small as 20 men or as large as a thousand. These Commandos were composed of men who brought their own horses and their own weapons and were held together by a loose military structure. The Commandos were mobile and, faced with a regular British army, preferred (very sensibly) to hit and run, rather than to stand and fight. They were very difficult to corner and rarely occupied defensive positions, although when they did (as at Magersfontein in December 1899) their superior marksmanship often told.

When the Boers eventually sued for peace, the term Commando came into English usage, meaning a body of troops who could move quickly, shoot well and hit hard before melting away to fight another day. The first use of the term as an official title in the British forces was in the Second World War when, after the British evacuation from Europe in 1940, some means of hitting back at the Germans was needed. Army Commandos were formed as battalion sized units which could land on the coast of occupied Europe, raid German military installations and then be withdrawn by sea before the Germans could react. Later Commandos were formed from units of the Royal Marines (then, as now, part of the Royal Navy).

Today a Commando in the British service is a battalion-sized unit of the Royal Marines, trained in the normal infantry skills but also in helicopter operations, beach landings, mountain warfare, cliff climbing and snow warfare. A Royal Marine Commando is usually held on board a helicopter assault ship ready for deployment as required. Currently the British have three Royal Marine Commandos available for operations.

During World War II the American Army was impressed by what they saw of the Royal Marines and the U.S. Rangers were formed as a similar organisation. The Rangers were trained by the Royal Marines in Scotland and at the Royal Marine Cliff Climbing School at Lymington in Devon. The first deployment of Rangers was with the British for the raid on a German radar station at Bruneval, on the French coast, in 1942, and the Rangers most famous episode was the scaling of the cliffs at Point du Hoc on the morning of D Day, 6 June 1944, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel James E. Rudder USA, supported by amphibious vehicles of the Royal Marines.

Question: Will Gurkhas fight in Afghanistan?

Reply: Gurkhas may well be used in Afghanistan, depending upon how the ground war develops. As mountain people themselves, the problems of operating in the difficult terrain that will be encountered will be no great problem for Gurkhas. Linguistically, the Gurkha language, Nepali, comes from the same root as Urdu which is widely spoken in the border areas of Afghanistan, and Pushtu, spoken by most Pathans, is easy for a Gurkha to learn. Gurkhas will be able to melt in the countryside more easily than British troops as, while they do not look like the Semitic Pathans, they can easily be mistaken for the Mongolian Khirghiz, who make up a sizeable minority in Afghanistan.

The problem which is, and will be, faced by the Allies in capturing Osama bin Laden is the age-old Pathan code of *Pukhtunwali*, which has three major tenets: *Badal*, *Nanawati* and *Melmastia*, or vengeance, asylum and hospitality. *Badal* means that an insult or a wrong against the man, his family or his tribe must be avenged, however long it takes. In the past this led to blood feuds, which sometimes went on for generations, by which time the original cause had been forgotten. *Nanawati* is the duty of protection owed by any Pathan to anyone who asks for it, even a sworn enemy. For an enemy to ask for *Nanawati* is, however, a disgrace to the petitioner.

Melmastia has to be offered to anyone, invited or uninvited, and includes food, lodging and protection as long as the recipient remains in the tribal area, even at the risk of the host's own life. This means that the Taleban will not voluntarily give up bin Laden—even if they want to, they cannot.

The British had to deal with the Afghan problem from 1848, when they annexed the Punjab after the Sikh Wars, until Indian and Pakistani independence in 1947. When a wanted man slipped over the border and was sheltered by the tribes, the British policy was to send a punitive column into the tribal territories, or into Afghanistan, and cordon off the area where the man was hiding. The villagers were then warned that their villages were about to be shelled or bombed, after which the villages were razed to the ground and the crops burnt. As the inhabitants then had to find food and water, wanted men could be picked up on the move. This tactic might not be acceptable to liberal democracies of the 21st Century.

During the century of British concern with Afghanistan, Gurkhas were regarded as the best troops to operate there because they could move very fast across mountainous terrain, and survive on a minimum of supplies. Currently there is one Gurkha company in Oman, in the Middle East, where the British have 25,000 troops available for Afghanistan if required. There is a Gurkha parachute company in the UK, which could be deployed, and a Gurkha battalion in Bosnia, which could be replaced by British troops and used in Afghanistan. A further Gurkha battalion stationed in Brunei could be used provided it was replaced. An important factor is acclimatisation. You cannot take troops straight out of the UK or USA and put them down in Afghanistan. Fit men take about three weeks to adjust to the summer temperatures, and once the temperature drops the snows will come, which will make ground operations very difficult. If we are unable to launch the ground war within a month or so, using troops who have been acclimatised, then we shall have to wait for the spring before anything other than Special Forces can be employed. 🇬🇧

Editor's Note: Please forward any British military or Gurkha questions to LauricPres@aol.com



State of the Union

Ever feel like you missed out on Army or Marine basic training? Ever wished you had attended a police academy? Do you feel like you don't have the tools to protect yourself, your family or your country against a world of criminals, enemy soldiers and terrorists?

And even if you graduated from a military or police school, are you like the majority of graduates—frustrated with the lack of real, hardcore, comprehensive hand, stick, knife, gun close quarter combat tactics and strategies taught? Do you desire this training, all minus the usual recruit hazing and rookie bull, treated like a professional as taught by professionals?

The SFC, in conjunction with the National Law Enforcement and Security Institute, is about to embark on its most ambitious training project/camp in its history. Of the five SFC martial courses, four of them support and build my most exciting and important course, the fifth one—The Hand, Stick, Knife, Gun Close Quarter Combat Group. At the risk of using the over-used term “ultimate,” this CQC Group is my true

interest and favorite program that molds the mind and body of the ultimate warrior.

In September 2002, will we stage the first Close Quarter Combat Basic Instructor's Camp at NLSI in Des Moines, Iowa. It will last five days and include:

- Unarmed Combatives Levels 1-3, plus themes
- Knife/Counter-Knife Levels 1-3 plus themes
- SDMS Impact Weapons Levels 1-4 plus themes
- Gun/Counter-Gun levels 1-3 plus themes
- Extreme Close Quarters Combat Quick Draw/Point Shooting with pistols and rifles
- Introduction to Machine Gun Use
- FATS Room—firearm shooting in life-size video/film criminal and military scenarios
- Graduation Ceremony with various performance honors

The Camp will be taught by military and police vets. Since the end product is geared to produce SFC CQC Group Instructors there will be strict and professional, college/police academy/ military combat course training. There will be lectures, written and performance testing. Not only will qualifying

graduates leave with the CQC basic instructor certificate, but also will receive level 1 thru 3 rank certifications and instructorships in the above courses, all as part of the camp fee. But you can certainly attend just for the experience, training and knowledge.

NLSI is crunching the financial numbers right now. We will be using their ranges, classrooms, FATS Room and turf. Many shooters pay \$400 or more for a weekend of just plain shooting at paper targets. Some martial artists are paying \$300 to \$700 for a weekend of redundant material, not a fraction of what will be covered here. We estimate that the five-day complete combat course will run about \$800. There are motels and restaurants in the immediate vicinity. In the future, flyers and our webpage will constantly update you on the cost and details.

In the year 2003 we will conduct advanced Camps of Levels 4, 5 and 6. Also, Expert Level 7, 8, 9 and 10 with the award of the symbolic camo CQCG Combat Masters Black Belt.

Start training now in course seminars, tapes, books and manuals!

Start jogging now!

Start saving now!

Book your vacation now!

Begin planning now!

Citizen Self Defense League

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and the hotter it is, the shorter the protection any barrier provides. Many toxic agents are absorbed through the skin, so look for suits that you can put on quickly, say in less than 6 seconds (no I'm not kidding). The suit needs to fit closely to your body without constricting and it should cover as much skin as possible, including a hood for your head.

Got kids? Do you take them out in public? Then they need a suit and mask too. But don't make the mistake some Israelis make and sleep in them. If you don't know what you're doing, you can easily suffocate.

Most suits and masks offer some degree of protection. However, wearing a suit or a mask does not completely protect you from toxic agents. And it certainly won't protect you if it's too cumbersome, too heavy and too difficult to put on. So, in the unlikely event that the unthinkable happens, perhaps the most important tip I can give you is to keep your gas tank full and get the hell out of there. ☘

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