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Promoting and protecting the Bill of Rights,  
especially the Second Amendment

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August 2022 – Volume 3, Issue 8

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# In Support of Freedom

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## ***Update - 1000 Yards on a Budget...***

Those of you who have followed Im4Rights for a few years may remember the project I started about 2 years back. My original goal with the project was to build an LR-308 pattern rifle utilizing an 80% lower that I could consistently hit a man-sized target at 1000 yards, all for under \$1000. No small task, either price wise or skill wise, as I have never shot more than a couple hundred yards, and vary rarely beyond 100 yards. I completed the upper early on and finished the lower quite a while ago (videos on [Rumble](#)). The lower mated up with the upper pretty well, though the pins were a little tight. The problem was the bolt catch would not engage, so I couldn't get the bolt to lock back with or without an empty magazine. I have built several AR-15 80% lowers, but this was my first LR-308 80% lower. At first, I feared I had done something wrong, but then I thought maybe it was an incompatibility issue between the receivers.

As luck would have it, I stumbled across a complete Aero Precision M5 lower on sale for 30% off at Brownell's. I mounted it to the AP M5 upper, and voilà, the bolt catch worked! I swapped the carbine buffer system provided with the AP M5 lower with the rifle buffer system/A2 stock from my 80% lower build and mounted the optic. After mounting the Monstrum optic, doing some ballistics calculations, and dialing out the 20 MOA of elevation in the scope mount, I headed to the local indoor range to zero the rifle. The first shot landed within about an inch of my 15-yard/100-yard zero point, but the rifle malfunctioned, failing to extract and eject the cartridge, so the range session was over.

I made another trip to the range, and took two more shots, both of which suffered the same failure, so I researched the problem and determined it may be an undersized gas port on the barrel and/or bolt lugs that need to be "broken in." According to forum posts I've read, both conditions have caused the same stoppage. The good folks on the 308AR.com forum were very helpful in coming up with a strategy to get this rifle running. First, I removed the gas block and measured the gas port, which was 0.073", so based on recommendations; I opened it up to 0.089". On reinstallation of the gas block, I tried my best to ensure proper gas block/gas port alignment. While I was at it, I used

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“Go/No-Go” gauges to check the headspace, which was found to be within specifications. Before test firing again, I will soak the bolt in Mobil 1 synthetic oil for a week or so and run the bolt a couple hundred times by hand.

Since I had a leftover 80% lower built, I decided to tap Delta Team Tactical for another upper kit – this time with a 16” mid-length gas system and a billet upper. It turns out the billet upper mates up properly with the billet lower and the bolt locks back! The 16” barrel also came with an undersized gas port (0.063”), so I opened it up to 0.093”. The headspace checked out, and the bolt will get the same Mobil 1 treatment. The forum folks suggested I purchase and install an Armalite carbine buffer system, which I’ve done. As I’m on a budget with this rifle as well, I’ve topped the carbine with flip up iron sights and a red/green dot from [Ozark Armament](#). While inexpensive, I’ve had good luck with them on other builds.

So much for 1000 yards on a budget... Altogether, I came in at \$1141.42 for my long-range shooter, which isn’t bad, but in order not to waste the 80% lower, I spent another \$931.34 to build a carbine (not including the 80% jig I’ve used for several builds). On the plus side, now, I have two LR-308s for an average cost of \$1036.38 each. We shall see how they run at the range soon, and I’ll be sure to provide another update. For a detailed parts list for both builds, [click here](#).

## ***Whatever happened to Bubba?***

Long time Im4Righters will remember Bubba the freedom truck, a ‘78 Chevy K-30, gas-guzzling, behemoth that last we heard suffered a catastrophic engine failure on the way to have its transmission replaced. Well, that was March of 2021, about 1 year into the COVID-19 hysteria and about 3 months prior to my own COVID experience. This was absolutely the wrong point in time to try to renovate this truck. The COVID hysteria, the lockdowns, paying people to do nothing, and the resultant supply-chain issues wreaked havoc on what should have been a fairly simple matter. After the engine install, the engine shop shipped the truck to a transmission shop in Brooksville, FL who, as it turns out, bit off more than they wanted to chew. That’s where the project really bogged down. Delays in the shipping of parts, the wrong parts ordered, parts that didn’t work, and any number of other issues arose. At one point, the truck was to be shipped back to the engine shop to get the engine running again after being idle for so long, but the shop had lost most of its staff and couldn’t find anyone who wanted to work. Bubba ended up getting shipped off to another shop in Inverness, FL for that work. Now, back in Brooksville, I’m told it should be done this week. I’m not holding my breath...



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## ***Back to Preps (part 5 - Defense)...***

Back in January, I listed my top five categories for basic preparedness - Food, Shelter, Water, Mobility, and Defense, with Medical a close sixth. To date, we've discussed all but "Defense." So, in this month's Back to Preps article, we will discuss defense as it relates to short-term, medium-term, and long-term preparedness. Defense of self, property, and others is huge topic with many considerations. The information that follows is just that - information, which is not to be construed as advice of any kind, especially legal advice; these are simply my thoughts on the topic based on my specific circumstances and what I may, or may not, plan to do. Please realize your circumstances will be different, and the laws, rules, and regulations in your location may be different too.

Philosophically, and irrespective of man-made laws, I believe all human beings have a natural right to defend themselves, their belongings, and other human beings from any type of attack, and this right is undeniable. This right has been evidenced and practiced from the earliest of human times. I also believe, in most cases, the defense mounted should only be that necessary to repel the attack and leave the attacker unlikely to repeat the attack. Clearly, there are times when deadly force is appropriate, but defending oneself is one thing, being judge, jury, and executioner is another. With that out of the way, let's get on with my thoughts on defense from a preparedness perspective.

The terms security and defense are very closely related. According to the Cambridge Dictionary, security is defined as "protection of a person, building, organization, or country against threats such as crime or attacks by foreign countries;" whereas, defense is defined as "the ability to protect against attack or harm, or something used to protect against attack or harm." When speaking of security, we tend to think of fences, walls, gates, guards, guard dogs, lighting, alarms, video surveillance, locks, safes, vaults, etc. When speaking of defense, we generally think of items we can use to defend ourselves from attack if security is not present or if it has been defeated - items like rocks, sticks, bats, clubs, staffs, tasers, pepper sprays, guns, knives, or any of the many other weapons or improvised objects one could use.

Quite logically, the best defense is to avoid a problem in the first place. With respect to your residence, use an appropriate mix of security measures to make your home a "hard target" that will cause criminals move on to weaker targets. This is not to say you should keep yourself locked away in a fortress; everyone has a need and a right to travel freely to and from public and private destinations without fear or undue burden (i.e., "Show me your papers."), but discretion is sometimes the better part of valor. For example, if you know of civil unrest occurring in a

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specific location, discretion will have you avoid that location. Exercising situational awareness and keeping your “head on a swivel,” is a good method to avoid trouble that could cause a need to defend oneself. The earlier you detect trouble headed your way, the earlier you can take steps to avoid it or prepare to deal with it.

When outside your home, arm yourself to the extent allowed by law, and always carry those arms with you. While at home, make sure weapons are stored appropriately, yet immediately available, which is sometimes a fine line depending on the ages and/or mental acuity of those living in the home. Train with your weapons to ensure you can deploy them properly when needed, and follow the ABC's – Always Be Carrying! An attack may occur at any moment; therefore, being prepared at every moment will give you the best chance to avoid or repel an attack.

As with the other categories of preparedness, when planning and preparing for your defense, it is helpful to use time frames like short-term, long-term, and permanent: however, specific threats and types of attacks must also be addressed in your preparedness plans. Threats may fall into any of the time frames, and may come and go. The types of threats faced will depend on where you live. For example, riots and civil unrest are not common out in the countryside, but they are definitely possible in cities. Generally, the larger the city, the higher the chances of riots and civil unrest. In contrast, defending your flock of sheep, goats, or cows from wolves is not a problem in the city, but it can be an issue in certain rural areas.

Assess the threats you may face in the environments you frequent. Determine what those threats are, how severe the consequences may be, and how likely they are to occur. You can use a simple threat matrix to show you where to start. Give each threat a severity and likelihood ranking from 1 to 5 (1=Low, 5=High) Then multiply severity times likelihood and see where the result falls in the Threat Matrix table. Reds and oranges need to be addressed first, then yellows, and the greens according to their rankings.

		Threat Matrix					
	High						
S e v e r i t y	5	5	10	15	20	25	
	4	4	8	12	16	20	
	3	3	6	9	12	15	
	2	2	4	6	8	10	
	1	1	2	3	4	5	
			1	2	3	4	5
	Low						High
		Likelihood					

As you prepare for the threats you face considering their rankings, determine what security measures you can implement and which defensive tools you will need. Try to develop layers of security and defensive measures that will deter, delay, and, if necessary, ultimately defeat an

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attacker. Let's examine a scenario where a suburban family has determined that armed home invasions are on the rise in their neighborhood and several people have been beaten and had their jewelry and/or electronics stolen. The family has rated this a 25 out of 25, their number one concern. Let's take a layered approach to defending against this threat. We need to start as far away from the home as possible then work our way inside the home. Here are some suggestions, which are by no means exhaustive, and may or may not be doable on your budget. This assumes the family is not able to or has chosen not to "avoid" the problem by moving to a safer location. That said, home invasions can happen anywhere, they are just more frequent in built-up areas.

- Demand increased police patrols of the neighborhood.
- If there is an HOA, they can propose an assessment to hire security patrols
- Form and/or join a Neighborhood Watch and post signs indicating such.
- Install a fence and gate if allowable.
- Trim/remove excessive vegetation around the home so burglars cannot hide.
- Increase lighting on the property, include lights on motion sensors, and extra lights that can be turned on when needed.
- Install a video surveillance system and an alarm system.
- Fortify doors and windows – get better locks, strengthen door jams, install impact windows or iron bars (careful not to trap yourself in the house).
- Get a couple of sizeable dogs.
- Install a safe(s) to store valuables, and/or use "hide in plain sight" techniques.

Assuming you're home when a home invasion begins, it is time to start defensive measures. Again, these suggestions are not exhaustive.

- Develop and practice a response plan. Call 911, if possible. Tell family members what to do at the first sign of trouble until the situation is resolved. Code words to execute the plan and to give the all-clear are helpful.
- Your home defense weapon(s) should be staged where they are needed, secured but readily available to you (biometric, RFID safes are good for those with children).
- The weapon should have a full magazine inserted and a round in the chamber with the safety on, or no round in the chamber with the safety off, your choice. Personally, I prefer one in the pipe.
- A bright light (preferably attached to the weapon) is helpful for identifying a target in the dark, and for disabling the intruder's vision.
- What happens next is up to you, and needs to be in accordance with the laws of your

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jurisdiction. Hopefully, 911 has been called and help is already on the way.

Preparedness is an everyday activity, but when some version of Grid-Down, SHTF, WWROL, TEOTWAWKI occurs, being prepared will pay dividends. The principles of security and defense discussed above will need to be adapted to meet the needs of more trying times. For example, if the grid is down and the police are not able to respond, it will fall to you and your neighbors to keep the area under visual surveillance, and respond to threats as the police will not be coming. Still layering security and defensive measures is the goal; it will just need to be accomplished with people power. You will need people instead of electricity. Consider these final questions:

How will you defend yourself against threats from people that want to do you harm or steal your property or food?

- Do you own guns and ammunition in adequate types and amounts to defend yourselves and others?
- Do you have a group of people who can be relied upon to come together in the common defense of the group? 24-hour security may be required and cannot be accomplished by one or two people for any extended length of time.
- Do you own other weapons such as knives, bayonets, bows, crossbows, air-rifles, etc.?
- Do you have night vision devices?
- Are you and others adequately trained to use weapons and perform security

Lastly, do you have the mindset to survive and thrive during the bad times?

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