

This is topic **Thoughts on Urban Survival. COMPLETE !! A MUST READ FOR ALL SQUIRRELS!!!** in forum **General Patriot Discussion at Frugal's Forums Archive 2001-2006.**

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Posted by **ferfal** on October 20, 2005 04:02 PM:

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This essay as well as other survival articles can be found on: [Build An Ark](#)

Moderator Note: I've pinned this thread to the top and added the MUST READ message to the title because I believe that EVERY SQUIRREL has something to gain by FerFAL's periodic updates. As someone living and surviving a current real SHTF situation there are tons of insight and information to be gleaned from this man. Read and heed folks - READ AND HEED!!

Desert Doc

Final note: I've done some minor editing for clarity only. FerFal's words speak volumes. Everyone should copy this and many of his other entries to get a **clear insight** of what we will be dealing with WHEN the SHTF. Thanks FerFal!

My brother visited Argentina a few weeks ago. He's been living in Spain for a few years now. Within the first week, he got sick, some kind of strong flu, even though climate isn't that cold and he took care of himself. Without a doubt he got sick because there are lots of new viruses in my country that can't be found in 1st world countries. The misery and famine lead us to a situation where, even though you have food, shelter and health care, most of others don't, and therefore they get sick and spread the diseases all over the region.

What got me started on this post is the fact that I actually saw this coming, and posted on the subject here at Frugal's, months before the new viruses spread over the country and the news started talking about this new, health emergency, which proves that talking, thinking and sharing ideas with like minded people (you guys), does help to see things coming and prepare for them with enough time. So I started thinking about several issues, what I learned (either the hard way or thanks to this forum) after all these years of living in a collapsed country that is trying to get out an economical disaster and everything that comes along with it. Though my English is limited, I hope I'm able to transmit the main ideas and concepts, giving you a better image of what you may have to deal with some day, if the economy collapses in your country. Here is what I have so far:

URBAN OR COUNTRY?

Someone once asked me how did those that live in the country fare. If they were better off than city dwellers. As always there are no simple answers. Wish I could say country good, city bad, but I can't, because if I have to be completely honest, and I intend to be so, there are some issues that have to be analyzed, especially security. Of course that those that live in the country and have some land and animals were better prepared food-wise. No need to have several acres full of crops. A few fruit trees, some animals, such as chickens, cows and rabbits, and a small orchard was enough to be light years ahead of those in the cities. Chickens, eggs and rabbits would provide the proteins, a cow or two for milk and cheese, some vegetables and fruit plants covered the vegetable diet, and some eggs or a rabbit could be traded for flour to make bread and pasta or sugar and salt.

Of course that there are exceptions, for example, some provinces up north have desert climate and it almost never rains. It is almost impossible to live off the land, and animals require food and water you have to buy. Those guys had it bad; no wonder the Northern provinces suffer the most in my country. Those that live in cities, well they have to manage as they can. Since food prices went up about 200%-300%. People would cut expenses wherever they could so they could buy food. Some ate whatever they could; they hunted birds or ate street dogs and cats, others starved. When it comes to food, cities suck in a crisis. It is usually the lack of food or the impossibility to acquire it that starts the rioting and looting when TSHTF.

When it comes to security things get even more complicated. Forget about shooting those that mean you harm from 300 yards away with your MBR. Leave that notion to armchair commandos and 12 year old kids that pretend to be grown ups on the internet.

Some facts:

- 1) Those that want to harm you/steal from you don't come with a pirate flag waving over their heads.
- 2) Neither do they start shooting at you 200 yards away.
- 3) They won't come riding loud bikes or dressed with their orange, convict just escaped from prison jump suits, so that you can identify them the better. Nor do they all wear chains around their necks and leather jackets. If I had a dollar for each time a person that got robbed told me "They looked like NORMAL people, dressed better than we are", honestly, I would have enough money for a nice gun. There are exceptions, but don't expect them to dress like in the movies.
- 4) A man with a wife and two or three kids can't set up a watch. I don't care if you are SEAL, SWAT or John Freaking Rambo, no 6th sense is going to tell you that there is a guy pointing a gun at your back when you are trying to fix the water pump that just broke, or carrying a big heavy bag of dried beans you bought that morning.

The best alarm system anyone can have in a farm are dogs. But dogs can get killed and poisoned. A friend of mine had all four dogs poisoned on his farm one night, they all died. After all these years I learned that even though the person that lives out in the country is safer when it comes to small time robberies, that same person is more exposed to extremely violent home robberies. Criminals know that they are isolated and their feeling of invulnerability is boosted. When they assault a country home or farm, they will usually stay there for hours or days torturing the owners. I heard it all: women and children getting raped, people tied to the beds and tortured with electricity, beatings, burned with acetylene torches. Big cities aren't

much safer for the survivalist that decides to stay in the city. He will have to face express kidnappings, robberies, and pretty much risking getting shot for what's in his pockets or even his clothes.

So, where to go? The concrete jungle is dangerous and so is living away from it all, on your own. The solution is to stay away from the cities but in groups, either by living in a small town-community or sub division, or if you have friends or family that think as you do, form your own small community. Some may think that having neighbors within "shouting" distance means losing your privacy and freedom, but it's a price that you have to pay if you want to have someone to help you if you ever need it. To those that believe that they will never need help from anyone because they will always have their rifle at hand, checking the horizon with their scope every five minutes and a first aid kit on their back packs at all times.... Grow up.

SERVICES

What ever sort of scenario you are dealing with, services are more than likely to either suffer in quality or disappear all together. Think ahead of time; analyze possible SHTF scenarios and which service should be affected by it in your area. Think about the most likely scenario but also think outside the box. What's more likely? A tornado? But a terrorist attack isn't as crazy as you thought it would be a few years ago, isn't it?

Also analyze the consequences of those services going down. If there is no power then you need to do something about all that meat you have in the fridge, you can dry it or can it. Think about the supplies you would need for these tasks before you actually need them. You have a complete guide on how to prepare the meat on your computer... how will you get it out of there if there is no power? Print everything that you consider important.

WATER

No one can last too long without water. The urban survivalist may find that the water is of poor quality, in which case he can make good use of a water filter, or that there is no water available at all. When this happens, a large city where millions live will run out of bottled water within minutes. In my case, tap water isn't very good. I can see black little particles and some other stuff that looks like dead algae. Taste isn't that bad. Not good but I know that there are parts of the country where it is much worse. To be honest, a high percentage of the country has no potable water at all.

If you can build a well, do so, set it as your top of the list priority as a survivalist.

Water comes before firearms, medicines and even food. Save as much water as you can. Use plastic bottles, refill soda bottles and place them in a cool place, preferably inside a black garbage bag to protect it from sun light. The water will pick some plastic taste after a few months, but water that tastes a little like plastic is far way better than no water at all. What ever the kind of SHTF scenario you are dealing with, water will suffer. In my case the economical crash created problems with the water company, that reduces the maintenance and quality in order to reduce costs and keep their income in spite of the high prices they have to pay for supplies and equipment, most of which comes from abroad, and after the 2001 crash, costs 3 times more. As always, the little guy gets to pay for it. Same would go for floods or chemical or biological attacks. Water requires delicate care and it will suffer when TSHTF in one way or another. In this case, when you still have tap water, a quality filter is in order, as well as a pump if you can have one. A manual pump would be ideal as well if possible. Estimate that you need approximately a gallon per person per day. Try to have at least two-four weeks worth of water. More would be preferable.

POWER

I spent WAY too much time without power for my own taste. Power has always been a problem in my country, even before the 2001 crisis. The real problem starts when you spend more than just a few hours without light. Just after the SHTF in 2001 half the country went without power for 3 days. Buenos Aires was one big dark grave. People got caught on elevators, food rots; hospitals that only had a few hours worth of fuel for their generators ran out of power. Without power, days get to be a lot shorter. Once the sun sets there is not much you can do. I read under candle light and flashlight light and your head starts to hurt after a while. You can work around the house a little bit but only as long as you don't need power tools. Crime also increases once the lights go out, so whenever you have to go somewhere in a black out, carry the flashlight on one hand and a handgun on the other.

Summarizing, being in a city without light turns out to be depressing after a while. I spent my share of nights, alone, listening to the radio, eating canned food and cleaning my guns under the light of my LED head lamp. Then I got married, had a son, and found out that when you have loved ones around you black outs are not as bad. The point is that family helps morale on these situations.

A note on flashlights. Have two or three head LED lights. They are not expensive and are worth their weight in gold. A powerful flashlight is necessary, something like a big Maglite or better yet a SureFire, especially when you have to check your property for intruders. But for more mundane stuff like preparing food, going to the toilet or doing stuff around the house, the LED headlamp is priceless. Try washing the dishes on the dark while holding a 60 lumen flashlight on one hand and you'll know what I mean. LEDs also have the advantage of lasting for almost an entire week of continuous use and the light bulb lasts forever. Rechargeable batteries are a must or else you'll end up broke if lights go out often. Have a healthy amount of spare quality batteries and try to standardize as much as you can. I have 12 Samsung NM 2500Mh AA and 8 AAA 800mh for the headlamps. I use D cell plastic adaptors in order to use AA batteries on my 3 D cell Maglite. This turned out to work quite well, better than I expected.

I also keep about 2 or 3 packs of regular, Duracell batteries just in case. These are supposed to expire around 2012, so I can forget about them until I need them.

Rechargeable NM batteries have the disadvantage of losing power after a period of time, so keep regular batteries as well and check the rechargeable ones every once in a while.

After all these years of problems with power, what two items I would love to have?

- 1) The obvious. A generator. I carried my fridge food to my parent's house way too many times on the past. Too bad I can't afford one right now.
- 2) A battery charger that has both solar panel and a small crank. They are not available here. I saw that they are relatively inexpensive in USA. Do yourself a favor and get one or two of these. Even if they don't charge as well as regular ones, I'm sure it will put out enough power to charge batteries for LED lamps at least.

GAS

Gas has decreased in quality as well, there is little gas. Try to have an electric oven in case you have to do without it. If both electricity and gas go down, one of those camping stoves can work as well, if you keep a good supply of gas cans. The ones that work with liquid fuel seem to be better on the long run, since they can use different types of fuel.

You can substitute a limited amount of compressed gas and once you run out of it you are on your own if stores are closed or they sold them out.

You can only store a limited amount of compressed gas and once you ran out of it, you are on your own if stores are closed or they run out. Anyway, a city that goes without gas and light for more than two weeks is a death trap, get out of there before it's too late.

A DIFFERENT MENTALITY.

I was watching the People & Art channel with my wife the other night. It was a show where they film a couple for a given period of time and some people vote on who is the one with the worst habits, the one they find more annoying. We were in our bed, and this is when I usually fall asleep but since the guy was a firearms police instructor I was interested and managed to stay awake. At one point the guy's wife said that she found annoying that her husband spent 500 dollars a month on beauty products for himself. 500 USD on facial cream, special shampoo and conditioner, as well as having his nails polished! If you are that guy and happen to be reading this, I'm sorry, but what an idiot!! "500 USD, that's a small generator or a gun and a few boxes of ammo" I told my wife. "That's two months worth of food" she said. We were each thinking of a practical use for that money, the money this guy was practically throwing away. Once the SHTF, money is no longer measured in money, but you start seeing it as the necessary goods it can buy. Stuff like food, medicine, gas, or the private medical service bill. To me, spending 500 dollars on beauty products, and to make it worse, on a guy? That's simply not acceptable. The way I see it, someone with that mentality can't survive a week without a credit card, no use in even considering a SHTF scenario. And this guy is a firearms instructor? ... probably the kind of guy that will say that a handgun is only used to fight his way to his rifle... and his facial night cream...

Once you experience the lack of stuff you took for granted, like food, medicines, your set of priorities change all of a sudden. For example, I had two wisdom teeth removed last year. On both occasions I was prescribed with antibiotics and strong Ibuprofen for the pain. I took the antibiotics (though I did buy two boxes with the same recipe just to keep one box just in case) but I didn't use the Ibuprofen, I added it to my pile of medicines. Why? Because medicines are not always available and I'm not sure if they will be available in the future. Sure, it hurt like hell, but pain alone isn't going to kill you, so I sucked it up. Good for building up character if you ask me.

Make sacrifices so as to ensure a better future, that's the mentality you should have if you want to be prepared. There's stuff that is "nice to have" that has to be sacrificed to get the indispensable stuff. There's stuff that is not "basic need stuff" but it's also important in one way or another. My wife goes to the hairdresser once every month or two. It's not life or death, but it does make her feel better and it boosts her morale. I buy a game for the Xbox or a movie to watch with my wife every once in awhile, just to relax. 7 or 10 dollars a month are not going to burn a hole in my pocket. Addictions such as alcohol, drugs or even cigarettes should be avoided by the survivalist. They are bad for your health; cost a lot of money that could be much better spent, and create an addiction to something that may not be available in the future. Who will have to tolerate your grouchy mood when your brand of smokes is no longer imported after TSHTF?

FerFAL

PART II

GRAY/BLACK MARKET

Once the SHTF the black/gray market will take no time to appear all around you. In my country, gray markets were even accepted in the end. At first it was all about trading skills or craft products for food. Districts and towns would form their own barter markets, and created their own tickets, similar to money, that was used to trade. This didn't last long. Those tickets were easy to make on your home computer, there was no control and eventually people went back to paper money.

These markets were usually placed on warehouses or empty land, and were managed by some wise guy and a few thugs or hired security. Anyone can go rent a kiosk inside these markets for about 50-100 pesos (about 20-30 dollars) a day and sell his goods and services. Peace within these markets is usually respected... lets just say that these managers don't call the police if someone tries anything funny, like stealing, fighting or taking advantage of women. That's not good for their business and anyone that tries to mess with their business finds out how much pain the human body can actually experiment or gets a free ticket to meet the Lord. Sometimes even uniformed cops manage security on these markets, for a small fee of course. As always, you still have to be careful. They may still try to pick your pockets or even attack you once you leave the market. Once you leave the market, you are on your own, as always.

These markets evolved and now a lot of different products are available. Today I visited my local market, a warehouse that is fairly well set up and cleanly managed. They had problems for selling stolen merchandise and fake Brand name clothes a few days ago. What can be found at a local markets? Mostly food and clothing. Some have more variety than others but cheese, canned food, spices, honey, eggs, fruits, vegetables, beer, wine and cured meat are generally available, same as bakery products and pasta. These are less expensive than those found at supermarkets. Fresh fish is sometimes available but not always, people don't trust much products that need refrigeration, and they get those at supermarkets instead.

Clothes are also popular and you can find copies of brand name clothes, imitations, or even original stolen new clothes, the same goes for shoes and sneakers. Children clothes, underwear, socks, sheets and towels are all very popular. Some sell toys, but they are always China made, mostly poor quality though there are some few exceptions. Others sell tools, also made in China can be found as well, but they are of poor quality. Some offer their services and repair stuff or offer work as handyman. You would be amazed of the junk that these guys manage to fix: TVs, CD players, Power tools, etc. They even manage to solder the small integrated circuits boards sometimes. Give one of these guys a screw driver and a bar of chocolate and he will fix a nuclear submarine.

After food and clothes, the 3rd most popular item has to be CDs and DVDs, movies, music, play station 2 and Xbox games, programs, it all ends up there just one or two days after the official release in USA. Seems that they have a guy hidden under Bill Gate's desk or something. Anyway, almost everything can be found there, and if you want, you can ask around, talk to the right guy and buy illegal stuff like drugs or black market guns and ammo. The quality of the drugs is questionable, of course, and a lot of addicts die from the mixtures these guys sell. Guns are mostly FM High Powers, Surplus 1911s and Colt .45s, Sistemasa, and old Colt Detective revolvers in 38 special that found their way from police and military armories into the black market. Condition isn't very good but if you have money you'll be amazed of what you can end up with. Everything that is used by the military and police, including SMGs a, Browning 50 BMG Machine guns, and even frag grenades, is available in the black market, if the customer has the amount of money and a little patience, of course. The big guns may take a while, but the handguns and grenades are readily available.

GOLD!!

Someone hit me in the head please because I messed up about the gold issue. Everyone wants to buy gold! "I buy gold. Pay cash" signs are everywhere, even on TV! I can't believe I'm that silly! I just didn't relate it to what I read here because they deal with junk gold, like jewelry, either stolen or sold because they needed the money, not the gold coins that you guys talk about. No one pays for the true value of the stuff, so big WARNING! Sign on people that are buying gold coins. Since it is impossible to determine the true mineral percentage of gold, small shops and dealers will pay for it as regular jewelry gold. What I would do if I were you: Besides gold coins, buy a lot of small gold rings and other jewelry. They should be less expensive than gold coins, and if the SHTF bad, you'll not be losing money, selling premium quality gold coins for the price of junk gold. If I could travel back in time, I'd buy a small bag worth of gold rings. Small time thieves will snatch gold chains right out of your neck and sell them at these small dealers found everywhere. This is VERY common at train stations, subways and other crowded areas.

So, my advice, if you are preparing for a small economical crisis, gold coins make sense. You will keep the value of the stuff and be able to sell it for its actual cost to gold dealers or maybe other survivalists that know the true value of the item. In my case, gold coins would have been an excellent investment, saving me from losing money when the local economy crashed. Even though things are bad, I can go to a bank down town and get paid for what a gold coin is truly worth, same goes for pure silver. But where I live, in my local are small time dealers will only pay you the value of junk gold, no matter what kind of gold you have. So, I'd have to say that if TSHTF bad, gold jewelry is a better trade item than gold coins. Forgive me for not talking about this before, but I didn't realize this until today, when I visited my local market warehouse and saw a "Buy Gold" sign.

PART III: GUNS, AMMO AND OTHER GEAR

After TSHTF in 2001, only the most narrow minded, brain washed, butterfly IQ level idiots believed that the police would protect them from the crime wave that followed the collapse of our economy. A lot of people that could have been considered antigun before, ran to the gun shops, seeking advice on how to defend themselves and their families. They would buy a 38 revolver, a box of ammo, and leave it in the closet, probably believing that it would magically protect them from intruders.

Oh, maybe you don't think that firearms are really necessary or your beliefs do not allow you to buy a tool designed to kill people. So you probably ask yourself, is a gun really necessary when TSHTF? Will it truly make a difference? Having gone through a shtf scenario myself, total economical collapse in the year 2001, and still dealing with the consequences, 5 years later, I feel I can answer that question. YES, you need a gun, pepper spray, a machete, a battle axe, club with a rusty nail sticking out of it, or whatever weapon you can get hold of.

A LOT has been written on survival weapons. Everyone that is into armed survival has his or her own idea of the ideal gun battery. Some more oriented to a hunting point of view, others only as self defense means and others consider a little of both, and look for general purpose weapons. Talking about guns, there is one special subject I want to rectify, and it's the point on what's the primary weapon for the survivalist, specially an urban survivalist that has to function in a society, yes, even after the SHTF. The primary defensive weapon for the survivalist is his HANDGUN. It's the weapon that stays with him when he is doing his business around town or working on the field. The survivalist IS NOT a soldier, even though you are a soldier or you once were the meanest mother on the battle field, your home town is not a battlefield and it won't be, even if the SHTF. A LOT of water has to go under the bridge until the situation gets to a point where you can calmly walk down the street with a rifle on your shoulder. People, if you are interested in real world SHTF situation and you want to prepare for the real deal, then understand that this isn't black or white. You wake up one day and listen on the radio that the economy collapsed and that the stock market closed indefinitely. What do you do? You still have to go to the office/work/whatever. Kiss the wife good bye and walk to the office with your AR across your back, or across your chest, Israeli style, and ready to shoot? You won't get far. Someone will shoot you or throw you in jail, or in a mental institution.

What I'm trying to explain, is that it's ok to prepare for China invading you country, Germans and UN or Martians. That is the extreme, less likely worst case scenario.

There is an infinity spectrum of gray between the black and white. White being your average normal day and black being total TEOTWAWKI, lizard men invading the planet.

Rifles do have a place in the survivalist's arsenal, and a very important one. But you have to understand that 90% of the time, the handgun will be the weapon you have available when you need one. You can't compare to a trooper in Iraq that has his weapon with him at all times. I ask you how many soldiers do you know that keep wearing cammo and totting their M4s around town when they return home?

What works for war does not work for the survivalist, especially the urban survivalist.

Even if you live in a retreat far from town, you have to work, don't you? Or do you have employees that take care of all your mundane tasks, leaving you all day to keep watch with your rifle ready? A soldier is part of a huge machine; HIS job is to carry that rifle, while others take care of other needs. A survivalist, one that is not part of a large survivalist group, has no one to cover for him. When a new guy looks for advice on what to get for defense, some will recommend a rifle or shotgun as a first defensive weapon.

Let's say race riots start in this guy's city. He still has to go to work every day. What is he supposed to do? Shove his pump shotgun in his pocket? A handgun, even though less powerful, can be used for home defense AND go with you wherever you need to go. If the place floods, he can still hop into an evacuation boat without leaving his weapon behind. I'm sure no rescue team will pick you if you are carrying a long arm. They'll ask you to leave it behind for sure. What if your government, realizing that TSHTF and that they lost control of the events, bans all firearms indefinitely? Don't know about you, but if things are that bad, I'd like to be armed. You can hide a handgun under a jacket. You can't hide a long arm under your clothes.

I think it was Clint Smith who said that the handgun is only used to fight his way to his rifle. Man! That sounds "macho". I'd love to see him walking into Wal-Mart with his tactical M4, taking the subway, visiting the doctor or going to the bank. "Over here Mr. Smith, you can hang you M4 right next to my coat" I don't think so. Guys, unless you have your own shooting school, you do not get to carry your rifle to work.

OK, now that I got that out of my chest lets look at some options.

Handguns: Revolver or Pistol? Pistol ALL THE WAY! Yes, I saw the video of the guy that accurately emptied his S&W in 1/2 a second. I also saw the shooting range and the crowd behind him, watching the event. Can he shoot and reload that way if he is in his car, driving with one hand and shooting with the other, while a bunch of scum bags in another car are shooting at him? Hey, maybe he can. I know I can't. Can you?

Generally speaking, the revolver is more difficult to master than the pistol. The double action is hard and it affects speed and accuracy. It can be done, but I found that pistols are easier, as did many shooters. Also, even though they seem to be more simple, revolvers are not as rugged as service pistols, the mechanisms that cycles the cylinder and cocks the hammer is both complicated and fragile compared to auto pistols. Before anyone starts casting evil voodoo spells at me for insulting their prized S&W or Ruger: I own revolvers and like shooting them, I just don't think

they are the best option for self defense, and I see that everyone I talk to in my country who is worried about security as I am also chooses pistols. Quality pistols resist sand, mud and dirt in general better than revolvers, where a small pebble locked in the mechanism may render the revolver inoperable.

I personally had a problem with a new stainless steel Taurus Tracker .357 magnum. After shooting it a couple of times I reloaded it and shot all 7 rounds as fast as I could and when I tried to empty it, I found that the empties were stuck because they expanded because of the heat. I had to wait until the gun cooled a little so I could empty the gun. Stuff like this can get you killed, even more in a 7 round handgun. I once saw a man walk into a gun store wanting to trade his 357 magnum revolver for a 9mm high capacity pistol. He said he was driving when thugs from another car started shooting at him. He was chased for a few blocks. He said that he pulled his revolver and started shooting at them, and ran out of ammo real fast. He wanted more capacity and fast reloading. I could not agree with him more. Some will consider this "Spray and pray", thinking that all rounds should hit the target and if some don't then it means that you need more time at the range. Those same people will tell you that they intend to use bolt action rifles as defensive rifles, making each shot count, without ever missing their target, one shot one kill. I don't agree with this. One shot one kill is ok for snipers, but the survivalist should have other alternatives.

I don't see anything wrong with shooting four or five rounds at a chasing car. If those rounds make them think twice about their intentions, they are rounds well spent in my book, even if they don't kill the attacker. Suppressive fire is possible if you have a high capacity pistol. I wouldn't doubt on using such a tactic if it serves my purposes, or if it buys me time to get out of there. Also keep in mind that criminals are cowards and therefore attack in groups. The survivalist should be able to face more than just one attacker. Getting into a gunfight with two or three armed men while packing a 6 round revolver is rather hard to deal with. A high capacity pistol can load about 15 or 19 rounds, and that can certainly make a difference in a gunfight where you are outnumbered.

A forensic doctor that used to live in my neighborhood got killed last year. He was ambushed when he exited a restaurant by 5 or 6 men. Even though they did kill him he managed to kill 4 of them and severely injure another. He shot regularly and carried a Glock .40. I'm sure he was lucky but I also think that his choice of weapon was also important in the outcome. If anyone is wondering, people in my country that are serious about self defense carry Glocks. Those that don't have the money for a Glock carry Bersas, FM High Powers or 1911 surplus .45s. At first I wasn't sure about the Bersa, but once I tried them I saw that they are very descent guns. I now own two Bersas and am pleased with they performance.

The caliber choice calls for endless debate and it is not my intention here. Let's just say that 9mm, 40S&W and 45ACP are the obvious choices. 40S&W seem to be the most adequate, both in FMJ and HP, while 9mm lacks some stopping power and hollow points should be used if possible. Though the 9mm lacks power compared to the 40S&W, it is more popular world wide, a factor to consider seriously when choosing a handgun for SHTF. Besides, 9mm can also be used in a number of carbines and SMG, another important fact to be considered.

SMGs and carbines chambered for 40S&W and .45 ACP are also available, but they are not nearly as popular as those chambered for 9mm. Whatever you choose keep 500 or better yet 1000 rounds of quality ammo for your handgun at all times. 100 rounds won't last much if the crisis lasts long. Also consider that once the balloon goes up, governments tend to restrict guns and ammo.

Rifles

I previously stated that the urban survivalist will be using his handgun 90% of the time he needs to defend himself and family from attackers. I didn't pull this figure out of thin air; it is quite accurate based on what happens here on daily basis, even a little optimistic. Cold harsh reality has shown us that most attacks occur when entering or exiting your home, when you are more vulnerable. Almost no one is stupid enough to try to enter a barred house with armed occupants. Believe me people; the gene pool will clean itself rather fast once the SHTF. So, is a rifle necessary? Of course it is! There is still that 10%, and that 10% can still ruin your day. And this percentage sky rockets if you intend to use that same rifle for putting meat on the table. If you have to settle with just one rifle, go for a semi auto. Ideally you should have a bolt action one and a semi auto rifle. A bolt action and a semiautomatic 308 would make a nice combination.

Whatever you choose, try to keep it within military calibers and military weapons if possible.

It may seem that I have something against bolt rifles but I don't. I think they are fantastic weapons, but I think that semi autos are much better fighting weapons. The idea of "picking them out" 300 meters away with your bolt rifle, as they come in a row blowing whistles and firing warning rounds is laughable at best. Bolt rifles do have advantages over semi autos, accuracy not being the most important one. Bolt rifles such as Mausers last forever and are harder than rocks, THAT'S important. They are simple, easy to repair tools that will serve you (within their limitations of course) longer than any other weapon. For example, the coil spring on my Mauser 1891 safety broke into 3 separate parts, after almost 100 years of faithful service. I dug into my tool box and found a spring left over from a kitchen shelve door. I cut it approximately to the length of the previous spring, replaced it and the rifle was fixed. There are not many weapons that allow this. And it is a very valuable attribute once the SHTF and spare parts are no longer available.

Stick to common calibers, 223, 7.62x39mm, or 7.62x51 (308). 223 vs. 308? I'm not going there. If you prefer 223 because it has less recoil, it's lighter, or you favor the AR rifle go ahead. If you think that 223 is more powerful than 7.62 sign up to Physics I. Just remember what I said before, a survivalist is not a soldier serving in Iraq, and you don't have the entire USMF to back you up. You are on your own. You are not going to pin your attackers down with a questionably effective round and wait until someone hits them with artillery.

About ARs... I wouldn't trust my life to a rifle that has more versions than Rocky sequels... the way I see it, it means that the basic design was the problem and there is no solution. On AK ... all has been said. The most popular rifle on the planet, and popular not because of politics, but because it works. It also fires an intermediate power, effective round, available world wide. SKS are also good, but I'd rather have removable magazines. Again, don't use voodoo on me because I say I wouldn't trust my life to a AR. If you keep your weapon clean, know its limitations and feel comfortable with it, go for it please. A couple of rounds of 223 will kill anyone just as well.

If you want a rifle that can do a little bit of everything relatively well, do yourself a favor and get either a M1A or a FAL in 7.62 (308) with a carbine length barrel. Preferably with a red dot scope and some kind of light mount. Leave full length barrels to hunters and bench rest shooters. Do your homework on both guns and you'll see what I mean.

Choose 308 not because of the added range you can get out of it, but because of its power at all ranges, choose it because it turns cover into concealment. Think about all the possible cover material you can find in a city, like cars, trees, low walls and other structures. The 308 will go right through it, or destroy it after a few rounds. It's a proven cartridge through out the years.

Shotguns.

Shotguns are good general purpose guns. The main advantage I see is the devastating stopping power and the ability to use special ammo, like

shotguns are good general purpose guns. The main advantage I see is the devastating stopping power, and the ability to use special ammo, like slugs and less than lethal ammo. I'm not so sure about the role as an "inside house" gun. The muzzle blast is great and quick follow up are not easy, especially when adrenalin is pumping through your system or, even worse, when someone is shooting back at you.

Pistol caliber carbines and SMG.

If possible, I'd choose a SMG reduced to semi auto (only if necessary, of course, full auto selector is better if possible) or other kind of short, small, pistol caliber carbine. The combination of a 9mm handgun and a 9mm carbine or SMG reduced to semi auto or full auto class III has lots of advantages in my book and is a fine combination.

Some think that full auto is a waste of ammo. I don't think so, not if you know how to use your head, and use this feature wisely. If you can get a short barrel and collapsible stock, you'll also have a weapon that can be hidden under a heavy coat. A red dot scope would enhance accuracy a lot. The advantage of having the same ammo for long and small arm is not to be taken lightly. From the logistical, survivalist point of you, this is one big thumbs up! Think about cowboys and Americans that lived in the west, they also knew the value of using the same ammo for rifle and handgun. They had single action handguns and lever action handguns chambered for the same ammo, the modern survivalist can have the same ammo for his auto pistol and his sub-rifle as well.

Some think that a pistol caliber long arm is just one big clumsy pistol or a rifle sized gun that delivers pistol power and accuracy. This is BS. Anyone that ever fired a pistol caliber rifle or SMG knows that they are much more accurate, hitting torso targets at 100 yards is easy, and a little more if you have a red dot scope. Also, SMGs can manage hot ammo specially made for such guns, much more powerful than the one for handguns. Even if you use regular handgun ammo, the added barrel length adds a few extra feet per second making it more powerful. Just check the information on body armor. Body armor that is rated to stop 9mm, for example, is not rated to stop the same 9mm ammo out of a SMG or carbine, because the added speed will make that same round penetrate the vest. Anyway, +P ammo is more than enough power out of a SMG or carbine; you don't have to go looking for special SMG ammunition.

If you can get full auto that's one nice feature to have, not worth it if you are on a tight budget, but if you can get it, it may come in handy someday. Full auto SMG are giving police in my country a lot of headaches. A criminal with little or no training will put 3 or 4 cops armed with pistols and shotguns on their toes, just because of the sheer volume of fire these high capacity 9mm deliver. There was this case of a bad guy standing in front of a patrol car full of cops on a red light stop, pulling a 9mm SMG out of his coat and emptying it on full auto. The cops didn't have a chance, he killed them all. The car looked like Swiss cheese with 40 9mm holes all over the vehicle.

SOUND SUPPRESSORS

All I'm going to say on this subject is: Have one if you can. That's it. I'll leave the rest of it to your imagination, don't make me say it. Today it may seem like a "nice to have" feature... after the SHTF, it may be an "O God I've got to get a suppressor!!" feature.

I'd buy a good suppressor instead of an ultra high dollar scope like the SOG. Buy a good quality scope, but don't spend a fortune on it, and use the rest of the money on a suppressor. If you are serious about preparing for SHTF, you'll thank me one day; just trust me on this one. 9mm and 45 suppress quite well. Not as well as .22, but there is much more power on the big bore ammo. Combined with a full auto SMG, the possibilities are much greater. Sometimes it's just better to go unnoticed, especially in a SHTF crisis.

BODY ARMOR

Dear God! Buy body armor PLEASE!! Its dirt cheap in USA. Preferably, get the police concealable kind (class II) then continue to work on it and get class III A military armor and some rifle plates, just as you do when you start buying guns. You'll end up with 2 or 3 sets of armor which are great to have for family members and spares. Just so you know, I got so desperate about body armor I ordered it from USA through internet (bulletproofme.com), I ended up paying a total of nearly 600 USD for body armor that costs 200 USD in USA. Buy it while you still can. When the SHTF you'll end up wearing it, believe me. I don't wear mine all day long but I do wear it when I have to go some place dangerous, deal with people I don't trust, or when I have to go teach Architecture Representation late at night, and must travel through a much dangerous road at 12 PM.

PART IV

-Interlude -Studying the SHTF at the University: Dark omens.

I forgot it! Damn, same as the gold stuff but worse, much worse. I've never been good at remembering some things, like numbers and names of people I meet, I forget those (instantly), they just flee my mind, uneventfully, but I do remember some other things that don't seem to be as important. I do remember living in USA as a kid. I remember my school, Pierce School, Don't remember exactly where it was, because we lived some in Boston, Massachusetts and some in New Hampshire. I remember my best friend, Freddy, and a girl (why is there always a girl? 😊) Samantha, Sam. She was red haired and tall, I had a picture of her playing together but I lost it. Some time between the age of 3 and 26 I lost that picture that was so dear to me. I remember the smell of an orange shaped "scratch and smell" sticker my kindergarten teacher stuck in a small book we made once. But I almost forgot this forever. This, this was important, a moment where the life we once knew stopped existing, and a group of students, in a class room that looked like an abandoned building, realized it, all 60 of us at the same time.

It's 1:06 AM over here. I just finished showering and my wife and son are asleep. I was putting shampoo on my hair, thinking about what I wrote today on this post, and remembered the exact moment when I realized along with several other people, not only that TSHTF (that we all knew) but that the world we once new no longer existed, and that this was not a hurricane, this was an ice age period, it wouldn't just go away.

We understood it the same way a kid understands photosynthesis: Because a teacher coldly explained it to us, even used graphics. I slept 5 hours yesterday, 2 hours the day before yesterday. Saturday night I didn't sleep at all. I'm already used to it. Deadlines at the University, staying late at night, drawing in CAD 3D, waiting until Renders are ready. It's a competitive world out there, and no one sympathizes with what you are going through, they just want you to perform as expected, and the standard is always high. It happened 4 years ago, almost a year after the December 2001 crisis. It was a social studies class and this teacher, don't remember if it was a he or a she, was explaining the different kinds of social pyramids. God! Now I remember more! We even had a text book with those darn, cruel pyramids! The first pyramid explained the basic society. A pyramid with two horizontal lines, dividing those on top (high social class) those in the middle (middle class) and the bottom of the pyramid (the poor, proletarian). The teacher explained that the middle of the pyramid, the middle class, acted as a cushion between the rich and the poor, taking care of the social stress. The second pyramid had a big middle section, this was the pyramid that represents 1st world countries. I which the bottom is very thin and arrows

show that there is a possibility to go from low to middle class, and from middle to top. The teacher explained that this was the classic, democratic capitalist society, and that on countries such as Europeans one, socialists, the pyramid was very similar but a little more flat, meaning that here is a big middle section, middle class, and small high and low class. There is little difference between the three of them.

The third pyramid showed the communist society. Where arrows from the low and middle class tried to reach the top but they bounced off the line. A small high society and one big low society, cushioned by a minimal middle class section of pyramid. Then we turned the page and saw the darned fourth pyramid. This one had arrows from the middle class dropping to the low, poor class.

"What is this?" Some of us asked.

The teacher looked at us. "This is us"

"It's the collapsed country, a country that turns into 3rd world country like in pyramid five where there is almost no middle class to speak, one huge low, poor class, and a very small, very rich, top class."

"What are those arrows that go from the middle to the bottom of the pyramid?" Someone asked.

You could hear a pin drop. "That is middle class turning into poor".

I won't lie, no one cried, though people rubbed their faces, held their heads and their breath.

No one cried, but we all knew at that very moment that all we thought, all we took for granted, simply was not going to happen.

"You see, the income from the middle class is not enough to function as middle class any more. Some from the top class fall to middle class, but the vast majority of the middle class turns into poor" Said the teacher.

I don't know how many people in that room suddenly understood that he/she was poor.

The teacher continued "You see, we have a middle class that suddenly turns to poor, creating a society of basically poor people, there is no more middle class to cushion tensions any more. Middle class suddenly discovers that they are overqualified for the jobs they can find and have to settle for anything they can obtain, there for unemployment sky rockets, too much to offer, too little demand. You see they prepare, study for a job they are not going to get. You kids, you are studying Architecture because you simply wish to do so. Only 3 or 4 percent of you will actually find a job related to architecture."

We all sat there, letting it all sink in. After a few months, it all proved to be true. Even the amount of students that dropped out of college increased to at least 50%. They either so no point in studying something that would not make much of a difference in their future salaries, had no money to keep themselves in college, or simply had to drop college to work and support their families.

Someone once said, in this forum, that if this had happened in USA, the social unrest would have been much worse, because people from S. America are stronger. At first, I told him that I didn't think so, I said that all humans adapt when they have no other choice. But now that I consider it more, maybe he was right. Not that S. Americans are stronger, but they are more used to adversities. Most of us are children from grandparents that escaped civil war, either in Spain or dictators in Italy, our parents survived the dirty war, even more dictators, and therefore their children are of strong character too. Can USA citizens survive what we survived? Of course they can, though I think that there are too many that are not like you, many that don't prepare, and take everything for granted. Those are the ones that will be responsible for the increase in the social unrest once the SHTF, those that were too lazy to take care of themselves before the SHTF, or that had gone soft through out the years, believing that the government will "take care of them because they pay their taxes". But in the end, they will pull through. People will adapt, they always do. You'd be surprised. And those that don't want to adapt to the new reality they live in, will die young, thus cleaning the gene pool and ensuring the continuity of the specie. It's been this way for thousands of years.

Note: I'm sorry I took so long to continue this post. I spent the last few days drawing on the computer, I have to present this sort of thesis for the University, a school project, to a board of 4 teachers in 3 weeks.

CRIME AND INSECURITY

Even though crime has always been an issue in South America, my country was quite the exception. It was dangerous, yes but nothing like after the 2001 economical crisis. One used to be able to let kids play on the sidewalk, or walk back home from a party, a few blocks, and be somewhat safe. This all changed now. There are no kids playing on the sidewalks anymore. I should emphasize this a little more. There are **absolutely NO kids playing on the sidewalks at all, at any time of the day**. Maybe a kid rides his bike a few meters on the sidewalk, but always under the supervision of an adult. A kid riding a bike on his own will get that bike stolen in no time, probably get hurt in the process, therefore no responsible parent leaves a kid alone on the street. Teenagers present a greater problem. You can't keep a 15 or 16 year old inside a house all day long, and even though they are big enough to go out on their own, when the sun goes down things get much worse.

This is when parents organize themselves; either taking them to someone's house or to a club and picking them up at a certain time. Taxis and remises are used sometimes, but there have been lots of cases of girls getting raped, so no parent worth a buck leaves his son or daughter in hands of a stranger. After years of living like this, almost everyone learned to be careful; sometimes they had to learn the hard way. Practically no one leaves a door or window opened or unlocked. Nor do they hang out in front of the house talking to friends. A bad guy might just see you there, like a sitting duck, pull a gun on you and take you inside your house.

There are no "bandit's law" anymore. One used to hear people talk about "You shouldn't resist a robbery, give them what they want and they'll go away". That holds true no more. These guys are under the influence of drugs, epoxy glue, or just hate your guts so much, because you have a better life than they ever dreamed of, because they were abused since the day they were born, that they will hurt and humiliate you as much as they can. Letting a criminal inside you house almost guaranties you that he will rape/beat/ torture and abuse whoever they find inside.

I personally drew a line a few years ago and decided, after one long, serious conversation with my wife; that no one would be allowed inside the house, no matter what. We figured that there are worse things than death. Having decided that, I make sure I always have a weapon on me. They'll have to pay dearly for my life, plus interests.

By far, the most dangerous moment of the day, is when I (or my wife) leave/enter my house. A solid, secure house cannot be broken in easily, so criminals wait until you are standing on front of the door with the keys on your hand to jump on you. This is why we are extra alert when approaching our house, look all around us and if we see anything strange, keep walking around the block or keep on driving. No door is ever opened when there is a strange person around. Whenever someone knocks on our door (and we don't know him/her), they are answered from a second story window. Criminals sometimes disguise as electric company guys or something like that, saying that they have to fix something. **NO!** If there is something to be fixed they can fix it on the sidewalk. Anything inside your house is your responsibility and the company is not going to fix it for you. Either way, it's always better to play it safe, Better to be rude than dead.

On the car/driving issue, that calls for an entire post dedicated to SHTF driving. For now I'll just say that windows and doors have to be closed at all times, a weapon must be within arms reach, and that stop signs and traffic lights have a hole new meaning once TSHTF. If your country ever falls as mine did, you'll remember me whenever you see a traffic light. You never stop at a red lights or stop sign unless there is traffic, especially at night.

At first, police would write you a ticket for not stopping at a red light if they saw you (another way of saying that they will ask for a bribe if they see you pass a red light), but after a few months they realized that nothing could be done, people would rather risk a ticket than risking their lives, so they decided to turn traffic lights to permanent yellow at night, after 8 or 9 PM. This is, of course, very dangerous. Night car accidents are both frequent and brutal since sometimes both cars hit each other at full speed.

MissinLink asked some good questions that might interest others as well, and since we are on the security issue, here they are:

quote:

"Do the invaders of homes in the country just drive up in cars or trucks? Do they hide and sneak up? How do these home invaders attack a home in the country? A similar question could be asked for homes in the city."

Sometimes they just drive up to where you are working, if you are far away from the home, but most of the time they sneak up on you. Criminals are not stupid, and they will spend days checking the place and specially YOUR ROUTINE. For example, if they see that you lock the gate at night, as most do, they will wait for you behind a tree until you are close. This is done a lot. Dogs are the best alarm you can find, and criminals know that. They will poison them with pills when you go to sleep and attack the place in the middle of the night. I know of many that had their dogs killed. If they think that security is tight, they will just hide near the main gate, and wait for you to leave or return. When you stop at the gate and must get out of the truck to open/close the main gate, they attack. I'd say that the most frequent kind of attack is attacking by surprise when you enter/leave your home.

quote:

"Most common times of attack? Day night evening morning? I understand occur when coming or going from ones home, etc."

7 am, 9 am, 1pm 7pm, all are common times for attacks. There is no "safe" hour of the day. Night is particularly dangerous. Maybe attacks during the day are faster, they want to get some money or jewelry and leave fast, while at night they might stay inside more time, maybe till the next day. But there are no fixed patterns. If I could give one advice concerning SHTF security, it would be: Eyes and ears wide open when you enter/leave your home. If possible, keep a gun on your hand when doing either one. If something looks, even "feels strange, then go around the block and check again, carefully. If you see them still there, either call the police (if still available) or get help. If you approach the house with a large number of people they will leave. One time, I saw a couple of strange looking guys at my door. I went round the block and saw them still there. I started flashing the car lights and the horn and they left. I had a gun with me, though, so be careful when trying this. Also, remember that a car is one heavy, powerful piece of machinery. I know a guy that had one of those big chrome-tube bumpers installed on his truck, especially for hitting those that were stupid enough o try to make him stop by standing in front of the car.

If I had a truck, I would do so myself. Though I would keep my mouth shut about it, as always. Just say that you think it looks cool or something. Every now and then someone tries to force me to stop my car by standing in front of it (I suppose there are still fools out there that get robbed this way), in the middle of the street. I just aim at them and accelerate at full speed. They always jump out of the way before I hit them. By the way, at first, doing this made me feel nervous, but can you believe that now it's just common driving, as normal as changing gears? I guess it's a little sad.

PART V

Note: Sorry for the delay. This thread started ok and it seems to have a lot of acceptance so I give it serious thought before I post, try not to leave anything out so it can serve the better, as a mini guide of things that may come.

A LIST OF THINGS THAT "If you had it to do over again" YOU WOULD GET.

Nomad came up with this one. It's a good idea because it may help some of you from making the same mistakes I did. There are things you don't think about until you need them, and then it's too late.

OK, if I had to do all this from scratch? Say, for example, if I had a 2 year warning, fairy godmother appears one night, all dressed in blue waving a magic wand, saying

"Your country will go down the sewage in 2 years, consider yourself warned dear"

There are several things I would have done differently, and things I would have bought:

Food: I'll get to the food issue soon enough, but you can never have too much canned or other long shelf life food. This was probably one of my greatest mistakes, I overlooked the food problem.

I was talking to my wife today while driving, asked her the same question "Nomad asked me 'what would you do if you could go back in time, before the 2001 crisis'".

My wife, though smart, isn't much into preparedness, but she answered "I'd buy food" in a heartbeat. Don't you remember that you could only buy one small bottle of oil at a time, same with sugar, flour and milk? Don't you remember all those empty shelves at the supermarket?"

Definitely, more food, especially food that lasts for a few years.

CAR: I would have bought a 4x4, even though I live in the city. A 4x4 allows you to drive over the sidewalk or through wasteland, away from roadblocks or riots. I've seen those that have 4x4s simply go off road, climb over a boulevard and leave while the rest of us poor car owners have to stay.

A 4x4 truck also has more mass and power in case that someone tries to cut you off or rams you with the car. It's less likely to stop running if you hit someone or several people (in a riot situation) since it's prepared for cross country use and the engine is much more protected.

Fuel containers: Not only jerry cans, but those big metal containers, that hook up like small "u-hauls"? I'm not sure about their capacity; maybe they can hold one or two barrels of gas. I saw them at construction sites, and they were not that expensive if bought used, before the 2001 crisis. Now, I don't know, haven't seen them for a while.

A generator: These are imported and very expensive for us. I think that they are now making them here, but I'm not sure about the quality.

A nice TV and DVD player: I know what you are thinking "this guy has gone ... "nuts" " 😊 Please, let me explain. Going out for dinner or to the movies is not only dangerous but also expensive. You WILL find much better use for that money if SHTF.

There are places in Buenos Aires where you can go out for dinner, movies, or theater shows and have a good time, safely. They either have their own security or arrange with the police for added security. These are the kinds of places you are likely to visit if you ever come to Argentina; places where tourists can move around, relatively safe (there are always exceptions, of course). But these places are either for tourists or for the extremely wealthy. I have a good socio-economical level, better than 96% of the population at least, yet I can't afford to spend that amount of money every weekend or even two weekends a month. Going out for a walk is a possibility, and we do go out for a walk every now and then, but let's just say that the view isn't that good, and you can only walk about 6 blocks in the same direction before you get out of the area which is guarded by private security, after that you are on "you are on your own" land. You CAN go for a walk (just like millions that live in Somalia or Afghanistan go for a walk as well) millions of citizens do, but I'd rather not risk it.

Just the day before yesterday, a young woman was waiting at the bus stop in my neighborhood, holding her 6 month old daughter. A cop that was chasing a bad guy opened fire with his High Power, with no regard to bystanders as they always do. The 9mm FMJ (JHP are not allowed for the average police) went right through the baby's buttocks and through the mother. Miraculously, the bullet didn't hit any of the baby's internal organs and the mother also survived after a few days at the hospital. Was that just luck? Maybe, I prefer to think that God does work in mysterious ways. We have a lot of cases like this, where innocent people get shot by the police, and the stupid "no JHP" rule makes it worse, since 124 gr. FMJ 9mm will penetrate walls, windows, even bad guys and end up injuring or killing innocent people.

So, back to the TV, good places are too expensive and just going out for a walk at night with your wife/girlfriend is out of the question. All of a sudden popcorn, pizza and a movie sounds like a good plan. I'm not saying that you should spend all day in front of the screen like a zombie. Reading is nice, I love reading myself, but once the SHTF, going out with a date at night won't be that easy, nor will it be that cheap. You will end up paying for that added security the shop/bar/theater owner hired, the higher price of gas and food, while a DVD copy can be found everywhere, and costs only a couple of bucks. After the SHTF there will be a lot of "why don't we watch a movie" nights. Like it or not TV is cheap, safe entertainment. A play station or Xbox is also nice to have. Even if the country collapses, there will always be a guy with a DVD writer making copies. Just something to think about if you like movies.

BOOKS: Oh, almost forgot. If you like reading a lot, buy books now, even if you won't read them for some time. If your economy crashes, paper will become a source of income for many. We have thousands of scavengers collecting cardboard and paper all day long, specially at night when people take out the trash. As a result, books are not cheap, because they have a value of its own in the form of paper. Also, consider that books are heavy, making transportation expensive and many are printed abroad. Just as an example: I returned from visiting my parents in Spain with three suitcases. ONE suit case was entirely full of books. Books cost about 80%-200% more than what they cost in USA or Spain.

Guns & ammo: I always liked guns, so I always had weapons. But I didn't have an adequate survival battery. If you don't have a good survival selection of weapons, buy them now, or as soon as your budget allows. Make it one of your priorities, just after food, water and shelter. There are several posts on the ideal choice of weapons. Get at least a service size pistol and a military semi auto rifle and a 22 handgun/rifle. (Try to get both if you can, they are not that expensive). A bolt rifle (preferably in the same caliber as the semi) a pump 12 ga shotgun and a sub rifle, like a SMG or pistol caliber semi auto carbine (same caliber as pistol) would complete the package. I forgot to buy a 22 pistol until after 2001, and ended up paying for a Norinco 22 pistol the same price I would have paid for a Ruger pistol before the crisis.

Other Stuff: My advice is to see what you use regularly and what you expect to need after TSHTF. Of those goods, see where they are made. If they are made outside your country, they will either increase in price or stop importation entirely after TSHTF. In my case, one good example (of many, many others) is Gillette disposable blades. They are made in USA, and right now they cost a fortune. But as I said before, check what is being imported. No point in buying cases of Cubans for trade after TSHTF if you live in Cuba, right? I wouldn't think of these items as trade goods, but as "gifts" to buy favors, build up relationships with police, government officials, doctors, people you might need favors from. Stuff, like liquor/wine, a nice pen, perfume, makeup and other "free shop" kind of items can go a long way when you need some strings pulled, or a "friend" within certain circles. And it's not only the item, sweet talking also must be applied.

For example, you need to renew your driver's license after the XXXX crisis. The problem is that the office is low on personal (they had to let go 25% and 50% are on strike) so you'll have to wait 4 months until you get an appointment. You approach the information desk where you find Betty. Now, Betty hasn't had a date since the age of 10, and she weighs as much as a healthy manatee (though she's not THAT pretty) you kindly ask her to please help you fill the paperwork, and though she's as cold as a Popsicle, you keep calling her by her first name and when you leave she smiles and says good bye.

The next day you drop by and give Betty a Revlon lipstick for "helping" you fill the form, which had difficult questions like "name?" "Age?". It cost you about 4 bucks before the crisis but, since it's made in France, it went up to 20 dollars and then, 2 months ago, they no longer imported it. Revlon saw that they no longer had a market for their 4 Euro lipstick, which now costs Americans 20 dollars and the segment that used to buy it is spending that money in other items like food, so their marketing experts told them that the 4 Euro lipstick is no longer profitable in USA. Betty used to love that particular lipstick, she thought it made her look like Cindy Crawford (poor Betty) but 20 dollars was more than she could spare in her good looks, and when she finally decided to drop the 40 pounds of M&M's she ate a month in favor for the lipstick, the girl at the drugstore told her that the item is no

longer imported into the USA. Her face lights up when she sees your present, and she asks "how did it go with your license". You tell her that you actually have a problem, it seems that it takes 4 months to renew, and you ask her if, well, maybe she can do something about it... you get the picture.

In other occasions people will let you know that they want a plain and simple "bribe", and there 50 bucks or 100 bucks according to the situation will get the job done. I've used "gifts" (a perfume) to get my passport faster, saved a few months, and I've used bribes every single time the police stopped me for "inspection". I know this does not apply to 1st world countries where most officers are honest self-sacrificed people, I mean no insult to the law enforcement community on this forum, but please understand that it does apply to 3rd world countries, and I'm not getting shot by an angry cop over 10 or 20 pesos, let them have their bribe. I tried it once and I will never try it again. A cop stopped me and started BS me. I told him "ok officer, guess you'll have to write me a ticket, I understand". He didn't want to write a ticket, he wanted money and things got ugly. I'm never doing anything that stupid again.

FOOD A delicate issue. Even though not in the same way, it does affect us all. Keep in mind that if TSHTF, prepared or not, food will always be in your thoughts. If you don't have it you'll do ANYTHING to get it, and if you are prepared you'll worry about being able to get more for the future. Once you see food prices go up between 200% and 300%, or simply see it missing, you'll realize what a valuable commodity food really is. To those that think that food will never be a problem in USA: Come visit my country, even though there are desert areas up north, most of the country is fertile "Pampa".

Just after WWII Argentina practically fed Europe, Argentina was known in Europe as "the world's granary". Cattle and wheat was enough to feed our own country and another continent. So, what happened? Why are there so many that have little or no food and end up eating out of dumpsters? I mean, the land is still there, isn't it? Well, the country is the same country that used to be called the "world's granary" but some things changed. Several big, multinational corporations, such as Benetton, bought hundreds of thousands of acres of natural resources. I don't know the exact number, but I do remember that the media started talking about the integrity of the sovereignty of the country being at risk because of these massive purchases of land, so you can imagine how many acres were bought. Mysteriously, the media suddenly dropped the subject.

Another important factor is that now, with our new economy, it's not good business to sell Argentine food to Argentina. Why sell a kg of meat to the local market for 17 pesos when they can now sell it to Spain for 17 Euros when 1 Euro = 3, 5 pesos? [Editors note: *The Irish Potato Famine was not the result of not enough food being in Ireland...but rather the Irish peasants were too poor to purchase anything and English land owners selling their goods to the highest payer*] All this combined with high unemployment, salaries that are not enough to buy the minimal amount of calories for a typical family, and the high prices resulted in a country that slowly started to suffer hunger.

Again, I can pin point the exact moment when the entire country realized what was happening. After the 2001 crisis things had been bad, but people in Buenos Aires, the capital city and the richest province, didn't realize how bad things actually were in the other provinces. This was until teachers noted that kids had problems with education. You see, they noticed that they had problems to concentrate, that they fell asleep, and that they found it difficult to resolve mathematical equations.

They later found out that this was due to malnutrition, kids were not receiving the minimum amount of nutrients for a healthy working body. The breaking point was when a reporter interviewed a little girl about 8 or 9 years old. The reporter lady asked her what she wanted to be when she grew up, the usual kiddy questions. The girl, crying, said that she didn't want to be anything; that she didn't care. The lady asked her why was she crying. She said that she cried because she was hungry, that she had nothing to eat for days, and it was then that I noticed how skinny the little girl actually was.

Seeing children starve is terrible, I guess we all saw those images of the starving kids in Africa. But when you see them speak your same language, with your same accent, in your own country, it hits a nerve.

People talked about it for weeks, and they interviewed pediatricians that confirmed that the number of children dying because of hunger had increased drastically in the last few months. So whatever happens, let it be a hurricane, economical collapse, earthquake or meteor hitting earth, food and water always come first.

Ideally you already have a food plan and have a year worth of food in your basement... You don't? Hmm... neither did I when the SHTF and let's just say that I had my manhood up my throat all the time, fearing that supermarkets would definitely close and me and my family would be left without food. If you don't have your food needs sorted out already, just do what I did; start buying a little extra every time you go to the supermarket. The points you want to look for your storage food are, in order of importance:

- 1) No need of fridge.
- 2) High nutritious value/volume
- 3) Long shelf life, between 1-5 years.
- 4) That they don't need water
- 5) That they don't need cooking

This will usually take you to canned meats, canned tuna, canned vegetables, dried pasta, dehydrated soups, chocolate, milk powder, marmalades, soups, rice and dried beans. Canned food is excellent when it comes to long shelf life. Most of the time they are already hydrated, so they don't need water, and you can eat them out of the can. Just watch out not to dent the can, if this happens air may get inside and ruin it. If you have a dent or bump in a can, consume it fast. Also remember that once the can is opened, you have to remove the food from the can. My favorite canned food is tuna. It lasts forever, it's full of proteins and no matter how often I eat it, it always tastes good. Besides you can combine it with frozen vegetables or rice.

Canned fruits and vegetables are also good, but they have much less vitamins than the fresh ones, and you lose most of it unless you drink the liquid they come in.

Dried pasta may need a lot of water to cook, but it's one of the best ways to store carbs in convenient to use form. Flour or wheat can also be stored in large quantities and are nutritious, but they require more preparation to consume.

We've become quite independent from the fridge, and only use it to keep frozen our fresh pasta (ñoqui) pizza and frizzed vegetables. We practically freeze everything because it lasts longer practically indefinitely, and because if the lights go out a large mass of frozen food will last for hours, even a

day or two. The more mass of food you have frozen to longer it will hold. The survivalist, especially the urban one, should try to rely as little as possible on the fridge. That's why canned food and freeze dried food is your best friend. Yet, anyone who has been for a while with no fresh fruit knows that after some time the skin starts to suffer. Sores will appear after a while, especially on delicate skin like the lips and mouth. [Editor's Note: This condition is commonly known as Scurvy] Once you start eating fresh fruits and vegetables again they go away.

This happened to me once, spent too much time without fresh vegetables and my mouth was a mess, full of sores. After a week of eating fresh vegetables regularly the symptoms disappeared. That's why you should try to have some fresh food to supplement you storage food. Not much, just 2 or 3 fruit trees on your garden and a small orchard would be fine. You don't have to feed out of this, you just need a little fresh veggies or fruit every once in a while.

On the news right now while I write this: We had elections last Sunday, we voted senators. It seems that in one of the north provinces people where surrendering their ID documents for bags of groceries, some for water, or for 10 pesos (3 USD) they were later taken to warehouses where they spent the night to ensure that they voted. The next day the candidate's men took them to vote, hauled inside cattle trucks, like animals. When they arrived they were given their ID documents back with the number of list they had to vote. Thugs guide them and ensure they vote who they want.

HEALTH & FITNESS Visit your doctor NOW. Get yourself fixed. Visit the dentist and make sure your mouth is in perfect conditions. Nothing is worse than having toothache and no one available to take care of it. Remember that doctors may not be as available as they are now, in the future. For example I got eye surgery to take care of my sight problem. Now I see perfectly without glasses. The advantage of laser eye surgery isn't limited to not needing glasses. (Which can break and would be nearly impossible to replace after TSHTF)

Even people react to you in a different way. Humans are after all instinctive animals. Bad guys will look at you as a weaker person if you wear glasses. Maybe they don't know that at a conscious level, maybe they do, but they do react differently. This is not me imagining stuff, it's the way things are. Old people and women are especially vulnerable. After old people and women and children, come small framed people, the smaller you are, the weaker you look, the more likely you are to be chosen as a victim by a bad guy. It sounds, cruel, and it sure is, but that's the way it works. A young man with a well formed body, broad shoulders, muscled arms and a "don't **** with me" face, is less likely to be a victims of small time thieves. If a professional group chooses you as a target that's a completely different story, of course.

Talk to your doctor a lot. Just like "The little Prince", never stop yourself from asking a question. Adopt that as a general philosophy and you'll end up learning a little about everything. Mechanics, doctors, policemen, you can always learn something new from people with skills. As a survivalist, and as a smart person, you should try to know a little about everything, Always be curious. That's how I learned that I had to diversify my stock of antibiotics. A doctor told me, that the body will adapt if you always use the same, making that particular antibiotic not that effective, especially in small children, so now I keep two different kinds of antibiotics.

Working out 3 times a week, for a couple of hours will keep you in shape. I work out at home; I have a bench and some weights. Try to compliment some aerobics and weight lifting. Working the boxing bag is good exercise, works most muscles if done right, and you'll have a much more powerful punch. Keep in mind that a bag is no replacement for a sparring partner and that the bag does not faint nor does it punch back. Still, it good exercise and your punch will be more powerful if you connect.

Running belts and bicycles are also good. Research on the subject and make your own routine, join a gym and talk to a professional if possible. Whatever you do, the idea is to have a fit, healthy body; no use in shooting ½ MOA at 100 yards if you have a gut that hangs half way to the floor and you can't run that same distance without needing an oxygen mask. I know, shooting is fun, and working out isn't. At least for most, but after some time you'll start to enjoy it, your stamina and morale will definitely increase, and you'll start looking forward to working out.

The survivalist that spends 3 hours a week on his gun skills and no time at all on his own body is not doing things right. Imagine if you have to run away from a riot/gunfight/attack while carrying your BOB or fighting bare handed against someone that got you by surprise. This applies for life in general, before or after TSHTF a man has to now how to fight bare handed. You don't have to be Bruce Lee or Mike Tyson, just know how to through a decent punch, cover your face, or some kind or martial art classes.

I once had a fight that got a little ugly. It happened in my mother in law's house, which proves that thing can go bad everywhere at any time. A guy my wife's sister was dating argued with me and things got physical. He had problems with the police for beating up an ex girlfriend (which he was proud of, go figure) and had spend 2 years in jail for stealing cars. My wife's sister was showing up with mysterious bruises on her body, from "falling while working out". So you could say this guy wasn't my favorite person. Anyway, he grabbed my neck by surprise; I grabbed his arm with both hands, one in his hand and the other in his elbow, and twisted it around. The leverage made him let go of my neck and a kept on twisting it forcing him around. He punched me with his other hand but the position wasn't in his favor so it was just a glancing blow. He pushed with his back against me, so I placed my left arm around his neck, my elbow flexed over his Adam's apple. The guy went berserk so I decided that I had to hold on until he passed out, or I would get seriously hurt. I had practiced this choking move with my friend, the one that has the farm I talked about before. He told me that after 30 seconds of choking the person passes out, and after 60 seconds, if you keep choking him, he dies.

So I placed my left arm firmly around his neck while holding my left hand firmly with my right arm, pressing as hard as I could. The guy went nuts. He slammed me against the walls, trying to get me away from his back. He started clawing with his fingers on my biceps, desperate. Me? I just held my lock around his neck, mentally counting. As if by magic, after 20-25 seconds. He lost all strength and fell to his knees like a rag doll, and I let him go.

Meanwhile my wife, her sister and my mother in law were all screaming me to stop. Once he caught his breath he said that I was psycho, and that he was just fooling around. Not believing a word he said, I said I was sorry and we both got into the elevator, since we were leaving. As soon as I closed the elevator door, the s*** bag attacks me again. I guess he felt humiliated in front of the woman he beat up. He tried to grab me the same way I did. I knew that this was getting out of hand and I completely lost patience with this clown.

I brought my serrated Cold Steel EI hombre from my pocket and placed the dull side against his arm. He got the message instantly a let go of me. Once he did this I shoved him against the elevator, my forearm pressing against his neck and the knife under the neck as well. He calmed down instantly, saying he was sorry, bla ,bla, bla. When we got out of the elevator I told him that if he ever got close to me or my family again I would put a bullet in his head. I never saw him again. This guy was a thief and women beater and I had no use him. Besides these are the kind of rats that would brake into your house when you leave, or worse.

I'm ranting all over the place again. What I mean is that practicing defensive moves is useful, especially if you spar with someone that knows his stuff

imparting air over the place again. What I mean is that practicing defensive moves is useful, especially if you spar with someone that knows his stuff. My friend practices Judo. He won the state championship and was left in 3rd place in the nationals final. Practice as you would fight in real life. Getting choked isn't nice, but you get to know what you are working with and know how effective it actually is. Being in shape will also make you less prone to diseases, such as high pressure, heart problems, and will boost your immune system in general.

Knowing first aid procedures is always helpful. I'll take the Red Cross course this summer. Keep a first aid kit and any other special medicine you may need. If you take drugs regularly try to have at least a year's worth of the stuff. Medicines are hard to get and expensive, many are made in other countries and if SHTF they might not be available. My father in law has Parkinson and needs a special medicine that is no longer imported. He asks friends that travel to get it for him.

I stock pile as much medicines as I can. Apart from the regular 1st aid kit stuff you usually have at home, I concentrate on Ibuprofen and antibiotics, both for children and adults. Antibiotics are precious here, with all the viruses that are floating around. Lung infections are particularly dangerous. Also remember that keeping a clean, ventilated house goes a long way when it comes to preventing diseases. This is hard when the city is full of filth and there are cockroaches and rats everywhere but it can be done. My neighborhood isn't that bad, there are places that are much, much worse, where people literally sleep and eat with rats. Cockroaches are a problem, but I keep them somewhat controlled with that poison that comes in syringes and you place around the house.

That reminds me, stock up on rat and cockroach poison. Services are bad in general, and the garbage collectors are no exception. Once, they went on strike for about a week (though there are worst places where they go months without collecting) and you could see rats running around eh piles of garbage that people threw on the street's boulevard. This is not healthy, of course. And helps spread diseases all over the city, so keep that in mind as well.

PART VI

MORE ON SECURITY: KIDNAPPING

The theory behind kidnapping is simple to explain, yet it evolved into a complicated issue that presents itself in several forms and the survivalist should understand to better defend his family and himself. The way kidnapping just popped out of nowhere it astonishing to say the least. One day kidnapping for money is almost unheard of, and within a couple of months, after the economical collapse, everyone starts getting kidnapped. The news report of about 3 or 5, sometimes even 10 kidnaps in one day in Buenos Aires city.

As time went by, the news dropped the issue and you don't hear much about people being kidnapped any more. Does this means that the kidnaps stopped? I don't think so. I still hear about people getting kidnapped in my own neighborhood, express kidnaps (I'll explain later). Since my neighborhood is "nice" compared to most of Buenos Aires, I can only conclude that kidnapping is still VERY popular, but that the media isn't reporting about it any more because of obvious political reasons. Why did kidnaps start in the first place? In a country where there were nearly 0 cases? Because since the economy crashed, suddenly there where lots of poor people that didn't have enough money to feed their families. This was the main reason, but not the only reason though. After the first riots and looting, it was quite obvious that the government and police had no true control of what was going on. Obviously they were overwhelmed.

Once the veil of crime=jail is lifted and people comprehend that they will not be punished for their crimes, it's the beginning of the end people. All of a sudden, bank robbery, stealing, kidnapping and murdering people is just a matter of personal moral values, nerve and determination, and punishment is almost left out of the equation.

1) The first kind of kidnap to appear was the most common one. People were intercepted, either when walking or driving, by the band of kidnapers. Well organized bands of at least 5 or 6 members, with battle rifles, SMG's and communications, intercept the victim with at least 2 cars.

Do not be mistaken; these guys know what they are doing. In most bands you will likely find a LEO gone bad that decided to increase the poor cop salary the gov. pays. The victim is taken to a far away location in one of the many extremely poor neighborhoods in Buenos Aires. They call asking for a ransom, a ridiculously high one, and the negotiation starts. The person is held for a few days, maybe even a couple of weeks. If a month goes by and the person doesn't show up, forget about it, he's already dead. Some times they torture him too much, covered his mouth with tape "As seen on TV" and the victim chocks to death, dies of heart or health complications or they just get scared of getting caught and shot the poor guy. They get scared of getting caught not because of the police efficiency, but because most of the time one of the kidnapers KNOWS the victim. Either an employee, friend, neighbor or relative that knows that X person has money available for Y reason, either he is already wealthy, or he sold or inherited and has a large sum of cash available. These kinds of kidnap are generally very gruesome, with tapes of the victim being tortured sent to the family, fingers getting cut and other creative means of encouraging the family to pay. Survivability of this kind of kidnap is about 60%-70%, give or take. Not good.

2) The second kind of kidnap is called "Express kidnap" because it occurs fast, a smaller amount of money is asked as ransom, so that the family can come up with it within an hour or so, and if everything goes as planed the victim is released with an hour or two. This is, by far, the most popular kind of kidnap we see today in my country. Even police advice you to pay and get over with when they ask for small ransoms. The victim is chosen randomly, because of the way he/she dresses, because he/she seems to be easy to control and dominate and isn't likely to resist the attack. Kidnapers found out that this low profit, but fast, low risk kind of kidnap is very profitable in the long run, and does not involve the complicated and expensive logistic of long term kidnaps, where you need a place to keep the victim, feed him, someone to watch over him 24/7, etc.

The victim of an "express kidnap" rarely leaves the car/van he/she was pulled into. The criminals Survivability is much greater than in the 1st kind of kidnap, I'd say about 90%. This doesn't mean that the victim is in good hands. Girls are raped by the gang most of the time. Men may fare a little better, probably get beaten up a little if they are problematic. The chances of surviving are greater because kidnapers don't know the victim most of the time, they don't have time to worry about the "what if's" get scared and decide to get rid of the victim, and because police is almost never involved in them. As I said, when small sums of money are asked for they recommend to just pay.

3) The third kind of kidnap isn't nearly as dangerous as the previous ones, but you should still know about it to prepare of it better. After all, it's all about preparing and covering as many scenarios as possible, right? "Virtual kidnaps" caught all of us by surprise. It consists on someone knowing that a wealthy person is going to be "away from town" or unable to communicate for a certain period of time and taking advantage of it. They will call the family and say that X person has been kidnapped and that they have 30-60 minutes or sometimes more to pay(depending on the time the person will be unable to communicate) The family, unable to get in contact with the family member pays, only to later realize that it was all a scam.

Some SOBs even took advantage of real kidnaps, pretending to be the kidnapers and asking for ransom before the real kidnapers got in contact. This kind of "virtual kidnap" isn't as popular anymore, though some get caught every now and then. Most smart people make sure they always know where family members are and communicate with cell phones or tell each other when they won't be available to prevent these situations.

I dedicated some time to the kidnap issue because I firmly believe that if your country goes through an economical crisis for any given reason, desperate immoral people will find out about the fine art of kidnapping soon enough and Americans may have to face this kind of threat, which they are not used to. I personally know a man that escaped his kidnapers 3 times. Once he escaped through the roofs, by removing some sheet metal in the room, and the other two he jumped out of the moving vehicle. You must think the man is 7 feet tall, all muscle, and trained with some of the best defensive schools... 😊 of course not. He's a short, stocky, barrel chest fellow, now in his 50s that looks like a neighborhood Italian butcher.

This man's weapons of choice? A frag grenade and a 357 revolver. He had the grenade rolling inside the car floor among the pedals the last time I heard of him. The thing would get caught under the pedals and at least once he crashed his car because of it. He once even shot his own mother on the hip with the 357 magnum. A patient had escaped from a mental institution and broke into the woman's house from the back yard. The old woman called his sons and the first to arrive was "grenade guy". As soon as he entered the house he saw the man and shot him without saying a word, missed and wounded his mother in the hip. The poor escaped patient froze right where he stood when he heard the shot.

Right after this, the woman's other son arrived and saw his mother bleeding on the floor next to his brother, and thought that the nut case had hurt her. Thank God they stopped him before he blew the poor man's head off. This man obviously knows nothing about the proper equipment and defensive tactics, but hey! Anyone that escapes kidnapers 3 times has my respect. So, what can we learn from this?: That even though your weapons of choice may be a little "exotic" or even down right inappropriate, DETERMINATION, MENTAL ATTITUDE, (along with a nice dose of good old luck) is enough to make the difference. The training helps a lot, and so does the gear, but in the end it's all about attitude.

This man gets a 0 when it comes to weapons, shooting skills and tactics, but it's all about proper survival mentality. He's quite the SSS (shoot, shovel and shut up guy) and for sure has a few dead bad guys on his debt, not that I'll ever know anything about that. He managed to survive and excel in a rough business, the recycling of paper, where they deal with paper scavengers, which are not exactly Berkley college boys, if you get my meaning. His recycling company made him and his family very rich, specially now, that there are lots of poor people that scrounge paper and cardboard to survive.

Bragging about the people you kill is not a good survival attitude, and should be avoided. Seriously, if you have problems keeping your mouth shut when it comes to stuff like this, do some serious soul searching and change it. Same goes for new guns, large food supplies or new equipment you may me proud of. The word gets around fast so keep it to yourself.

And this takes us back to the kidnapping issue.

"My Scout/Squad M1A1 looks SO cool! And it shoots like a champ. They cost a fortune right now, but I was smart enough to buy it before the economy crash back in XXXX!" You tell your mechanic, a guy you've known for years. Now, the guy that your friend just hired, who just happened to overhear the conversation, him you never met before. Neither do you know that he's a problematic kind of guy that has drug problems and is always looking for expensive stuff to sell.

You are also clueless when you are held at gunpoint some days later, just when you were leaving to the office, and the first thing the guy says is "I want the guns".

So, what can you do to protect you family and yourself from kidnapers?

1) Keep you mouth shut about everything that has economical value, or your family's schedule. Especially be careful around people that have economical problems or drug problems, people that always need cash. Don't trust your employees with internal business affairs. Remember, most of the time the informant is someone close to the victim.

2) Keep a low profile. I know people that even though they have the money to buy any car they want, they stick to common low profile cars. Even the private school I went to when I was a kid that has its own mandatory uniform, encouraged parents to send kids wearing regular clothes instead. Kids dressed in private school uniforms where being kidnapped all over the place.

3) Learn evasive driving. Never allow cars to cut off escape routes. Again, the use of body armor may make the difference between escaping a well organized kidnap or not.

SHTF DRIVING

Get yourself comfortable and fix yourself a cup of coffee because this is one long subject that calls for a book of its own. I'll do my best to synthesize and tell how driving changed after the economical collapse. As always, crime directly affects the way you will drive after TSHTF. As will the price or availability of spare parts determine what car should you get. Another factor to consider is that, as I said before services will suffer in quality after TSHTF. This means that roads will no longer be what they used to be.

People that live in 1st world countries are used to well kept streets and roads. Let me tell you, after only a few months of no maintenance, street will look as if bombed from an airplane. Rain and temperature difference destroys the pavement very fast.

Right now in Buenos Aires there are holes in the street the size of trucks. There were cases of cars actually falling inside these craters, so you can imagine the conditions streets are in.

A low car, designed for perfect pavement should be avoided as much as possible. That's why I said that if I could do everything all over again I would get a 4x4 SUV.

This doesn't mean that you should buy a huge 4x4 truck to drive around the city all day long. That's not very practical and you do need a fast, easy to maneuver vehicle that can get out of problems fast. A medium size SUV should be the ticket for both agility and 4x4 power. Getting stuck in a roadblock because your truck is to darn big to maneuver around it, then what's the use of the 4x4?

There are many options out there. The small Suzuki 4x4 are good options, though a little bit fragile for my taste, maybe a Jeep Wrangler would be

better. Anyway, just keep in mind that your vehicle should be a compromise between speed, ease of maneuver or agility, and 4x4 traction.

Ok, so now you spent some hours on the Internet, searched for the best option, and you bought your brand new SHTF 4x4 car. Now what? Is that it? Unfortunately no. Choosing the right vehicle gives you the tool, but you now have to learn how to use it, and it's not exactly what you learned when you got your drivers license, as a matter of fact, it's quite the opposite. I can read your mind "Go to sleep FerFAL. You are burned out and you make no sense" 😊 Let me explain.

Close your eyes. Look inside you. Find that little politically correct driver guy inside you, the one that was born the day you learned how to drive. You see him? Good! Grab him before he sneaks away. Now hit him, choke him, and kill that little PC driver guy inside you. I killed mine a couple of years ago. It took me about 2 years to drive the way I do now, to react without thinking. What does it mean? I no longer flinch, or stir the wheel when something comes close to the car; I keep driving as if nothing happens. A dog runs in front of the car and I don't move an inch, a ball hits the windshield and nothing. I killed the little PC guy inside me, the one that used to say "Watch out! You are going to hit something/someone! Turn the other way!". Reacting like that can get you killed after TSHTF.

Guys, you have to prepare for people throwing objects at your car, standing themselves in front of the vehicle so that you stop or crash against a light/tree/whatever, so that they can rob you. It takes time and determination, but you MUST get to a point where if the windshield blows in you can continue driving as best as you can, if someone puts twisted nails on the road and blows your tires, you keep calm and keep driving, always keep driving no matter what, until you get to a gas station or other place safe. Especially at night, or early morning you have to keep the car moving all the time. Of course this is not always possible. Sometimes there is too much traffic and you have to stop. In this case, slow down before you get to the cars, and keep the car moving slowly until the light changes, in order to always keep the car moving. Never cut away your own escape routes by getting too close to the car in front. Leave at least 5 meters or so in front of you, so that you have enough place to maneuver.

At night, no one stops at red lights in Buenos Aires. That's why many districts decided to turn the traffic light to a permanent yellow at night, in order to reduce car accidents. There are places in Buenos Aires where you don't stop at the traffic lights all day long. Today, when I was retuning from the University at 1.30 PM, I passed a red light right in front of a police patrol car. The cop didn't say a word. He understands that no one stops on the Dark road (the road I take back home) unless it's inevitable. This won't happen over night. It will take at least a few months after TSHTF until cops and authorities understand the new reality of the country. Even now, there are those that may stop you from crossing on a red light at night. But most patrol cars will understand, even crossing the red light themselves.

Another variable that has to be dealt with on the street is people. People that live in 1st world countries have little problems and low stress compared to guys that don't know where they are going to get money to feed their families next week, or when they are going to finally find a job. Fights among drivers in 1st world countries may end up in the beating of someone in the worst-case scenario. Over here, people are so nervous and aggressive that many times people kill each other. This should not be ignored guys, if SHTF the sheep will turn aggressive and might be dangerous. They will usually start a fight over a minor problem, just because they are nervous, or angry at the world. You can still get beat to death with a bat or bare hands you know? Your car weaponry should take all of this into consideration. A handgun should be with you at all times, but it may be excessive for dealing with a mad driver. A bat and pepper spray will be enough to face an unarmed attacker, most times. I keep one canister of pepper spray and a small bat in my car at all times, apart from the 9mm pistol I may be carrying.

The pepper spray car tactic is the following:

- 1) Idiot driver starts a fight over XYZ.
- 2) Mad driver chases you, honking the horn, flashing lights and insulting.
- 3) I slow down, and let him place the car next to mine
- 4) 9 out of 10 times, the mad driver will lower the passenger window to insult you the better.
- 5) That's when you grab the can of pepper spray, lower your own window as if for insulting and you spray him into his own car by surprise.

This will ensure that the mad driver will stop chasing you, and you prevent an even more violent episode where you would end up using lethal force. I had more than a couple of problems myself with other drivers. One Saturday night a guy in an armored truck chased me for several blocks, flashing lights and staying on my tail. I don't know if he was mental, or on drugs, drunk or if he wanted to rob me. In this case having a smaller faster car allowed me to escape the nut driver. In another occasion a driver broke my right mirror. One time a guy got out of his car on a red light and started hitting my car. Of course, I didn't get off the car. That would have been stupid and dangerous. What did I do? I had left some space between my car and the one on front. They guy was kicking my car on the right side. I put the gear on reverse, catching the guy between my car and his, and rolled him between the two like a freaking burrito. The guy fell to the ground, I never knew how bad he was hurt or not. I suppose that not too bad, because my car didn't even show a small bump or dent, so it couldn't have applied much force to the man's body. I don't care much, either. After going on reverse for a few meters, I shifted to 1st, turned left and left the place.

You should get to know your car and what it's capable of. 180 degree turns using the hand brake isn't that hard and after a day or two of practicing it you should be able to do it easily. If someone is chasing you and the situation is serious, suddenly hitting the brakes will bust the chasing car's front, ruining the radiator and engine. You'll crash you back side but your car will still work, his won't.

Cars blocking the road (kidnapers, thieves) should be avoided with a 180 degree turn, or going on reverse fast and turning using the regular foot brake can also achieve a almost 180 degree turn. If you can't go back because they have cars cutting the road there too, don't crash your car as fast as you can "As seen on TV". What you should do is: SLOWLY, place the front bumper of your car against the back wheel axis of the car blocking the road (they usually place the car ACROSS the road to cover more area) and accelerate. The trunk compartment, the back part of the car, isn't nearly as heavy as the front part where the engine is, so it should turn quite easily when you accelerate. Shooting your handgun while maneuvering will keep them away from you while you do this.

These are just a couple of defensive driving techniques. If possible, take some defensive-dissuasive driving classes. They are almost as important as shooting classes, in my opinion. Almost forgot. As many, I like hearing music when driving, and I used to set it rather loud. I quickly found out this isn't the smartest thing to do, since you can't hear what is going on around you; shooting, people screaming, a car running out of control, for example. Keep the volume low so as to listen to what's going on around you. Or turn it off completely if you are in a high risk area.

Of course windows and doors must be closed at all times. Also try to keep at least half a tank full worth of gas in jerry cans. There are times when a roadblock will force you around alternative roads that you didn't count on. Extra fuel is nice to have. If room in the vehicle is an issue, have at least one small can. And, as always, keep eyes on the road. But not only for other cars and people, but for bumps on the street (that can sometimes be like craters) or rocks and other objects bad guys may put so as to make you crash or force you to stop. Your eyes should be focused much further away most of the time, so as to anticipate to this.

Part VII

Tea with aunt Sheepley

"Why do you want to move to Spain? Here you can live much, much better. Here you can afford 3 maids, and a gardener, private school, private health and tennis lessons. You can live in what Europeans would consider a mansion".

The argument was an old one already. My mother, my aunt and my grandmother were having tea in my parents living room.

My mother was arguing with my aunt again. My father was gone before it even started. He went to fix something in the house as he usually does when my aunt is around. It's been years since he last had the patience to withstand even 5 minutes of the woman's narrow minded, sheep mentality ramble.

"Alicia, I don't care about how many gardeners or maids I can afford here. You can afford to have that many people working for you precisely because there is so much misery that people will almost work for food. I'd rather live in a country where I can safely walk the streets and not have a maid. Don't you see that the same reality that allows you to have 3 maids and a gardener is the one that can get you killed every time you walk out of your house?"

The argument went on and on, with my grandmother siding with my aunt. Not because she thinks that the reality of this country is good, no, but because she doesn't want to see one of her two daughters leave to a country at the other end of the world.

Most Spanish immigrants, like my grandparents, hate to see the new generations, sons and grandsons, leave to the country they once escaped from, because it promises greener pastures. They escaped hunger, civil war, and now, 50 years later, they want to go back?

Old folks just don't understand that. They had to leave everything behind, family, possessions, to give their family a better life. And in those days you just didn't take a plane, my grand parents had to spend a month in a stinking boat to get here. They all remember that trip, and they just don't get used to the idea of, thanks to airplanes, being just 24 hours away.

For all of them, moving to Spain means that their loved ones are a month worth in a stinking boat away.

There are many like my aunt in this country. People that, surprisingly, don't fear SHTF, but actually look forward to it.

It means cheaper workers, cheaper services, and new exploitation opportunities. And I'm not only talking about locals, I'm talking about large international corps. as well.

What locals seem to ignore, or simply don't care, is that you still have to live WITH those that are in a much worse position. Maybe you are incredibly wealthy, yes, but wherever you go you will have to go with an armored car and bodyguards. You won't have freedom, not real one at least.

As I said before a number of times, people will surprise you for being incredible resourceful and /or incredibly stupid.

Most of the "Herd" will simply sail through life being happy that their favorite soccer team won the finals and that they can go have a couple of beers with their friends.

Notice that not much changed since the ancient Roman times, where the emperor claimed that you only have to give the population "circus and wine" to keep them content and under control.

People like my aunt, these are the fools that love vacationing in Brazil, and think that Cuba's communism is the greatest creation right next to sliced bread. They will come back from Cuba in love with the place. Oh! The resorts, the food, so many cheerful people. They seem to forget that if Cubans don't put a happy face they get executed, and that they have a great time because they are tourists with money that can afford to live like kings. Why don't they move over there without a penny, and live as Cubans really do? Let's see if the like pimping their wives and daughters to survive, lets see if the y like living like rats. Of course they don't.

Another issue I want to point out. SHTF such as political crisis or economical collapses take time to settle.

There won't be a declared SHTF day. Yes, there are events that are like landmarks, milestones in the course of history. But it will take time, society will change little by little, until the new reality is assimilated and accepted, consciously or not, by the entire population. After a few months, you'll see people talking about before and after certain event that changed their world. For you it may be 9-11, for me it's life before and after the 1:1 (meaning the 1 dollar, 1 peso conversion) or life before and after the 2001 crisis. People use it on their daily conversations. "So, you've been to Hawaii?, wow!" , "Yes, yes but we went back before the 1:1, now it's impossible to pay for such a trip", "Yes, too bad"

This time of uncertainty, until people accept that the world around them changed, takes time, months or even years, and it's a SLOW decline, slowly slipping down. One day you'll start seeing more people begging, more prostitutes, houses not painted, cars will start to look a little more shabby, because people don't have money to fix them, until one day you will tell yourself "wow, this wasn't like this 6-12 months ago." Things do not get accepted day over night, a SHTF event may occur in a matter of seconds, but it takes MONTHS to sink in.

That's why you should keep an open, independent mentality, and eyes and ears listening all around you, so as to stay ahead of the herd.

Financial security, and the ability to move:

The greatest survival trait.

Which brings me to my final consideration on survival, my final conclusion concerning surviving mayor crisis.

Money.

Yes, some paper money, gold, silver, but mostly money in accounts in a couple of "safe" countries and money invested in real estate.

We had people going from middle class to poor over here. We had people going through some terrible situations, and it's safe to say that those that fared better were those with solid finances.

Our society runs on money, people. Not only paper money, but accounts and virtual money. It would take a world wide collapse, practically the end of humanity for money to be useless as a concept.

A country, or several, even a continent can go down into misery, dragging it's local paper money with it, but the other end will rise proportionally. I truly believe this, and history also shows that there are always losers and winners, conquered and conquerors, the balance, the ying yang always remains.

A giant meteor could destroy earth and little green men could enslave us, yes, but in the infinite spectrum of possibilities, that scenario is the less likely one. I'd rather prepare for those that are more likely. And it's very likely that though your country can go down with an economical collapse, suffer civil war or natural disasters, you will probably have the possibility to escape to somewhere safe, greener pastures.

Hell, that's what thousands of Argentines ultimately did, what my family did, and what I intend to do as soon as possible.

Just last week my parents told me that they ran across some old friends that recently moved to Spain. Bad guys broke into their home with them inside, don't know exactly what happened but it must have been ugly, so they got fed up of the insecurity and moved to Spain with their daughter.

I consider myself a citizen of the world, and have no problem to move if I must. I strongly suggest you think about this, because it may be the ultimate survival solution. While I do believe in the stronghold, retreat concept, I do not believe it is possible to fight off an entire starved, crazed nation.

If we are going to consider long term. permanent TEOTWAWKI. do consider moving to another country, far away, and plan accordingly. This means,

having money in accounts, documents and passports ready, maybe even learn a second language. Now that I think of it, a solid financial situation and making sure his kids had a worldly, ample mentality, was all my father did, unconsciously or not, to make sure his family survived, and he sure did succeed where millions of others failed. Considering he lived in a shack with earth floor when his parents moved from Spain 50 years ago, he sure did better than the rest. My father's "survival arsenal" ? a 22 semi auto, a .22 revolver and a box of ammo, until I convinced him of buying a 1911. Still, we did ok. Savings and investing was the key to our survival.

The survivalist that has 5000-10000 bucks worth of weapons, years worth of food and a safe water source but no money invested anywhere is not doing things right. Even if you invest all you have on your retreat, and manage to get of the grid and live in your retreat without the need of anything else, you are pinning yourself down to one single point in the map, from which you can't move.

Look to what happened to an entire generation of Spanish. They fled Spain escaping civil war. Look at what we are now doing over here. Moving to Spain, escaping from a economical/political SHTF scenario. See a pattern here?

I know that some refuse to leave their country because of patriotism, but you still CAN be a patriot and still leave if you have to.

Many of the most dedicated fighters had to leave my country during the "Dirty War" civil war/dictatorship in the 70's. They where alive to come back and bring those dictators and murderers to justice, while those that stayed and fought simply got executed. Which would you rather be?

Save money, invest, travel, make new friends, visit those long lost parents in the old continent, they will be happy to see you, travel around and learn about different cultures, how to be flexible and adapt to them. This is, by far, the best advice I can give you all when it comes to bad, bad, SHTF.

Sometimes, you simply run out of options. Happened here, happened before, and happened in several places. It can happen to you.

A person is not a survivalist simply because he lives in the woods, wears camo all day long, and has always a rifle hanging from his shoulder and looking for trespassers to shoot. That is not what I want in life, and that is not what I consider a flexible, adaptable person. In my humble opinion, the survivalist can feel as comfortable in the woods as in a cocktail party surrounded by sheep. He can play both games, he can adapt. He's a person that can smile back at those that think differently and keep his convictions to himself if needed. A person that cannot tolerate the presence of others that are not like him has a limited adaptation capability and therefore is limited when it comes to survival. Maybe he's great at wild life survival, but not at the real world, society surviving. He's good at the kind of survival required to survive a plane crash in the Amazons, which is great, but he cant deal with society and other people.

You have to get over the idea of the retreat being the ultimate, final survival answer to a crisis. That's incorrect. The final, terminal solution is to leave the country or region. And that requires some social skills and savings. Keep that in mind before you spend every single penny you have on the ultimate retreat. Before anyone beats me in the head with a cinder block, the retreat/bug in house is very important, yes, it's the semi-last solution, it's the place that keeps you safe through small and medium crisis (which are more likely than big time SHTF), and it's also your home, the place you are more than likely to spend the rest of your life in if nothing goes WAY down the swage. But when TSHTF in a large scale, you have to get out, as many of you advised me to do.

Final thought: A Message of Hope

Finally, I want to give a message of hope to you all, and remind you and me both that survival is about surviving, but not for the mere fact of living , but to live happy, rich lives.

Prepare because it's the smart thing to do, and not because you are looking forward to SHTF and other disasters.

Do not make the mistake of thinking that TSHTF will be a brand new start for you, and that all your problems will just go away and you'll have a new start in the brave new world.

It doesn't work that way. Quite the contrary, everything will get worse, small problems will turn into bigger, more serious problems. If you have drinking problems, you'll drink more, if you can't keep a job, you'll spend years unemployed, if you have a disease, you'll see that it's harder to get attention and medications. Again everything gets WORSE.

Someone once asked me, "How is it that you cant shoot a criminal 200 meters away, but police don't do anything to stop them?".

SHTF, whatever type of crisis it may be, isn't fair. It will be absolutely unfair.

You'll have good, honest people starving, while corrupt ones make profit, you wont have a cop to protect you but they sure will come after you when a criminal presses false charges against you. That's the way it works.

So, anyone looking forward to TEOTWAWKI for a fresh start, better think again, and get your life straighten out NOW.

Survivalists are often considered as dark fatalists, doomsday worshipers. This is not so, the real survivalist should not be like this.

Negative people will have a hard time dealing with a crisis. It takes a positive, good natured person to make it through.

Know that there are dangers, and situations you can not predict and prepare as best as you can for them. But never forget to live life at it's fullest.

You and I, we don't know how long we have on this Earth, so make the best out of it, each passing minute.

A survivalist should not be a pessimist, he should always be positive, happy and enjoying life more than anyone else because he understands that each minute of peace we have is precious and unique, and he never takes it for granted.

The way I see it, the survivalist is a vital, fit, ever curious, good humored person. He's fit because he takes care of his body, and his body takes care of him, he's curious, because he thinks that it's important to learn new things all the time, and he enjoys learning, he has a good humor because he's sure of himself, and treats others the way he wants to be treated.

That's how we should behave. Being a survivalist is 90% mental attitude. And even if SHTF does not occur in our life, that attitude makes our life more rich and fulfilling.

There are things in life we can control and others we can't, the survivalist way of thinking makes sure we control those we can and accept those we cant.

So, if you have that mentality, either by having a fully independent homestead or simply a few funds, some supplies, a couple of weapons and bug out bags, set that chin a little higher, walk a little bit straighter, no mater if you are a doctor or accountant, trucker or plumber, be proud my friend, because you are a dyeing breed.

You are, without a doubt, a better person.

FerFAL

The Saucepan

I know that many of you are asking themselves: What is this guy doing with such a pic?

The saucepan is a symbol in my country. It was used to remove one useless President after another, a total of 5 in one week. People would beat the pan in their homes and on the streets as a sign of protest. The sound of MILLIONS of pans beating is... humbling, to say the least. It's like one giant vibration wave that no one could ignore, therefore the president had to escape the government house through the roof in a chopper.

It is also a symbol of hunger. Thousands of Argentines beat pans like that one against the closed doors of the banks that refused to return them their money.

The saucepan.

A powerful symbol indeed.

It only proves that it's not the weapon, M16, FAL, M1A, it's the willpower that matters.

A saucepan. When every single Argentine beat it, the power of all of them united was enough to remove a president, backed by an entire army.

Not a shot fired, just the will of the people.. and a saucepan to be heard.

[December 03, 2005, 03:27 AM: Message edited by: fermal]

Posted by **jack** on October 20, 2005 04:32 PM:

Sir, very good post- thank you! - And your English was fine, better than mine some days, please do not apologies- I have added a small LED light to my needs list- Best- Jack

Posted by **packinup** on October 20, 2005 04:41 PM:

Very good observations and thanks!

Oh and what have you noticed about bartering? Does it make you a target to show others that you have extra? I would think it wiser to keep your mouth shut and go your own way and do your own thing.

Posted by **Urbanglock** on October 20, 2005 04:47 PM:

Thank you, FerFAL. Your words are very enlightening and I will heed your advice. I wish you and your family well.

Posted by **Hangfire** on October 20, 2005 04:53 PM:

Wise observation on bartering, packinup. Even if you only plan to barter with "close friends and neighbors", word will get around that you have stockpiled goods, and that's like painting a target on your forehead.

I second that you quit apologizing for your english, fermal. You're more eloquent than 75% of Americans. You just do that to make us feel bad, dontcha?



Posted by **weaver** on October 20, 2005 04:59 PM:

Fermal,

Very informative and thought provoking. Great post as always. I think you will be able to teach English in a few years. Very good now!

Posted by **ferfal** on October 20, 2005 05:02 PM:

Thanks everyone.

Packinup, I actually started to write on the development of gray/black market but I didn't finish it, need to work on it a little more. I'll include it on the second part.

I consider it gray market because, even though some of the products are stolen or illegal imitations of brand names, these markets have turned out to be so popular that they are guarded private security and sometimes even police. Police taking care of a markets that deal with stolen or illegal imitation products... who would have known...

On your second question: YES!! You have to be very, very careful. Keep everything to yourself.

For example, I dress with unknown brand clothes, even though I have lots of quality brand clothes, just because a little crocodile, Calvin Klein or New Man logo on your shirt can turn you into a victim. Even talking with a friend on the street about money is dangerous, the streets have ears.

A relative living abroad is something you should never talk about openly, since kidnapers are always looking for good victims that can get hold of euros or US dollars.

FerFAL

Posted by **WALKER10** on October 20, 2005 05:05 PM:

As always fermal, thank you so much for 'real world' information that we can base our decision making on. And as always, stay safe.

Posted by **ProGlock** on October 20, 2005 05:08 PM:

I'm confused on the power situation down there. You mention you have no power for light, but you also state you were watching tv...the People and Art channel? What's going on down there?

Posted by **RedRyder21** on October 20, 2005 05:13 PM:

WOW! Good post Ferfal! I hope you can find the time to post ALOT more about this same kind of thing.

I think I need to stock up on some AA batteries. Where can I find the adapters to use AA batteries in my mag-lite instead of D's?

The local Satan-Mart sells the LED headlamps pretty cheap, I need to go buy a few.

Posted by **packinup** on October 20, 2005 05:18 PM:

I hate to ask but the old adage is "cash is king" in these types of situations. Does this hold true and has gold or silver played any part in day to day expenses? I was thinking that gold or silver may work for say a doctors services? "☉" or is the currency of the dollar and euro more preferable. I'll keep quiet and wait for part 2.

Once again thanks.

Posted by **ferfal** on October 20, 2005 05:27 PM:

ProGlock, power comes and goes, thats what I mean when I say that services suck. Some parts of the power grid are worse than others. The apartment I used to live in was a disaster, I'd spend 2 or 3 hours every one or two days without light. Now I'm living in what used to be my parents house (moved to Spain) and it's perfect because it's interconnected with 3 different grid branches, even though one goes off, the others may still work. I sometimes have light while my neighbors spend hours without light. Don't be confused about the cable TV stuff, almost everyone has cable (within city limits, of course). Some poor people, they just connect themselves illegally (I don't, I pay for my cable) but I'm talking about wooden shacks with no tap water connection or gas, that have a Direct TV satellite dishes or they connect themselves illegally. I should get a picture of this so you understand it better, promise I'll try to get one next week. By the way, the last cable employee that tried to cut them off, got out of the place with no fingers... Same goes for light, they just connect themselves illegally, companies figured out that they better loose some profit and not employees hands and fingers...

FerFAL

Posted by **ferfal** on October 20, 2005 05:41 PM:

Packinup, Absolutely, cash is king. And US Dollars and Euros are King of Kings. Just don't display them in public too much or you wont live very long. That is why I recommend you guys to keep some Euros, just in case. Our local paper money lost its value (to USD) when the economy crashed in 2001 (lost 2/3 of its original value) Quality health services are expensive for most, and they adjusted to the new value of money accordingly, meaning they almost kept to USD prices. You can pay for these with USD. Gold and Silver did hold their value of course, but they are not used to buy goods and services, besides, displaying a gold coin in a public market is as good as committing suicide.

FerFAL

Posted by **RedRyder21** on October 20, 2005 05:43 PM:

Ferfal, could you also make a post in the Firearms section? Do you have firearms in your country? What are your thoughts on firearms?

Posted by **HuntingWolf** on October 20, 2005 05:57 PM:

quote:

Originally posted by RedRyder21:
Ferfal, could you also make a post in the Firearms section? Do you have firearms in your country? What are your thoughts on firearms?

Go do a search for FerFal. You fine some intresting stuff.

Posted by **ferfal** on October 20, 2005 06:44 PM:

RedRyder21, I'm working on a long post on this same line on weapons and security, stuff I see that works, stuff I see people don't use or get rid of fast, and how I prepare myself. It's down to earth, reality based stuff, no BS. I'll try to post it on the firearms section by tomorrow night.

FerFAL

Posted by **coinshooter** on October 20, 2005 07:17 PM:

That was a great post. I always enjoy reading your post and you have hit on a lot of great point.

Posted by **Canadian** on October 20, 2005 08:15 PM:

Something I remember reading about Germany after WWII was that English toilet soap was a great commodity. Also matches and liquor.

None of these items are extremely expensive, but they're definitely worth stocking up on. For liquor, if you don't want to buy a case of port, why not build a still and learn how to make bathtub gin.

Canadian

Posted by **Wartrace** on October 20, 2005 08:34 PM:

As quoted by Ferfal; "Forget about shooting those that mean you harm from 300 yards away with your MBR. Leave that notion to armchair commandos and 12 year old kids that pretend to be grown ups on the internet."

Maybe in your experience the thought of 300 yard shot is for the armchair commando. To me its smarter than letting them get within their guns range. In my situation I have 200 yards to the road from my house. I have six dogs on watch.

If I am fortunate enough to detect the intruder at 2-300 yards why shouldn't I have the gun I can use in the situation?

Posted by **Catshooter** on October 20, 2005 09:14 PM:

ferfal,

Your posts are allways very valuable and informative.

They are just never long enough!

Posted by **ferfal** on October 20, 2005 09:41 PM:

quote:

Originally posted by Wartrace:

As quoted by Ferfal; "Forget about shooting those that mean you harm from 300 yards away with your MBR. Leave that notion to armchair commandos and 12 year old kids that pretend to be grown ups on the internet."

Maybe in your experience the thought of 300 yard shot is for the armchair commando. To me its smarter than letting them get within their guns range. In my situation I have 200 yards to the road from my house. I have six dogs on watch. If I am fortunate enough to detect the intruder at 2-300 yards why shouldn't I have the gun I can use in the situation?

Ah! You said it yourself "If I am fortunate enough.." . You wont be.

Don't prepare for an idiot shooting a Raven at you 200 yards away, prepare for the sneaky son of a gun that waits until you are distracted, fed the dogs some nice pills, and gets to you when you less expect him. THAT is much more likely than someone attacking you 200 yards away.

I didn't mean it as an insult to anyone, I'm well aware that there are cases of people shooting enemies 1000 yards away. That is war. Killing someone that wants you dead before he gets close to you is perfectly logical.

Please name me one case of self defense where the person shot the bad guy 100 yards away.

I had a guy try to steal my car a while ago while visiting a friend at his farm.

I saw the guy next to my car about 300 meters away. I had my FAL PARA with me, since we where going to spend some time shooting that morning.

I could have shot that guy from a safe distance, right? But you can't do that in real life. People that shoot others 300 meters away for no reason, claiming self defense, are called psychos. I had to fold my rifle, hide it under my coat, walk to where my car and the guy where, and ask him what he wanted. When he said that he was there to take the car I leveled my FAL at him, and as it usually happens in real life, the guy almost pissed his pants, and left, babbling some BS story I no longer remember.

If someone starts shooting at you 300 yards away, and you shoot back in self defense , that's ok, but that rarely, if ever, happens.

Any bad guy that has survived through puberty will be smart enough to get close, very close, maybe when you are distracted with some chore/fieldwork and point a gun at you, asking you to calm down and walk into the house.

No way can you know what a man's intentions are 200 yards away, unless he starts shooting at you like an idiot. And if he wants you dead that bad, he will get close enough and make sure that that one shot is the last thing you hear on this planet.

As I said, dogs are the best alarm on the field, though those too can be eliminated, as it happened to my friend. A shame by the way, they were nice dogs.

But if your idea of a self defense plan is shooting anyone that happens to be within your 200 yard range, do as you wish. You will not have to worry much about survival, State penitentiary will provide all you need.

It is one thing to go to war, and it is another, completely different, to live your life in a SHTF situation.

When you deploy in a war zone, you set yourself mentally to do a job, when the job is done, you return home, you turn the mental combat switch off. You cannot live your entire life as if you where in combat, it's impossible.

I'm as alert as I can be, all day long, and all night. Thanks to that I kept my family and myself safe, while everyone else I know has at least been involved in one or more violent crimes. I'm so wined up that the slightest sound will make jump out of bead at night and have my pistol ready even before I'm conscious of what I'm doing.

My house is the only one in the block that has not been broken into, my wife and son are safe, safer than all the other stupid sheep that blame God for whatever happens to them, and do nothing to prevent it themselves.
But still, you have to live your life, go to work, go to the supermarket... live a life! do everyday stuff.
The stress of living that way will be the end of you, I'm 26 years old and already have problems related to high stress like high blood pressure, migraines, insomnia, etc.

FerFAL

Posted by **Quiet1** on October 20, 2005 10:46 PM:

FerFAL, Thanks for posting. I always enjoy them, and eagerly await the next part(s). Stay safe.

Posted by **SgtTanner** on October 20, 2005 10:57 PM:

FerFAL,
Thank you for this thread. I'm going to re-read it a time or two. There are some pearls in this thread. Please add more posts that you feel we need to read.

Posted by **Desert Doc** on October 20, 2005 11:13 PM:

As usual **FerFAL** my friend you are RIGHT ON THE MONEY!!! 🙏🙏🙏 **THANKS** for your update and we all look forward to your next addition. I sure hope you can get the hell out of there soon. Like I have said before, you and yours are more than welcome at my fire anytime. Take care and God Bless.

I'm going to pin this thread to the top. I think it is very important for EVERY squirrel to read and heed. Take care and God Speed!

Doc

Posted by **beck** on October 20, 2005 11:44 PM:

One of the best dang postings I've ever read...

Posted by **honor bound** on October 20, 2005 11:46 PM:

WOW, FerFal thanks. Your posts are always well worth the read! The reality of TSHTF.

Thanks DesertDoc for putting that at the top!

It is a must read.

In fact I'm going to print it. Lots of folks I know need to read and wake up.

Posted by **MickeyMouse** on October 20, 2005 11:47 PM:

EXCELLENT, FerFal!! Learned several things and that is always good. I enjoy hearing from someone who has "been there, done that".

Please post more good info about surviving an economic collapse because I fear we in the US are headed that way as well.

Posted by **Slow&Easy** on October 20, 2005 11:48 PM:

Wow! All I can say is ferfal may be providing the most valuable info I've read on this whole board ... And that is saying a lot!

Hard to put a value on info coming from his situation - thanks ferfal! Stay safe!

Posted by **BOOKWORM** on October 21, 2005 02:53 AM:

IMHO, **FERFAL** OUT RANKS ALMOST EVERYONE ON THESE BOARDS.

He is giving us REAL WORLD-REAL TIME INFO that would be impossible for us to get any other way.

HIS situation is most likly OUR situation in anywhere from ZERO to TEN YEARS.

I edit, forward and print his stuff to everyone I know that has even a little chance of being converted from being a



ANYONE who has not read his earlier posts, type FERFAL in the "search" box and start looking/learning.

ALSO, **Go back to the Main "Frugal's Forums" board, scroll down to the "Administration" Section, go to "Thread Hall of Fame" and read the two "FERFAL, a favor please" threads.**

Posted by **Storm57** on October 21, 2005 03:08 AM:

Ferfal,

Thanks again for these thought provoking posts. We appreciate the time you put into them and wish you and your loved ones all the best.

I have a few of questions.

Have you put any effort into building a fortified room in your home for your family to fall back to in case of home invasion? What are your thoughts on this?

You mentioned that your home has been the only one in your block not burglarized, what do you attribute this to? Is someone always at home?

Have you been able to form any kind of mutual aid agreements with your neighbors? That is to say, your neighbors will help you if you are in need and you will help them if they are.

If you did have a generator how could you prevent it from being stolen in your circumstances?

Thanks,

Storm

Posted by **misanthropeiam** on October 21, 2005 03:24 AM:

Thank you. I will seriously consider your suggestions and experience.

Posted by **Mitford** on October 21, 2005 07:07 AM:

Thanks Ferfal, your useful real-life experiences help me reevaluate some of my list of priorities and realize the fundamentals that sometimes get overlooked.



Posted by **Brother Silicon** on October 21, 2005 07:58 AM:

Thanks ferfal, I'll add this to the other posts of yours that I've been compiling to send out. So, BOOKWORM, Change your mind?

Posted by **spartan** on October 21, 2005 08:57 AM:

As so many have said. "Thanks" I know I am rethinking my plans. Getting more Food and water

Posted by **j.r. guerra in s. tx.** on October 21, 2005 09:12 AM:

I can definitely confirm Ferals assertion of rural residents being victimized by home invasions more commonly then city residents. Happens very commonly down here, 'pseudo cop' (criminals clothed as LEOs breaking into homes and terrorizing residents to giving up all their valuables). Often used by drug gangs to get income for their needs.

Outside lighting on at least one high pole (sometimes two) usually change their minds into seeking less exposed sites.

Basically, any hardening of your exterior does the same thing - easier targets elsewhere - why risk it? Commercial heavy gauge steel exterior doors and frames, high window sills / small window size - they help.

Thanks ferfal - great information from someone who is giving first hand accounts of what life could be like.

Posted by **Brother Silicon** on October 21, 2005 11:22 AM:

Ferfal: I've been compiling your posts to make a mass mailing to everyone on my list. My question is ; If your posts recieve wider attention, will your security be affected? Would your govt. hunt you down and kill you if you become an embarrassment? I'd like to wake some more folks up but I don't want to increase your risk.

Posted by **murph3688** on October 21, 2005 12:03 PM:

Thanks FerFal a great post maybe this will awaken some of those that are not yet prepared. As for those believing in a 2-300 yard shot in a SHTF situation that is just stupid, below is a list of reasons.

1- **Murder:** you must remember the *innocents* are out there, not only do they need our help in awakening them, but there may be children that need protection. Once a passerby is dead they are dead. There is no bringing that person back after you find out that they had no ill intentions and were just passing within the three hundred yard range of your (hidden) position!!!

2- **Stupidity:** now the bad guys know that you have a long range capability AND you have given away your position!!! Well they don't want their arses killed, so they will use a large round, large force, large fire....whatever, to disperse you from your Bug In position!!! You are now a refugee or dead!!!! Remember survival depends on stealth!!!

3- Unless you have been trained as a long range military sniper you have no clue as to what is involved in setting up for a shoot at that range. Decisions, Decisions, Decisions,

quote:

"Remember that once you send that round down range it can not be called back". Gny Hathcock SS school Quantico, VA. 1989

That is something I have always lived by in every situation I have been in. Try To Make the *Right* Decision.

Enough of my soapbox..... The credit goes to Ferfal for a very eloquently worded post on what works in his part of the world!!! Great job!



Posted by **ferfal** on October 21, 2005 01:06 PM:

Hey guys, you are welcome, thanks a lot for the nice words.

I'm basically new at this, compared to others in this forum that have spent a lifetime preparing for the worst. Those are the ones that have the best information and knowledge.

I'm only doing what I can to keep my family and myself safe and healthy. Sometimes I get it right the first time, others I have to learn the hard way. Storm57

I live in Buenos Aires city, on the south part, where houses are placed consecutively, sharing the wall on the right and left, all around the block. Most houses in my neighborhood have gardens and swimming pools. Gardens are also separated by walls, unlike the American style were you can simply walk from one garden to another.

Keep in mind that this has always been a 3rd world country, meaning that though our economical reality was completely different before the 2001 crisis, security in Latin America has always been an issue.

"You mentioned that your home has been the only one in your block not burglarized, what do you attribute this to? Is someone always at home?"

My house is particularly safe because it has a 7 foot iron fence with 1 foot long spikes where the property meets the sidewalk.

There is also a small garden between the house and the fence. The house two story house has barred windows as well.

Anyone that wants to brake in has to jump the fence (risky, a kid that forgot the keys to his house and tried to jump a similar fence in my neighborhood, was found lifeless by his parents, still impaled on the fence) and brake the door or the bars on the windows.

Shooting someone trying to brake the door or bars would be like fishing in a barrel.

The fence would stop a group of people enough to shoot them down. A large, well armed group would be needed to brake into my house if I'm in it. The alarm also helps (needs to be upgraded by the way). Surprisingly, we did spend a lot of time out of the house, sometimes for 3 or 4 weeks, but I guess other houses are easier to brake into.

My next door neighbor is a widow with children. I know that a couple of times they broke into her house and raped her and her girls.

There is another family in my block that has a private security guard (not effective against determined criminals in my opinion since they lack training and proper weapons). Still, a couple of guys broke into that house and abused of the wife one evening. I suppose that they now take security more seriously.

"Have you been able to form any kind of mutual aid agreements with your neighbors? That is to say, your neighbors will help you if you are in need and you will help them if they are."

No, they are sheeple and have sheep mentality. At best, they organize to pay for private and police security, which I do, but that is only good against small time thieves.

I did offer my help to my next door neighbor, the one with the girls that got raped.

I told her that if anything happens again she should call me or scream. I have to worry about my own family, but I just can't stand that kind of stuff happening next to my house.

Besides, she's a widow, her husband died shortly after they married. I know that I have to be alive to help my OWN family, but we will all die some day. I'm a Catholic and I will not have animals raping people next to my house and do nothing about it. How could I explain that to the Lord, not doing anything? Leaving a woman with no husband and her daughters in the hands of animals and do nothing?

I wont risk myself unnecessarily, I don't have any hero delusions, but I'll make and exception in this case if I ever have to hold true to my word and what I believe in.

"Have you put any effort into building a fortified room in your home for your family to fall back to in case of home invasion? What are your thoughts on this?"

Wish I had a "safe room", but I just don't have the money right now for one. The house is still very solid, with independent reinforced concrete structure and double brick walls. Not much protection against sustained rifle fire, but enough for pistol rounds and some random rifle rounds. Combined with the steel door windows, it's a pretty good safe for someone to break in to the house from inside. The current load is a lot of coins and need a lot of

the steel barred windows, its practically impossible for someone to brake in when we are inside. They would make a lot of noise, and need a lot of time to pry open the bars. Not likely to happen if I'm shooting at them from the inside.
What I fear the most is someone pulling a gun at me or my wife when we enter or exit the house.
"If you did have a generator how could you prevent it from being stolen in your circumstances?"
The generator would be safe if I put it in the back garden.

FerFAL

Posted by **packinup** on October 21, 2005 01:17 PM:

ferfal is giving us a firsthand view of a REAL SHTF situations Listen and take some of his advice or become a casulty.

Thanks ferfal I for one will take your insights very seriously.

The illusion of some type of giant utopia flee market hollywood style bartertown will not happen. The gangstas and Mofia types will have this market cornered so let the government fight them if they will?

Remember that most will remain sheep and demand government help(see Katrina) in a SHTF situation, some will band together(again see Katrina) but their resources will be very limited as most supplies will be gone from the panic buying caused by the sheep.

Prep now and make it a shopping habit to buy extras everytime you go out. Make that trip worth while and KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT.

Thanks ferfal I pray for your families safty and I also pray that one day soon you will see peace again in your country.

Posted by **ferfal** on October 21, 2005 01:32 PM:

Brother Silicon, don't worry about it. My government has no control of this country, nor can they care less about what we citizens think about it, as long as politicians can steal as much as they want, they are cool with your beliefs, that's probably why we got here in the first place.
This country is one big bad joke! Can you believe that the actual president has a logo for his that says " For a serious country" They are accepting that the country is not serious! 😊

I try to be discrete in my city, just because I fear information on my guns getting to the wrong people, magazine fed center fire rifles are almost impossible to obtain these days, even in the black market, so I keep quiet about it.

But feel free to mail your friends; I hope they see that nothing is for granted. Even though today you may be having a hard time deciding between a new plasma TV or new jewelry, tomorrow you may be thinking about weather you better pay for private medical health or paying Police officers for security.

FerFAL

Posted by **HuntingWolf** on October 21, 2005 02:41 PM:

I may be off here in my thinking, but I think that Ferfal is showing us what our suburan/rural areas will be like.

Argentina has a 97% white population with 92% being Catholic. CIA World fact book. That shows a country thats pretty much of one culture and mindset.

America on the other hand, is a multi-cultral disater in the making and getting worst every year. If the USA was to go in the tail spin that Argentina has, we would have open warfare in our cities.

Posted by **ferfal** on October 21, 2005 03:33 PM:

Guys,

I edited the original post to add a small Part II, mostly stuff I saw today at the local market. Moderators, please feel free to edit as seen fit. I added it to the original post in order to keep them all together and not posting several different post. Is this ok? Or should I posts separate post with PART I , II , III, etc?

Thanks for the patience and I promise to post some more this weekend, the one on weapons should be ready tonight.
Take care.

FerFAL

Posted by **Storm57** on October 21, 2005 05:22 PM:

Thanks for the reply. IMHO re-editing the original post and notating it where you did is perfect.

Interesting comments about gold coins. Kurt Saxon observed pretty much the same thing a few years ago. His opinion was that if a person were to store coins that junk silver was probably best way to go, then 1 ounce silver rounds, then 1/10 ounce gold rounds and only lastly 1 ounce gold rounds. Saxon's reasoning was that if TS truly HTF that precious metals would be so valuable you wouldn't be able to get any decent return for barter goods. I disagree only in part. In a dire medical emergency a gold coin or two just might save someone's life.

Great info FerFal! Thanks again.

Storm

Posted by **ferfal** on October 21, 2005 06:57 PM:

OK, I posted "Thoughts on Urban Survival Part III: Guns, ammo, and other gear." On the Survival Weapons board. It covers, well... weapons and stuff. 😊
http://www.frugalsquirrels.com/cgi-bin/ubb/ultimatebb.cgi?ubb=get_topic&f=7&t=009538
Food, Health and Social Structure before and after TSHTF should follow in a part IV.
This is a mess, but my intentions are good I swear! 😊
FerFAL

Posted by **Mitford** on October 21, 2005 08:31 PM:

Once again, parts II and III are great information, thank you.

If TSHTF there will be a lot of suburban US housewives in the US lost because they can't buy the food items they are used to.

I do all the cooking in our family and I love to cook in a way that uses raw ingredients; and at the end of the day it is also good survival training.....

If you know how to make 20+ different one-pot meals with starch (rice/tatties/pasta), veggies/beans, and mystery meat you will be very popular once TSHTF. 🤖

Posted by **misanthropist** on October 21, 2005 08:54 PM:

Man, this series ought to get tattooed on everybody's forehead. What informative, disturbing thoughts from someone who's actually been there.

Thanks so much for putting this to paper - these are insights worth more than anything I can think of.

Posted by **Desert Doc** on October 21, 2005 09:14 PM:

FerFal please put them all together here...as well as in the other specific areas. Your insight is incredibly valuable and welcomed. Take care and watch your six.

Doc

Posted by **RedRyder21** on October 21, 2005 09:45 PM:

quote:

Originally posted by ferfal:

I try to be discrete in my city, just because I fear information on my guns getting to the wrong people, magazine fed center fire rifles are almost impossible to obtain these days, even in the black market, so I keep quiet about it.
FerFAL

I think this speaks volumes! 

Makes perfect sense. Our government could never round up all registered firearms and this would probably happen here.

Posted by **wwglen** on October 21, 2005 10:15 PM:

ferfal,

Is there anything small you need that we could maybe get cheap here in the states and mail to you?

I would also be willing to help a LITTLE with US dollars if you need them. I know my \$5-\$20 that I could send wouldn't be a lot but it would be US dollars and as you said US dollars are the King of the King down there (as well as euros but I have none of those).

wwglen

Posted by **ferfal** on October 21, 2005 10:55 PM:

Wwglen, thanks for the offer I truly appreciate, but I'm ok.

Dollars are worth 3 times more than our local paper money (peso) that's why a few dollars can go a long way.

Still, unlike others, I have all I need. There's stuff I'd like to have but nothing of true first necessity.

The one thing that I was sort of desperate for was the body armor, but I finally got it.

As for other stuff, there is not much variety but (except for some stuff) regular everyday goods are available, though expensive.

Small gadgets, such as lights, battery chargers, are less expensive in USA, but once you consider the shipping price and the tax I have to pay once the good gets here, it's not worth it.

Also, my father regularly travels from Spain and he can bring stuff that is not available/very expensive over here.

Again, thanks.

FerFAL

Posted by **aBRG2far** on October 21, 2005 11:09 PM:

Excellect post. Like looking into a crystal ball. We should start calling you St. Ferfal because you are preaching some gospel brother.

Posted by **graham** on October 22, 2005 12:59 PM:

Ferfal, may I post this to let others read your post on another site?

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Excellect post. Like looking into a crystal ball. We should start calling you St. Ferfal because you are preaching some gospel brother.

Posted by **graham** on October 22, 2005 12:59 PM:

Ferfal, may I post this to let others read your post on another site?

I would never give them any personal info that I would know, but this is so well written, and so compelling, that I thought it should get around.

Let me know, and thanks!

Posted by **ferfal** on October 22, 2005 01:55 PM:

Sure Graham, go ahead.

Take care.

FerFAL

Posted by **graham** on October 22, 2005 02:46 PM:

Thanks, and I know I say this alot to you, but if you need anything, please ask!

Posted by **Kael** on October 22, 2005 03:20 PM:

FerFal,
An excellent post, thank your for taking the time to share this. I must admit, you made me re-evaluate my choices in certain areas.
Thanks again.

Posted by **ferfal** on October 22, 2005 05:27 PM:

Desert Doc, thanks for taking the time to clarifying the post a little bit. I noticed that I made some involuntary spelling mistakes as well, I saw them after I posted.

Please, feel free to edit as you see fit, so people can understand what I mean the better.

Should I edit the original post and add the following ones to the original? Or add them as replies to the same thread, but without editing as I did with II and III?

I ll post as soon as I can, also adding some anecdotes related to the crisis, one particular that occurred at the University, that some may find interesting.

Thank you and thank you all for your support.

FerFAL

Posted by **george Fitzgearld** on October 22, 2005 05:41 PM:

Yep,Thanks Man.

Posted by **Antique Survival Guy** on October 22, 2005 07:30 PM:

Wonderful post Ferfal! And stay safe...

Posted by **Icebite** on October 22, 2005 09:14 PM:

Thanks Ferfal. I've read alot of BS over the years but this info is "on the money". Best wishes to you and yours. Stay safe.

Posted by **Jmurman** on October 23, 2005 07:44 AM:

Ferfal...Thank you for this post.

I am headed today for a few LED headlamps.

I was thinking about a revolver for my "Get Home" bag, after your thoughts, I'll add another 1911 and mags.

Posted by **typeay** on October 23, 2005 09:11 AM:

Fascinating reading, FERFAL, thanks. Please stay safe, and keep the information coming when you have the time to post.

Posted by **Relic** on October 23, 2005 11:55 AM:

FerFal

First, I hope and pray for the continued safety of you and your family and that the economy down there gets a lot better!


Second, thanks so very much for posting this info. This is real world info that I like to see so that I can learn and have a better chance of surviving myself, should the SHTF in the US.

Stay Safe!

Posted by **FREEDOM OR DEATH** on October 23, 2005 01:05 PM:

FerFal the information and insight you are providing is invaluable.And thankyou for taking the time to put this together.I also pray to our Lord Jesus you and your family remain safe and do please ask if you did need anything I too would try to help.
FREEDOM OR DEATH

Posted by **scavenger19** on October 23, 2005 01:41 PM:

 [Salute]

Posted by **Hankpac** on October 23, 2005 07:26 PM:

Excellent stuff FerFal. Ever considered immigrating to US?

Posted by **fight4yourrights** on October 23, 2005 09:56 PM:

Thank you for sharing!

Posted by **Boa** on October 23, 2005 11:28 PM:

Excellent post Ferfal. I am learning a lot and have a couple questions. Do you have any type of BOB and if so what do you put in it? Do you carry a knife? If so what kind? Also, do you keep a stock of extra food and water in your house? Thanks again for sharing with us. Boa.

Posted by **dex** on October 24, 2005 11:48 AM:

Very good info, thanks Ferfal.

The only thing I disagree with, at least for the US, is the value of gold and silver. I don't think that bullion will be the same as scrap jewelry in value, if anything it should be more valuable because good bullion will be stamped with the content of precious metal. Almost all of my silver rounds are clearly from a reputable mint and stamped .999% pure silver. Collector coins will probably lose a lot of value because nobody is going to care that the coin from 1833 is a collector, it will only matter what the gold weight is, that's why I don't buy collector coins unless their gold weight matches their price very closely. For example a 10 dollar gold coin from the 1880s doesn't really cost more than a 1/2 oz of gold which is almost how much gold is in a US circa 1880s 10 dollar gold piece. Now that gold is on the upswing this becomes even more important, obviously it's important which dealer you buy from also.

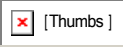
Thanks again, it's good to get first hand accounts of what happens when the system breaks down.

Posted by **packinup** on October 24, 2005 12:18 PM:

Just finished part III and the information is worth its weight in gold. Many Thanks ferfal. packinup

Posted by **Grey Awakened** on October 24, 2005 01:25 PM:

FerFAL,

thanks for writing this. This is greatly appreciated 

A few questions though (short answers are more than enough):

- how is ammo available to you? I understand it's probably difficult to get, but what's the situation?
- is handgun carry allowed there? what's the police attitude to it? how do you carry it?
- what's the status and importance of hunting there now?
- what kind of weapons the criminals use? do they all have guns, or do they mostly use knives/such?
- do they attack mostly at night?
- how many are they usually?
- are nightsights worth their price?

You mentioned stress. I have found the no-nonsense information on this site to be helpful in managing it: [University Of Minnesota Counseling Services](#)

I think meditation is also an effective way to calm nerves. One of the great meditation masters of our time: [Osho World](#)

Stay safe,
Grey

Posted by **Tx_nightstalker** on October 24, 2005 02:20 PM:

Ferfal-

Excellent post as usual. Your experiences are helping to shape the futures of untold numbers of people. There is NOTHING that equates to real experience. None of us, even those who have training and bits of experience, can compare to someone who eats, sleeps, and lives through this kind of situation day in and day out, worrying about not only himself but his family.

You, sir, are helping people in ways that are simply incalculable. Thank you.


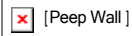

TX_NS

Posted by **Desert Doc** on October 24, 2005 02:48 PM:

quote:

Should I edit the original post and add the following ones to the original? Or add them as replies to the same thread, but without editing as I did with II and III? I'll post as soon as I can, also adding some anecdotes related to the crisis, one particular that occurred at the University, that some may find interesting. Thank you and thank you all for your support.

FerFAL

What ever works best for you my friend. Adding them is fine. I'll check back from time to time and try to tidy anything up that needs it. Overall I think your points are solid and your command of the English language is a lot better than mine of Spanish. All I remember of my Spanish lessons is the words I can't use in public!   

Posted by **ferfal** on October 24, 2005 03:04 PM:

I added some on security and a event I remembered that some might find interesting.
Sorry I took so long.
Thanks for the support everyone.

FerFAL

Posted by **wwglen** on October 24, 2005 03:38 PM:

D4MN,

Thanks for the update.

The point when I REALIZED the IT can really happen occurred during Bosnia.

There was a lady being interviewed and basically:

Before: Married, 2 cars, live in luxury appartments across from the olympic stadium, job at bank, husband had a job, middle class (to upper middle), money in savings for the future (in bank), ethnically intergrated tolerant socieity.

Two months later: Husband dead, killed by his own ethnic group because he had a beard and "the other side has beards), cars gone (I think burned or maybe just no gas), bank closed and bombed, cooking what little she could get over a fire on her balcony with wood scavanged from a grave yard. Walking to the bank every day so that if the bank EVER opens up she MIGHT still have a job.

AND HER COMMENT WAS:

"We never thought it could happen HERE!!!"

and it DID.

wwglen

Posted by **Desert Doc** on October 24, 2005 05:45 PM:

Once again FerFAL you've added a tremendous amount of first hand information to our libraries. THANKS!!

Posted by **ColSanders** on October 24, 2005 07:34 PM:

Very good write up!!

Posted by **Whisper** on October 25, 2005 05:27 AM:

FerFAL thank you for your postings I have gotten a few things from your posts.

Two key points you mention and intentionally or not seem to be stressing are

Most people are attacked entering or leaving their property. Country or city.

Second the criminals prefer to take their prey by surprise. They will try to accomplish this by any means they need to.

You have convinced me that I need night vision more then ever. At the very least an IR device to be able to detect heat.

Also that I need to train my dogs to never accept food from anyone but me or my son.

Next to keep all trees and bushes away from the house and all entrances to the property.

And get a electronic gate opener.

If someone around here was to shoot a dog at night it would be very audible unless you had a silencer. And with as bad as things as sound, causing a commotion in someone else's back yard is a good way to draw fire.

So without speaking of your own preps how common are silencers ? Are they good or just a little bit effective?

Also something you touched on in part 4 of your post. You state that you think that the people in your country did better because they are somewhat more used to struggle. That may be true but I think that the issue is more along the lines of the people in your country are mainly one race and one religion. Well over 90% according to someone else's post.

In America there are a great many more people of radically different perspective and race and ethnic background. Some of them profess that the others are evil. Not that the others are lesser then they are but that they are EVIL and they advocate genocide. Currently a strong central government keeps them in at least some check. I won't say their are not incidents from all sides but if anybody gets out of hand the government steps in and people get shot or go to jail.

Also the recent hurricane disasters have shown how a segment, and not that small of a segment acts when they don't think they will have to answer to the government. I don't just mean the animals that were running rampant in New Orleans but the local law enforcement as well. The initial shock wave would happen a lot faster here then it did down there. What percentage of the population in your country was on government funded support before and the crash?

Is the government still paying veterans benefits to retired military solders? What about to support people that are not able to work due to disability or mental or physical illness?

Now I admit that I asked the last two questions tounge in cheek. I don't think a government as corrupt as you describe is willing to pay them money.

But here there is a large group of people that would be instantly agitating for government overthrow. They would take what ever government they believed would give them back their previous lifestyle and there would be no more elections. Then you would find out how many people believe in the constitutional republic system that we are supposed to have. And how many have just been paying it lip service all these years. Oh and remember the retired military vets I mentioned?

I do not think many of them have forgotten what they learned in the service. Now we have some race hating groups that would jump at the chance to stir something up. I am talking the Baltic states on a larger scale. There are people right now that are refusing to help other people because of their political affiliation. The two main partys are so polarized that they blame everything on each other. No matter who is actually at fault. You add the volatile mix above to the White and Black supremacists that want to kill each other and the gangs that will kill anyone for a profit. People that are just plain out of their mind. Or mean enough to kick a child to death Saying that a explosion is likely is understating the matter.

I am of the mind that if we see the same economic implosion that you did down there that there will be more violence and that it will go from SHTF to TEOTWAWKI in a heart beat. But any violence that starts up could take a second place to what other countries do when our economy implodes.

Posted by **Jmurman** on October 25, 2005 04:48 PM:

quote:

Originally posted by Whisper:

Also the recent hurricane disasters have shown how a segment, and not that small of a segment acts when they don't think they will have to answer to the government. I don't just mean the animals that were running rampant in New Orleans but the local law enforcement as well.

That is really the scary part isn't it? Wolves guarding the sheep.

quote:

But here there is a large group of people that would be instantly agitating for government overthrow. They would take what ever government they believed would give them back their previous lifestyle and there would be no more elections.

quote:

You add the volatile mix above to the White and Black supremacists that want to kill each other and the gangs that will kill anyone for a profit. People that are just plain out of their mind. Or mean enough to kick a child to death Saying that a explosion is likely is understating the matter.

It could be the Balkans to the 10th power

quote:

I am of the mind that if we see the same economic implosion that you did down there that there will be more violence and that it will go from SHTF to TEOTWAWKI in a heart beat. But any violence that starts up could take a second place to what other countries do when our economy implodes.

That would be a prime time for us to be attacked for sure.

Posted by **FNFAL** on October 25, 2005 06:28 PM:

I lurk more on this board more than contribute. There is a great deal of good information. I had heard of Argentina's woes but had not paid them much attention. I had no idea that a country like Argentina with all its resources and mostly European ancestry could really sink this low. It was not like most South American countries, it even took on Great Britain in a wasteful war for some rocks in the Atlantic. Not something you would expect from a country on the edge. In the early 1900's, just pre WW1 Argentina's wealth exceeded both France and Germany's. Both countries since then have fought disastrous wars with less natural resources than Argentina and recovered.

FerFal, I will include both you and Argentina in my prayers. Your information has caused me to reevaluate my personal preparedness concepts and plans. I have read an interesting paper on the collapse and will link it here. The parallels to what is currently happening here in the US are interesting and potentially frightening.

[Argentina's collapse](#)

Posted by **ferfal** on October 25, 2005 10:46 PM:

Whisper, you make some excellent points.

Night vision goggles would be an excellent addition, specially if you live in the country.

About trees and bushes near the house. Absolutely right. My friend, the one that has a farm, had all trees near the house cut down, at least 50-60 yards. He had some nice, big trees, but he said that people would sneak around the property, some even went there for the wood.

Do you imagine shooting someone in your property, in the middle of the night, because they sneaked in to get some wood?

The electronic gate opener is an excellent idea.

Silencers are not common and are illegal. I'm not sure about those home made, maybe they are good maybe they are not, I suppose it depends on the quality of the materials used and the ability of the builder. The most common kind of suppressor is made for .22 rifles and pistols. 9mm suppressors made by our Military Factories (FM) are of excellent quality and (if you use sub sonic 9mm) you only hear the bolt slam each time you pull the trigger.

The advantage of such a device, combined with a SMG or sub rifle, are obvious once you realize the need for discretion. Consider that once SHTF gun laws are likely to change, and not for good. The government will do everything they can in their desperate attempt to regain control of the country. A sound suppressor will allow you to hunt, practice, kill pests, and maybe even take care of some two legged pests that might represent a threat to you or your family.

You are right about the one religion, one race, thing. Even though there are some Muslims and other minorities, they are too few to create a social-racial group on its own. They are completely integrated into the white Catholic culture.

Is the government still paying veterans benefits to retired military soldiers?

I'm not sure, war veterans had to fight a lot to get paid. As far as I know those that were disabled do receive a small benefit, though it is not nearly enough to survive.

What percentage of the population in your country was on government funded support before and the crash?

0%, remember this is a 3rd world country. If you don't have a job, you are on your own.

After the 2001 crisis, and with unemployment going from 25% to 50% in some areas, the government started issuing help to the unemployed. This so called social plan benefit for the unemployed consists of 150 pesos (almost 50 USD)

This isn't enough to feed a family for a week.

Seeing crippled Malvinas veterans begging on the streets and buses is very common, even before the 2001 crisis.

Also, retired people can barely (and I'm being generous by saying barely) survive. They receive about 450 to 600 pesos in most cases (150-200 USD) Not enough for an old person to survive, certainly not enough for medicines. If there are no relatives to help, they end up on the streets where they die fast.

The sight of old people begging on the streets is heartbreaking.

I once helped an old lady, must have been 80 or 90 years old. She was leaning against a shop window, crying desperately, hugging a small handbag. I asked her what was wrong. She said she had lost her home to the bank (the same SOBs that stole her life savings, excuse my French) and she had just been kicked out of the family motel she was staying in.

Man, I forgot about her. I suppose the mind just makes you forget, because if you don't you end up crazy.

You are right. The racial tension, plus welfare culture is a dangerous combination in USA.

FNFAL

NFAL,

Note that the dictator that was ruling Argentina at that moment started war against Great Britain specially to deviate the attention from all the cases of murder and missing people the military government was responsible for. There was an undeclared civil war being fought inside the country at that time, and he thought that fighting the British would unite the divided country against one same enemy.

FerFAL

Posted by **TfromTexas** on October 26, 2005 07:13 AM:

Sounds like your living in the great depressoin and wild west all rolled up into one. My dad live through the depresion and WW2 he didn't have to put up with crime like you have everybody was so poor they had just about the same thing so there wasn't much need for stealing. But it did happen in some cases just not as bad. It sounds like real ruff time for your and yours. I'll agree with you about most crimes and shooting are done with in 3 to 10 feet of you. A pistol is alot easier swing than a long gun. I go heeled, sometime I carry up to 3 pistols on my person 1 semi-auto pistol and spare mag and 2 derringers for backup. I also carry couple knives they may get me but they'll pay dearly. No need in making it easy for them. The only thing I disgagree with your taste in shotguns it sound like your using single shot brake over if you use a pump (say for instance 870 remington) the follow up pretty quick they use them in Iraq. (That is a pump action shotgun.) A lever and pump action are alomst as fast as a semi auto and if those are all you can aford. I have a question for you. Does your eduacted speach ever betray you? You say you dress down to hide your finaces. It may be something to think about. You may have to talk the part. When your hunting sound can betray you also. People use cough supressor along with camo. I'll agree with all the other squirrel no need to apologise so much your among friends. Enjoyed reading your theads hope it all works out for you. After all with out hope you have nothing. Maybe one these days you can get some sleep and releave some of your stress. Peace be with you.

Posted by **wwglen** on October 26, 2005 08:32 AM:

FerFAL,

I have a question.

You make it sound like carrying a pistol on your person is a fairly common occurance (at least now).

How are the laws on this and if it is against the law how do the police look on this?

Thanks,

wwglen

Posted by **ferfal** on October 26, 2005 01:22 PM:

quote:

Originally posted by wwglen:

FerFAL,

I have a question.

You make it sound like carrying a pistol on your person is a fairly common occurance (at least now).

How are the laws on this and if it is against the law how do the police look on this?

Thanks,

wwglen

wwglen,

You make it sound like carrying a pistol on your person is a fairly common occurance (at least now).

My mistake, it is not common, at least for descent working people. There are parts were criminals carry their guns openly, sticking out of their joggings and no one does anything about it. No one dares mess with them, these are neighborhoods were police don't dare to enter.

Carrying a handgun, ready for use (loaded and on your person) is illegal, unless you have a permit that its almost impossible to get. You need to own a large company, and justify carrying the gun because you transport large amounts of money (several thousands of USD on daily basis). Carrying a gun for self defense is not a reason for a carry permit, only the protection of money. It's ridiculous, isn't it?

Still, owning handguns is not that complicated, once you get a gun user card, but a ccw permit card is out of the question.

Some gun users still choose to carry guns, even though they don't have a carry permit. This is not allowed and you might loose your gun user card for this.

Carrying a gun, bought in the black market, and without even having a gun user card, will take you straight to jail.

On the issue of cops and guns, some may understand that you are carrying for self defense, because you are in a very dangerous area, and if you have you oun user card that shows that you bought that oun legally. he MAY be sensitive and let you go. or not. More than likelv. he will ask for a small

tip , for his troubles. It's a matter of luck actually. You have to consider all this, and decide if the risk of getting caught is grater than the risk of getting killed for not being able to defend yourself.
I'll gladly answer any doubts or questions.
Take care.

FerFAL

Posted by **ferfal** on October 26, 2005 02:49 PM:

quote:

Originally posted by TfromTexas:

Sounds like your living in the great depressoin and wild west all rolled up into one. My dad live through the depression and WW2 he didn't have to put up with crime like you have everybody was so poor they had just about the same thing so there wasn't much need for stealing. But it did happen in some cases just not as bad. It sounds like real ruff time for your and yours. I'll agree with you about most crimes and shooting are done with in 3 to 10 feet of you. A pistol is alot easyer swing than a long gun. I go heeled, sometime I carry up to 3 pistols on my person 1 semi-auto pistol and spare mag and 2 derringers for backup. I also carry couple knives they may get me but they'll pay dearly. No need in making it easy for them. The only thing I disagree with your taste in shotguns it sound like your using single shot brake over if you use a pump (say for instance 870 remington) the follow up pretty quick they use them in Iraq. (That is a pump action shotgun.) A lever and pump action are alomst as fast as a semi auto and if those are all you can aford. I have a question for you. Does your eduacted speach ever betray you? You say you dress down to hide your finaces. It may be something to think about. You may have to talk the part. When your hunting sound can betray you also. People use cough supressor along with camo. I'll agree with all the other squirrel no need to apologise so much your among friends. Enjoyed reading your theads hope it all works out for you. After all with out hope you have nothing. Maybe one these days you can get some sleep and releave some of your stress. Peace be with you.

On the shotgun issue. I was talking about pump action shotguns. I wouldn't consider a single shot for ANY kind of defense, unless that's all you have. I know that pump guns can be fast, with a lot of practice. But they'll never be as fast as a SMG or semi auto carbine. At least not for me. Equaling the speed of a semi auto shotgun, and being able to perform with such speed under stress, would require more practice than I can possibly get.

Still, I like shotguns, I love my Mossberg 500 with short barrel. I keep it in my closet, with 4 rounds (first 2 of birdshot and the other two buckshot) and a stock shell holder with more buckshot, LTL ammo and slugs.

It's a formidable weapon, just know its limitations.

Does your educated speech ever betray you? You say you dress down to hide your finaces. It may be something to think about.

No, I speak with one accent when I talk to some people and with another when I talk to others. People talk different in south Buenos Aires, where socio-economical levels are lower, compared to those that live in down town Buenos Aires or the north part. I can speak in either one.

Upper class accent should be avoided all over the country, except in those places were they actually have that accent, or else they will think you have money, which is never good.

On the clothes issue, I don't dress like a bum, I just try to look like a regular guy. Specially, I try not to wear certain symbols that are well know, and are instantly related to expensive clothes.

If I dress with more expensive clothes, say for a meeting, or social event, I try to use clothes were the brand symbol, Polo, CK, Levi's or other is not that noticeable.

FerFAL

Posted by **Old Bikes** on October 27, 2005 03:24 AM:

FerFal,

Thank you for sharing your hard won post SHTF expertise.

OB

Posted by **TfromTexas** on October 27, 2005 03:46 AM:

Sound like your living in the great depression and wild west all roll up into one. I disagree with your choise on the shotgun. A pump shotgun is used in Iraq. A pump can be almost as fast as a semiauto of course where not talking uzi fast but if thats all you can afford. Sounds like your laws limit you to brake over shotguns if you can't get a quick follow up shot also you don't need the skill leve of pistol and riffle shooter it's almost a piont and shoot gun and if you use heavy buck on in small area with couple shots your sure to clean house. Even with a double barrel you have follow up shot. But if miss you better duck and reload. Hope things get better for you and yours.

Posted by **MissingLink** on October 27, 2005 03:02 PM:

FerFal,
I have been reading about the problems in your country by doing searches for old news articals.

It seems that before 2001 the problems had taken a down turn. 1997 was some of the first problems that really indicated the downward problems. 2001 was perhaps the most significant date.

The reason I say this is that the situation seems to have really been really bad for 8 years.

Doing news searches has yielded knowledge of many riots. Workers taking over businesses rather than letting them be repo'd and sold for assets. The government recognizing people who collect trash or rubbish for money to feed their families as a valuable part of society. Do you believe that the situation will improve?

I have taken your advice. I purchased a charger and rechargeable batteries for my head lamps and flash lights.

Posted by **tac-wolf** on October 27, 2005 05:19 PM:

Thanks Feral, having been to 3rd world countries my self and seeing the way they live thier lives and how the economy operates I would say you hit this one dead on the nose. Great insight for everyone.
Tac-Wolf

Posted by **Crotch rocket** on October 27, 2005 11:41 PM:

ferfal,

great article thanks!

could you clarify on security?:

on carrying a pistol.

how much ammo would you advise? what do you choose to carry day to day and in bad neighborhoods? Do you stash extra in your vehicle?

On home defense.

how many weapons do you justify keeping loaded at home? with how many extra mags loaded? how many spare rounds?

thanks

Posted by **Captain Boogie** on October 28, 2005 10:42 PM:

ferfal - thanks for a great post. You have always posted useful, relevant, real world information, even if some folks don't want to take it into consideration.

I reccomend that you compile your posts, add anecdotes and stories, and outline your survival tips and **write a book!** You have a great style, and your message is great.

Good luck.

Posted by **Comber** on October 29, 2005 07:50 AM:

Ferfal, I'll just stand in the queue of people with gratulations and thumbs up remarks. I'll drifted over from survialblog, where your piece was featured today. I have one question, though.

When the economy collapsed and as it seems that the banks/moneypusheres allways get out on top.

What happended to people owing money on their properties ?? or owing money at all ??

Posted by **ferfal** on October 29, 2005 12:12 PM:

quote:

Originally posted by Comber:

Ferfal, I'll just stand in the queue of people with gratulations and thumbs up remarks. I'll drifted over from survialblog, where your piece was featured today. I have one question, though.

When the economy collapsed and as it seems that the banks/moneypusheres allways get out on top.

What happended to people owing money on their properties ?? or owing money at all ??

Good point.

Banks and multinational companies always end up on top. They are masters at surviving where others, small or medium size business fail.

A lot of people lost their houses to the bank. Bank Boston, City Bank, HSBC, all the well known names made one big profit out of the misery of others. The idea of all large corporate monsters dieing once the SHTF is only wishful thinking , unfortunately. The same banks that stole people s deposits in dollars, returning pesos worth 1/3 of what a dollar is worth, still made you pay your debts to the bank. Many committed suicide or just died of heart attacks, some even died protesting in front of the same bank that stole their money. The same didn t apply to personal loans, money pushers only made a marginal profit or lost money all together. The law benefits the banks and corporations, not the small investor.

FerFAL

Posted by **ferfal** on October 29, 2005 12:26 PM:

quote:

Originally posted by MissingLink:

FerFal,

I have been reading about the problems in your country by doing searches for old news articals.

It seems that before 2001 the problems had taken a down turn. 1997 was some of the first problems that really indicated the downward problems. 2001 was perhaps the most significant date.

The reason I say this is that the situation seems to have really been really bad for 8 years.

Doing news searches has yielded knowledge of many riots. Workers taking over businesses rather than letting them be repo'd and sold for assets. The government recognizing people who collect trash or rubish for money to feed their families as a valuable part of society.

Do you believe that the situation will improve?

I have taken your advice. I purchased a charger and rechargeable batteries for my head lamps and flash lights.

It s good that you research and see different points of view. I post mostly on my personal experience and cant possibly explain everything that goes on here.

The gov. considers trash scavengers as government employees, a shameful way of improving their pathetic unemployment charts.

You should see these poor, rag-dressed persons, eating out of trash cans and collecting paper to survive.

Shame on our politicians! The Lord will sort them out in the end, and He will not be fooled as the sheep they rule .

On the situation improving, I don t think so. It will stay like this, like a 3rd world country, with occasional outbursts of violence and riots, with banks and corporations milking us like cattle. We are, after all, cheap labour.

FerFAL

Posted by **ferfal** on October 29, 2005 12:46 PM:

quote:

Originally posted by Crotch rocket:

ferfal,

great article thanks!

could you clarify on security?:

on carrying a pistol.

how much ammo would you advise? what do you choose to carry day to day and in bad neighborhoods? Do you stash extra in your vehicle?

On home defense.

how many weapons do you justify keeping loaded at home? with how many extra mags loaded? how many spare rounds?

thanks

I carry a Bersa 9mm pistol with a 19 round capacity magazine or a Glock 31 with a 15 round magazine. I don t carry spare magazines, but understand that carrying is forbidden over here, so your situation is different.

If clothing allows, I would carry one or two extra magazines.

It s not a matter of magazine as it is of total amount of ammo. 19+1 rounds is a nice amount of ammo, but if you carry a regular 1911 you are limited to 8+1 rounds of .45, so carrying 1 or 2 extra mags makes a lot of sense.

Bad neighborhoods? I avoid those as much as I can. Again, the legal issue is different. I would carry my pistol and a 12 ga pump, because auto rifles are not allowed, but if I could I would carry my FAL carbine. And don t forget your BODY ARMOR!!

Yes, I have two extra mags in the glove compartment. Besides I carry pepper spray and a small iron bat in the car.

On home defense.

I have my Glock close and loaded. My Mossberg with 4 rounds in the tube and a full stock shell holder, and two magazines for the FAL, one with regular FMJ and another with a mixture of AP and incendiary ammo.

Sincerely, I'd replace the shotgun with my SMG if I could, but there is the legal issue to consider. I have the two FAL mags loaded just in case, but it would call for a very particular kind of home invasion for me to use it.

Maybe if a large group of attackers starts to shoot from the street, taking cover behind cars.

FerFAL

Posted by **TravisMcGee** on October 29, 2005 01:01 PM:

This is an amazing post. I am going to link it to every group I can think of who I would like to help, through the invaluable knowledge and insights it contains.

It should be printed in magazines, every non-sheeple in the USA should study it carefully, it is a view of the future.

Posted by **ferfal** on October 29, 2005 01:01 PM:

I posted a Part V on Food, Health and fitness and What would you have done differently?

Hope you find it useful.

http://www.frugalsquirrels.com/cgi-bin/ubb/ultimatebb.cgi?ubb=get_topic&f=1&t=044387

Thanks everyone for the compliments.

If anyone has ideas on new subjects please let me know, I'll answer all questions as well as I can.

I had to finish some work lately so time was limited, sorry for the delay.

Take care guys.

FerFAL

Posted by **TravisMcGee** on October 29, 2005 01:33 PM:

JR Guerra:

Thoughts on exterior lighting: today, you can buy a solar powered, motion sensing spotlight at any home store for \$70. Some of these on high poles etc would be just the ticket, post SHTF, since they don't care about the power grid. When you need them the most (lights out) they will be like gold for detecting and lighting up sneaky intruders.

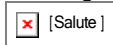
Posted by **Mitford** on October 29, 2005 01:35 PM:

Thanks FerFAL, as always: incredibly valuable and useful information.

Posted by **Seventh Fleet** on October 29, 2005 11:31 PM:

IMO what Ferfal's country of Argentina is going through, are previews of coming attractions for what's down the road for us in the USA. This is due to all of the various reasons that has put our nation into its present state of decline, which we talk about here at Frugal's. His input is definitely beneficial to us all and we are fortunate to have Ferfal as a member here. We owe him a debt of gratitude for sharing his real world experiences, of living in a

modern industrialized nation, caught in the throes of a severe economic decline.



7th

Posted by **Whisper** on October 30, 2005 12:34 AM:

quote:

Originally posted by TravisMcGee:

they will be like gold for detecting and lighting up sneaky intruders.

My thoughts exactly.

Use angled lexan to protect the lights and solar panel?

not only are they good for that but they are good for tracking movement on a small to medium sized spread. You could substitute a light bulb for an old power adapter that could run any number of devices that could discretely warn you that someone just passed by them. No light needed. You could put them on the parameter. Light tells the perp that he is busted a buzzer inside the house and a IR generator to tell you where....

Trees, disguised in bird houses buildings...other places. But what to use for a signal... to high for humans to here? That would set the dogs off unless you set it higher the they can hear. That would set the birds off.

Not to many birds that would make a whole lot of noise when they get the heck out of dodge so that is not to bad. HimmMMM lots to consider here.

Posted by **TravisMcGee** on October 30, 2005 01:16 PM:

7th Fleet: Spot on, I agree with every word 110%.

Posted by **TravisMcGee** on October 30, 2005 01:19 PM:

Whisper: You make great points. Plus, one solar panel could charge several batteries, or drive several sensors. A combo of lights and "silent" alarms would be terrific. And switches to cause them to light up differently on different nights would keep intruders guessing, and not allow them to plan a route in sensor "shadowed" areas.

For \$70 today, they are dirt cheap. I may buy 4 or 5 and just keep them in the boxes for TSHTF.

Posted by **Eaker** on October 30, 2005 06:06 PM:

Great thread.

Thanks,
Tom Eaker

Posted by **Chidwack** on October 30, 2005 08:59 PM:

I feel that when the trouble starts in the USA it will be like Farfal states but will quickly turn much worse. The huge welfare mentality of the huge minority population in this country who think it is their right to live life without having to work for the things they get will cause much bigger problems than those in Argentina. It will be nasty and we are just one more natural disaster, terrorist attack or an economic shutdown from this happening. Get ready Squirrels! It will soon be here.

Posted by **TravisMcGee** on October 30, 2005 10:27 PM:

Chidwack: I agree 100%, it will be worse in the USA. Argentina had many "advantages" we won't have. #1 Single race, religion. #2 Other recent "hard times" to toughen them. #3 No welfare state entitlement mentality.

Ours will blow wide open, and our big cities will be death traps. Time NOW to move to small town USA, away from the urban centers!

Posted by **Whisper** on October 30, 2005 11:17 PM:

quote:

Originally posted by TravisMcGee:

And switches to cause them to light up differently on different nights would keep intruders guessing, and not allow them to plan a route in sensor "shadowed" areas.

Interesting idea if applied in reverse.

I was thinking of all buildings having a 360 deg light sweep with short timers as short as possible and everything else be silent. With the house having three minute lights all around. Having the IR tell tails on 15 mn. The effect is that I am not giving anything away on the perimeter but I am still watching it.

I have been told that sometimes it is better to leave a few easy to find sensors so they can believe that they have them scoped out then letting them see nothing and they keep looking till they actually find something you would rather they not.

Posted by **Quietgentleman** on October 31, 2005 02:06 AM:

Its actually gonna be worse here. When our economy crashes the government gonna go broke right along with us. Just like a person that is carrying high dept when they have no way of paying who ever owns the loan ie the bank gonna get its own. Well what do you think gonna happen with the dept load we are carrying as a national dept. Law enforcement agenceys are paid thru tax dollars. When that goes away how many do you think are gonna keep working to keep us safe. I do beleave there will be pockets of areas law and order but most likely its gonna be locally in smaller towns. And sections of larger city that the citizen band together to keep safe. We became a nation of production to a nation of consuption borrowing more to buy useless junk. Quietgentleman

Posted by **Kirby** on October 31, 2005 09:40 PM:

Have you trained your wife in the use of firearms and does she carry?

Posted by **Moccasin Tracks** on November 01, 2005 03:51 AM:

I have found a motion sensor wired to ring a door bell in the house is a good way to know I have visitors.

These things can actually mess them up light with a little creativity.

These things can activate more than a light with a little creativity.

FERFAL
Your posts scare the heck out of me.... Keep it up., and do write a book, lots of people need to know this.

Posted by **Eaker** on November 01, 2005 07:41 PM:

Trav, how many Engineering jobs do you thing are in small towns?

Darn near none. Moving to a small town simply isn't an option for many people.

We need to elect representatives who will work to fix this problem. Much of what is being discussed here is stocking up on engine parts because you don't change your oil.

This country needs its oil changed and soon.

Both literally and figuratively.

Posted by **TravisMcGee** on November 02, 2005 12:35 AM:

Eaker, this country isn't going to get an oil change. We're going to blow the engine, and we'll be walking.

FerFal: I found this link to an article which says the Argentine economy is improving. Are the facts here correct?

"Boom Coaxes Back Immigrants"

<http://www.buenosairesherald.com/argentina/note.jsp?idContent=220688&hideIntro=true>

Posted by **dgg9** on November 02, 2005 11:10 AM:

quote:

Originally posted by Eaker:

Trav, how many Engineering jobs do you thing are in small towns?

Darn near none. Moving to a small town simply isn't an option for many people.

Agreed! Moving to a subsistence farm in Idaho is simply not feasible for many/most urban dwellers.

The rest of us have, for better or worse, cast our fate where we live now, and are trying to mitigate risks.

Posted by **30-30** on November 02, 2005 12:17 PM:

Ferfal, your knowledge and experiences have been a huge help to many of us squirrels. Thanks for generously sharing what you have been through. Don't apologize for your English, as you handle the language with real skill.

Posted by **ferfal** on November 02, 2005 12:19 PM:

quote:

Originally posted by TravisMcGee:

Eaker, this country isn't going to get an oil change. We're going to blow the engine, and we'll be walking.

FerFal: I found this link to an article which says the Argentine economy is improving. Are the facts here correct?

"Boom Coaxes Back Immigrants"

<http://www.buenosairesherald.com/argentina/note.jsp?idContent=220688&hideIntro=true>

Only 38,5 % live in poverty? 12% Unemployment?

Definitely not true.

I m not surprised though, since our gov. considers a man that eats out of a trash can a government worker. These are the little tricks they use to make charts look better.

Besides, they need to pretend that things are not that bad so investors believe in the country again. NO one wants to invest in a country where merchandise can't be delivered on time because of roadblocks or where foreign businesses get burned down by looters.

The numbers of the economy growth: 5% , 10% growth in relation to what? You'll see that they are all related to 2002, right after the economy collapsed in December 2001 and there was NO economy movement. You could see trucks full of goods parked on the warehouses, buildings that

collapsed in December 2001 and there was NO economy movement. You could see trucks full of goods parked on the warehouses, buildings that where in construction empty. No one spent a single dime because no one knew what their goods and services where actually worth. So, a 10% growth in relation to 2002 means that economy went from 0 to 10 %.

If you compare it to the economy of 2000, it actually dropped more than 60% in reality.

Look, just yesterday 2000 passengers revolted and burned the train station, looted, robbed and destroyed near by banks.

Today, a town hall nearby got occupied, a fire was started but later controlled, a car was set on fire, there is at least one gun shot wounded. This country is a mess, and since elections of senators, as predicted, things are much worse.

Peruvians and Paraguayans come to work here almost for food. If they can send back 100 pesos (30 dollars) do Peru or Bolivia it s a good deal for them, just as someone from Somalia would consider a good deal working for a can of food and some rice a day.

I don t trust the media, its common knowledge over here that its all managed by the gov. And the Herald, the one paper that people from USA or UK can read, is even worse.

Check if there is anything today about what happened yesterday, the size of the headline about it is equal to the one of Castro playing ball with Maradona, gezz

<http://www.buenosairesherald.com/>

FerFAL

Posted by **flyinghigh** on November 02, 2005 12:37 PM:

ferfal, could you answer my lastest post in the firarms section?

thanks for your time

Posted by **ferfal** on November 02, 2005 01:04 PM:

quote:

Originally posted by flyinghigh:

ferfal, could you answer my lastest post in the firarms section?

thanks for your time

Just finished, sorry for the delay.

FerFAL

Posted by **TravisMcGee** on November 02, 2005 05:43 PM:

Thanks FerFAL. I have no problem believing that your newspapers are just printed to spread government happy-talk and lies. You reply makes much more sense and is more believable than the article.

Matt/Travis

Posted by **Aries** on November 04, 2005 10:25 AM:

Very interesting thread. ferfal, you spoke of areas of townwhere the police do not go. I was just curious have any police units ever gotten a set of balls, and went in and cleaned house in one of these areas? What about groups of honest citizens trying to clear out these pest holes. Seems if I lived near or in one of these areas I would attempt to get with a group of folks and selectivly kill thugs to make it safe for my family and I.

Posted by **ColdWarrior** on November 04, 2005 06:56 PM:

If you need a laugh, just look at the information page on Argentina from the Herald. Notice how it skips right over the heading for 'Economy'?? If it wasn't so sad it would be funny.

<http://www.buenosairesherald.com/argentina/info/>

--CW--

Posted by **Sloopy** on November 04, 2005 07:52 PM:

ferfal,
I just finished reading your post and all I can say is wow!!! Y2k was my eye opener and I've been into preparedness ever sense. You have cleared up issues I had on stuff I wanted to buy. Like many here I have probably over spent on guns and tactical gear that go with them. But that is the cool macho stuff that is fun to buy. I will re-think my priorities and put them in better order. I appreciate you taking the time to post what you have learned and I want to say "thank you". I plan on re-reading this post because like 7th Fleet said this is probaly what is in store for the good old USA in the future.

Posted by **ocd** on November 04, 2005 09:21 PM:

Good stuff ferfal thanks

Posted by **ferfal** on November 04, 2005 09:52 PM:

quote:

Originally posted by Aries:

Very interesting thread. ferfal, you spoke of areas of town where the police do not go. I was just curious have any police units ever gotten a set of balls, and went in and cleaned house in one of these areas? What about groups of honest citizens trying to clear out these pest holes. Seems if I lived near or in one of these areas I would attempt to get with a group of folks and selectively kill thugs to make it safe for my family and I.

It would be easy to clear them if they were pest holes, but its actually the other way around. Its not just a spot in the country, The entire country is a mess, except for a few nice spots. You see? Its the opposite.

I know its complicated but I'll try to explain.

You have Argentina, one big country where most are poor. Among the honest, hard working poor, hides the scum of society. The wealthiest city of Argentina is Buenos Aires, inside the province with the same name, Buenos Aires Province.

Now, Buenos Aires is one big city, it goes for miles North, South and West, around the Capital District.

The Capital District and the North part is where most of the wealthy Argentine life. And by wealthy I do mean wealthy by anyone's standards.

Why don't they leave? I can answer that. They don't live because they either have big companies that existed for generations in the country, or they are actors, TV stars that make a fortune here but no one knows them outside the country so they HAVE to stay to keep their standard of living, or they are politicians, judges, senators, that can only milk the cow while they live here.

So, they live well but have to protect themselves as well as they can form the rest of the citizens who are not that lucky. Therefore they stay in the nice parts.

By nice parts I mean blocks that have their own security, intensified police presence, and are nice houses, houses that would be a few hundred thousand dollars anywhere in the world.

The Buenos Aires Capital district is mostly nice. So is the North part of Buenos Aires, though there are places that are very dangerous. The west is mostly poor and so is the south. There are one or two nice parts in West and South Buenos Aires. I live in one of the nice parts in South Buenos Aires city. There are 2, maybe 3 nice parts in the South, though they are not as nice as those in C.D. or some of the more exclusive parts of north Bs. As.

The rest of the country? Mostly shacks, poor houses that are in need of some paint for years. Police only shows up to pick up the pieces, you get the picture.

Cordoba is the second largest city, and there are a couple of neighborhoods there that are sort of bearable, I lived in one of those for 2 years, but its mostly poor houses in bad conditions.

So you see why we can't just clean the rat holes. The entire country is a rat hole, with some few exceptions.

There was a group of cops some time ago, that created their own death squad, cleaning the city of Bs As of criminals. They investigated, took photographs, and executed the criminals. Of course once the press got hold of it the group was dissolved.

FerFAL

Posted by **Catshooter** on November 04, 2005 11:43 PM:

FerFAL,

I want to make sure you realize that with your posts, if (?) the S ever HTF here in the US, you will have saved many peoples' lives.

You will have done this by clearing away many of the falsehoods and just plain dumb ideas we all have batted around for years.

So, thanks. I have passed your knowledge around and will continue to do so.

Cat

Posted by **TravisMcGee** on November 05, 2005 12:44 AM:

Coldwarrior: Great grab, finding the Argentina "fact page" with "economy" left blank!

That says, "There IS NO economy!"

Posted by **ferfal** on November 05, 2005 08:46 AM:

"Argentina enjoys a 96% literacy rate. "

<http://www.buenosairesherald.com/argentina/info/>

WTF????????????

What are these guys talking about??

Once you get out of the Federal District kids barely go to school at all.

In the provinces, half the kids don't even go to school, they work to help their families.

Even kids that go to school can barely read at all. Each year they lose at least a month worth of classes. In some provinces they spent 6 MONTHS without classes either because of strikes, or because the teachers didn't even get paid.

Even here in Bs. As. Education is a disaster. Schools fall apart and they can't hold classes inside because of the risk this involves

Even here in BS. AS. Education is a disaster. Schools fall apart and they can't hold classes inside because of the risk this involves. Anyone that knows the first thing about this country knows that. Definitely do not trust this paper. Also, you shouldn't trust anything that holds Clarin newspapers as a source because it's the gov. propaganda paper.

96% literacy? What did these guys have for breakfast?
Any kid that knows how to read and write, and understand the content of what he is reading either went to a private school or The national Buenos Aires school, the rest are mostly worthless, and the exceptions can be counted with the fingers on one hand.
It's either private school or nothing in this country.
I guess that the "Back to school" program that the gov. started almost a year ago to bring kids back from work or the streets into schools again is just because they had nothing better to do?
And even with this program they get no results. The program consists on paying each kid 40 (about 14 dollars) pesos so they go back to school and stop working.
You know what they do?
They show up at school every now and then only to collect the money at the end of the month. And if teachers complain about it they get threaten (sometimes by the parents who need the money) so they don't fire them from the program.

FerFAL

Posted by **tkahike** on November 05, 2005 01:55 PM:

This is by far one of the best accounts of modern survival I have read. There is such a wealth of info here. As always FerFAL, you would be welcome to hunker down here if you ever need to escape, as many of us have offered. Keep safe.

Posted by **OI Mose** on November 06, 2005 01:59 AM:

FERFAL, your info is as always very direct and enlightening. I can only hope that Argentina can someday get it all together and be what it once was. Mose.

Posted by **Flight-ER-Doc** on November 06, 2005 02:34 PM:

FerFal:

I just discovered this thread. I can only echo what the others have said.

It's so distressing I was debating if I should show it to my wife (I did).

How much longer do you have in school? I assume that you're planning on leaving when you graduate?

And, if there is anything I can do to help you, please let me know. You're our eyes and ears in viewing society on it's way down, and an invaluable resource.

Posted by **Raider Nation** on November 06, 2005 04:48 PM:

Thank you FerFAL!!!

I now have much food for thought and the life you saved might well be another squirrel.

[November 07, 2005, 12:25 AM: Message edited by: Raider Nation]

Posted by **Manny** on November 07, 2005 01:17 AM:

FerFal,
I just reread your entire post and am amazed at the wealth of invaluable information you've provided. I graduated high school at a fairly bad economic time for my country back in 1978/79, but it was NOTHING compared to what you're surviving. Your post has revealed multiple shortcomings in my own situation, thank you for this, now it is up to me to rectify them.

If you could expand on one area however, jobs, skills and earning ability:
-What legitimate type small businesses are managing to do well in your situation?
-What skills and abilities seem to be the most valuable and saleable?

Thanks,
Manny

Posted by **scud** on November 07, 2005 06:14 PM:

Good article FerFAL - thank you for taking the time to write it, it certainly gives plenty to think about.

Posted by **Money11** on November 07, 2005 08:18 PM:

To anyone just reading this, please check out some of the threads currently going around regarding the jokers posting FerFAL's essay without authorization or acknowledgement. John purchased the essay from FerFaL and now owns it.

Since I'm a new Squirrel and hadn't realized the amount of B.S. going on outside of this site, I didn't really see how important it is to become a contributing member to Frugal's site. Now I do and have signed up.

Respectfully, I suggest that anyone who hasn't become a contributing member, contact Frugal to get set up. We all need this sight to keep us up to date and in the loop.

Just think what a loss it would have been for an experience like FerFAL's to not have an outlet like this site to share his story.

(Sorry, I thought there was a mistake here. I was wrong, post restored.)

[November 07, 2005, 09:37 PM: Message edited by: weaver]

Posted by **sky** on November 07, 2005 10:38 PM:

I think another very important item to have when TSHF is to get US passports for all your family to use as ID, to have it ready if needed and be able to travel without much worry, wherever one needs to go in a moments notice in a military lockdown.

sky

Posted by **k_semler** on November 08, 2005 02:03 AM:

THANK YOU!! The information you have provided in this topic is invaluable! I have made a copy of the post to my computer, and will update it as you update your info. When it is complete, I fully intend on printing it off, making triplicate copies, and keeping them just as safe as I have the other information I have deemed sensitive enough to do this with. Thank you for the advice upfront about the situation, and I do hope that your situation improves before that whole country crashes on terra firma.

I do have 3 questions though, were the protests of Bush really as violent as the media here portrayed it? Concerning what is now happening in France, do you expect similar activities to spread beyond France, namely USA)? And why don't you get out of there before it is too late to do anything?

Posted by **reginald smith** on November 08, 2005 02:16 AM:

Thanks and Congradulation Ferfal, I noticed your essay on SurvivalBlog.com

Posted by **cybrus** on November 08, 2005 10:09 AM:

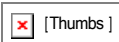
Any current info on tourist conditions down in Argentina? My wife's family is thinking about going there next year as a graduation present for her sister. My wife, her mother, and her sister are all from Puerto Rico, so I don't think they would stand out as much as her dad and I would (we're both very obviously American)

The trip sounds like fun, but only if the country isn't a serious threat...

Posted by **ferfal** on November 08, 2005 02:12 PM:

Cybrus,
UK recommends tourists AGAINST going to Argentina. They claim the social situation is too unstable and the crime is too high(and they are right, why should I kid myself) I think USA does the same.
If you stay where you are supposed to, where tourist go, it should be safe. Most stay in down town Capital District or some places in the Patagonia. Stick to the tour.
If they come, recommend them AGAINST playing the brave, native South American. It's silly, VERY dangerous for someone that speaks English and its definitely not worth it.
Many European and American backpackers were found dead or not found at all.

K_Semler,
were the protests of Bush really as violent as the media here portrayed it?
Yes they were violent, but the riot the day before in Buenos Aires was even more violent and no one noticed. We are a collapsed country, why should we kid ourselves, this has been going since Dic 2001 and it will keep like this for a long, long time.
Concerning what is now happening in France, do you expect similar activities to spread beyond France, namely USA?
No idea. There is a lot of racial tension in US as well, so it wouldn't surprise me. Keep eyes and ears opened to the word on the street. The media wont be of much use, since the gov will try stop all rumors.
And why don't you get out of there before it is too late to do anything?
Because I'm finishing my Architecture studies, 2 more years probably. I have my parents living in Spain, so if I have to bug out of here in a hurry I have a place to go. I also have Spanish nationality, so papers wont be a problem.

Sky,
Good call on the passport!  you never know when you have to leave in a hurry.

Manny,
If you could expand on one area however, jobs, skills and earning ability:

-If you could expand on one area however, jobs, skills and earning ability.
-What legitimate type small businesses are managing to do well in your situation?
-What skills and abilities seem to be the most valuable and saleable?

Thanks,

This calls for more than just a few lines, I'll get to it as soon as possible.

I'd like to say that x job/craffy will guaranty you a good job if SHTF. But I can't.

Sure, welding is a good skill, doctors always have a job, and a good salesman is always needed, but the unemployment is so high that employers can afford to pay as little as they want, there is always someone ready to do the job for less.

The exceptions, either a very specialized field, like a doctor specialized in transplants (my parents are friends with the first guy to do heart transplants in South America. Good guy, and he lived relatively well, though not as well as you would expect from someone so talented. He refused to leave Argentina. His daughter wasn't so patriotic and moved to Boston a few years ago) or someone that specializes in petrol chemistry. But the only safe way to ensure economical survivability after TSHTF is owning your own successful business. Being your own boss. If not, there will always be someone else to do your same job (maybe not as good as you do but they don't seem to care) for half the money.

FerFAL

Posted by **dgg9** on November 08, 2005 05:48 PM:

quote:

Originally posted by feral:

**Concerning what is now happening in France, do you expect similar activities to spread beyond France, namely USA?
No idea. There is a lot of racial tension in US as well, so it wouldn't surprise me.**

I doubt it will happen in that way in the US. The masses of unassimilated Muslims in the US are far smaller, so I don't think they reach critical mass.

To be sure, there can always be race riots, a la Rodney King, but I don't see Islamist riots on the French scale, here in the US.

The key distinction: there are Hispanic and black and Asian neighborhoods in the US, but there are really no Islamic "neighborhoods." Muslims in the US have dispersed into all neighborhoods. But there are really no areas where block after block of mostly Muslims live.

Posted by **squeeksmom** on November 08, 2005 07:14 PM:

feral, as before, if there's anything I can do, please just say so. You are the same age as one of my daughters - she also is married with a 3 y/o son. I have learned from your posts.

One question - what does your Momma say to you when you talk to her?

squeeks

Posted by **MickeyMouse** on November 08, 2005 07:44 PM:

FerFal, could you not finish your studies in Spain? I wonder if a good education in your chosen field will earn you a good living in such a broken down economy? Do you see things getting better soon enough to allow you to do well or is Argentina on the ropes for the long haul?

In any event, best of luck!

Posted by **British Red** on November 08, 2005 08:09 PM:

Ferfal,

As a request, would you mind if I reproduced your Urban Survival paper on a UK survival website? Your material is that good that I'd like to offer it out to a wider audience. Some of us do us FS as well, but it would be good to let everyone see it.

Entirely your call - I wouldn't use your stuff without permission or be offended if you wanted to keep it just for FS

Regards - BR

Posted by **ferfal** on November 08, 2005 08:20 PM:

quote:

Originally posted by squeeksmom:

ferfal, as before, if there's anything I can do, please just say so. You are the same age as one of my daughters - she also is married with a 3 y/o son. I have learned from your posts.


One question - what does your Momma say to you when you talk to her?

squeeks

Hey Squeeksmom,

You are going to make me cry 

What does my mom say? She tells me to be careful, that it's very dangerous out there and that there is a lot of job in Spain. She always says that I should be careful when driving late at night when I return from giving classes at the University. She tells me that I should think about my family when I go out that door, and that if something happens to me, who is going to take care of my wife and son?

That sort of thing, mom stuff. 

FerFAL

Posted by **ferfal** on November 08, 2005 08:32 PM:

quote:

Originally posted by MickeyMouse:

FerFal, could you not finish your studies in Spain? I wonder if a good education in your chosen field will earn you a good living in such a broken down economy? Do you see things getting better soon enough to allow you to do well or is Argentina on the ropes for the long haul?

In any event, best of luck!

MickeyMouse,

I'd almost have to start over again. I plan on moving once I finish studying.

The way I see it, (and many others, including Economy experts) this country is pretty much gone. Not that it will disappear into a Mad Max sort of apocalyptic world, but it will eventually end up like Colombia, or maybe worse, a 3rd world country where life is worth nothing, most are poor and ruled by a small, rich minority. A country of exploited and poor people.

The university of Buenos Aires still holds some reputation, though I'm not sure how long it will last. Good Architects came out of here, like Cesar Pelli, designer of the Petronas Towers, and many others. The education you get at UBA is still quite good. Not like primary level public schools, where education is disastrous.

FerFAL

Posted by **ferfal** on November 08, 2005 09:05 PM:

Hi British Red,

I sold the copyright of the essay to Frugals. They now own the copyright so you'd have to ask the owner of the forum about it.

I did it because even though this started as just thoughts and exchange of ideas among like minded people, and some Squirrels copied it and spread it only innocently thinking about informing others, others used it for the benefit of their personal web sites, and profited on it.

At first I was ok with people copying it, but then it got to a point where the article was getting modified, edited without me knowing it. So when Frugal generously offered to buy the copyrights, even when I said I would gladly do it for free, I gladly accepted.

If the owner of this forum uses it to benefit Frugals, that's fine by me because this is where I posted it, and where I feel most comfortable.

If anyone benefits from what I write, I'm glad it's Frugals, I wouldn't have it any other way.

After all, Frugals offered me, and many others, tons of free information and a place to meet with people that think as we do and debate on the issues that concern us. Never demanding anything in exchange.

FerFAL

Posted by **MickeyMouse** on November 08, 2005 09:21 PM:

John DOES run a good site doesn't he?!

I appreciate what you write. Like many of us, I consider it very valuable. It also is so very sad what has happened to Argentina. I had a rosy picture of a country of rich farmland and industrious folks building a better life. Guess I was wrong. Clearly after 2001 things have REALLY gone to pot. I fear we are headed the same direction.

I just reread your stuff on JWR's blog and it reminded me why I enjoy your posts so much. Watch your six!!

Posted by **British Red** on November 09, 2005 01:36 AM:

Ferfal,

Thanks for the info. I'll post a link to the relevant Frugal page instead of copying - only fair to John after all!

The info has been very illuminating - thanks mate

H

Posted by **Texas Resistance** on November 09, 2005 12:56 PM:

quote:

Originally posted by feral:

...The stress of living that way will be the end of you, I m 26 years old and already have problems related to high stress like high blood pressure, migraines, insomnia, etc.

FerFAL

feral, we all appreciate the excellent advice you have given us. Now here is some advice you might need. I used to work as a Bounty Hunter arresting violent felons all by myself daily, so I know what high stress is like. You need to adopt Samurai Philosophy (try a search engine). Accept your death in advance and have no fear of it and your stress will be reduced. A man who is not afraid of death is much harder to kill.

Posted by **j.r. guerra in s. tx.** on November 09, 2005 01:41 PM:

quote:

Originally posted by feral:

[QUOTE] I d almost have to start over again. I plan on moving once I finish studying.

The way I see it, (and many other s, including Economy experts) this country is pretty much gone. Not that it will disappear into a Mad Max sort of apocalyptic world, but it will eventually end up like Colombia, or maybe worse, a 3rd world country where life is worth nothing, most are poor and ruled by a small, rich minority. A country of exploited and poor people.

FerFAL

You've basically described the situation in the country of Mexico, unfortunately.


Posted by **UKJason** on November 09, 2005 05:27 PM:

Ferfal, I'm glad you are OK, you disappeared from the Misc.survivalism site and had a lot of us worried.

cheers
Jason

Posted by **ferfal** on November 09, 2005 06:50 PM:

Hi UKJason,
Yes I know, some of the guys over there emailed me asking how I was doing a while ago.
I left because of all the flaming and trolling going on. Some guys where ok, but others had serious issues, or just liked to insult each other. It was fun for a while but you couldn't ever discuss a topic seriously. Someone always started insulting for nothing.
I later found Frugal s and saw that people over here where ok, and those that couldn't behave got kicked out.

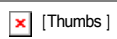
Pick a branch and start collecting nuts UKJason  There are lots of knowledgeable guys over here, with years of experience in their field of work.

A search on any given issue will bring up tons of information.

FerFAL

Posted by **beck** on November 10, 2005 06:54 AM:

FerFAL, just curious; what and how was the bank holiday and allocation of depositer funds announced?
I'm trying to wake the folks up here that this will be a rude awakening, some are listening, most are saying it will "never happen here" and dismiss Argentina as a third world country. I've tried to explain to them that Argentina's economy was and is a microcosm of our own but to no avail. What's worse is we're a much larger debtor so there is no historical basis for which to compare the depths of the fall we could take. Please understand I will never repost any of your information anywhere else. I post my own information and stories and your posts are without a doubt one of the best wake up calls for squirrels worldwide.

 [Thumbs]

Posted by **TravisMcGee** on November 10, 2005 10:15 AM:

Beck: Amen and I second your motion

...and I second your motion.

An economic collapse in the USA is a large part of the background of my next novel, so I'm reading all of the Argentina info with great interest.

Posted by **God's hermit** on November 10, 2005 07:59 PM:

Excellent essay I have only one small criticism. I haven't read the responses after the first post, so I hope I'm not duplicating information:

quote:

Yet, anyone who has been for a while with no fresh fruit knows that after some time the skin starts to suffer. Sores will appear after a while, especially on delicate skin like the lips and mouth. Once you start eating fresh fruits and vegetables again they go away. This happened to me once, spent to much time without fresh vegetables and my mouth was a mess, full of sores. After a week of eating fresh vegetables regularly the symptoms disappeared. That's why you should try to have some fresh food to supplement your storage food. Not much, just 2 or 3 fruit trees on your garden and a small orchard would be fine. You don't have to feed out of this, you just need a little fresh veggies or fruit every once in a while.

Sores, bruises, hair falling out ... these are symptoms of vitamin deficiencies, most commonly vitamin C. You may not always be able to get fresh fruits and vegetables to prevent such deficiencies, so multivitamin/mineral pills are essential to people relying mostly on non-perishable foods. They're cheap and will last at least a year, probably much longer if unopened and stored in a cool, dry, dark place.

But of course, if you CAN get regular supplies of fresh foods you probably won't need to use the pills.

Posted by **ferfal** on November 10, 2005 11:19 PM:

Excellent point.

Vitamins can supplement a diet based on staples and canned food.

Everyone should complement his food supplies with vitamins. They are inexpensive in USA and Europe, while vitamins cost a fortune over here. My father brings me vitamins from Spain every now and then.

Still, I'd encourage anyone that can to keep a small orchard if possible, or at least a couple of fruit trees, because even though you can get vitamin pills, there are certain acids and nutrients in fresh fruit and vegetables that you can't get any other way. (or at least that's what doctors told me)

FerFAL

Posted by **MickeyMouse** on November 11, 2005 12:20 AM:

Are vitamins something we can mail to you are are they taxed on arrival?

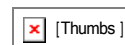
Posted by **ferfal** on November 11, 2005 01:53 AM:

quote:

Originally posted by MickeyMouse:

Are vitamins something we can mail to you are are they taxed on arrival?

Thanks MickeyMouse but dont worry, my father should be traveling here by teh end of teh month.



FerFAL

Posted by **Texas Resistance** on November 11, 2005 02:27 AM:

The broth from boiled pine needles is high in vitamin C. Boiled pine needles have cured scurvy.

From <http://www.textfiles.com/survival/pinesoup.txt>

In 1535, the french explorer Jacques Cartier and his men were in desperate condition after a particularly severe winter in Newfoundland. Already 25 lay dead and not one of the remaining survivors was not suffering from the ravages of Scurvy. Fortunately for history a group of local indians took pity on them, and told Cartier that their medicine man had the perfect cure. Shoving their prejudices aside, they went to the medicine man.

The miracle brew of this wise man was so simple that Cartier and his men nearly rejected it at first. Without any hocus pocus, the medicine man simply plucked a hand full of pine needles from a nearby tree and boiled them in a pot for a few minutes. Then he gave each one a cup of "soup". Although skeptical, they did as they were told and the soup transformed their health in a matter of 6 days. This is recorded because they lived to tell the tale.

Pine needles contain 5 times the vitamin C found in lemons.

Think of it as a herbal tea. A handful of pine needles, or 1/4 cup fresh chopped needles steeped in boiling water for 10 to 15 minutes provide 100% of the U.S.R.D.A. of vitamin C. Pine soup (or tea) tastes like the pine forest smells, or add a squeeze of lemon and a little honey to liven it up a bit.

Posted by **ferfal** on November 11, 2005 02:46 AM:

Thanks everyone.
I just posted part VI on kidnaps and driving.
Take care.

FerFAL

Posted by **backwoods** on November 11, 2005 04:36 AM:

Good info from real experience ferfal thanks for posting it. Stay safe all the best to you and yours.

bw

Posted by **MissingLink** on November 11, 2005 05:43 AM:

Wow! Thats pretty wild stuff! At least to me living here today.

I had beleived for sometime that a major economic down turn was mostly a real SHTF senerio.

Ferfal, I was hoping for more information like you have been providing. Thank you!

Do you know much about Brazil having problems like this as well? I have read that they are having some problems as well.

What about gangs? Is there much gang activity? Do the police or military go after gangs? I assume a gang is required for a road block. At the time they create a road block they become a gang in my book.

Hyjacking?

Posted by **Mitford** on November 11, 2005 05:52 AM:

A couple of things that bear repeating:

quote:

Once the veil of crime=jail is lifted and people comprehend that they will not be punished for their crimes, its the beginning of the end people. All of a sudden, bank robbery, stealing, kidnapping and murdering people is just a matter of personal moral values, nerve and determination, and punishment is almost left out of the equation.

Exactly, and something the anti-gun crown always forgets.

quote:

One time a guy got out of his car on a red light and started hitting my car. Of course, I didn't get off the car. That would have been stupid and dangerous.
What did I do? I had left some space between my car and the one on front. They guy was kicking my car on the right side. I put the gear on reverse, catching the guy between my car and his, and rolled him between the two like a freaking burrito.

 my #1 rule of driving is never let yourself get boxed/boxed in by other traffic.

Posted by **Brother Silicon** on November 11, 2005 08:52 AM:

Just to let you know, you've made it to the alababylon site. There is a link back to Frugals along with a reccomendation.

Posted by **Lawyerman** on November 11, 2005 09:41 AM:

On driving.

I am a huge advocate of training of all kinds. I love to go to the various shooting schools but one thing I have found that has helped me DAILY is going to a quality driving school.

I went to Tony Scottis school and it was expensive....and worth every freaking penny. When my boys get old enough to drive they will both go as a condition of getting their license, period. Driving is something you do every day and you should know how to drive well. Most people cannot drive to more than 30% of their vehicles capability. A trained driver can bring that to 80% or more. A HUGE difference, and that doesn't include all the cool stuff about ramming cars and evasion techniques!

This is the same training literally that people who work for DOE, FBI, Diplomatic Protection Service get and it is STILL available for civilians-pay your money and show up! Get it while you can.

Posted by **RobH** on November 11, 2005 11:44 AM:

Nice info on driving. I've been to Bogata a couple of times and it is probably as bad or worse than Argentina. The rules are pretty much the same. Don't stop for anything: someone waving you down at what looks like an accident or breakdown, roadblock, stop lights signs (just hit your horn and keep going. Also remember that 'one-way' streets are optional as are sidewalks, medians etc. Anything to keep you going. We traveled with armed bodyguards to and from the airport while in Bogata and it was nice to see them work behind the wheel. Don't stop, don't get bottled in, take whatever route you have to, and don't get fooled into being a good samaritan. Good experience.

Posted by **RedRyder21** on November 11, 2005 12:20 PM:

I have a question for Ferfal...

I have heard you mention the Fal with the floding stock? What is your opinion on folding stocks? Any advice?

I am looking at an AK in the loacal gunshop that has a folding stock. The price is alot more than I want to pay, and I don't like the feel of a folding stock, but I can se how it would be practical...

Posted by **ferfal** on November 11, 2005 01:00 PM:

Hey guys,

Frugal just emailed me and he is telling me that the post is getting posted on other sites. As I said before, Frugal bought the copyrights of the story from me and he clearly states that he does not want the post copied and pasted to any other site.

Please, it is not fair for Frugal. He bought the copyrights from me fair and square and wants to keep it in Frugals exclusively.

Wanting to share is perfectly understandable. But also understand that John invested in this post. Anyone that wants to read it can simply read it here at Frugal s. After all, its free.

So please, if you want to share just post frugalsquirrels.com and the name of the post. After all, I m going to keep on updating it and there are lots of interesting replies added by other Squirrels.

Thanks for understanding.

FerFAL

Posted by **TravisMcGee** on November 11, 2005 01:00 PM:

RedRyder: Folding stock all the way. It gives you a battle rifle which you can conceal under a coat or in a back pack. This is very important, you just can't stroll around with a slung rifle, for many of the reasons Ferfal outlined earlier.

Great movie to see, on life in a SHTF civil war: Savior, starring Dennis Quaid, about the Bosnian conflict in the early 90s. In the flick, Quaid is a soldier/sniper with a folding stock Dragonov/Romak type rifle. At times, you must slip around in civilian clothes without showing a weapon, and a folding stock rifle pays huge dividends at that time.

Posted by **Lawyerman** on November 11, 2005 01:08 PM:

The PTR/HK collapsibles are great for this. They are very rigid unlike most side folders and the rifles themselves are capable of MOA accuracy with good ammo.

Posted by **ferfal** on November 11, 2005 01:20 PM:

quote:

Originally posted by RedRyder21:

I have a question for Ferfal...

I have heard you mention the Fal with the floding stock? What is your opinion on folding stocks? Any advice?

I am looking at an AK in the loacal gunshop that has a folding stock. The price is alot more than I want to pay, and I don't like the feel of a folding stock, but I can se how it would be practical...

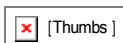
I d go for it. Folding stocks are not as comfortable as regular ones, but the advantage of a small package, somewhat semi-concealable cant be ignored. So it s not as comfortable, so what? The advantage is much greater than the little discomfort issue.

I choose folding or collapsible stocks for my long guns if possible. Also, keep in mind that a folding/collapsible stock can be made much more comfortable with a little garage customization.

The same can t be said about fixed stocks, it s not easy, or possible sometimes, to make a fixed stock into a folding one. And, if possible, it requires much more skill and work.

Actually. I m working on mv collapsible EMK3 stock. Making some notches so it fits me perfectly. and I ll be adding a rubber pad to increase the

stock-to-cheek fit. I'll post picks as soon as it's done.

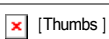
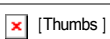
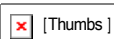


Go with the AK, I sure would if I could!

FerFAL

Posted by **p3** on November 11, 2005 02:20 PM:

EXCELLENT advice ferfal, thanks for sharing your thoughts and experiences.



Posted by **cjm** on November 11, 2005 03:02 PM:

FerFal, you sir again are hands down writing the best advice I have ever seen. I am sorry that you have to live it, but sometimes life just doesn't work out the way you want.

Be safe my friend...

Posted by **p3** on November 11, 2005 03:32 PM:

FerFAL you explained very well your tactics with pepper spray, very enlightening!

You also mentioned a bat made of iron? as car equipment. Could you explain the setup ... did you cut off the top at a flat angle to get stabbing / slashing potential?

What would be your tactics to employ this weapon?

Thanks!

Posted by **Prairyman** on November 11, 2005 05:56 PM:

Ferfal,

How hard is it for you to buy and store adequate ammunition for your firearms? Does anyone reload their own ammunition where you live?

Posted by **ferfal** on November 11, 2005 06:02 PM:

quote:

Originally posted by p3:

FerFAL you explained very well your tactics with pepper spray, very enlightening!

You also mentioned a bat made of iron? as car equipment. Could you explain the setup ... did you cut off the top at a flat angle to get stabbing / slashing potential?

What would be your tactics to employ this weapon?

Thanks!

It's actually a safety bar that locks into the steering wheel. It's shaped like a short bat, a foot and a half long. It's probably made of steel, not iron, since it's a safety bar. It also has a rubber grip, as in a regular bat. It's painted yellow and the lock protrudes a little from the side of the end of the bat. Looks rather mean, and would easily crush bone.

It's just another option in the tool box.

The idea is to use it along with the spray. You can spray several persons and keep them at bay with the bat, anyone that gets close gets hit. The nice thing about it is that since it's so heavy, any blow will brake bones, even if the person protects his face with his arms. A guy with a broken arm has almost no fight left in him.


I've seen a couple of drivers get out of their cars and hit each other with steel pipes, sticks and even car fire extinguishers. The taxi driver with the fire extinguisher made me re-evaluate my appreciation for blunt, heavy weapons. Man! A couple of blows and the guy was history. I'm sure he ended up with a broken arm, ribs and probably a clavicle. The sound of the extinguisher hitting the man was sickening.

Every now and then people will get out of their cars and beat each other in the middle of the street.


Honestly, I don't see myself beating taxi drivers with the bat. If it's just an aggressive nut case looking for trouble the pepper spray would probably end any dispute before he even has a chance to get out of the car (using the tactic I mentioned before), if it's something serious like kidnapers or carjackers, I'm using my gun. The short metal bat fills a rather small probability, but hey! It's small, also works as a safety bar, and it's always there, another tool-weapon to work with.

I'll also get an extra machete these days to leave in the car at all times. A machete sure is a dissuasive weapon, it takes someone VERY brave to start a fight with someone wielding a machete. It's also a terrible weapon, the next best thing right after a firearm if you ask me.

start a fight with someone wielding a machete. It's also a terrible weapon, the next best thing right after a firearm if you ask me. I don't know why, its probably because of all those terror movies, but even when badly outnumbered no one wants to mess with a pissed guy holding

a machete, why would that be? 

A shine machete will send most road bullies on their way without even using it.

It could also be used to cut through the car roof, cut wood, well, everything you use a good machete for. 

FerFAL

Posted by **ferfal** on November 11, 2005 06:13 PM:

Prairyman,
Some people reload, mostly hunters and bench rest shooters, reloading 12 ga shotshells or 7,65 and 7,62 for their bolt rifle hunting rifles (most custom built around Mouser 98 actions) using soft points.
But the equipment is expensive and not worth the effort for most of us. I prefer to buy Magtech ammo (it's made next to us in Brasil) instead of reloading.
Cases and tins of military ammo are nearly impossible to get. Just recently sealed cans of Norinco ammo where available and I got a can, but this isn't very frequent. Most shops just sell a couple of 20 round boxes at a time. They don't have much of a stock either, not the amounts of ammo you guys are used to. A few boxes of FMJ rifle ammo, a few boxes of soft or HP ammo and that's it.

FerFAL

Posted by **Buckshot** on November 11, 2005 07:22 PM:

FerFal Thank you for your outstanding write up. Very interesting to say the least. I have a couple of questions for you. You talked about the one family who was making lots of money being the recycle center. What ways are people who got it before hand or even after making money? What is your insight on the best thing to store for sale later? There was a Bosnia post going around in 1999 about the best items. It was soap, cologne, perfume, toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, hair brushes, etc. Your thoughts on this? I take it from your post that your yard has a fence around it. How do folks that don't have fences seal their houses up? Are fires of home a worry if so do you think it is good idea to have fire retardant paint on your house ahead of time? How do business protect themselves but still allow customers in the stores?
Thanks for your time.

Posted by **TravisMcGee** on November 11, 2005 10:07 PM:

FerFal: I second Buckshot and Lawyerman's questions about best businesses to get into before TSHTF. Recycling, pawn shops, any other ideas? Black market / warehouse stores, second hand clothing stores etc? Any ideas?

Posted by **beck** on November 11, 2005 10:48 PM:

quote:
Originally posted by TravisMcGee:
FerFal: I second Buckshot and Lawyerman's questions about best businesses to get into before TSHTF. Recycling, pawn shops, any other ideas? Black market / warehouse stores, second hand clothing stores etc? Any ideas?

I'll third that question. Based on the total unpreparedness in this nation (just look at the hurricane regions gang), FerFAL might have provided us a glimpse of a Cat 5 Economic hurricane impact here....

Posted by **TheStorerFromTheUK** on November 12, 2005 06:52 AM:

I must admit, reading these articles, you have gained my respect Ferfal.

I didn't know how bad things could get in a civilised country. I have to say, I know people who fought in the Falklands/ Malvinas conflict, and at first took what you were saying with a rather large pinch of NaCl. However, I read up on it, and believe every word you say. Just goes to show how wrong some people on the DU were when they called it survivalist fantasies.

Best wishes in the Future

Storer

Btw, good luck tomorrow in the footie, lets hope it will be kept civil.

Posted by **p3** on November 12, 2005 06:56 AM:

First of all, thanks for elaborating on your steel bat!

FerFAL, another question. I fully agree, if possible a high capacity Glock in .40. It sure makes sense to me.

The other handguns you mentioned as second choice were the .45 Colt Government among some others.

If your choice would have been narrowed down between a .38 Special revolver and a Makarov 9mm, what would you choose? I think Mak's are not very common where you live but I sure would appreciate your input. It's the old big slow bullet vs. light and fast bullet discussion but the Mak's have magazines while revolvers don't.

Thank you.

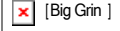
Posted by **ferfal** on November 12, 2005 07:32 AM:

I've seen a couple of Makarovs over here. They have a reputation for precision and 9mm Mak ammo is supposed to be better than 380. The problem I see with the Mak is ammo. I don't know about availability in USA, I'm sure you can find it easily, but over here there is only one gun shop in all Buenos Aires that has 9mm Makarov ammunition. They are sold in 20 round brown packs and cost a fortune as far as I know, and it's not always available. Narrowed to those two, I would go with the 38. But if I lived in USA where ammo and parts are more common, I'd go with the Makarov and buy JHP ammo if possible.

FerFAL

Posted by **ferfal** on November 12, 2005 09:19 AM:

I'd love to say that if you specialize in X or Y trade you are safe from unemployment but that's just not true. Maybe an economical crisis in USA wouldn't be as bad as it was here, but if it gets as bad I'm sorry guys but it will be ugly. A squirrel asked me the other day you say that you don't dare shoot a criminal 200 yards away, but that the police does nothing to stop the criminals, did SHTF or not? I got a little mad and got all sarcastic, I'm sorry for that. I now see that what's pretty obvious to me isn't as obvious when you live in a real country, where police does actually investigate crimes, and services and institutions actually work as they're supposed to, most of the time, at least. Live isn't fair in general. But once SHTF, it's WORSE. Meaning? Meaning that no one will be there to protect you but they'll damn sure be there to sue you. Meaning that even though you pay your taxes, you'll also have to pay for private health because the public health you pay for isn't worth a band-aid. Meaning that you might end up in jail, and even if innocent, you'll have to spend two years in jail until some drunk judge decides you deserve a fair trial and Ups, guess you're innocent after all. And the same happens with jobs. You might be a very successful person, with a University degree and decades worth of experience in some of the most renowned corporations, world wide, and you'll find yourself unemployed by the time you are 50 years old. That happened to my father, he was one of the finest managers in the country, he taught managing all over the world. From South America to Japan, USA and UK. Yet he found himself unemployed one day and moved to Spain, as did thousands of others, where someone had offered him a job. Yes, there are careers and skills that have more jobs than others. Doctors, welders, carpenters, accountants, managers, lawyers, they can all find a job, though the lawyers, manager and accountants may go for months or years before they can find a job that pays barely enough to survive. Keep in mind that unemployment here is about 20-25%, even more if you see the BS the gov. considers employed people. There's a lot of skilled workers waiting in line, willing to work for peanuts. And also consider that, even by official numbers (which are favorably SUPER inflated) Half the employed country earns less than 500 pesos (less than 170 dollars) while a person needs, AT LEAST 1000 pesos to survive. And I'm talking about barely surviving, forget about having a car, private health, or a real education, 1000 pesos is barely enough to put a shabby roof over your head and poor quality food on the table. If you want to have a normal standard of living, like a car, internet access, live in a neighborhood that doesn't look like Iraq, eat meat every now and then, and have some sort of education, you are talking about 1500-2000 pesos per person. So that's why the situation in this country is the one I describe, numbers just don't compute, people don't earn enough to live like people should, most barely survive like animals. Only 3% of the population makes more than 3000 pesos a month. The only way you have to live like you do now in USA after TSHTF is owning your own company. Owning large amounts of land and producing food products has kept high class society rich for as long as I can remember, so it's worth thinking about it. Farmers that own large amounts of land will surely be rich after TSHTF if they know how to run business. Small farmer will be swallowed by the big fish after some time.

The rest of the rich society in my country is either politicians, (we call those thieves over here ) Business men that found out how to profit out of the misery of others like the fellow I described that own the paper recycling company (hey, better than me, right? If you can live with it, it's an option) Or those that knew how to manage their investments, like my father did, investing in other countries, buying and selling properties, using the head to make his savings work for him. The trick is not to stick to one country. Had he invested in Argentina alone (he never invested much in this darn country anyway, whenever he invested a penny here, he lost it) he would be on the street right now, and so would I and the rest of my family. No safe job guys, just the weapon you have attached to your neck. Make as much money as you can in your current line of work, have a Skill, that's always useful, at least like a hobby (I'd try mechanics, welding and fixing machines in general), and invest smartly as much as you can. Don't put all your eggs in the same basket. Have cash and gold, and well, prepare as we learn to do here, the stuff we talk about all the time. The real gem, the real golden egg chicken when it comes to survival would be this: **Have a close friend or relative in another country that you could count on if SHTF**

As many discovered, and as I discovered, the best, final solution to a country falling apart is moving to another country. Don't be afraid of doing so if needed. Maybe you're a patriot willing to hold the fort till the end, I respect that. But when there is no solution, I'd rather escape. Soldier that runs, lives to fight another day as they say. Maybe you are willing to die instead of leaving your country, are you willing to sacrifice your children as well? Can you make that decision FOR them?

Sorry, I got carried away.

Stuff to think about.

FerFAL

Posted by **Buckshot** on November 12, 2005 12:01 PM:

FerFal,

I do appreciate your reply but I think we are on 2 different pages. I was looking more for hey if I would have stock up on soap at .20 cent a bar I can now sell it for \$2 a bar. You know what was the items pre crash they were easy and cheap to find that are now selling for a premium? Your more thinking jobs and I'm more thinking business. I understand the farmland with animals and crops will always be good to own. I study the Great Depression in this country in the 30's and it was a world wide Depression at the same time. Moving to another country might not be option if America goes down. Ever since WWII the Brentwood agreement America has been the economic engine of the world. A true global market like today where everyone is depending on everyone else to buy and sell equals world wide collapse if America goes down. That might be just my American outlook not trying to offend you. But you missed the rest of my questions on Sealing a house with no fence around it and fire retardant paint?

Posted by **TravisMcGee** on November 12, 2005 12:34 PM:

Ferfal, I feel a little better now! My wife is a nurse, and I have long been a welder/fabricator. I even built a 15 meter sailing yacht from steel which I have crossed oceans on. That boat, which we call our "Escape Pod," (not its real name) we will NEVER give up. It carries 100s of gallons of diesel fuel and water, and makes its own electricity 3 ways (solar panels, wind generator, and the diesel motor.) If TSHTF, I consider mobility to be critical. I am afraid of winding up in a "Fort Apache" situation, no matter where I might live, and would rather just move first.

Posted by **ferfal** on November 12, 2005 02:16 PM:


Buckshot,

Ever heard (or saw) the ying yang, black and white symbol? There is always a balance. For some to be rich, others must be poor. It's not about preparedness, it's the way the universe works. There is no way around it. The entire planet, every human can't live like rich people. That's why communism fails as a system, it's not reality based, and it goes against basic human nature. We all want to live as well as possible.

Just so you know, Argentina went through a relatively good period in the 30's, same thing with WWII, we had a lot of hungry countries willing to buy our wheat and other food products.

The problem is that most 1st world countries can't see beyond their own bellies. They teach their kids at school that USA went through a depression and so did Europe and other 1st world countries, and they immediately conclude that the whole world went into a depression. As I said, there is always someone that benefits from the miseries of others. Our land-owning rich society made FORTUNES after the war. And I do mean fortunes, people with their own fleet of airplanes, guys that can live like rock stars anywhere in the world for the rest of their lives, several times over.

Does Bill Gates ring a bell? I suppose we can agree on considering him a rich man, can we?

He's not rich because he invented Windows (who believes that BS anyway? ) He's rich because he's a tremendously smart business man, and knows how to take advantage of poor people in poor countries.


Again, you see? There is always a balance, it takes thousands, millions of people to be poor so that guys like Bill Gates can be the richest people on earth.

Do you know that Gates pays his customer and technical support employees less than a dollar an hour? Of course he can't do that in USA, he does it in Argentina, India and other poor countries. I know because I worked in one of those MSN call centers. (they treated me like an animal by the way).

I have nothing against capitalism, on the contrary I want to live well myself, I'm just saying that when a group of people turn poor, a smaller group of people, somewhere else, either close or far away, gets richer. Therefore there is ALWAYS a place that will be better than you are if TSHTF.

I'm not answering your questions again, am I? 

I was looking more for hey if I would have stock up on soap at .20 cent a bar I can now sell it for \$2 a bar. You know what was the items pre crash they were easy and cheap to find that are now selling for a premium?

 Now I get it. It's a rather hard question to answer. You see, after Dic. 2001 all that was imported into the country, specially electronic or luxury goods cost 3 times more.

The problem is, who are you going to sell your good to? Most of the country is now poor and can't afford it, and those few that can, just go to a store and pay the x3 price, and get 6-12 months warranty.

An example; As I bought a nice 29 Sony Wega from a guy last year. Paid 500 US dollars for it. It costs 2500 USD at most stores, sometimes more. The guy that sold it to me could have paid 900 USD for it just before the Dic. 2001 crisis. The guy lost money. Why because even though he has a product that costs more now than when he bought it, he has no market for it. He could have sold it to me, as he did, or he could have waited until hell freezes over because no one can pay 500 USDs in this country. Maybe 3% of the population can, and most of them prefer to pay more and play it safe, and buy at the official shops.

If this guy had bought for example, gold, he would have made a much better investment.

The idea of saving money by stockpiling goods, IMO, is to save yourself from paying 3 times more in the future, not selling them. Unless you have your own grocery shop, I don't think it's a good idea because no one will trust you enough to buy it from you.

Firearms did increase in value a lot, but again, buying gold would have been the same, probably even a better investment.

Some 5 or 10 SKS or AKs, kept in their original package might be a good idea. It's stuff that will always have a value, and the price will maximize if civil unrest skyrockets. Same for ammo and canned food that lasts for more than +5 years.

But with the food, as I said before, don't think much about selling it, but rather think about you eating your tuna that cost you 1 USD, 5 years from now, when everyone else has to pay 4 or 5 dollars to eat the same product. Maybe someone people that trust you would be willing to buy it for say, 3 dollars.

There are other products that, as I mentioned on the original post, would be nice to barter for favors, stuff like perfume, make up, cigars and liquor. But I wouldn't think much of it as actually profiting from it economically speaking.

If you want to ensure your financial security, invest in a couple of different countries, buy gold and that sort of thing.

If you want to try the buy soap for .2 and sell for 2 thing the best advice I can give you is: Don't look at what worked in Bosnia, look at your own country, and where products people use daily or are willing to pay a lot of money for come from. If it doesn't say MADE IN USA chances are that it will be worth much more in the future, after TSHTF. Still, try to keep it to goods you would use yourself if you can't get people to buy it from you later

Pawn shops, Black market / warehouse stores, second hand clothing stores, they all BAREY make a profit enough to survive as anyone else. You have to be smart, use your head.

You want a business that will make you a fortune after SHTF?

Here you go:
PRIVATE SECURITY. You'll have a lot of people looking for job to hire as employees when unemployment gets bad. People will pay a lot for security.

Private health is also a good idea though it does look complicated. Maybe if you are a doctor/nurse and know some other guys you can start something up.

But Private Security is much easier.

I take it from your post that your yard has a fence around it. How do folks that don't have fences seal their houses up?
My house, like most in Argentina, share walls left and right with other houses, going all around the block. The center of the block is for each house's gardens, divided by 7 feet high walls. So the only part of the house exposed to the street is the front. I have a iron fence, 7 feet high, where the property meets the sidewalk. The house is separated about 5 meters from the line where the fence is. Windows are also secured with steel bars, not nice but effective.

Many houses are set up like mine is. Some don't have the fence, but almost all of them have bars on windows and doors.

Are fires of home a worry if so do you think it is good idea to have fire retardant paint on your house ahead of time?
Most houses are made of bricks (mine as well) so fire is not much of a problem. Houses with a lot of wood have fire detectors, those that can afford it at least.

How do business protect themselves but still allow customers in the stores?
Big ones have their own private security. Small ones have bars all over the place. Barred displays that don't allow the customer to go over to where the employee/owner is.
Most just have a steel bar door in the entrance and don't allow you in. You stay outside and the owner of the place brings you what you ask for. Nice, hu?

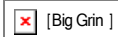
FerFAL

Posted by **ferfal** on November 12, 2005 02:25 PM:

quote:

Originally posted by TravisMcGee:

Ferfal, I feel a little better now! My wife is a nurse, and I have long been a welder/fabricator. I even built a 15 meter sailing yacht from steel which I have crossed oceans on. That boat, which we call our "Escape Pod," (not its real name) we will NEVER give up. It carries 100s of gallons of diesel fuel and water, and makes its own electricity 3 ways (solar panels, wind generator, and the diesel motor.) If TSHTF, I consider mobility to be critical. I am afraid of winding up in a "Fort Apache" situation, no matter where I might live, and would rather just move first.

Yes, I saw the pics, nice boat! 

The idea of a boat for escaping a crumbling country is excellent.
You have a pretty nice set up.

And a nurse wife to complete the picture. 

Congratulations!
By the way, When is your book coming out?

FerFAL

Posted by **Buckshot** on November 12, 2005 03:28 PM:

FerFal excellent reply thank you for your time. That is why I ask because you are 110% correct I look at the world from 1st world country point of view. That is why your posting are so valuable here, you point out what we are missing.

I am not asking to profit like Bill Gates just asking how to provide for my family ahead of time so the crash isn't as hard. Kind of like the car crash with an airbag is easier to survive than a crash off a motorcycle. :-) But you answer my questions very good and gave new insight. Thank you for being here at Frugals.

Posted by **TravisMcGee** on November 12, 2005 03:45 PM:

Ferfal,
Now, if I could just convince my wife to live on the boat now, as we did before we had kids.

After TSHTF, she will be happy to, but not now during good times.

BTW, when I lived in South Florida in the 80s, I met many white South Africans who escaped by building yachts. There were severe currency export restrictions, maximum withdrawals etc. So these people put all of their savings into yacht building materials, one jug of epoxy or sheet of steel at a time.

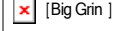
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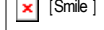
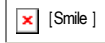
When their boats were finished, they sailed away from South Africa, never to return, their life savings literally in their boats.

The new book Domestic Enemies *should* be ready sometime early next year.....I hope.

Matt

Posted by **ferfal** on November 12, 2005 03:52 PM:

There's nothing wrong with profiting, I'd like to profit as much as possible myself 

Bill Gates is just an example, got nothing against the man, I'd sure like to have 1% of what he's got!  Still he could pay more than a buck an hour and he sure could put AC in his employees brake room (even for those that are located in S.A.) 
Now, seriously, I believe that the Security business is your best chance in a SHTF situation, starting your own company. About half of the meager jobs offered is for private security, though they dont pay more than 900 pesos (300 USD a month)
Take care.

FerFAL

Posted by **God's hermit** on November 12, 2005 04:29 PM:

Given the long coastline of Argentina, perhaps a fishing boat would be a better investment than a yacht fish is more desirable than ever due to its heart-protective oils.

I was just looking at the CIA World Factbook, and they seem to think the economy is starting to rebound a bit, let's hope so!

quote:

[Argentina benefits from rich natural resources, a highly literate population, an export-oriented agricultural sector, and a diversified industrial base. Over the past decade, however, the country has suffered problems of inflation, external debt, capital flight, and budget deficits. Growth in 2000 was a negative 0.8%, as both domestic and foreign investors remained skeptical of the government's ability to pay debts and maintain the peso's fixed exchange rate with the US dollar. The economic situation worsened in 2001 with the widening of spreads on Argentine bonds, massive withdrawals from the banks, and a further decline in consumer and investor confidence. Government efforts to achieve a "zero deficit," to stabilize the banking system, and to restore economic growth proved inadequate in the face of the mounting economic problems. The peso's peg to the dollar was abandoned in January 2002, and the peso was floated in February; the exchange rate plunged and real GDP fell by 10.9% in 2002, but by mid-year the economy had stabilized, albeit at a lower level. GDP expanded by more than 8% in 2003 and again in 2004, with unemployment falling and inflation remaining in single digits.](#)

Posted by **Thamok** on November 12, 2005 04:37 PM:

Ferfal,

I know it has been said many times but thanks again.

Your posts are very much appreciated.

Your information will save many, many people from undue hardship and needless misery.

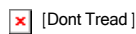

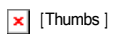
My hats off to you sir!

Posted by **TravisMcGee** on November 12, 2005 05:12 PM:

Hermit: The yacht is a live aboard vessel which can cross oceans to get WAY out of Dodge, completely under the radar. You can sail thousands of miles nonstop. Fishing vessels require a lot of diesel fuel, and serious fishing is highly regulated by all levels of government. Not to mention crossing oceans is not a viable option, in most cases. You are restricted to the range of your fuel tanks, and by where you can refuel, and the money you have to refuel.

Posted by **BubbaBear** on November 12, 2005 08:24 PM:

Ferfal. Your information is priceless. Many thanks for all your inputs. I know we have all learned a lot from you.

Posted by **Wild Trap** on November 12, 2005 08:40 PM:

I'm a new guy here, but not a youngster by any means. I'm just trying to catch up on this thread, glad to see I have friends from another forum here. Great info Ferfal. Also Buckshot, good to see another trapper here. I've pretty well retired from trapping but still renew my NTA membership as well as OSTA (Ohio State T.A.)... Well, got to get back to reading up all this info.

Trap

Posted by **MissingLink** on November 14, 2005 01:01 PM:

Wow! This is pretty wild! I really hate to think that my country that I love could get so bad but I honestly feel it is inevitable.

Ferfal, I was talking with a co-worker/friend. I always thought he was 1/2 Mexican. I new his mom spoke Spanish as her primary language. I always thought they were from New York City. Turns out his mother immigrated from Buenos Arias met his dad in Brooklyn New York.

So I was talking with him about the stuff you had written about what has happened etc. He kept saying Argentina! Really! Finally he says, I have a cousin who lives in Argentina.

So anyway, he tells me in 2001 she packed up her sail boat and moved to the Canary Islands. She returned this last year to Buenos Arias. She has asked him repeatedly to move there. She has run a diving company mostly catering to peoples from other countries. (Both in Canary Islands and BA I think, not sure)

Anyway, he didn't know details but that she was really freaked out and felt unsafe at home so she packed up in the summer of 2001. Returning as I said earlier this year. Small world.

This buddy is a body builder who is pretty big guy and really crazy.

Basically this confirms even more for me everything you have been saying. (I'm a natural skeptic, no offense meant!)

Second, I am engaged to a Philipino woman. She still lives in the Philippines. I work with her aunt. So now I have visited the Philippines. I also know that about 2 years ago. Her best friend was murdered. She told me then that the man who had done this would probably never get caught because nobody in her (the friends) family had the money to pay the police. This was in a province. About 10 days ago today my fiancé's brother was shot. He lives in Manila. He is doing better and was sent home. Again she tells me they don't have the money to pay the police so probably nothing will be done.

So with this in mind I come to my questions. Is this similar to your countries situation? A bribe is required to get a job done. In the Philippines, the translation to English is something like the muddy water. This is what they call a bribe. They, in the Philippines, say they aren't really bribes. This is what I see them as. 2 dollars US gets you a long ways over there. (53 to 1 exchange rate currently)

When on my visit, I learned that costs change on the spot. My fiancée needs a paper from the police. This is required for many things but she needs it for her passport. She asks and the officer told her a price. Then he asked why she needed it. She told him for a passport. The price went up 10 times! She had to pay or not get the paper. 9 times of that money is probably kept and split with the officer's supervisor.

So what I am asking is that in the system that is supposed to be legitimate. Is there a lot of corruption? LEO's? Government? in your situation?

Here we seem to have a different form of corruption. Somebody gets into a power position then they help others who helped them to get the position. Give inside info, award jobs, or help grease the slides for obtaining contracts. Is this a common practice there?

Sorry for such a long post. I wanted to give examples of the types of things I was asking about.

Posted by **ferfal** on November 14, 2005 05:44 PM:

Something similar happens when you get stopped by the police while driving. Whatever the reason, red light, police control, whatever you have to tip him for his troubles. Not much, if he stopped you for nothing 3-10 USD is enough. If he stopped you because you passed a red light, you'll have to give him 10-20 USD. I don't blame them much though, I'd rather they ask for tips and not just rob people, shops and houses when they get of work, like many do.

If you want a crime resolved you will have to help them a little so they are motivated. Still, you can also end up wasting your money on them, because there is no such thing as forensic investigation. They are barely capable finding finger prints. Let's just say that you can commit a crime and sleep like a baby in this cursed country. There is so much crime going on that they don't care any more, unless it's a big case that gets to the news or it involves someone famous.

Here we seem to have a different form of corruption. Somebody gets into a power position then they help others who helped them to get the position. Give inside info, award jobs, or help grease the slides for obtaining contracts. Is this a common practice there?

Same happens here, all relatives suddenly end up working (or just getting paid without working at all) after their friend wins the elections.

This is one of the most corrupt countries in the planet. We once got chosen 2nd most corrupt, after India, I believe.

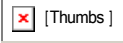
The gov, the police, they are all corrupt, and they sell themselves cheap as well.

I'll also add an article to Thoughts on Urban Survival on the way people react or don't to SHTF, and how some actually like it (benefit from it).

FerFAL

Posted by **Fallschirmjager** on November 15, 2005 11:02 AM:


FerFAL,


I've been following your story for a bit. And I must say you are a courageous person. Some people would have given up, some would have become one of the bad guys or sold out their self respect to become part of a governmental system that created the problems your country is trying to get out of. But you have maintained grace under fire . 

I have a few questions.

1. How does Argentina's current economic situation compare to other South and Central American countries?
2. Before the collapse, was Argentina's economy better than other South and Central American countries or worse?
3. If you could wave a magic wand and fix just one problem, what would that be?

I know some are strange questions. But one thing most North Americans don't truly understand is our neighbors to the south. Sure there are cultural differences, but at the center of it all we all want the same things in life. Understanding what you, as an individual, has gone through gives us here a better insight in South and Central America as well as a better insight to ourselves. Your openness to what happened to your country is assuredly a wakeup call for us here in the U.S. in much the same way that the hurricanes hitting our Gulf Coast was a wakeup call about how Mother Nature has no regard for who gets in the way of Her weather patterns. For your forthright information, advice, and realistic approach you have provided us, thank you!

On an interesting note. I purchased a used Browning Hi Power awhile back. It was manufactured in the 60s and issued to the Buenas Aires police. It is my favorite carry weapon. Well, at least for now. My wife shot it this past weekend and liked it  . I think she will take it like she did my 1911.

Before the end of the year I'll probably have to find another one  . I have taught my children how to safely handle weapons, from handguns to rifles; and recently they were taught how to handle a submachine gun from a Class III dealer I know. I have no worries about them in that regard. But an economic slide into an abyss is much more difficult because it is gradual up to a point and then suddenly it is in a hole.

On the economic note I have an additional question. I know hindsight is 20-20 but here is the question. In retrospect what would you stock up on or focus your efforts on knowing now what happened. I know you said earlier food was the first thing that you would store more of. What would be the next most important thing? If this has been covered (I have a short memory) then just refer me to the section.

Also how do you see your son's future. I know you mentioned you would be moving to Spain after school. Is Spain's economy more stable, or do you think this is the beginning of a global economic slide? And just out of curiosity. Have you considered moving to America. I know family is a strong consideration. But do you think you would be jumping back into a potentially worse situation by moving to the U.S.?

Thanks and I'll keep you and your country in prayers and thoughts.

Posted by **Nomad,2nd** on November 15, 2005 02:15 PM:

quote:

Originally posted by Fallschirmjager:
FerFAL,

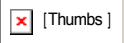
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Section 5.

Posted by **ferfal** on November 15, 2005 03:47 PM:

quote:

Originally posted by Fallschirmjager:
FerFAL,

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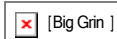
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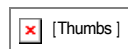
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Thanks and I'll keep you and your country in prayers and thoughts.

Hi Fallschirmjager,

Thanks for the prayers. The Hi Power made by FM in Argentina under the FN License is an excellent pistol.



1. How does Argentina's current economic situation compare to other South and Central American countries?

Well, right now our economy is as bad, or even worse than other Latin American countries.

What's noticeable is that even though our economy is bad, our middle class cultural level (though now poor in its great majority) is relatively high compared to other Latin American countries.

This is because you can still appreciate their higher cultural level even though they dropped in the social scale, the residual effect of what life used to be BEFORE Dec 2001 is still present. Most still have the relatively nice house, the good clothes, the car they bought back in the year 2000 (though they are getting older year by year) and the private school education they can't afford for their own children.

After a few more years, the change from middle to poor class will be more noticeable. Most won't be able to take care of their houses as they should, many will have to sell them, the cars will get old and most won't be able to buy new quality ones, and their children will have to go to the disastrous public schools. The next generation, the one that won't be able to afford the education their parents had, will make the change more visible.

This doesn't happen in 24 hours, it takes a few years. You see more children on the streets, more scavengers. You see more prostitutes on the streets every year. You see them where there were none before. Restaurants, libraries and theaters, close and are replaced by stripper clubs, brothels, Bingos, casinos, and other facilities, typical of 3rd world countries. It's sad.

2. Before the collapse, was Argentina's economy better than other South and Central American countries or worse?

It was by far the best country in South and Central America. As a matter of fact, and I don't mean any offence by it, the guys that worked at American airports would watch as Argentinean tourists packed piles of luggage, and they would wonder where these guys came from. Rich white guys, they though were Europeans, but the Spanish confused them. In the 90s our middle class was more wealthy than the American middle class. Just check what was the average income for the Argentinean middle class and the American middle class, both in USD, back in the 90s.

That's why the 90s are referred as the 'sweet money' decade by our economists.

You must understand that before Dec 2001 our salaries were in USD, a guy that earned 3000 pesos a month was earning 3000 USD. But after Dec 2001 the devaluation set the peso to a 3 pesos=1 USD rate. Meaning that you now earn 3000 pesos, but it's only 1000 USD. And prices went up 300%, equaling the dollar. So now your salary only buys 1/3 of what it used to buy.

Imagine if this happened to you TODA, what would you do if your boss cuts your salary to 1/3 of what it used to be? How would you survive? Scary, isn't it?

This is why for months after the Dec 2001 crisis, trains were out of order most of the time: Every morning (3 out of 5 of the labor week) someone would commit suicide by jumping under one.

3. If you could wave a magic wand and fix just one problem, what would that be?

Easy. I'd eliminate corruption. Corruption is the root of all 3rd world countries' miseries.

FerFAL

FerFal.....a question about the rest of So America. Do Uruguay and Paraguay suffer the same fate as your country? Just what or who is safe down there?

Posted by **ferfal** on November 15, 2005 08:03 PM:

Both neighboring countries.

Don't even consider Paraguay, it's a mess. Been there and I wouldn't recommend it to my worst enemy.

Uruguay is a little better (also visited a couple of times) especially if you stick to Punta del Este city. There are also some nice ranches over there as well. Still, it's a very small country that depends too much on its relation with Argentina, which isn't good, of course.

It's pretty much the Fiscal Paradise of South America. Were most TV stars, politicians, and drug lords have their accounts and mansions.

I know that there are some guys that come to my country to retire, since they are greatly favored by the currency exchange.

Either stay in the best neighborhood of the country, where the rich & famous live, or (if you don't want or can't afford it) move to the Patagonia, living in a small cabin as far away from civilization as possible. Ushuaia is the southernmost town in the planet, also known as the End of the World. I've been there and the name fits it well. Whatever happens in this planet it's the last place to get affected, for sure.

Ushuaia is as good as it gets when it comes to the stay away from it all survival mentality.

I'd go there or to other places in Patagonia if some kind of global disaster like nuclear world war or world epidemic becomes a reality.

FerFAL

Posted by **TravisMcGee** on November 16, 2005 12:48 AM:

FerFal,

First, great posts. I know you have sold the copyright, but I still think there is a book in here which you could sell in the USA: "How to get ready for TSHTF."

Question about Patagonia: is it warm enough to have a growing season which could provide sufficient food to survive? Is there enough fuel around (wood, coal, peat, etc) to keep that hypothetical cabin warm in the winter?

Posted by **ferfal** on November 16, 2005 03:40 PM:

TravisMcGee,


Question about Patagonia: is it warm enough to have a growing season which could provide sufficient food to survive? Is there enough fuel around (wood, coal, peat, etc) to keep that hypothetical cabin warm in the winter?

Absolutely, Patagonia is full of natural resources. Some find it similar to north eastern Europe, with all the pine tree forests and enormous glacier lakes. Some of the best fishing world wide, if that's your thing.

Argentina is, geographically speaking, a beautiful, rich country.

As we use to say over here: The only problem with Argentina is Argentines

So true.

Nice title for a book,  [Smile]

I'd love to write a book, but I'm afraid my English is not up to it.

I'd like to write the story of what happened to me and my family, not only concerning urban survival, but stuff I don't dare write about openly while living in Argentina. If I did, anyone will just know who I am and what happened to us after 5 minutes of google search.

And since people get to disappear for much less, I'm not risking it. Until I get out of here, at least.

It's a rather extraordinary story, and I could talk about it and I'd be safe because most won't believe it. The problem is that someone will search a little, find a couple of old newspapers editions on the internet, and Hey, guess what?

And it's not only about surviving a collapsed country, it's more of a moral, philosophical way of living life, I believe.

I definitely have a different way of viewing life, after what we went through. It does apply directly to survival, yes, but it also changed the way I think.

Even if I move to a safe country in a couple of years and I never have to deal with similar circumstances, life, and the way my family and I live it, will never be the same, even if we never ever hear a gunshot again for the rest of our lives.

FerFAL

Posted by **TravisMcGee** on November 16, 2005 04:16 PM:

FerFal: Write the book anyway, or at least keep extensive notes (as it sounds like you are already doing). Your English is 98% perfect; any editor can clean it up to perfection in one easy pass. When, where and how you publish it may be questions for tomorrow, but put the ideas down. Also, consider making changes to your biographical data which would protect you, while not changing the truth of your ideas. It's very "do-able" as we sometimes say in English.

Posted by **Money11** on November 16, 2005 09:57 PM:

FerFal, I completely agree about the book. There are probably squirrels on this board that can help finding you an editor/agent.

Just let it pour out of you. Your writing is very popular.

Posted by **j.r. guerra in s. tx.** on November 17, 2005 08:47 AM:

Ferfal, another question:

How do people deal with the everyday STRESS of living that way of life. You had mentioned earlier of your mother's worry of what life is like for you and yours - how do many people cope with the situation that is beyond their control?

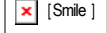
For example, if their wife / husband / son / daughter leaves on their daily errands and don't return when they are supposed to - what then?

How do the older generation of people, who thought they had saved up enough for their 'Golden Years' cope when they find they cannot afford to retire - work will be a fact of life for the duration.

Children - what is the effects of the 'Argentinian way of Life for Now' on them. Children the world around are generally born pretty playful, stress free and see the world with open eyes. Living in 'black out' conditions after dark to avoid criminals, constantly being 'shushed - did you hear that?' - what does this do to the children that are around you?

Posted by **ferfal** on November 17, 2005 12:33 PM:

How do people deal with the everyday STRESS of living that way of life. You had mentioned earlier of your mother's worry of what life is like for you and yours - how do many people cope with the situation that is beyond their control?

Oh man, I guess I SHOULD write a book after all... 

The stress that comes with insecurity, social unrest, unemployment and the constant fear of loosing your job, if you have one, is exhausting. Stress affects people in so many ways, some get depressed, the immune system is more vulnerable and heart problems, are just a few problems that come with stress.

The percentage of people dieing because of heart problems has increased to the point where it s almost the first cause of death among us.

Funny way of dieing after TSHTF, right? To die because of a heart attack caused by the stress of living under constant pressure.

How do you prepare for that?

Psychoanalysis has become very popular, as well as anti depressives.

Many, specially the older folks, choose denial. They try to convince themselves that things aren t that bad, or that it s the same all over the world. My grandmother will say Look, USA isn t better off than we are, look at all those hurricanes . There s no point in explaining her and people like her that what s going on here isn t normal that you shouldn t have to fear getting robed or killed every time you walk out of your house.

For example, if their wife / husband / son / daughter leaves on their daily errands and don't return when they are supposed to - what then?

You get as scared as he!! Even the most sheeplly people wouldn t do anything like that. You tell your family where you are and where you are going to be all the time. If you go missing for a couple of hours people will instantly think that you are in trouble.

How do the older generation of people, who thought they had saved up enough for their 'Golden Years' cope when they find they cannot afford to retire - work will be a fact of life for the duration.

That s curious. Today, people organized a protest to stop the attack on old, retired people. Attacking old folk seems to be a popular crime these days. Today, they stopped a criminal band that specialized in attacking retired people. The leader of the band was an active duty police Sergeant. Poor old folks, these b***** beat them up, burned them with cigarettes, and electrocuted 70, 80 year old grandmas and grandpas. The old folks that have no relatives to take care of them, either live in constant misery or end up on the streets.

Children - what is the effects of the 'Argentinian way of Life for Now' on them. Children the world around are generally born pretty playful, stress free and see the world with open eyes. Living in 'black out' conditions after dark to avoid criminals, constantly being 'shushed - did you hear that?' - what does this do to the children that are around you?

Well, kids absorb the stress and tension going on on the house. You just try to not talk about stuff like that in front of them so they don t absorb that.

Kids also miss a lot of experiences, since they can t play on the streets on their own, they have no freedom.

Take care.

FerFAL

Posted by **TravisMcGee** on November 17, 2005 03:12 PM:

Escribe el libro amigo. Write the book for us, but also for yourself. I think it would be great "therapy" to sink yourself into, and it might help other folks in many ways. Remember you mentioned, "what if your fairy Godmother came and gave you a warning?" You can take this warning far beyond the internet forums. And in any event, it will be worthwhile as a history of your times.

Posted by **Torx53** on November 17, 2005 09:55 PM:

ferfal

Thanks for sharing your experience in SHTF.

A friend and I have been discussing hyperinflation and mortgages. He thinks hyperinflation in the U.S. would be good for him because he has a fixed rate mortgage and believes he could pay it off quickly.

I tell him he will NEVER beat the banksters at their own game.

What did the banksters do in your country?

Posted by **k_semler** on November 18, 2005 05:30 AM:

I second the motion for a book! Do we have a motion to vote?

Posted by **LowPE** on November 18, 2005 04:12 PM:

Ferfal,

Thanks for posting. I hit this link:

<http://www.answers.com/Argentina%20Economy>

for more basic information on the Argentine Economy. Fascinating reading, after reading your first person narrative.

At one point more than 25% of the population was suffering from extreme poverty (starvation) with an estimated 450,000 people dying from starvation and starvation related illness.

Also interesting was how the Govt compensated banks for the asymmetric devaluation.

Thank you.

Posted by **aBRG2far** on November 22, 2005 10:30 PM:

Write your book and dont worry about the english, thats what editors are for.

Posted by **Cyblade** on November 23, 2005 02:01 AM:

welp if you think about it just take all of his posts and edit them alittle and youd have a great book already. This has been an eye opening thing for many people that have had many preconceived notions removed. We have been told that the first thing we need is a good battle rifle but in you post it makes it clear that a good pistol with many magazines would be a better first purchase cause its more likely to be with you when you need it. Who here hasnt thought about buying a couple of solar battery chargers now while they are still cheap along with batterys. Heck I just got back from buying some more ammo. Also it's the things that isnt in the books that we've all read like haveing to learn how to drive like your in mad max and kinda forget what you've been taught about driveing or how important it is to have a reserve of cash thats not your countrys currency incase the dollar plummits (I'm looking into euro's or swiss francs) Heck his infos so good that its been copied and posted all over the place cause people want to get the word out. Ferfal please write your book as it will help enlighten alot of people about just how bad it can get. You might help to wake some of the sheep from thier walking coma...

Posted by **k_semler** on November 23, 2005 02:37 AM:

So far, it's about an essay length. It is 28.5 pages single spaced, in 12pt Arial font, (with the seperate sections titled, and bold). Margins are set at .5" from sides of the page, and .75" from the top and bottom of the page. This is very good information, and is irreplaceable for value, but if it is to be published as a book, this needs to be doubled or tripled in size.

Of course, if FerFAL were to use this as a summary, then I'm quite sure that he could write out a 350 page surival manual if he stayed with the same topics, but expanded on them in detail. Keep up the good work FerFAL! This information is irreplaceable!

Posted by **glockamole** on November 23, 2005 08:29 PM:

Ferfal

You stated: "Ever since WWII the Brentwood agreement America has been the economic engine of the world."

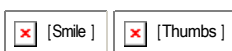
With all humble respect to you, I would like to kindly point out a slight error on your statement.

Brentwood was actually Bretton Woods New Hampshire. This was a 1944 conference where (as you so aptly put it), the Post WW2 World Order was set up.

Thank you for the education that you have been giving us:)

Posted by **ferfal** on November 23, 2005 10:01 PM:

Sorry Glockamole, but I didn't write that. Buckshot wrote it, not me.



http://www.frugalsquirrels.com/ubb/ultimatebb.php?ubb=get_topic:f=1:t=044387:p=6

I study the Great Depression in this country in the 30's and it was a world wide Depression at the same time. Moving to another country might not be option if America goes down. Ever since WWII the Brentwood agreement America has been the economic engine of the world.

By the way, I'll be writing the last two parts of Thoughts on Urban Survival this week. And I'll also be writing regular articles at buildanark.com. If anyone has ideas about articles you guys would like to read about please post about it here and I'll do my best to analyze the issue.
FerFAL

Posted by **Slave-One** on November 24, 2005 07:40 AM:

Just to bring the topic from below onto this thread.

Buckshot was wondering what happened to the homes that the banks foreclosed on, if they were resold, or vacant,

And I was wondering what renters did.

Posted by **Tom from New England** on November 24, 2005 01:27 PM:

Write the book, please!

Posted by **ferfal** on November 24, 2005 02:41 PM:

Banks either sold or rented the homes. Almost none was left empty for the reasons I describe below.

Rent went up. Some kept their price in US dollars (the most, expensive, exclusive places) meaning rent went up 300% while others gradually increased 40%, 50%, 100%, depending on the kind of place you are talking about. The poorer the place, the less the rent increased. Still they all increased 40% at least. As a matter of fact, this last couple of months, rents in general went up another 10%-20%.

Just as an example. My family has a small apartment they rent to a small-middle class family. We kept the rent about the same since 2001, only increasing 20%. They paid 200 pesos (66 USD) plus the services and other taxes that come with the place. We checked the numbers and we saw that, just to be worth the effort of actually going there and collecting the rent, we would have to rent it for 300 pesos, an increase of 50%. We told the people living there the situation and they accepted the new price, 300 pesos (100 USD)

People have no money, banks loan money at impossible interests, and people have no other choice but to rent.

After the December 2001 riots there was this general lawlessness feeling, you could do whatever you wanted to and no one would stop you. Any house left without occupants for a long period of time would get occupied by invaders.

People that went out for holidays or because of work, or left the country because of what was going on would come back to find people living in their houses. They brake, in change the lock, and move in with their entire families.


Most people don't actually know this, and I'm not sure how this stuff works in USA, but it takes a lot of time to kick someone out of your house even if living illegally in there.


Suppose you go to Hawaii, return after a month or two and find that your key does not open the lock. A family with 4 kids moved into your place. Just imagine it. You can't simply get a gun and kill them all. You'd have to BRAKE INTO the place, you see, and that's when the entire self defense right goes to the sewage.

You have to call the police, to police arrives and now you have to prove that it's your house. You see?

The people living in your house say they bought it /rent it from you, or they inherited from a dead uncle, and that they just lost (or even that you stole) the contract, will. Or maybe they'll claim that they where your friends and trusted you so they didn't ask for a contract.

When the police talks to the neighbors, they'll say that they thought it was strange that you didn't say good buy, but that the new family moved in with

all their stuff a month ago or so, and that they seem like nice people. 

Whatever the excuse is, Mr. Nice patrolman isn't a lawyer, and what's even worse he's not a judge, get the picture already? 

He can't force a family out of a house, even though you claim it's YOUR DARN HOUSE!!

A judge will have to rule on that, and that takes time.

Maybe if something like this happens today in USA, the matter would be settled quickly

But again, think not about just one case, think thousands of similar cases, and add a terrible crime wave, rioting, rape, robbery, all the colorful things that come along with a serious SHTF crisis. The slow, bureaucratic process is over saturated and is a thousand times slower now, they are overwhelmed by so many cases. Two different people claiming property over one house? You'll have to wait in line until more serious situations get solved, my friend. Scary? You bet.

People had to wait for months, even years until they got their places back. That's why most of us don't leave a place alone for extended periods of time. And if we have to, we make sure someone either moves in, or visits it on regular basis.

As always, something to think about.

FerFAL

Posted by **Hooz** on November 24, 2005 10:59 PM:

On the flipside, when TSHTF, its gonna be a while before the mortgage company comes around to kick you out... lol!

And when they do, wait until they leave and move back in 

Hooz.

Posted by **Slave-One** on November 25, 2005 02:54 PM:

Thanks FerFAL, that was one thing I have been really thinking about lately. Doesn't make sense, instead

Thanks FerFAL, that was one thing I have been really thinking about lately. Desperate times indeed.

Posted by **TravisMcGee** on November 26, 2005 03:04 PM:

FerFal: Home invading squatters was another aspect of post SHTF living that I never even considered. All of these ideas of yours are priceless, for preparing for our own possible collapse.

Posted by **beck** on November 26, 2005 09:39 PM:

FERfal, I've been reading your posts with great interests and I fear that it will be drastically different here. Riots will be far more violent, UN interference far more intensive and restrictive and we will shatter as a nation into several "districts" or smaller regional powers.

I just don't smell an air of tolerance in this nation for what you describe.

Posted by **Hannibal Smith** on November 30, 2005 01:12 PM:

FerFal

Next year I am going to my girlfriend's country, Peru, to visit her family in the Huancayo area. How is the situation there as compared to Argentina?

Posted by **ferfal** on November 30, 2005 09:24 PM:

Perú is bad news, always has been. Try not to look too "American" just in case. Dress as the locals do. With a couple 5 dollar bills you should be able to dress like they do. Not fashionable, but as good as cammo in the jungle, from the blending in point of view.

Please, please, don't wear anything safari like, like many Americans do when they come to South America, they stick out like a sore thumb, it just screams out "I'm a rich exotic American, please kidnap me now!"

Your girlfriend should be able to coach you on this.

Perú is going through some rough times. Don't count on LEOs or military, they should be as bad as criminals.

Perú has some beautiful natural places, and archeological wonders as well, like Machu Pichu (visit it if possible), but be extremely careful when it comes to security, especially in cities.

Oh! And don't EVER drink the tap water, only closed bottled water for you, your girlfriend may drink it without a problem, if she's from Perú her body has the defenses for it, but it will affect you for sure.

FerFAL

Posted by **Frugal Squirrel** on December 01, 2005 03:53 AM:

The last time I was in Peru (1997) the political corruption was worse than Colombia in many ways. It has only deteriorated since. Be very careful, if this is your first trip the pros will pick you out no matter how well you blend.

Posted by **Jmurman** on December 01, 2005 05:00 AM:

Ferfal,

I just read where the Brazilian people rejected a nationwide referendum to outlaw firearms. It seems that the people know that to give up their weapons is bad news.

What can you tell me about Brazil, especially Rio.

Thanks.

Posted by **ferfal** on December 01, 2005 10:18 AM:

My father arrived today 3 AM from Peru, he had to fly through another airline because the one he had tickets from canceled due to the problems in the Argentine international airport.

He tells me that the situation in Perú is worse than the one in Argentina, so it must be pretty bad.

FerFAL

Posted by **ferfal** on December 01, 2005 11:06 AM:

quote:

Originally posted by Jmurman:

Ferfal,

I just read where the Brazilian people rejected a nationwide referendum to outlaw firearms. It seems that the people know

...just read where the Brazilians people rejected a nationwide referendum to outlaw firearms. It seems that the people know that to give up their weapons is bad news.

What can you tell me about Brazil, especially Rio.

Thanks.

Don't be fooled by that. It sure looks like a pro gun victory, but the truth is that Brasil has some of the worst gun laws around. Almost everything is banned, except for 22 and other odd ball rounds. Anything equal or bigger to 9mm diameter is banned, so forget about 9mm 38, etc. Only .22 semi autos are legal. It truly is a terrible place to live in. Criminals have no problem obtaining Imbel FALs and big bore guns, but civilians have it bad. You can't carry or shoot the guns you have, except in shooting ranges, and the laws concerning self defense wont favor you much if you use guns to defend yourself.

Terrible place, with terrible laws.

The only thing they won was the keep having guns at all, which the gov. wanted to ban completely.

It's a bad place, and Rio is swarming with crime. The natural sights are beautiful, places such as beaches and the hotels are supposed to be high quality, but I would go there.

I have some friends that used to vacation in Brasil all the time, until one day a neighbor complained about the music and they spent almost a week in jail. Now they don't think that Brasil is that great any more.

Some think Brasil is great, then again those same folks also think Cuba is some sort of paradise

FerFAL

Posted by **TravisMcGee** on December 03, 2005 04:25 AM:

FerFAL: Thanks for posting Part 7. I agree about the importance of mobility, and that in the end it is more important than building an "Alamo" retreat. Mobility is so important to me that I built an ocean crossing sailboat. My point of disagreement, if I can call it that, is that your SHTF scenario assumes that other countries are in better shape than your own.

Frankly, I think that if the USA slides into a Great Depression, our cities will explode, they will become like Mogadishu or Sarajevo very quickly. Our economic crisis (like you have in Argentina) could then blossom into a far worse total social crisis, similar in many regions to Bosnia in the 90s.

And if the USA crashes and burns like that, I think the rest of the world will also go into a Greater Depression, and many areas will explode into their own civil wars, which are barely kept in check during "good times."

So if the USA goes down the toilet and becomes too dangerous to live in, where would one go?

I'm glad I have the option of sailing thousands of miles over the horizon, but I worry about sailing into some small port I had heard was nice, and finding it was a lie, or old news, and my boat is stolen by the local mafia and so on.

For me, I will try to match the mobility of the sailboat, with a general area of the USA which I think has a lot of favorable conditions, with many similar-minded folks to band together for mutual defense. There are no huge cities nearby, plenty of drinking water, a long growing season for food, and fish to catch.

And of course, if it totally goes to mierde in that region, I can sail over the horizon to....???? (I'm speaking for my family, so I really mean we.)

And I really do recommend to folks to consider the sailboat "escape pod option." You can buy a used 35 foot fiberglass sloop for about \$50K USD, which can cross oceans. And no need to ask permission at either end! Living on a sailboat is a lot like living in a recreational vehicle (RV), that is, you run on 12volt, plus your motor and generator. And sails, of course!

Most folks can't tolerate the motion on the ocean, and seasickness is not a joke. But there are great medicines today to prevent seasickness, and anyway, 95% of the time, you are not crossing oceans, you are in a nice tropical port at anchor. So IOW, you can tough out the ocean crossings, even if you do get seasick a little.

Anyway, I appreciate the option of being able to slip out of port, and coming back into land a month later and 3,000 miles away. I have sailed from Panama to Guam, and Guam to California. Every day, sailors, or "yachties" are crossing oceans in their own boats. Many are older than 60. It does not take a superman.

It is a great way to stay off of Big Brother's radar, you do not need to line up in an airport to be searched and inspected and checked on all of the computers. You just GO, and where you land, is 100% up to you.

(Also: thanks for explaining the pan against the sun picture. I remember in the 1970s in Chile they did that, when Allende was trying to turn that country into the next Cuba, and there was hyperinflation and no food to buy. I guess it's a "South American thing." Maybe we will do it in the USA some day!)

Posted by **mitchshrader** on December 03, 2005 05:41 AM:

as a ex offshore cook.. i'd suggest it takes a special person to happily sail for months.

while i don't argue that avoids many issues, and may well suit a few people, it's NOT a white picket fence..

and for those who have little experience, it's unlikely they'll learn both quickly and well.

am MOST appreciative of FerFal's insights. Thank You Again, very helpful.

though you've tightened my budget..

and my food supply is bigger and more varied..

and i have quite a BIT more medical supplies. .

It is unusual for a fairy godmother to be so ...

tall. 

Posted by **TravisMcGee** on December 03, 2005 02:51 PM:

FerFAL:

I have a question coming from sort of the other direction. You have mentioned how important and beneficial it is to have relatives or friends in other countries to help out.

What is the best way to send such help? Do your government customs agents and postal workers rip off "care packages" from foreign addresses? Are the taxes and fees extremely high if someone ships you items such as your armor or battery chargers and so on?

What is the best way to get money and goods to someone in a SHTF country without getting ripped off? Do boxes inbound to Argentina get opened and plundered en route?

How about cash. Can you "smuggle" it in in regular mail, or is electronic transfer to a bank account safer?

Posted by **TravisMcGee** on December 03, 2005 02:58 PM:


MitchShrader: Offshore cooking is the true acid test of seasickness! If you can be down below in heavy weather, watching those post and pans seemingly swinging back and forth on their gimballs, with the smoke and aromas coming off....you are truly seasick proof.

Posted by **ferfal** on December 03, 2005 05:36 PM:

Hi Travis;

I talked to some FedEx employees (the ones that delivered my vest) and there seems to be quite a bit of traffic, guess that a lot of people are either buying or receiving goods through them. They where VERY curious about my particular package, which had a ticket with the price I paid on the outside and said protection . They asked a lot of questions like what kind of protection was it, what did I do for a living (what do they care?) So I had to say that anything biggish or with a description should be avoided as much as possible. I must admit that the FedEx lady I talked to on the phone said they never lost a package, could be true or not.

The vest was a true necessity, specially when I travel late at night, but I don't think I'll be buying anything big through mail anytime soon. I may be buying one of those Eotech red dots, if the shipment price is reasonable. They don't even import those things anymore. Just the Tasco red dots, like

the one I have in my FAL. Darn thing cost me 100 dollars and I saw it on the internet for 30 bucks. Darn!  Also, some FAL parts are very inexpensive in US. I'll check them out this summer, and if the shipment price is right I may buy one or two.

The tax if you buy something on line as I did, is terrible, I paid about 200 dollars worth of Argentine Tax for a vest worth (drums) 200 dollars. Plus another 140 dollars shipping and 50 dollars for transferring the money through western Union.

I received private packages (with no description or ticket) both from Spain and from a friend in USA and had no problem. It's mostly a matter of luck, packages getting through unnoticed through the regular stuff. Fed Ex seems to be very reliable, though very expensive as well. Regular public argentine mail is mostly a matter of luck. I received toys for Christmas and other stuff my parents sent me from Spain and it all got here ok.

I'm not sure about the money in a envelope thing, as far as I know if it goes through regular mail, not certificated letters, chances of it getting stolen are big, so I never tried it. I sent and receive money through Western Union, which a lot of people here in South America use, quite popular I might say (as it is around the world). Banks charge too much for international transfers, the gov. wants a bit of it too, so its rather expensive. Besides, lets just say that after what happened, few people trust banks any more. They are still used of course, it's inevitable, but people try to keep money inside them as little as possible, just in case we have another corral like in December 2001. I might add that this is also the reason why we have so brutal home robberies. People keep their savings at home, so criminals get medieval on them so they will tell them where they hide the money.


Keeping packages small, hiding the money inside a card (so you cant see it if pressed against a strong light while using certified letters, then it should be ok. Still I wouldn't risk much money through mail, even if certificated. That's exactly why Western Union is so popular.

Any kind of big humanitarian help kind of package is a waste of time. Guys, if you are into helping poor nations, know that it never gets to them, not most of the time at least, so don't waste you time or money.

We had a terrible flood in Santa Fe a couple of years ago, terrible, a lot of dead.

Do you know what happened? The governor and his mayors would sell that humanitarian help to the people. And you know what's even worse than that? They took WEEKS, even MONTHS to organize the way they would distribute the booty, how they would sell it. So, not only where they selling the help, but they would do so after it was too late to really help at the right time. Terrible, isn't it?

By the way Travis, your escape pod is a terrific idea, Good for you man! I must admit that I'd love to have something like that, (yes, yes, I'll admit

a little good natured envy )

Try to be relatively close to it at all times, you never know when things can go the way you never expected, and have enough gas so as to get to your boat at all times. Don't count on gas stations.

Take care.

FerFAL

Posted by **Fallschirmjager** on December 03, 2005 05:44 PM:

TravisMcGee, gotta agree with you to a great extent. Probably the one place that won't slide into deeper economic straits is China. For most Chinese, they are already there, but for their gov.org it would be beneficial for them. Had a friend recently return from a business trip to China. There was a buzz among many business types. The buzz was that China is purchasing as much crude oil as it can get its hands on. It isn't using it for production it is storing it. Now they are also buying as much scrap metals as they can lay hands on and doing the same thing. What is interesting is that the same thing was happening in the late 20s and early 30s. The only difference was that it was Japan doing the buying. If the U.S. economy goes down the toilet, I think we will see China rise as the next 'heavy hitter', and not just a military sense. I have a bad feeling, after hearing all the details from my friend and others, that if we do slide, that the scales will tip China up. And that is when they will take control of the Pacific Rim. If we do go down, we will have more problems than just metro areas imploding. There is a good chance to further destabilize the U.S. we could take some military hits. Not necessarily nukes, that would be a galvanizing factor, but unconventional military force applied to the infrastructure of the US to continue the political destabilization process.

Posted by **TravisMcGee** on December 03, 2005 06:30 PM:

FerFAL: good info. I guess I would ask foreign friends to send needed tech gear in small nondescript boxes, with no info on the outside. As far as the boat, I was lucky because I had the experience of the "cruising" life (that's what yachties call it) from a young age, and got hooked on the idea of living off of Uncle Sam's radar. I never wanted a house with a fixed address. That changes with a wife and kids (for her, anyway,) but we still have the boat.

But remember, even a 9 or 10 meter boat is enough to do it. I remember Russians and Poles escaping on very small yachts in the 1980s, they had very little money and lived in very poor communist countries, yet they managed to scrape together a boat and escape. It can be done.

South Africans used to put their entire life savings into a boat as a way of avoiding the cash export laws. Then they sailed away, with all of their money in the boat. It can be done.

Of course, most folks can't tolerate open ocean sailing. Sometimes it's like being on a roller coaster in the rain for days at a time, only you cannot stop the machine or get off.

But other times, it's heaven. Most times it's pretty good. And the rest of the time, at least you are a moving target. Big Brother can't quite figure out yachties, who have no certain home address. We fly under the Big Brother radar, and we can go from continent to continent without asking for permission first.

And eating a lot of fish sure beats being hungry in a city.

Posted by **TravisMcGee** on December 03, 2005 06:40 PM:

Fallschirmjager: China is not without its major vulnerabilities, which is not to say they might not roll the cosmic dice if they felt they were backed into a corner (as Japan felt in 1941.)

But for now, I don't think the Chinese will do anything to ruin their Olympiad, the way that Russia ruined theirs with Afghanistan. Do not underestimate the immense psychological importance of this Olympiad: it is China's "coming back" party, as a world super power, after what they see as centuries of humiliation at the hands of the Western powers. They will really try to get through the Olympics before trying anything.

Of course, if the US economy falls apart, and we slam tariffs on Chinese imports (very likely) and we cause the Chinese economy to collapse, all bets are off.

Remember, the Chinese have 50 million + or - "excess males" who will never ever find a wife in China. If we cut off Chinese imports with tariffs, then millions of unsold Walmart boots will be on those feet, marching across Asia. The Chinese leaders would not quake at the idea of 2,000 combat casualties, they would welcome 2 million! The more the better, if they just die outside of China!

Who knows what will happen? I'm pretty sure that history is about to go "non-linear," in a big way....

Posted by **clutterbug** on December 05, 2005 11:14 AM:

FerFAL, Thank you so much for sharing your life experience with us by posting this very insightful information. I have refocused my preps based on the information you have posted. I'm sure that it takes a lot of your time to draft these essays but I know that we all appreciate your effort. The information you've posted has influenced many people, most of whom, like me, you'll never meet but you have made a difference in the quality of our futures. Since this is the time of year to count our blessings, I'd like to you to know your posts are certainly at the top of my list of things to be thankful for and I hope you'll continue to share your insights with us. Have a good, safe, holiday. Anne
PS: just one question (hope its not too personal): does the name or term FerFAL have a meaning?

Posted by **ferfal** on December 05, 2005 01:20 PM:

Thanks Anne.

Nothing is for free though, I might drop by for a BBQ any time. 

Seriously, glad you find it useful. That's the idea. Or, at least, to get people thinking that life is not always as they thought it would be, even if you are a nice obedient citizen that always goes by the rules.

I'm trying to stay as anonymous as possible (too late I'm afraid) especially with the recent popularity of my post which I didn't count on.

FAL is the rifle (mine is a carbine actually, with folding stock), I have for defense.

Take care.

Posted by **clutterbug** on December 05, 2005 10:46 PM:

We'd be happy to have you & your family for BBQ and "pickin' some crabs". Thanks again & looking forward to more of your posts. Anne

Posted by **BobHaverford** on December 12, 2005 11:30 AM:

Without a doubt the most likely SHTF scenario: <http://fjordman.blogspot.com/2005/11/second-fall-of-rome.html> We WILL be there sooner than you think. I'm just not sure what we will be able to do to protect ourselves and our families when the global calamity of Islamic jihad becomes a reality.

Posted by **TravisMcGee** on December 13, 2005 11:01 AM:

BobH: Europe's doom is sealed. Demography is destiny, and most men of fighting age are muslims. European pensioners are not going to hobble down to man the barricades and fight the rising youthful muslim tide. It's over for Eurabia. Just put the graph of future population growth of Europeans next to muslims in Europe. Every year which goes by, the odds tilt in favor of the muslims.

Posted by **ferfal** on December 13, 2005 12:41 PM:

And don't forget that most young native Europeans don't want to take responsibilities, they don't want to marry, they don't want to form a family, or (God forbid!) Have Children! Those little creatures cost a lot of money, you have to feed them, they puke all day and you can't party all night long if you have one of those! No way!

Meanwhile the Arabs reproduce themselves as rabbits.

What do you expect? Arabs fighting against Arabs? Forget about it. And you can't blame them. I wouldn't fight my own either. Its exclusively the blame of those that want to live their entire lives without responsibilities.

And guess what? When it's obvious that the entire old continent went down the sewage, they'll blame those nasty little Arabs instead of blaming themselves for living all their adult lives like 14 year old teenagers.

The liberal society, anti family, anti gun, pro gay, pro abortion, pro take it easy, anti assume responsibilities, will be the end of Europe, it already is.


FerFAL

Posted by **simon jester** on December 13, 2005 03:51 PM:

FerFAL, I've been reading your posts with great intrest and want to thank you for your information.

quote:

Don't be fooled by that. It sure looks like a pro gun victory, but the truth is that Brasil has some of the worst gun laws around. Almost everything is banned, except for 22 and other odd ball rounds. Anything equal or bigger to 9mm diameter is banned, so forget about 9mm 38, etc. Only .22 semi autos are legal. It truly is a terrible place to live in.

The part about the guns is true, and I know some guys there who have some 9mm and .38's put away for a rainy day.  I don't know if its that terrible a place to live though, of course I wouldn't want to go to RIO without a guide, it really is a war zone there. I wouldn't want to invade someones turf unknowingly, thus the native guide.

quote:

Criminals have no problem obtaining Imbel FALs and big bore guns, but civilians have it bad. You can't carry or shoot the guns you have, except in shooting ranges, and the laws concerning self defense wont favor you much if you use guns to defend yourself.

TRUE!

quote:

Terrible place, with terrible laws.

I saw a lot of corruption and the cops there make the new orleans cops look like saints{hmhhh

quote:

The only thing they won was the keep having guns at all, which the gov. wanted to ban completely.

It's a bad place, and Rio is swarming with crime. The natural sights are beautiful, places such as beaches and the hotels are supposed to be high quality, but I would go there.

I have some friends that used to vacation in Brasil all the time, until one day a neighbor complained about the music and they spent almost a week in jail.

Must not have been Brazillian music :D

quote:

Now they don't think that Brasil is that great any more.

Some think Brasil is great

I like Brazil, I've been 3 times so far. My wife is Brazillian, and all her family is there. They are doing well, 2 of her sisters are Dr's, and the other sister owns her own business. Shes not doing as well though.

The economy is not that great and the President Lula is buddies with Chavez and Castro. The people voted him in because he was a poor commoner who would identify with the people. As you know the old saying "power corrupts, absolutle power corrupts absolutly" This is where Lula is now.

My wife recently won a lawsuit against a bank she worked for after 8 years (we've been married 6 1/2 years) and we, instead of bringing the money here, 45K US, and being heavily taxed for it, we purchased a new apt there, 3 bed, 2 bath a couple hundred yards from the beach in RECIFE, and will rent it out for about 400 to 500 reals(\$200 to \$250- a mo.) and managed by one of her sisters(DR), and the money put in an acct for us to use when we go there.(may have to rethink the bank acct. thing after reading your post about banks.

just wanted to give a little of my own info.

Again, Thanks for your information..

Posted by **Phil Ca** on December 16, 2005 07:34 PM:

Some times "The Price is Right" has exotic vacation trips as a prize. Some times they have a 6 night stay in Japan and another trip to Toronto and yet another to perhaps NYC or some resort in Arizona. One time I saw that a trip was to Rio. Most people would go there and be super naive and not realize that they might not survive the trip. I know a couple of people that have traveled there and they only went out on an organized outing with plenty of local support and never on their own.

We all appreciate your tips and advice FerFAL. Your posts are very timely.

Posted by **Tzvi** on January 01, 2006 09:33 PM:

No motion to vote, but a motion to motivate.

Posted by **BackBlast** on January 06, 2006 04:46 PM:

quote:

Originally posted by Jmurman:

Ferfal,

I just read where the Brazilian people rejected a nationwide referendum to outlaw firearms. It seems that the people know that to give up their weapons is bad news.

What can you tell me about Brazil, especially Rio.

Thanks.

I lived in/around Rio for a few months, and spend over a year in the surrounding areas. I can paint a mostly unpleasent picture. I personally knew two people who were shot and killed (one by police), I saw virtually no private ownership of firearms. Three more people I knew were shot but pulled through. The people I met generally put "law enforcement" about on par with drug lords, and the former LEO I befriended agreed... I generally kept a low profile and I was only mugged once during my stay. This was all pre-2001...

I love the place, and many of the people. I had many good times in my stay there and met many quality people. But the bottom line is that it is the most violent and lawless place I have ever spent time. The people are generally rather politically blind and believe most anything coming from 'o jornal' (the news).

Anyway, that's my experience.

Posted by **TravisMcGee** on January 06, 2006 10:03 PM:

Backblast: sounds like you might be able to add to FerFals observations. Anytime you want to jot down some more "third world survival tips" I'd enjoy reading them.

Posted by **BackBlast** on January 06, 2006 11:51 PM:

quote:

Originally posted by TravisMcGee:

Originally posted by TravisMcGee.

Backblast: sounds like you might be able to add to FerFal's observations. Anytime you want to jot down some more "third world survival tips" I'd enjoy reading them.

Heh, I'm not sure I would be able to add that much useful information, I don't think Brasil was as bad when I was there compared to FerFal's description of Argentina.

My life in Brasil was as a missionary. The safety practices we tried to employ were to (1) never be alone, (2) have a month's supply of cash available and never all in hand at once, (3) avoid looking like a target (no backpacks - makes you look like a student, student's have money, things like that); though we certainly stood out from the crowd with our normal attire (4) good communication with other missionaries in the region, keeping tabs, etc. Some might not agree with this, (5) but we were instructed to give whatever was wanted in a mugging (mine cost me 10\$ *shrug*) or other such incident. Lastly (6) rely on the grace of God for our protection. We did other things that are basic common sense. Like not go into certain areas of town, and be home at dark (or not go out at all) during certain parts of the year - like carnival. Though the population in general did not seem to like being disturbed after dark - depending on the area. So on safer nights we would try and know exactly where we were going and not doddle or try and find new contacts.

Some of the locals we ran into had made some interesting observations. We knew and visited people regularly in very dodgy parts of town. The general rule was if you didn't mess with the wrong people you were left alone. There was a sense of honor that was stuck to and the underground elements left you alone if you left them alone. If you were known as a "good guy" around the neighborhood, even the bad guys would stick up for you if someone was giving you trouble. As a people they are also somewhat superstitious, I suspect this contributed to this behavior somewhat. The people we knew that got killed were people we were teaching that were flirting with drugs and/or crime. The ones who got shot just ended up in the wrong part of town at the wrong time - they got shot fleeing.

I wouldn't want to take up permanent residence there based on my observations. The view of the average citizen as to what police are, was very telling. I believe that to be the major symptom of what makes a 3rd world country. Their view of the police was also a complete contradiction to the large amount of faith generally placed in the bureaucrats and politicians. Even with the rampant crime, violence, corruption, the leaders are trusted and generally well thought of.

Other misc observations.. All residences (except the most rural areas) had at least a 6 foot high brick wall around their property. The tops usually lined with glass shards or other similar items. The police would drive around in cars with their automatic weapons hanging out the windows for, I assume, intimidation. In firefights between police and drug lords, often the drug lords were better armed. Some of these fights were rumored to include armored cars, helis, surface to air missiles, RPGs, grenades, and small arms...

Anyway, I knew many fellow missionaries that were in/around some of these firefights between police and drug lords. I think they would tell you the grace of God played the biggest role in our good fortunes, after doing what we could.

Posted by **gl100m** on January 13, 2006 06:03 AM:

Ferfal,

You mentioned relying on canned foods for daily survival. Other than Tuna what do you keep in stock? What brands are available over in B.A.? I'm curious as to how diverse a diet can be when there is no refrigeration.

Posted by **TravisMcGee** on January 13, 2006 07:28 PM:

Backblast: thanks! Good food for thought....

Posted by **ferfal** on January 13, 2006 08:05 PM:

quote:

Originally posted by gl100m:

Ferfal,

You mentioned relying on canned foods for daily survival. Other than Tuna what do you keep in stock? What brands are available over in B.A.?

I'm curious as to how diverse a diet can be when there is no refrigeration.

Welcome gl100m.

I do have a refrigerator with freezer, I just try not to depend entirely on it for food because I never know when lights will go out or when other power problems may show up.

Besides tuna, I have freeze dried rice and beans mix, canned vegetables, the kind of that has corn, chopped carrots and green beans all mixed up? Tomato sauce and dry pasta. Besides I keep some corn beef cans and cheese macaroni, and a lot of freeze dried soups. Dried pasta like spaghetti and noodles will keep you feed for a long time, specially if you have tomato sauce to complement it.

The problem with non fresh food is that you need to complement it with vitamins, and even then you need fresh food every once in a while.

Vitamins are expensive here, while fresh vegetables are relatively inexpensive, this being a food producing country with lots of plantations it only makes sense. So I buy fresh fruit and vegetables to complement the diet. Considering this, it is ironical that so many people are hungry in this country.

I also keep a lot of pizza and frozen vegetables on the freezer, as well as red meat, chicken and fish, as well as cheese and other regular fridge food. My son feeds mostly on smashed potatoes and red meat, fish or chicken.

The brands are mostly local or from Brazil, but there are known brands like Kraft Foods and others that have their factories here or in Brazil and are

The brands are mostly local or from Brazil, but there are other brands like Kraft Foods and others that have their factories here or in Brazil and are affordable for our economy.

FerFAL

Posted by **gl100m** on January 14, 2006 04:17 AM:

Thanks Ferfal.

Your real life experiences and the book "Lights Out" by Halfast have brought me to this forum. For me, this has been the best source of information I've found yet related to survival/preparedness.

Greetings to all the squirrels.

gl100m

Posted by **ferfal** on January 14, 2006 03:18 PM:

Today I went to the warehouse where the gray market is held. Remember the warehouse with lots of small kiosks that sell different kind of stuff? Well, this morning the owner of this place dropped by in his brand new silver Mercedes-Benz CLS 350 along with 4 thugs. The guy was in his mid 50s, with a barrel chest, white suit and mirror shades. I could only smile when I saw this Latin stereotype, he looked like escaped from a bad class B movie. What impressed me the most was the car, how much is one of those worth? As you can imagine, not one soul dared to get near the guy, car or the mean looking thugs.

FerFAL

Posted by **global village idiot** on January 21, 2006 07:48 PM:

God bless you and keep you ferfal.

The world is a better place because of you, and I am a better person for having "met" you.

gvi

Posted by **legitimised** on January 22, 2006 04:00 PM:


I have a few questions concerning the advice on driving.

If your likely to get thrown stuff at or shot isn't it better to have the windows down unless you have bulletproof windows. The windows would shatter and inflict more injury, better to have them down.

Also when you talk about firing back, how are you going to do that following your advice and having the window up?

Thanks,

Posted by **ferfal** on January 22, 2006 08:02 PM:

Thanks Global Village Idiot, only trying to pass along the experience a normal (in spite of what my wife says ) guy's experience when things go in the wrong direction and you simply have to cope with it.

Welcome Legitimised! good to have you on board.
About your questions:

No, definitely windows up.

Cars have safety glass, meaning that it completely shatters when broken, and would not cause wounds. Maybe some very minor cuts, but nothing compared to a direct hit that was strong enough to go through the window in the first place. We had people killed, losing eyes and other kind of serious wounds because of stones being thrown at moving vehicles.

Windows actually provide some protection, I can assure you that, from personal and friends experience.

Once, someone threw a piece of brick at my windshield, about half a brick maybe a little bigger. I didn't even see the guy who threw it at me, there was a lot of uncut bush in the area so he was well concealed. I just saw the big orange chunk of brick for a split second, and a loud thud on the windshield. The windshield barely resisted, but it didn't even chip in the spot where the brick impacted.

I thank God every time I remember that incident, but the point is that car windows are strong enough to take some hits.

My friend's father, took a shot on the windshield and it also stopped the bullet. When my friend told me about it I thought he was mistaken, but he insisted so I thought that maybe it had indeed stopped a .22 bullet fired from a handgun, since I'm sure no windshield can stop a 9mm round.

When I checked the car a few days later, I indeed found the glass chipped, with a perfect .22 circle. The car was a Rover, mine was a Suzuki Swift.

On shooting back, it depends on the situation. Maybe you have enough time to lower the window, maybe you are caught by surprise and are left with no other option but to shoot through one of the passenger's windows.

If I see someone from a passenger's seat making threatening gestures with a gun and trying to force me to stop I would lower the window and shoot him without hesitation. If I suddenly hear a shot fired, my passenger's window shatters, and I'm still alive, I'd shoot through whatever I have to. I believe I already wrote about the guy that was chased by another car, and he pulled his 357 magnum through the window and shot back at them. I talked to him at the gun shop where he was trading his revolver for a Glock for more firepower since he said he ran out of ammo too fast. It's completely unpredictable, what I do know is that you need a handgun, preferably a high capacity handgun, to fire back because if you don't you are a sitting, defenseless, duck.

FerFAL

Posted by **legitimised** on January 23, 2006 08:38 AM:

Thanks for the quick answer, just one other question, did you have difficulty getting fuel much?

Pretty hard for me to get a handgun seeming as i live in the U.K. Hope i'm still allowed on this forum if i'm not from U.S

Posted by **ferfal** on January 23, 2006 04:25 PM:

Some times fuel is hard to get because there are roadblocks that don't allow trucks to deliver, or there are problems with the union, but to be honest there are not long term problems with fuel. Every now and then you listen on the radio or TV that fuel is going to be hard to get for x reason, but I always managed to get fuel so far.

As always, your reality might be different, specially if you analyze the reasons WHY we have no problem with fuel.


Two important reasons for this are:

- 1) Most people don't even use oil anymore, they use natural gas, after having their vehicles modified.
- 2) Fuel has gone up more than 100% so most folks can't afford fuel any more.

I can think of no other forum that has a more open mind than Frugal's.

John, the owner of the forum, does not judge a book by it's cover, so, as long as you follow the rules, which are necessary to keep things running in a normal, civilized manner, you should fit right in.

There are many UK squirrels here. Unlike other preparedness forums, people are quite friendly, and those that do not know how to be polite to each other don't last long, thanks to John and the moderators.

So, pick a branch, get comfortable and start collecting your nuts! 

FerFAL

Posted by **Jim-bob** on January 25, 2006 08:30 AM:

quote:

Originally posted by legitimised:

Thanks for the quick answer, just one other question, did you have difficulty getting fuel much?

Pretty hard for me to get a handgun seeming as i live in the U.K. Hope i'm still allowed on this forum if i'm not from U.S

I'm from the UK and lurked here a long time before I registered, you will find this site to be open and honest as long as you don't act like a d*ck, the people on here are good for the most part.

Posted by **TravisMcGee** on January 31, 2006 12:07 PM:

FerFal,

Can you expand on cars being converted to run on natural gas instead of gasoline? What % of cars have been converted? How is the gas stored, in compressed tanks, or what?

Also: as regards fighting from cars. I read a terrific history of the war between the British and the IRA in Northern Ireland. The SAS guys would always keep shooting glasses and gloves handy, and when trouble was possible (following an IRA suspect etc) they would put on both. The reason was from much experience. When the bullets fly and the glass shatters, you often have to clear away window remnants with your hands to continue driving at high speed.

Without gloves, your hands get cut up. The shooting glasses keep glass fragments from going into your eyes, and also allow you to drive a full speed with no windshield. The point is, these SAS guys EXPECTED to have their windows shot out, and made preps for dealing with it, based on experience.

(The book is "The Dirty War" by Martin Dillon. VERY highly recommended, with many SHTF survival applications.)

Posted by **ferfal** on February 01, 2006 12:21 PM:

Hi Travis,

Actually I'm about to install GNC on my car, going for the Mad Max car myself.



Yes, you use tanks similar to the propane tanks you are all used to.

The equipment costs about 500-600 dollars.

You lose about 1/3 of your trunk space because of the cylinder, and you can run about 100km on a full cylinder.

It's supposed to be very safe and you save about 70%-80% of the fuel cost. The equipment pays for itself after 10 months or so if you drive everyday.

Argentina is the country with more converted cars world wide, so you might want to look into this if oil prices get to high for your own pocket.

4X4 are particular good cars to convert. Because you can install larger tanks and not worry so much about the space. Some trucks can run for 600 km on the GNC they have stored without even touching the regular oil tank.

As I mentioned before, Argentina is the country with more GNC cars, with 1.100.000, followed by Brazil with 550.000. USA only has 130.000 GNC cars.

I'd say that about 70% or 80% of the cars run on GNC.

I'll write on GNC as I gather more information and learn more from experience.

Take care.



FerFAL

Posted by **TravisMcGee** on February 01, 2006 02:34 PM:

FerFal, I think this GNC fuel issue warrants much exploration. I'll be interested to learn more. But 100KM per tank seems too low for anybody driving between cities. How hard is it to find a "gas station?" To you fill your own tank, or swap your empty tank for a full one?

Posted by **ferfal** on February 01, 2006 09:05 PM:

It basically depends on the size of the tank you install. I believe that a 30 L tank will give you 100 km but you can install a 60 L tank, but it would take more trunk space.

That's why GNC is particularly good for trucks and 4x4s, because you can install larger tanks.

100 or 200km may not look like much, but when you think about saving up to 80% of the cost of fuel, it sure starts to look very attractive.

Absolutely all cabs and remises use GNC. It does make a lot of sense if you travel a lot in the city. GNC stations are all over the country, pretty much like gas stations, so it's not a problem.

You don't remove the yellow tank, a guy just refills it as you would do with oil at the GNC station.

There have been some accidents (very few), but mostly with home made GNC conversions, where people use regular propane tubes for their cars. They install it the wrong way, the tube leaks, and it all blows up. But if it's done by professionals it is as safe (or even more) than regular oil.

It definitely is something to look into. If you think that 1.000.000 cars in Argentina don't give a d*** about oil price because they aren't using it any more, it's definitely worth looking into.

Waste, both animal and vegetable, produce flammable gas that could be used to power vehicles. How about a waste refinery that produces gas for vehicles?

FerFAL

Posted by **ferfal** on February 01, 2006 09:14 PM:

Oh! I forgot to mention, you still have the regular oil tank, you can shift from oil to GNC while driving. You get a car that runs on both fuels.

FerFAL

Posted by **TravisMcGee** on February 02, 2006 12:15 PM:

Do you have links to companies that do this conversion? It might be worth a translation, and posting about in the USA.

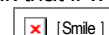
Posted by **Tzvi** on February 03, 2006 12:10 AM:

Ferfal,

I rode in a friend's Chevy truck that was modified for NG. I could SMELL the NG in the INTERIOR/cab.

Also he did not have it so well secured as put "nicely" in his flatbed.

Maybe because it is a completely illegal conversion, it was done so poorly. I could also not help but think that if we crashed it would certainly explode.



hey that was my additude, correct or not, So I decided not to wear the seat belt...maybe I'd get thrown ()

It did not help that we hauled a hoers in the back with his hooves banging on the tank.

I would rather use Bio-deisel...so much less explosive than even benzine. But South America has Plenty of tar and Methane so y'all do what you have

to.  [Cool]

Posted by **ferfal** on February 03, 2006 08:42 AM:

Hey Tzvi,
I rode in GNC cars thousands of times and never smelt gas! Careful, that sounds rather dangerous.
The GNC has to be installed by professionals. It shouldn't be any more dangerous than regular gas if done properly, even less.
This is due to:
1) The GNC tank, similar to a compressor tank is much mre resistant than a normal oil tank.
2) The safety valve installed on the tank will shut down the tank if anything happens.
So it should be VERY safe if installed by a professional with the proper equipment.

In all my years, I never saw or read about a GNC tank exploding in a car crash. I did hear of normal gas tanks exploding after some big crash. The only cases I heard of GNC tanks exploding was in home-made GNC conversions like the one you describe, blowing up when loading at the GNC gas station.
Cars crash here all the time, and even though most have GNC, they don't blow up. So it's safe to say that if it's done by someone who knows his business, it's perfectly safe. People have been using it over here for more than 10 years.

Travis,
Here are a couple GNC conversion centers, if you need help with the translation just let me know.
<http://www.naturalgnc.com.ar/>
<http://www.caybergnc.com.ar/>
<http://www.argentinaequiposgnc.com.ar/>
<http://www.gncgazzola.freesevers.com/>


FerFAL

Posted by **Jefferson's Ranger** on February 17, 2006 08:42 PM:

I just finished the post, or rather all the posts, excellent!!! Ferfal, thanks for sharing the info, very therapeutic!

Posted by **ferfal** on February 18, 2006 06:32 PM:

Hey Jefferson's Ranger, my pleasure.

It's therapeutic for me too.  [Wink]

FerFAL

Posted by **chrisontheright** on February 19, 2006 04:09 PM:

Another vote for a book!

Posted by **ChemicalGal** on February 24, 2006 11:11 PM:

Another really good guard in country settings are guineas. No unknown person or thing enters there area without a lot of noise. Harder to poison a bunch of guineas. Their noise can drive you nuts too but real good early warning system.

If the noise starts look around grab your gun and be ready... then again it could be a real snake...LOL

Posted by **30-30** on February 28, 2006 03:34 PM:

Major league baseball has its annual MVP - Most Valuable Player - awards. I nominate Ferfal as the Most Valuable Squirrel.

To share the incredible amount of and quality of information he does is a great help to all of us. To do it well in his second language is even more impressive.

Ferfal, if you ever decide to leave Argentina, I hope you emigrate to the U.S. A man of your caliber would be a great asset to the nation.

Posted by **weaver** on February 28, 2006 04:40 PM:

We have the Squirrel Hall of Fame. 7th Fleet is the only member of the hall of fame now.

I think FerFal would make a great addition.

Posted by **Sharps** on February 28, 2006 06:33 PM:

quote:

Originally posted by weaver:

We have the Squirrel Hall of Fame. 7th Fleet is the only member of the hall of fame now.

I think FerFal would make a great addition.

I agree - much valuable info has come from FerFal

Posted by **Brother Silicon** on March 01, 2006 11:55 AM:

A motion has been made and seconded. Shall we open discussion or call for a vote?

Posted by **30-30** on March 01, 2006 07:18 PM:

I vote for FerFal as the second member of the Squirrel Hall of Fame.

Posted by **sean m** on March 04, 2006 01:06 PM:

I will place a vote for FerFal

Posted by **SteveS** on March 05, 2006 10:53 PM:

I'm relatively new here, and I have just finished reading through this entire topic. If surviving the last few years in Argentina doesn't qualify FerFal as a genuine survivalist and an automatic member of the Hall of Fame, his taking the time necessary to pass along this useful and thought-provoking info along should.

Oh, and Hi everyone, I'm SteveS! Very interesting website, and while I've just started looking around, it appears that there are a LOT of interesting forums full of useful information.

Posted by **Whitewaterwoman** on March 06, 2006 02:55 PM:

Consider this my vote for FerFal, with my heartfelt thanks to him.

Posted by **emsmiller** on March 06, 2006 04:48 PM:

FerFal, I have a few questions for you.

- 1.How do you spot a black market location/area?
- 2.What is the routine/protocol in approaching/entering such locales?

I am asking this because I frankly don't know jack on this stuff. I am leery of asking my little brother who is a LEO. I just never got involved with those of questionable pasts/activities. So I really don't know anything on this. I hate to learn it the hard way and get shot/beaten/robbed for it.

- 3.In terms of general life after a situation like this, what are the jobs that wind up being safe from layoffs/RIFed?
- 4.Has the government been forced to reduce personnel levels to bare minimums?

The reason I am asking this is that I am going to be going to college to get a degree in Emergency Management and get a govt. job(state/local). So I am wondering if that career will keep me in the employed/non layed off/RIFed status.

- 5.How is the emergency response to disasters after a major disruption to the economy like? Are there reductions in response supplies/personnel or what?

Again, with my chosen career, anything I can plan ahead for, I will.

Thank you for your comments and for the great thread. I have really learned a lot from you. I too vote that you get in the Hall of Fame.

Posted by **ferfal** on March 07, 2006 08:29 PM:

Hi Emsmiller

1. How do you spot a black market location/area?

There are some parts of town where shops that seem to be legit deal with stolen merchandise. For example, Warnes street down town is known to be the place to go if you need anything for your car, like spare parts or sound systems (most stolen), but most of the time you don't spot it, you just ask around.

At least around here, if you need something from the black market your best option is to go to one of the gray markets fairs, where all kinds of goods (legal and illegal) are sold and ask around.

You don't just go there and ask for some illegal stuff. You visit the place with some regularity, shop around for some more normal stuff every now and then, until people get used to you. After a while you get to know the place, the faces, and you have a better idea of what you can ask and who to talk to.

I've never bought anything illegal, but I do know who to ask if I ever need it. Same goes for other kind of services like hit men or experienced shooter as they call them over here.

You mention your brother is LEO. Around here a LEO friend would help you contact with all kinds of people that deal with different goods and services, but this is SA and things work different over here.

2. What is the routine/protocol in approaching/entering such locales?

Good question.

You definitely don't want to look rich (or what they consider rich by their standards) so a well worn jean, t shirt and sneakers are a good idea.

Don't go all washed up smelling like flowers either. I did this once, took a bath and used deodorant and went to the market.

Though I was dressed as mentioned above, I notice that people checked me out a lot, only after a while did I realize that I was the only guy smelling

like a flower field in the entire place.  Seems stupid, but stuff like that means rich in their minds, so don't bath or use deodorant,