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MEMBERS UPDATE

October 2019

The BIG One

A Survivalist's Guide to Earthquakes

- The Ultimate Self-Reliance Hobby
- Field Dress a Deer: Step-by-Step
- How to Outwit the Surveillance State

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A Survivalist's Guide to Earthquakes

Earthquakes are the quintessential SHTF scenario, creating sudden upheaval throughout the ages. While it's true that technology has helped us prepare for some of the more obvious effects of an earthquake, there are many unforeseen "aftershocks" that most of us have never considered. We'll explain exactly how these might affect you, even if you don't live near the epicenter.



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The Ultimate Self-Reliance Hobby

This fall, a virtual army of camo-clad, armed-to-the-teeth Americans will head out before dawn with the same directive: Shoot to kill. Call them hunters, or call them "nutcases," the fact is these outdoor fanatics are building self-reliance skills that are in short supply in our modern society. So much so, in fact, that we highly recommend you join them in the field.



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How to Field Dress a Deer

While it's not the most fun or pleasant part of deer hunting, field dressing your game doesn't have to be a revolting chore. With the right preparation and know-how, it's easy to get the job done effectively and efficiently with little more than patience and a sharp knife.



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How to Outwit the Surveillance State

It's estimated that the average American appears on a security camera 75 times per day. If you live in a major metropolitan area, you can triple that average. As your right to privacy becomes ever more difficult to realize, it might be time to take corrective action. We've outlined the most effective techniques for dodging surveillance, both video and facial recognition cameras.



A SURVIVALIST'S GUIDE TO EARTHQUAKES

Earthquakes are terrifying. Even the most sophisticated seismic alerts, such as the ShakeAlert system currently under construction in California, are only able to provide areas that are about to be flattened with warnings of between a few seconds and a minute.

The simple fact is that the world's most advanced science and sharpest minds are at a complete dead end when it comes to predicting earthquakes, which is why those who would like to survive such an event would be wise to prepare as if any day could bring "the Big One."

EVEN RELATIVELY MINOR EARTHQUAKES CAN CAUSE MAJOR DISRUPTIONS

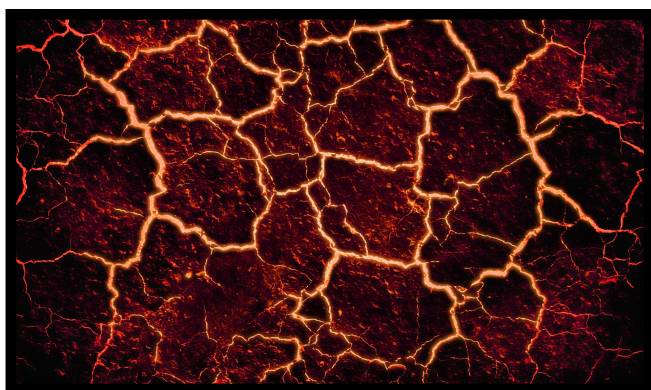
In early July 2018, the small Mojave Desert towns of Ridgecrest and Trona were hit by two medium-sized earthquakes in the space of 48 hours. While quakes with magnitudes of 6.4 and 7.1 on the Richter scale were not powerful enough to cause widespread devastation, they were strong enough to knock out power and interrupt water supplies for the area's more than 27,000 residents.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency acted quickly and shipped portable showers and toilets to the beleaguered towns, but response times would likely have been much slower if a more densely populated area had been struck by a more powerful earthquake.

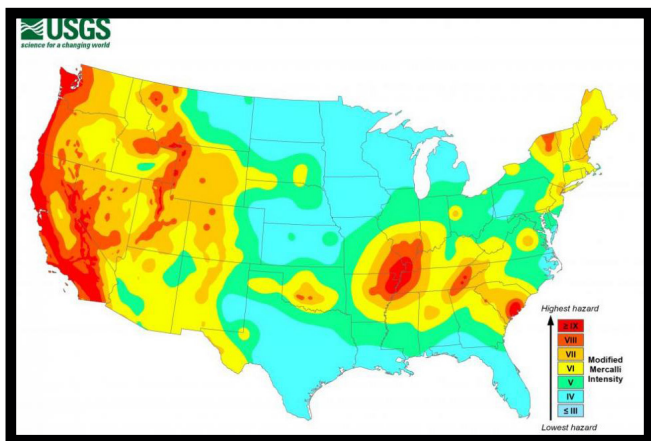
That possibility is something that really bears thinking about in a part of the country where daytime temperatures can soar past 100 degrees and being without power and water for even a few days could prove fatal. Preppers like to believe that they will be able to endure such hardships, but many of them greatly underestimate the threat posed by earthquakes.

NOT ALL PREPPERS NEED TO WORRY ABOUT EARTHQUAKES, BUT MANY DO

When Americans hear about earthquakes, they usually think of California. While the Golden State does sit on one of the world's most unstable tectonic faults, the risks of being struck by a severe quake are also high in many other parts of the country.



The government recently released a colorful map of the United States to let Americans know about the earthquake risks in their area. Parts of the country with the highest risk were red or orange, moderate risk areas were colored green and areas with low or no risk were shown in blue or left uncolored. Only Florida, parts of Texas, North Dakota, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Iowa are earthquake-free zones, according to the map. Despite this, it's worth nothing that Michigan has experienced several small earthquakes as recently as 2018.



Pretty much the entire Western United States from New Mexico to Washington was green, yellow, orange, or red on the map, and a huge swathe of the Southeast was also vividly colored. The rest of the country has at least some risk of experiencing a major quake, and the residents of Alaska and Hawaii face the same grim odds as Californians.

Many geologists expect strong earthquakes to become even more common in the years ahead because of the rise of hydraulic fracturing. Fracking can stimulate seismic activity, and it is widely thought to be the cause of a recent surge of earthquakes in Oklahoma. The risks are real and preparedness is key, but when should preppers start grabbing their Go Bags?

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GETTING TO THE BOTTOM OF INITIAL EARTHQUAKE REPORTS

The United States Geological Survey plans to implement an AMBER Alert type earthquake notification system that uses cell towers, which means that a mobile phone message will most probably be how preppers first hear about a nearby quake. They will then likely tune in to a radio station or cable news channel to learn more.

The initial press coverage of natural disasters or other major events is almost always unreliable and based on questionable eyewitness accounts or social media speculation, but earthquake reports will usually contain information about the strength of the quake that is based on the Richter scale.

This is usually fairly sound information as it will be based on data provided to news outlets by agencies such as the USGS or FEMA. It is, therefore, a good idea to understand what the Richter scale is and how its magnitude ratings can be used to estimate the level of damage and societal upheaval that can be expected.

USING THE RICHTER SCALE TO FORMULATE A PLAN OF ACTION

The seismologist Charles F. Richter developed the Richter magnitude scale at the California Institute of Technology in 1935, and it remains the basis of the way we measure the strength of seismic events to this day. While scientists have developed more nuanced tools such as the moment and local magnitude scales, it is the Richter scale that people are familiar with.

This is why seismic data intended for public consumption is generally converted into Richter measurements. Other common natural disaster measurements such as the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale use only round numbers, but earthquakes are more complex and Richter scale magnitudes are given in decimal fractions.

The Richter scale becomes increasingly worrying the more you learn about it. While the difference between a Category 3 and Category 4 storm is a sustained wind increase of only 20 mph or so, each whole number increase on the Richter scale represents a tenfold surge in amplitude.

What this means is that an earthquake that registers a 2.0 on the Richter scale releases about 31 times more energy than a quake that registers 1.0. This explains why the decimal fractions are needed and why they are so important.

So, what does all of this mean for a prepper who has just received an earthquake alert on their cellphone? What does a 1.2 or 3.4 on the Richter scale equate to in terms of destruction? Here's what you need to know:

- **MAGNITUDE OF 1.0 TO 1.9:** This is known as a microearthquake and will probably not even be felt by those close to the epicenter. Millions of them occur every year.
- **MAGNITUDE OF 2.0 TO 2.9:** This is an earthquake that may be felt but will not do any damage to buildings or infrastructure. About one million of them occur each year around the world.
- **MAGNITUDE OF 3.0 TO 3.9:** This is an earthquake powerful enough to be felt by most people and cause a lot of shaking inside buildings, but it is not powerful enough to cause serious damage.
- **MAGNITUDE OF 4.0 TO 4.9:** This is what seismologists call a light earthquake, and it is powerful enough to cause minor damage and knock items off shelves. There are between 10,000 and 15,000 of them each year.
- **MAGNITUDE OF 5.0 TO 5.9:** This is a moderate earthquake strong enough to be felt by just about everybody. Poorly constructed buildings may sustain significant damage or fall down, but more robust structures will probably be just fine. About 1,500 of them occur every year.
- **MAGNITUDE OF 6.0 TO 6.9:** A strong earthquake will destroy flimsy buildings and can cause serious damage to even solidly constructed homes and offices. They can sometimes be felt up to 100 miles from the epicenter. Fortunately, there are only about 150 of these each year.
- **MAGNITUDE OF 7.0 TO 7.9:** This is a major earthquake that will damage just about any building short of a nuclear weapons silo or a Bond villain's lair. Major quakes can be felt hundreds of miles from the epicenter and buildings up to 100 miles away can be damaged. There are about 20 of these

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monsters around the world every year.

- **MAGNITUDE OF 8.0 TO 8.9:** Even Blofeld will flee a great earthquake as virtually no building is safe. Great quakes lay waste to entire regions and loss of life is often catastrophic. The fact that there is only about one great earthquake every year is likely of little comfort to those affected.
- **MAGNITUDE OF 9.0 OR HIGHER:** Total destruction with damage similar to that caused by a nuclear detonation. We can expect one of these every 10 to 50 years. The last two magnitude 9.0 or higher earthquakes occurred in 2004 and 2011. They caused tsunamis in Indonesia and Japan that claimed almost 250,000 lives.

PREPARING FOR "THE BIG ONE"



Preppers, as the name suggests, are generally prepared for whatever life throws at them. However, preparing for an earthquake is a little different than planning for the collapse of society or the aftermath of a major armed conflict.

Earthquakes strike without warning, so you may be wise to make your home as earthquake proof as possible before your cellphone lets you know that it's too late. This does not mean that you should rent a cement mixer and head down to your nearest big-box home improvement store, but it does involve looking around and doing a little thinking.

Moreover, most of the people who are hurt in earthquakes are injured when something other than a building falls on them. You should check your walls and remove any heavy or dangerous items that could cause serious damage if your house should start to shake. That medieval great sword hanging over your sofa may very well be a wonderful conversation

piece, but it might be a good idea to move it to a place where it is unlikely to fall on you, a member of your family, or a guest. Clearing shelves above your bed could be an especially wise step to take.

WILL A BAD SOCIAL EARTHQUAKE BREED A TSUNAMI?



Thankfully, no, and Las Vegas won't become ocean front property when large chunks of Cali fall into the ocean when the Big One hits, either. That's because Tsunamis are birthed in subduction zones, and the San Andreas Fault line does not lie within a subduction zone. On the other hand, if a massive earthquake hits a different fault line, well... you may wish you had set up residence in the states of Florida or North Dakota, both of which have the fewest earthquakes, according to the U.S. Geological Survey's Earthquake Information Center.

THINGS TO DO WHEN AN EARTHQUAKE STRIKES

In the 1950s, schoolchildren were taught to duck-and-cover if Uncle Joe started lobbing nuclear warheads toward the United States. While a school desk may not provide much protection against a thermonuclear device, a coffee table offers pretty good cover in an earthquake. Hitting the floor as soon as possible also makes a lot of sense because you are almost certainly going to be knocked over anyway, and injuries tend to be less severe when falls are planned.

Once you are on the floor, crawl toward a place of safety while covering the back of your neck and head as best you can. Triangles are extremely strong, and pulling a table or sofa over so that it leans against the wall can create an extremely robust

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triangular place to ride out a quake. If you are in bed when an earthquake strikes, it may be best to stay where you are and cover your head with a pillow.

If you are outside when the ground starts to shake, you will have a different set of problems. Falling masonry and glass shards are a lot more dangerous than falling wall art, so getting away from buildings and finding open ground is paramount. Town squares are good, school yards are better, and parks are best. While you are looking for a safe place to take refuge, keep an eye out for power lines as they could make an already bad day far, far worse.

A car could be the best place to be during an earthquake as the roof provides good cover and the engine allows for a fast escape. Remain calm and expect panic in the motorists around you, and then drive carefully to an open area. If you are on an elevated highway, overpass or bridge, panic is understandable and you should get off it as fast as you can.

YOU THINK IT'S ALL OVER, BUT IT PROBABLY ISN'T



When the ground stops shaking, it is natural to assume that the danger has passed. This is a big mistake. Powerful earthquakes are usually followed by less powerful aftershocks, but these aftershocks can be just as deadly as they strike when buildings are already compromised. Aftershocks can continue for days, weeks, months, or even years.

The aftermath of a major earthquake will likely put your preparedness and survival skills to the test. You should check your home for damage and

pay particular attention to cracked or damaged foundations and supporting walls. If you have any doubts about the structural integrity of your base of operations, it may be time to leave. If your home seems sound, bear in mind that essential services may be unavailable for a long time and your less prepared neighbors could come knocking.

YOUR EARTHQUAKE BUGOUT BAG

If you are forced to take to the road after a major earthquake, you can expect to have a lot of company. This means the struggle to find resources will be fierce, and those unwilling or unable to do what has to be done may not make it. You will likely reach some sort of government or official aid facility sooner or later, so it is important that you remember to bring along your ID and important documents. Other items in your earthquake bugout bag should include:

- Enough food and water to last you at least a few days.

- Some way to start a fire so you can stay warm, cook your food, and purify water.
- Supplies of any medications that you or members of your party are taking.
- A flashlight, a portable radio, and some spare batteries.
- Basic tools or a multi-function knife.
- Blankets and spare clothes.
- Ample supplies of cash as credit cards are likely to be useless.

PREPAREDNESS BEGETS SURVIVAL

A major earthquake can turn a beautiful day into a desperate fight for survival at any time and in just about any part of the United States. Taking a few simple precautions can greatly reduce the chances of being killed or seriously injured during the initial quake. Putting a plan in place to get to safety - and having the items ready that you will need to survive the journey - could make all the difference in the days and weeks that follow.





DEER HUNTING: THE ULTIMATE SELF-RELIANCE HOBBY

Each fall, millions of camo-clad Americans leave the climate-controlled comfort of modern life behind for days at a time, all to voluntarily wake up before dawn and sit by themselves in the dark -- sometimes in sub-freezing temperatures -- just to watch some whitetail deer eat some corn.

While this behavior may seem strange to the non-hunting public, deer hunters will brave heavy downpours, heat waves, and ice storms time after time, season after season, just for the chance to bag a trophy whitetail.

Suffice it to say, it's more than a hobby... it's an obsession. And like any great obsession, there's an endless list of gear and techniques to learn about before you get started.

The sheer volume of "stuff" -- guns, "gut hooks," ATVs, rangefinders, licenses, safety rules, leases -- that comes along with deer hunting is enough to intimidate most beginners looking to get involved in the sport. Like any other all-consuming hobby such as golf, fishing, or cycling, the sheer amount of gear tells a story about the intensity of the hobby itself. It's a good news/bad news situation.

The good news is that, basically, hunting is just so much damned fun that people will spend crazy amounts of money and go to extremes to increase

their success. The downside is: As a beginner, you have a significant number of choices to make all at once.

Look, we've all seen those humungous fall catalogs from Cabela's and Bass Pro Shop. Logically, we all know that no one needs camouflage underwear, because it won't help you appear any more invisible than white-tighties will...



Ditto on the camouflage sheets and bedspread inside your hunting cabin. Yet these items fly off the shelves in greater numbers every year.

Why? You could write an entire clinical research paper on it, but why waste your time when it can all be summed up in just two words: Buck fever.

The adrenaline rush that comes with a successful hunt, not to mention the tranquility of spending long periods of time in the woods, is more than enough to get most sportsmen hooked on hunting...

But as you might have guessed, the truly intoxicating element of whitetail hunt is the proverbial “one that got away.” The pursuit of a truly elusive, mythical big buck is what eventually obsesses most hunters; many of them chase this dream for their entire hunting careers.

That’s why it’s called hunting... it’s an ongoing adventure, a boundless (dare we say chronic) quest, and one that has no clearly defined endpoint.

As beginners learn quickly, it’s also a sport with a staggering number of variables to control or manage in order to increase your chances for maximum success. For most hunters, successfully harvesting a deer in the field comes after months of preparation, weapons training, and a healthy dose of perseverance

For most avid deer hunters, each season functions as another layer in their hunting experience, building upon the prior season, and the season before that, and the season before that... often stretching all the way back to childhood.

WHY HUNTING IS THE IDEAL SELF-RELIANCE HOBBY



From a non-hunter’s perspective, it’s easy to see how terrorizing pastoral herbivores with firearms

may not seem like the best way to “commune” with nature.

On its face, this hobby seems at odds with a love of nature and the outdoors, a point that’s been hammered on by naturalists and animal activists for centuries, if not since the stone age.

If you’ve never been hunting, or you haven’t been hunting since you were a young child, allow us to review a few of the reasons why this is such an excellent hobby for the self-reliance devotee.

You’re probably thinking we’re going to talk all about how hunting is a great way to provide food and pelts in a SHTF societal collapse situation. Wrong.

While the harvesting of lean, organic protein is an attractive byproduct of hunting, it may or may not be a viable option in a massive crisis (the potential for over-hunting is great given the current US population).

However, there are a number of skills associated with hunting, directly and indirectly, which will serve you well in your quest for self-reliance, or in a crisis. In fact, that’s how we’ve laid this article out, from our rough outline to its printed form: Skill by skill.

1. FIREARMS TRAINING



Much has been made about target shooting in the past few years, as tactical shooting and modern sporting rifles have enjoyed a popularity unmatched at probably any time we can remember.

Here's the big thing we noticed during this tidal wave of new shooting enthusiasts: We felt significantly less relaxed at the shooting range. The reason for this wasn't clear to us until watching a news report about a firing range burning down because a shooter was firing tracer rounds into the backstop (made of rubber tires).

Then it dawned on us. The reason shooting ranges felt different was on account of the fact that a.) The range was way more crowded than it used to be (lots of people shooting and waiting to shoot) and b.) Most of these shooters were out of their depth from the standpoint of experience.

Instead of having a military background or hunting background, these were folks who became interested through YouTube and video games. The difference wasn't apparent in the accuracy or interest level of the shooters. It was a question of familiarity.

One thing that a hunting background (and more so military service) provides that shooting ranges don't is a gradual and balanced level of experience with firearms. It's the difference of starting out your shooting career with a bolt-action rifle vs starting out with an AR and a 40-round magazine.

When you handle weapons regularly in a variety of situations (walking through fields, in vehicles, etc.), you build confidence in your approach. Just as importantly, you get a real-world education in what is safe and what makes others feel safe around you.

Like many other skills, the only way to acquire this level of familiarity and confidence is through

experience and practice. Hunting provides that for many people who've never served in the military, and helps many maintain that confidence over the years.

Shopping for just the right deer rifle can be a thrill, but you're likely to run into a gauntlet of conflicting opinions about "knock-down power" and reliability. The simple fact is, most center fire rifles on the market today are more than capable of properly dispatching a North American whitetail or mule deer, year after year... large or small, buck or doe, whether it's in Michigan or South Texas.

Here's our quick guide for getting the right gun for YOU.

The primary factors you'll want to consider when shopping for a hunting rifle are fit, action, caliber, and price.

FIT - This refers to the way the rifle literally conforms to the dimensions of your body. You need to be able to hold the rifle comfortably, work the action easily, and peer down the sights without feeling stretched or contorted. Basically, you need to feel comfortable and capable with your rifle in your hands.

There's really only one way to find out what qualities you do and don't like in terms of fit, and that's to hold and fire (if possible) as many types of rifles as possible before making a purchase.

ACTION - In the movies, cowboys always carry lever action rifles, soldiers carry AR-15s, while hunters and snipers always shoot bolt-action rifles. It's just a Hollywood convention, and it has little to no bearing on the effectiveness of the weapons, but it mostly holds true in the deer camps of America. The vast majority of hunters choose the bolt-action rifle, and it's a great choice for beginners.

The bolt-action is regarded as one of the safest and most user-friendly rifles, largely because it makes each action in the sequence very deliberate: i.e. you load the rifle, work the bolt to load a single round, fire the round, then you must work the action again to reload the chamber and reset the firing pin.





Lever-action rifles are perfectly suitable for hunting deer. However, these rifles are designed to fire in succession, so safety requires a slightly different approach.

Then, of course, there are many excellent semi-automatic rifles, well-suited for hunting deer. These rifles, in particular, require extra care when attending to firearm safety. In the excitement that follows shooting a deer, it's especially critical to do a safety check, given that this weapon automatically loads another round and resets the firing pin.

Whichever type of action you go with, from bolt-action to muzzle-loader, it's critically important that you learn and practice all applicable safety measures. You should always know when there's a bullet in the chamber and always treat your rifle as though it's loaded, regardless.

CALIBER - As you may have already guessed, this is one of the more contentious issues in the process of selecting a rifle... and one that we dismiss as mostly a pissing contest between hunters with nothing better to argue about.

No matter where in North America you hunt, the range of rifle calibers that are appropriate for whitetails remains the same. Most hunters won't recommend a caliber smaller than a .243 Win, which is perfectly suitable for whitetail, pronghorn, or even mule deer. However, a .223 Remington or 5.56 NATO is so fast, plenty of hunters find success with these rounds.

10 If you're shopping for your first ever deer rifle, we recommend the traditional hunting rounds like .243

Winchester, .270 Win, 308 Win, or the classic .30-06 Springfield.

PRICE RANGE - When it comes to price, it's best to set a comfortable budget and try your best to stay within it. We published an article in Sept 2018 (accessible in your online archives) detailing the incredible rifles you can get for well under \$500 these days, brand new.

You can realistically get the job done for as little as a couple hundred dollars if you buy a used rifle. The important thing to remember is that the rifle is only as effective as the hunter who is using it.

While a lot of pride and ego gets tied up in gun ownership, and thus outrageous sums of money, you can get a perfectly good rifle-and-scope combo, from a manufacturer you've actually heard of, for less than \$300 in many places, brand spanking new.

2. STEALTH



Evading detection is a skill that most children love to practice and most adults have long forgotten. The reasons are, of course, that there are few practical outlets for practicing stealth in our society and that "sneaking around" is considered creepy behavior in our culture.

Unless you play paintball, war games, laser tag, or work as a private detective on the weekends, chances are that you don't get a lot of opportunities to practice the art of stealth.

When it comes to hunting, your quarry is a weary one, with better hearing and a more acute sense

of smell than yours. Sitting still and quiet for long periods of time, while also being highly observant, is key to your success as a hunter. Thus, the skill of moving quietly and stealthily to and from your hunting locations is something that will come along fairly naturally as you gain experience.

3. PATIENCE



Here's another skill that's all but vanished from modern life: Patience. We don't mean the kind of patience it takes to wait for video to "buffer" (whatever that really means) or an Amazon delivery to arrive.

Instead, we're talking about real patience that requires the persistent pursuit of something that may never, in fact, happen at all, e.g. the big buck that may or may not appear. When the opportunity does appear, however brief it may be, you must be ready.

In a world of "do-overs" and simulations, it's rare that we have to face up to the reality that we "blew it" with our one and only chance. Outdoor sports like deer hunting are still one area that truly capture the importance of being "in the moment."

4. TRACKING AND BLOOD TRAILING

Just as it's rare that we, living in the digital age, get the opportunity to be sneaky or stealthy in our movements, we also don't find many opportunities to use real-world, analog clues to find out where and when things are happening when we're not there to witness them.

- 11 When you're out hunting, and you look down at the trail, you may notice something rather amazing.

Animals have left you a series of messages that you can use to learn about them and their habits.

As you study these messages, you can learn to distinguish a lot about an animal, simply by observing its footprints, sign (AKA deer poop), and the trails that they follow. The size and depth of a hoof print clues in an experienced hunter to the sex and size of deer that left it. By following these trails, you can determine which trail a certain deer used to approach an area, leave, or what food sources that deer was attracted to.

Likewise, after shooting the deer, you can use a combination of blood and hoof prints to track the animal to where it died. This is critical, of course, because the end of the deer's trail is where the hunt ends and the harvesting truly begins.

5. BUTCHERING (AKA FIELD DRESSING)



This section addresses something that most Americans find totally revolting, unless you live on a ranch or work in a meat market. Most everyday Americans have exactly zero experience when it comes to butchering animals.

In the world of self-reliance, there's little doubt that processing animals (game or livestock) is a necessary step on the path to self-sufficiency. Still, most of us urbanites and suburbanites have been conveniently cordoned off from life cycle of the food supply we depend on.

Learning to field dress a deer can be pretty disgusting to think about, but it's also quite fascinating and certainly an important exercise if you aspire to raise and butcher livestock.



HOW TO FIELD DRESS A WHITETAIL DEER: STEP BY STEP

For those of you interested in the nuts and bolts of field dressing game, we've put together a fairly graphic description of the process. And while there's no substitute for experience in this area, written guides can go a long way to providing clarity and confirmation when it comes time to start slicing and dicing.

Let's begin with a few general rules of thumb. First, preparation is essential to making this process smooth, safe, and hygienic. Surgical gloves, a clean working area, and hand sanitizer are essential items in your hunting backpack – as is a sharp knife.

This leads us into the second rule of thumb. Paradoxically, a razor-sharp knife will not only

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make your job easier, but safer as well. The sharper

the knife, the easier it slides through the task of cutting, requiring less force and pressure. When it comes to sharp tools, force and pressure can be very dangerous.

Last, continuing on our theme: Minimize force and pressure throughout the process. Inexperienced hunters will often get impatient and apply force in a situation where more cutting is required. Pulling something too hard, either a piece of hide or organ, will usually just result in ripping that object to shreds, making your job much harder and way messier.

Go through this process with patience and care, and you might just be impressed with how simple and routine it can be. Now, on to the nitty gritty.

STEP-BY-STEP - There's more than one way to skin a deer, but it's a good idea to learn the most basic, tried and true method first, before you try to cut any corners.



1. After positioning your deer flat on its back, preferably with its head uphill from its lower half, your first order of business is to make a long incision from the deer's throat all the way to its rectum.

This is easier said than done, of course. This is also where you'll come to appreciate the beautiful simplicity of the Wyoming Knife.

Begin by pinching an area of skin in the center of the deer's throat, making an incision through the skin and fur into which you can fit your knife.

Using the gut hook of your Wyoming knife (see nearby photo), you'll literally hook it under the skin and pull it toward the rectum, as if you're unzipping a jacket. Take special care as you get below the ribcage, as you do NOT want to pierce the stomach or intestines.



If you do puncture the stomach, you'll instantly know why we are stressing this point. Foul smelling liquids pour out, it's gross... not a pretty scene.

If you're using a traditional skinning knife, you'll do very much the same thing, keeping the sharp edge of your knife pointed skyward away from the deer. Obviously, the risk of puncturing the deer's stomach and/or intestines goes way up with a traditional blade, so take your time and be extra careful.

As you get to the pelvis, you'll need to carefully cut away the muscle, separating the hind legs and exposing the pelvis.

2. Next, you'll cut through the front of the deer's pelvis. One of the best ways to accomplish this is by using a hammer and hatchet combo.

Place the blade of the hatchet against the pelvis and tap lightly on the flat side of the hatchet with your hammer until you're through the pelvis.

Next, attempt to further break the pelvis by standing firmly on both of the deer's hind legs as you pull upward on the tailbone. More often than not, this won't completely break through, so you'll want to cut away more muscle and tissue with your knife.

Again, there are countless tricks out there for getting through the pelvis, as it is one of the stickier steps in the process.

NOTE: This is a good time to carefully cut the skin surrounding the rectum.

3. Next, using a sharp knife, you'll cut through the sternum. This can be a bit tricky, since a little force is usually necessary, so take your time and be careful not to injure yourself. The same hammer and hatchet method can be applied here as well.

Typically, it's easiest to start at the bottom of the sternum, working your knife up toward the neck. Fortunately, you don't need to be as careful about slicing the lungs as you do with the stomach/guts.

Again, slow and steady is the way to go here, not quick and careless and needing a trip to the ER.



Photo credit: MJCDetroit, Wikimedia

4. Once you have a clear pathway from the trachea to the rectum, you're on the home stretch.

At this point, you're going to expose as much of the trachea as possible; it will function as a handle of sorts as you remove all of the internal organs. Slice through the windpipe and cut the connective tissues holding it in the throat.

One thing to keep in mind throughout this stage: Minimize the amount of force you use, letting your knife do most the work.

Connective tissue holds your deer's entrails in place. So, the more tissue you remove before you begin to remove the organs, the less pulling you'll have to do, and the greater the chance that you'll be able to get all of the organs out of the body cavity without damaging them -- very important.

After you've cleared out all exposed connective tissue, including the diaphragm surrounding the lung, take hold of the trachea with one hand and pull gently, cutting away the remaining connective tissue as needed with your other hand.

It amounts to a lot of cutting and not too much pulling. If you feel that you're pulling too hard on the trachea, stop; you probably are. Look for what's holding up the progress and clear it out of the way with your knife before proceeding.

Once again, this is a situation where working too quickly and carelessly can cause complications that

will bring your progress to a screeching, and often messy, halt.

Continue to pull gently, freeing the entrails all the way through to the rectum until your deer's cavity is completely empty.

5. Stand at the head of your deer and elevate its upper half, pouring all the remaining blood out of the body cavity. Be sure to keep the cavity as clean as possible as you do so.

In all of these steps, working clean will save you time in the long run, so don't get in a hurry. Be thorough and careful as you work, and your job will be much easier and more pleasant.





HOW TO OUTWIT FACIAL RECOGNITION SOFTWARE, VIDEO SURVEILLANCE, AND THE GOVERNMENT

It's 2019, but with governments across the world investing in and implementing facial recognition software and video surveillance to better keep an eye on citizens, it is starting to feel more like an Orwellian 1984. Like most technological advances with noble intentions, what started out as a way to detect criminal behavior like trespassing, assault, speeding, and vandalism has now turned into a whole new monster that has the potential to allow a government to track everything about you.

The threat of government abuse is so prominent that those within the very industry that created this technology have sounded the alarm. For instance, in December 2018, Microsoft president Brad Smith warned, "The facial recognition genie, so to speak, is just emerging from the bottle. A government... could follow anyone anywhere, or for that matter, everyone everywhere. It could do this at any time or even all the time. This use of facial recognition technology could unleash mass surveillance on an unprecedented scale."

The problem is that governments have already launched surveillance and facial recognition programs, and there is little to no regulation in place to protect citizens from having their privacy stolen from them.

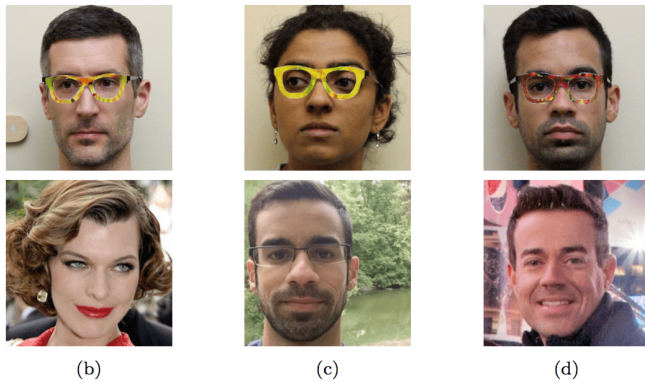
Just look at one of the most-surveilled cities in the world: London. Known as the CCTV capital of the world, there's 1 CCTV camera for every 11 people living in London. With a current population of 8,787,892, that's approximately 627,707 CCTV cameras. It's a clear example of mass surveillance, and it will only get more extreme as time progresses.

Another example is China's surveillance system called Skynet. Sounds like something straight out of *The Terminator*, but this system is much scarier. Give it one second and it can scan China's approximately 1.3 billion citizens with an impressive accuracy of 99.8 percent.

You can't stop the government from using the software, but we're going to show you how to

prevent different facial technology systems from recognizing your face. As you'll see later on, some systems are easier to fool than others, but as more advances are made to deter people like yourself from escaping its reach, you'll need to keep upping your game.

1 GLASSES



In 2016, a team of researchers from Pittsburgh's Carnegie Mellon University created eyeglasses that can block wearers from being recognized by facial biometric systems, which are designed to identify a specific individual. These eyeglasses can also trick the system into thinking the wearer is a completely different person, like a celebrity.

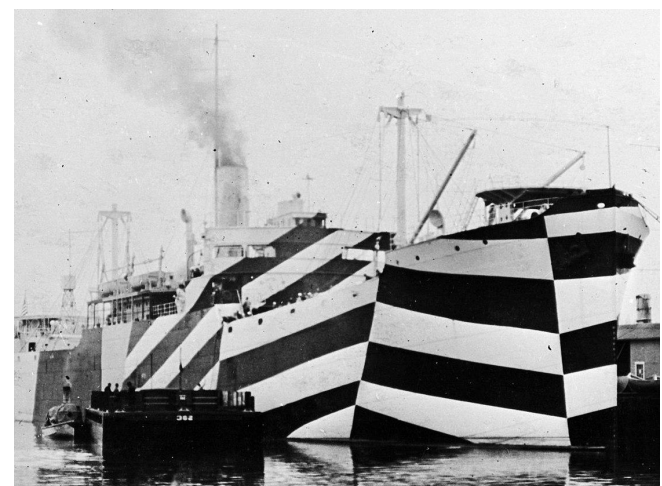
As described by the team, their system is both "inconspicuous" and physically attainable, allowing the wearer to wear them without drawing attention from others. It works by exploiting the way computers understand human faces with the use of pixels. If a pixel is changed in an image, it will confuse the facial recognition system and its ability to clearly categorize the person in the image.

They soon discovered that a pair of glasses with large rims could act as a way to change the pixels in an image and conceal around 6.5% of the pixels. They also realized that adding a pattern to the frames additionally helped manipulate the image in question.

At the end of testing, their glasses were able to trick commercial facial recognition software Face++ and prevent it from recognizing their faces, as well as impersonate celebrities and themselves.

To everyone around you, it just looks like you are wearing a pair of eyeglasses with tortoise shell pattern printed frames. And it's cheap as heck too if you have access to a photo printer; only \$0.22 per frame.

2 ANTI-FACE



The anti-face might be a little extreme for you guys, but with desperate times come desperate measures. Because facial recognition algorithms depend on identifying specific facial features and the spatial relationship of these features, like symmetry, you can avoid detection by implementing the anti-face CV Dazzle.

Dazzle camouflage is not a new concept and was first used during World War I as a type of naval camouflage. Unlike other camouflage, the purpose

of dazzle is to make it complicated to estimate a target's speed, range, and heading, not to conceal it.

CV Dazzle has a similar approach. It uses avant-garde makeup and hairstyling designs to break apart the flow of a face and trick facial recognition software.

#3 JUGGALO FACE PAINT

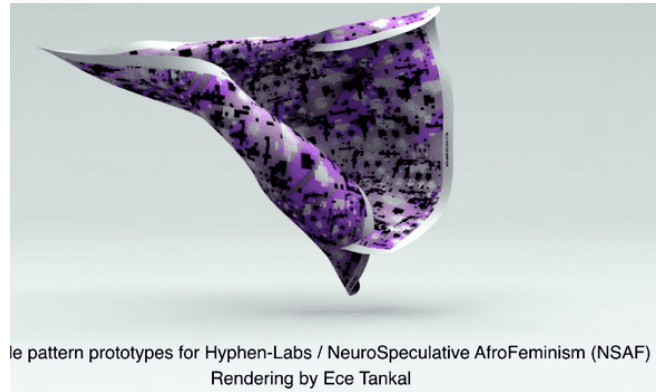


According to some computer science bloggers, becoming a Juggalo might be the next best way to defeat facial recognition. That's because the infamous Juggalo makeup messes with the technology's machine-learning algorithms.

For some facial recognition systems to work, they need to pinpoint the areas of contrast on a human face like where the chin becomes the neck. This is where Juggalo makeup comes in. This type of makeup mimics that of a clown, with many applying black paint below the mouth and above the chin, which confuses facial recognition and leads to it misidentifying the location of the jaw.

The only problem with this route is that it's not very inconspicuous. But hey, there are a bunch of Juggalos out there, so it might not be that weird for some people to see in public. Just make sure you do your research about what it is to be a Juggalo in case law enforcement starts hassling you over your choice of makeup.

#4 HYPERFACE



Artist and technologist Adam Harvey, the guy that brought you the Anti-Face, has come up with another way to confuse the hell out of these facial recognition systems. The main purpose of HyperFace is to overwhelm the computer system with thousands of false face hits so there's no way for it to distinguish which faces are actually real.

He does this by printing patterns of human features, including mouths and eyes, on clothing or textiles that a facial recognition system can potentially identify as a face.

According to Harvey, "in camouflage you can think of the figure and the ground relationship. There's also an opportunity to modify the 'ground,' the things that appear next to you, around you, and that can also modify the computer vision confidence score."

And that's exactly what Hyperface does. It exhausts a system's vision algorithm with what it is looking for by overloading an area with so many faces that it tricks it into inspecting something other than your face.

#5 PROSTHETIC MASK

If these facial recognition systems are programmed to find a face, why not just give them what they want?

That's exactly what interdisciplinary artist Leonardo Selvaggio thought when he was living in Chicago, where law enforcement has access to approximately 31,000 surveillance cameras. He later came up with

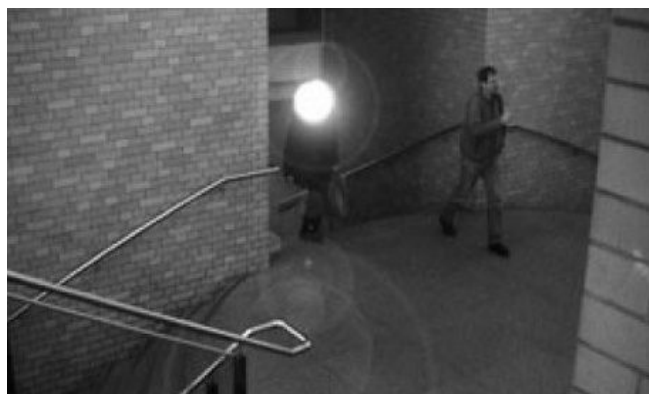
the project URME Surveillance, which is based on confusing facial recognition software by flooding the system with random and conflicting data. The main idea is to wear the likeness of another person, or in the case of Selvaggio, lend out your own face.



This is how the project started: Selvaggio created 3-D, photo-realistic prosthetic masks of his face, gave them to his associates, and asked them to upload pictures of themselves wearing the prosthetic onto social media. Each associate was completely different in appearance; from a tall skinny woman to a fat short man and different races. It didn't matter what they looked like. With the prosthetic on, the social network's facial recognition software identified every single one of them as Selvaggio.

These masks are now available for all, but just make sure to check your state laws on wearing masks in public.

#6 INFRARED LIGHT FOR CCTV



18 If you're worried about CCTV surveillance, then your best bet is to mount an infrared light to the

side or front of your head using a regular hat. With the infrared light attached to your hat, the single beam of the IR laser creates a lens flare, which looks like a light ball on camera.

With this lens flare covering your face, you can potentially corrupt the data captured by the camera and block important details of your face from being recorded. One thing to note, this "head torch" approach only works with cameras that do not have an IR sensor.

Making the infrared hat is extremely cheap. All you need to do is buy infrared LEDs, which you can find for \$1 in some places, and stitch them into the front of your hat of choice. Next, attach a 9-volt battery to the LEDs and you'll be ready to mess with any CCTV camera making eyes at you.

The best part is you will look completely normal to others around, while a CCTV camera will only see a huge spot of infrared light on your head.

#7 INFRARED LIGHT FOR FACIAL RECOGNITION



You can also use infrared light to fool some facial recognition software. Security researchers from universities in the U.S. and abroad have

concluded that using infrared light can alter a facial recognition system's ability to identify a person. They proved this by creating an infrared light-projecting baseball cap that can fool a face recognition system into thinking you're someone you are not.

CONCLUSION

The bottom line is it's getting harder and harder to hide from the government. While some might think this invasion of privacy is not a big deal because they are law abiding citizens with nothing to hide, it's important to know that corruption will always be prevalent. You never know when you'll get caught up in the system because of a misidentification.

If the government relies solely on this technology in the future, like in the movie *Minority Report*, then you'd better find a really good lawyer that can successfully argue why a high-tech computer is wrong.

There's already facial recognition software in some areas that detect jaywalking, which comes with an annoying ticket price. Say a facial recognition system identifies you as the jaywalker, despite you being nowhere near the crossing in question. You're going to need a good alibi to back up your claim because you're up against the advancement of technology, and most people don't even question it.

But jaywalking is probably the least of your worries. Governments around the world are in the process of creating and implementing facial recognition software that can detect if you should be hired for a specific job, if you're a likely terrorist, and even if you're having thoughts that are a danger to society.

No one knows exactly where this new type of technology will lead us, but most people are coming to the same conclusion that a person's identity and privacy are going to be extremely hard to keep hidden in the near future. The only way to combat it is to come up with a counter attack, like the ones listed in this article, and do everything in your power to keep your privacy private from the government.





HOW TO INSTALL YOUR NEW TACTICAL LASER SIGHT

For demonstration, we're going to describe the process for installing the MCG Tactical Laser Sight onto a Springfield XD, but the process is the same for most modern handguns, including Glocks, M&Ps, Berettas, etc.

STEP ONE: First things first, make sure your firearm is in completely safe and unloaded condition before you begin. Next, identify the placement of your gun's rail system.

STEP TWO: Remove the MCG Tactical Laser Sight from the packaging and locate the 3 batteries (included), along with the 3 hex keys (also included).

STEP THREE: Using the larger hex wrench, open the compartment labeled "Battery" and install all three batteries, positive side facing up. You may want to use your hex wrench to gently push the first battery to the bottom of the compartment.

STEP FOUR: Re-install the battery cap and engage the sight's power switch to confirm that the red laser is indeed shining. If not, you'll want to double check that you've installed all 3 batteries correctly.

STEP FIVE: Use the large hex key to loosen the sight's mounting cross-bolt. Hold it up to your weapon's rail to eyeball the width until the sight's mounting brackets will easily slide over both sides of your gun's accessory rail. The bracket is hinged to allow for fitment.

STEP SIX: Seat your tactical laser onto the rail system and use the large hex wrench to tighten the mounting bracket. Double check to ensure that there is no movement or wobble, as this sight will need to withstand your firearm's recoil.

STEP SEVEN: Pick a wall in your garage or home and stand 10 feet away. Turn your laser sight on and hold your firearm (in this case, a handgun) in your normal shooting stance. Note where the laser dot appears on the wall in reference to your open sights.

STEP EIGHT: Make adjustments to the elevation and windage screws using your smallest hex wrench. Your goal is to adjust the laser until the dot appears directly at your gun's point of aim.

A fairly close zero can be achieved without a trip to the range, however fine tuning may be necessary when you actually begin shooting with your new laser sight. Dry fire practice with your new sight is an ideal way to adjust to your weapons new "furniture." Now get out to the range and punishing some bullseyes!

HELLFIRE



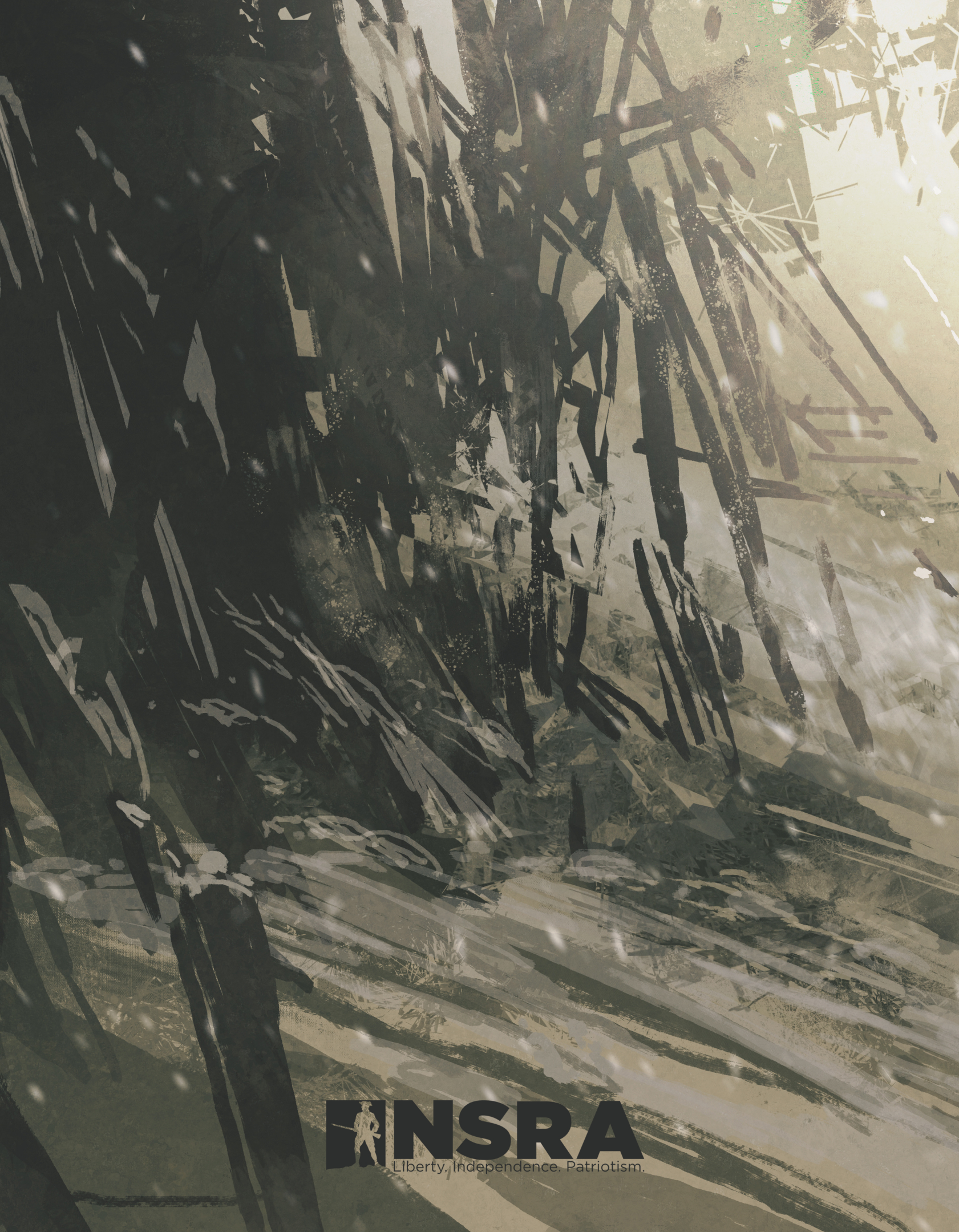
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