

TROJAN HORSE REFUGEES PART II • CYBER SECURITY • VENEZUELA THREAT

Journal for Law Enforcement, Intelligence & Special Operations Professionals

# The Counter Terrorist

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2019

VOLUME 12 • NUMBER 4

CLOSING DISTANCE



INTERNATIONAL  
EDITION

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**Cover Photo:** *Israel Defense Forces*

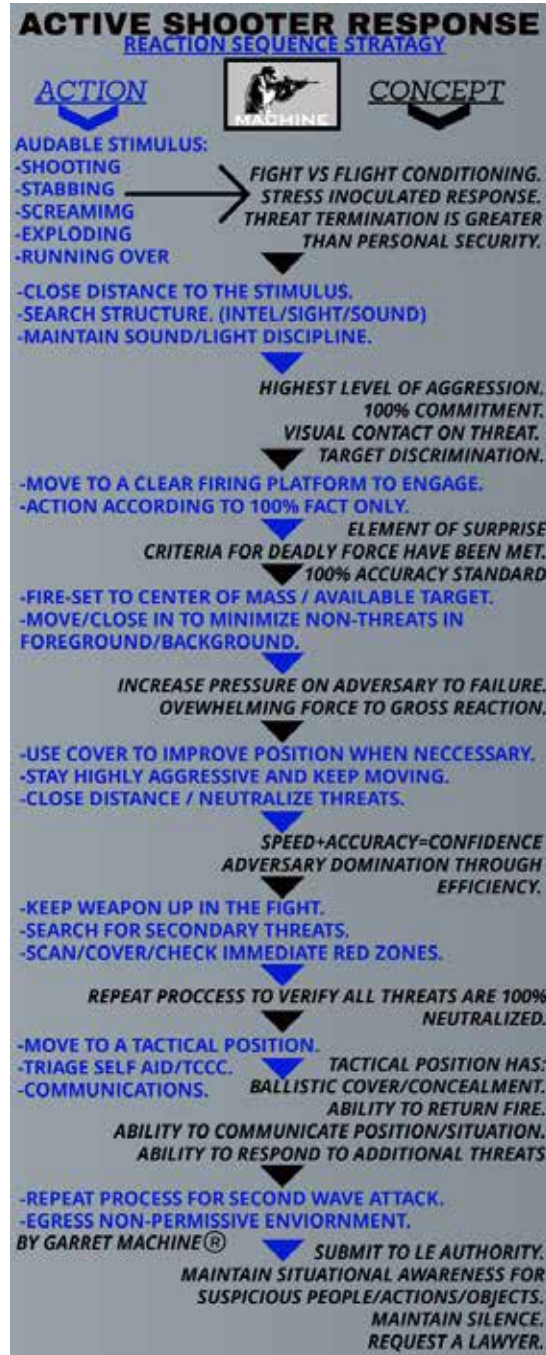


## FROM THE EDITOR:

### Active Threat Response Best Practices **by Garret Machine**

Ten years ago I returned from Israel and started teaching combat classes from lessons learned. As it turns out, I was delivering the most effective tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTP) for dealing with active shooter type incidents. Acts of violence became even more rampant along with the correlated proliferation of social media. Social media is credited with creating a culture of one-upmanship, devaluation of human life and numbness to violence. Since my return I have gotten into law enforcement and been exposed to many training classes and courses I took both voluntarily and as assigned. Most of those trainings dealt with the complexities of and best practices for handling active shooter or other immediate life threats. Strangely there was no standardization of TTP or best practices among any of the authorities having jurisdiction, locally or statewide. Whereas many private organizations and agencies had their own version of how to react, the great state of Florida officially standardized the solo officer response protocol; it was almost exactly in line with what I had regarded, from years ago and a continent away, as the most sophisticated approach. Draw your own conclusions, but law enforcement or civilian response will circle back to this approach.

**Garret Machine**  
Editor, *The Counter Terrorist*



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Journal for Law Enforcement, Intelligence & Special Operations Professionals

VOLUME 12 • NUMBER 4  
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**Publisher:**  
Security Solutions International  
3479 NE 163 St. • STE 127  
N Miami Beach, FL 33160

ISSN 1941-8639 *The Counter Terrorist Magazine, Journal for Law Enforcement,*

*Intelligence & Special Operations Professionals* is published by Security Solutions International LLC, as a service to the nation's First Responders and Homeland Security Professionals with the aim of deepening understanding of issues related to Terrorism. No part of the publication can be reproduced without permission from the publisher. The opinions expressed herein are the opinions of the authors represented and not necessarily the opinions of the publisher. Please direct all Editorial correspondence related to the magazine to: Security Solutions International SSI, 13155 SW 134th Street, Suite 103, Miami, Florida. 33186 or [info@thecounterterroristmag.com](mailto:info@thecounterterroristmag.com) The subscription price for 6 eZine issues of the magazine is \$19.99. (1-866-573-3999) Fax: 1-786-573-2090.

For article reprints, e-prints, posters and plaques please contact:  
Security Solutions International at  
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# CLOSING DISTANCE, AT ALL COSTS

By **Garret Machine**

*"I have never advocated war except as  
a means of peace" -Ulysses S. Grant*





It is Monday 10:00 am, and I am waking up after just three hours of sleep. I have spent the last night training in open-field combat. So, why am I up after so little rest if everyone else in the unit is still asleep at least until noon? Well, like most units in the IDF we, too, are dependent on donations from western countries. Rich families or companies donate to the war on terror and get a tax break

from their country. They also can feel good about what they are doing and to whom they are giving their money. I have become the unofficial spokesman for my unit when the donors come for a tour of the base. I have to be fresh, funny, and interesting and at the same time be interested and feed their ego a bit. So I drag myself down to the office to meet a man and a woman who are from South Africa. They are a nice

couple and have just donated money to expand our dining room. I am provided with coffee and snacks. I love coffee (milk, no sugar). It is one of the small but perfect joys in life for me.

By 11:30, I am finished with the donor business. I showed them a promotional video of our unit and its capabilities; I gave them a tour of our beautiful, new, state of the art gym; and I even took them to the shooting range to fire a full-auto chain-fed machine gun called a Negev. The Negev is a 5.56 mm squad automatic weapon system most similar to the Minime used by the U.S. army. By the end of the tour, they felt satisfied that they had found a new closeness to our unit and a comprehension of what it is that we actually do. Construction on the dining room should be underway within the next few months.

Meanwhile my team has a new OIC, and he needs to set the pace with us, to get us used to “the new way,” which really means *his* way of running the team. He comes to us as a captain with seven years of experience in the field from the paratroopers’ brigade’s Ranger regiment, which in Hebrew is called the Pulsar. Pulsar is an acronym for Reconnaissance Company. “Pul” meaning “plugat” or “company;” and “Sar” meaning “Seore” or “reconnaissance.” It’s not unheard of for an excellent infantry officer to be transferred to our unit upon selection. He wants to be here, though a little late in the game, but who knows, perhaps he has got something to validate. We all have something to prove to ourselves. We have all done seven months of open-field combat training in our basic training, but that

was years ago for most. In our Direct Action/CT unit, open-field combat training is irrelevant; it’s just not what we do, plain and simple. There was even a time not too far back when open-field combat was not even part of our advanced training and left behind after basic training. It seems as though more and more often they are expanding our mission scope, which under normal circumstances, I personally don’t see as positive. You can’t be good at everything; it is best to focus on what you know and do that the best you can in that arena. But in this case, the training is necessary considering the mission at hand and the fact that the last time we worked in the open field was so distant for most of us. Everyone and everything has strengths and weaknesses, and focusing on your strengths is what makes you great. Now that we are tasked with some open field combat the value of an infantry unit leader is appreciated.

Usually, terrorists are young, somewhere between 16 and 46, fighting aged males. It is when they get older that certain things begin to change. Think of it this way: in order to be able to live into your forties/ fifties and still be an active terrorist you need to be smart and dangerous. So you have two types: the one who does not actually commit acts of terror and just facilitates the means to get the job done. Then you have the active Jihadist type who is involved in committing acts of terror in a physical sense.

A few weeks back, a small naval commando unit (SEAL) was sent to a swamp outside Jenin to bring in a

Good use of sign language and minimal verbal communication is a good indication of an organic team—well-choreographed, well-trained, and super focused.

wanted man who was hiding there. He is wanted for running a supply chain of guns and ammo. We don’t know all the particulars, but we do know that he is the head of a gun running operation and in his forties. According to our intelligence, he is “well armed but will not fight unless backed into a corner. He will surrender.” We don’t want to take any chances and simply depend on his possible surrender. The SEAL team that attempted to apprehend this same target failed, and one of their men was wounded by peripheral fire during the mission. Now it is our turn to bring him to justice.

The mission will take place in the outskirts of Jenin, or “the most dangerous ghetto in the Middle East,” as I once heard it called. The training that started at 03:00 am the night before was taxing and now I’ll just have to catch up on my sleep on the ride to the staging area before the mission.

Fast forward two hours (noon) and I have eaten lunch and checked over

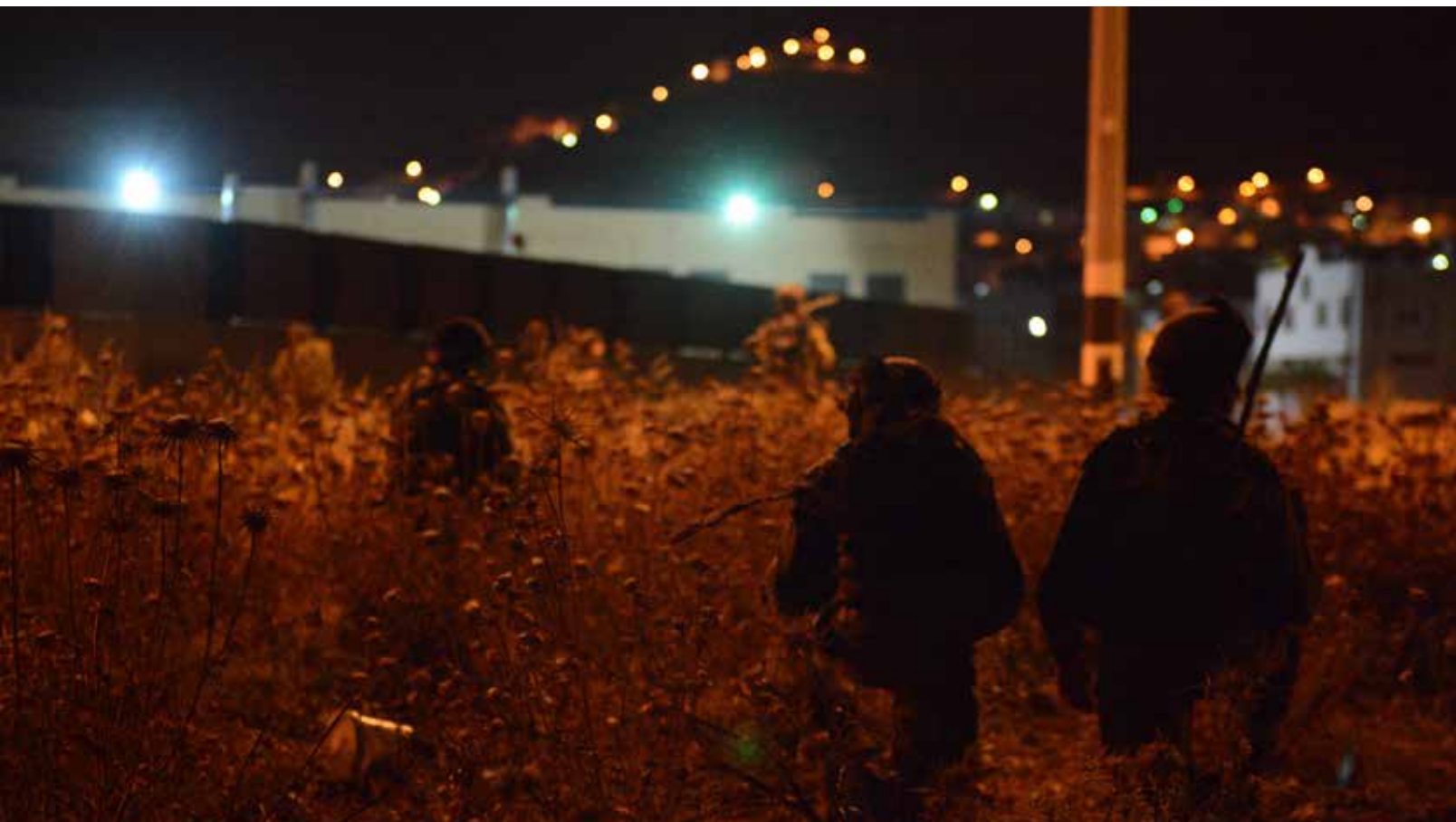


my gear one more time. Now I'm on my way to the mission location by vehicle. On Monday the 23rd, several hours later, at 23:00 I find myself very close to the border of Palestinian-controlled territories. We do some additional training on location and study the battle plan even further. It is almost time to go, to start our long walk, our trek into the black of night through a marsh, past an electric fence on the border, and then into a deep swamp. I am starving. The last meal we ate today was lunch about twelve hours ago, so we are all pretty hungry, but at least well-hydrated. We always do this deliberately. When you are hungry you feel light, and therefore quicker and more agile. The last thing you want is feeling the food in your belly when you are on a mission.

When the mission is completed, we know that we will be rewarded with a feast. We are professional athletes, and we cannot eat a meal before a big game.

We set off walking. First, we start walking in two lines, which is standard patrol procedure. Then, after about an hour of movement the earth becomes denser with brush, so we move into a single-line formation, one long snake with a few meters between each man. We are still in Israel, so we are not in danger, but we must remain undetected and therefore silent, just as a snake slithers silently, smelling the air with its tongue to narrow in on his target, so that it can strike with both speed and precision. We, too, must be fast yet silent and above all else: invisible.

Finally, we approach the border, emerging through the dense brush and laying low along an embankment. A paved road separates us from the actual border, from the fence commonly known as the "Geder Hafrada," or "Separation Fence." We send two men across the road. They move separately along the road, one north and one south, at about 50 meters in distance. They will be the lookouts. If a car approaches, they can alert the others by radio or sign language. This is how we cross the road undetected. We will stay low and blend in with the earth. Our communication is almost nil; we use hand signals to communicate the small but important details to one another. Good use of sign language and minimal verbal communication is a good indication of an organic



It is common in the IDF that each man on your team has been to your house for Friday night dinner at least once, knows where you live and where your family is from, and is genuinely your friend.

team—well-choreographed, well-trained, and super focused.

Another two men cross the road. They come to the fence. The fence is about two meters high and covered in barbed wire. Using a standard handheld wire cutter, the two men quickly make the initial opening in the fence. There are techniques to do this without sound. It is an opening large enough for only one man to pass through at a time, while the second man holds back the wire with gloved

hands. The fence is open and one by one, each man scurries across the road, staying as low to the ground as possible. From the distance his hunched silhouette ought to appear like the silhouette of a large animal assumed to be native to the area. One by one, we trickle through the gap in the fence. I am the last one to go through. On this mission I am paired with the unit doctor. We close the line. We seal the fence with Leatherman tools, which is something that most

men like to carry because it is a perfect piece of equipment for our work. The Swiss army knife, for example, is no longer carried into the field. It is the Leatherman's hefty pliers head and locking serrated blade that makes it an essential item in the most basic bag of equipment. The fence is resealed, but only for the purpose of making the gap that we created unnoticeable by passerby drivers on the road. Under close inspection, the work of the doc and myself is an obvious patch job. Moving again, single file, we travel through what becomes a thick marsh. We have been moving forward for two hours, and the mud is becoming deeper and deeper. My non-military issue black Nike ACG hiking boots are drenched. Each man in the unit is issued a pair of black ACGs from the



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unit one month after completion of training. They are ours to keep, even after our discharge from the unit. The boots are light and flexible. You can run in them almost like a sneaker, yet they provide a hard protective lower shell as well as an ankle-supporting upper. Ankle support is important when carrying weight. The military issue, red leather paratrooper boots pale in comparison to a commercial product.

As we try to move forward, we find ourselves sinking in the mud, and the water is knee deep. Our movement is extremely slow. Nobody cares about water and mud, but no soldier is going to allow their colt M4 Commando to become completely caked with earth. Balance is also difficult when your feet are stuck to the ground due to the aquatic suction. Now, at some parts the water is hip deep. The earth fluctuates between areas of hard soil with grass beneath our feet and some areas of soft absorbing mud. I'm carrying about 55 pounds of gear. The doctor who is the only man behind me is carrying 65 pounds of gear. Our doctor is a 29-year-old man with a wife and a newborn child; he stands at about 5'11" and is already balding. He is always smiling, which is nice to have around. His skin is olive in color, and he is physically fit. He loves to go to the shooting range and doesn't carry a unit-issued pistol. His pistol is a privately purchased Sig P228. He must have all the same battle equipment/kit of a regular combat soldier in our unit—M4 rifle, pistol, ammo, grenades, handcuffs, night vision, flashlight, flares, plate carrier vest, helmet goggles, kneepads—and

he must also have all the medical supplies necessary to perform surgery in the field to save a man's life. The doctor has been in for about eight years. He started off as a doctor for infantry battalions in Gaza. He worked with them in the field for three years. Then he was moved by his request to our unit after graduating from the counter-terror school. He then did another six-month training with us. He is with us on most large operations, and his presence is considered a luxury. Most units cannot afford to have a doctor allocated to such a small number of men. He is a warrior.

Moving closer and closer to the outskirts of Jenin, we stop in order to determine where we will go from here. Accompanying us on this mission, we have six government agents from the ministry of defense. The agents accompany us on about 50 percent of the missions to provide us with real-time intelligence on the man whom we are hunting. I don't know where the information comes from or how they get it. This is beyond the knowledge that I need to complete the task at hand. I like it this way—it is a compartmentalized, micro-managed, need-to-know basis that keeps each of us focused on our mission and duties at hand.

Usually we are not issued more than two government agents. Once we had three, but six indicates that there is more to the job than they are actually telling us. I can't imagine what will require six of them. But I do know this: Before we start to walk, they gave us a verbal briefing about their role in accompanying us: "We are not here

to do your job, we are not going to get involved in engaging the enemy unless it is absolutely necessary; and in return, you are not to depend on us for any operational necessities in combat other than providing you with the information necessary." These guys are outfitted with the best equipment and the latest technology, but you can tell by the way they move and wear their gear that it is actually a good thing that you are not dependent on them in the firefight. Although they are excellent at their job and very well-trained, they are not part of our unit, and we work best together. A stranger would only get in the way. It is common in the IDF that each man on your team has been to your house for Friday night dinner at least once, knows where you live and where your family is from, and is genuinely your friend.

At this point in the mission, we are deciding which one of three possible physical structures our wanted man is hiding in that night. We know that he is in one of three locations, which are all within a kilometer of one another. There is a plan of attack in place for each of the three locations, which we have worked out the previous night. We walk on another 300 meters, and at this point we come together, grouped very low to the ground in what is becoming more and more open field once again. It is the moment of truth: We absolutely need to know which house is it right now. The government agents inform us that it is none of the three! It is a *fourth* house that we have not planned for. Instantly, each man is issued new duties and a new location, the

information working its way through the chain of command. There are about 15 of us there, and within a minute we all know the details of the situation and what has to be done. That is one of the greatest things about our unit; we have the ability to receive information on the fly and in a moment's notice, always at the ready to accomplish the mission. We are all covered in mud, our equipment is wet and dirty, and we are far from the built-up area where we feel most comfortable. At this moment, I stop to reflect and ask myself: since when does the Middle East have swamps?

We split up into teams of two, moving quickly and quietly, and surround the shack 360 degrees. The structure is small, about 12 meters wide, 15 meters long, and not more than 10 feet high; it seems as though it is made out of wood, stone and what appears to be aluminum. We have the small structure surrounded and are positioned at 12 o'clock, 2 o'clock, 4:30, 6 o'clock, 8 o'clock, and 10 o'clock—10 being at the entrance of the house. Each team is approximately 18 meters from the house. The 10 o'clock position is behind a stone knee wall (a small wall that sometimes surrounds property and is usually made from stone and block about a meter high or less); so I can see them (10 o'clock position) over to my left. My position offers no cover, so the doctor and I lie belly-down, flat on the moist muddy floor, with our rifles pointed at the house. Only the 10 o'clock position has permission to open fire on the house, and this is because only their opposing (2 o'clock) side has the necessary

Our fancy night vision and riflescopes do not mean shit when you fight men who live barefoot, malnourished and fear only living while embracing death.

coverage from the bullets that will surely penetrate the thin structural walls of the shack. No other group is permitted to open fire unless directly fired upon. The worst thing that could happen is an injury as a result of friendly fire. Unlike other armies (say Russia for example), the IDF is very focused on the safety of the individual combat soldier. The investment is in the individual as opposed to technology or new equipment, meaning that even the loss of one soldier is a big deal and completely unacceptable. In a small nation with a small army surrounded by enemies, each man is counted on. The IDF can never have enough infantrymen, but can any army?

The man in the 10 o'clock position throws a flash-bang grenade at the house; it erupts with a chaotic boom and a flash of bright light. This rude awakening is followed by orders in Arabic shouted over a megaphone to the house: "Come out of the house; we are the army." We tell him to exit the house slowly and with his hands up—in Arabic, of course. I hear over the radio that there is movement in the house. This is my signal to light up the night's sky with a parachute flare that

is so bright that it will momentarily transform night to day. I fire my flare and two others fire theirs from two different locations around the house. Just then two men emerge from the shack, wearing battle vests and each armed with a rifle: one with a long M16 and the other with an AK 47. As soon as they emerge, they open fire without hesitation, spraying on fully automatic in the direction of our 10 o'clock callout group. The 10 o'clock position consists of two soldiers and a lieutenant with his radioman. A seemingly long moment in time passes and it is totally dark again and the firefight begins. At such close distance, it is extremely difficult for our men to return fire from behind the wall. As the terrorists stand in the doorway of the shack, they fire relentlessly and without regard for ammunition or accuracy, just mindlessly spraying the men's position. The wall provides sufficient cover, although temporary, and can be fired from over but not around. Obviously as a general combat concept it is always better to fire around your cover than over it. When firing over something you are exposing your skull in order to take aim. This gives the enemy an excellent target to shoot at.



The firefight continues for about a minute, which is when the doctor decides to raise his gun to fire at them. Fortunately I stop him. If we open fire now, we risk divulging our position and exposing ourselves to more fire. We now have no cover whatsoever. There is only an invisible cloak of darkness. Just at that moment, one of our vehicles, a fully armored truck, arrives onto the scene from the city of Jenin. It pulls up on the dirt road that is just at our 6 o'clock position. The truck has been parked in the nearby city for backup waiting for us to call it in.

In the intensity of a close range gunfight it is hard to tell where you hit. One of the sharpshooters in the

squad shoots and hits one of the two gunmen; the other one is still firing. The doctor and I quickly crawl and then sprint the last few meters to the coverage of the van's far side. I open up the back door and use that as a shield to stand behind while taking aim on the house. The doctor takes aim over the truck's stubby hood while the driver and navigator just calmly sit inside, watching through the safety of the bulletproof windows. I aggressively ask into the radio: "Permission to fire, permission to fire from 6 o'clock position?" I exclaim over the gunfire into my radio again: "I have a clear shot! Permission to fire!" And I am answered with: "Shoot precisely". Then "Injury at 10 o'clock position."

The guys in the truck yell at us to get in, as they have been ordered to position the truck in between the structure and the ten o'clock position, in order to provide coverage while rescuing the wounded man. I am able to get hits on target and I know I hit him. They stand brazenly firing at us in the dark of night. Their cover is firepower and aggression. Drugs mask their pain and fuel their fight. Nothing to lose and each day was only a day closer to death in their world. Our fancy night vision and riflescopes do not mean shit when you fight men who live barefoot, malnourished and fear only living while embracing death. I enter the rear of the truck with doc and leave the rear doors open as we

The advertisement features a large gold circular logo on the left with the text "EDC PISTOL TRAINING" around the perimeter and "EDC" in the center over an American flag. Below the logo, the text reads "EVERY DAY CARRY TRAINING TO SAFELY & EFFECTIVELY SAVE LIVES - SERVING SOUTH FLORIDA -". At the bottom left is the website "EDCPISTOLTRAINING.COM". On the right, a vertical strip contains three images with captions: "3 ESSENTIAL TRAINING TYPES", "LIVE FIRE" (showing a person in a field), "FORCE ON FORCE" (showing a person in a building), and "CARE UNDER FIRE" (showing a person being treated).

drive only a short distance. The truck only makes it a few meters when its sheer weight cause it to lose traction in the loose, moist soil. The truck is more apt for the streets and the hard tarmac without off-road tires. So we radio for one of the two Land Rovers that are in other positions to replace the heavy truck. Within seconds, a Land Rover pulls in and the doctor and I get in while trying to cover each other with fire.

The Land Rover comes under heavy automatic fire in that moment, all of this at a distance of about 10 meters now. This shooter has already taken a few hits; he saw his friend die a

moment earlier, but he just won't go down; I suppose he knew that he was slated to die that night. He had crossed the point of no return when he initially opened fire. That moment sealed his fate. This is the main difference between him, the terrorist, and a common criminal, or a soldier for that matter; he is man with nothing to lose, and once he has decided to die he is going to try to take as many of us along with him as he can. No surrender, no escape, and no negotiation.

Boom! The final of three grenades explodes, killing him. We close in to the enemy position and see to it

The bullet moved trough this gap, grazing the left side of his skull and leaving a wound about 4" long, removing hair and enough skin to see the bone and then blasting out the back of his helmet.





that he is neutralized in a permanent way. The doc and I now move over to our wounded sharpshooter, who has taken a bullet to the head. There is blood all over his face, neck and shoulder; he still has his helmet on, is conscious, and is able to walk unassisted back to our truck. As the van is unseated from the mud and driven to the nearest hospital back across the boarder, the doctor and I prepare to dress the soldiers wounds and investigate the full effects of the injury. We lay him down and remove his helmet. He has a first aid dressing on that was first applied on the ground by the lieutenant's radioman the

moment after the firefight. He says it only hurt him a little. We untie the dressing and upon close examination we discover that the bullet had passed through the space in-between his helmet and his skull. Military helmets are not bulletproof and are supported on the head by a type of suspension system. The bullet moved trough this gap, grazing the left side of his skull and leaving a wound about 4" long, removing hair and enough skin to see the bone and then blasting out the back of his helmet. It was an absolute miracle. To say he was lucky is beyond understatement. Obviously, one centimeter to the left and we would be

dealing with a serious life-threatening injury, brain damage, or death.

We take our wounded man to a hospital, where he receives a series of tests. He is fine and ultimately decides to keep the helmet for good luck. The next day, as a reward for the successful mission, we go to the Dead Sea and enjoy a barbecue, and the shot soldier was back out doing missions just two weeks later. •

# TROJAN HORSE REFUGEES *PART II*

by Friedrich Seiltgen

*Photo by: Fibonacci Blue, from Minnesota, USA [CC BY 2.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0>)]*



## Triumph of the Hijra

In part one I related the journey of Muhammad and laid out the foundation of the Hijra steadily gripping the globe. Now the forces behind unfettered immigration have accelerated their plans. The United Nations Global Compact for Migration has been passed, with only a few countries opting not to sign away

their sovereignty. Not only does the new compact allow for the free flow of immigration, it also prohibits the criticism of migration. The pact “expands the definition of hate speech. Criticism of migration will become a criminal offense, and media outlets that that give room to criticism of migration can be shut down.”<sup>1</sup>



Europe is literally in flames as the yellow vest movement spreads. Macron is in hiding while Paris burns, Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel has resigned, and European leaders are being pressured by citizens in revolt. And several other countries have joined in. In the United States, illegal caravans come from Central America waving the flags of their countries and are massed at the U.S./Mexican Border ready for to “bum rush” across. The mainstream media will tell you that any such talk is the work of conspiracy theorists; the facts say otherwise. The Global Compact for Migration requires members to take refugees at the expense of their citizens.

In Germany the years and years of making amends for the Holocaust have been thrown out the window to accommodate “refugees” whose faith tells them all non-believers, Christians, and Jewish must be destroyed.

Merkel’s presence at the U.N. meeting is reminiscent of Nazi officials meeting with the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Amin al-Husseini, while forming the Muslim 13<sup>th</sup> Waffen SS Mountain Division. Both made a deal with the Devil.

Jihad through immigration has been a method used for centuries. Dr. Mordechai Kedar, a senior lecturer in the Department of Arabic at Bar Ilan University in Ramat Gan, Israel, states “Islamist thinkers see emigration as an opportunity to conquer the places in which they choose to live and turn them into Islamic states...based on the precedent set by...Mohammed”<sup>2</sup>—and it is perfectly fine with them if the process takes decades, because the Quran states that “Allah is with those who are patient.”<sup>3</sup>



## DER UNTERGANG (DOWNFALL OF) DEUTSCHLAND

The masses have been told that migration is good for their countries, while ignoring the fact that uncontrolled immigration was/ is a disaster for Germany. Germans were told that migrants will shore up the country’s retirement system because Muhammed will go to work and contribute to Fritz’s pension. It is now being “discovered” that Muhammad has no intention of paying for Fritz’s rente (retirement). Muhammad’s retirement system is different because he will have an average of six children paid for by the German taxpayer, who will support him in his golden years. Syrians are being given funds to take vacations back to the “war-torn” areas they left behind.<sup>4</sup> German taxpayers were on the hook for €400,000 to build a Masjid in Mosul, Iraq. In December 2018, the German High Court (Bundesgerichtshof) decided that Muslim refugees should be allowed to

have child brides.<sup>5</sup> The court stated that Sharia-based marriages from other lands are protected by basic German law (Grundgesetz). This is another win for Islam and opens the door for pedophilia. Now in May 2019, it has been decided that Muslim men may have two wives.

On November 21, 2018, German Chancellor Angela Merkel told the audience at a Konrad Adenauer Foundation event in Berlin that “Nation States must today be prepared to give up their sovereignty.” After hearing nervous laughter, she joked, “In an orderly fashion of course.”

Merkel constantly speaks of “Demokratie” until it gets in the way of her objectives. She went on to berate fellow German politicians, telling them not be concerned with the will of the citizens who did not want Germany to be a part of the Global Migration pact. Merkel stated, “There were politicians who believed that they could decide when these arguments are no longer valid because they are representing the people.

[But] the people are individuals who are living in a country, they are not a group who define themselves as the German people.” Apparently, Merkel and Macron have been exchanging notes, as Macron stated at a 2018 Armistice Day speech that “patriotism is the exact opposite of nationalism [because] nationalism is treason.” Because Merkel isn’t running for reelection, it appears she is trying to deliver the death blow to Europe before leaving German politics in 2021.

Knife crime in Germany continues to rise. In 2017, police reported 3800 knife crimes. In 2018, the number rose to 4100. In the first 45 days of 2019 there were over 500 knife crimes.<sup>6</sup> The May 2019 issue of the German woman’s magazine *illu der Frau* chose to run an article on the treatment of a knife wound instead of their usual content!

The German media is constantly bombarding the people with anti-Trump, anti-Brexit, anti-conservative stories. I recently saw an article that Jews are coming under increasing attack, and that anti-Semitism is on the rise in Germany. If chancellor Merkel is truly concerned about the welfare of Germans Jews, perhaps she shouldn’t import anti-Semites.

Apparently some of the volk are clearing their minds of the cognitive dissonance and waking up. While traveling through Rosenheim, Bavaria, we came upon campaign posters for the conservative Alternative for Deutschland (AfD) party. The ad shows a Muslima in her mandated clothing with the caption “Women Need Freedom Stop Islamization.” Although the German media portrays AfD members as Nazis, the party continues to gain seats in the Bundestag as well as the EU parliament.



European People’s Party [CC BY 2.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>)]





Photo by: Fibonacci Blue, from Minnesota, USA [CC BY 2.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0>)]

## AMERICA'S DOWNFALL

Central American “immigrants” are massed at the U.S. Mexican border. Their new tactic is to drag small children along for the dangerous journey to use as sympathy. In December 2018, two Central American illegal children traveling with their parents perished due to lack of or improper medical care. In a case of human “hot potato,” the children were in the custody of U.S. immigration officials at the time of their deaths. This of course makes it America’s fault, and the media is using the deaths to promote more amnesty. The battle is raging between the Trump Administration and the liberals over border wall funding. President Trump has shut down the government over the issue of the southern border wall. Liberals will tell you the “experts” say that walls don’t work. They seem to work around

prisons; they seem to work around the mansions of liberal politicians and actors. Ask the Israeli experts if a wall works. In 2009, 15 Israelis were killed by Palestinian terrorism compared to 452 murdered in 2002 before construction began on the West Bank security barrier.<sup>7</sup>

## IN MINNESOTA

In Minnesota, the newly elected anti-Semite Ilhan Omar continues to spout propaganda about Islamophobia, and has now started her U.S. speaking tour with her handlers from Cair. Footbaths have been installed in the Minneapolis airport to accommodate Muslim taxi drivers, and Muslim workers at an Amazon Warehouse in Shakopee, MN, are protesting because they claim they don’t have enough time to pray!<sup>8</sup>

## IN D.C.

On December 10, 2018, Ilhan Omar, the first female Muslim to be elected to the U.S. Congress, mocked Vice President Mike Pence and his Christian faith with a tweet.



This from a person who committed immigration fraud by marrying her own brother.<sup>9</sup> On January 3, 2019, the U.S. House reversed a 181-year-



old rule prohibiting headwear in order to accommodate (accommodation is one of the tools of penetration used by Muslims to takeover other lands) Omar. Since 1837, no house member has been allowed on the house floor wearing any type of headwear. For years it prevented Jewish members from wearing the Kippah, but the new Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi made a rule change to allow Omar to wear the hijab. Omar is also on record calling the southern border wall “deeply rooted in xenophobia”<sup>10</sup> On January 3, 2019, Omar was sworn in with the Quran of her grandfather.

Fellow Muslima Rashida Tlaib was also sworn in on the Quran—a 1734 English translation by George Sale that belonged to former President Thomas Jefferson. Apparently, no one informed Tlaib that Jefferson was not a Muslim, but used his copy to form a better understanding of the Barbary pirates, the enemy. Perhaps taking the Oath of Office on the Quran should not be allowed because it is a book that believes the U.S. Constitution and all other law is second the Sharia.

## IN NYC

In New York City, “patrol vehicles” painted similarly to NYPD patrol cars are popping up in the Bay Ridge area of Brooklyn.<sup>11</sup> The new Muslim Community Patrol is not an official

NYPD unit. Muslim leaders state that this is no different from other volunteer culture-specific security groups in NYC such as the Jewish Shomrin or the Brooklyn Asian Safety Patrol. The difference is that the Shomrin and the BASP were trained and sanctioned by the NYPD. Many believe the patrol will transform into a “Sharia Patrol.”

## WORLDWIDE TWO-MINUTE WARNING

In Europe, the U.N. and its Soros-backed groups are winning the Hijra. In the U.S. the pace has been slowed somewhat by President Trump but continues. Liberals are patient and take small steps en route to victory. Through their willing allies in the mainstream media, through their pro-immigration groups such as La Raza (The Race), and through their Islamic groups who scream Islamaphobe at every chance, “refugees” have been getting their agendas passed and will be victorious in time. Incrementalism will be the West’s doom. •

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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR


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# MODELS OF CYBERSECURITY: THE FORGOTTEN STRATUM

**By Forest Rain**





## Cybersecurity runs deeper than just mere software defense.

**T**he term “cybersecurity” is almost always associated with defensive software programs. This reflexive connection is problematic because it often leads other strata, necessary for complete defense, to be completely overlooked.

### WHAT IS CYBERSECURITY?

Cybersecurity is industry defined as “the state of being protected against the criminal or unauthorized use of electronic data, or the measures taken to achieve this.”



Note that the term does not define the method of attaining unauthorized use of electronic data.

## THE CHALLENGE

In today's connected world, cyber defense is critical for both individuals and organizations.

At an individual level, a cyber attack can result in everything from identity theft and extortion to the loss of important data such as research or family photos. We all rely unthinkingly on critical infrastructure such as power plants, air-traffic control, hospitals, and banks. As the Internet of Things (IoT) grows, we are becoming increasingly more connected, and our homes, cars, and communication

systems are all vulnerable.

For organizations, the issue of defense from cyber attacks is even more crucial because secure infrastructure is necessary to keep the organization running and able to fulfill the unspoken promise of trustworthiness to customers. When, as individuals, we utilize hospital services, we expect the hospital to protect our medical records. The expectations are even higher when it comes to our financial records and access to our bank accounts. In the case of a cyber-attack, the law might punish the attacker, but as individuals we hold the organization that was breached accountable. It is to them we gave our trust and precious data; they are responsible for its protection.

## METHODOLOGY

Just as there are different methods of attaining unauthorized use of electronic data, there are various methods of securing data.

The method most often considered is **defensive software**. Cyber security software is designed to protect against technological attacks such as malware, ransomware, and phishing. To provide good coverage, it is necessary to protect the different portals for these kinds of attacks: computers, smart devices, routers, networks, and the cloud.

Technology used to protect these entities includes next-generation firewalls, DNS filtering, malware protection, antivirus software, and email security solutions. In addition,



*Staff Sgt. George Davis [Public domain]*

it is important to verify that counter-surveillance tools on individual computers are in good working order: firewalls, virus protection, encryption, strong passwords, VPN or proxy server, etc.

*Physical penetration for information theft is less widely considered but is perhaps an even more problematic situation. Physical penetration can be human or technological (bugging).*

**Social engineering** exploits human psychology to gain access to data. Instead of breaking in or using technical hacking techniques, the criminal might pose as someone within the company who has the authority to rightfully gain access to the information. By posing as an employee, the social engineer can trick an IT person into divulging that employee's password, thus giving access to the corporate system. The system engineer leverages human traits such as the desire to please, the desire to be seen as helpful, and fear of upsetting authority. For example, posing as an irate senior manager can be a successful way to trick lower-level employees to transfer company funds, bypassing the normal bureaucratic channels: "What?! The funds weren't transferred yet? [Senior manager] Bob is going to have to deal with whoever made that mistake!"

A criminal can use social engineering to obtain an access card or code in order to physically get inside a facility. With this information it is fairly simple to access data, steal assets, or even harm people.

Another method of malicious

penetration is "**bugging**"—planting recording (listening/viewing) devices in walls or equipment used in the facility. While the layperson probably will not differentiate between **structural bugging** or **planting devices in hardware**, professional detection divides these into two separate categories due to the different sources of these threats and methods of detection.

**Structural bugs** are planted in the physical structure of the building. This is a threat that can occur when construction or renovations occur and enable someone to enter the structure and place a device where it can be used to gather information.

These malicious devices are usually detectable by their emissions: radio frequency (in the case of microphones) and infrared (cameras). There are companies that specialize in sweeping structures for bugs as well as tools an individual can purchase for personal use. This process is expensive and complicated because a wide variety of devices and benign objects can create false positives. Some bugs obfuscate their radio frequencies altogether or might happen to be powered off during a sweep. When there is reason to suspect this type of threat, it is necessary to periodically check the structure as well as employ methods of prevention (such as barring unverified people from entry). Sometimes, it is simpler to implement masking devices—for example, using a white noise emitter to jam sound. Correct analysis of the threat level is crucial in determining how to address it and secure the structure.

Correct analysis of the threat level is crucial in determining how to address it and secure the structure.

**Hardware cyber threats** are perhaps the least thought of or understood threat, and yet they are not uncommon. One way to think of this threat is as an attack on the supply chain of organizational/institutional equipment, where seemingly benign equipment is turned into a portal of attack on the informational infrastructure. This can happen when a device is deliberately embedded in an object or piece of equipment intended for use in the organization (chargers, charging cables, clocks, speakers, light bulbs, and more). This can also happen when the functionality of technological hardware is “hijacked” deliberately or by accident to direct information in a way other than how it was originally intended.

Imagine a scenario where a meeting room needs to be secured due to the sensitive nature of the discussions that occur there. The walls were swept for structural bugs and participants are asked to leave their phones and computers outside the room for the duration of the meeting. There is no internet network within the room, so seemingly the space is secured, however the building code dictates that there is a speaker system in every public area. Is your room secure?

It is actually fairly simple for an experienced hacker to “hijack” the sound system, turning it into a listening device, making all other security precautions taken meaningless.

Often the damage is caused by human error, even unknowingly rather than by deliberate attack.



For example, a visitor makes a presentation in your organization, connecting their computer or USB to your network. The visitor may be completely unaware that their computer or USB contains a virus, but they will nonetheless infect your entire network.

Israel's Fibernet Ltd has developed an array of tools to address cyber threats via technological hardware commonly used in offices and organizations. Any point where there are connections between points of information transfer (USB to computer, mouse to

computer, computer to screen, etc.) is a potential portal of attack that need to be addressed. The IoT is providing ever-increasing examples of information transfer within equipment and between equipment, creating a tradeoff of convenience vs. security; when security is paramount, it is necessary to address these points as well.

*Fibernet's cyber security solutions provide the missing stratum of cyber defense, creating physical barriers that prevent information from flowing in the wrong direction or being hijacked and used inappropriately.*



## CONCLUSION

A successful cybersecurity approach has multiple layers of protection spread across the computers, networks, programs, or data that one intends to keep safe. **In an organization, the people, processes, and technology must all complement one another to create an effective defense from cyber attacks.** Micro focus on software solutions can leave dangerous gaps where information security is vital. To execute a successful security strategy, it is necessary to follow some basic steps:

1) **Be aware of the potential threats and weak points in your organization** – Choose what to address by informed decisions. Repeating the strategy of others

could lead to overlooking important elements due to ignorance or adopting a strategy that is useful to a certain case but doesn't address all of your needs.

2) **Analyze the threat level** – Once potential threat sources and the subsequent damage that could be incurred are recognized, it becomes possible to determine the relevant level of defense mechanisms to implement. Undersecuring important information is risky; however oversecuring can unnecessarily complicate the system and become very expensive.

3) **Choose your defense methodology/ies** – Remember to calculate the need to maintain technological solutions and to train

employees to reduce issues that could be caused via social engineering or simple human error.

In conclusion, effective cybersecurity necessitates a multilayered approach. Overlooking any of the strata can create dangerous gaps that could be critical for your organization. Being familiar with the different types of threats enables you to determine the type of solutions most appropriate for your needs. •

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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*Photo by: Unsplash*

# THE VENEZUELA THREAT

By Orlando "Andy" Wilson







## *Venezuela is proving to be a safe haven for both narcos and terrorists alike*

**F**or many people, the situation in Venezuela is just another political arguing point that has recently been in the news due to President's Trump recognition of the country's political opposition leader Juan Guaidó as interim president as a result of the failing communist government of Nicolás Maduro.

What most people do not understand, and what is not being mentioned in the media, is that Venezuela is very much a “Narco” state. As well as being a country that is rich in oil and other natural resources, it is also a hub for drugs being trafficked from South America in the U.S. and Europe via the Caribbean.

*Courtesy Photo, U.S. Navy, Drugs in the Caribbean Sea*



Many parts of the country are controlled by narco traffickers who work hand in hand with the Venezuelan police and national guard to facilitate the secure transportation of narcotics to and from airstrips or from the airstrips to fast boats on the Caribbean coast.

In addition to the narco gangs, Venezuela also has a long-established terrorist connection with groups such as Hezbollah, which has a presence in the country. In 2016 Abu Wa'el Dhiab, one of six people released from the U.S. military detention in Guantanamo Bay, resettled in Uruguay and consequently turned up in Caracas, the Venezuelan capital. It's still not clear how he got there.

Hezbollah is known to have a presence in other parts of South America, especially in the tri-border area where Argentina, Paraguay, and Brazil converge. In 2018 a Hezbollah "treasurer," Assad Ahmad Barakat, was arrested for laundering \$10 million USD through various casinos in the Iguazu Falls area of the Brazilian state of Paraná. The group's presence in South America is ingrained in the cocaine and money laundering business.

For the innocent people reading, let me explain something that should be clear after reading the above few paragraphs. Drug traffickers, organized crime groups, and terrorists all work together, whether trafficking drugs and arms, laundering money, kidnapping, or committing extortion or assassinations. They are a combined threat with extremely efficient

communications, intelligence, logistics, and operational networks.

At this time, Venezuela is proving to be a safe haven for both narcos and terrorists alike, so if you think what you are seeing in the new reports is just more political charades, then I hope this article will open your eyes to the real situation and how it can destabilize the entire region.

## THE MAIN NARCO CARTELS OPERATING IN VENEZUELA

Below I have listed the main named cartels operating in Venezuela, but you must remember that, just as in Mexico and other such places, many local gangs and organized crime groups operate with these cartels when mutually profitable but also run their own operations. Even if the heads of the large narco trafficking groups are eliminated or arrested, the operations will continue as the actual ground operations are being conducted by numerous semi-independent trafficking and organized crime groups. You are not dealing with a static business structure but rather a fluid and ever-evolving network.

- **Cartel de Los Soles:** This organization is run by high-ranking Venezuelan military officers and top politicians—Diosdado Cabello (head of the cartel and president of the official Bolivarian party - PSUV), Néstor Reverol (minister of internal affairs and justice), and Padrino López (minister of defense)—all of whom are close to presidente Maduro. This cartel was established

over two decades ago by providing security to the Colombians and Mexican cartels; in 2005, they took over the business, and now not even a kilo of pure Colombian cocaine gets to Venezuela without their knowledge. The Venezuelan Army, Navy, Air Force, and National Guard are all involved.

- **ELN (Ejército de Liberación Nacional):** The Colombian guerrilla group is the main drug supplier; they control most of the Venezuelan and Colombian border and are causing chaos in Táchira and Zulia States. Since 2018, the ELN has also gotten involved in the gold business in Bolívar State, which borders Brazil. Since the Colombian guerrilla group the FARC has officially disbanded, the ELN has taken over; they can be classed as the "new kids on the block" and are operating with the Venezuelan government's blessing and assistance.

- **Hezbollah:** With many years of operating in Venezuela, this terrorist organization has major links to the Venezuelan government and its allies and business associates. Their operations in Venezuela include drug trafficking, arms dealing, terrorist training, money laundering, and involvement in gold mining operations. Hezbollah facilitators and operators are spread across Venezuela, but their headquarters are on Margarita island in the South Caribbean. Tareck El Aissami, who has a reputation for being a "strong man" of the Venezuelan communist government and is a former government official, is responsible for the Hezbollah in Venezuela.

President Nicolás Maduro appointed El Aissami as Vice-President in 2017, which also made him head of Venezuela's intelligence agency (SEBIN). El Aissami has faced allegations of corruption, money laundering, drug trafficking, human rights violations, and being linked to terrorist organizations in the U.S. and elsewhere. El Aissami is currently under sanctions from Canada, the European Union, Switzerland, and the United States. It's reported that members of El Aissami's family, including his father and mother, relocated to the United States in 2016.

- **Pranes:** This domestic organized crime group is controlled by and recruited from those in the Venezuelan prison system. The members of Pranes are very well-armed, and its main business is extortion, murder, kidnapping, and

provision of security and services to some of the cartels. It is connected to and protected by the government because it does a lot of dirty work for them and the narcos.

- **Venezuelan police, military, and national security services:** The state police, national police, and military services are involved in facilitating the drug business. The CICPC (Investigation Police) and SEBIN (National Bolivarian Intelligence Service) are the ones “baby-sitting” narcos, terrorists, and criminals within Venezuela, and they are also active sellers of drugs for the domestic drugs market.

## TRAFFICKING ROUTES

The traffickers bringing drugs and weapons in and out of Venezuela use both land, air, and sea routes. Due to the corruption within the police and military, the traffickers

can easily get through any border checkpoints or road blocks they may encounter within the country. Large government-sanctioned shipments are moved in military or police vehicles.

Small planes use isolated or rural airstrips to bring shipments into Venezuela and north into the Caribbean. In addition to using disused government airstrips, traffickers cut and resurface their own strips in areas that are convenient for their operation. In areas completely under their control, hard surfaced roads are used as airstrips. During these landing operations, the roads are closed to traffic by the local police and military.

- **Falcón State:** From villages such as Tucacas, Chichiriviche, La Vela, and Puerto Cumarebo, narcos are deploying speed boats to transport drugs into Aruba, Curaçao, and the Dominican Republic. Because the local farmers have abandoned their lands, the narcos and their associates are buying or simply just using the abandoned farm land to cut airstrips and facilitate their operations. The U.S. is well aware of the large amount of narco flights that take off from Venezuela during the night. It is reported and believable that law enforcement agencies in the Islands of Aruba and Curaçao, which are very close to Venezuela, are infiltrated and corrupted by the Venezuelan narcos. It should be noted that the embarkation points for narco boats from Tucacas and La Vela de Coro are right next to national guard and coast guard posts.



*Fabio Rodrigues Pozzebom/ABr [CC BY 3.0 br (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/> br/deed.en)]*



*Maracaibo Police, The Photographer [CC0]*

- **Zulia State:** Next to Colombia, Zulia State is the most violent state in Venezuela and is a hub location for narco flights heading for such places as Honduras, Panamá, and Dominican Republic. The Mexican drug cartels are established and operating from the state's main city, Maracaibo.

- **Apure State:** This is one the poorest states within Venezuela; it borders Colombia. Apure State is dominated by the Venezuelan FBL and Colombian ELN guerrillas that organize and facilitate the narco trafficking. It's reported the state has over 100 operational narco airstrips at any given time.

- **Sucre State:** Local fisherman have found that the drug business and now piracy are a profitable way of making easy money. Villages such as San Juan de Gandoles, Güiría, and Carupano are under the domain of Venezuelan organized crime (Pranes) and the Cartel de Los

Soles. In San Juan de las Galdonas, it's reported by local sources that approximately 400 narcos are in possession of heavy weapons. In addition to airstrips in the area, drugs are brought in from the Colombian border by military trucks to be transported by fast boats into the Caribbean. The state has a strategic location because it is close to Trinidad and Tobago and only a few days by boat from Puerto Rico. Recently it has turned into a war zone as local gangs fight for control and also branch out into maritime piracy. The corruption in Sucre State also spreads into Trinidad and Tobago; everyone eats from the narcos table...

The regular Venezuelan citizens living in the rural and narco-controlled areas are at the mercy of the criminals and corrupt police. It is very much a case of "Plata o Plomo" or in English "Silver or Lead." They have no choice but

to look the other way, do as they are told, and help the narcos if requested if they want to ensure their safety and that of their families.

In addition to the active threats I have spoken about so far, I will also mention two more potential threats:

- **Maritime Piracy:** In the waters between Venezuela and Trinidad and Tobago there have been numerous hijackings and kidnappings of local fishermen. In April 2018, 15 Guyanese fishermen were killed when their boats were attacked off Suriname. With the collapse and corruption of law enforcement within Venezuela and the ineffectiveness of the law enforcement agencies in the other Southern Caribbean Islands, Guyana and Suriname, the pirates can roam free. If we are being honest about things, as long as they are only attacking local fishermen, no one really cares strategically, but it's



only a matter of time, if you ask me, before they attack or hijack a yacht or other more valuable vessels than local fishing boats.

• **Terrorism:** As I stated earlier, Hezbollah has an established presence in Venezuela, and there have been reports of ISIS members in the country. Trinidad and Tobago also have an issue with Islamic extremism, and many of their citizens have fought with ISIS in Syria, so we can safely say there is a potential Islamic extremist threat in the Southern Caribbean. Combine the presence of potential terrorists with the availability of military-grade weapons on the black market and covert transportation routes into the U.S. and Europe, and I think, you will see there is a big

problem waiting to happen. The terrorists would not need to go too far to find some very soft targets in the Southern Caribbean, such as the oil platforms around Trinidad and Tobago or, even better, one of the many unprotected cruise ships ferrying tourists from tropical island to tropical island. I am sure you get the picture, so it's pointless for me to mention all the unprotected tourist resorts and hotels dotted across the island where tourists are lounging around swimming pools waiting to be kidnapped.

Venezuela is a failed state, but can things be put back in order? Well, anything can be fixed if people want it to be fixed. The issue with Venezuela is that so many people are making money from those situations

not being fixed, including the supposed political opposition. In Miami it's common knowledge that a lot of very wealthy Venezuelans are buying properties and business, but where is their money coming from? How many of the supposed political opposition are still doing business with the Venezuelan government, and how much of their dirty money is being laundered in Miami's new luxury condo construction.

Even though in 2018 the U.S. government claimed it was clamping down on dirty cash being used for property deals in Miami and other such places, the reality is that the money keeps flowing, and in Miami you don't even have to mention "lead" for people just to take your money with a smile... •

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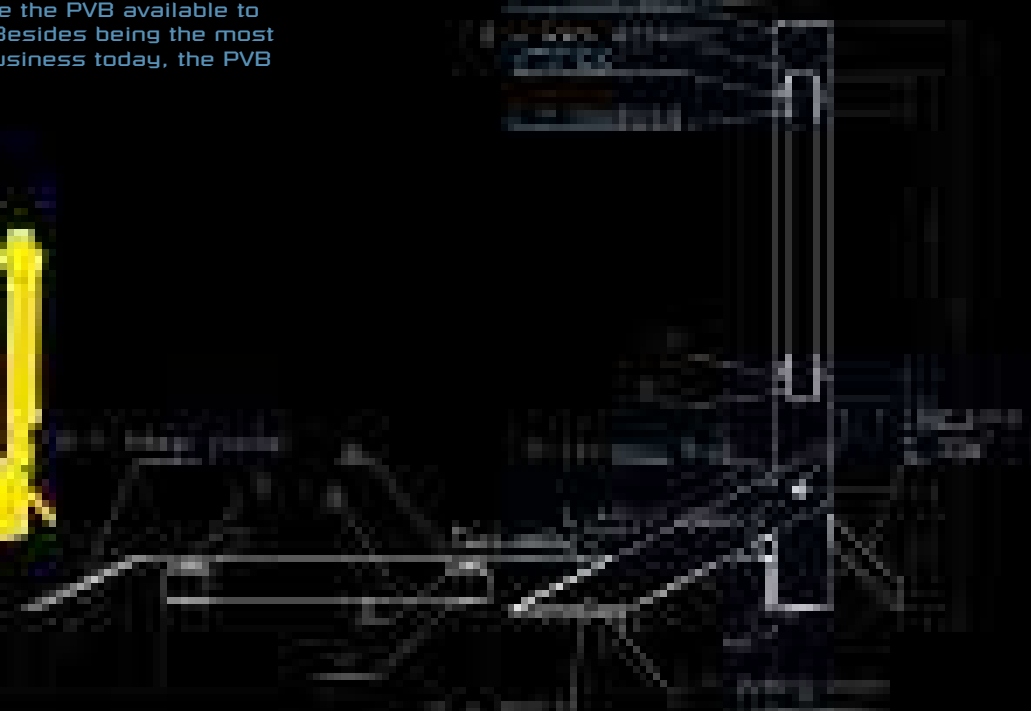
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# Glock 48 Product Review

by Karim Manassa

Two months of every day carry and 1,500 rounds later, I have initial feedback on Glock's slim line single stack version of the Glock 19.

First some housekeeping . . .

Upon receipt I detail stripped it down to the bare frame and slide to clean, inspect, and lube it. I also performed three modifications:

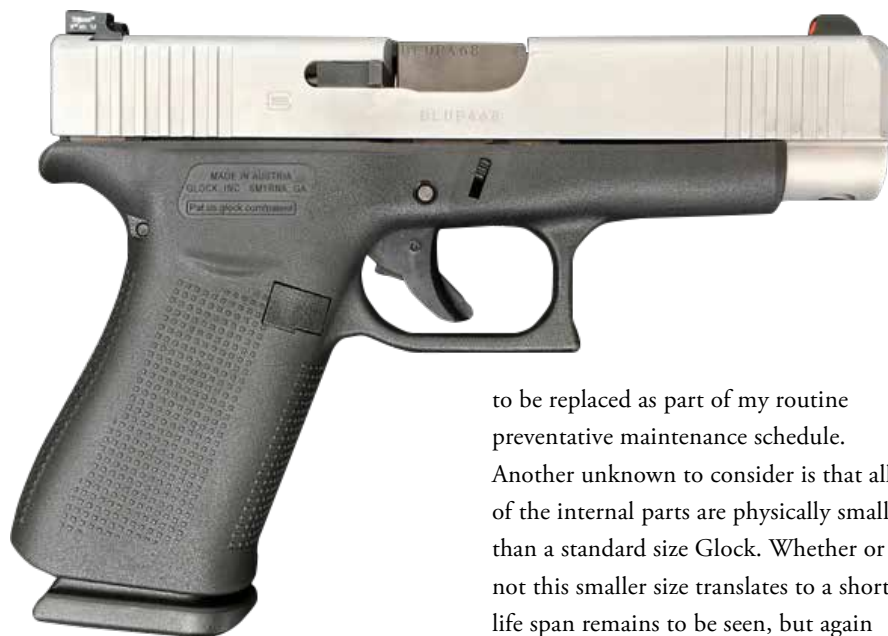
1) I replaced the factory plastic sights with Trijicon XD XR sights (thank you Santi at Godspeed Firearms School for perfectly performing the installation).

2) I replaced the OEM grooved trigger shoe with an OEM smooth faced trigger shoe.

3) I replaced the OEM firing pin spring cups with Ghost maritime cups.

So why an interest in the Glock 48 when a Glock 19 appears to fill EDC duties just fine?

Simply put, there are rare occasions (perhaps 10% of the time) when either clothing fit or the non-permissive environment, or both, require a deeper level of concealment than a Glock 19 with an RMR can provide. Its slim line single stack form factor is significantly smaller than the 19, yet still retains a 4" barrel length to ballistically optimize duty ammo (indeed, the 48's barrel is actually 4MM longer than the 19). While I plan on doing a true long term high round count review, I have enough data to provide initial feedback to readers. I use this EDC gun to practice, to compete, to teach, and to train.



So let's begin with the OBJECTIVE portions first:

1) Reliability. After 1,200 rounds of Magtech 124 grain FMJ practice ammunition and 300 rounds of Hornady Critical Duty 135 grain standard pressure ammunition, I experienced ZERO stoppages. Note I did field strip, clean, inspect, and lube after every shooting session.

2) Accuracy. The new Gen5 barrel is awesome, and easily compares to my Agency Arms Gen4 Glock 19 barrel. Impressive.

3) Durability. Overall fit and finish are holding very well, however the locking block is showing signs of flaking and sharp hot spots. I'm not sure if this will eventually lead to a failure, but I plan to keep an eye on it and may classify the locking block as a "high mortality part"

to be replaced as part of my routine preventative maintenance schedule. Another unknown to consider is that all of the internal parts are physically smaller than a standard size Glock. Whether or not this smaller size translates to a shorter life span remains to be seen, but again something to keep an eye on for the power user.

Now on to the SUBJECTIVE portion of this review:

The Glock 48 is a surprisingly soft shooting and controllable pistol. In fact, I'd say it's by far the most comfortable compact pistol I've fired. This experience can be attributed to 4 aspects of its frame design that depart from the standard Glock 19:

1) The trigger guard's bottom frame is thinner and the undercut is higher compared to the standard frame Glocks. These features enable higher grip placement on the gun and eliminate "Glock knuckle."

2) There is a forward lip on the bottom of the grip which helps to secure the firing hand's pinky (the strongest of the 5 fingers) up and onto the frame.

3) The extended and high cut beavertail

both eliminates slide bite as well as further aides in a high grip.

4) The smaller single stack circumference enables hands of all sizes to obtain full coverage and a strong grip.

Another feature of the Glock 48 is a great trigger. The Gen5 trigger is a definite improvement over previous generations, further aiding in easy shooting.

Though not unique to the 48 model, both the LCI (loaded chamber indicator) and “witness gap” allow for easy visual and tactile chamber status confirmation. Overall I found the Glock 48 and a spare magazine very easy to conceal and very comfortable to carry in a DarkStar Gear AIWB holster with two Discreet Carry Concepts (DCC) clips and V Development Group foam wedge. A Daria Holsters AIWB magazine carrier with a single DCC clip completes the package.

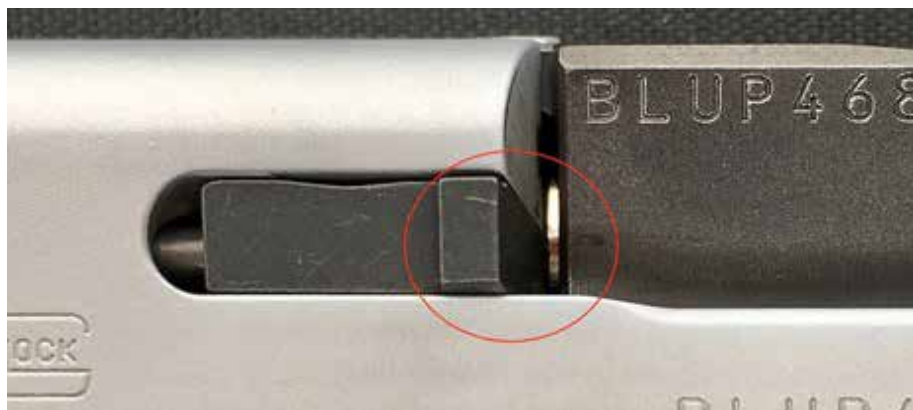
For those on the fence about the Glock 48, there are some downsides to consider. These are mainly personal to me, so your experience may be different.

1) Since I have a large hand relative to the smaller Glock 48’s grip, the bottom outer edge of my trigger finger rubs against the inside of the trigger guard when I press the trigger. It’s not painful nor creates blisters even after hundreds of rounds, but it is something that is annoying to me. Other shooters don’t experience this.

2) Even though I carry a spare, I hate the 10 round magazine capacity. Is it probably sufficient for one or perhaps even two antagonists? Possibly, but if there’s any more than that or if they are dedicated, then I expect a slide lock reload at the worst possible moment. I know there is one aftermarket company pursuing a flush 15 round magazine, but in my book if it doesn’t have the pedigree of Glock OEM or Magpul, then I don’t see it as a proven EDC option.

So magazine capacity is definitely something to consider.

3) Iron sights. I’m now an MRDS guy,



so when I’m stuck with irons where the front sight is completely blurry in low or indoor light, I’m not a happy camper. In the bright outdoors I can see the front sight just fine, but at 50 my eyes need 33% more ambient lumens to see the same things I could see at age 18. Moreover, I’ve become a big fan of single focal plane shooting as it relates self defense. While there are RMR adapter plates out there for the slim line slides, they do not incorporate the two bosses that help keep the RMR planted and minimize wear and tear. Not to mention that adding an RMR sort of defeats the purpose of the small form factor of the Glock 48. There is another product, the Shield RMSc, but not being water resistant (a showstopper in South Florida) nor physically robust for demanding usage, I don’t see this as a viable option.

So given all the Glock 48’s positives, where does this leave us? For me, time will tell as I continue to EDC it and realize

what my Glock 19 RMR offers that this Glock 48 does not, and vice versa. For the reader who has an interest in the Glock 48, my advice is to evaluate YOUR needs and application, then use some of the insight provided here to help drive your decision. •

\*\*\* To ensure an agnostic review process, we receive ZERO remuneration nor consideration from the vendors. \*\*\*

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

*Karim Manassa owns EDC Pistol Training, a South Florida based training company specializing in solo self-responder training for civilians and off-duty law enforcement. Comprised of five instructors from different lanes, EDC provides a comprehensive program of live fire, force on force, and care under fire training. Please visit our site at [www.edcpistoltraining.com](http://www.edcpistoltraining.com).*



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# The Counter Terrorist

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2019  
VOLUME 12 • NUMBER 4

Journal for Law Enforcement, Intelligence & Special Operations Professionals



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