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To Protect and Serve Are we raising our kids to be victims?

Posted: Wednesday, October 8, 2008
Updated: October 7th, 2008 03:09 PM GMT-05:00

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General Topics Contributor

Have we lost our minds?

Are we so intimidated by the left-wing politically-correct gang in our society that we have chosen to keep our courage in a glass jar on the mantle?

Will our kids (and grandkids) survive, or have we created a generation of permanent victims?

TO PROTECT AND SERVE

Yes, it's our motto. But, I fear that we've stepped across a line. Someone has decided that violence in any form is an unacceptable tool in the hands of anyone other than us cops. *Only the professionals can use force* we're told.

The leaders in our schools embrace a zero-tolerance policy on violence. It no longer matters who started it. Anyone and everyone involved in an act that is even remotely violent or physical gets full-force punishment. How absurd.

Let's look at a short list of mass shooting incidents that are both infamous and horrible:

- 9/23/08, Finland - Dead: 9; shooter commits suicide after opening fire in a vocational school classroom.
- 2/14/08, DeKalb, IL - Dead 5; wounded: 17; shooter commits suicide after opening fire in a classroom at Northern Illinois University.
- 12/06/07, Omaha, NE - Dead: 8; wounded: 5; shooter commits suicide after opening fire in a shopping mall crowded with Christmas shoppers.
- 10/10/07, Cleveland, OH - Dead: 0; wounded: 4; 14 year old shooter commits suicide after opening fire in a high school.
- 04/16/07, Blacksburg, VA - Dead 32; wounded: 23; shooter commits suicide after opening fire at two locations on the Virginia Tech campus.
- 10/3/06, Nickel Mines, PA - Dead: 5; wounded 5; shooter commits suicide after opening fire in a one-room school house. The victims range in age from 6 to 13.

Unfortunately, this list is far from complete. It will likely never be finished.

Many of the cops in our community insist that the right to use violence is reserved only for those in our ranks. I believe that this attitude is causing people to die.

I believe that our attitudes on this subject have led John Q. Public to develop a false sense of security. It has caused an improper transfer of personal responsibility for self defense to someone else, i.e. society, the government, or more specifically, to the cops. Citizens are literally afraid to protect themselves.

In some communities, this fatal notion is rooted so deeply that even police volunteers, e.g. auxiliary and reserve officers, are prohibited from carrying a weapon and/or using force to end an adversarial confrontation. *What are we thinking?*

Let's be very clear about a few fundamental concepts. First, nowhere in the U.S. Constitution will we find anything that requires the government to provide the populace with protection from acts perpetrated by other citizens. The U.S. Supreme Court has upheld that citizens cannot hold the government responsible for providing complete and comprehensive protection to individual citizens.



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THE POLITICALLY CORRECT RESPONSE

With each incidence of a mass shooting, very predictably, handwringing from the left-wing crowd begins. Their solution is ever constant: more strict control of guns with more laws and more government.

Duh!

Are these people complete morons? Are they really as stupid and ignorant as their words make them appear? Do they really believe that people who commit such heinous acts are concerned with the latest statute passed by a legislature? Lawbreakers of this magnitude don't much care about *what* the law says.

Do they somehow believe that in an open society, such as ours, that the authorities can ferret out evil-doers in advance to prevent an incident? They aren't thinking clearly here either. That level of intrusion into our personal lives wouldn't be tolerated by any of us, least of all by their spiritual leader: the ACLU.

Gun-toting, sick, perverse individuals who commit such egregious crimes are likely emboldened by the preaching of these do-gooders. The murderers realize that as a direct result of the PC crowd, there will be no one armed at schools, churches and similar venues who might be able to abort their killing spree. Where I come from, these No-Gun locations are more commonly referred to as SEZ: Shooter Empowerment Zones.

No one **ever** suggests the obvious: teach the potential victims how to recognize a potential/actual risk, how to intervene, and how to respond, i.e. defend themselves with up to, and including use of deadly force.

The PC crowd got very quiet after 9/11/01. They should have stayed quiet, but they haven't. This collective group of numbskulls seems to have three primary concerns:

- Foster individuality. Being different is good for its own sake. Now, it's no longer enough to be American. I must be Irish-American, Italian-American, African-American or some form of hyphenated American.
- Nourish diversity in the populace. Blow away the notion of our forefathers: it is our similarities that make us strong. To be strong we must act as a single people.
- Don't ever offend anyone - even if they're wrong. No one ever loses. No one is ever wrong. Everyone gets an award, even if they didn't earn it.

The PC group is driven in their efforts to achieve a fantasy-land utopia that never has and never will exist. They make the rest of us feel guilty for violating any of their tenets for behavior. "Horse-hockey," as the Colonel on M*A*S*H* used to say.

CAN ANYONE DO ANYTHING TO STOP THIS CRAZINESS?

A few weeks ago, I became aware of Strategos International and I talked with Vaughn Baker of that organization. Strategos is a professional training organization. Its operation is firmly rooted in basic Christian values and that belief is abundantly clear when reviewing their website linked below. With the introduction of Intruder Response courses for workplace, schools and churches they have entered a field rarely touched and certainly not approached in the same way.

Strategos has instructed over 6,000 law enforcement and military professionals since 2002 on various tactical related topics to include Law Enforcement Response to the Active Shooter, Strategies of Low Light Engagements, Strategies of Vehicle Engagements, Ballistic Shield Operations & Deployment, Special Operations Team Tactics and several other live-fire and defensive tactics related topics.

Strategos recently recognized the need to not only educate law enforcement personnel on active shooter response strategies but also to educate administrators, faculty and leaders of colleges, governments, schools, teachers, churches, and others to recognize potential risks and prevent these incidents prior to them occurring. Additionally they educate these same leaders in immediately responding to these types of incidents PRIOR to law enforcement arrival.

Strategos is a faith based, conservative Christian training organization. They put that out there for all to see and make it clear: they won't change their approach. If their approach is not for you, then you're welcome to go elsewhere. How refreshing.

Strategos teaches people to recognize a potential (or an actual) threat. Strategos educates these leaders on the history, demographics, traits and behavioral characteristics of those that have a potential to commit these types of crimes. This training hopefully increases the chances of preventing these incidents PRIOR to them taking place.

Violent acts required for self-defense & protection of the innocent are not wrong but rather, necessary and blessed by our Maker. That is, after all, the fundamental manner by which the United States was born.

Remember that the greatest fear of a predator is an armed victim. 'Nuff said.

The Strategos principles are simple: recognize a potential threat; intervene and prevent acts PRIOR to them being committed; and the quickly responding to reduce, minimize and neutralize the danger. They are taught effectively, efficiently, and tailored to the attendees needs.

WHAT MUST WE DO?

We must reject the Politically Correct philosophies that are paralyzing our society. No partial acceptance. No compromise. Those notions are tearing at the fabric of our nation.

End this crazy notion that profiling is bad behavior. Profiling based upon race alone is wrong. When profiling is done based on a variety of elements, it's an effective way to prevent criminal behavior. That is exactly what John Q. Public wants us to do. The public wants the bad acts **prevented**.

A holy war (jihad) has been declared against America by fanatical Islamic fascists. We must focus on that group of people as our enemy. Stop the silly searching and grilling of grandmothers at airports. We've been told that we can't just focus on folks of Middle Eastern descent as they might be offended. Hogwash! We're at war. Wake Up!

The zero tolerance of violence in schools must end. Now. It is right for a person to defend themselves. It is their duty. As a kid, my dad taught me never to throw the first punch - but make sure I threw the last one. He was a very wise man.

We have a responsibility to teach our children about guns, knives, and other weapons. Children need to know how to use them safely, just like driving a car. Teaching a child that, *guns are bad*, is a sin. A parent instills the concept that going to one's death as a sheep is preferable to defending yourself, your spouse and/or your children. It's pure garbage and it needs to stop TODAY.

Guns are not bad, and they never have been. Some people use guns in bad ways. Those actions don't vilify the gun, but rather the actor. The notion that guns are bad would lead one to conclude that calculators are bad because people use them to cheat on their taxes. It's proven: we cannot legislate guns out of existence, no matter how hard we try. It's time to wakeup and smell the coffee.

John Q. Public must be encouraged - at every turn - to participate in the law enforcement process. As cops, when a citizen chooses to become involved, we must praise that ACTION. We need to remind people constantly that they are the first line of American defense. If something seems wrong, it probably is wrong. If they can't handle it (or don't want to), they need to report it. Again: we need to praise their decision to get involved.

SOAPBOX: too many in our ranks exude the attitude of *arrogant coppery* to John Q. Public. We talk down to him. We minimize his contribution. We make him feel unimportant. We act as though, *"I'm the cop and you're nothing."* STOP THAT! We need every ally we can get with all of the eyes, ears, and hands we can muster. Our survival depends on it.

As cops, we need to recognize that many of our citizens see us as leaders. They weigh our words and actions carefully. I realize that, at first blush, you think of the dirt bags who ridicule you. Believe it or not, those jerks are in the minority. Realize that most people value what you have to say.

We need to encourage new immigrants to contribute their heritage to the American melting pot. That's what has made us great and strong. Encourage them to become active Americans. Bring their traditions to our common table, much like the Irish brought St. Patrick's Day. An immigrant should not forget their heritage. But the notion that America is multi-cultural needs to go the way of buggy whips and sealing wax. Our commonality and similarities are what give rise to our strength and endurance. That behavior is what we must encourage.

Acting in self defense or defending the weak among us is not solely the job of cops. It belongs to every citizen in our nation. Failing to rise to a challenge is wrong. Self defense is good and honorable.

We need to encourage the good citizens to join the good fight. We need to encourage them. We need to help train them. We need to acknowledge and praise their participation.

When responding to an incident, we often have opportunities to share the concept of "if / then" thinking with the victim. We can provide concrete examples of how the victim can be the first line of defense, rather than remaining a victim. When appropriate, we can offer information about self defense training, gun safety, and other structured settings where an individual can learn more, if they want to.

EPILOGUE

Thinking back to active shooting incidents, we learn that people who knew the shooter suspected a problem. Rarely does such a person materialize from thin air. Someone noticed something that they found odd or suspicious. Unfortunately, no one acted on their hunch.

As a people, we must stop acting like pansies. We can no longer afford to be afraid to act because the other person might be offended.

Americans don't hunker; we fight, else America will cease to exist as we know it.

When confronted with a threatening situation imagine, *"What would John Wayne, Davy Crockett or Wyatt Earp do?"* What would you have done had you been on Flight #93 on 9/11 - the one that the citizen patriots took into the ground rather than let it be crashed into Washington D.C.?

You're an American. It's time to STAND UP!

You have a duty to defend yourself and those you care about. You have an equal duty - as a cop - to encourage that same behavior in the good citizens around you.

We must put a stop to those who want us to believe that we will be better if we become a nation of pacifists. It just ain't so.

The folks at Strategos have a great story. I hope you'll check it out.

In the meantime, stay strong, stay staunch, and keep yourselves wired tight.

Your comments are always welcome. Email me by clicking on my name below.

Weblinks:

- [Strategos International](#)
- [Intruder Response](#)

Jim Donahue is a native of the Midwest, getting his education at Michigan State University. He is now training patrol officers on Technology & Tactics which translates for street cops into how to use patrol car computers -- safely.



Jim has recently earned his peace officer certification in the State of Florida. Previously, Jim worked with U.S. Customs & Immigration at the Detroit/Canada border in the year following the attacks of 9/11. He has also worked as a reserve patrolman on the streets of a suburban Detroit community.

Jim has been named an Ambassador for the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund in Washington, D.C.

Jim has worked with police departments across the country on process improvement at the patrol car level, focusing on technology to improve tactics, safety, and productivity. He instructs in a variety of police academies and having taught "Technology and Tactics" to thousands of cops in-service nationally. He is an accomplished grant writer. Jim is a certified ILEETA member.

Jim is married to Paula and they have two children. Jim is a competitive bodybuilder, with six contests to his credit. Jim is active in his community and his church.

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Comments

Posted by **Eric Weaver** in Raleigh, NC

(10/07/08 - 11:52 PM)

Right On, Jim

Jim, you are OH SO RIGHT, again!

This is all part of the wussification of the American male. In the end, a man who won't defend himself and his family is not a man at all.

Parents: Don't let your sons grow up this way, and don't let your daughters take up with such useless men.

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Posted by **Over 40?** in Cop in Lincoln, NE

(10/08/08 - 12:32 PM)

I am guessing that if you are over a certain age the thought process is to fight all the time. Because I try to avoid fights at all costs (to keep my family safe) I am a wuss? So be it.

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Posted by **Alexander** in Texas

(10/08/08 - 01:22 PM)

Finally, some common sense. Most officers in Texas are of the "People Shoud Be Sheep" school of thought. It's a nice change that someone thinks we have the right to secure and protect ourselves in time of crisis.

If Katrina taught us anything, it's that when social fabric breaks down, only those willing to fight will be safe. Right or Wrong, many NOLA officers fled the city to protect their own families, leaving the citizens to deal with crime at a personal level.

The militant police attitude that the civilian populace is the "enemy" ultimately fails the officer in times of high crisis. This emnity directly causes a lack of support from honest citizens exactly at the time it is needed most. Civilians are not your enemy and the vast majority of us respect your position and try to help you whenever we can.

One more point: when those highly trained special forces guys that officers respect so much are discharged, where do you think they go? That's right, we get jobs and go to work just like everyone else. You might consider that the next time you try some intimidating "I Yam De Law" routine: that the guy you're talking to might have years of training and experience in actual combat or hand to hand, and maybe even a few dozen kills on his sheet, while you've only got a few months of range time, and some lectures about use of force. Talk about being out gunned.

Respect both ways doesn't cost a dime.

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Posted by **MT** in Tyler, Texas

(10/08/08 - 01:51 PM)

AGREE

Jim, I agree with what you are saying. I respect all men but I fear none. Yes I will use violence, but as a last resort, not as a tactic to force my way through life. I will stand up and I will continue to do all I can to resist the pacification of America. I think it's time that the PC mindset is given a proper and long overdue funeral.

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Posted by **Collegecop_WA** in Seattle

(10/08/08 - 03:51 PM)

Bravo Jim, Bravo! As usual your comments are spot on!

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Posted by **Frank Borelli** in Beltsville, Maryland

(10/08/08 - 07:25 PM)

email received

I received an email about this article and one of the complaints contained therein was (paraphrased) that Jim had created MORE of a division between "us" (cops) and "them" (civilians) - unless I misunderstood the email. I'd like to point out that Jim very specifically recommends working in better concert with civilians and empowering them as much as is legally possible.

I want to express my appreciation to all those who post comments both in agreement AND in disagreement because THIS is how we converse and learn and grow. If we always do what we've always done we will always be what we've always been. STATIC is no good. GROWTH is mandatory for survival and dominance.

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Posted by **Jim Donahue** in Jupiter, FL

(10/08/08 - 07:46 PM)

Response

I appreciate all of the interest and comments (both positive and negative) that this writing has generated I had hoped to make two points. First, defending oneself (or family) is preferable to death. Second, I am impressed with the stand-up organization that is training cops and civilian leaders to be prepared.

There are those among us who would argue that there is virtue in avoiding violence -- even if the result is one's own demise. I cannot and will not ever agree with such a nonsensical point of view.

Again ... thanks for the feedback. It is sincerely appreciated.

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Posted by **Casey**

(10/08/08 - 10:56 PM)

I couldn't agree with you more. It is way past time for the populace of this country to make their own safety, and that of their families, their responsibility. The police are here to help us when we are unable to help ourselves. Up to that point, it is our responsibility to care for ourselves and our families. Katrina proved that no one is going to do it for us. Way to go Jim! Keep up the good work!

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Posted by **Sgt. Burke** in College Park, Ga.

(10/08/08 - 11:58 PM)

America and "Political Correctness"

Great article, but you're preaching to the choir for the most point!

This article encapsulates most of the main issues we as a nation are facing with the "PC" debacle.

I HIGHLY recommend that we all forward this article to as many of our "non-police" friends as we can. For those with kids, send this to all their teachers and school boards and administrators.

You're certainly right, Jim, THIS HAS GOT TO STOP!!

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Posted by **Chas** in dayton

(10/09/08 - 01:30 AM)

right on

Great article. Zero tolerance in a school is insane as it denies the right for self defense when a fight is unavoidable, unless one wants to stand and be beaten of course. The zero tolerance is just to make it easy for the administrators. That way they dont have to take the time and determine who started it and who acted defensively. They just blame everyone involved, thats not just or right, but its easy for the administrators.

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