

SURVIVAL COMBAT

Introduction

It is impossible to foresee exactly what kinds of combat situations will develop from a slow degeneration or a sudden collapse of civil order. The situation that any individual or family finds itself in will vary from an increased danger that never develops into actual confrontations or one that could even escalate into military level combat. Those living in or near large urban areas will certainly face different challenges than those in small towns and rural areas. Therefore the planning, training and armament required to survive in and move through these areas will be different. Moreover the requirements for initial short-term survival combat will differ greatly from those of long-term sustained security.



For most people, combat will be one of the worst experiences of their lives. There is nothing enjoyable or gratifying about it. If it can't be avoided, hope that you are mentally and physically equipped to survive it.

Reality Check

The authority of the State is a myth, only maintained as long as it is respected and accepted by the majority of the people. Once this myth is cracked law and order evaporates. If a massive disaster overwhelms the existing police and military, or they are rendered ineffective by massive popular unrest or inadequate funding, chaos will soon develop. Once the general population loses respect and confidence in the authorities, there is no authority. Even the most brutal dictatorships cannot survive a general loss of confidence or fear. The whole USSR collapsed in spite of the KGB and the Army. The so-called Arab Spring brought down several strong governments. Mexico is ruled by the drug cartels not the State. Once this process starts the police will focus on protecting their families and the governments. Government agencies at all levels will concentrate on defending their families and associates. Citizens will be left on their own gradually or suddenly. Theft and looting will start with established criminals, but as conditions worsen desperation will lead to foraging and violence by normally law-abiding citizens. We will look at three scenarios that could develop in the next few decades. I will not get into specific weapons and tactics here because we have covered these subjects in previous articles.

Scenario #1

A gradual decline in the economy, energy supplies and funding for the police results in increasing street crime and occasional outbreaks of looting and rioting. There is an increase in home invasions and gang activities. Gangs begin to loot food stores and trucks and now operate a black-market for essential goods. Police respond slowly and generally back off in the face of large numbers.

Combat Situations and Preparations

In the early stages of this scenario you may still be going to your job and or legally gathering supplies, but now you need to be much more alert and well armed. Any restriction on carried armament should be ignored in favor of survival. If possible travel in twos or threes. Avoid urban commercial areas where looting, crime and gang activities will be heaviest. Look poor and don't get followed home! Good high-capacity handguns with extra magazines will be a must for the streets. Even short-barreled shotguns or carbines may be appropriate. If you have been wise enough to have a supply of food and water on hand and maybe a network of support, you will not need to "forage" or go to the black-market for your needs. If you are not prepared and networked you will be forced to risk combat every time you run out of canned goods or toilet paper. You will be the potentially ambushed. Of course the fact that you are not coming out may attract attention so you will need to be ready to detect, discourage and eliminate any would be invaders. In this scenario, attacks are most likely to be by individuals or small-untrained gangs. They will probably just try to kick in the door or rush through when you come in or go out. They may also try to take a family member hostage outside and then force you to let them in. For this reason anyone going out should be armed or accompanied by an armed family member even near the house. When inside all doors should be closed, locked and blocked. Even at home everyone should carry handguns and defensive rifles and carbines should be loaded and handy. At night lights should be out and window exposure should be avoided. Spend time in the basement and interior rooms if possible. If a 24-hour watch schedule is not practical sleep with your weapon nearby. The hours between dusk and dawn are the most dangerous. If order is not restored the situation may degenerate into scenario #2 or #3 within a few weeks.

Scenario # 2

A sudden and total collapse of the system caused by a natural disaster, epidemic or financial collapse plunges the society into chaos. All stores and malls are being looted and burned. Gangs roam the streets and invade home with impunity. Police, medical and fire services are non-existent. Millions flee urban areas as food supplies water and sanitation system fails.

Combat Situations and Preparations

If you live too near to major highways and/or commercial districts where mobs and looters will kill and destroy everything in their paths, you will be forced to flee by vehicle or on foot to safer areas. Past issues have covered movement through high threat areas, and evacuation gear and camps. Suburban

communities and homes may still be defensible and even sustainable for the well prepared and well armed. Smaller towns and rural homesteads will need to be prepared to fend off occasional roaming groups of motorized or walking assailants. Using outposts or good binoculars to spot and identify approaching threats on roads and trails will be essential. Of course you may want to be sure that these are truly dangerous people before opening fire. Here you will need medium range, high volume carbines for built up environments where large numbers of “enemies” may get fairly close before being spotted. You will need a lot a reliable semi-automatic carbine with at least onr 30-round magazine and plenty of extra magazines to stop or drive off close in threats. If you live in more open terrain a long-barreled semi-automatic combat rifle and/or bolt action scoped hunting rifle will be needed. You options will be to fire a warning shot at range to redirect intruders past your location or pick off well-defined threats before they get to you. Remember, you can’t just shoot every person that comes down the road and even your warning shot may initiate a battle that did not need to happen. That person may be innocent or even a potential friend. A single person or small group may also be a scout for a larger group coming behind. Think carefully before starting an engagement under these conditions. Of course if you have had to evacuate, *you* may be the target fore someone way out their with a scoped 30-06 and no hesitations about shooting. This is a great reason to be able to stay home. In this scenario your rifle is your primary weapon and your handgun is your backup weapon. At this stage block or community patrols may be needed. A good existing “Crime Watch” program may be a good foundation for this and could even be supported by the existing police establishment under such desperate conditions. Roadblocks may be necessary to sort out and reroute refugees and potential raiders. It would be far better and more humane to provide some food and water, etc. to refugees and rout them around the town than to just block them.



Lets hope things don't get this bad, but remember that they have in other places at other times. Once order is gone anything can and will happen

Scenario #3

After a general collapse centralized government is not able to restore constitutional liberties and security. An unconstitutional and oppressive state attempts to restore order based on force and oppression or smaller more localized gangs or extremists attempt to establish regional dictatorships by force. General resistance and military style combat breakout in many areas. Most people are forced to choose sides, but even neutrals are likely to be attacked in some areas.

Combat Situations and Preparations

This is the situation that most survival novels envision. A simple “kill or be killed”, “everyone who is not with you is against you” situation. It’s not going to be that simple! You are going to have all kinds of combatants and non-combatants and disguised enemies and friends and terrorists all mixed up on the field. Veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan can relate to this kind of “asymmetrical war”. Out of the initial chaos there will emerge dominant gangs of criminal, and a variety of militia like forces. Some of these will be Mad Max like roaming bands while others will establish territories to dominate. It is impossible to predict what sort of alliances will form or what remnants of government may reemerge. The economy and the society will be badly fractured and there will be a lot of evil people wanting to manipulate and prey on a lot of desperate people.

Control of food, water and other resources will be the key to power. If criminal gangs or would be dictators are able to provide safety to their supporters and offer the only sources of food, water and other critical needs to the population they will win, even if they are brutal and oppressive. If a significant force of good and benevolent people are strong enough to provide and defend these resources then recovery with liberty will be possible. It will take a heroic and determined force to hold back the forces of hate, prejudice and greed that will certainly emerge. In this long-term situation only organized and trained citizens will be able to restore order. This will mean defending ones own family and community while respecting others. It will be essential to be strong enough to deter and defeat any threat while being ready to unite to rebuild the society.

Obviously, here you need to have very good military style weapons and lots of ammunition. You also may want to consider having extra weapons for currently reluctant neighbors, relatives and friends who will be willing to help once things get more threatening. Good binoculars, night vision equipment, camouflage clothing, smoke bombs and all kinds of other equipment would be helpful. If you do not have military training, at least get some good manuals on small unit tactics and get lots of shooting practice with each weapon. Do not forget spare parts and maintenance items for each weapon.

If the situation degenerates to this point our country and the world will truly be in the dark ages for a long-time. It may never recover. The greater the force of responsible armed and well prepared citizens, the less destruction and disruption there will be.

Conclusions

Survival combat will be a complex combination of home defense, street combat and military tactics unlike anything previously experienced. In some cases it will be necessary to take or hold ground, but more often sheer survival will be the priority. While casualties will surely be incurred the concept of acceptable losses can hardly be justified when those losses are your children, parents, spouses' and close friends. Casualties cannot build the future. Only the well armed, well prepared and well organized will have the option of survival. They will be able to deter, fight or retreat as needed. If you are preparing for survival without preparing to defend your life through all anticipated situations, you may be stocking supplies for someone else. Starting with a good handgun for close in self-protection, you need to build a small battery of weapons appropriate for the kinds of situations that may develop 5, 10 or 20-years from now. These items and the ammunition for them will become increasingly unavailable either because of government regulation or popular demand as the crisis grows more obvious. While your family, budget, location and health may all play a part in your capacity for various types of combat, there is no excuse for surrendering through inaction, procrastination or complacency.

Recommended Weapons

For home and street defense against criminals and backup

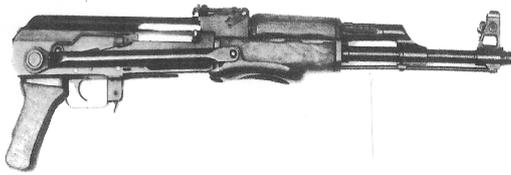
The debate goes on between the advocates of 9mm and 40 and 45 caliber handguns. The thing to know is that a handgun is an inherently inaccurate weapon. Even the police score only 10-20% hits in real combat. These weapons are to stop immediate threats in the 10 to 50 foot range and drive away identified threats out to a few hundred feet. You will want to have a high capacity automatic with extra magazines. Revolvers are great "bed side drawer" and under the car seat guns because of their reliability, but they are a bit bulky and slow to reload. Glock auto pistols have a well-deserved reputation for reliability and durability under rough conditions. Made for combat, they have no safety. They come in a wide variety of sizes and calibers from 9mm through 45 calibers and magazine capacities ranging from 10-17 rounds. If you prefer a more conventional weapon with visible hammers and safeties. Colt, Browning, Beretta , H&K, and SIG all make fine choices.



Glock large frame auto-pistol
Reliable firepower with high capacity magazines

For home and street defense under civil disorder conditions

The AK47 is the most successful military rifle in history. They fire 7.62 x 39 mm ammunition. These weapons are comparatively cheap and come in a verity of configuration. The folding stock models are good for interior and street combat. The reason AK 47s are preferred by unconventional forces is that they can be abused and poorly maintained and still be reliable. There are lots of magazines and accessories on the market, including 100 round drum magazines. Gun stores and gunsmiths will not be around in some situations. The AK is not as accurate or light as the M16 and its clones, but costs much less. The M16 and the various clones and copies is a fairly durable and reliable weapon. The problems with earlier version have been corrected. Ammunition and parts are commonly available. There are lots of add-ons such as lasers, flashlights, night sights and even a device to simulate full automatic fire. You can get a carbine version for close defense or long-barreled variants for combat in open areas. These cost from \$900.00 to over \$2,500.00 depending on manufacturer and design.

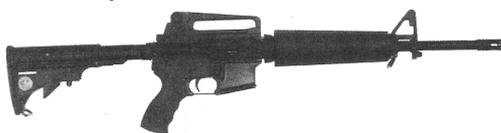


Military surplus AK47 with folding stock. Magazine not shown. Sells for about \$500.00

Shotguns such as the Mossberg 500 and Remington 780 12-gauge pumps are great for heavy-duty home protection and street combat. The wide range of ammunition includes slugs, buckshot, breaching (for knock doors down), non-lethal rubber, flamethrower, armor piercing and more. Shotgun shells are easy to reload if you stock up on powder and primer and a few tools.

For home and street defense under full combat conditions

The AK47, AKM, M16 and a variety of other so-called "assault rifles will suit your needs here, but more magazines and ammunition would be well advised. Night vision attachments would also be a good investment. If you can afford to add a long range high accuracy rifle do so.



One of the many commercial versions of the Military M16

Mosin-Nagant, 7.67 bolt action rifle.. This is a very old design, but it is cheap, reliable and fairly accurate. The Russians dumped hundred of thousands on the

market after refurbishing them. They are priced from about \$100.00 to \$200. During WWII the Fins and The Russians both used them as sniper rifles to very good effect..

Better, but more expensive choices would be the Remington 700 which is the civilian version of the M40 sniper rifle used by the military or maybe a Steyer SSG69.