

Podcast #220 Transcription – Prepper Defense Gear

Jeff Anderson: You know what keeps me up at night? It's the thought of my family looking at me with fear in their eyes following a wide scale disaster, crisis, or collapse, and wondering when an angry mob is going to break through our front door in a blood thirsty rampage. Alright, now I know this sounds like a scene out of some Hollywood post-apocalyptic action flick, but I'm talking about the actual news. The horrors of the Superdome after Hurricane Katrina to the stories of the devastation in Puerto Rico, that has left that territory with looting gangs and mobs as a result of no electricity or functioning infrastructure.

It's become painfully clear that when there's no rule of law, the wolves of our society go out on the prowl for victims. The sad reality is that when they're pretty much free to do what they want, they're going to do it. I mean, think about it. When a crisis strains our infrastructure to the breaking point, the cops are nowhere to be found or they're circled around City Hall, where the need is. If you can't find a police officer or paramedic, they're probably just as worried about getting their own loved ones to safety as you are.

With a situation like that, you've got to rely on yourself. While your mindset skills and your training play a big part in that, there's absolutely no doubt that having the right gear can save your life when you're forced to defend yourself and those you love from looters, panicked mobs, or protestors gone wild. Now, to be clear, I'm not talking about simply owning a firearm. The fact is, the prepared survivalist does more than just own a gun. There's a lot of other gear that could be helpful for you and/or your survival team to keep yourselves safe when the world around you suddenly becomes a battlefield. That's what we're here to talk about today.

Hello, everyone. This is Jeff Anderson, editor from Modern Combat and Survival Magazine and Executive Director of the New World Patriot Alliance with another podcast to help you better prepare for any threat you may face in the roles of protector and a patriot. Today, we're talking with Chad Cooper, owner of Infidel Body Armor. Chad, welcome to the program.

Chad Cooper: Thanks. Glad to be here, Jeff.

Jeff Anderson: Good to have you on, man. I've been following your stuff here for a while. It's good to add you to the network and then introduce you out to our audience, as well. For those of you listening out there, some of you might

already be familiar with the Infidel brand of body armor, but what you may not know about Chad and his company is that Infidel doesn't just sell body armor. They actually offer some pretty cool gadgets and gear that can help you survive when you're facing the types of threats that we're going to be talking about today, and they're based on real world experience.

For over 16 years, Chad has been proactively involved in serving and protecting our great nation. With a background in both the military and law enforcement, Chad has been able to work with some of the best in the industry. Ten years of intelligence experience is bolstered by a master's in strategic intelligence and years of hands on leadership with signals and geolocation analysis intelligence. You can visit his website over at www.infidelbodyarmor.com.

So Chad, one of the things that we're talking about when we were talking about this ... what really happens after a crisis, when there are mobs out there, potentially with a breakdown in infrastructure, food is low, water might be [in crisis 00:02:54]. In fact, we have a crisis going on right now in Austin, Texas, nearby me, where there's a mandatory boil notice that's out there. People are getting in fistfights over water. We've seen this time and time again, that after a true, wide scale crisis, a collapse, or anything like this, then people don't understand human nature and how survival can make people do things that they wouldn't normally do. Some people, though, are really wolves of our society. They're looking for this opportunity. They relish in the opportunity to not have an accountability for their actions.

So my challenge to you ... I've been on your site before, and some of the stuff that's on there people might look at as like, "Well, this is all military gear and equipment." Well, for a prepper defense, for when you're the only one that can guard your home, there is other gear that can help you do that, the same way that we, in the military, go out on the battlefield and we have specific gear to get us home alive. Well, there's certain gear that can help somebody in defending their home and their family during these times of crisis.

So my challenge to you was try to come up with like five items. What are five items, that if you were putting together ... whether it was just you and your family or maybe even just you, or you and your ... let's call it a survival team. We're going to get together and you were going to defend, whether your home or your neighborhood, but it was you were going to put in a defensive position. What is some of the stuff that would help you to do that? What kind of gear would help you in that defense? I'm pretty

much just throwing this out to you as a challenge, like, okay, give me five really cool things that people may not think about, but really should as part of their plan. So we're just going to kind of go down this as like okay, what's item number one when it comes to really good defense gear for preppers?

Chad Cooper:

Well, I like what you said, "when people are putting together their plan." I think that's number one, but I don't want to use that as my number one thing, but you need to have a plan.

So many people think, "Well, I've got a gun. That's checked off my list." Well, have you gotten training on how to use it? How do you actually around with a rucksack on your back and have that gun [engaged to 00:05:13] man-like targets? Or did all you do is go down to the range, set up a nice bench, practice your breathing, and slowly pull the trigger when no one's shooting back at you.

So there's lot of different types of weapons. Pistols, rifles, and you had mentioned previously pepper spray. There's all different types of weapons, even hand-to-hand. Your hands can be a weapon.

So my number one thing I would say is yes, a weapon, but not only that, I would pair it would information and training about the weapon and how to use it. So that's one of the things that I've done over the last three years now. I've worked with some really fantastic special forces guys, Navy Seals, Army Rangers, and even some [inaudible 00:06:05] type stuff with the government.

But we provide training for those who want to get that type of training. It's not just military type training, but this is all of the things that we offer are geared toward the civilian that wants to survive a collapse type situation. All of our trainers are of the same mindset. So the tips they're going to have would be ... the types of things that they're going to teach you, they're not going to be like, "Okay, now's the part where you call in the artillery. Call in the artillery strike." It's not going to be like that.

At least biannually ... the last year we've done, I believe, three trainings. We have one more coming up next month, where we teach people the basic, I guess, infantry type skills. How to conduct a patrol, how to surveil an area, just techniques that you might not know. Then we do live fire scenarios where we put simunitions into the gun and actually make two teams and fight back and forth. We'll create these scenarios. It's invaluable training. The first one that I did like that, where it was a force on force situation, was about four and a half years ago. My mind was

blown, because I thought I understood tactics, but when somebody's shooting back at you, it just changes the way you approach a situation. So I think that type of experience is phenomenal.

So yeah, my number one is a weapon, and how to use it in a real type of situation, and getting that expert knowledge on how to use it.

Jeff Anderson: Yeah, especially in these scenarios, because you're right, most people when they're going to ... they get a firearm. Even if it's an AR-15 or something, and they're going to the range, but you know ... I live in Texas, right? They almost issue you a firearm when you cross the border and decide to become a resident. Even so, it's still relatively hard to find that kind of training where it's tactical driven, it's not just how close can you get your shot group on your AR, is it zeroed right, do you have the right scope, and things like that, it's really about the tactics. Most people are just dealing with one-on-one tactics.

When we're talking about prepper defense, you might be in a situation where you're facing a mob. You might be facing ... There could be a protest that's going on because there is no infrastructure, and people are tired of being hungry, and they need to protect their families. So it's not going to be you versus a single robber in a parking lot, it could be you with 20 people outside of your house that are saying, "It's not fair that you have food and we don't. Give it up or we're burning the house down," sort of a thing.

So you're right, I mean, we're talking about very specialized training to back up the weapons that everybody's so fond of. So okay, that's item number one. That totally [makes sense 00:09:00][crosstalk 00:09:00].

Chad Cooper: That's number one, and just to piggyback on that, sometimes ... if you have a hammer, you see very problem as a nail. So you want to use your weapon if that's all you've got. We do this one scenario, it's fantastic, it's called The Hooded Box. We put this hood over the person going through this scenario, can't see anything. He's got a weapon, and it's a simunition so he can actually shoot somebody with it and not kill them. He doesn't know what the scenario's going to be when we pull the hood off of him. It might be just be friendly people, it might be guys aiming guns at him, it might be escalate. He has to make a decision real, real quick. He can't think about ... He's just got to react. We do this at the end of the ... it's kind of the capstone exercise, but it's a really, really good thing.

I'll just plug my good friend Scott Wheeling. He's the owner of Briggs Core Dynamics. He's my main guy when we go to do the training and things

like that. It's a good, good time. We do training course in Texas, as well Indiana, and Arizona, California, and I've got other contacts. But yeah, it's a fantastic time.

Number two? You've got to sleep sometime. I know you want to get moving, so number two. You've got to sleep sometime. I've told somebody this before, I said, "Night vision is very, very important, because I could go up against, I would say, 20-30 people all by myself, as long as I had night vision and they didn't." Everybody has to sleep sometime. I could sleep during the day, and then harass them all night so long so that they're eventually worn down and they're never sleeping. I could pick them off. We've done scenarios. In fact, we do live training just like this with the night vision where we conduct a raid. It's super easy. It's like shooting fish in a barrel.

You're much, much more safer at night conducting operations, because nobody else can see you, and then if somebody else is out at night, if the mob's out at night, if there's looters running around, you can see them and they don't necessarily think that you can see them. I think night vision is the number one force multiplier after having a rifle. It's a huge force multiplier.

Not just night vision, but you have to have a way to aim your rifle or your weapon with that night vision. You might look at some sort of laser optic or a night optic that works in conjunction with the night vision. But it all comes down to using and then training, once again.

I think rifles and night vision are the two biggest things that you can have in a collapse type situation. Not necessarily that you're going to be killing somebody, but you've got the force to protect yourself and your family if it comes down to that.

Jeff Anderson:

Yeah, that's [interesting 00:12:01]. I mean, I think pretty much everybody has seen visions of soldiers in Iraq or Afghanistan and going around and they have night vision. It's part of what you have as your gear as your soldier, and there's a reason for that. You're on a mission where you're defending yourself or you are going ... you know, you're on a mission, you have a purpose there, and nighttime is when you have advantage.

Now, the enemy has the advantage also. If you're on a battlefield, a traditional battlefield, you can pretty much be assured that the enemy has night vision also. You've got to be much more cautious there. But in the civilian situation like we're talking like this, like after a collapse, most

people are not going to have that, right? So again, we're talking about advantages here.

So it's advantages if you have the right kind, not just the weapon, but if you have the right kind of weapons specific to this type of a scenario, like a .22 pocket pistol is not necessarily going to hold off a mob. So having the right weapon, having night vision, gives you another advantage. So this is all stacking up in people's favor.

What's item number three that you recommend people for prepper defense gear?

Chad Cooper:

So this kind of goes in ... so I've got three top categories. One is security. You can't eat, you can't drink, you can't have shelter if you don't have security. If you lose your security, you lose everything. So for me, security is first and foremost. So having a weapon helps you create security. Having night vision gives you that edge so you can see [further out 00:13:44].

So my number three is going to be information. So how do you get information? It can come in the form of communication. So hand radios, television, cell phones, all the way to doing foot patrols with binoculars to be able to see over the next hill. What's going on in the neighborhood just to east of you? Is there looting in that neighborhood or is it safe? Have neighbors started fighting amongst themselves over cans of beans in that neighborhood, because if it's in their neighborhood, it's probably coming to yours.

It gives you that extra edge to be prepared for what's coming. Maybe you don't want to stay, maybe your plan is to ... wow, this is a huge mob of 100 people, there's no way that we're going to stand a chance whatsoever. The best course of action right now is to retreat or to hide or to go to someplace different. But you wouldn't know to do that unless you had that foreknowledge. So information is key.

Maybe setting up a network of friends that are all on the same radio channel if you've got walkie-talkies or things like that. Even rewinding a little bit further back, but information. Knowing where you think the mobs are going to be coming from. Are they coming from the Section 8 housing, are they going to be coming from the city? How close are you to a highway? If you had to flee, are you going to get on that highway, or are you going to take back roads? If Google is down, if your cell phone network's not working, do you have the maps to know where to go? So communication and planning foreknowledge information is key.

So information is my number three. It encompasses so much, but you just have to have that information to be able to make a decision.

Jeff Anderson:

Spoken like a true intelligence specialist. Yeah, no, we have talked about that before, like where not just thinking about the ... like the further out you can push your perimeter. We talked about detect, delay, defend, right? So the further out you can detect something, the better, more time you have to be able to prepare a defense, the sooner you can make contact with somebody to be able to prevent them getting through. There's the element of surprise in there, as well. You don't want to be surprised, and the further out you can do that.

So the further out you can push that perimeter, and that doesn't necessarily even mean physical. Like you say, if you have communication, then you can go even like the next town, or depending on how far people go. I know we have some people that are like ham radio operators. Most people aren't, and it's obviously a very involved process to get there, but even just having some sort of a communication network with the next town or the next block or the next whatever, helps you to kind of get that intel as soon as possible so that you can put in those delay and defend mechanisms as well to kind of keep your families safe. So that's awesome.

Okay, what's item number four?

Chad Cooper:

Okay, so I think it's important ... everyone has a different situation. Not everybody is in a family situation, not everybody lives in Texas where they know the lay of their land. You might be somewhere else. Your scenario might be different. Maybe you're at work when it goes down, and you've got to get back to your family.

So after you have your personal defense weapon, you need to have some sort of way to sustain yourself. So this is super easy, no brainer type stuff, but you need to have food, you need to have water. You need to have a way to sustain yourself so you're not going out and foraging. You don't want to be out with the looters, you know what I mean? If there's roving gangs out there, the safest place for you to be is where they're not.

So if you only have a short, small amount of food and water in your house, there may come a time where you have to go out and start foraging. You're going to be putting yourself in danger, and if you're in danger, who's going to defend your family? So having a decent supply of food and water inside your house, I think, is very important.

Not just ... so say we had to flee, because that was one of our scenarios. If you had to flee, do you have those high density calorie foods that you can take with you? Do you have a way to purify water? So you could use ... you guys right now, you're using boiling. You can boil water, you can treat it chemically, or you can filter it, but you need to have a way to get food and get water, no matter what situation you're in. So I think those are a category that needs to be definitely planned out and implemented when the time comes.

Jeff Anderson: Yeah, and if you're ... I mean, look, I'm assuming people are out there more prepared than most people when it comes to stockpiling some food and having a way to water. So if you're looking for food, you can pretty much be sure that the general population is looking for food, too. So you're essentially going to the same places to look for it that they are, and that's where we see most of these fights happen. In some cases, even attacks happen when you're at these positions of resupply, whether it's a gas station, whether it's the grocery store, whether it is a water distribution point, those are the areas where people that are in the most need are going to be in one location. When you get that kind of group mind think going, it only takes one person to spark off things getting way out of control. So I know most people would think about, "Well, you just don't go to those locations," and that's true, if you follow the advice you just gave, like if you don't have to go out. So good stuff.

Okay, so what is item number five on prepper defense gear?

Chad Cooper: Okay, so item number five. I'm going to plug body armor here. I'm saying it last for a reason. I've had lots of people come to me and they say, "Chad, how do I get prepared? What do I need to do?" and I'll go through a list of things. The first thing a prepper ... when a person wakes up and they're like, "Oh my gosh, I need to be prepared, because I think we're in danger." It's kind of like somebody wakes up and they realize this. I don't tell them first thing, "Go buy body armor." Typically, it starts out on the Glenn Beck spectrum, I call it, and they work their way slowly towards Alex Jones spectrum, so on the other end of the spectrum.

Jeff Anderson: [crosstalk 00:20:32]

Chad Cooper: I tell people, you know, let's start with food, build a three day supply, build a month's supply. Get a weapon, get the training, get night vision, have a way to purify water. Then at the other end, once you've checked pretty much all of the no-brainer boxes off, I say, "Well, okay, what's left?" You can look at things like gas masks, you can look at iodine for nuclear attacks and things like that, and then body armor. I kind of put it

in that category because most people aren't infantry type. They're not going to be out conducting those types of operations.

But body armor does increase your probability of survival. It just does. So even if you're planning to stay in your house, if somebody's outside, I want my body armor on in that type of a situation. They probably have a weapon. Bullets go through walls.

I want that extra protection, not just for me, but I want it for my family, too. I want it for my kids. I want it for my wife. Yes, I'm going to be at the front. I'm the tip of the spear, but bullets don't know that. So I want protection for them.

We use body armor when we're traveling. Say we do need to bug out, or we have to go to the water source down by the pond that's a mile away, or something like that. We're wearing body armor, whether we're walking, whether we're driving, we have body armor.

You don't just have to wear it, you could put it in the sides of the doors. Say you have an infant or a young child, they're not going to wear body armor, but you can put it along the sides of doors to protect against bullets coming in.

People say, "Well, body armor, that's for military type stuff," but I think there's so many situations where it just makes sense for civilians. Then the last thing that people tell me, they say, "Well, should I get side body armor?" I always tell people, and this circles back to, "If you have it, you have options." Say you never put it on, but you have that option to put it on. If you don't have it, you don't have that option. I'm a big fan of options when it comes to my survival. I want to have a plan, and I want that plan to have options in case I need to [inaudible 00:22:50]. I'd rather have it and not need than wish I had it.

Jeff Anderson:

Yeah, that's a great idea also, to have it on the inside of the vehicle as well, or if you don't want to wear it, obviously. We've talked about that in the past. Do you stack up telephone books? I don't even know where you would go to find giant telephone books these. But basically, we've talked about do you stack those up on the inside of your minivan, of your soccer van? So that's a really ... I hadn't really thought about just taking the gear and then having a way to hang it there so it provides some bulletproof protection on the sides there where you can take it and put it on if you need to. Most people aren't maybe so gung-ho that they're going to be wearing body armor around, but again, given the situation, you might be at that level, depending upon what you're doing, where you're going,

where you are makes total sense. So that's interesting, awesome. Yeah, cool.

Alright, well those are five really cool items, man. Listen, I know obviously you've got Infidel Body Armor is your website, right? So you have body armor over there. There's a lot of other cool stuff there, too, that I think a lot of people don't think about. I'll leave that as an open question mark for people. Guys, definitely go over and check it out.

Actually, Chad's site is one of the few that they're not just product dealers. Chad really believes in this stuff. He writes about this stuff, he's got a great newsletter, he's got a really good blog. So there's really good training that they have over there. So it's more than just, "Here's the body armor." Definitely go check it out.

Chad, we're going to have you back on, man. This is a really cool topic. I love this topic, especially I'm a gear junkie just like every other person as well. So I love to get new ideas on all this stuff. Awesome, I appreciate you taking some time with us today. For everybody else out there, listen, go over, check it out, Chad and his training, www.infidelbodyarmor.com. Until our next Modern Combat and Survival broadcast, this is Jeff Anderson saying prepare, train, and survive.