

Escape and Evasion an old military game

By Joseph Parish

Pick up one of your local newspapers, or tune in to the evening news broadcast and you may begin to realize that America is quickly approaching a possible time of collapse. With that thought in mind it just may be a good time to escape, and evade danger. We stand now on the verge of martial law, economic collapse, widespread rioting, and overall lawlessness. At this point anything can take place. Voter fraud could push the nation to the point of civil war, or we may even see a Chinese flag blowing in the wind over the White House. Anything is possible. Perhaps the powers to be may deem it appropriate that certain American citizens should be incarcerated in FEMA built concentration camps – it could be the Nazi agenda all over again. Now I think you are getting the idea as to why escape and invasion training is so important. I am not saying it is impossible to escape once the enemy captures you, however, it often proves more difficult, therefore in this article I am concentrating on evasion to prevent that capture.

How well I remember the escape and invasion training I was subjected to in my 1966 basic training. No one ever wanted to get caught, as even though the opposing team could not hurt you in any way, they could certainly make life difficult for you. First, they would strip you of all your clothing, and then slowly subject you to an ice water bath. Not pleasant at all, and all you could do is take it, and think about what you forgot to do to prevent capture. I have always found that adaptability to my environment is a major plus in surviving. Here is a short refresher to keep in mind when the SHTF.

We had been instructed to place as much distance between ourselves, and the opposing team as we could, thus from the start we “ran”. From the moment the TI said go, we did not walk away, we ran as if our lives depended on it. Our goal was to run in such a direction where we could locate a measure of safety, whether it be meeting up with our other team members, or hiding in some hidden area where we could wait out our time until the exercise was completed. In a real-life apocalyptic scenario, we would likely keep on running until we found safe harbor. Movement is what will keep you alive. Use concealment aids to your advantage. Such tools include darkness, dust, ground cover, haze, inclement weather, and smoke, as opportunities to avoid capture. All movement should be erratic in nature to prevent the enemy from anticipating your movements, and preparing accordingly. You may wish to change directions often, employing back-tracking, deliberate misdirection, and erratic travel patterns. Your primary goal should be to place distance, terrain, and time between you, and those pursuing you. Speed is essential.

While traveling away from your pursuers avoid penetrating barriers which can be circumnavigated or avoided, as the followers are sure to know these are there, and plan accordingly. Also avoid bridges, culverts, trestles, or tunnels as your escape route. Never underestimate your enemy.

Remember, in the back of your mind, the enemy in this kind of a situation was not going to subject us to ice water, but a fate much worse. Keep in mind that when the SHTF, you automatically enter a hostile environment.

Always try to blend into your environment. Camouflage yourself any way that you can. If you have a ghillie suit, by all means use it. If you do not have a premade suit, attach natural foliage such as grass or leaves to your clothing. This breaks the natural

outline of your clothing and makes you one with mother nature. Rub mud and dirt on your skin. Cover anything on you that might reflect light. Be aware of your surroundings. This is something that I have taught in my survival classes for years. In a jungle, or woodland environment pay attention to the movements of the nearby animals, or the sudden flight of birds as they are telling you there are others nearby.

They taught us, in the military, the value of covering our trail to stop, or at least slow down our pursuers. The harder you make it for them to follow you, the better off you will be. In real life these trackers will continue to search you out, after all what more do, they have to do? Foremost, in this respect is to cover your footprints. Perhaps even walk off the normal paths, so it becomes more difficult for the enemy to find your footprints. You can often buy yourself a few extra minutes by using streams to cover your tracks. Even if they employ dogs this procedure frequently confuses them as well, at least for a few minutes. Another good way to avoid the tracker is to walk on rocks and hard surfaces where no footprints can be seen.

Another vital consideration is leaving no trace. If you are eating an energy bar keep that wrapper with you, and avoid dropping anything on the ground. If nature calls while you are in retreating, bury it, as you do not want to leave a calling card that you were there. If at all possible, avoid making fires while escaping. The smell, and sight of the fire can pinpoint your direction, and determine how close the trackers are to you. in the event you decide you simply must have a fire, be sure to bury it when you are finished with it.

These are only a few of the hints that can make it difficult for those tracking you when escape and invasion is necessary. Remember in a real-life scenario it is not a game, and the pursuers can, and will harm you, often killing you. Learn all you can while you are

able too. The skillsets which you learn now before the SHTF will determine if you will survive later.