The most effective home defense strategies

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1. Home Defense for Preppers

I never expected to become a prepper. In fact, I never expected a lot of things that I went through in my life. When I came back from the Vietnam War, I thought I’d be able to settle down to a nice quiet life with my family. After all, I’d put my time in and served my country; even going to war.

I’d helped train up the next generation of fighters. Now it was someone else’s turn. I hung up my uniform for the last time, leaving all that behind to try my hand at being a civilian.

You’ve got to understand; the call of duty was strong in me. My ancestors have been fighting this country’s wars since my great-great-great-great-
great-great-granddad put on an Indian suit and became one of the “Indians” in the Boston Tea Party. That’s a tradition that’s hard to set aside. But I figured one war was enough for me. The last thing I wanted to do was spend any more time away from my family.

So, I settled down, bought a house and found a civilian job in the town I’d grown up in. It was nice going back home, although home wasn’t quite how I’d remembered it. Things were changing, and not for the better. Kids were dropping out of school, crime was up, and morals were down. It seemed like nobody cared about anything anymore. It looked to me like there were more drug addicts and gang members than there were cops to go after them. I asked myself over and over, “What is the world coming to?”

I’ll have to confess that I really blew it on the house I’d bought. I grew up in an area of town that wasn’t really the best. In fact, it was downright lousy. Not too far from us, there was another area that I’d always liked. I remember when I was a kid, telling myself that someday; I’d have a house in that neighborhood.

Well, with a little help from Uncle Sam, I was able to buy a house in that neighborhood, so I did. I was actually impressed with how inexpensive the houses were. I guess that should have set some alarm bells off in my head, but it didn’t. Maybe when I hung up my soldier suit I’d hung up my soldier’s instincts to go with it. Boy, was that a mistake. You see, I’d just moved from one combat zone to another, without even realizing it.
3. The Right Defensive “Attitude”

Let’s talk about attitude for a moment. If you don’t have the right attitude, you’re not going to be able to protect yourself, let alone protect your family. Attitude can make a huge difference in your ability to act when the time comes. In fact, if you don’t have the right attitude, you probably won’t act; becoming a victim, rather than a victor.

Military organizations, especially elite units like Special Forces, have learned the value of attitude. In fact, often what makes the difference between elite units and regular units is to tell the soldiers that they are elite, then wait for them to live up to their expectations of themselves.
Having an arsenal in your home, but not being ready mentally and emotionally to kill is worthless.

There’s an old saying about firearms safety, which says: “Never point a gun at someone unless you’re planning on using it.” We can add another important saying to it, which says: “Never shoot at someone, unless you’re planning on killing them.” While these sayings were written about using guns, they apply to all weapons, not just guns. So, by putting them together, we get: “Never grab any weapon to use, unless you are ready to kill someone with it.”

That’s an important attitude to have. Let me be clear here. Anyone who comes to attack your home isn’t coming to play patty cake with you. They are coming to do you harm. The best that you can expect from them is that they beat you to a pulp, throw you out in the street, and steal everything you have. On top of that, you can probably add that they’ll rape your wife and daughter, along with putting a couple of bullets into your brain.

You can’t talk to people like that; you can’t reason with them, and you can’t ask them to leave. Your only options are to give them everything you have, realizing that they won’t be satisfied with what you give them, but still want more, or you can fight. If you chose to fight, you have to fight to win.

What does win mean in this context? In reality there’s probably no such thing as a complete victory. Rather, what you’re looking for is for them to leave and leave you alone. That doesn’t mean that they’ll leave forever, just that they leave for the moment. You can pretty much count on them coming back sometime; and when they do, they’ll come back with more people and better weapons.
Of course, if you kill them, you don’t have to worry about them coming back. One of the major reasons why they hung people in the Old West was that dead people can’t commit any crimes. While society has supposedly gotten more “civilized” since then, criminals haven’t. If anything, they’ve learned how to be more effective criminals.

Actually, you don’t need to kill everyone who comes to attack you. In any mob there will be a couple of leaders, a bunch of people who are willing to follow them and a few that would rather not be there. If you can identify those leaders and deal with them, it will usually be enough. Once they are out of the picture, the rest of the group will leave you alone, at least until another leader comes along. Then you might see the same group back again.

3.1 Legal Risks in Defending Yourself

I need to clarify something here. While defending your family is your right as an American citizen and your responsibility as a person, you need to be careful of more than bullets. Just because society breaks down at some point in time, doesn’t mean that it will stay broken down.
8. Self-Defense

Everything we’ve talked about up to this point are passive defenses. They are the things which you put into place, which don’t require any action on your part to work. Although I’ve mentioned shooting the attackers several times, the focus has been on these passive defense.

There is no such thing as a passive defense system. All that it can do is delay your attackers, allowing you the chance that you need to react. That’s valuable, as without that chance, you may end up dead before you have a chance to react.

But, at some point in time, you’re going to have to take up arms to provide some active defense of your home. In other words, you’re going to have to shoot back.

Being able to shoot back effectively requires much more than just knowing how to get a good sight picture and squeeze the trigger. We talked about attitude earlier, which is an incredibly important part of the process; but even having the right attitude isn’t enough. In addition to the mechanics of shooting the gun and the mental preparation to be able to take another
human life, you also need to prepare yourself for what the Army calls “fire and maneuver.”

You see, fighting is about much more than just shooting. Your enemies aren’t going to stand still like paper targets for you, waiting for you to get a good sight picture and squeeze off your shot. They’re going to be moving around, hiding behind things and trying to find a way to punch your ticket, before you can punch theirs. They’ll likely come from directions you don’t expect and do things you don’t expect them to do, even with your carefully prepared obstacles and traps.
9. Other Considerations

As you can see from all that we’ve covered so far, there’s a lot to do to properly protect your home. On top of all this, the whole situation is complicated by trying to avoid making your home look like an armed camp. I’ve often thought of how much easier it would be to protect my home if I didn’t have to keep it looking like a normal home in suburbia. Of course, having an unlimited budget to work with would be nice as well.

You and I face the same challenge that an infantry platoon leader faces on their first field training exercise. We know the theory, but we have to put it into practice. We’ve got to take all the myriad of details that we learned in Infantry Officer’s Basic and put them together into a defensive plan that will protect our troops (family). We’ve only go tone chance to get it right, because unlike that second lieutenant on a training exercise our troops don’t get back up and quit playing dead when it’s all over.
There are a few other important issues that I want to bring up, which I think are an important part of your home defense preparations.

### 9.1 Personal Body Armor

Pretty much everything we’ve talked about has been from the viewpoint of you shooting at whoever is trying to attack your home. You won’t be the only one shooting though. You can be assured that whoever is trying to attack you will be shooting as well, and they won’t care about what God or the law says about murder.

You’re the defender here, which actually puts you at a disadvantage. The attacker can always choose the time of attack, which gives them the advantage. To counter this, you need to do everything you can to develop a defensive plan that covers everything you can come up with, even the unlikely. You also need to buy a few seconds of time, in order to put your plan into effect. That’s why we talked so much about having a layered defense and defense in depth; to buy you that time.
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