

Military, Law Enforcement News, and More...

A local planning lesson from a potential fight in Finland; Citizens encouraged to take interest in national defense

By Jim Shepherd
From The Outdoor Wire

Recently, the U.S. media “broke” a story reporting Finland planned to open 300 new shooting ranges in an attempt to “encourage” citizens to take a greater interest in national defense. The reasoning? Increased threats from Russia. Serious enough that their government is working to beef up shooting skills to the level as when citizens were doing their mandated national army service. Service standards have been modified to accept diabetics and the government’s encouraging more women to join, too. Sweden’s Security Service says Russia poses a real “threat to territorial security” with their decision to join NATO. Sweden and Finland have stepped up military preparedness. Sweden says Russia’s a “threat to territorial security” while the Finnish Army (shown) has opened service requirements as part of their preparation for potential hostilities. Finnish Army photo with permission. The Russians aren’t happy that Sweden has dropped two centuries of military non-alignment following the Russian invasion of the Ukraine. This may sound like paranoia to us, but Finland has -quietly- been preparing for some time. Late last year, a friend sent me a brochure called “Home Preparedness Advice” that had been distributed there. Its purpose was to provide “basic survival guidelines in the event of crisis or war.” He also told me it was a “direct lift” from a similar guide distributed in Sweden.



Sweden and Finland have stepped up military preparedness. Sweden says Russia’s a “threat to territorial security” while the Finnish Army (shown) has opened service requirements as part of their preparation for potential hostilities. (Finnish Army photo with permission).

It/they read(s) like a standard disaster peppers guidebook, complete with a checklist of the things necessary disaster survival- natural or manmade. The lists are broken out by: Food, Water, Shelter (Warmth), Communications and “Other”. The foodstuffs aren’t things you’d find advertised in a restaurant. Cheese spread and “other spreads in tubes” might not

sound appetizing in normal circumstances, but this guide isn’t for tourists. The advice offered is to help urban or rural residents get through tough times until services -or order- could be restored. As Americans, we routinely ignore threats that European nations take seriously. That’s not entirely due to our military prowess (although it’s still pretty awesome). We are nowhere as

close to external hostile threats as our European friends. Substitute “Russia” for “Kentucky” - only sixty or so miles from our Tennessee home and you have a more “Scandinavian” perspective on the proximity of a real non-natural disaster threat. We’re not prepping for armed conflict in our neighborhood, but we are making preparations for our spring/summer storm season. Killer tornadoes in three consec-

utive springs have motivated us to take preparations for severe weather a bit more seriously. And our prep list doesn’t really look that different from the Finnish survival list. Food, water, shelter and communications are essentials - whatever the emergency. We’re no strangers to severe weather, but the storms across the south aren’t the only weather related emergencies. So, too, are

some of the other things we normally take for granted. Lighting, for example, doesn’t seem to be much of a concern until the lights go out. At that point, it’s a bit late to start wondering about batteries for flashlights or a means to charge the myriad of devices we use for everything from communications to navigation. The “wait-and-see” position was abandoned long ago in our home. If anything, we have more secondary power devices than most. A combination compressor/battery jumper box capable of multiple charges of phones, iPads and the wi-fi card that would make them from pleasant distractions into viable communication tools sits on permanent charge in the garage. In the small addition to our house (which could serve as temporary quarters should the power stay out for long) we have a secondary power supply that can be charged via solar if necessary. And there’s our ultimate bug-out bag. It’s parked in secure storage less than a half-mile from our house. The RV that is stored is kept fueled, batteries charged (via solar trickle charging on the roof) and propane tanks filled. That not only makes it ready-to-go should we want to take a last-second camping trip, it gives us a fully-capable charging station and short-term home should disaster strike. Time spent “boondocking” has shown it’s a far better way to shelter than any tent, much less a powerless home. Experience has taught us that in an emergency there are few more calming things than a hot shower and comfortable place to sleep. A kitchen, refrigerator, hot water and a functioning bathroom are all luxuries that we take for granted.

In an emergency, the RV also has the outboard capabilities to keep the refrigerator/freezer going in the house. It won’t run the HVAC or other major systems, but keeping food from spoiling extends the length of time between your family situation going from inconvenient to unsustainable. Now- when you’re not under the pressure of an emergency- is the time to ask the basic questions about food, water, shelter, medications, and all the things we take for granted. Looking for batteries for your flashlight during a power failure definitely is not. If you’re new to the idea of being prepared, you’re not alone. And you’re not without resources, either. The American Red Cross has a general Preparedness Checklist that can get you headed in the right direction. From there, you can get additional information specific to your part of the country. Preparedness is never a bad idea. We’ll keep you posted.

Gov. Bill Lee visits TN National Guard soldiers ahead of deployment to U.S. southern border

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Tennessee Governor Bill Lee recently visited Tennessee National Guard soldiers at the Millington Tennessee Army National Guard Armory ahead of their deployment to the Nation’s Southern border in the wake of the most severe border crisis the United States has experienced in decades. “America continues to face an unprecedented border crisis, and people across the nation are experiencing the devastating consequences of rising crime, drug trafficking and human trafficking,” said Gov. Bill Lee. “Governors are working together, taking immediate action to do what the federal government won’t do, and that is secure our border. I commend Tennessee’s National Guard troops for answering this important call to service and providing critical support.” Last month, Gov. Lee committed to deploying two waves of state active-duty soldiers to Texas to assist in their efforts. As the Tennessee Department of



Gov. Bill Lee gives Tennessee National Guards a grand farewell as they head for the U.S. southern border to protect Americans. (Photo/Courtesy: TN Governor Office).

Military continues to coordinate with Texas to determine areas of greatest need, this is the first deployment of approximately 50 Tennessee National Guard members who volunteered to

join “Operation Lone Star.” Tennessee has a long history of supporting Texas in efforts to secure the border. While the current administration has attacked and sued Texas for stepping up to

protect American citizens amid the continued spike in illegal crossings, human trafficking, and trafficking of deadly drugs like fentanyl, Tennessee has stood in the gap to provide resources.

“America continues to face an unprecedented border crisis, and people across the nation are experiencing the devastating consequences of rising crime, drug trafficking and human trafficking,” said Gov. Bill Lee. “Governors are working together, taking immediate action to do what the federal government won’t do, and that is secure our border. I commend Tennessee’s National Guard troops for answering this important call to service and providing critical support.”

Gov. Lee was joined by First Lady Maria Lee, U.S. Congressman David Kustoff, Sen. Ed Jackson, Sen. Brent Taylor, Rep. Chris Hurt, Rep. Debra Moody, and Rep. Chris Todd.

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- 2021 – Daniel Defense – Firearms manufacturer
- 2021 – Darryl Worley – Country music artist
- 2020 – Gov. Mike Huckabee – former Arkansas Governor & TV host (HUCKABEE on TBN)
- 2019 – Donnie Mingo – former CEO Team Construction
- 2019 – William Horton – Nashville businessman
- 2019 – Judy Seale – founder of Stars for Stripes

2018 – Chris Young – Country music artist & Grand Ole Opry member

About The Charlie Daniels Journey Home Project

The Charlie Daniels Journey Home Project (TCDJHP) is a not-for-profit organization that assists other not-for-profits in securing funds to help causes that benefit veterans of the United States Armed Forces. The organization was co-founded in 2014 by the late country music legend Charlie Daniels and his manager, David Corlew. Board members

include Corlew, Major General Terry "Max" Haston (retired), and Hazel Daniels, most recently in 2020. Conscious of the need to assist our nation's veterans, TCDJHP partners with organizations that do the most good with the least overhead. Working in tandem with these organizations, TCDJHP is making a difference in the lives of American patriots. TCDJHP’s daily operations rely solely on public donations.

For more information or to donate, visit thecharliedanielsjourneyhomeproject.org.

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