

# Selco Survival Series | Survival Communities Webinar

July 12, 2020

**Daisy Luther** 00:03

I'm so glad that you guys could make it here today. I'm really happy that you've joined us to talk about survival communities. This is a hot topic in the survival and preparedness world. And Selco and Toby are here to dispel some myths and give you all sorts of information. So we'll start with Selco. Let me just introduce him although I think pretty much everyone here knows about him. Selco survived the Balkan War of the 90s in a city under siege with no electricity, running water, or food distribution. Selco really provides a reality check on incredibly harsh conditions and people who have been put to the test and today you have the chance to learn from him about survival communities.

**Daisy Luther** 00:59

My co-host is Toby. He has an extensive background in the military emergency services and risk management and business continuity. He combines those skills with wilderness and urban survival skills. Toby will help expand on personal safety and security and a crossover of military skills to the average civilian.

**Daisy Luther** 01:21

I am the founder and editor of the organic prepper website where I write about survival, preparedness and the pursuit of liberty. I have written for this community for about 10 years now and I have 14 books to kids and I travel a lot, although not recently. So we're just gonna jump right in. Everybody is prepping now and getting ready for negative events. Survival communities are an extremely important topic as Selco will attest. And really, there is no better time than right now to start working with others regarding survival communities and teaming up and things like that. So let's talk about that Toby. Why now?

**Toby** 02:23

Listening to let you know, first of all, welcome. Thank you, Daisy for organizing this event. Very excited to be talking about this. There's gonna be some slight time delays on handover because we're working with muted mics to reduce any background noise. So please forgive us just as like that happened. Now, when Daisy hands this over to me, it takes just a couple of seconds for me to unmute my mic and get on here.

**Toby** 02:44

Now the simple fact is, from the experience, Selco and I have had the last few years especially in the physical courses where we get to discuss things in a lot more detail because

you're face to face with people the biggest hurdle or barrier to the small community discussion, has literally been right at the beginning, it's like how do you even broach that topic? How do you kind of go to work or to a social setting or with friends or family and start to sort of broach or broach the subject? And the fact is that the sort of, if we look at it in a positive manner, the greatest gift 2020 has given us right now is the normalization of that conversation, not just because the pandemic that in and of itself was enough, but just because of everything, everything that's happening through 2020.

**Toby** 03:32

It's just really mainstreamed that conversation about what's going on. How do you prepare for it? Where is all this going? What are you going to do? How bad is it going to get? And so once we can actually start that conversation, it makes it much easier to continue and start to pick up some of the details or assess people's mindsets or, or dispositions.

**Toby** 03:51

So, the reason we've actually tackled this topic today, which is a big one, survival communities are a tough topic to take on. It's because you realize that we're in a unique opportunity to actually seize on this conversation and move things forward not only personally, but also professionally. People within their workplaces are having these conversations, within management structure, within head office structures. You know, so many things are changing, it's just forcing this conversation to occur. And we can capitalize on that. So that's the big difference that's happened through this year than previously. And I'll hand back to Daisy.

**Daisy Luther** 04:26

Yes. Now, Selco, you have mentioned that survival community questions are asked you constantly. Can you talk a little bit more about that?

**Selco** 04:41

Yes, of course, first. Hello to everybody. And welcome here to this webinar. It is very popular question and people asked me, asked me about, let's say, lone wolf versus group or community building, community survival. It is very popular question I can say it is almost popular like other topic of caliber. And there is always what which caliber you is best to use in survival time. And I can only say there is a same amount of misconception about this topic of community building, let's say. So prepper fear is full of misconception about this. And I can say that, in essence, I can say that foundations about group building and groups or communities against lone wolf survival are built wrong right on the beginning, and that's the actually going to be the topic of this webinar.

**Daisy Luther** 06:02

Great. So moving on here, we always like to start with a definition just to make sure that we're all on the same page. As Toby likes to say, words have meaning and meaning is important. So today when we're talking about community, we're meaning the definition that you see here on your screen: a group of people with a common characteristic or interest living together within a larger society. And that's Merriam Webster's definition. Toby, do you have anything to add to that?

**Toby** 06:47

The multiple definitions of this word, but what we're trying to encapsulate is two parts within this definition. It's the common interest and the larger society, because if you're in that exceptionally unique position, you can basically be a completely self contained community with no interaction with the outside world or dependency. Brilliant. But that is, you know, just simply not an option for most people. So it is always going to be this overbearing fact that your structure your community, your organization, is going to have to still be aware of and influenced by the larger society around it. So those are the two key takeaways from this definition that we want you to bear in mind as we continue this conversation.

**Daisy Luther** 07:35

Definitely, and a lot of people call it a survival group instead of a survival community. But there is a difference between the two. And let's talk a little bit about that guys.

**Selco** 07:52

Yes, I will start on the slide here. I can say right in the beginning, this is through all of these webinars, this is one of the most important questions that you need to answer or understand. It is distinguish between these two words community or group. Toby will expand on this in much more details, but I can say right right now, in this moment that during your survival, it is very important to understand which of those two you are belonging or which of these two words or terms you are using and building or belonging to the survival.

**Selco** 08:40

One more thing also to mention the here survival or SHTF scenario or event is as I always like to point out is very fluid. So, do not actually think that you might come into the situation that you are going to belong both of this through the survival event or that you might come into the position where you're building a group or the temporary base of the event or even building the group inside your community. It is very fluid. This, this slide here is important to understand, but do not, do not think that it is not going to be interchangeable. And do not think that it's not going to be a fluid through through the whole survival event. Toby, please, can you can you expand a bit more here on this?

**Toby** 09:44

Certainly no problem. So just to highlight in reference to the text that you see on your screens, if we're looking at the left hand column underneath community, what you're hopefully getting the impression of is there's a much more clearly defined sort of structure and organization. There is a procedural aspect to it. So this isn't the kind of loose affiliation of associates or friends that are kind of, you know, agreeing to help each other out. It's far more codified and quantified than that, as opposed to the group is, is that more loose formation, it's that kind of, you know, something's happening, and people are going to help each other out. But there's not necessarily longevity or commitment to a longer purpose or goal.

**Toby** 09:59

Now, again, we're still working a little bit with definitions. We can have a community and a community can come up with a specific mission or task that needs to be complete, a nominated group can go and do that. So kind of move out of the community to complete the task and come back in again. And so what we've got to be careful is that we understand and use these terms correctly. And we'll be doing that throughout this webinar. But also for you in your individual circumstances, or shall we say, group circumstances, kind of take that initial first look at what have you actually got. Are you a kind of loose coalition of friends and associates, in which case you'd be more of a survival group. Or you that more quantified, structured, codified community that don't get us wrong, a group is better than nothing.

**Toby** 11:13

But if you're in a group, it's important to understand that the the key part in that last section is a group can easily fall apart or disappear because there isn't necessarily that long term buying or that structure. So if you've got a group, hopefully this webinar will encourage you to take steps and measures to move that towards community. And what we should find in adversity or duress, the community actually strengthens. In that adversity it binds stronger together under unifying factors that got it formed in the first place. Whereas a group, typically as a disaster, or an event, prolongs or intensifies, runs the risk of falling apart more and more and more as it was never built to withstand that initial pressure.

**Toby** 11:57

Selco, I'm just going to check that you're happy with everything I've mentioned here. Do you want to add any points before we hand it back that to Daisy?

**Selco** 12:03

Yes, of course, thank you, I will add one or two examples here. Through my survival event two things that I survived in my time during the war, I had my community. It was a very tight community trusted community of family members and any some cases very close friends. But also I was able to form groups during or while performing some kind of tests. So for example, if I went out scavenging or looking for resources, many times I meet other people and let's say

make group with other people to finish that temporary task. But the important thing here is that was group and we were together for one night in some example It was group and those people I was always aware that those people were alive were had had very loose connection with me and even during that night members of that group can can become hostile to me that is that was group while community something else so you can have group or community actually, most probably you'll be you'll have if you're talking about serious survival event and prolonged one you will form groups not once many times but make sure to distinguish that from from community community something very, very different. Thank you.

**Daisy Luther** 13:41

Okay, so when we are having our discussion today, we're focusing more on communities than groups, and a healthy community ensures your well being and Toby is going to talk a little bit about the seven aspects of well being

**Toby** 14:00

So, what we're looking at is, is that larger picture that a healthy functional community should ensure all individuals within it are healthy and functional. And so they these seven aspects are quite simply the benchmark measurements or categories. For the definition of well big. Now, I just want to highlight something so as you go through them very quickly, point by point that you will have your pre disaster measure or disposition of well being. And then obviously, we have to accept that there's must be adaptability and change in, in a disaster situation. So we'll just run through these and highlight a couple of points on that.

**Toby** 14:40

So just starting, just go through this. We have social, emotional, physical, mental, financial, environmental, and spiritual. Now, just to pick a couple of those when we talk about financial now, and I'm almost sort of rolling my eyes because I'm saying that pre disaster situation whereas for most of us because the pandemic and its consequences, were already sort of in that disaster situation, but typically When we're talking financial, we're looking largely at monetary, you know, we're kind of looking at cash or credit, or the ability to secure the things that we need. Financial in a disaster could well be drifting more towards the barter and trade side of things. It's whatever has the perception or the actuality of value, to acquire the things we need, the category doesn't change. But the sort of the impetus or the meaning behind it, to a certain extent, might take, for example, spiritual and pre disaster time that might be assembling at a nominated building of worship, factoring in the social elements, and having that structure around your spirituality. Whereas spirituality within a disaster canvass, just be eating out some few minutes to find time to reflect, or to pray, or to consult text or whatever the case may be.

**Toby** 15:46

So the important thing here is twofold. One, just because you're in a stressful disaster situation doesn't mean we just kind of get to eliminate these things. These are the seven overall aspects of well being and so we need to ensure that being attended to. But the other thing is just because one aspect or just because something listed here isn't necessarily important to you, doesn't mean it isn't vital to somebody else. And that's, again back to healthy communities of this, this collective working together to ensure everybody's needs are being adequately met. We could put adequate in inverted commas to a certain point, of course, but I may classify myself not particularly spiritual person and not need to take much time out to address that. But that doesn't mean that isn't critically important to the well being of somebody else. Now, understanding this is the first step. But also having these discussions within your community or your group, depending on what your structure actually is, is an important consideration. And it's also linked in a little bit later on about like minded people and things like that. So one thing we forgot to mention the beginning the webinar, my apologies for that, that was on me, is not only we giving you recordings of this webinar, but we're actually going to be giving you a task sheet Along with some individual assignments to complete, and it will be things like going through this list and thinking which are the ones important to you and just making some brief reflective notes on that. And what's changed within the pandemic situation, just to get to really get these ideas into you. And to give you even some structure to kind of discuss that within with your spouses or loved ones, whatever the case may be, so be aware that documents can be coming through after the webinar via email from Daisy and I'm going to hand you back to Daisy now.

**Daisy Luther** 17:31

Great Now, something that we hear a lot in the survival and preparedness world is whether or not you should be part of a community or look at lone wolf survival community strive for all of the aspects Toby just described, understanding that there are highs and lows in each one and a lone wolf has no external support and is responsible entirely for their own well being. And no Selco, you have talked about some lone wolf survivors and how things went for them. Can you share a little bit more about that?

**Selco** 18:09

Yes, of course. This is another Great topic and serve our community. Actually community versus lone wolf. Yes. A lot of people first time I must point out something quite important here. A lot of people in prepping world actually think they are lone wolves. And I have I have a lot of comments from the people that actually I mentioned one example here that say they mentioned that they were lone wolves, but in reality, they had all logistics of one army behind behind our backs. That's not all, wolf. They're better on the one task at A lone wolf actual to have huge mature machinery, or let's call it community behind their backs, being a lone real lone wolf or one man alone during survival event.

**Selco 19:14**

I'm not going to say it is not possible because it is possible and I knew people who survived as lone wolves. So, it is possible, but it is much much harder than being a member of some community. There is many reasons why starting from the most simple tasks that you need to finish during your simple day, to to the most to the more advanced situation like for example, when you get sick and you are alone. So who's going to, to look for resources, who's going to guard your home who's going to do anything if you are sick? At the end who's going to take care about you? If you are if you are alone, so is it possible? Yes. But it is much much harder than then being a member of some community. And I must also point point out one thing here. A lot of people I believe a lot of people want actually to be a lone wolf. Lone wolves because it is kinda romantic for them. There is nothing nothing romantic of being alone during the serious survival event. It is very hard next to impossible so it is really pay off if you invest your your time and effort of building some kind of community or belonging to some kind of community. Daisy.

**Daisy Luther 21:00**

Excellent. Um, I think you covered a fair bit of this next slide actually on the last one. So I'm just going to move this to unless you have something to add, I'm going to move this to Toby, about defining your win, what is your goal? And that can really help you decide what type of survival is best for you.

**Toby 21:21**

Yes, certainly, just before I tackle that, I just want to do a quick summary on a couple of points in this slide, and expanding on what's helpful mentioned previously. We were constantly alluding to the intensity of life in a disaster situation in how arduous and long just the simplest of tasks become even if you've got a relatively comprehensive sort of off grid setup already established. You know, there's a reason we use the luxuries that we have access to because they are so efficient and time saving. And so with the absence of, you know, running water, electricity, laundry services, whatever the case may be, these things take Time. And there's a fatiguing aspect to that, because it's tasks we're not necessarily used to, as a time sensitivity to that, because it's something we're not used to time estimation sort of go off.

**Toby 22:12**

But couple that with the bullet point here, fourth bullet point on this is the common sense. And a lot of people will hit, you know, a number of tasks that they will perceive, I can imagine a disaster or a situation or grid down, that I'm gonna have to do this, this and this. But the fact is, if you've never pressure tested those ones, I've got no appreciation for how difficult it is. And to there's a huge amount of tasks that just get missed. Because you just, you know, there's so routine, so run in the middle, you just don't even think of them as additional separate tasks to be completed by yourselves individually or by a collective until such time as you're forced into

that. So the common sense aspect we're looking at here is when you're assessing your situation and moving forward for whatever you're preparing for, whatever whatever event, whatever situation, whatever timescale is very easy to overlook a lot of things. And part of what will encourage you to on the back of these webinars kind of again, sit down reflect a little bit on that as to the sub reality of your daily life and the amount of tasks you would need to complete depending on what's being interrupted. Okay?

**Toby 23:16**

Now, that leads us to the last point of this slide, which the goal orientation or define your win. Now, in the conversations we've had historically, with, with different people, students of the school, etc. They've kind of come with this, this discussion about some odd communities or survivor groups. And the objective is to form one or to join one. And that's it. Like they, they didn't think beyond that. It's like, Oh, so long as I so long as I make one or get in one that I'm good, and you need to be further, you're looking more long sighted than that, because you might get in the group or you might not. You might form a community where you might not you might form a community It doesn't really work out and then you're left with the sort of the what if scenario. So don't just look about the getting in, but it's about the sustainability. And maybe you even need to get out I mean, have you actually formulate in the back your mind a sort of extraction plan. If you feel this is a non functional or even worse, a toxic group, you know, if you just went all in right at the beginning, because that was your goal, you've now given yourself a far more comprehensive problem than you needed to. So defining your when for those of you attending this webinar, you obviously have this question in mind that you know, you want to gain access to community or at the lower level, a group, but just give yourself pause to thought and think a little bit beyond that and to define your win as to what you hope to achieve with those activities. Hopefully, that makes sense. Daisy, I'm going to hand it back to you just for clarity if needed.

**Daisy Luther 24:50**

No, that was very clear. I like that. Okay, so what a lot of people ask is where on earth they're going to find a whole bunch of prepper To form a community with so finding like minded people can be really difficult because, you know, I believe I read that about 3% of Americans consider themselves preppers. But a lot of times you don't have to find other preppers to form a group, your family and friends, your neighbors, you can find people at preparedness or survival events, online preparedness networks, and I just want to talk a little bit more about this. One mistake that people make is they narrow the definition a little bit too much. They are looking for groups that say Hello, I'm a survivalist or I'm a prepper but people who are into things like homesteading, gardening, herbalism, hunting, wildcrafting hiking, there are numerous different interests that are very, very related to preparedness, so you can have supportive peers that don't necessarily consider themselves preppers. They may not have a bug out bag, but you may have a lot more in common with these people than the people who are out there digging



their bunker. So, don't narrow your field too tightly, because there are a lot of ways to find people who would be really, really good people to work with during some kind of crisis. Toby, do you have something to add to that one?

**Toby 26:37**

The point this highlight on the slide deck like minded versus suitably skilled, and again, it's really just to expand on your point Daisy that we can especially already feel a little bit of stress and pressure and duress. Quickly sort of engage in tribal identity of like, these are the people I want to hang around with. These are people I feel I most clearly affiliate or align with. But that doesn't necessarily mean it's forming a functional structure or a healthy community. like minded can be you share the same interest in sports or politics. Or you could say you could apply the prepper label but that's because you'd like to sit on YouTube on the evenings just sort of watching video reviews, that doesn't mean necessarily, you actually have a skill set associated with that interest or of benefit to the larger community.

**Toby 27:36**

So again, just reinforce emphasizing your point of not narrowing the field down or your scope down is you need to be thinking in a larger terms of the skill set or the suitable skills that are attractive to either develop or have all sort of ensure are covered or catered for. Within your structure. We are committed to To set up now, we will be expanding on this specific skills a little bit later on. So we're not going to get to one on detail on that now. But I'll give you one example. You know, you could have somebody that's a very good car mechanic, we could ask ourselves the question is having a good mechanic within your sort of structure a desirable thing? And I think everybody would answer like, Yes, absolutely. You know, the ability to kind of diagnose and repair different kinds of vehicles or engines on mechanics is a highly desirable skill. So the question there is, do you need to be like minded with that individual? Do you need to share the same interests? Or the same Outlook or the same viewpoint? Or is it enough that that person has a skill set that's so highly desirable to be tapping into? Now there's a balance in this and again, we'll, we'll be addressing that shortly. But it's just to kind of take that objective step back from the sort of the coalface of the subject where we all kind of get to an insight. Yeah, you know, everybody's got to think the same, but then to understand the dangers of building groups and communities on that basis, and that's already been reflected in the real world. As we see now, certain groups have been structured very much on tribal identifying lines, that doesn't mean that long term sustainable or functional at all. So, just keep that balanced in mind against shared views or like minded versus suitably skip.

**Selco 29:17**

I will add one thing here, if I may. Good advice here. Not only here, but good advice here will be that do not take too much to the words. And I think problem can be in in semantics. I think that's the word. So in reality, this is a thing. Do not look particularly only for preppers. You call

yourself prepper? Maybe, but some other guy he don't even know what prepper word prepper means he don't believe in survival is survival. He's he he may even think that all that is funny. But he's prepared if he thinks about future and store some items and have enough skills for you and for your cause. He's prepper. So another very rudimentary example will be, if one back can the cover most of your most of man's problem from getting further from his home, in danger to the safe location, there's a bug out bag that men do not need to call that bag bug out. bag. He don't even need to know what what B ob means. But that bag works. So think in think in that kind of terms. I also need to mention that important thing. In this presentation we're using using wars community and Ward groups, bore group to distinguish the difference between different Between two really important things. You may call that to, let's call a bunch of people by different names, but you only think is important here for you is to understand the state of the difference between those two groups of people. And you can call it whatever you want. Knowledge and about difference between between those two words is important. Is this makes sense? Daisy, this explanation?

**Daisy Luther** 31:30

Yes, absolutely it does. Okay, so where do you find all of these people? That's another very common question. So this slide just has \ lots of different skills. It's certainly not comprehensive. But these are some of the skills that you might look for, in someone that you want to connect with a little more deeply. Don't overlook the possibility of using social media to connect with people. I had written over here in the chat room, I joined a local homesteading group when I lived in California, and I made some amazing friends who taught me skills like butchering livestock, raising livestock, all sorts of things like that, that I didn't know how to do. And it was a fantastic network of people. So, you know, look on your local neighborhood watch pages. I think there's another app called next door for people who don't really do social media. Not only can you get an idea of the skills that other people have, you can also get an idea of their attitudes just from how they conduct themselves online. Amateur Radio would be another really good addition. People who do living history reenactments generally have a lot of great off grid skills. There are just so many different skills. Also, you can join different local courses for like cert training, or volunteer firefighting or paramedic volunteer search and rescue, you can make some great connections this way. Do you guys have anything to add to that on finding local people?

**Toby** 33:27

I mean put quite simply, you know, the key thing to remember here is most of you are living in, you know, a functional society and, to a certain extent traveling around now relatively freely. So it's just looking for opportunities in everything. Don't make the mistake of sort of just putting things in boxes or pigeonholing or only if somebody identifies as this or is this and they pretend to useful to me or to a larger concern. You know, just try to see the opportunity and everything. We're just giving you some broad stroke parameters just now, for some areas that you maybe

haven't considered any engaging with. Historically, up until now, you know what data is put in these slides is a fantastic spread. But obviously, as many, many more things we could put in addition to this, we could probably put 10 times as many boxes, but then that just becomes overwhelming, which is not the point the information we're trying to present here. But you know, whatever interaction you're having in any environment with any individual just always look to seize on the opportunities, either to expand your own individual knowledge, or your network, or your understanding of certain things, as well as then looking for the identification of skills and conducive personalities, that there are potential use for the future.

**Daisy Luther** 34:45

Excellent. Selco, Did you have anything to add to the slide?

**Selco** 34:50

Yes, just one thing and it's very simple. Do it now you need to do this. Now to look for this people. Why it is very simple you in some events it will be even easier to find people like this when shit hits the fan but the point of finding these people now and live need time is to get known that people because what's the point of knowing the man who who is perfect in in in half of these skills or boxes on the slide if that man is is automatic and you do not know that you didn't have enough time to realize that he's logic or or in any other or he simply, his moral norms are not that that guy that you want to be with him when when shit hits the fan.

**Daisy Luther** 35:58

Absolutely Now, aside from the people that you really want on your team, you want to also think about the people who you don't want on your team necessarily. So what are your absolute no's when it comes to people that you want to connect with Toby.

**Toby** 36:23

Little bit of time on this slide. And not to get too into the comments too much I'm sure people are gonna sort of chat now I have some initial reflections but this is one that will definitely get you to take away post webinar and think on so your absolute no's is a really critical fore process to go through. Because this is kind of your, you know, your sort of red line your personal individual redline of like what I will and won't tolerate quite simply. And what we're understanding, you know, largely fueled by the media is rapidly aggressively increasing polarization. Society, all the way down to the kind of family unit. We hear stories, you know, litany of stories on a weekly basis about people sort of, you know, long term context for years now not talking because of political affiliation as such. And, you know, cell can I obviously have the reputation for addressing the elephant in the room, and this is one of the big ones you need to, in your mind, very clearly understand two things.

**Toby** 37:24

Firstly, what are your potential or actual polarizations? You know, what's the sort of tribe you run with? What's the identity you all hold dear to? What do you feel your core values that are just absolutely non negotiable? Now, for some people that might be quite a small list. For others that may be an exceptionally long list. However, longer list is what we then do. The second part is to look at if all of those things must be agreed to and abided by, can you actually form or join a functional group with those parameters in place? You know, if basically your list demands an echo chamber, that's what you're going to get. And that isn't necessarily a healthy, thriving community to join, that's potentially a very toxic or destructive community to get in, which is the absolute antithesis of what you're trying to achieve, you know, we're looking at survival community, that in tough times is going to thrive and excel and, you know, take care of every individual within that.

**Toby 38:29**

So, as it's gonna be an individual exercise, we'll get you to do to, you know, spend a few minutes later today or with next couple days and just kind of write down what's dear to you, and then go through that a couple of times and just think is, you know, quite simply, we come to the question of, is this something you're prepared to die for? Is this a viewpoint that's so dear to you, that you're you would walk away from a survival community, a possibly fully functioning one, a healthy functioning one, because of this point, a willing to put Sort of that much on the line, I don't want to be overdramatic here. everybody listening I that's not the point of this. And we certainly like to fear mongering. But quite simply put, sometimes we can be our own worst enemy by the conditions we put down a certain situation. And because of the urgency of this matter, you've heard in the last slide itself, we're saying, you know, do these now because we know that the situation is intensifying as the year goes on, this is something you're gonna have to sit and have quite a sort of chat with yourself and your nearest circle as to what is the make or break on this deal. Okay, Selco I'm gonna pass this to you.

**Selco 39:34**

Thank you, I cannot add some of my personal experience here about communities in those times. I can say that, some of the let's call it let's say some of the most I can use term successful communities in that time. They're communities that were normal let's say normal men should not be or joined to that group because or communities because they were formed and thrive actually basically mostly on a, let's say hurting other people. And that's very, soft word for what I'm trying to say here. So if you're looking for group or community that will work when should hit the fan. As Toby already said, You need to know what are you let's say offer what are your aspirations and what kind of group you want to join?

**Selco 40:49**

If you are if your only cause or which is to join, some kind of, let's say power group you can end up on some really really wrong and weird and bad places and communities. And once

when you are there and I saw this, once when you when you are there even if you are a normal person, or let's say moral person, once, when you are there you will, you'll go into flow, you will you kind of go with the flow by the sheer fluidity of events or in other words, you will become like people around you in that community, you will become a bad person. And I wish that I just hope and vision that that's not the place of where you want to be. So, to make things short here, you really need to understand how community works and on which principle Based that community works and what are aspiring for, in essence is like that.

**Daisy Luther** 42:11

Absolutely true. So a lot of you are here because you're not yet part of a community. And I know that right now there's a very strong sense of urgency for everybody to you know, meet who they're going to meet and start making connections. And finding people as our situation in the United States and really around the world seems to be devolving. Sometimes you are under estimating yourself and you're not seeing yourself as an asset to a potential group. And I see this a lot with people who are a little bit older for people who have maybe some kind of physical disability or chronic illness. Just because You're not able to go out there and, you know, do a raid on someone else's camp, that doesn't mean that you're not going to be a valuable member of a community. And Toby was talking a lot about positive reframing of the skills that you have. Can you discuss that a little bit more, Toby?

**Toby** 43:22

Yes, certainly. So positive reframing is a really, really fantastic exercise that everybody can complete. Because what we find a lot of times, just by our basic psychological makeup, that is far more easy to fixate on the negative the way you can't than the way you can. And unfortunately, you know, we can't get into much more discussion, you know, that that would be a week long course all of us aren't just looking at the basics of psychology on that. But we know that that's, that's an actual thing. So positive reframing basically just looks to break through that negative barrier as to why you know, you can't do something or you haven't done something For instance, you haven't joined us of our community till now.

**Toby** 44:02

So let's just turn it on his head and look at all the reasons you could or you would or you should. So giving it a reframing, looking at the same question, but from a different angle, and a positive aspects. So you might say, Well, I'm elderly, I'm in firm, I have some medical issues, that means I can't do X, Y, Z, as you mentioned, as you know, kind of going out in a sort of frontline fighting role. Okay, so you can't do that. Let's put on the side, let's look at what you can do, what skill sets Do you have, you know, and then look at? Where are those skills useful? Now, we can link those to the Seven Pillars of survival, which we've talked about previously. We can recap on those a little bit later on if we need to, you know, but can you make a positive impact on acquiring or processing or preparing of resources? And that can be

as simple as just, you know, being that sort of person that could calm and control the situation, especially if there's stressed individuals or children involved in the picture.

**Toby** 44:57

If you're building a sort of survival community with, you know, families As the workload intensifies, and the fatigue rate increases, that one person that can occupy a group of children, for the bulk of the day, in a positive, calm manner, is literally going to be worth their weight in gold because they're removing that massive additional stressor that would otherwise be present and be constantly acting on the group, not just one example. But basically positive reframe, just to clarify, say, let's step back and look at not what you can do, but what you can actually do, or what you can potentially do and how quickly now we'll be revisiting this a little bit later on, especially once we get to a couple of specific points on essential skills. But quite simply try to address and try to address the positives. Now, slight caveat with that, it doesn't mean ignore or gloss over the negatives, I think. operational security opsec aside, you know, honesty is a big facet of if you're approaching a community You know, trying to join, you shouldn't be ideally hiding medical conditions or known features because that that's just I don't want to say unfair, we're moving beyond the realm of that. But that's going to adversely affect the overall functionality of the group. Because they need to work on a certain understanding of the amount of collected information that they hold. So don't just, you know, blind spot what you can't do, just acknowledge it, put it on one side, and then just focus on the positives of what you can achieve. Daisy

**Daisy Luther** 46:32

Selco, did you have anything to add to that one?

**Selco** 46:36

Yes, of course. First point here is that everybody has value or let's say almost everybody have value, some kind of value for this. If you are talking about this topic of community, if you do not or if you think that you do not have value, you did not work enough. To have that value or in other words to have skill, we are still living in, let's say normal world, we still have access to information, knowledge and skills. What most of the people around you need to do is let's say to leave the chair and to invest their own all time into the learning of something that will be important when shit hits the fan to some knowledge or skill. So there is time and you can work on it. And if you if we take that into into the consideration, then I can say positively that everybody has value or can have value we just need to work. Work on on that.

**Selco** 47:49

Second thing you need to find your place was that mean? survival is not all about shooting And kicking somebody butt. There a lot of those activities. But it is not all about that. It is not movie, there is whole set of skillsand knowledge that are really important. I always mentioned the guy

in my time in my community, and he's all only knowledge or skill was to sit and talk. He knew how to talk with us. And we needed that. In our time. When he didn't have anything to do we needed somebody who know how to talk with us and who know how to listen. You can call it you can almost call it he was some kind of psychiatrist for us to listen for our problems for our heart. For our or problems for after we did something How we cope with something here listen and talk with us. So everybody has value.

**Selco** 49:07

The only thing is to find your place with those values. I need to also again to mention one student on our physical courses course, after the all exercises and everything that students realize, okay, folks, you know what my best skill is to cook for other people. Okay, that person realizes that's the best, best skill and nobody can tell me that that skill is not important. It is very important. It is very important. And a third thing here and this is connected to that point of shooting at other people maps do not was the war Do not over price yourself internally. Do not think, do not think that you have to be that mean and tough person who is very strong and who will do only violence. Maybe you're not able for that. Maybe you are not physically or mentally fit for that maybe are fit for something else that is equally important, or research that they did.

**Daisy Luther** 50:31

Yeah, one thing that a very dear friend of mine said to me once is you have to remember, not everyone is a combatant. And there are so many other important things that support the people who are combatants, or who are medical experts or who can grow food. So there are just a lot of different skills and you don't want to overlook those skills in yourself. Now, one thing that people can do is they can try and make themselves obviously more valuable to a group. And it's important to understand what makes you valuable or not to a community that you may want to become a part of. So one way that you can learn more about yourself is with personality assessments, Toby

**Toby** 51:30

When we think about personality, that's, you know, your, your actual self, your perception of yourself and people's perception of you. And those three things kind of don't always necessarily align, especially the self perception versus how people perceive you. And in normal times, you know, in social norms, we were very quick to we tend to pass judgment on personality, but largely because it's so easy and there's no contact So there's very little consequences to it. So you know, you can meet somebody and and have a quick chat with them in a social setting. And they'll be like, yeah, good guy, great guy, really nice guy. But the fact is, you really don't know much, if anything about that person at all, you know that they have presented whatever version of their so themselves they want to you, and you've measured it on whatever weight that you bring to the importance of that interaction. Now, as I

say, for normal times, that social normalization is hinged around politeness, and that's massively captured by social engineering and hijacked by social engineering.

**Toby 52:35**

We know that and we play with extensively on courses. And it's always one of those eye opening moments when people realize how easy it is to get manipulative just by changing your intent. So we need to go a little bit deeper on that. So then we're getting into the second level we've highlighted on this slide, which is the individual intuition. That's not just passing something off as a chance encounter or the superficial meeting, but you know, listening to your gut I think it interestingly, in the conversations we've been having, with the students and people contact in the last three months, this is intuitively coming out more and more as the situation is getting tighter as he's getting more serious, people are suddenly making much better judgment and assessment than they were before. Now it feels suddenly, but they're basically just become more intuitive. They're starting to look at situations in more detail, and listen to that kind of inner voice or gut feeling.

**Toby 53:29**

And one of the recommended readings we have for all of our students coming on the physical courses is a book called The gift of fear by an author called Gavin de Becker, this is going to be in the notes that will email you and this goes far deeper into this aspect and it has some fantastic case study and notes and guidance for you on that. And just to give you a slight background and Gavin de Becker, he actually runs an executive protection firm. So he provides a lot of the kind of bodyguards or executive protection details for very high end celebrities, you know, you're kind of talk show hosts, like Oprah . For top in sports, sports stars, TV stars, celebrities, etc. And so he's crew he's organization does a huge amount of intuitive focus because executive protection have to make very, very fast decisions in hazardous situations. And a lot of times it is by relying on their gut.

**Toby 54:19**

So to tap into that inner voice and listen a little bit more. Now, the final part of this is more than self reflection, it's you actually thinking, What am I like what how do people see me and there's a huge array of fantastically, you know, valuable and even scientifically founded tools for that. I'm just gonna ask Daisy to advance us on to the next slide here. Because what we're going to do is send you through a link to this organization, the VA Institute, and there you can take a free online survey that will identify your top 24 character strengths and give you basically Sort of feedback on that now you can pay full disclosure, you can pay for more detailed report, you don't need to the initial report you'll get for free is with but what you want to focus on is your top five character strengths, because those are your strongest aspects. So if you're in an existing group, or organization or community, this is a great way to kind of really reinforce what you think you might already know, or to actually just kind of look at. Is there any sort of strengths



that we perceive we have that isn't showing in this? Or is there a strength that maybe I didn't realize I had, that's actually flagged by the survey, the survey doesn't take long to do, I think is 10 to 12 minutes. It's very interesting to complete, it's very simple. But we definitely recommend that there's others available, of course, but this is a great one to start with. Just get you into that sort of that mode and that mindset of actually going through this kind of professional survey, shall we say, you know, the VA is exceptionally well regarded and used, you know, at executive level sort of boardroom type decisions and assessment. type things. And that's another thing to consider.

**Toby 56:03**

Especially if you're thinking of a smaller community. You know, I'm seeing in the comments people talking about sort of group structures and harmony and cooperation that if you're going to be a tight setup, you know, you're sort of thinking 8, 10 12, 15 people may be you really going to want to know each other to the best of your ability and I will say as intimately as possible, but in as much detail as possible. So, these these character strength assessments and things like that is a great way to achieve that. Now, buyer beware, because you may actually on completing this process, you know, your self perception may not marry up to the sort of the test results should we say so, that that is what it is. That's for you to kind of individually process where why you know, why you have that perception and why it's not necessarily showing you the results. And that can be the same within your collective as in you know, people start to you That can show up some toxic or negative traits in that what's most important is you address those. Now, it is better to understand dysfunctional group dynamics early than later. Right?

**Toby 57:13**

Hopefully that makes sense to you or that you don't want to put this, you don't want to be under that stressful situation to then realize the dysfunctionality that's present, it's the elephant in the room moment again. So if you're, I'll put it like this, if you're feeling really, really unsure about doing the test that doubles down, definitely you should do it because you want to get down to that, to why that uncertainty is there. And the same with other members of your community or group, if somebody really like I'm not going to take it that that why not that should raise you know, an eyebrow, if not more, then you know as to why that reluctance would be there. Okay. So this is just kind of giving you now some specific tools for your toolbox to kind of grow and develop some of these and more of these Things are coming. But it's a great opportunity to kind of just stop, gut check, self reflect, and then move forward, which is what we're all about. Selco?

**Selco 58:15**

Yes. The effort that you invest now into the building community will pay off very much later. And you'll see that so, you need to take your efforts seriously. I mentioned wanting for

example, people, people often show their characters or show that face real face, only under the immense stress. It can be immediate stress, or in short event or it can be Prolonged amounts of stress after some time, you can recognize that, let's call the client in character if you invest your time before the event and get to know that person. I'm talking here also about I'm talking about big and tough people that fall apart under the stress, not only fall apart that they when they under that stress they bring your life into the danger. Why? Because you, you actually place your life into their hands. counting on the fact that they they are no they're knowing what are they doing and actual when they fall apart your life is in danger. So invest invest time before the event to get Know that man no matter how tough he looked, he looks hard times was the word hard times show real faces of the people in both direction. You can be surprised how how some people can be powerful, brave and and have good value. And also in other direction some people can will actually will. Some people will simple disappoint you in hard times. It's real life It goes like that. So invest your time before the event.

**Daisy Luther 60:46**

Excellent, excellent. It's really, really good to know these things ahead of time. Now, another thing that people always talk about when they talk about communities is the leadership and these are some Very common questions that we're going to go over. And just to try to give you a little bit more information about that, Toby?

**Toby 61:12**

Yes, certainly. So I just want to we just put this slide up, just give you a chance to read it. Because these are the very common questions people have once we start to get into the actual nuts and bolts of a community or a group grouping the letter formation and people will want want to talk about the leadership and right from the get go and sort of the top down functions, if you will. So we have things, what qualities, what are their responsibilities, what are their strengths or what issues and also the common one at the end is, am I a leader? You know, is it me, am I the leader? Now? There's a problem here because what we're typically doing is actually getting confused because Before we even get on to leadership, we need to look at governance. We'll come back to that later. And then what we must understand is the differences in leadership. So I'm just going to move on to the next slide. Because what I want to do is kind of not deal with these questions per se as the common ones. But let's look at the actuality.

**Toby 62:17**

So now we were researching a webinar, we got these sort of consolidation points to show you so what we've got is the qualities of leadership will change based on the sector that somebody is in. So going from left to right, we have the military leader. In this case, it's General James Mattis. And political leader, the name is irrelevant, I actually left the name off just to avoid polarization. Okay, this is just a list of a particularly well known political figure, and then a

corporate leader. In this case, it's actually Steve Jobs, who hopefully you're recognized as the former CEO of Apple. Now, just look down those And isn't it interesting almost no crossover between the desirable leadership traits to the actual leadership traits and how different they are. Now, I think is, from my viewpoint, it's fair to say General James Mattis is one of the most remote one of the most well regarded military figures of modern history. 40 years career with the United States Marine Corps, retired general, and, you know, everyone I've spoken to and everything I've I've watched and read about him as being the body of a phenomenal military leader.

**Toby 63:30**

But then we switch it over to political leadership and see the difference. And in corporate leadership and state see the difference. Now, General Mattis was a great example because we know he actually retired general and was appointed as the Secretary of Defense, which is a political position, and he didn't fare well there. Now, I'm not gonna go into details of the why but basically, he had an impeccable 14 year military career and a very short period of time in a political appointment. Before he just retired. He also resigned walked away. And somebody even alleged he was kind of pushed before, you know, he jumped before he's pushed not here to get into the politics of that. It's just to understand when we're saying what's polit? What are the leadership traits? What we really need to identify first is what's, you know, what is the sector of the leader that we want, you know, is this the person that selco alluded to earlier that the listening ear that keeps the household calm, is going to operate very differently from the guide, it's going to take eight guys out on a nighttime raid, and it's not necessarily the same person.

**Toby 64:35**

Rarely will it be, it would be very, very difficult for somebody to fulfill all three of these roles, right? That's why they're three separate people. Now, here's the interesting part just on this point. If we actually look into the real world application, any military leader of the Western world will always be out ranked by political leadership and the CEO of a company cooperation will always earn more money than the rest of them put together. So what we anticipate and expect my leadership is very much reflected in the traits that are listed as desirable within them. Hopefully that makes sense to everybody.

**Toby 65:15**

So with that in mind, if we were to go back to the previous slide, and we're not going to Daisy, I'm not asking you that. But those questions are really skewed. Because until we've pulled down that the sort of leadership style or the sector, shall we call it, we can't get into what should our leader look like? So I want you to move on to the next slide to kind of consolidate this to your understanding where we going with this. So who will be the leader? The community seems a very simple question, but we can understand by the diversity within it, that

that's actually very challenging. Now that's challenging at any time. Regardless, who should the CEO of the company be? Who should the chief of general staff should be? Who should the Secretary of Defense be is a simple question but a very high point, but then you're also looking for Two point leadership to take the helm in very challenging circumstances. Right?

**Toby** 66:06

So it's not even leadership in normal times, this is someone you're going to expect to excel in the chaos that surrounds them. So that makes it doubly challenging. So often, if someone's asking about leadership traits, and they come up with just a sort of, you know, a list of desirable qualities, our sinking feeling is the person in that conversation hasn't necessarily thought through the full context of the question, and therefore is in extreme danger of leading themselves down a very, very wrong answer. So quite simply, what we Yeah, guys, I'm just going to break out because I'm seeing it go into politics in the comments and we just don't want it. Okay. That's, you know, we are really set on this. Let's not go there in the comments if that's okay with anybody. I use these examples because it fitted the webinar not to start a position discussion in the comments. Okay.

**Toby** 67:04

So back to the slides. So the key takeaway from this is really to make sure the asking the right question. So a lot of the time when we're asking about leadership qualities, more, the more important question is you're going to be asking about what is your ability to accept decisions made by a leader and then we're getting to the real nitty gritty of group dynamics which we'll come back to a little bit later on. Okay? Selco?

**Selco** 67:30

Yes. For my experience, I cannot one thing here or either a real either and again, I must point out this Before explaining. It depends on the how serious and how, how long event going to last. It is very important, based on who leaders should be or and what kind of qualities he has. From my experience, a real leader should be a man or woman who knows how to how to perfectly rearrange and arrange skills or lack of skills among group members. This is very simplified, but it is like that with addition that he needs to take refocused responsibility for that. Now, again from my experience most of the people should not run for the position of the leader. It is not something that is a it is not real, really cool place to be in. So, it is very, it is over simplified but for me in essence It was like that man who knows how to arrange and rearrange skills and lack of skills between a group between community members and still to have a running community because it is very, very tough job.

**Selco** 69:20

Do not dream of perfect you have perfect community because you have community of, of 25 or 30 x-military personnel who are perfectly or well who are perfectly well skilled for for fighting,

but as I pointed out, earlier, survival, community survival in prolonged event, it's it's not only about shooting and fighting we are talking about Here, when he mentioned community, we are talking about a very small society and in order for the society to work well, it's not only about shooting other people, it is about a whole bunch of other things and the real neither need to know how to arrange all of all of that. Because eventually if event lasts for a long enough time, you will need whole set of other skills to implement in that in that community. So leaders should know how to do that. It is tough place to be Daisy.

**Daisy Luther** 70:49

I'm I'm kind of wondering I think sometimes, leaders sort of evolve into the leadership position as the community bonds becomes more of a community than a group. Is that something that you guys see that people just naturally start looking to one person to make the decisions because that person has a track record of making good decisions?

**Selco** 71:19

Yes, I can add something to that. I agree. I agree. But here's the important point about that. If you're talking about some, some serious event, or let's say wild event, by the moment when people realize who is the best leader among them, you could already be in deep trouble, or you could already lose a whole bunch of members among you. So answer is yes. But audition that that man should be on Long before that, before event happened. Now, of course, if group is formed by event alone let's say you do not have a community or you have some kind of loosely connected loosely connected group has something serious happen, of course, by the logic in some time after the event happened, some of the some person from that group or will arise to the, to the place of the leader by the sheer events because he will show up as a man who as a person who know how to lead other people who know how to delegate problem and whatever, but, but by that moment, a lot of bad things can happen. Make sense?

**Daisy Luther** 72:54

Definitely.

**Toby** 72:55

I'll just add to that, I think evolution in role and Leadership believe leadership ability and competencies is definitely a thing. I think we see that if we if we now look at the military example on this, you know, units going into combat zones that, you know, haven't been there before, will very quickly develop by necessity. But again, just to echo Selco's point that there needs to be, you know, ordained leadership or structure prior to that, this, this isn't the time to sort of muddle along and hope you figure it out. So I think, like everything, there's a balance in there. I think that some of the challenging, some of the most challenging things we've seen is where they're looking at your evolutionary concept Daisy, it's like where there is a defined leader, but another person clearly is more competent in that role, and the group starts to look

to them, instead of the, let's say, appointed leader, and that's where it can start to get really quite interesting. That's, that's a separate subject for another day. Because again, that could be a whole discussion all of its own. But I think certainly it's something to be aware of the people will grow, they will develop, they can even shrink back, you might have, you know, people in a defined leadership position will hit a point and say this, this isn't for me, this isn't what I signed up for. This is not something I can do. And you differ out, either just walk away or defer off to somebody with more competence, which would be the ideal solution, I think is a great point that you raised that basically Thank you.

**Daisy Luther** 74:31

Definitely. Now, when you talk about communities and the way they're led, and the rules and that kind of thing, it mirrors sort of a micro government. Toby, did you want to talk about that a little bit?

**Toby** 74:46

Yeah, absolutely. So again, it's about this contextual question. I think there's this entirely too much assumption people like, Oh, you know, whatever group we form or whatever community before, whatever organization we form, it's going to be a democracy. There's no guarantee of that, you know, there's there's a number of steps that need to be gone through before that's arrived upon. And then even if it is, that doesn't mean it's going to stay that way. So what we need to understand here is, you know, any sort of collection of people that number more than three is going to need governance or rules or guidance of some sort. And so that's the question is, how will your community because it and then directly linked to that is what what do you actually know about governance, because, unfortunately, so much has been driven down to misunderstanding, misinformation and sound bites now, you know, x type of governance good, why type of governance bad that people don't understand the substance or the structure behind notes. And of course, if you're looking at governance at a country, wide level, that's an entirely different structure than a small organization level. So what governors that wouldn't work for sort of 300 million people, if we take the US absolutely could work if it's a collective of 20 people, you know it, especially if everybody's all agreed to that form of governance. So, you know, what does government do at the heart of it is basically kind of organized the benign aspects of life to ensure the functionality of the group. Now, how that's done is very, very subjective, in and of itself, and also very subjective to change. Selco is going to expand on that, I think, shortly that there's going to be this constant almost like risk opportunity for fluctuation, depending on the leadership style, the governance style and the situation is determined. Selco I'm going to let you comment on this?

**Selco** 76:54

In the event in series event like we are talking about here, In the event of collapse, if you are if you find yourself in, in, in community, again depending of how event serious is and how long it

is going to last, you need to understand that in community, community means more people, several people, people with different view on life. We cannot say that we solved that problem by by accepting the fact that we are all preppers that doesn't mean too much we can all be preppers and have, Oh, absolutely and completely different views on on many life points or fields of life. So being fact that all of You inside that community are preppers, preppers do not necessarily solve all the problems of of or ruling or governing that community actually most probably an island will shore it, it is not going to solve that kind of problems of color named group. If you are all preppers.

**Selco 78:24**

From my experience, forget about not forget, but think about the fact that you will most probably not going to be inside the group that will that feel a govern like like a some kind or some form of democracy and to be successful community. I'm talking this in case of serious event and prolonged event. Why? Well it is well it is very simply as as the time goes on, and as the situation around you deteriorate you as a member and other members of that community will be forced to forget a lot of things that you imagine like normal things or things from normal life and you will be in situations to do many things that you wouldn't do normally. I'm not talking here about evil, you will actually are talking here about actual that you do not like that you never imagined that you will do so that things are not really really possible in a in community that is governed like some kind of democracy. And now this is not think about do I like it or not, or do you like it or not? I'm just saying most probably you will not have that kind of Rule. Other thing is do I like it? In other words are really successful. And this is again from my experience really successful community ruling or governing inside a really successful community of people during this SHTF event is a look much more like military unit than anything else. Again, you may like it or not, but I'm talking here from my experience how successful group of people or communities locked in that time and I believe it is going to be same again. So it is going to look much more like military unit Daisy.

**Daisy Luther 80:51**

I think that makes a lot of sense. Now Selco? I've got another question for you. Large communities versus small communities. Can you talk about What your experiences are with these two types of communities?

**Selco 81:08**

Yes, of course. Again, we need to define the work but successful actually mean to us. Because it is important because we got to talk about is large community successful more or small communities are more successful, successful or more successful when shit hits the fan can mean a lot of things. I'll use again, my experience and real life examples. From my experience best, best numbers are from everything from from, let's say eight to 15 or even 20. I find out that That kind of number goes well with finishing most of the tasks that come to everyday life

and when shit hits the fan, and still being able to be was the word not to eat resources, there are resources out, if that makes sense. And I must point this out still to fall into that line of, let's say I'll use the word moral group, or community. I'll use different another example here so you can understand what I'm talking about.

**Selco** 82:45

There were communities or groups of people 200 or 300 members, strong with good organization Obviously enough manpower and everything else, but by the by the many reasons, but important reason for us here is that they needed resources. And in that moment, easiest, easiest way to get the resources was to, to plunder for them because they have enough firepower enough enough manpower, numbers and they, they become simply gang. Now you can call that group successful in terms of, of getting resources, but again, that's not the group that that I would love to be over there. They went into that direction because of resources and of course it was easiest way for them to do it at the end they become they became gang now From this, because of this reason, small communities, I prefer small communities, if you are talking about and this is really important if you're talking about urban environment. Now, if you're talking about rural or small religious or small communities, small towns, environment, large communities, yes, definitely yes. But in in not in not in urban settings, or in more rural settings. Yes. larger communities makes sense. Because there is much more space for you to get and to have enough resources. And still not to go to the, let's call it here. Dark Side. Yes, let's go to the dark side, and oh, Another important thing to understand you cannot be inside that group who who went to the let's call it again dark side and to stay on like you cannot be a light you will go to dark side to it is impossible to be good man inside that that kind of group you are not good man or at least you are stopped to be you will stop to be good man. So, after mentioning all of this, I prefer small communities to make to make things simple, smaller communities inside urban settings. If we are talking about more rural rural settings, yes, larger communities because we are talking then about small villages or small towns where where people more know each other much more, where they have much more or much larger access to the natural natural resources so they can have large communities

**Daisy Luther** 86:03

That makes a lot of sense. Okay, so we're gonna move on here to a topic that there has been a lot of conversation about over on the chat. And that is essential skills. So

**Toby** 86:17

Can I just jump in.

**Daisy Luther** 86:19

Oh, sorry about that.



**Toby 86:21**

Can we just go back to that one cycle? There's just a couple of clarifying points I want to put in there. That's okay. Wonderful. All right, guys. I just just to clarify, telco covered a huge amount there. So there's the key takeaway we want you to think on this is very, very much resource orientated. Okay, so I'm just gonna read two quotes to you. The first is, the line between disorder and order lies in logistics. And the second is amateurs talk about tactics but professionals study logistics. Now that first quote was written by Sun Tzu in 500 bc and the second part was from General Robert barro, the Commandant of the Marine Corps noted in 1980. So 2500 years apart, both of these military commanders understood in terms of successfully operating in the battlespace was more about logistics than anything else. And that's the key takeaway here, the larger the group, the more logistical not only supply, but management you're going to have to have.

**Toby 87:28**

Okay, the smaller the group, the smaller footprint, the smaller supply lines, and an easier to manage or acquire those resources that you need. So there's a sweet spot in there somewhere. I just want to tie that back also to the positive reframing. We talked about in the earlier slide about skill sets, you know, for those that perceive that they don't necessarily have a skill set to bring to a group and Daisy mentioned this that not everyone's a combatant. That's absolutely true. So logic logisticians are really indispensable, you know, the ability to make less, go further, or do more with less is easily, you know, the kind of magic wand, at the best of times, but definitely in challenging circumstances. Okay? We're going to come on some logistics specifics in a second. But that's the key takeaway for the summary. what Selco's saying is, you know, we can go for strength in numbers, we can go to that default phase, the bigger the group, the bigger the community, the better. But then you've got to feed them all. You've got to close them all. You know, you've got to sleep the mall somewhere, like those logistics, don't go away. And it's the sort of thing don't think you'll kind of clunk along and figure it out as you go. There needs to be a very clear definitive plan in place well in advance to administer all of those things. Okay, sorry, Daisy, but you.

**Daisy Luther 88:51**

Absolutely, yes. Sorry about that. Okay, so let's talk a little bit about essential skills. Now soco What did you observe about skills during your survival event?

**Selco 89:09**

Yes, you see these bullet point here, I will go through these bullet points a bit with the exception of the last one. Toby will expand much more on that. First thing that you need to understand is that there should not be any unskilled member. Now, go back to the to the topic that we discussed earlier. And because, I will repeat here, there are much more skills than

people think about when it comes to community. So, again, it's not everything about shooting at other people. Community needs much, much more skills. So, yes, there is a place for skill for each each member of the community no matter how, how that skill look. Let's say not important to you. Think more about skills between members of the group. There is a logic in plan that if you take essential skills or knowledge from the survival and divide it into the pillar force of survival. So we can talk about knowledge or skills from these fields: fire, shelter, water, food, signaling, communication, medical hygiene and defense.

**Selco 90:53**

Now, if you take all of these pillars and on one side and take all all community members on other side each member of the community should have basic skills from all of these pillars of survival. So, there could not be a for example, there should not be a member of your community that do not know basic skills from from let's sa first aid. Every member of your community needs to know at least at least basics, skills from first aid and all of our all of these other. For example, every member of your group or community needs to know basic from water filtering, cleaning and acquiring water. Or making shelter. Or whatever or everything else from these.

**Selco 92:05**

But you need to have let's call it a specialist for each important skill. So for example, everybody needs to have basic skill from basic first day skill, but you have to have somebody who is let's say master from have that skill. Who knows as much as it is possible to know from that skill. So our specialist if you want to call him so everybody knows basic basics, but there is a man who knows let's say everything from that skill. And do not take this rule like it has to be like that. If everybody can can be specialist from a medical hygiene pillar, great, but we are talking here about real life. So most probably not everybody going to be a specialist from that field. So in, in real tough life, probably, you are only going to be able to have everybody who have basics from the skills and one specialist.

**Selco 93:27**

So that's, that's really important. You cannot allow yourself ever to find your group in the place in time where and when nobody knows anything from some of the some of the very important pillar of survival. First aid or weapon handling or signally communication or food preparing or whatever. So everybody had to have to know basics. Then, you can work on on somebody who will be a specialist. And that's it. Toby.

**Toby 94:15**

Environmental consideration is also something to overlay with this. We've got a bunch of people here, all living in very different areas. And that will massively influence the specificity of certain skills. I think we've got people down in California and people from I can see up in

Canada. Fire lighting in those two different environments is going to be almost an entirely different thing. Fire lighting in California when I was there was far more about careful fire management to avoid spread, than the typical kind of wet cold damp conditions you would get further northwards. It's all about sourcing your material and going from there. So just understand, in your area overlay or your environmental overlay will heavily influence the skill sets that are seen as essential and desirable.

**Toby 95:05**

Now, just to expand on the fifth point: communication. Now, this is an essential skill, which is why it's on this slide. But also, we intentionally left this point till quite late in the presentation, because this is something we really, really needed to be attentive to. And we're aware there's a huge amount of information thrown at you in the previous amount of time. And so that, you know, you'll get to read here, this recording and look at the notes that we send you through. But this is something we definitely want you to take away with you at the end of this webinar in a short period of time.

**Toby 95:37**

So when we talk about communication, most people will automatically assume on a slide like this, that we're looking at the kind of the hardware, we're thinking about, you know, ham, radio, walkie talkies, satellite telephone or more traditional methods, or you know, or covert methods, whatever the case may be. Now, that's true, that is important. And the ability to correctly operate that hardware is important, but we're looking at communication as a foundation skill, and more in the intrapersonal communication. The ability to communicate with each other well. So this isn't about, you know, remote devices, you know, good voice procedure for walkie talkie effective communication. This is about good interpersonal communication.

**Toby 96:20**

And again, what we've seen from the feedback we've been gathering for last two, three months, this has been one of the toughest parts for most people. Especially when you've got somebody that's quite heavily into preparedness activities and family or a spouse that's not on board. They're telling us they really feel that they're very much on their own. Their spouse is either kind of not helping or actively working against them in case of normalcy bias, like, you know, everything's going back to normal. And they are just really struggling to even just have that conversation.

**Toby 96:50**

So communication is a skill. The ability to converse is a skill, the ability to communicate, and steer, you know, thought processes and influence people is a skill. And it's one you want to have as much as you can, regardless of whether you're in a leadership role or not. Now, if you're in a leadership role, this is something you're gonna need in spades. And it was

interesting, when we looked at that difference in leadership, depending on sector earlier on, the communication wasn't mentioned. But that was actually the common theme that links all three that we highlighted, was they needed to be effective communicators within their sector. So communication is kind of one of those overarching skills that you can just really never be too good at. And Selco made the comment that one of the essential people in his group was the guy that just sat and listened. You know, the kind of the the adjudicator the peacemaker, the mentor, the priest, the psychologists. Call it what you will, but that ability to not only communicate and influence with speech, but actively listen. Know when to talk. Know when to stay quiet. Know when to elicit response. It's absolutely vital. Okay?

**Toby** 98:05

We can take it all the way down to communication, yet you should be able to pick up, you know, any piece of ideally a piece of communication hardware and use it and use it effectively. And everybody should be able to understand what you're saying all the way through to the soft skills. I actually would start with the soft skills of effective communication and effective active listening. And that's something I would definitely recommend everybody in their personal reflection package webinars to take stock off of. Where do you rate yourself as a communicator, you know? Is it kind of just bullying your way to the point and just kind of smashing your way through it and sort of defeating people to your point of view? Or is it more nuanced or skilled than that? Or is it something you don't feel confident in? That's another thing, especially in terms of public, public speaking or holding public opinion, people can lack confidence with that. Again, it's just to understand where you are with that. Daisy...

**Daisy Luther** 99:03

Absolutely. Okay, one quick second here. Sorry about that. Let's talk about something that folks don't really discuss a whole lot. The deconfliction of equipment, Toby.

**Toby** 99:19

Yeah.

**Toby** 99:20

Sorry, we were coming to this point, but it's, it's another elephant in the room. What we find very routinely, even at an individual level, is lack of deconfliction of equipment. I'll come on to what that means in a second. Definitely at group level, and by the time we get to organization level, this is the one that will typically really, really bite people. Because of course, it's logistics orientated and we highlighted the importance of logistics. So let's just put it in context. What we're alledging within an effective survival community is you're either in it or at some point, you know, agreements can be made that, you know, everybody's going to come together in a centralized place. And you know, sort of hunker down, and occupy with the intent to defend that position as they see fit. And so everybody should be arriving with the essential items and

equipment that they need. Now, if there's been no discussion on standardization, you'll have a lot of stuff, but it doesn't mean it fits each other. Okay. And so you're now you know, you're looking at your weakest link in the chain type of thing. So what we're really looking at deconfliction of equipment is a standardization process. And this is what the military does and does very well. And this is one of those crossovers which is well worth considering from military to the civilian world.

**Toby 100:46**

If you think: everybody's firing the same ammunition. Everybody's using the same batteries. All the vehicles work on the same fuel, so I can take fuel from one vehicle and put it into the vehicle and it's going to run. I'm going to expand on those points a little bit more and then pick up some of the others. Okay, so, now I've done this personally, myself, pretty much every single thing I have in my equipment runs on double A batteries. So I can salvage, you know, when of course have a stockpile of double A batteries. But if one piece of equipment stops working, I can take the batteries from another piece. And, you know, a while ago, now, I could talk to Selco and say, "Hey, have you standardized your equipment?" And he says, "Uh, yeah, all my equipment runs on the same battery." But here's the thing, if his is running on C cells, not double A, then we've got a big problem, right? Because he's limited by his quantity of the batteries he's got, and I'm limited by the quantity of batteries I've got. Where as if we've both deconflicted to the same battery standard, double A, then good! A stockpile is you know, exponentially larger than it originally was because we've got, you know all that deconfliction across us and ideally the entire group.

**Toby 101:58**

Now this is where it gets interesting, right because you know, within the prepper sphere people get quite gear fixated, they fall in love with calibers, you know, the ongoing, everlasting never ending discussion on what's the best caliber. So I might be coming with, you know, thousands of rounds of nine mil because that's (it isn't by the way but just just to make the point at nine mil) but if no one else is shooting nine mil those supplies are only good for me. Everybody else is shooting 45 or, you know whatever the case may be, it's an incomplete picture. And what that means is we've given ourselves a very weak logistic team.

**Toby 102:37**

Okay, so I was on some of the tangibles and then just think about load bearing equipment. If everybody's got their high speed, low drag go faster specialist thing...well, if yours breaks, you, there's rarely things you'll be able to salvage off mine to fix yours or just kind of put the gear in the pile and take what works and goes from there. Same with load locations. If everybody's carrying a tourniquet, which we recommend that everybody carries it in a different location. When it comes to using that in anger, the first thing you have to figure out is well, where on earth is their tourniquet, whereas if everybody's got theirs in the right side pocket or the left

breast pocket or strapped to their bags, or the rucksack strap or whatever, then then you've got that standardization in the heat of the moment. It's easy to find, locate and use.

**Toby** 103:26

Okay, so standardization of equipment at individual level, now suddenly isn't good enough, we must standardize in the larger formation. Now, this is going back to one of your, you know, absolute no considerations. Imagine that you get the opportunity to join a community or you form a group, but your standardization of equipment isn't the desired standard, you know, do you kind of bin what you've got and repurchase everything or what are you gonna do then? So this is one of those conversations to have very early on. Not only to ensure that there is a mindset as an actual, you know, as an actual point, but then what is the standard? And these are the other standards you have to kind of work to. Okay. Not only is it gives you more longevity in the moment, but it just means as a third point you can basically fix replace salvage or repurpose it. You're just making those things go longer. We're back to our logistics, the more you can elongate your equipment, your supply lines, your resilience, the better it can be.

**Toby** 104:27

When we talk about barter and trade, it's really in terms of an absolute last resort: that you're now deficit of an essential item that must take a massive security concern to go out and try to acquire. Not standardizing equipment, you're going to put yourself in that situation far, far earlier on than by standardizing equipment, okay. And that can go all the way down to you know, if you've got a medic on the team, and he's working with the walking blood bank principle. For those of you don't know that what that is, it's basically that they are relying on the fact they have transfusable blood available from the members of the group. So you need to understand what's everybody's blood type and who can transfuse to who. That doesn't mean you're doing it necessarily, but that's definitely information that's gonna need to be disclosed. The same with medications and things like that, which are points Selco was going to pick up on in just a second. Deconfliction of equipment is very, very easy to dismiss or overlook. Fatally flawed, if done so, especially in this context. So as I say, this was one we put on intentionally late in the presentation for it to be a very key takeaway point for you. Selco, I'm going to hand it over to you now.

**Selco** 105:44

Yes, I just have to strongly repeat what what Toby mentioned. When shit hits the fan in serious event things can happen really fast. In dangerous environment in dangerous event, you need to have access to fast, fast decisions and fast action by using the same equipment, every equipment. And by using the standardized let's say "carry" of that equipment or in real life example, in a life threatening situation you need to be able to find in, in split second to find something on your body. On body next to you or your friend. You need to know where is that and how you can find it and use it. You are minimizing a the risk by knowing how to use that

because you already know using same thing. And you know where you can find that on your friend.

**Selco** 107:09

Again, very often things are going to happen fast. And your previous let's say training we'll jump in here to the events, dangerous events, are not place and moment in time where you need to learn something or check something that you are not familiar with. Everything needs to be standardized and known well before the event. That also includes all kinds of medication that each member of group is taking or having on itself, also including the previous medical conditions. So, again, it is not only about let's say shooting, it is much, much more about organization inside that same group.

**Daisy Luther** 108:10

You know, it's interesting talking about shooting, I am very, very comfortable with my own guns, but if I had to pick up somebody else's gun, there would definitely be a pause for me to you know, find the safety, get that off and use it and that makes a lot of sense about having everything standardized. Alright, so yes,

**Selco** 108:35

yes, just Sorry.

**Daisy Luther** 108:37

Sorry.

**Selco** 108:38

Again, I just have to mention that famous question that always for years for decades, coming to the to the survival forums or on my mails about which caliber or which rifle is best. The best one is that people use around you. That's the best one. It may not be best for a particular moment in time, but when you are taking all into the consideration, have and know how to use things that most other people use around you. Why? Because of this, as simple like that. Okay, thank you.

**Daisy Luther** 109:21

Absolutely. Thank you for clarifying that. Okay, so I want to discuss myths and facts. There are a lot of folks out there who discussed survival communities that have never been through a survival event. Selco I'm sure you read some of these things and just shake your head based on your experiences. Can you tell us some of about some of the most common myths that you see surrounding communities and why those things are inaccurate?

**Selco** 109:54

Yes, of course, first and biggest one I already mentioned that and it is connected about lone wolf versus community. Actually is that they are very, very underestimate how hard is to be alone when shit hits the fan. I can almost say that I understand why people underestimate that, because there are many reasons I can say that oh, popular culture gives you picture about how romantic and and cool is to be that lone wolf, when something serious happen, which is absolutely false. I mean, forget about movies. And second thing is that people probably I think do not understand what meaning of being really alone when shit hits the fan. Because even when they thought they were alone in some serious life events in their history, they actually were not alone. They had some kind of system behind that their backs. So being alone in some serious event is really really hot. Second misconception, other misconception here is pretty common, people imagining also that community going to be something like I can say something like, like hippie community from from 60s or 70s. You know, where people like, hanging with each other in dresses and flowers in hair and singing next to fire playing guitars. It is not like that. I do have to say that knowledge about playing guitar is good one. But it is not community when the shit hits the fan, it is not about that. It is much much more work, tough decision and hard life.

**Selco** 112:24

But again it is still better than then being alone. So do not fantasize about some kind of perfect communities. Be prepared to bend your own rules because you want to be part of a community. Be prepared to go over some of your things that you decide before . Be prepared to go over some of that to join a community, because you are going to be part of something bigger. But again on the other side, I have to mention this: do not go over your moral rules or norms because you want to, to join some kind of community to find out that you are turning yourself into the animal. Again, it's not worth it.

**Toby** 113:28

Yeah, I'm just gonna make one very quick point. And for all of the physical courses you've run over the last seven or eight years, from the moderate to the intensive, there's consistently been three points that have dropped out of the course, that have been most challenging for people. And one of those always is group dynamics, always without fail. And not only the challenge of, as I say in moderate through to intense discomfort, how quickly the group dynamics becomes problematic, shall we say. But how quickly an entire group can just descend into mayhem. Not talking on the fly stuff we managed carefully. But you know, people that are going being thrown from a comfortable to an uncomfortable situation struggle to be on their own, but they also struggled to be with other people. And that's why we highlighted communication so heavily towards the end of his presentation. Daisy...

**Daisy Luther** 114:34



And I think that people really romanticize this, watching television watching The Walking Dead, and shows like that and they don't really believe how gritty and uncomfortable the situation could become. So this basically wraps up our discussion of communities. Please if you have any questions, scroll down to the Bottom, below the slides and type your questions into the box, you guys are going to receive a recording with the questions and answers to the emails that to the email that you signed up with. And you'll get that within the next 48 hours. If you do not receive that email, check your spam folder. And if you have a Gmail account, check your promotions folder. That tends to be where our emails end up going to die sometimes. So if you still don't see it, drop us a note at books at the organic prepper.com and we will get everything to you. So first, you're going to get an email with this this webinar recorded and that will come from webinar ninja. The next email will be with your individual assignments, the transcript of this webinar and the recording will give you another link to that that one will come From cellco, toby and Daisy, so make sure you find those emails, if you don't get them drop us a line so that we can get you everything you signed up for. We really appreciate you guys. Thank you so much for attending. Hope you enjoyed it.

**Selco** 116:17

Thank you.

**Toby** 116:20

Yeah, thank you guys. Just while you're taking this opportunity to type out your questions, I just like to say these events are absolutely invaluable for Selco and I not only to share our thoughts to a larger audience, but also hear your opinions in your questions. This is really valuable to us to understand what your concerns are, what's on your mind, what your approaches are, what your thought processes. Because that enables us to kind of go back and sort of work out or reverse engineer to be like, okay, we see this is happening. We see this how people are approaching it. You know, if you've got concerns about that, how best can we try to put our point across to be of use and value to the people out there in the prepper sphere.

**Toby** 116:59

So thank you so much. Much being involved. The comments are really tough to read whilst we're actually presenting. But I'll make a point of going back over those later on, and scrolling through and picking up any points to Selco, and they can become sort of future content posts or whatever the case may be. So keep your eye on the organic prepper website that Daisy is running so well. And more information, of course, will be coming out via that as well. And Daisy again, once again, thank you so much for organizing these events, and being the the patient host for the tech neanderthals that Selco and I are.

**Daisy Luther** 117:31

Oh, It's lots of fun. It's lots of fun. All right. Well, guys, thank you very, very much. If by chance you don't get your question in, just drop us an email at [booksattheorganicprepper.com](mailto:booksattheorganicprepper.com). And, we will add that to our recorded webinar you're going to get with q&a. I'm going to go ahead and I am going to stop the broadcast. Thank you again, everybody. Have a wonderful day. Take care Bye bye.