

# TACTICS AND PREPAREDNESS



SKILLS AND SURVIVAL FOR ALL SITUATIONS

## IS THERE ANOTHER WORLD WAR ON THE HORIZON?

 In July, 2017 Americans enjoyed another hot 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

BY: KEVIN D. FREEMAN

Some visited a beach, some barbecued and others spent time with family. North Korea, however, chose our Independence Day to demonstrate their progress with Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) capable of hitting our nation. While this was a dramatic contrast, it is just the most recent example of an oblivious American public in the crosshairs of multiple enemies.

North Korea (the Democratic People's Republic of Korea) already has a sophisticated nuclear weapons program.<sup>1</sup> The DPRK has verifiably tested nuclear weapons, and they

claim to have successfully miniaturized nuclear warheads.

North Korea has teamed with terror-producing states such as Iran. Immediately after the DPRK's 4<sup>th</sup> of July launch, Iran's Head of National Security and Foreign Policy Commission stated online: "The parliamentary friendship group of Iran and North Korea is ready to facilitate and expedite cooperation between the two countries in various domains".<sup>2</sup> Iran's constitution openly states that the purpose of the Iranian government is "...fulfilling the ideological mission of jibad in [Allab's]

way; that is, extending the sovereignty of [Allab's] law throughout the world..." It also unambiguously states, "...the Constitution provides the necessary basis for ensuring the continuation of the Revolution at home and abroad. In particular; in the development of international relations, the Constitution will strive with other Islamic and popular movements [emphasis added] to prepare the way for the formation of a single world community..."

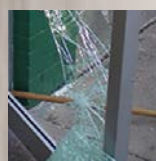
North Korea regularly threatens America. The DPRK has threatened to turn enemies into a "sea of fire", and has *continued on next page*



Breaching a glass window or a commercial glass door is best done with the right tool. Commercial doors are made with laminated safety glass that will not break easily.

# MECHANICAL BREACHING

## With Standard Tools



When shotgun and explosive breaching are not appropriate or not an option, mechanical breaching, or as the fire fighters call it—forcible entry—may be required.

**BY: KENT O'DONNELL**

**F**irefighters actually breach more doors than police officers do. Not only do firefighters breach doors at fires, but it is also common for them to force doors for medical rescues as well. With the exception of the Halligan tool, firefighters generally use tools that are simply quality home tools. Whether you are a firefighter, a patrol officer responding to an active shooter or a citizen escaping a dangerous structure (or helping others escape), you may find breaching skills useful.

Mechanical breaching is generally similar to shotgun breaching in that you are working to move the throw of the dead bolt or lock from the door jamb. Mechanical breaching has some tactical drawbacks. The breacher may be forced to stand in front of the door for an extended period of time, and there is a greater time delay from the start of breach to success. Any suspects inside are sure to hear or feel the mechanical breaching action. When a breach will take



A crow bar or the lighter pry bar may be used, but you will likely increase the damage done to property and definitely increase the effort it will take to breach a door.

a protracted amount of time, teams often choose to “port” a window so a teammate can cover the area near the door during the breaching process (even if this has to be done from a rappel line for an upper floor) or provide distractions to draw attention in other directions.

Breaching a glass window to port a room or breaching a commercial glass door is best done with the right tool. I am a big fan of the Halligan tool for this task. Commercial doors are made of laminated safety glass so they will not break easily or break into large sharp shards of glass that would be dangerous if accidentally broken.

The upside of breaching this glass is that once you have penetrated it at a “purchase point” you can rip out large sections of the glass almost like a carpet. On a commercial glass door you strike and break the glass at the top and pull down and out to clear out

the glass. If the glass door has a center push bar you will have to bend down and go underneath it to enter and exit. At some point you may find it beneficial to break the lock out to allow the door to open normally to facilitate speed of movement.

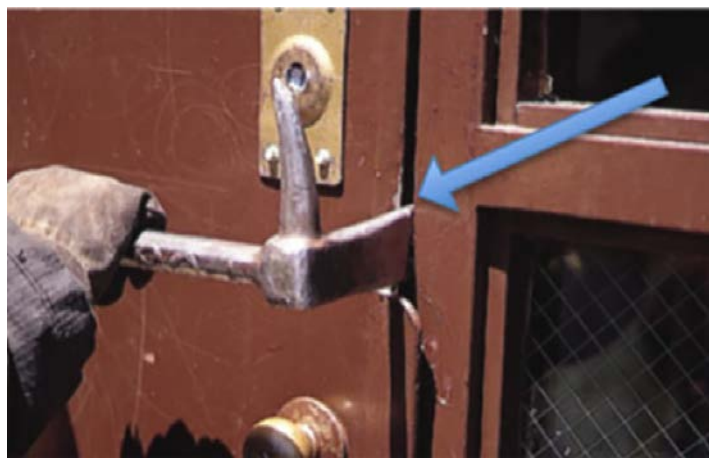
Residential glass is also safety glass, (unless it is specific anti-burglary glass, or has a window tint applied to it,) designed similar to the side window glass in vehicles. When struck, the glass fractures into many small pieces. It is important to wear effective eye protection when breaking glass.

You can use the same pointed end of the Halligan tool to hook onto the window coverings

(drapes or curtains) and “rake” them down so that you have an unobstructed view (or freedom of movement). Hence the term: “break and rake” a window. In the absence of a Halligan tool, a crow bar or pry bar is a good substitute.

On non-glass doors, we need to determine if it is an outward opening door or inward opening door. You can do this by looking at the hinges, doors open to the side

## THE HALLIGAN TOOL IS EXCELLENT FOR MECHANICAL BREACHING.



With a Halligan tool you can “pull” the locking mechanism from the door. Taking the wedge end of the Halligan, place it on top of the lock. Tap it so that it can begin to cut the lock from the door.



## Break and rake a window.

Break and clear the window glass. Hook the window dressing at the top, along the curtain rod or leveler box. If you grab leveler blinds midway, you may not get a clear view into the room and have to try again.

**Inward opening doors can be breached with a sledge hammer. Doors open to the side the hinges are on. If you do not see hinges, the door opens away from you, if you see hinges it opens toward you.**

the hinges are on. If you do not see hinges, the door opens away from you, if you see hinges it opens toward you.

Inward opening doors can be breached with a sledge hammer. Although not as cool as using a ram, it can be just as effective. To breach a door with a sledge hammer grip just behind the head with one hand and near the end of the handle with the other. Swing the hammer with the rotation of your waist and upper body striking the locking mechanism with the top of the hammer head. This may take more than one strike, but fewer than the number of strikes it would take with a foot, and much safer.

With the use of a Halligan tool or crow bar you can “pull” the locking mechanism. To pull the lock you are trying to remove the locking mechanism from the door. Taking the wedge end of the Halligan, or a standard fire wood wedge, place it on top of the lock. Tap it so that it can begin to cut the lock from the door. When you remove the mechanism’s face, the throw can be

pulled back and out of the locked position.

On commercial metal doors, fire departments have a special tool called a “K” to pull the lock. In the absence of a “K” tool you can use the vise grips of a pipe wrench to remove the mortis style locks but, as with much breaching, the door will not be the same afterwards.

Another method is to wedge the door open (for doors opening toward you) by driving the wedge of the Halligan between the door and the frame and then twisting down, not prying out. Twist the Halligan down, and the door may have enough give to let the throw of the bolt pass. You may find the need to pry-out, but that will increase the damage to the door and frame.

When speed is not critical, a door spreader can be used. The goal is to spread the door jamb wide enough so the throw can pass and not damage the door or door frame. I have seen this used effectively many times when I was dispatched along with fire and EMS when conducting welfare checks on

people who had not been seen for several days. The commercial option, and the home option (using a scissor jack or hydraulic jack, and some two by four wood) can spread the jamb and do minimal damage. Padlocks are the ultimate keep-the-honest-person-honest locking system. If you examine the lock and chain, it is not uncommon to find the lock is made of better material than the chain. A nice set of bolt cutters should be kept in any person’s tool shed for those days when you cannot find your own key to a lock. When cutting with bolt cutters, I like to cut the link close to the lock, this saves the lock (for when I find the key), is less work than cutting the lock and preserves the most chain. Squeezing the bolt cutters together can be difficult on quality locks, so I often place one handle against the ground, or an immovable object, then use both hands on one handle.

Some situations will require cutting with a saw. If you find yourself using a hacksaw, remember the hacksaw blade is designed to



**If speed is not critical, a door spreader can be used. A home option would be using a scissor jack or hydraulic jack, and some two by four wood.**

top right and right: The author created the Patrol Active Shooter Kit using tools patrol level security and law enforcement personal can use to breach the most common doors. Worn like a quiver, it has loops for five 12 gauge shotgun rounds on the front. The back carries a 10 pound sledge, bolt cutters and a 16 inch Halligan bar.

cut when you push, so it helps to put two blades on the saw, one cutting each way to improve efficiency. In the absence of a Halligan bar, a crow bar or the lighter pry bar may be used, however you will likely increase the damage done to property and definitely increase the effort it will take to breach a door. Keeping to the same guiding principles of attacking the throw of the lock and the locking mechanism, you can place the cutting edge of the bar above the lock and strike downward. With the lighter bar, a lighter hammer will keep you from destroying the tool before you breach the lock.

As with the Halligan bar you can break and rake a window. It is best if you can hook the window dressing at the top, along the curtain rod or leveler box. If you grab leveler blinds midway, you may not get a clear view into the room, in which case you will have to try again. I suggest you rake until you have cleared the window to the point you are sure you will not have to re-rake it. Nothing seems slower then raking

a window, then attempting to cover a room to safeguard a teammate, and realizing you cannot see enough, and have to take your weapon out of action to work on the window again.

While the words “breacher up” bring SWAT or military operations to our minds, the truth is the average patrol officer will breach more doors in a year than a SWAT breacher. Yes, the threat behind the door may be different: a child locked in a car, an elderly person who has fallen, but it is still breaching. I created the Patrol Active Shooter Kit using tools patrol level security and law enforcement personnel can use to breach the most common doors. Worn like a quiver, it has loops for five 12 gauge shotgun rounds on the front. The back carries a 10 pound sledge, bolt cutters and a 16 inch Halligan bar. I have used my kit too many times to count while on patrol, saving many ankle injuries, and expediting the response of our officers. The right tool for this job is the fastest one. Anyone who may



need to get in or out of a locked structure in an emergency has use for breaching skills, and there is a wide range of tools, from specialized to household, that can be used if you know how. ✓

#### BIO

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