



Self-Reliance Institute Newsletter

August 2014 Volume 2, Issue 8

Self-Reliance Institute Members Area

I am very excited to let you know that the completely redesigned [Self-Reliance Institute Members Area](#) is ready for you. It can be located by clicking [HERE](#). And, just in case, here is the URL written out: <http://www.selfrely.com/members/> Please bookmark the page.

I can tell you from personal observation that Chris Peterson and all the behind the scenes folks who work every day to make the Self-Reliance Institute the best resource of its kind have been busting their tails to get the Members Area redesigned and stocked with an amazing amount of FREE material.

In the [Self-Reliance Institute Members Area](#), you'll already find:

- 1) Newsletter Archive – Every newsletter we've published for the Self-Reliance Institute.
- 2) Resource Library – Including: Recession Survival; Financial Intelligence; Bankruptcy Recovery; Surviving the Bad Economy; 101 Way to Improve Your Credit Score; Home Security Exposed; Solar Freedom and Survival Guide; Emergency Money; Income 4 Independence; Real Estate Income

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Americans Swept Up in NSA Dragnet

Happy Fourth of July weekend! I hope and trust you had a great Fourth!!

As my associate Chris Peterson stated yesterday, "We live in the greatest country on earth."

I believe that is true and I hope that you believe it as well.

I also believe it's our duty as Americans to strive each and every day to preserve the freedom that is our birthright.

Because I believe in our birthright of freedom, I'd like to bring an important development in the ongoing revelations about the National Security Agency to your attention.

Last night, the Washington Post revealed that, at the very least, hundreds of thousands of innocent Americans are being swept up in the NSA's electronic communications dragnet.

The report, ["In NSA-intercepted data, those not targeted far outnumber the foreigners who are,"](#) begins:

"Ordinary Internet users, American and non-American alike, far outnumber legally targeted foreigners in the communications intercepted by the National Security Agency from U.S. digital networks, according to a four-month investigation by The Washington Post."

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Police Chief: Armed Citizens Reduce Crime

"Criminals who are thinking of robbing a citizen; they're less likely to do so if they think they might be armed." —Detroit Police Chief James Craig

Here you have it directly from the man charged with trying to reduce crime in Detroit, Michigan. And as anyone who is breathing air knows, Detroit is going through some very tough times.

I know this confirms what many of you already know and believe. Still, it's always important when an individual in the position of Chief Craig comes out and speaks the truth on

an issue this critical.

Because I don't know about you, but I'm tired of uninformed, anti-gun, anti-Second Amendment jerks who constantly bad-mouth responsible gun owners.

OK. Before I share more of what Chief Craig had to say on one of the most important topics we cover at the Self-Reliance Institute — the use of guns for self-defense — I want to take care of an important house-keeping matter.

Here is your free copy of the [Self-Reliance Institute Newsletter for July](#). Enjoy! Share! As always, give me

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'We'd Still Be Picking Up The Pieces'

Do you remember what you were doing on July 23, 2012?

If you don't, you're in good company. I have no recollection of what I was doing that day.

But if things had gone just a bit differently, we'd all remember where we were and what we were doing when the world was plunged back into the "Dark Ages."

Further, it's quite possible we'd still be trying to recover.

Let me explain.

And this is doubly-important because all too often I hear nitwits – my favorite term for people who go through life unprepared – claim that those of us who are self-reliant are just scaremongers who spread rumors of doom and gloom that could never really happen.

So better yet, let me explain by using the words of Brian Williams of NBC Nightly News. A member of the Mainstream Media if ever there was one. And yes, I know what you probably think about the Mainstream Media because I feel the same way.

But for what I'm about to tell you, I want you to hear it from a Mainstream Media source. That way, when you share it with friends who are not as prepared and self-reliant as you, they can't accuse you of pulling information from some obscure website or news source.

This week, in "Solar Flare Almost Sent Earth Back to the Dark Ages in 2012," Brian Williams told the NBC Nightly News audience:

"Based on what we know now, it's

worth wondering how life would have been different if a sun storm had not barely missed us back on July 23rd of 2012. It just aimed away from planet Earth at the last minute. It came very close to being the worst in a hundred and fifty years. ...

"According to NASA, physicists are just now realizing how close we came to getting clobbered by waves of solar energy – a mass ejection of clouds of the sun's plasma – that would have crippled satellite communications and the power grid.

"That means blackouts, city water systems, transportation, health and medical facilities. Scientists say we'd still be picking up the pieces if it had hit us two years ago. They also say we face a 12 percent chance of it happening over the next decade."

It took Williams less than one minute to deliver that report. I bet very few people even saw the report.

And yet, think about how different life could be right now for all of us – most especially those who are unprepared to go without electricity for an extended period of time.

Did you pay attention to the last sentence in the report?

"[Scientists] also say we face a 12 percent chance of it happening over the next decade."

Now I don't know, but I assume if there's a 12 percent chance over the next decade, there's a 36 percent chance over the next 30 years.

That would mean a better than 1 in

3 chance that in the next 30 years the power grid of the United States could be crippled for a very long time. And that's just the odds from a solar flare. It doesn't include the risk from man-made problems.

If that's not a wake-up call for getting prepared to survive without power, I don't know what it will take for people to get prepared.

But I do know this.

The overwhelming majority of Americans will not be prepared.

The government will be almost useless in assisting those who are not prepared.

There will be civil unrest of unimaginable magnitude.

You will only survive if you are prepared to provide your own food, water, medical supplies, shelter, and self-defense.

It really is that simple.

In the coming weeks and months, the Self-Reliance Institute will provide information and resources that will assist you in being prepared for an extended period without electricity. If you have suggestions of information and resources that you are currently using that you'd like me to consider or review, please email me at Rob@SelfRely.com

For now, I want you to start thinking about whether you're prepared to go without electricity for three months.

Could you survive for 90 days without electricity? Could you assist family, friends and neighbors for 90 days?

NSA Dragnet

"Nine of 10 account holders found in a large cache of intercepted conversations, which former NSA contractor Edward Snowden provided in full to The Post, were not the intended surveillance targets but were caught in a net the agency had cast for somebody else.

"Many of them were Americans. Nearly half of the surveillance files, a strikingly high proportion, contained names, e-mail addresses or other details that the NSA marked as belonging to U.S. citizens or residents. NSA analysts masked, or "minimized," more than 65,000 such references to protect Americans' privacy, but The Post found nearly 900 additional e-mail addresses, unmasked in the files, that could be strongly linked to U.S. citizens or U.S. residents.

"The surveillance files highlight a policy dilemma that has been aired only abstractly in public. There are discoveries of considerable intelligence value in the intercepted messages — and collateral harm to privacy on a scale that the Obama administration has not been willing to address."

While there is considerable and worthwhile intelligence being developed about enemies of the United States, there is also a tremendous amount of personal information and

communications of completely innocent and unsuspecting Americans being obtained and stored by the NSA.

"One program, code-named PRISM, extracts content stored in user accounts at . . .

As The Post notes about the types of information being intercepted about perfectly innocent Americans:

"Many other files, described as useless by the analysts but nonetheless retained, have a startlingly intimate, even voyeuristic quality. They tell stories of love and heart-break, illicit sexual liaisons, mental-health crises, political and religious conversions, financial anxieties and disappointed hopes. The daily lives of more than 10,000 account holders who were not targeted are catalogued and recorded nevertheless. . . .

"One program, code-named PRISM, extracts content stored in user accounts at Yahoo, Microsoft, Facebook, Google and five other leading Internet companies. Another, known inside the NSA as Upstream, intercepts data on the move as it crosses the U.S. junctions of global voice and data networks. . . .

"Scores of pictures show infants and toddlers in bathtubs, on swings, sprawled on their backs and kissed by their mothers. In some photos, men

show off their physiques. In others, women model lingerie, leaning suggestively into a webcam or striking risqué poses in shorts and bikini

tops."

So what's the bottom line and what does it mean for Americans like you and me?

It's quite simple. When it comes to U.S. government surveillance operations, as currently directed by the administration of President Barack Obama, every American's electronic communications — including Americans who have never done anything wrong in their entire life — are at significant risk of being intercepted, reviewed, cataloged and stored.

It really is that simple.

It really is that troubling.

So what can we as patriotic Americans — who believe in both protecting the liberty that is our birthright AND the defense of our country against foreign and domestic enemies — do to protect our freedom?

Certainly we can take steps to better protect our communications against interception. We discuss that quite a bit here at the Self-Reliance Institute, and I'll always provide you with the latest information about those steps so that you can protect your and your family's communications to the degree possible.

But beyond those steps, we must also educate ourselves about which of our political "leaders" are truly committed to supporting and defending the Constitution of the United States. And, in so doing, we must work to elect representatives who will protect our freedom.

After all, isn't our freedom what makes us different — better! — than

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Self-Reliance Update

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Secrets; Organic Gardening Guide; Beginners Guide to Woodworking; and, The Basic Wilderness Survival Guide.

3) The DIY Gun Plan Library – A range of weapons including handguns and long guns.

4) The Privacy Dashboard – Links to the section of the numerous popular websites where you can delete your profile and personal information. Constantly updated.

Best of all, we will constantly be adding new sections and new material to all sections. So even though we'll be sure to let you know when we add new material, be sure to check back at least once a month to see what has been added to assist you in becoming even more self-reliant.

OK. I don't want to throw too much at you today – after all, the [Self-Reliance Institute Members Area](#) should provide you with a bunch of new material to evaluate – but I did want to mention a new encrypted email service I've been testing.

I shared this with some other folks earlier this week, and some seemed to have a problem using it. So, in case you learned about it and are having problems, let me share with you what I shared with others and then explain a few items.

The service is called [Tutanota](#) and here's how they describe their free email encryption service:

“Take back your privacy! With our secure webmail service you can send encrypted emails very easily. The innovative solution allows you to reach everybody tap-proof. With the automated encryption it becomes



fun to send secure emails! Of course you can also send and receive non-encrypted messages.”

Here's part of what the respected website [eSecurity Planet](#) had to say about Tutanota:

“The German encrypted email provider Tutao, which was launched in 2012 in response to Edward Snowden's revelations regarding NSA surveillance, last week announced the availability of its [Tutanota Free](#) email service. ...

“Company co-founder Arne Moehle said in a statement that the service promises total data privacy. ‘All user data is encrypted locally on the user's device before being transmitted to our German-based servers,’ he said. ‘The data cannot be accessed by anybody. Not even we have access.’”

Now when I shared this with some other folks, I wrote:

“From what I've seen so far, Tutanota is the real deal. So, give it a try and let me know what you think!”

OK. A few important points that I should have added – and I will add now to make certain no one misunderstands.

Tutanota is brand new and is therefore a Beta service that is not yet a fully developed email service. So, there are some restrictions and drawbacks in the way the service functions and, therefore, the service is not right for everyone.

For example, if you don't have a mobile phone, you can't register

with the service as that is how they send verification codes for password changes (a very common method these days).

As with any service or product, it's always important to read through the FAQ section (frequently asked questions) and see if the product/service seems like a good fit for you.

[If it doesn't – don't use it.](#)

Here is the [FAQ for Tutanota](#).

In general, I always caution folks who are not experienced with using and testing Beta programs and services to do so with hesitancy. That's what I do. If I don't completely understand the service or feel I can use it confidently, I'm happy to wait until others have blazed the trail a bit more before I get on-board.

I hope that makes sense! I never want folks to jump into a new program or service if they don't fully understand the program or service.

Having said that – if you give Tutanota a try, let me know whether it works for you and if you think it has promise as an encrypted email service. If it doesn't – No Worries! There are many similar programs being designed as we speak in response to the Snowden revelations.

I have great confidence that in the coming months we'll have many encrypted programs and services to review and try and we'll find ones we really, really like and are user-friendly.

As always, you can email me at Rob@SelfRely.com

Be safe and secure,

Rob Douglas



Armed

feedback by emailing
Rob@SelfRely.com

OK. Back to Chief Craig.

This week, in [“Detroit police chief gives credit to armed citizens for drop in crime.”](#) The Detroit News reported:

“Fed up with crime, some armed Detroiters have developed itchy trigger-fingers — and Police Chief James Craig said lawbreakers are getting the message.”

“In the latest incident, police say an 88-year-old who was beaten and robbed inside his east side home last week probably thought he was defending himself against attackers when he opened fire Monday on a television news crew.”

Now get this. Even though that 88-year-old man shot at a television news crew — not a criminal

trying to break in his home and attack him — Chief Craig (and his assistant chief!) defended him.

In my book, that’s the kind of police chief we need in every community in this country.

According to the report, here’s what Assistant Chief Steve Dolunt said about the incident.

“I think he was traumatized; he got beat up pretty good,” Dolunt said. “When the second reporter went on to his porch, he may have thought she was the woman who had tricked him, and he probably thought he was defending himself.”

“Dolunt said police are investigating the matter, and it will be up to prose-

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cutors to decide whether to bring charges.”

Let’s hope the prosecutors have the good sense to leave this 88-year-old man alone. After all, he was in his home.

So do incidents like this reduce crime? Do they deter criminals from breaking into homes and attacking innocent citizens?

Well, here’s more from the report.

“The incident was the latest in a string of homeowners opening fire to defend themselves, although after a flurry of such shootings early this year, before Monday there hadn’t been a reported incident since May 4 — an indication that

criminals are thinking twice about breaking into people’s houses, Craig said.

“Detroit has experienced 37 percent fewer robberies in 2014 than during the same period last year, 22 percent fewer break-ins of businesses and homes, and 30 percent fewer carjackings. Craig attributed the drop to better police work and criminals being reluctant to prey on citizens who may be carrying guns.

“Criminals are getting the message that good Detroiters are armed and will use that weapon,” said Craig, who has repeatedly said he believes armed citizens deter crime. ‘I don’t want to take away from the good work our investigators are doing, but I think part of the drop in crime, and robberies in particular, is because criminals are thinking



twice that citizens could be armed.’

“I can’t say what specific percentage is caused by this, but there’s no question in my mind it has had an effect,” Craig said.”

After quoting several ivory tower types who put forth the usual blather about guns being dangerous, the report checks in with a former criminal. You know, the type of guy with real world experience like the police chief.

“Detroit resident Al Woods, a self-described former criminal who is now an anti-violence advocate and author, agreed criminals are thinking twice about attacking citizens.

“If I was out there now robbing people these days, knowing there are a lot more people with guns, I know I’d have to rethink my game plan,” said Woods, 60.”

Finally, let’s hear some more truth from the chief!

“Craig said he doesn’t believe gun ownership deters criminals from attacking other criminals. ‘They automatically assume another criminal is carrying,’ he said. ‘I’m talking about criminals who are thinking of robbing a citizen; they’re less likely to do so if they

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NSA Dragnet

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every other country on earth?

OK. It seems I jumped up on the soapbox. I'll climb back down.

Still, I'd love to hear what you think. Please email me at Rob@SelfRely.com and let me know if you think the NSA, as currently directed by the Obama administration, has gone too far by intercepting and storing the electronic communications of Americans. Be safe and secure,

Rob Douglas

PS – Here's an article, "[Digital Independence Day: Your guide to DIY, open-source, anonymous free computing.](#)" that you may want to review for information that may be helpful. Don't get me wrong. It's not going to keep the prying eyes of the NSA away. But, it does contain some useful information that I thought you might be able to put to good use. Personally, I use articles like this one as a benchmark to see how what I'm doing stacks up against what the author suggests. So, in that vein, take a look.



Armed

[Continued from Page 5](#)

think they might be armed."

When I saw this report and what the chief had to say, I knew I had to share it with you. I've also sent the link to the report to almost everyone in my personal email address book.

And yes, I certainly sent it to a number of folks who always claim that the police say citizens shouldn't arm themselves as a means of self-defense.

Because here's the truth.

I've been around and worked with law enforcement all my life. And every officer and official I know will tell you that the police can never be there fast enough when you're faced with a life or death confrontation.

The reality is that you must be prepared to defend your life and the lives of your family members. And, in the coming weeks and months, we will use the Self-Reliance Institute to share a ton of information on the proper use of guns for self-defense.

Dangerous Events

[Continued from Page 2](#)

Please think about what that might mean and what you and your loved ones would need to survive for 90 days.

Be safe and secure,

Rob Douglas

PS – Here's another published report about the solar storm that just missed us and what it could mean when it does happen. See: "2012's 'Solar Flare' Could Have Pushed Earth into Dark Age." I encourage you to share this report and the NBC Nightly News report with your family and friends.



OK. Tell me what you think by emailing me at Rob@SelfRely.com

Do you agree or disagree with the chief when he says that armed citizens reduce crime?

Be safe and secure,

Rob Douglas



Self-Reliance Institute Newsletter

Privacy:

HERE'S THE BOTTOM LINE: WE WILL NOT EVER GIVE, SELL, OR RENT YOUR INFORMATION TO ANYONE – EVER.

Questions or comments?

Please email me at Chris@SelfRely.com or call me at my Freedom Writer's Publishing office at 970-367-7624.



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