2nd Most Important Item In A Bug Out Bag
With Joe Nobody
Chet: Next up everybody, we have a cool topic about bug out bags and but out equipment. This is going to be taught by none other than Joe Nobody. If you are not familiar with who he is, Joe has been listed on Amazon's top 100 best sellers list as well as the top 500 ranking among all Amazon listed authors with over 800 Amazon reviews. Readers have collectively assessed his work with a 4.2 out of 5 start rating. Over the last two years, his titles have ranked number one in six different genres including both fiction and nonfiction categories. Joe's technical manuals and novels total over 250,000 copies in print. His appeal to the prepper community is born of his own belief system and experience and he has provided systems, consulting, and training for the US Army, Department of Homeland Security, the Office of Naval Research, the United States Border Patrol, as well as several private firms and government agencies, which we can't disclose here, or he can't, and he is currently active in this area.

For the security of his family and ongoing business, he wishes to remain anonymous as "Joe Nobody" so with that being said, Joe, welcome. I also want to let everybody know, my brother Dave Womach is here as well. My partner in these crazy adventures so Dave, welcome as well.

Joe Nobody: Oh, it's my pleasure, gentlemen. We'll have some fun with this, I hope, this morning.

Chet: Absolutely. Well, the topic, which is kind of cool because really how we, I don't know if it's quite how we got our start into the business side of preparedness but we launched an info graphic and it was in trying to create all of the suggested items that people would want to have in it and like the whole prepper community picked it up and I don't know if people are familiar with it but it's everywhere now.

It is all about items you want in your bug out bag. You have one that we did not include on that list so we'll need to be doing some updating I suspect after this but you have one that you are going to be talking about today that can really do quite a few things and it's going to open up people's minds, it's going to open up their eyes and you get to be a little creative with this little device. Why don't you tell us what this is.

Joe Nobody: Well, the device, if you will, or the item is a survival net and it probably helps to start off with a few prerequisites about bug out bags or a few gospels for lack of a better word. Anybody who has ever served in the infantry or done primitive camping, some serious hiking, there is an old phrase, "ounces equal pounds and pounds equal pain".

When I think about items for a bug out bag or my kit, anything that is lightweight, doesn't take up a lot of space and most importantly can serve one or
more purposes or dual purposes, I have an interest in that. The infamous multi-tool did a whole lot of things in one very small lightweight package. A good knife is obviously a prerequisite for any bug out bag. There are just so many things you can do with a good knife.

Back in the day, the military issued survival nets to certain units and the special forces groups. There is just so many things that you can do with this simple net. There’s no shelf-life on it and it’s not expensive and yet I’ve found it just invaluable in so many different situations. Some of which I’ve actually experienced in real life and others it’s not difficult to imagine the net being useful.

Chet: Very cool and people are looking at the slide to this and you are going to see, there is some creative stuff that can be done here.

Joe Nobody: Probably when people think of the net probably everyone gets a slightly different image and it would probably help us go through this and make it easier to absorb. The net that we’re talking about is typically nylon. They have a three quarter to one inch square in the weave, the open air, if you will. I wouldn’t go anymore than one inch. I wouldn’t go any smaller than three quarters of an inch and that’s just personal experience.

They are normally, the military issued ones, were 6 to 8 feet wide and about 12 feet long. I’ve found that is too big. Actually, what I end up doing when I buy one from a military surplus outlet is I cut them in half, long ways. I make them about three feet wide, 36 inches to 39 inches wide and then I also trim off some of the length and we’ll get into why I do that in a little bit.

The slides will show the military DLA numbers or the military inventory codes and if you do a search on the internet with those codes, if you actually want to purchase or try to find a military issued one through a surplus outlet, we see them, we’ll have an outlet on the web and we’ll find them and they’ll have 20 in stock and they disappear in about an hour.

I’ve written extensively both in the fiction and nonfiction books about uses of the net in the "Holding Their Own" series, the fiction series for example, Bishop loves his survival net. He uses it all the time in practically every book. I’ve also written nonfiction in the book "Without Rule of Law". I went through a section about how you could use a survival net. You’ll even see some pictures today from that book.

It’s become kind of, there’s certain folks that are looking for them so if you do see one on a military outlet, get it. Order it. They are normally less than $20. I’ve seen them anywhere from $12 to $19.95. I can’t tell you anybody that has them in stock right just this moment and if I did, by the time you heard this, they’d probably be gone anyway. It is worth searching for.

Chet: I'd like to give a quick tip out there. There is, for finding items like this, this is like one of those tips that I've never shared before because I don't know that I really
want to tell a ton of people but there are auto bidding tools that you can find on
EBay, not on EBay but pieces of software that will help you acquire items on sites
like EBay and people might look into those.
I have found when there is very competitive things and I've lost a couple of
options, if I use some auto bidding tools, some software, I can end up getting
items that other people have a really hard time getting a hold of. Something to
think about for people. Don't tell everyone though or they become less effective.

Joe Nobody: Yeah. If everybody goes out and does it, well, it'll get crowded.
Chet: Yeah.

Joe Nobody: There are also ways that you can make your own net and we'll get into those just
in a little bit.
Chet: Okay.

Joe Nobody: The primary usage that I've had personally with the survival net has been to
make a hammock. I have an eversion to sleeping on the ground and that comes
from a lot of different experiences and the different reasons. The primary thing
that I pull mine out of my kit and use it for is to make a hammock.
There are a lot of advantages to sleeping off of the ground. There are thermal
advantages if the ground is colder than the ambient air temperature. It's good to
have that insulation layer of air between your body and the cold ground. It is the
net is so much smaller, lighter, uses less space than a tent, any tent that I've been
able to find.
I have seen very high end, you know like from REI, single man tents for alter
primitive camping or those guys that have some of the mountain cliff faces with
them or they camp on a ledge and things like that. Those tents still weigh 2.5 to
3 pounds.
When we talk about space and saving weight and cost, an ultra lightweight
[inaudible 00:09:53] tent can be quite expensive, at least for this Joe Nobody.
When we talk about all of the advantages of the net, we're talking about more
than just something that's handy to have in the bug out bag. They actually can
save you money if you just like to just go camping.
How I carry my net is I use a Molle pouch. For those, that's the, Molle is the wet
gear for those that aren't familiar with military terms. Some people call it a load
vest or a chest rig and you can get Molle gear pouches and various accessories at
any army surplus store. They're quite inexpensive.
I use an M249 grenade pouch. I think it's a 40 mm grenade pouch. I think I paid I
think $6 for one. The net will fit inside of that if you trim it down very easily.
You'll even have a little bit of extra space in there. In mine, I also carry what I call
hooks or fasteners and these are typically S hooks of some sort. You can find
them at just about any hardware store or camping store.
Some people, mountain climbers or the people who are serious about hiking, it's
kind of a broad term but they use the term carabiner. It's C-A-R-A-B-I-N-E-R. If
you do a web search on that, you'll see there's just a ton of different models, sizes, different ways that they fasten and secure but we'll go through how the hooks are used and why they are an advantage as we go through the various slides.

There is a picture on the slideshow that shows the net, the Molle pouch, and it also has a couple of items that's maybe a little difficult to see in the black and white photograph but we call those supports. Those are optional. I carry those with me. What those actually are flexible aluminum splints and if you need to build a shelter out of your net or if you are trying to do kind of a make-shift on the fly ghillie suit or hide in an urban environment, those supports can take away that very recognizable human shape is why I have those in my kit and it's also good to have a splint with you as well. Those are optional.

The weight requirements for the net, you'll find as you shop for nets that they'll tell you what the tinsel strength or the breakage strength of the individual strands. I go, my [inaudible 00:13:22] weight is about 205 pounds. Not a real big guy. I'll throw on 60 pounds worth of kit and rifle and load vest and so I'm well above 250 pounds. You don't need to get individual strands of the net that will hold your weight or your anticipated weight of anything that you want to carry. Any load above that one inch to three quarter inch square will be spread out across multiple strands. I've used nets that really had a tinsel strength of about 100 pounds per strand and never had an issue. The military ones, they are a little bit thicker so I believe they average about 200 pounds from the specs that I've read and definitely you're not going to have an issue with those. Remember that the thicker that those strands are of the individual weaves, the more room it's going to take up in your bug out bag or your Molle pouch. They will fold up and obviously thicker material, it will take up more space.

Chet: Okay.

Joe Nobody: You also need to keep in mind the tinsel strength or breakage strength of the hooks. When we make a hammock or when we make a looters bag or if you are going to secure the net to hold any sort of weight at all, the hooks need to be able to handle that individual load.

I use stainless steel hooks rated at 200 pounds. They are about $6 at a hardware store. They don't take up much space. They also, like so many things that you have in your bug out bag, they can be used for a lot of other purposes other than just the net. I like to get ones that have some sort of locking mechanism on them. There is various ones. There are screw locks, there's clip locks.

You can go probably for about .59 just get stainless steel S hooks at the chain department at Lowe's or Home Depot. Those would work with the net as well but they don't have a locking mechanism on it. If I'm using, if I'm sleeping in a hammock, I don't want it coming undone in the middle of the night. If I'm up in a tree, up off the ground quite a ways in the hammock, I definitely don't want it
coming undone in the middle of the night so that's why I like a locking mechanism. They'll cost you a little bit more but they are worth it to me for the peace of mind.

Chet: Makes sense. I know I've blown out some before.

Joe Nobody: Yup. They will break. Just because they are metal. A lot of people think that they are metal. Besides the hammock, there are, as you mentioned earlier in the opening, there are a lot of uses for the net. Just to list a few of them, you can make a ghillie suit or a ghillie cloak, some people refer to it, I've even heard it called a ghillie blanket, out of the net.

You can take local foliage and a good sharp knife and you can weave twigs and branches and small limbs into the netting as much as you think you need for the density of the foliage around you and drape the net over your head and down the front and down the back of your body and your arms are still free. I've found that it actually ventilates better than the average ghillie suit.

I live in Texas so ghillie suits here, one of the things that becomes ultra critical in the summer months is that they breathe a little bit. You can get overheated real quick in a store bought or a dedicated full time ghillie suit with heavy canvas or even plastic interweaves.

While we're talking about ghillie suits, that's why I trim the military nets. I am just right at 6 foot tall, maybe a little over with a good pair of boots on. If I draped the net over my head to make a ghillie suit out of it, I want the net about mid calf, front and back, on my legs. That keeps you from tripping on it, from it getting tangled up in the very low lying brush.

One of the disadvantages of the net and using the net in a lot of these scenarios is they do tend to get hung up on things. It's a net, that's what it's supposed to do. But if I keep it mid calf, that allows me to move, walk, run, pretty much with far less obstruction and getting caught up on thorns and stickers and things then if it was actually dragging the ground. If you are a big fella, if you are 6'5", then you probably want your net a little bit longer than if you are not as tall and you are 5'8" then you probably want yours a little bit shorter. That's why I was mentioning earlier on that I trim mine.

Keep in mind, if you believe that you are going to have a pack, like a backpack or a hiking pack, or ruck, whatever, on your back, you want the net to drape over that and fall freely to the ground so that may add a few inches to the length that you want depending on the size of the pack.

I have a buddy who is a sniper and he carries two weapons and his sniper rifle is across his back like a pair of angel wings almost in a case. His net is extra long because he has to cover that rifle if he's using it as a ghillie. Most people would be fine just with a few inches to compensate for the girth of the pack.

Another use and the thing that no one wants to thing about, a subject that no one wants to talk about but there may be times in a bug out situation where you
need a stretcher or a litter, as I call them, not a term that a lot of folks use but and if it's you and the wife in a bug out situation and she twists her ankle or you twist yours, or you blow a tendon in the knee, whatever, it could be anyone of a million scenarios but you've still got to keep moving, a stretcher becomes just the only way really.

I can get my wife up in a fireman's carry with my pack and my rifle but I won't last more than a certain distance. I don't know how far. But if I build a stretcher out of the net and drag her along, I have done this to test it, then I, there is a whole lot less load on my lower body and my old aging knees.

Chet: Is your wife …
Joe Nobody: I'm sorry, go ahead.
Chet: What did your wife have to say about that experience after you drug her until you passed out?

Joe Nobody: Mrs. Nobody actually thought that was fun.
Chet: Okay.

Joe Nobody: Yeah. Every now and then I ask her to go help me test something or prove something and she gets the look on her face like okay, what am I getting into now but that one she actually thought it was fun.

Chet: Cool.

Joe Nobody: Obviously the scenario that you are practicing for is not lighthearted. You know, it's every preppers worst nightmare is getting hurt or sick or wounded, whatever, you know, when there is no medical care. That's always your worst case scenario. Having a stretcher along is, I think, a wise plan. People do get hurt.

Another use of the survival net, and we'll go through these in some detail a little bit later on, but is a fishing net. Now, I spend a lot of my time and my bug out location is in west Texas. I probably won't be doing a whole lot of fishing in west Texas but there, for most folks throughout the country, are lakes and streams and ponds, even the ocean if you are along the coast. Don't ignore fish as a source of food. That's very good survival food.

Yeah, you can have a fishing line in the handle of your Rambo knife and a little bobber in your survival kit and a little hook and you may or may not catch fish but my personal experience is I can get more fish faster with a net than I can with an individual line and bobber and hook.

Chet: And we'll be giving some tips on that later.

Joe Nobody: We will. It's not legal I don't think in a lot of places to fish like I'm going, like we're going to go over the methods with the processes to use but if it's a grid down situation or an emergency, the game warden will probably look the other way, we could hope.

Chet: There's a lot of topics here at the survival summit that are not good ideas in the current way things work and so what we always just say is we have to say that ask your lawyer, ask your state authorities, and just know what the law is. We
are not suggesting you do it, we just are, it's information only. You can do with it whatever you will.

Joe Nobody: Well, I've kind of always figured if I'm starving, if my kids are hungry, if we've not eaten for awhile and for whatever reason the prepper supplies are not available, if a game warden gives me the ticket for using the net to fish, so be it. I don't care. Eating is job one in that particular scenario and I think a game warden would have, he'd probably want some of the fish in that scenario if you played it out long enough but anyway that ...

Chet: A time and place where the game warden is probably no longer getting paid anymore either in this scenario, right?

Joe Nobody: Right. Yeah and may not even be around. Anyway, we'll go through how to fish with the net in some detail. Another use, and there is a difference between a ghillie suit and a hide, what is called a hide. Some people will call it a sniper's hide. I've heard it referred to as a spider hole, that's really kind of a different topic.

A hide, as every deer hunter knows, oh, a blind, some people will call it a deer blind as well. That's not really a suit that you have that you are wearing or clothing, an article that you are wearing. That is a barrier. A visual barrier next to a trail or up in a tree or it can be just about anywhere. I've found that with a net and a little bit of paracord, I can string up a little hole, tight line, across two trees and throw the next over it, lean some fresh saplings or trim some small limbs and maybe weave a few of them in, maybe throw some dried leaves from the forest floor up on it and it just looks just like a dense piece of brush.

On the slides a little bit later on, we've got some pictures of the hooks out at [inaudible 00:26:59] blog who took the book "Without Rule of Law" and went out and actually tested some of the examples that we gave. They took some great pictures. Anybody that gets a chance, that's a great blog. Maybe at the end of the show we can spell it out so folks can find it.

Chet: Okay.

Joe Nobody: Anyway, a coat and I actually have done both what I call the raincoat version and the warmth. The raincoat version, depending on what raw materials you have handy, I took the disposable throw away little thin plastic trash bag or grocery bags that you get now a days at the common grocery store. They are real lightweight, they wad up into nothing. I took three or four of those, took the knife, sliced them into long strips, wove them into the net, and stood outside in the rain.

I was surprised. It acts kind of like shingles on a roof, the plastic does. It won't keep you as dry as a full blown poncho or rain suit but if it was cold weather and you were stuck and you didn't have a poncho or a rain suit, but you did have some plastic available, you could make a pretty good rain coat in 30 minutes.

Chet: Cool.

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Joe Nobody: The same goes for warmth. Newspaper, bark, and we'll go through a little bit more of this. Any type of wood is great insulation. Any type of wood or foliage that you can weave into that net and drape it over you provides insulation, helps you conserve body warmth.

Again, I used plastic or not plastic but the old fashioned paper grocery sacks and newspaper and I wadded up newspaper, cut the old fashioned grocery sacks into strips, wove those in, and then wadded the newspaper through the holes in the net and it was actually quite warm. Again, I live in Texas. It was only about 39 or 40 degrees the day that I did it, but I could walk for quite aways and I was very comfortable with it. It was surprisingly effective.

Another use is as a climbing tool. You can wad the net up like we used to do in the locker room. We'd roll up the towels and flip them to sting each other and you can roll up the net like that. It's a little bit more difficult but twist it up and it becomes a very nice thick rope, if you will, or cord. I wouldn't use it for serious mountain climbing but if there's an 8 or a 10 foot drop off or ledge and you've got to find a way down, it could solve the problem.

Another thing that folks don't think about very much. Let's say you are driving home, the car breaks down or runs out of gas, you are in a bug out situation, the grid is down, there is no help, and all of a sudden you've got maybe some suitcases in the car, there is some bottled water, there are some snack bars. You've got all of this miscellaneous stuff and it's not in a bag or you manage to gather at the last gas station you got some bottled water but it won't fit in your bag. Well, you can make a looters bag, we call it, or a cargo bag for lack of a better term, and act like Santa Claus. Wrap up your goodies that you've got to take with you, throw them over your shoulder and be like St. Nick and head on down the road.

I am a big proponent of whatever you carry your gear and kit in that you keep your hands free. Walking down the road or anywhere a considerable distance, carrying like a gym bag or what a lot of people use as a bug out bag on one side of your body, yeah, that's okay for a half a mile or a mile, maybe two but if you have to walk 15 or 20 miles, you won't like it. It's not good for you.

The military knows how to do this. They've had men carrying heavy loads of gear dozens and dozens of miles on foot for 3000 years or more. They know you center the load. You put it on your bag. You get it up high if at all possible and having your hands free has a lot of advantages. You can draw a weapon, you can draw a knife, you can keep your balance better. You can eat a power bar while you are walking, you can take a drink while you are walking, you can keep moving. That's why slings were put on rifles, that's why holsters were designed for pistols, that's why knives have sheaths. Anything that you are carrying, if you can get it round to your back, you are better off and I think history kind of proves that.

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Chet: I think that's a good point. I think it's something that a lot of people don't really think about as far as oh, I'll just throw this in my bag and take it versus center it on my body and that type of thing. It seems to be a really good point.

Joe Nobody: I wrote back years ago, I wrote a book called "The Tawaka Tuxedo" and that book was one of the first, I think, that was out that talked about, it's major point was I believe in a bug out vest, not a bag, not a physical bag. You know, if you get down to the knitty gritty of bugging out, I like a load vest and with the Alice system of pouches or the Molle system of pouches, you can keep adding pouches if you keep adding components.

I can throw that on, it's balanced, it is hands free. The weights, you know, as close to the right place as you can get it kind of in that scenario without a dedicated assault pack and all of that stuff. I've always, my bug out stuff is on a vest, not in a bag but a lot of folks can't do that or don't want to do that or that's not a good fit in how they think about things, what happened, or what they would need.

If you've got the gym bag in the car as your bug out bag, take it out one day and walk with it for awhile and see. I think you'll reconsider. Anyway, so the looters bag or emergency pack is a great use for the survival net.

Another thing that a lot of folks don't think about but especially in a grid down without rule of law scenario is door security. I have taught as well as attended as well as executed breaching. Breaching is a term, everybody has probably seen it on TV, you have a stick of men, they blow the hinges off with a 12-gauge or a small explosive device or they ran the door and in they come.

Sure, most of your listeners aren't drug dealers or terrorists and they are not worried about breaching as far as their day to day lives. I'm not. The cops can buy me a new door if they come in by mistake but in a post apocalyptic situation, if you can find shelter and there is a door, you may want to secure that. Again, a net secured around the door frame will absorb a huge amount of punishment. I'm talking thousands of pounds. Each one of those little strands needs 100 pounds per square inch for it to give.

One of the examples that I give in my books is you take little hooks. There's a picture of them on one of the slides. You can screw them into the door frame, 15 or 20 of them. It'll take you a little bit. Nails could also be used and you put the net over that door and nobody is going to get in there without you knowing it. You are going to have some time to react.

In one of the fiction books, there is a situation where the bug out crew, the couple is bugging out, they find shelter, it's in an abandoned hotel. They know there are bad guys in the area. They want to secure the door. All of the deadbolts and keys aren't available and many have been busted open anyway. How do they secure the door? You can use a net.

Chet: It's a [crosstalk 00:37:30].

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Joe Nobody: I also ... I'm sorry. Go ahead.

Chet: I was going to say, it's a cool point and I want to encourage people to check out, we have a couple of I guess it's one, Escape and Evasion Talk by Chance Sanders who talks about evading and holding up in certain places and make sure you check out his presentation as well for all those listening and this fits perfectly with that strategy where you might need to stay somewhere and secure it on your getting back home process or getting to wherever you are trying to go. Yeah. Cool idea.

Joe Nobody: Now, I keep, I have about six nets in my garage and a couple of bags of hooks and in the book "Holding Your Ground", which is about how to set up your home or bug out location for security and defense, I suggest using nets over the windows and the doors. It lets in sunlight, it can let in air, you can unhook it, it's not going to damage the value of your home if it's a false alarm, but intruders or looters or predators of any sort, a net just gives them all kinds of problems. It takes awhile to cut through it. If you put a little bell on it or some little noisemakers of some sort, something just to jingle, there is no way they can get through that net without you hearing them. In a breach situation, if someone is coming into your home, there is no way to ultimately stop a determined entry but what you want is time. If I had time to get to my weapon, they are going to have a difficult day. I think most Americans feel that way. Give me time. Give me warning and I'll take care of everything after that. Then finally, you can use the net, the example that we give is for a snare to trap small game and it really doesn't take a whole lot of imagination. Anybody who has ever built a snare using wire or done any sort of trapping before, it's really not difficult. It's a baiting situation and a couple of different ways to close the trap but the net would make an excellent snare and might save you some time. That's kind of a summary of what you can do, some of the things, and if you'd like, we can go ahead and delve into a few of the details about how to use it and how to set it up and maybe some more granular ideas.

Chet: Let's do it. Let's do it.

Joe Nobody: Let's talk about a hammock first. Again, that's my most common usage. A couple of hints about making a hammock out of the net, if you just string up each end of the net to a tree and we show a picture of that on the slide show. The guys out at the blog went out and practiced and tried a couple of different ways. If you just string it up to the tree, it will work. If you are exhausted, if you've been on the bug out, you've been traveling on foot for a long time, maybe you are being chased, maybe you are doing the chasing and whatever, it beats the heck out of sleeping on the ground even as the first couple of examples they show there, which is a very narrow platform.

I like a little wider sleeping area. One of the ways that you can do that is you can take some small thumb-sized green if possible limbs, twigs, sticks, whatever you...
want to call them and if you take your hunting knife and you just whack it a few times to just cut a slight groove into the stick and you weave that through each end of the net, that will keep the net from bunching up and you hang it.

Chet: At the ends.

Joe Nobody: I'm sorry?

Chet: Are you doing that at the foot and the head of the net? Kind of [crosstalk 00:42:19].

Joe Nobody: Yes, at the foot and the head of the net.

Chet: Okay.

Joe Nobody: Now, it's a little bit of a pain to get that stick out of there because the individual strands of material, of the net, will, you know, they go down into those little cuts and you've got to pull them out at the same time you're weaving out the stick but it will keep the net from clustering up around you and it actually seems to make it a little more stable of a sleeping platform.

Chet: Cool.

Joe Nobody: One of the things I always stress in my instruction guides to readers and I will do so again here, don't under estimate the time that it takes to do all these things. Practice. I know everybody always says, you know, it's a bad thing to go out and buy a handgun or a long gun and not practice with it. You constantly hear firearms guys say go shoot, it's a perishable skill. Go to the range. Learn how your weapon functions, etc., etc., and that's excellent advice. I agree with it 100%.

The same goes with the material in your bug out bag. The pieces of your bug out bag. I can string up a hammock between two well spaced trees oh in 10 minutes, with no problem at all. You can add another 30 or 40 minutes to that if you want to get it real stable and real comfy. Again, weaving in the support, the cross members if you will, for support to keep it from bunching up.

If I think it's going to rain or I'm in a heavy dew situation and I don't want to wake up cold and wet, then add another 15 minutes to string up a poncho or a plastic trash bag or something to keep the moisture off of you, above. There is a picture of a poncho being used out in the slide there.

I always stress that folks, you know, if I'm traveling, if I'm on a bug out and it's getting close to dusk and I just now start looking for some place to hang my net for a hammock or someplace to camp, I'm going to be stumbling around in the dark if I'm not careful. If I don't have a good understanding and all of this, everything becomes twice as difficult in the dark unless you are an idiot and you light up a flashlight or a lantern or build a fire or something and then, of course, everybody for several miles knows exactly where you are at.

As I train people and the instruction guides point out, know how long this stuff takes you to do. Practice it. You know, keep track of that. It's just like your

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weapon. The more you do it, the more you practice, the better you'll be, the easier those skills will come to you when you really need them.

That brings into the next topic, which is time and again, sometimes you may have to beat a hasty retreat. We talked about evasion. The other gentleman that you were speaking of before on talking about evasion, I can break down a survival net campsite in moments, especially when compared to breaking down a tent. If I hear people in the area that I think may be hostile, or engine noises, or whatever reason there may be that I need to skedaddle in a hurry, breaking down a net, hammock, and getting out of dodge is a much faster experience than breaking down a tent. That's just something that I like to point out to folks that a lot of times they don't think about things like that.

Chet: Makes sense.

Joe Nobody: Kind of from a hammock point of view given the pictures and what we've talked about, do you guys have any questions or can think of anything I failed to point out as far as a place to sleep?

Chet: I don't think so. I think that makes a lot of sense. I like the knife suggestion with the sticks for making it more comfy and going out and practicing it. I think let's just dive into some of these other things. I know of interest to me is using this net for the fishing, the yeah, let's talk about, let's just keep it moving and let's throw as much as we can here while we still have some time for folks.

Joe Nobody: Sure. One of my favorite things to teach students if you will for lack of a better term, is about camouflage. Everybody thinks of camouflage as foliage, grass, leaves, bark, whatever in a wooded area. That is just barely touching the surface of camouflage, especially for preppers. Especially who might be in a bug out situation.

One of the, in the "Book Without Rule of Law", one of the sequences of pictures that we show is I took trash bags, just real old kitchen trash bags and in a grid down situation when the trash truck is no longer coming, a lot of suburbs, there's not going to be a shortage of trash bags and garbage and so I took just [inaudible 00:48:38], cut them into strips, wove them into the net, draped it over my head, and hid in a bag of trash. There is a before and after picture, a pile of trash bags. There is a before and after picture on the slide there.

Camouflage is not always wooded. There is desert camouflage. I can take cardboard strips, I can put some pine tack on them or anything at all that I can find that's sticky, water will even do sometimes, drag them through the local sand, run them through the strips of the survival net, and it's pretty effective camouflage.

Chet: That's a cool idea.

Joe Nobody: Urban camouflage can be anything that's common and we've all seen the apocalyptic movies of trash that's blowing down the street and there will be cardboard boxes and things lying around. If you really think that that's the way
that it's going to be, having the net allows you to take whatever is common and weave it into the net or secure it to the net in some way and then you've got camouflage.

I'm, despite being accused of being a little bit of an aggressive guy, if I'm in a grid down environment, if I'm bugging out, if I'm trying to get to Uncle Joe's house out in the country, whatever the scenario you want, it is always better to avoid confrontation. You can get all macho with your [inaudible 00:50:30] you want, or your deer rifle or shotgun or whatever but if I'm in your neighborhood, I'm trying to avoid you. I don't want you to see me. I don't want you to know I'm there. I don't want you to know my family is with me. I just want to pass through or get where I'm going and avoid all trouble.

If you have that philosophy, camouflage becomes a very important topic to study. How to blend in, how to get through without being detected.

Chet: Cool. Let's move onto some tips for building these stretchers.

Joe Nobody: Sure. We were talking about the cross members of the hammock, you do the opposite with the stretcher. You run again in, I like to actually weave the size of my ring finger up to my thumb, weave multiple branches, green saplings. Again, the greener the wood, the easier, the more flexible.

I've even used vines, strips of vines before. It gets a little mushy, but it works but you run those the long ways, down the left and right side of the net just like the handles of a stretcher with the normal canvas in between. Just run those down the sides of the net and you have a fairly comfortable ... The wood gives as you drag it along the ground and it bumps but it also kind of acts as a shock absorber for the injured person.

If there are two people able to carry it then great, you have a stretcher with the two handles at each end. Again, like the hammock, the stretcher will tend to bunch up a little and so just put in a cross member at the head and the foot and you've got a pretty stable, pretty comfortable platform if someone is hurt.

Chet: Pretty cool.

Joe Nobody: I'll talk just a little bit about the hide. We went through that before. There are some pictures. Again, the folks out at the [inaudible 00:52:57] blog went out and built one and tested it and they've got a whole blog article on that. The simplest way is just like you were doing a hammock but rather than making a sleeping surface, you hang the net and let one end drape to the ground and just take sticks, branches, leaves, whatever and put them up against it or lean them up against it and you've got a great hide. It's pretty easy to take it down, pretty quick, and again, you don't have to spend a long time making cross members and a structure.

Chet: Yeah and these pictures are pretty convincing about how, I mean yeah, it's pretty, you do it right, there is no seeing you. It's pretty cool.
Joe Nobody: Yeah. Back to that subject, a lot of times, avoiding people solves all the problems. Unless you are worried about ... One of the books was unless you are worried about packs of wild dogs, there is really not a whole lot out there more that you need to worry about other than people. Anyway.

We talked a little bit about the cargo bag. The hooks can be very important with the cargo bag. If you are carrying something that is heavy but not that volume less in size. Using the hooks and securing the edges of the cargo bag can help you carry things over your shoulder.

Then, you move onto everybody's favorite topic, which is the fishing net. I show three examples on the slide deck. The easiest and probably definitely the fastest and arguably the most effective is the two man drag neg. You have a stream, you know there is fish in the stream, there is maybe a shallow area 20 feet up stream from you, but there is a deep pool and there is fish in there, you've got a guy on each side of the stream. You drape the net across. You may secure some rocks along the bottom edge with your hooks, you know, roll them up in the net and put the hook in, and you drag it upstream and pretty soon when you get to the shallow area, the fish have no place to run and you've got fish. Voila.

Chet: What kind of stream are we looking for here, how wide, just as wide as the net or does it work even if it's wider? You're just, you know ...

Joe Nobody: I've seen some pretty stupid fish. I won't claim that I went out and, you know, I go out and do this every weekend but I've used, my son and I have used the two man drag method, oh, I would say five or six times and we've weighted in knee deep water up a creek or a stream and we were, it was wider than the net. There was a good five or six feet and we still ended up with fish.

Chet: Because the fish, they are trying to escape by going through the middle of you. They don't know that there is a net there and swim around the edges, right? That's the principle.

Joe Nobody: Right. That's correct.

Chet: Okay.

Joe Nobody: For years, saltwater fishing, I have used a casting net. You throw it two handed kind of in a motion like throwing a Frisbee. If you think about it for a little bit, there is probably YouTube videos all over the place on it. You can roll up a rock in each corner, maybe one fifth rock in the middle of one edge, but roll up a rock, secure it with your hooks. The rocks act as weight. Take a strand of paracord, tie it to the very middle of the net. You throw your net out and you fling it out like it's a Frisbee. It spreads, it falls on the water, and you can catch fish. The paracord, what you do with the paracords attached to the middle is you pull it up and it causes the rocks to collapse into the middle and keeps the fish in the net.

Chet: Sounds [crosstalk 00:57:17].

Joe Nobody: And it ... I'm sorry?
Chet: It's a self-closing net.

Joe Nobody: Yeah, it's a self-closing net. Just like a casting net that you would go to the bait store and buy and they come in various sizes. I will warn the listeners, it takes a while to learn to use a casting net. If it's not something you go out and do, the first two or three tosses effectively. But if you are hungry and there is no other source of food, standing there for an hour and a half and throwing that net over and over and over again until you get the hang of it, I can think of worse ways to try to get a meal.

Chet: What types of water are you using this in? Are you in certain depths so this is when the water is deeper, it's not a stream, maybe more like out in a lake or the ocean or where are you using it?

Joe Nobody: I've used a casting net in all of the above. I've stood on a boat pier with 12 feet of water and caught reasonably sized fish with a casting net.

Chet: Okay.

Joe Nobody: You can, ponds, any kind, any really I think quality experienced fisherman, they like live bait, they'll use a casting net to catch minnows and shard and whatever. Shad, I'm sorry. Shard. Anyway the ...

Chet: [inaudible 00:58:49].

Joe Nobody: Most of us who have done that for awhile, every now and then just by accident, even if you're only trying to get minnows, you will pull up a pretty good size fish. I think it's pretty effective in a lot of different types of water and depths and from a moving stream to a farm pond to the ocean.

Chet: Cool.

Joe Nobody: The key is making sure you are throwing where there are fish.

Chet: Right and so where do you tend to find the fish in this particular ...

Joe Nobody: Next to structure.

Chet: Next to ... Hiding places.

Joe Nobody: Yes.

Chet: Yeah. Okay. Well hey, we only have a couple of minutes here so if you could only go into a how to on one more of these before our next speaker is up, what could we, what would you share with people? [crosstalk 00:59:50]

Joe Nobody: Hopefully the listeners have got the point. Let me give you a couple places if you can't find an army surplus net that you can go get your, make your own.

Chet: Okay.

Joe Nobody: The cargo nets that are sold at Walmart and Target and auto part stores that are used to secure cargo in the back of a pickup truck, great net. Soccer nets for soccer goals, great net. If you look hard enough, there is golfers, the guys that hit golf balls, they have nets that they can use to practice in the backyard. Look at those. It could be a great net. Most of those other examples will come out black. You can die the nets.
Chet: Good idea.

Joe Nobody: And if people aren't worried about black, you know, I'm a guy that doesn't like black because the color in nature, but that's, you know, just me. I don't even have any black rifles. But if you're not worried about that or you think you may need to use it in dark or low light, then a black net is fine. There is nothing wrong with a black net. Those are other sources and it may take you a half hour and a pair of scissors to trim one down but you can definitely find the netting, batting cage nets. I know I have a friend that uses, have made a great survival net out of a batting cage net. Just make sure the squares are three quarters to one inch.

Chet: Right.

Joe Nobody: Make sure it will support the weight.

Chet: Awesome. Well, yeah, any other final things on making these on your own? You mentioned how to cut it so it's long enough that it's mid calf, taking into consideration if you are going to be a sniper, you might want more space. If you've got a lot of weapons on your back or if you've got a ruck sack to cut it that way. I guess is that about it?

Joe Nobody: Yeah. It's real simple.

Chet: Yeah.

Joe Nobody: And that's what is so great about it.

Chet: Exactly and that's why I wanted to bring you on. It's real simple, it's cheap. It sounds like you might want to have a couple of these in each of your cars as an idea that seems like it makes sense for me. I don't know if everybody carries their get home bag with them in every car in all situations but this is a way that even if you didn't, you'd at least have something to carry some stuff in or just like you said, a bunch of different uses.

Super cool, Joe. We have to wrap up for our next speaker that is on here but where can people find more of your books, which are a hell of a lot of fun to read, or other resources? Why don't you give a quick shout out for those and [inaudible 01:02:44].

Joe Nobody: Well, the books are all available on Amazon, Barnes and Noble, the usual places. Both in EBooks and paperbacks. Then the website is www.holdingyourground, all together, all squished together .com, and a web search on Joe Nobody I think will reveal a few results here and there and again, I wanted to thank the folks out at [inaudible 01:03:13] blog. Noah and Sir Knight, just great people. If folks get a chance, that is just a, they live the life. They walk the walk. They are off the grid. Just a variety of good stuff. Good folks out there.

Chet: Cool. Awesome. Very cool. Well thank you, Joe. We look forward to hopefully talking with you some time in the near future.

Joe Nobody: My pleasure guys. Thanks a bunch.

Dave: Thank you.