

## After Action Report – MCSM educates the masses at TPF ‘07

Sunday September 16, 2007 at the Takoma Park Folk Festival was an extraordinary day; bright clear sunny sky and a crisp dry tang of fall in the air. Just like September 11, 2001.

That was the reason that Montgomery Citizens for a Safer Maryland (MCSM) was on hand at the 30<sup>th</sup> annual Takoma Park Folk Festival, to talk about disaster preparedness and self defense.



The day was just like the day two years ago, 12 days after hurricane Katrina nearly destroyed New Orleans and a large swath of the gulf coast region. That was right at the time that the local and state officials tried to finish off what the hurricane had started by disarming the Citizens who formed up to defend their neighborhoods from criminals on the rampage.

MCSM took the message to the folks at TPF that it is the Personal Responsibility of the Citizens to see to their Personal Protection. They are the first on the scene of the criminal attacks into their neighborhoods after a disaster. Emergency and police services were physically blocked by the flood conditions and overwhelmed by the demand to “rescue” thousands of civilians. Unfortunately quite a few public servants quit their posts and some even joined the lawless. The Citizens were “on their own”. That was when some of the better prepared Citizens proved they were comfortable and capable of defending their homes from both nature and criminals.

This is the seventh year MCSM has been at the TPF to commune with the hippies and liberals, to educate many who were un-aware or un-willing to learn about emergency preparedness and self defense. The first year MCSM was greeted by mostly “Screamers” or those who violently argued that we should not be encouraging the use of arms for self defense. We were greeted by only a few who dared to stick their noses out of the closets and whisper a guarded “atta-boy, good job, glad to see you here” encouragement. A year later it was just a few days after 9/11 in 2001, and some attitudes started to change. Serious questions were being asked; “tell us about self defense”. A few years later it was again a few days after another disaster, that of Katrina and still more questions and more open words of encouragement were heard.

This last week, September 16, 2007, the visitors to the MCSM tent were tracked and rated as to their interest, their understanding and outright support of self defense. Each person that the MCSM staff had any significant contact with, talked to and presented handout material, was logged for a total of 62 contacts. Three rating categories were used, loosely described as; (1) Actively interested, receptive and supportive, (2) Curious and accepted information, (3) Screamers. There really is no better description for those behind door number 3 than Screamers.

Here is the tally; 6 screamers 16 curious and 40 active and supportive. There were even a few NRA and Second Amendment hats seen in the crowd. This situation represents a near TOTAL reversal of the reception MCSM got in its first year visiting TPF. Take heart friends, it may take a while but even in the nuclear free zone of Takoma Park, after they see the “flash” they start to ask for information on how to save their skins.

Bob Culver, MCSM – September 18, 2007