

FMA

Informative

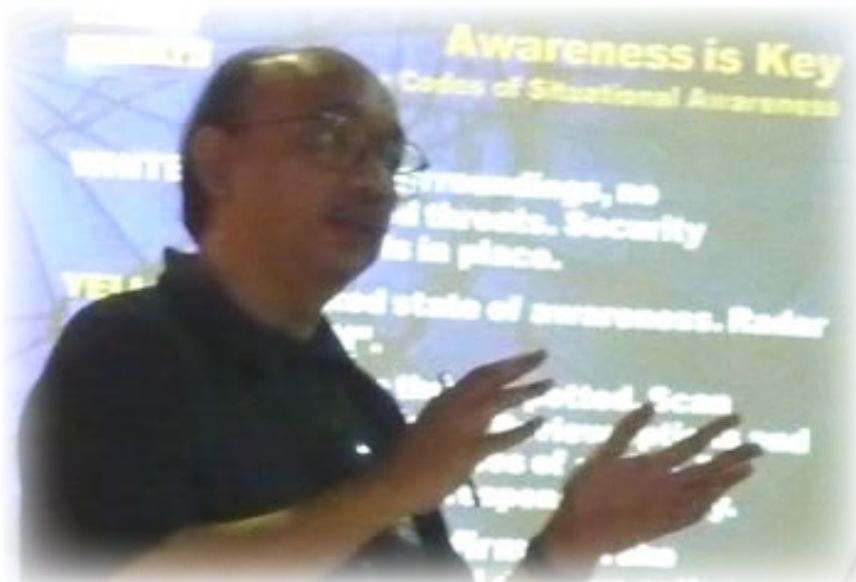
Propagating the Filipino Martial Arts and the Culture of the Philippines

Informative Issue No. 64

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STREET SMARTS

Mr. Michael P. Melchor



Philippines

**The Need For Street SMARTS
The Concept and Realization
Street Smart Programs**



Each issue features practitioners of martial arts and other internal arts, other features include historical, theoretical and technical articles; reflections, Filipino martial arts, healing arts, the culture of the Philippines and other related subjects.

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The FMA Informative branches out and brings you the reader as much as possible all aspects of the Philippines and the culture. This issue tells you about a program in the Philippines that is very beneficial.

The FMA Informative wants to thank Mr. Michael Melchor for sitting down with us to explain his program Street Smarts. Street Smarts is only in the Philippines at this time, It is a program that is very informative, brings reality, and is straight up about what is going on in today's society, not only in the Philippines, but worldwide.

If you have been in the Philippine or if you live there you know that a program like this is very beneficial to everyone.

Michael P. Melchor, CSP (Certified Security Professional), has been teaching Street Smarts and personal safety to multi-national companies, students, office workers, anti-crime NGOs, residential communities and concerned citizens for more than twelve years. It was developed through the course of his affiliation with several anti-crime and civil society groups. Mike is an advocate of the citizen's right to self-defense and is the author of the Katipunan Peace & Order Initiative. He is also Director for Strategic Plans at A2S5 an Anti-Crime NGO & Civil Society Group. Street Smarts is a program under his M. P. Melchor Consultancy, 1568 Princeton Street, Mandaluyong City, Metro-Manila, Philippines.

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SecurityMatters

BECAUSE SECURITY MATTERS 2009 Vol. 1 No. 2

**SECURITY:
PROFESSION
FOR THE NEXT
GENERATION?**

**CAMPUS
SECURITY:
EVERYBODY'S
CONCERN**

**PHYSICAL
ASPECTS OF
CAMPUS
SECURITY**

**PROTECT
YOUR CHILD
FROM THE
DANGERS
OF THE WEB**

IS YOUR SCHOOL SECURE?

The Need For Street SMARTS

In these difficult economic times caused by the global financial crisis, increased desperation raises the risks of street crime. Coupled with the operations of transnational crime syndicates, gangs and the links of drugs to violent street crime, citizens need to seriously take a look at the precautions they take for their own personal safety. They need to be Street Smart.

Gangs are the new Mafia. They control specific areas of real estate within which they operate protection rackets, sell drugs, steal property, extort, deal in illegal weapons, engage in hooliganism, rape, murder and recruit more gang members in order to strengthen their ranks. It is easy to enter a gang, but you can never leave.

Ironically, revenue generation through prohibited drugs is a multiple-edged blade used by gangs with broad-reaching effects. Through drugs, they raise large profits, achieve power through violence (drugs make criminals impervious to pain—they simply do not feel it while under the influence of such things as shabu, thus the tendency towards illogical and ruthless violence), and lastly, destroy the family as a unit of society.

Make no mistake about it, gangs are operated by dark business strategists, who will give “promotional” packages to students, offering to support their drug habits for free if they bring in ten new customers (usually from the ranks of our naïve and unsuspecting youth). What follows is an all-too-typical chain of events that destroys families and further contributes to street crime. The drug user will begin to fail in school, his



Night brings out criminal elements all over the metropolis, and this we should guard against in order to be protected from untoward incidents.

health will begin to deteriorate, his mind will be altered by drugs, his priorities in life will change, he may develop animosity and a rebel-like attitude towards his parents. Suspicious of the worst, his parents will not give him his allowance because they fear he will use it for drugs. Things will then begin to disappear around the house as the drug user resorts to theft from his own home to fund his drug habit.

Shouting and fights will break out—I know of a 15-year-old who was in the process of ransacking his house looking for money or things of value to sell as his weeping mother looked on. Just then his father came home and a fight broke out. It almost became lethal because the youngster eventually had a knife at his father’s throat. The tiny bit of conscience he had left within him, along with his mother’s pleas, made him stop. I am no Biblical scholar, but surely this is what is meant by “the destruction of the woman and her seed.” Incidents like this happen in tens of thousands of homes around the nation. Estimates place the number of drug users in our country at over 3 million going towards 4 million. The growth rate

is similar to our birth rate at roughly 3 new users every minute.

The resulting lack of peace and harmony in homes drives our youth into the streets and into “surrogate families” where they find acceptance and sympathy—gangs. New gang members are initiated in twisted rituals and recruited into a life of crime. Included in their regular activities is violence against other gangs in turf wars that determine their wealth and power. Gangs have signs and a language all of their own, typically used to mark-off territories, making it clear that outsiders are not welcome. It is a normal part of gang life that eventually one goes to jail. Prisons are “finishing schools” where youngsters mix with hardened criminals and get their “Masters Degree” in crime. Indeed, many gang operations are controlled from within prisons. Some gangs have become so powerful that they operate across national boundaries and have thousands of members.

So you can see how the streets are now a different place. If we are not aware of the dangers we are exposed to when we are in public, then we are at an increased level of risk. You only have to be

in the wrong place at the wrong time to get into trouble. We should seriously think about our own personal safety and for those we are most concerned about in life. I have been teaching Street Smarts for many years and have dissected the elements of risk, criminal modus operandi and personal safety measures that one must take in his own enlightened self-interest. Street Smarts is designed for call center workers, students, office workers, the elderly or anyone who feels that he might be at risk when in public. It gives you a personal radar system that will help keep you out of danger when out on the streets. It also addresses the issues of what to do when you are in harm's way. Street Smarts is applicable anywhere and can be used in any big city of the world or a small town in the province.

Much of the priority is placed on prevention. It is my concern to keep you out of trouble—not get you into trouble. As they say, an ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure. More than 50% of violent street crime involves bladed weapons, so there is also an emphasis on knife lethality awareness and how to escape the dangers posed by edged weapons. In the past, I had used experts from Japanese Martial Arts who specialized in the techniques passed down from ancient Samurai warriors. I was then of the impression that the Samurai had the best defensive techniques against the blade. Today, however, I have come to realize that our own Filipino Martial Arts (FMA) is much better. I noticed that Japanese systems were centered on fighting skills that were based on warriors using armor and thus the techniques used were adapted to that.

Filipino warriors however, have never used such armor and thus their fighting techniques are different and much more applicable in our modern-day scenarios. When the hosts of Discovery Channel's "Fight Quest" searched the world for the best techniques for bladed weapons, they found them in the Philippines. This is something that Magellan discovered long ago.

Essentially, Street Smarts teaches to avoid danger as much as possible because there is no prize for "second place" against a street criminal. So if you can spot trouble while it is still avoidable—by all means, walk away from it. Your family will thank you for being non-confrontational when you come home. If street criminals still "get the drop on you", it is best you give up your cell phone or wallet, as these things are replaceable - you on the other hand are not. Replacement costs for a cell phone will also be much cheaper than hospital or funeral expenses. There have been instances where victims have already given up their valuables, but are still harmed or killed by criminals. In these instances, you must defend at all costs! You must use proven defensive techniques that will get you out of harm's way as quickly and effectively as possible, then exit the danger zone immediately and report the crime.

Street Smarts has follow-on training programs that will teach you to use improvised weapons such as key chains, O.C. spray, flash lights, ball pens, umbrellas or hair brushes to defend yourself and get out of trouble. There are no rules out on the street and you have to have a totally different mindset when you are dealing with street criminals. The spe-

cialized training programs can be likened to doing a regular fitness program, but at the same time you are learning critical defensive skills that could one day save your life. I must emphasize at this point that in order to develop proficiency, you must practice regularly. Under stress, you will defend yourself as you have trained—it will take place automatically. Perfect practice makes for perfect defense. You must make the personal choice not to become a victim way before you get into trouble, the skills you use to defend yourself are developed over time.

There are many so-called experts out there; I have seen things on national TV that made knife defense look easy as 1-2-3. Let me tell you, it is not that simple and media should be held accountable for the misconceptions that it spreads in the name of sensationalism. Things are easy when they are "scripted." People could get hurt if they believe in the "quick-fix" approach. I seriously doubt that you will be able to defend yourself against a knife attack with something you saw on TV from the comfort of your couch. You have to train in proven and effective techniques for a few months before you can reach a level of proficiency that will keep you out of harm's way. If you can put in six months, so much the better. Treat it like going to a different kind of gym. Be very careful what you bet your life on.

With the opening of schools, it is important that students be aware of the risks they may be exposed to when in public. Many go to malls or upbeat commercial establishment that look very safe, but we must keep in mind that criminals are 2-legged

predators, they will go where they can find their prey. In today's difficult times you need an internal radar system that will help you steer clear of trouble, you need Street Smarts.

We also teach the various stages of escalation in street crime. Each stage is separate and distinct.



There are different protocols for each stage, as well as interventions that help make it possible for you to avoid becoming a victim. It is possible for you to get out of trouble in the early stages of a crime that is about to happen—it is important that you know them and not let the situation deteriorate to the point that you will be at risk. Street Smarts also teaches the various levels of awareness key to your survival on the streets; the key elements of street crime; the importance of intuition; criminal modus operandi and countermeasures you can employ against each criminal procedure; practical tips & techniques for personal safety on the street; how to report a crime; the concept of safe havens for community peace & order; what to do to prevent cell phone theft; strike points that can be effectively used against any aggressor (large or small); and many other simple but practical protocols that you can use for your own personal safety.

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The Concept and Realization

The concept behind Street SMARTS was developed for people who are at risk in public places. The focus on Street SMARTS is awareness and then if a situation happens to be able to defend themselves.

The program was created and prepared and established by Mr. Mike Melchor in 2001. He

holds lectures and seminars at the Defense and Supporting arms shows, where Street SMARTS has been standing room only for 12 years. This is done as a public service with no charge. Though Mr. Melchor has also lectured at community centers, Universities, call centers, he has been asked to do the lecture at many places both for free and also has been paid.

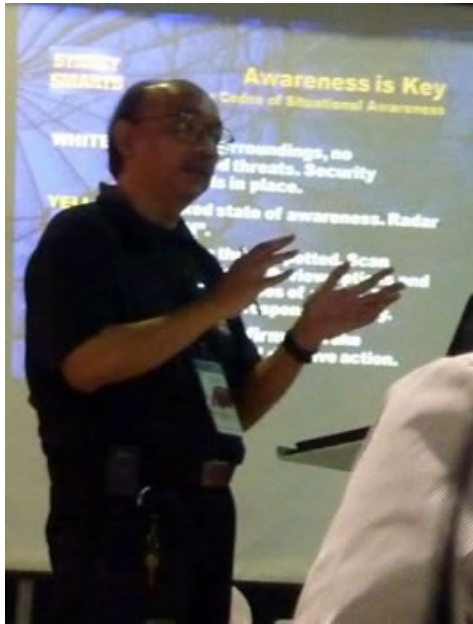


Once the lecture is completed people contact Mr. Melchor to join the training program which Street SMARTS offers. Street SMARTS demonstrates and teaches the different defenses with common items a

person might have with them, such as water bottles, cell, phones, keys etc.

Some thoughts on awareness that are common sense, but in today's society the attitude is "it can't happen to me." Oh but it can! What is Awareness; it is know your surroundings, listen to that little voice in the back of your mind. Maintain your personal space. Take precautions if someone is approaching you, (maintain the bubble, personal space), put something between you and the suspicious approaching person, like a light pole, mail box, planter, trash can, walk in another direction, take a different path to your destination, like cross the street etc.

Why do criminals pick out individuals for robbery or assault, well that is easy, because they think you are an easy target, susceptible to their desires to get what



vehicle is running, and the door is open. Well wham bam say good bye to your vehicle.
 - And yet another trick that is good is the thief takes some wire and cans and ties the cans to your exhaust pipe of somewhere under the vehicle, out of sight. You get into the vehicle start it up and start to back up and you hear the noise under your vehicle. You get out to see what it is, well the keys are in the ignition the vehicle is running, and the door is open. Well wham bam say good bye to your vehicle.

they want.

Without awareness and common sense you are for sure going to end up on the victims list.

An example in approaching your vehicle in a parking lot scan your surroundings, have your hands free, try not to be burdened with bags, that is what carts are for. Look around your vehicle for shadows which should not be part of the scenery, look in your vehicles back seat. Notice the vehicle parked next to yours.

Now you are saying that is a lot to do just to get into my vehicle, well here are a couple examples that have happened:

- A person approached their vehicle, there was a van parked next to their vehicle, with arms full of bags and trying to get their keys, the sliding door of the van slid open the person was grabbed quickly and pulled into the van and the van took off. No witnesses.

- Another example you get into your vehicle and start it up, commencing to back out, your vision is blocked by a sheet of paper, stuck to your rear window, blocking your vision you get out to remove it, and keys are in the ignition the

Women and children are really susceptible to assault, rape and abduction, why because they are seen as vulnerable and weak. And now seniors are falling into this category.

Ok you are still saying this cannot happen to me, yeah right.

Street SMARTS believes the lecture that they give is an eye opener to inform what can happen, however an individual can still be in denial so what has to happen? Most people just do not realize what it takes to get through a lethal encounter, yes they watch movies, but that is Hollywood, it is not reality. Denial prevents us from taking measures against possible future situations...

So people that understand the concepts of self defense and



understand violence will be able to survive.

Levels of Realization

There are levels that a person goes through before they realize that they must take preventive measures for their future.

1st level: A person does not know anything (but the person doesn't know they do not know).

2nd level: The person realizes they do not know anything, (that is the beginning of realization).

3rd level: A person knows what to do, but they have to think about it.

4th level: A person doesn't need to think it just happens.

Now that is where Street SMARTS comes in, after attending the lecture a person realizes they need something for self preservation in the future goes to Street SMARTS.

Street SMARTS has several programs that are self-preservation defenses for the future. Programs are women's self defense classes, knife defense classes, tactical baton and tactical flashlight classes (a flashlight is a very good defensive tool, since most personal crimes happen at night the modern L.E.D. flash light is excellent, it gives off enough of a powerful light to blind the assailant momentarily with that

a person has a chance to do a defensive maneuver, and get away, (run), defensive hand gun (with night shooting, approximately 50% of casualties happen in the dark), and home owners defense class.

Each is a package, take one, two or more or take them all. Of course there is another way to gain the knowledge, but it may take a little longer time and that is joining a Dojo and be committed.



Street Smarts Advanced Classes



This is probably the most relevant Street Smarts Advanced Class. Whenever you encounter criminals, always assume that there is a weapon --- more often than not, it will be a knife. You will learn the dynamics and geometry of knife defense. You will learn why natural reactions might keep you in danger and at the blade's edge and what you need to do to stay safe.



The Tactical Flashlight is one of the most practical personal defense tools. Most crime happens at night, on the street or during burglary of homes. New technology flashlights are a sound choice for use as a personal defense weapon and safety device. See attached article for more information.



The Tactical Baton is an excellent weapon for village security guards, students, drivers, or community patrols. Although we use FMA (Filipino Martial Arts) techniques, this is not the same type of training typically taught in school P.E. classes for Arnis. Aside from use as an impact weapon, it is good for non-lethal locking and control techniques.



Women are perceived by criminals as their easy victims of choice. This fact is supported by the statistics on crime victims. Our society & culture have put women at a disadvantage because self-defense or any combative disciplines were frowned upon --- and criminals have taken advantage of this. Ladies Self-Defense focuses on mindset & technique.



Defensive Handgun is designed for homeowners who might live in residential communities that are preyed upon by urban criminals in nearby squatter areas or penetrated by professional burglars. It is also meant for businesspersons who may have to close their establishments late at night and carry considerable amounts of cash. Attending a prior class on The Fundamentals of Firearms Marksmanship, Maintenance & Safety is required before attending this class. Ownership of a handgun, safety gear & a tactical flashlight are also required. We offer assistance in these areas if needed.

STREET SMARTS

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Remember Trust Your Instincts and the Self Defense is Up to You!

STREET SMARTS

Learn the modus operandi of street criminals.
What is the criminal mindset? Understand the danger of bladed weapons.
Decide not to become a victim. Develop a defensive mindset. Learn self-defense techniques. Learn to use defense tools. Learn STREET SMARTS!

Developed for call center workers, students, the elderly or anyone at risk when in public.

Thank you for your interest in Street Smarts. It is a program that was developed to address the ever increasing concerns about personal safety when in public places.

It was developed primarily for students, call center workers, the elderly, commuters and all those who might be at risk to street criminal when away from the home.

There is particular emphasis on defense against bladed weapons. This is because the majority of criminals pick the knife as their tool of choice in violent crime. It is easily concealed, easily disposed of, cheap to acquire and can be used to kill silently.

More than half the criminals on the street will be armed with bladed or sharp weapons. It accounts for 85% of the victims of violent street crime. The vast majority of victims will be women.

Street Smarts helps you address these personal safety and self-defense concerns.

STREET SMARTS

A2S5 ANTI-CRIME

BARRAMEDA K-9 CORP
Lito Barrameda & Associates

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Mike is an Instructor with the IDRN (International Disaster Response Network). He believes that the Philippines must prepare for climate change. Although he believes that we must approach this from the personal, family & community level, by far the community approach is the most important.

Mike is a Self-Defense Instructor and he developed the Street Smarts Program. It is primarily designed for students, call center workers or anyone who may be at risk to street crime. The focus of Street Smarts is survival of encounters with street criminals and immediately exiting the danger zone.

As Director for Strategic Plans at the A2S5 Coalition, Mike steers the organization towards Anti-Crime Initiatives, self-defense advocacies and international affiliations with organizations that have the same ideals. Similar to his approach with disaster preparedness, he believes that people should prepare at the individual, family and community level. A2S5 stands for Article 2, Section 5 of our 1987 Constitution that guarantees all Filipinos the universal rights to life, liberty and property.

- Certified Security Professional (CSP), PSIS (Philippine Society for Industrial Security), Class President, CSP Class 107.
- Certified Firearms Training Instructor, PNP-FEO.
- Safety & Security Consultant, AQCHAI (Alliance of Quezon City Homeowners Associations, Inc.).
- Director for Strategic Plans, A2S5 Coalition.
- Director for Training, UPAC (United People Against Crime).
- President, Tactical Defensive Handgun, Inc.
- Vice President, Alejandro Melchor Jr. Foundation, Center for Transformational Nation Building.
- Security Industry Consultant.
- Associate, Barrameda K-9 Corp.
- FMA Practitioner (Filipino Martial Arts).
- Visual Artist, Curator, Survivalist, Author and Illustrator.

School Submission

The schools listed teach Filipino martial arts, either as the main curriculum or an added curriculum.

If you have a school that teaches Filipino martial arts, or you are an instructor that teaches, but does not have a school, list the school or style so individuals who wish to experience, learn and gain knowledge have the opportunity.

Be Professional; keep your contact information current. - [Click Here](#)



Event Submission

Submit your event whether - Seminar, Workshop, Training Camp, tournament, or Gathering - [Click Here](#)



Advertisement Submission

Advertising in the FMA Informative Website is FREE.

An Ad in the FMA Informative can create Business. Your Advertisement for Filipino martial arts forums, blogs etc, can be included in the FMA Informative. Advertisement is for the Filipino Martial Arts and the Philippines.



To submit Forums [Click Here](#). To submit advertisement for products and/or Services [Click Here](#)

Article Submission

Finished manuscripts should be accompanied by color or black and white photographs. Though we take care of materials, we can not be responsible for manuscripts/photographs and accept no liability for same. Every photograph or graphic must be accompanied by a caption Carefully key photos to caption information with a letter or number.

We reserve the right to use any photo(s) as cover material or additional compensation. We also reserve the right to edit material and to crop photographs.

We reserve the right to use articles or parts of articles that are given and approved from time to time as needed to promote the Filipino martial arts and the Culture of the Philippines.

Physical manuscripts should be typed in black, double spaced, and set to 1-1/2 margins (right and left).

Emailed manuscripts should be typed in Ariel or Times Roman, on programs such as Notepad, Wordpad, Microsoft Word, Word Perfect and can be sent as an attachment. Photo(s) can be sent as a .jpg, .gif, .bmp, or .tiff - to submit material for either the FMA Informative Newspaper or an Issue [Click Here](#)

We welcome your article, ideas and suggestions, and look forward to working with you in the future.