Subject: Founders roundtable podcast proposal

Victor,

I'd like to create a roundtable podcast at Founders that brings the Second Amendment community together to talk through real situations, hear different opinions and examine the responsibilities that come with carrying a gun. We'd put members, defense attorneys, law enforcement officers, people who have defended themselves, victims and witnesses at the same table. The conversation would come from their experiences, their disagreements and what they've learned. Each week, we'd take a different topic and bring people to the table who have something to contribute to that discussion.

The idea grew out of a discussion in the Founders WhatsApp chat about upgraded triggers, how members felt those changes helped them shoot, and their expectations about being justified in a defensive shooting. I raised the concern that how we see ourselves and our choices may be very different from how those choices could be portrayed afterward. We discussed how someone's firearm modifications, social media and lifestyle could be used to paint a picture of them that they would never have expected.

Mike G., a Founders member and an active SWAT law enforcement firearms instructor with his agency, joined that conversation and agreed that people often have preconceived ideas about how an encounter and its aftermath will unfold. We talked about walking quietly and carrying a big stick. He would like to be involved in the podcast, and with his permission I can give you his full name.

There's a lot of confidence in our community about being able to defend ourselves. But surviving a confrontation and protecting the rest of your life can be very different challenges. Physical injuries, criminal proceedings, civil lawsuits, public scrutiny, financial pressure and the effect on a family can continue long after the encounter ends. I want people to think about those realities before they ever have to face them.

Someone can be certain they were justified and still discover that other people see their actions very differently. Witnesses may have seen different parts of the event. A person stepping in may have misunderstood how it started. Public opinion may take shape before the evidence is heard. We'd bring in attorneys who have handled these cases and people who have lived through them to discuss how the facts, testimony, jury instructions and presentation of a case affected what happened.

The conversations would cover why people carry, how they judge their own abilities, when they escalate or de-escalate, and what leads someone to believe they should intervene. We'd hear how others at the table would handle the same circumstances, including people who chose to walk away. There would be room for the physical, emotional and spiritual consequences, and for family members whose lives were changed by someone else's decision.

Our role would be to listen, ask thoughtful follow-up questions and let people debate each other. I'd welcome members who consent to participate and are willing to share a story, offer an opinion or question an assumption. Founders and the local community already have firsthand experience to draw from, including people who have survived shootings and are still dealing with recovery and court proceedings.

This matters to me personally. I'm a former SWAT officer, agency firearms instructor and range staff member, and I've been a law enforcement certified firearms instructor for 32 years. I contract directly with local and federal governments, and with foreign governments through ITAR and defense services contracts. My work includes training, standard operating procedures, institutional and enterprise security, and work for politicians, celebrities and private clients whose circumstances involve high net worth, high risk and significant liability.

I also led U.S. security for Genesis Digital Assets, a company valued at $5.5 billion in 2022, with security responsibilities spanning more than 15 locations across three states. My background includes corporate security policy development, incident coordination and leadership of a distributed guard force. I've included a reference letter from the company's Head of Internal Control describing that work.

As a staff range officer and instructor for my agency, I served as an expert witness in more than 170 cases during my career, including officer-involved shootings and other shooting cases, including murder cases. I've seen outcomes go very differently from what people expected because of testimony, the circumstances, how the evidence was presented and how a jury understood it.

I've also personally been involved in police-involved shootings on duty and shootings off duty. My first shooting was while serving as a police officer in Baltimore. In the aftermath of departmental shootings, I was branded a racist in newspaper coverage. In connection with my own incidents, I've faced criminal charges and been exonerated, and been civilly sued and cleared. I've witnessed shootings and watched how families were affected.

A couple of years ago, I had to defend myself and my dog from two pit bulls attacking us on Fort Lauderdale Beach. It was alleged that I had shot a woman in the hand, when she had actually been bitten by her own dog. The allegation that I had shot her was false and was never retracted by the media. I received death threats and dealt with coverage that misrepresented what happened. Those experiences are part of why I write about these issues and want others to have a chance to understand what they could face.

I also know a federal agent who was involved in a shooting outside the Blue Martini in Fort Lauderdale that came under scrutiny. One person involved in our production was seriously wounded in a shooting here in Fort Lauderdale several years ago and is still dealing with physical recovery and ongoing litigation. He would remain unnamed at this time. I'd welcome other members in and around Founders who want to share how an encounter changed their lives in ways they had never anticipated. These experiences could help people understand what carrying a gun can and cannot prepare them for. These are just our own local examples. I'm sure there are other stories and lessons within the Founders membership that we could share and debate in good faith and good spirit.

I've been having these conversations with Founders members for about three months. Yesterday, I discussed the podcast idea with Lenny, Lilly and Chris. I understand Lenny and Lilly are handling the club's communications, and Lenny suggested I email you. I've copied Lenny and Chris here. I've also spoken with interested members, including Mike G., an active SWAT firearms instructor who wants to do it with me. I plan to invite Frank Adderley, former Chief of Police for Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach, and reach out to other leaders, officers and attorneys.

I'd fund the initial pilot myself and propose recording it in the back lounge. I'd like to introduce you to Chris Hedlund, known as Chris Headshots, as the studio producer and editor. Chris is a professional photographer, videographer and podcast producer who owns his own studio and is willing to come in and handle production. Chris knows both Lilly and Lenny. He would handle recording and editing, and we could review the pilot together.

From there, I'd like to pursue sponsorship from USCCA, the NRA, legal service providers, attorneys, Glock, BUL Armory and other firearm companies and 2A businesses. Those companies are examples, and I'm open to any relationships you would like to involve as potential sponsors.

My longer-term goal is a national podcast that helps people discover Founders around the country. As the club grows into other counties and states, the show could give future members a reason to know Founders before a location opens near them. It could help establish the club as a leading resource for responsible, safe gun ownership, bringing people together to share knowledge and learn from experience.

Tactical U Firearms Training has been an NRA-affiliated agency since 2011. My eight books explore many of these issues. My resume and books are linked below, and I've included my capability statement, a Federal Reserve Police reference letter and the Genesis Digital Assets reference letter. Additional reference letters are available upon request.

My resume and credentials
My books

I'd like your blessing to put the first episode together at Founders and show you what this could become. I'd also welcome your involvement and introductions to people in your network who might want to participate as guests, contribute their expertise or help support the show.

Sincerely,

Stephen L. Cohen
Tactical U Firearms Training

Stephen L. Cohen

Professional capability statement

Fort Lauderdale, Florida | (954) 637-2115 | steve@tacticalu.com

tacticalu.com/stephen-cohen/ | lightsonai.com

Enterprise security | Industrial-scale data centers | Training | AI operations

I bring nationwide corporate security leadership to organizations where people, infrastructure and operational decisions carry substantial consequences. My background includes leading U.S. security for Genesis Digital Assets, a major global Bitcoin mining enterprise, and serving as Head of Security for Digital Data Hub International. I combine this large-scale data center experience with law enforcement, instructor development and the practical work of building Tactical U and Lights On AI.

Security and organizational readiness

- Security program leadership: distributed guard-force coordination, site assessments, access control, surveillance planning, incident escalation and law enforcement liaison.
- Corporate security policies and operating standards: physical and environmental protection, access control, workplace violence prevention, surveillance, consent documents and incident reporting.
- Institutional protection: practical responsibilities and training for security personnel supporting religious, educational, corporate and other sensitive environments.

Training and instructor development

Instructor disciplines: NRA Law Enforcement handgun, handgun and shotgun, pistol-mounted optics, patrol rifle, precision rifle, tactical shooting and tactical shotgun; additional instructor training in force-on-force.

- Firearms safety and proficiency: handgun, shotgun, patrol rifle and precision rifle instruction, with individual skills assessments and progression plans.
- Scenario-based training: judgment, communication, de-escalation, situational awareness and accountable decision-making under stress.
- Instructor support: lesson-plan review, training standards, instructor development, qualification support and documented continuing education.
- Specialty programs: low-light and vehicle-related safety training, force-on-force scenarios, family protection planning and maritime security awareness.

Government and international training

Tactical U contracts directly with local and federal governments, and with foreign governments through ITAR and defense services contracts. Stephen has delivered training in other countries, including firearms instruction, standard operating procedures and security-related training.

Stephen is developing standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis through the Prime Minister’s Office, the NSA and the Commissioner of Police.

Stephen has been a law enforcement certified firearms instructor for 32 years. Tactical U Firearms Training has been an NRA-affiliated agency since 2011. Training and security work includes assignments for politicians, celebrities and private clients whose circumstances involve high net worth, high risk and significant liability.

AI operations and business workflows

- Map customer inquiries, records, scheduling, agreements, payment verification and follow-up into a clear operating process.

- Direct AI-assisted workflow implementation, establish approval and escalation rules, test business behavior and maintain shared operating records.
- Connect business websites and intake forms to customer workflows; develop demonstrations and prototypes to validate an approach before wider use.

Tactical U is the operating business used to develop and test these workflows. Portfolio projects have different levels of completion; demonstration systems and previews are identified as such.

Experience supporting these capabilities

Enterprise security leadership

Led U.S. security for Genesis Digital Assets, one of the world's largest privately held Bitcoin mining companies, reported at a $5.5 billion valuation in 2022. Responsibility spanned more than 15 locations across three states. The company's Head of Internal Control confirms corporate security policy authorship, incident coordination, law enforcement liaison and leadership of a geographically distributed guard force. Additional Head of Security experience with Digital Data Hub International extends this background in large-scale data center operations.

Federal law enforcement instructor training

Delivered training to Federal Reserve Police instructor personnel. A signed recommendation from the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta's Miami Branch training coordinator describes repeated training sessions and highlights preparation, safety, situational awareness and practical instruction.

Business ownership and operational systems

Founder and lead instructor of Tactical U since 2010. Initial exposure to AI through Digital Data Hub International and Genesis Digital Assets led to practical work in customer intake, records, scheduling, payment checks and human approvals, and to founding Lights On AI. The portfolio distinguishes live work, demonstrations and prototypes.

Professional foundation

- Baltimore Police Department, 1994 to 2019: patrol, SWAT, firearms instruction and plainclothes detective assignments, including federal task-force work.
- NRA Law Enforcement instructor in seven disciplines: handgun, handgun and shotgun, pistol mounted optic, patrol rifle, precision rifle, tactical shooting and tactical shotgun. Instructor card expires July 29, 2029.
- Florida Firearms Instructor license K1000028. Credential copy expires May 12, 2027. NRA Range Safety Officer and civilian instructor credentials are also held.
- Courtroom expert witness experience in officer-involved and civilian self-defense matters. Author of eight books on decisions, records, risk controls and post-incident consequences.

Business information

Tactical U, LLC | Tactical U Firearms Training Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33315 UEI XW6ANK3K1341 | CAGE 216J5 NRA Affiliated Agency #X144208 (current through November 2028)

Insurance certificate on file for April 14, 2026 through April 14, 2027: $1 million each occurrence and $2 million general aggregate; instructor professional liability is subject to a $1 million per-occurrence shared limit and the policy terms.

Principal contact: Stephen L. Cohen Fort Lauderdale, Florida | (954) 637-2115 | steve@tacticalu.com Training and security: tacticalu.com | AI operations: lightsonai.com

Supporting recommendation letters accompany the comprehensive professional package. Additional references and engagement details can be discussed privately.

United States Federal Reserve Police
Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta
Miami Office

9100 Northwest 36th Street
Doral, Florida 33178

Tactical U Firearms Training

Attn: Stephen Cohen

Dear Mr. Cohen,

I am writing this letter to provide my highest recommendation for Tactical U Firearms Training and its instructor team. Over the past year, our department has had the pleasure of engaging with Tactical U Firearms Training for various training sessions aimed at enhancing the tactical skills and overall readiness of our instructors.

The professionalism and expertise demonstrated by the entire Tactical U team have been nothing short of exemplary. The training sessions were meticulously planned and executed, ensuring that all participants gained valuable insights and practical experience. The instructors, led by Stephen Cohen, brought a wealth of knowledge and real-world experience to the table, which significantly enriched the learning experience.

One aspect that stood out was the emphasis on safety and situational awareness, which are critical components of our law enforcement duties. The hands-on training provided by Tactical U has equipped our instructors with the confidence and skills necessary to handle high-pressure situations effectively.

Respectfully,

DUSTIN J. FRICKMAN, M.A.
Lieutenant | Sr. Law Enforcement Instructor | Training Coordinator

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United States Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta | Miami Branch
9100 Northwest 36th Street | Miami, FL 33178
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Genesis Digital Assets

Reference Letter for Stephen Cohen

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to recommend Stephen Cohen, who has served as the Head of Security for all US operations at Genesis Digital Assets (GDA) for nearly three years. As the Head of Internal Control at GDA, I continuously interacted with Stephen in these years.

During his time at GDA, Stephen has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership, professionalism, and dedication to his role.

Some of Stephen's key accomplishments and strengths include:

1. Development of Comprehensive Security Policies: Stephen created 14 highly professional security policies and employee consent forms for GDA's US subsidiaries. These included critical documents such as the Physical & Environmental Security policy, Site Access Control procedure, Workplace Violence policy, and Video Surveillance consent form, among others. His work in this area significantly enhanced our security protocols of GDA.

2. Management of Large-Scale Security Operations: Stephen effectively managed the guard force across more than 15 locations in three different states (Texas, North Carolina, and South Carolina). The guard force included L2- and L3-guards, as well as law enforcement officers, demonstrating Stephen's ability to coordinate complex security operations across diverse geographical areas.

3. Stephen was available 24/7 in case of incidents. Stephen was leading interactions of GDA with law-enforcement authorities in cases when their involvement was required.

4. Employee Care and Leadership: Stephen consistently demonstrated genuine care for his people - the guards. He was attentive to their needs, from addressing small comfort items for guard posts (such as purchase an AC unit or an electric kettle) to actively listening to their concerns.

5. Respect and Professionalism: Stephen is respected by his subordinates, guard force agency managers and owners, and colleagues across multiple crypto farms and in our Houston office.

Stephen's contribution to our security operations have been significant. I have the utmost respect for the quality of Stephen's work and his exemplary attitude; and wish him the very best.

I recommend Stephen Cohen for any security leadership position. He would be an excellent addition to any organization requiring a skilled, dedicated, and professional security expert.

If you require any further information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Dmitry Solovyev
Head of Internal Control Genesis Digital Assets
email: dmitry.solovyev@genesisda.com