

# The Fight Against Terrorism in Rodneyville

By Rodney Hardcastle



Photo from halifaxexaminer.ca

# The Fight Against Terrorism in Rodneyville

By Rodney Hardcastle

## Foreword

By Tim Mitchell—friend and pastor

After reading Rodney's story I must say it not only makes the medical issues of cancer easier to understand with the terrorism theme, but his lesson at the end is the most powerful—value life and trust God. Those are true whether the issue is severe like his, or whether it is much slower and almost imperceptible, as our aging usually is. I hope I learn that lesson, because there's no avoiding the slow death among humans. It might as well be a faithful ride. (Read Hebrews 2:14 and 15 for help with the fear of death.)

A big thank you to Rodney, for taking the time to ponder the last three years and to tell us what it means.

The chart was very helpful in understanding his return to normal chemistry. I hope these days find his body returning to some sameness, so he can keep gaining strength and return to his former lifestyle.

## Preface

I've heard it said many times that terrorism is like a cancer. It is evil, insidious, destructive, completely changes the way of life for the residents of the affected land, and if left unchecked, it will take over and destroy life as it is known in that land. So, I thought "if terrorism is like a cancer then cancer is like terrorism". This is the story of my life after discovering I have cancer. For those who haven't been through the cancer journey, I'm hoping it will not only inform the reader of what the cancer fight is like, in a way that they might be able to better understand, but more importantly, to try to pass along what I have learned through the process. Cancer changes you, some for the worse, but much more for the better. My goal is for the reader to learn from my experience what I have learned. I would love for those who haven't had to go through their own version of terrorism, to somehow learn a few things through my experience. I don't expect that one story written by one person will be life changing for the reader, but maybe it will contribute just enough, along with other experiences and the working of the Holy Spirit, that it could be life changing. At the very least, please pay attention to the advice I give at the end of the story. It is certainly advice I wish I'd been given and followed years ago. May the God of heaven open your mind as you read.

## The Fight Against Terrorism in Rodneyville

During the summer of 2014 it became apparent that in certain sectors of the normally tranquil town of Rodneyville, all was not well. The mayor knew that something was amiss, so he hired an investigator to try to get to the core of the problem. As the investigation began and continued, intel kept coming back which indicated to the investigator that in his opinion all was normal for an aging town such as this. It took over a year for the investigation to conclude that there was actually terrorist activity in the troubled sectors (stage 3b prostate cancer). This took far too long, especially since these terrorists were of the very aggressive kind, extremely rare and of the “very high risk” type. (As a side note, this is ductile prostate cancer with a Gleason score of 9, which by all accounts is very rare, very high risk, and usually fatal according to the experts). By the time the terrorists were discovered, they had already taken over so much territory that it was going to be almost impossible to rid the town of them. Naturally the chief investigator was summarily fired for the slow pace of the investigation, for ignoring obvious signs of trouble, and for not conducting further investigations which then resulted in mistaken interim reports. If the diagnosis had been made earlier—at stage 1 or 2, there would have been a good chance of ridding the town of the terrorists with a quick surgical strike.

Under a veil of shock, amazement and disappointment, the mayor appointed MOCC (Martin-O'Neil Cancer Center) General Ethan Schram, M.D., and an army was quickly formed. This army's primary objective was, obviously, to rid the town of the terrorists. The first course of action was to try to cut off the supply line of food and energy to the terrorists via androgen deprivation with Firmagon (also known as chemical castration). Next, under the coordination of General David Pratt, M.D., a highly skilled special forces team was quickly assembled, led by UCSF General Matt Cooperberg, M.D., and a quick surgical strike took place. Actually, it wasn't as quick as expected. The plan had called for the strike team to be in and out in four hours. Unfortunately, due to the discovery of far more of these home-grown insurgents than were anticipated, it took almost twice that long. Cooperberg and his forces swiftly killed 95 percent of terrorists, and took some as captives to interrogate and even torture if necessary, with the goal of gathering intel about their true nature, motives and intentions.

As mentioned earlier, this type of incursion is not normally attempted at this stage. But due to the very rare nature of this specific insurgency, General Cooperberg recommended that the surgical strike should go forward regardless, knowing that it wasn't likely that all the terrorists would be destroyed. His plan was to kill as many as possible and deal with the remainder later. The survivors were very angry about their losses, were determined to not only avoid the same fate as their comrades but to regrow their forces and regain their lost territory. During that special forces strike, the family members of the mayor gathered around him—just outside the war room—to lend their love and support. Chief among them were his wife, brother, and children—including his daughter-in-law. He will be forever grateful to them for their love and support during this very difficult time at the inception of this great war.

The surgical strike was very hard on the town since important systems such as utilities had to be interrupted and even removed. Healing took time, and as soon as enough healing took place, the next phase of the war needed to be implemented with all due haste.

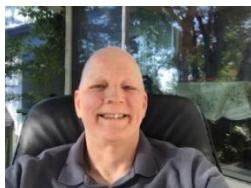
It was decided that General Steven Banks, M.D., would carry out the next phase. He devised a plan to use strategic nuclear weapons as the best way to eliminate the survivors. But before the plan could begin, intel warned that the insurgency had spread to the very back-bone of Rodneyville, thus stage 4 of the war was already underway. A nuclear strike necessary to kill all the remaining insurgents would almost certainly result in such a high degree of collateral damage that Rodneyville would become a ghost town.

A new plan was devised to try to cut off more energy supplies by using a different hormone blocker, bicalutamide. After several months, it became apparent that secret supply lines were being formed, rendering the double blockade of firmagon and bicalutamide useless. The next step was to try another blockade using an agent called Lupron. Although it helped cut down the energy supply (testosterone) the insurgents continued to multiply in numbers and regain ground. It became apparent that these insurgents were quite skilled at overcoming supply line interruptions by generating their own energy supplies. This condition is known as mCRPC—metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer. When this stage of the war was reached, the generals agreed that more drastic measures would be necessary.

In the meantime, an angel of mercy was sent from heaven in the form of Marcia Horn, JD, CEO of the International Cancer Advocacy Network (ICAN), thanks to a referral from the mayor of Bunchville who is a close ally. She became the mayor's special counsel and personal advisor on all matters of the town's defense against the insurgency. She serves the vital role of providing countless hours of research on new methods of fighting terrorisms of this type and not only has become a vital part of the defense team but also provides trusted advice on the addition of new team members — and by the way is the only member of the team who is not on the town's payroll.

New members of the team were added—UCSF immunologist General Lawrence Fong, M.D. and Colonel David Oh, M.D.. Their specialty was in training locals to become resistance fighters. But before the training could begin, they decided that chemical warfare should first be waged. The mayor was shocked, since it was difficult to believe that circumstances were now so serious that chemical warfare was necessary in his normally peaceful and tranquil town. General Schram prepared a plan and a special chemical agent was released in every sector of the town, knowing full well that there would be heavy collateral damage, but it was deemed necessary in an effort to save Rodneyville from extinction. The residents were warned and they were supplied with antidotes that could try to help offset the unintended effects of the warfare.

After four months of nonstop bombardment with chemical weaponry known as docetaxel, heavy casualties were sustained by the insurgents, but unfortunately the bombardment also led to the expected heavy collateral damage. Among other things, the most obvious collateral damage was the loss of the foliage decorating the town—fortunately only temporarily.



Disappointingly, still 30% of the insurgents survived.

The next phase of the war was quickly implemented by General Fong. It was determined that a select group of locals (named “killer T’s”) would be sent to a special training camp known as Provence in the distant land of Seattle. Upon completion of their training they would be airdropped into the middle of the battlefield. Three different groups were trained and deployed at two week intervals. These special forces radioed back to HQ that the insurgents were growing rapidly in numbers and, in their opinion, there was still too large a supply of food and energy somehow getting into the insurgents’ camps. General Fong ordered another blockade of the supply lines, this time using Abiraterone. After four tries, at last the Abiraterone blockade was found to be effective. The number of insurgents began to decline rapidly from starvation and discouragement. (Abiraterone cuts off androgen supplies being made in the adrenal glands and by the cancer itself).

Next, General Cooperberg led his team of special forces into Rodneyville on an intel gathering mission and discovered insurgents were hiding out in the sewer systems. From the war room, the mayor, his wife and brother watched the live video feed in shock and horror as these insurgents were observed. His recommendation was to go ahead with the earlier plan of a strategic nuclear strike to severely weaken the radical terrorists and give more time to develop a plan for their permanent destruction—“to reset the clock,” as he put it. Once again, it was recognized that this would come with heavy collateral damage from which certain sectors of Rodneyville may never recover, but saving the town from extinction was the top priority, so the mayor approved the plan. This plan was implemented by General Banks, who very carefully planned a nuclear bombardment of the terrorist training camps and known hideouts. Three weeks of daily nuclear attacks were carried out, followed by six weeks of intel gathering, which showed significant losses by the insurgent forces, with no new terrorist activity in any other sector. Three more weeks of daily strategic nuclear strikes were conducted by General Banks and his skilled team of pilots and bombardiers.

Three months later, intel showed that the insurgency had at least for the time been quelled, with most of the remaining terrorists having gone into hiding. It is difficult to believe that in this day and age, chemical and nuclear warfare are not only allowed but used regularly in the fight against this type of terrorism. Nevertheless, it shows how stubborn and difficult they are to eradicate. (We look forward to the day when chemical and nuclear weapons are banned after more effective and less radical methods are developed to deal with such insurgencies.)

Meanwhile, back in Rodneyville the mayor decided that he shouldn’t just leave it up to the generals and their armies to get the job done. There must be something he and the local resistance—a.k.a. the immune system—could do to assist in the fight. He began researching alternative ways of fighting this type of terrorism. Many methods exist, some of which may work against some insurgents but may not against others. It was quite difficult to navigate through these alternatives because there are so many, most of them with great claims of victory which seemed improbable given the nature of the method. He concluded that there were at least a few methods that seemed to make the most sense to attempt. These methods revolve around providing the local resistance the best possible chance of doing the dirty work of hand-to-hand

combat in which the insurgents often seem to have the upper hand. They include the following: 1) cut off energy supplies on which terrorists thrive—sugar and animal products, 2) reduce inflammatory conditions by using natural anti-inflammatory aids and removal from the diet all gluten products, 3) strengthen the peaceful locals through exercise, and 4) provide the best nutrition possible. For this purpose, the growing of a vegetable garden from which to make juice full of vitamins and enzymes was needed. Additionally, the growing certain types of sprouts (such as broccoli and red clover) was begun. It was also made known that certain teas such as green tea and red clover tea are helpful in this fight. So, the mayor's wife began experimenting with combinations to make them palatable to the residents of the town and then served them every morning before they even got out of bed. (Does the mayor have a great wife or what? How many wives bring their husbands a hot drink in the morning upon awakening?)

The vegetable garden seemed to be the most difficult task for Rodneyville to attempt to build in the war-torn town. There existed a severe lack of energy and will power to undertake such a task. To the rescue came wonderful and loving family members and friends who provided resources and organized a labor force—a virtual platoon of volunteers, to build the garden. Chief among those family, friends and allies were the mayors of Heathville, Bunchville, Royville, and Bensonville. The love and support they have given have meant the world to this embattled town. The town also received much appreciated assistance from the mayor of Paciniville in selling the towns motorcycles which could no longer be ridden in the war-torn town. For that assistance, the mayor is very grateful. The mayor feels he would be remiss if he did not also mention the love and support he has received from the mayors of the distant lands of Bringtonville, Wehtjeville, and Mitchellville.

At the beginning of this battle, the mayor and his wife were in shock and disbelief that terrorism could infiltrate their town. Of course, reports of terrorism are noted regularly, but it seems they normally occur in faraway foreign lands. It was extremely discouraging for them, so they turned immediately to the almighty God who is in control of all things. For the uprising to be stamped out, He certainly had the power to intervene and stop it Himself, or He could reveal methods and provide experts to establish just the right combination of techniques to extinguish the terrorism causing such suffering in the land. As friends and family members learned of the insurgency, they joined the mayor and his wife in prayer, and many others began praying in lands far and wide.

Contrary to logic, surprisingly, this uprising has provided many benefits to the mayor. He has taken on a very different viewpoint of life in his domain. New priorities have been established regarding life's fragility and temporary nature. It caused him to realize the extraordinary blessings of his incredibly supportive and loving family, fantastic friends who provide their support, and the extraordinary beauty of the domain surrounding the town he has had the privilege of governing. Most of all, it has made him realize that this domain is not his real home. His real home lies beyond this life in the home that God has created for all who love Him and wish to live with Him.

It has been a long and difficult battle that has been waged against these scheming, relentless terrorists. But the great successes are due to the most skilled fighting team ever assembled. The mayor's special advisor, Marcia Horn from ICAN, observed that this team is “amongst the top one percentile of all defense teams in any land”, assisted by the power of the almighty God of heaven and earth, resulting in the extinguishment of 99% of the insurgents. This intel on the enemy's

losses was gathered from satellite imagery and from something known as a PSA test which has gone down from a high of 13 to just 0.07—zero being the goal. The battle goes on to keep the insurgency in check while a new plan is developed for the complete and permanent eradication of the uprising, so that Rodneyville will once again return to the healthy and vibrant town that it once was. In the meantime, it is trying to rebuild itself from the heavy collateral damage of the chemical and nuclear warfare, made difficult since a critical energy supply line is still being blockaded which affects the whole town. This current blockade is known as androgen deprivation therapy via Lupron and Abiraterone.

The mayor wants to make certain that those close to him—his wife, sons, daughters-in-law, brother, sister, father, and friends—to know how much they mean to him and how much their love and support means to him, and that he loves them all very much. And of course, he doesn't what to forget those in his domain which provide the world's best medicine—love and laughter, the grandchildren. Oh the grandchildren, what wondrous gifts from God they are!

To celebrate the great victories in their war on terrorism, the mayor and his wife hosted a six-day houseboat cruise on a lake in the mountains near their town. Joining them were his sons and wives, grandchildren, brother, and the mayors Bunchville, Royville, Wehtjeville and their wives. For the mayor, this was one of the best weeks of his life. He basked not only in the sun and beauty surrounding him, but in the love of his family and friends. The love, laughter, and fun times that the grandchildren created for the mayor was a magnificent gift. To the mayor, this was all a gift from God and His way of thanking the mayor for his trust and patience through these troubled times. (Photos of the trip are on the next page, or click on the photos section of the website.)

The end of this story is yet to be written as the battle rages on, but it is in the hands of the almighty God of the universe and His valiant warriors who daily carry out the battle against the insidious insurgencies which are so very widespread among all nations of this earth.

The mayor of Rodneyville would like all who read this story to remember how precious life is. His advice is to live each day to its fullest, as if it were the last. If all does not seem well in your own domain, don't take the advice of one single investigator. Get second and third opinions. If you see others in crisis, fighting their own version of terrorism, reach out to them, phone, email, or visit them. Show your compassion for them. Don't let the busyness of life keep you from reaching out to a friend in crisis. They will need the love and support of those who are their allies. This is critical to not only winning the battles, but also to winning the war. Most of all, he wants you to know that he loves you, and that the God of the universe loves you, and he is looking forward to the day when we will all live in peace and harmony, free of the pain and suffering caused by every type of terrorism.

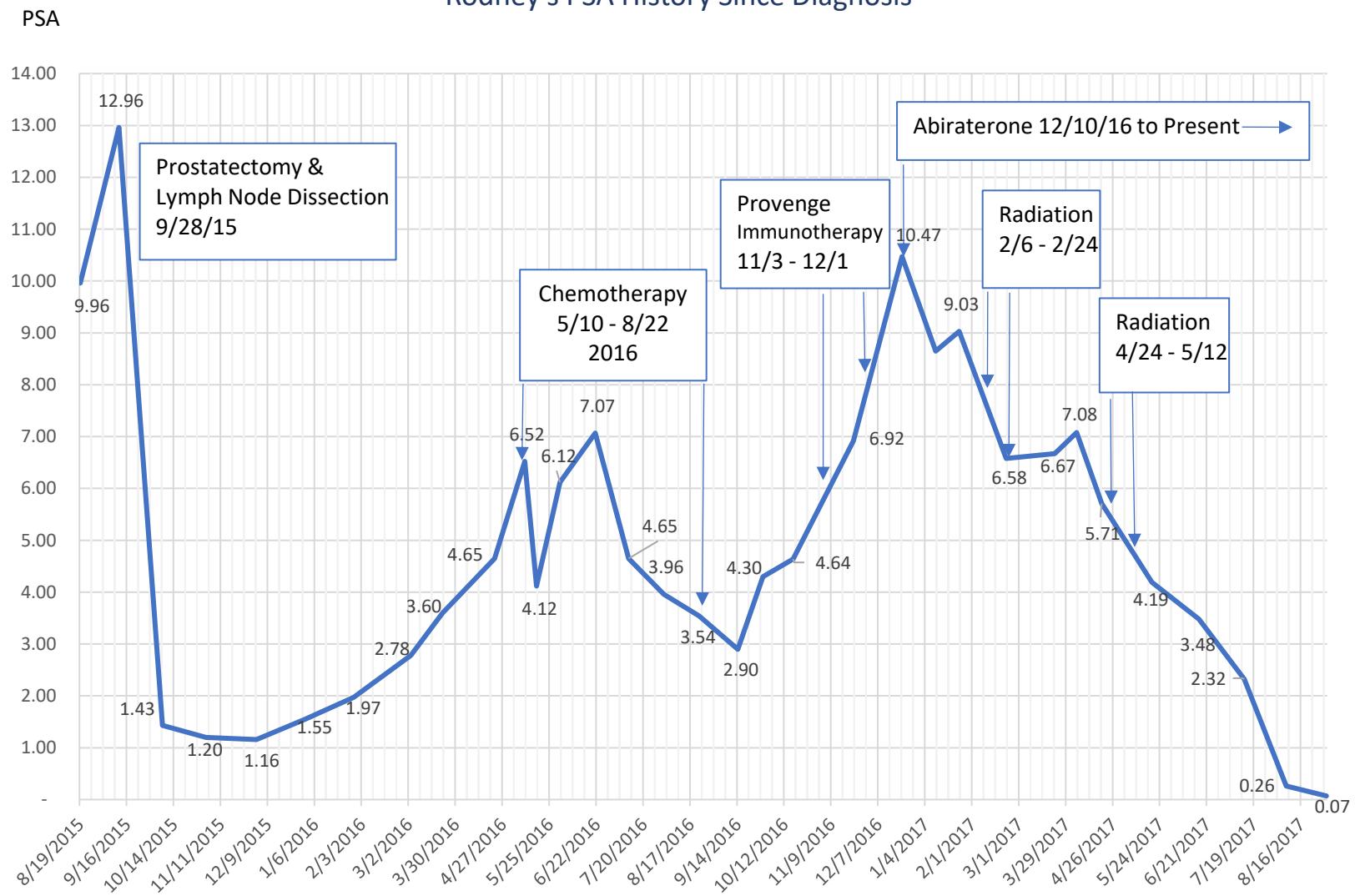
While we await that grand reunion in the heavens above, live in peace and harmony with all citizens of all lands. Forgive others and stamp out all bitterness in your life. Most of all, love your Creator, your family, and your friends, with all your heart, and with all your might, and with all your soul.

*The following pages are photos of the houseboat cruise and a graph of Rodney's PSA which is correlated with the treatments he has received since his diagnosis.*





## Rodney's PSA History Since Diagnosis



## Afterword

When I sent this story to Marcia Horn at ICAN, she loved it so much she took it to her executive board and they loved it so much they voted to create a program named the “Rodney Hardcastle Survivors Program”. The program contains patient resources for surviving cancer, as well as: this story, reviews of this story (several of which were written by the board members of ICAN), a piece I wrote on the inspiration I live by, and more photos. If you’d like to look it up you can find it at:

[www.askican.org/namedprograms/rhardcastle.html](http://www.askican.org/namedprograms/rhardcastle.html)

Just in case you don’t have the time or desire to look up the program, I am repeating below the piece I wrote for the web program on the inspiration I live by:

The inspiration I live by comes from my Heavenly Father whom I believe is the God of the universe. I owe everything to Him. Without Him I would not exist. I am a very blessed man (if you don’t believe me just look at the photos of my wonderful family in the photo section) and I believe those blessings come from God. You might ask “how are you so blessed—you have cancer?” Believe it or not, I’ve even found blessings in cancer. It has forced me to stop and listen to my Creator, whom I believe wanted me to reprioritize my life. I’ve always been a busy man as a husband, father, grandfather and a college professor with a CPA practice on the side, and this disease has forced me to sit down, be still, and listen to my God. I don’t believe God causes bad things—like cancer—to come into our lives, but I believe He can use them to make our lives better if we will just stop and listen to His still small voice which we can hear in nature, through bible study, and through answered prayer. We are all going to die eventually, some sooner, some later. What matters most is what happens beyond this short time we spend on this earth. If it takes something like cancer to get us ready for the eternal life that lies ahead for the faithful believers in God, then so be it.

—Rodney Hardcastle

Below is the review of this story written by the chairman of the board of ICAN.

I have just had the honor of reading your most inspiring, impressive, and effective writing. Your insightful thoughts, words, grasp of concepts and core beliefs go very far to substantiate your assertion that the fight against cancer is analogous to the fight against terrorism. If only more cancer patients – as well as political leaders around the globe – could see these issues from your perspective, the cancer arena would not be such a scary place, nor would the world.

Now, I must tell you that I have been an ICAN volunteer for 19 years and continue each day so that this MOST EFFECTIVE AND WORTHWHILE organization may continue to help more and

more cancer patients and their families. In almost two decades, I have read and heard many thoughts, wishes, and prayers coming from patients and their loved ones. Of all those, yours stands as a gateway to understanding and giving ammunition to fight the fight.

May you and yours stay strong and continue to share this exhilarating and electrifying message.

Warm regards,

Sherry Weinstein  
Chairman, ICAN Board of Trustees