

The Circuit

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For Security And Protection Specialists

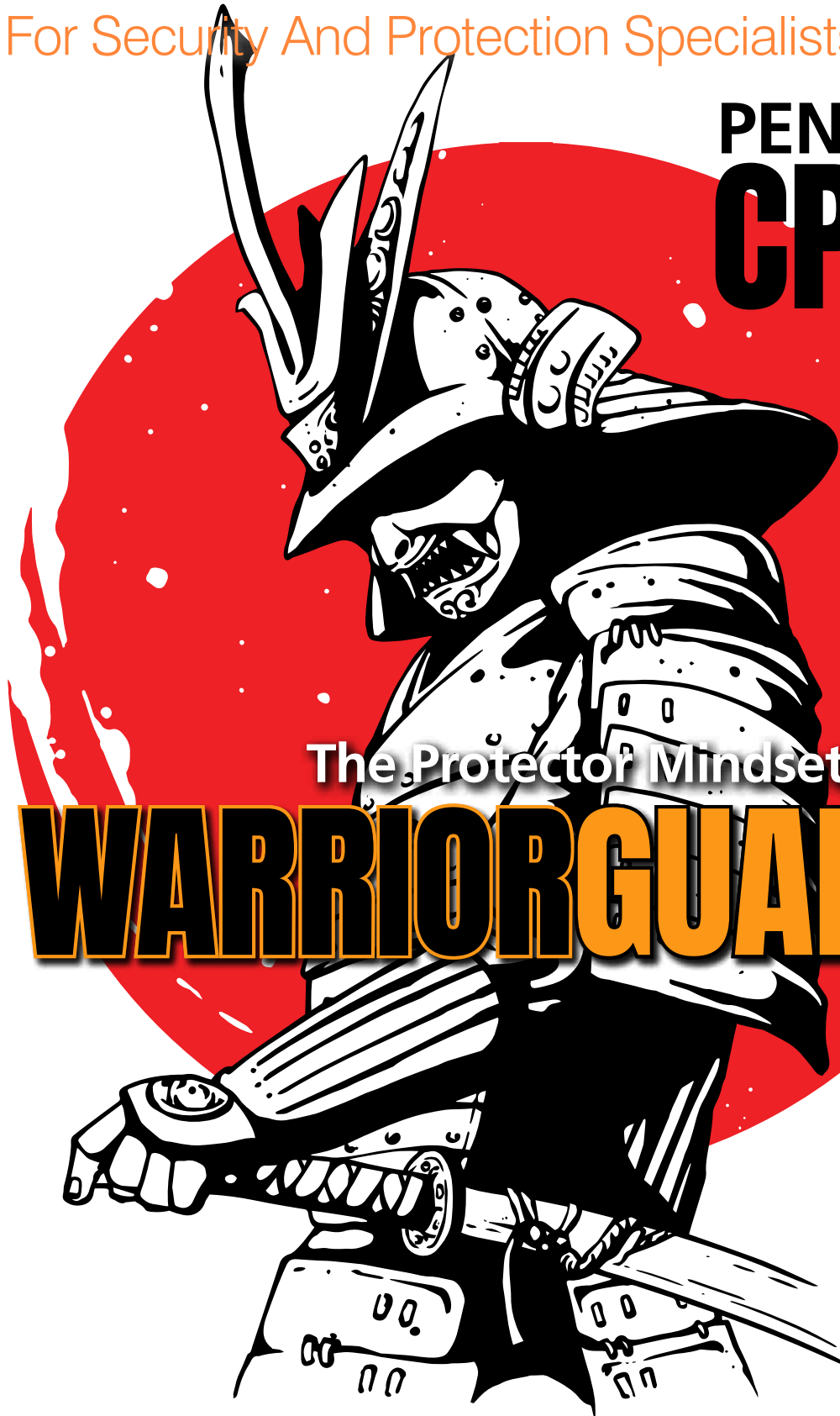
**PENETRATING A
CP TEAM**

**DEMYSTIFYING
COMBATIVES**

The Protector Mindset:

WARRIOR GUARDIAN

**TACTICAL
MEDICINE**





By Orlando Wilson

TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

June 2000, Greece. Brigadier Stephen Saunders, the British military attaché in Athens, was killed by members of the Revolutionary Organization 17 November (17N). Saunders was attacked by two men on a motorcycle while driving in Athens on his way to work at the British Embassy.

The killers thought Saunders's embassy-issued Rover was armored, so they used a Heckler & Koch G3 assault rifle that had been stolen from the Greek police. That gun jammed after one shot, and the assassins then fired four shots at Saunders with a .45 Colt M1911 pistol. Saunders died from his wounds in the hospital. Moving targets are harder to shoot than stationary targets! Smaller targets are harder to shoot than large targets!

in a hostile incident, most reply that they should simply shoot the bad guys, get access to their weapons, shoot for the head, carry a big gun, and so on. The answer I am looking for is not to get shot. It's OK being able to shoot a silhouette target on a comfortable range, but it's another thing shooting a moving person who is doing their best to shoot and kill you. In addition to shooting, there are other skills that you should learn that could save your life in a hostile incident.

When I ask my students, what is the most important thing they must do

You should, first of all, work out a plan of action that you will take ►

in the case of an emergency. Do this for your home, business, and for when you are out and about. Things that need to be considered are means of communication, safe areas, when to fight, and when to flee. Planning is what sorts the professionals from the amateurs. If you plan how to deal with a hostile or emergency situation, and if it actually happens, you'll know what to and how to react to it.

Reaction to Fire

1. **Preparation:** Your handgun must be clean, serviceable, and well-oiled. Your ammunition must be of good quality, clean, and your magazines full. You must be properly trained and ready to deal with the incident.
2. **Reacting to fire:** Your immediate reaction must be to identify the threat and return fire immediately, killing the criminal or terrorist. Move to cover as you are deploying your weapon and returning fire. If you are being shot at from a distance or do not know where the shots are coming from, you should:
 - a. Dash—a moving target is harder to hit than a stationary target.
 - b. Down—keep low and present a smaller target.
 - c. Get into cover from fire.
 - d. Observe where the threat is.
 - e. Return fire.



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3. **Winning the firefight:** As soon as the threat has been firmly located, you must bring down sufficient accurate fire on the criminals or terrorists to kill them or force them into cover, so you can extract yourself from the situation.
4. **Reorganizing:** As soon as you have incapacitated the opposition or are in a safe area, you must reorganize yourself as quickly as possible in order to be ready for other possible threats. You need to reload your handgun, make sure that you or anyone with you is not injured, and inform law enforcement and emergency services immediately.

Suppressing or Covering Fire

Suppressing fire is where you shoot accurately into the area of where a criminal or terrorist is and to force him into or keep him behind cover, so you or someone with you can move without being shot. You're shooting into the criminal's general area to keep his head down. Likewise you could shoot at objects close to the criminal or terrorist that would cause ricochets and flying debris - such as brick, plastered, or concrete walls. Also, you need to be aware of injuries from ricochets and debris when being shot at!

A rate of fire for this tactic would be shooting a round about every

one to three seconds, depending on the situation. The problem with this is you are not shooting at an identified target and could hit innocent people in close proximity to the criminal or terrorist. If you believe suppressing fire is something you may need to use, you will have to carry sufficient ammunition. Think about it - if you are firing a round every 2 seconds, 15 rounds will only last you 30 seconds; 45 rounds in three magazines, including magazine changes, would last less than 2 minutes. You would need the hi-capacity 9mm's and would want to carry as much ammunition as possible and practice fire discipline as part of your training. You do not want to run out of ammunition.

The Basics

Moving targets are harder to shoot than stationary targets.

So, if someone is shooting at you, do not stand still and draw your weapon—run. Smaller targets are harder to shoot than large targets! If there is no cover for you, make yourself a smaller target and drop to a kneeling position. You should practice shooting and reloading from a kneeling position. I do not recommend prone positions for close quarter shooting, since it takes too much time for most people to stand up. From a kneeling position, you can quickly run and get to cover. ➤

Use of Cover

This is a very important and basic subject that, for some reason, is often ignored in most firearms courses. In your home, business, or when you are walking around, you should always be looking for positions that you could use for cover in the event of a shooting incident. There are two types of cover: 1.) cover from view and 2.) Cover from bullets and shrapnel. You always want to locate the latter. You also may want to consider what type of rounds the cover will stop. A table might be able to stop a .32 fired from a handgun, but a 7.62mm fired from an AK-47 would go through both the table and you. Also consider if you want to be able to shoot through cover, such as drywall in your house.

Cover from view includes:

- Cardboard boxes and empty rubbish bins
- Bushes
- Thin walls and fences
- Thin tabletops
- Doors
- Shadows
- Cover from fire (depending on the firearm used)
- Thick tabletops

- Heavy furniture
- Stone and concrete walls
- Dead ground
- Thick trees
- Various areas of a car
- Curbstones

One of the best publicized examples of good use of cover happened in St. Petersburg, Russia, on February 26, 1996. At 4:25 pm, two mafia gunmen in long coats entered a fashionable café. Under their coats, each man had an AKS-74. They were there to kill a boss who was in the café with his two off duty police bodyguards. The mafia gunmen fired 60 rounds at close quarters from the AKS-74s and killed both the police bodyguards. The criminal boss tipped over a thick marble table at which he was sitting and hid behind it; although wounded, he was well enough to walk out the café and make phone calls after the gunmen had escaped.

A Scottish lawyer was also killed though he was just sitting drinking coffee in the café when he was hit by three stray bullets.

The attack took about 40 seconds. The Scottish lawyer was in the wrong place at the wrong time.

When you get into a cover position, you should always try to have an escape route and try not to get pinned down. When using cover as a shield, always keep low and fire or look around the cover - not over it. When you are in cover and need to move, first select the next place of cover that you will move to and then move fast and keep low. Keep the distances between your cover positions short. When you

get behind the cover, assess your situation, where the threat is and what you should do. Keep moving this way until you are out of danger.

If you are dealing with multiple targets, move to cover and put multiple rounds in each one. Then continue putting rounds into anyone who still presents a threat; for example, anyone who is still ►



moving and could shoot you.

Remember

- Always looking for and make maximum use of available cover and concealment.
- Avoid firing over cover; when possible, fire around it.
- Avoid silhouetting yourself against light-colored buildings, backgrounds, and lights.
- Always carefully select a new piece of cover before leaving your present position of cover.
- Make sure you always have an escape route planned.
- Avoid setting patterns in your movement, for example, shooting or looking from the same position at the same level.
- Keep exposure time to a minimum; don't look over or around cover for an extended period of time.
- Always look up and behind you; remember that positions which provide cover at ground level may not provide cover on higher floors.

Shooting from Cover

A good firing position is a position from which you can shoot accurately at the criminals or terrorists and provides protection

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from any returning fire. It helps if you are capable of using your handgun both right and left-handed. A common error made in firing around corners is the simple mistake of the shooter's gun being in the wrong hand. This exposes more of the body to return fire than is necessary. Another common mistake when firing around corners is the shooters firing from the standing position. In doing this you expose yourself at the height the opposition would expect a target to appear and risk exposing the entire length of your body as a target.

Camouflage

It makes me laugh when I see SWAT Teams and PSD guys wearing Tactical Black and other colors that look cool but do nothing but make them stand out. In reality black is one of the worse colors to wear. What is black in nature? Look around you now and see if anything in your surrounding are black. I expect very little. In urban areas most walls are white, gray, or cream - light colors! The colors you wear should blend in with your background whether its day or night.

At night dark colors stand out when moving past light backgrounds, and in urban areas there are many light backgrounds. Even when moving through low bush and fields, the silhouettes of people in dark colors

are easy to see at a distance. In the below photo you can see that regular camouflage patterns can also stand out against light backgrounds and grasses.

Things are seen because of these reasons:

- Shape: Disguise you're shape; use foliage or rags to break up your outline.
- Shadow: Keep in the shadows and always be aware that you are not casting a shadow that could be seen by your opposition.
- Silhouette: Don't stand out against skylines, lights, white walls, etc.
- Shine: No chrome, shiny watches, mirrored glasses, sparkly jewelry and the like.
- Spacing: If moving with others, remain spread out, but not too regularly and do not bunch together.
- Movement: Move carefully, a sudden movement draws attention and is the main reason camouflaged personnel and animals are seen.

The basic guidelines for camouflage are:

- Learn to blend in with your surroundings. ➤

- If you are using foliage to conceal yourself or your position don't use too much or too little.
- If you are in a long-term hide remember to keep your camouflage fresh, dead foliage will alert people to your position.
- When moving avoid skylines
- Don't use isolated or obvious cover; it's the first-place others will look. Consider hiding in thorny bushes or nettles as most people will not expect anyone to hide there.
- Always look around objects, not over them.
- Camouflage your face, neck and any areas of the exposed flesh with mud, ash or charcoal from fires. Or use a balaclava or scarf to cover your face and wear gloves.
- Take all noisy objects from your pockets, such as keys and coins and make sure nothing on your person rattles.
- Make sure there are no shiny surfaces on your person, equipment or clothing.

Use of light

In my opinion many people are over-enthusiastic in the use of flashlights. There is a big market in tactical flashlights, and the companies making them want everyone to buy one, thus making them a must-have item. Flashlights have an application in hostile situations, but you should remember that any light will give away your position and draw fire. Light should be used sparingly and tactically.

We tell our students to get used to training in the dark and using your senses of hearing and smell in addition to sight. At night there is more chance you will hear someone before you see them! When moving in a dark environment, do so slowly and cautiously and try to make minimum noise. Try finding your way around your house or business in the dark. Before you start moving around give your eyes a few minutes to adjust to the dark.

If you must use a flashlight, keep it at arm's length and keep it on for no longer than necessary. Then move quickly or get behind cover. If you want to check a room or a corridor, one option



If your home is broken into at night, you could move your family to your safe room and take up a position in cover behind the lights

is to roll the flashlight across the doorway, corridor, or into the room. Light can be used as a distraction and help to cover your movement. Shine it in the general direction of your opponent and move. This will mess up his night vision, and if you leave the light pointing in his direction, it will be difficult for him to see what is happening behind the light.

If possible, use remote lights as this is more of an application for your home or business. For example, place powerful spotlights that illuminate corridors to safe rooms, stairways, or doorways. If your

home is broken into at night, you could move your family to your safe room and take up a position in cover behind the lights. If you hear or identify movement to your front, you turn on the spotlights and this will surprise, blind, and illuminate anyone in the corridor.

This will also help you to confirm that the people in your house are criminals or terrorists and give you good targets to shoot. A simpler version of this is to keep a night light on outside of your bedroom door, then anyone who enters will present a good silhouette for you to shoot at.

Orlando Wilson has worked in the security industry internationally for over 25 years. He has become accustomed to the types of complications that can occur, when dealing with international law enforcement agencies, organized criminal and Mafia groups. He is the chief consultant for Risks Inc. and based in Miami but spends much of his time traveling and providing a wide range of kidnapping prevention and tactical training services to private and government clients.