

“Getting off the X”

By Tom Perroni

The goal of any Warrior in a lethal encounter of any kind should be to “Prevail” not just “Survive”.

In order for the warrior to prevail they must be trained in Mindset, Tactics and Skill.

What is mindset? For the warrior, mindset is the conscious or subconscious willingness to commit harm (lethal or non-lethal) against another. When engaging in combat, mindset, more often than not, will be the determining factor as to your success or failure, regardless of technical proficiency. Anybody can train in a skill, but few have the mind and will to use their skills for killing or serious injury. Mindset's partner is "mental trigger," and this trigger is the defining moment that forces you to engage your opponent with the goal of injury or death.

What are tactics? a conceptual action used by a warrior to achieve a specific objective.

One of the most important tactics in tactical firearms training is movement, however sadly this concept is not widely taught.

I've witnessed officers' poor movement performance in almost every course I've instructed for law enforcement. And if shooting performances are poor in controlled training environments that require movement, think about what will happen out on the street in a fast-moving gun battle.

One of the primary goals of any tactical training should be that when you are facing a threat, particularly an armed opponent the warrior should immediately execute a quick movement off of the spot that they are standing while simultaneously drawing a weapon, and issuing a challenge, and in general preparing for the fight. The challenge should be ‘DON'T MOVE’ **not** “LET ME SEE YOUR HANDS”. Then if necessary shooting to stop the threat.

In the tactical world we call this “Getting off the X” The “X” is the area where you are currently standing, sitting, walking, or working. The thought process is that the bad guy is focused in on you and begins the attack (or action) he is in his own OODA loop and is fixated on you with blinding tunnel vision and adrenalin.

Once your OODA loop begins (or reaction) you Observe the threat, you Orient to the threat, you make a Decision and then Act. By stepping laterally to the left or the right. You have moved off the X and out of the blinding tunnel vision and adrenalin of the bad guy, this causes your attacker to have to readjust to you and

the thought process is now you have gotten inside of the bad guys OODA loop. More importantly remember it is much harder to hit a moving target than one that stands still.

I teach my Students to move on the draw stroke. Then begin to fight with their handgun. I also teach them to move while reloading. The goal will always be to move to cover.

The movement does not always have to be laterally left or right. I teach my students to move backwards or forwards. While moving backwards I advocate the step and drag method, which is step to the rear with the gun side foot and then drag the opposite foot to the rear then step to the rear again with the gun side foot and drag the opposite foot. This method gives us positive contact and a stable shooting platform while moving backwards.

I teach my students while moving forward to keep the gun in a retention position close to the body with the elbows resting on the rib cage this will allow the gun to fire while not putting the gun in the bad guy's hand.

When moving there is no default direction. However 5 out of 6 people in the U.S. are right handed. So if you were facing a right handed shooter moving to the left would be an advantage. Most right handed shooters have a problem shooting to the left. The point to all of this is to get off the line of attack no matter which direction.

What is Skill? Skill is the learned capacity to carry out pre-determined results often with the minimum outlay of time, energy, or both. We also call them fundamentals most schools have a good grasp on this.

We need to put this all together when training. I see far too many students who have only one piece of the puzzle. I think it is my duty as an Instructor to make sure that each one of my students has a firm grasp on these principals. However please note that what I teach is A way and not THE way to train for the fight. I also feel that there may be times when the stand and deliver option may work, but that method will be discussed in a future article.

Stay Safe! & Shoot Straight!

And always remember that "Conflict is inevitable; Combat is an option".