

CLOSE PROTECTION FOOT TECHNIQUES

CLOSE PROTECTION FOOT TECHNIQUES

AIM: To discuss and demonstrate close protection foot techniques.

Intended Learning Outcomes: By the end of the session trainees will be able to:

1. Explain the role of a close protection operative on foot and as a personal escort
2. Explain the roles within a close protection team whilst on foot
3. Explain the role of a Team Leader
4. Explain the need for flexibility whilst on foot
5. Explain the range of communication techniques to be used whilst on foot
6. Demonstrate a range of close protection foot formations
7. Demonstrate effective body protection of a Principal
8. Demonstrate foot evacuation of protected person(s).

National Occupational Standards:

- PCP 2 – Plan and prepare to minimise threat and risk to Principals**
- PCP 3 – Liaise and communicate with Principals and others**
- PCP 4 – Establish and maintain secure environments**
- PCP 5 (SLP2) Communicate effectively in the workplace**
- PCP 6 – Maintain the safety and security of Principals whilst on foot**
- PCP 7 – Maintain the safety and security of Principals whilst in transit**
- PCP 8 – Maintain protection whilst driving**
- PCP 9 – Use control and restraint to support close protection**
- PCP 10 – Use physical intervention to support close protection**
- PCP 11 – Respond to trauma and medical crisis**
- PCP 12 – Maintain personal security awareness.**

CLOSE PROTECTION - FOOT TECHNIQUES

CLIENT MOVEMENT



BODY PROTECTION FORMATIONS

The Protection Officer needs to be at all times alert, courteous, tactful and diplomatic. The level of protection given must be effective but unobtrusive. Public figures will want to meet the community, to shake hands and generally mingle.

The art of protection is to balance the Clients role with the best interests of security, and produce a compromise acceptable to all concerned

Protection should be carried out in a positive and confident way, as this will gain the confidence of the Client. In addition it may have a deterrent effect upon potential attackers, should they make a preliminary survey of the Clients movements.

The CPO must know when to stand back in protected areas, but when in doubt, ***too much protection is better than too little.*** It must be borne in mind that the wishes of a VIP will sometimes conflict with the requirements of security. Hence the positioning of Close Protection Officers may not always comply with the following *'ideals'*

The following pages show, in detail, several examples of various formations, which may be used. Keep in mind that all of these formations have both strong and weak points, which the CPO should be aware of, in the pre-planning and planning stages when choosing the best formation.

Flexibility is the key

Most of the escort formations must be flexible as must the Close Protection Team providing the formations. During training bodyguards learn the basic formations but practice and experience teaches them to adjust to different situations. Formations and scenarios should be practised, most new team members will be judged on the formation techniques

And literally learn on the job.

Team Leader

The most common number of CPO's in an escort section formation is five. Although protective efforts may be carried out with fewer or more. This number includes the Team Leader or Commander; the T L will normally remain close to the Principal and will be the decision maker when it comes to adjusting the formation, changing the route or calling in the vehicles evacuate the Principal

The T L will be in radio contact with the rest of the team including the 2ic, drivers and others involved in the operation. However he may use hand signals when in close formation using arm taps to adjust formation without informing the public or crowds of his intent.

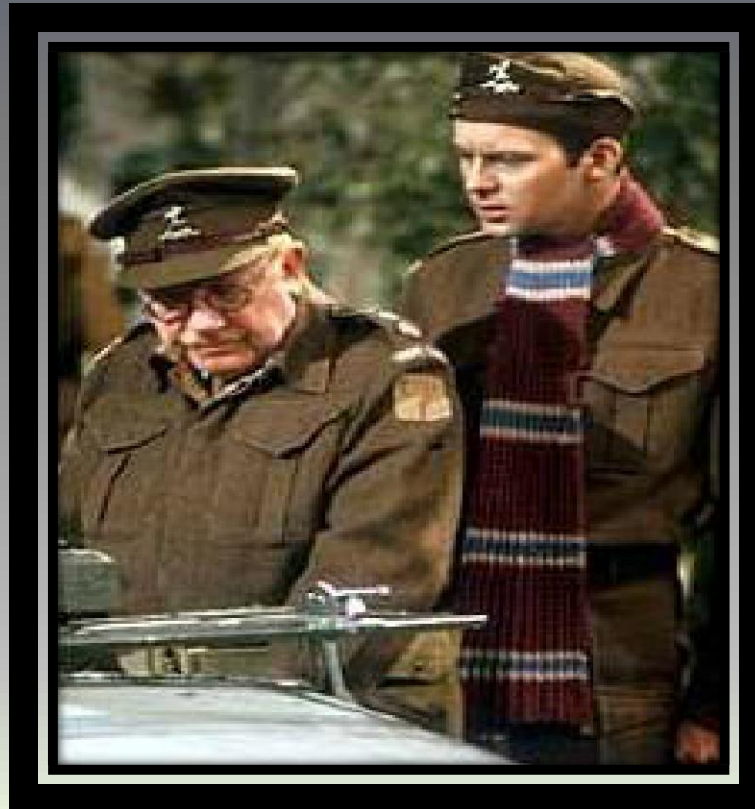
Briefing the Principal

The Principal may have to be quickly informed as well, although some Principals who have had protection for some time will know how to respond to formations. However it is not the responsibility of the Principals to adjust to the pace of the Personal Escort Section, but their job is to match that of the Principal

The Principal should be taught how formations work and consequently may change on the move by the T L. He should also be briefed on likely scenarios along with any countermeasures that might take place.

BODYCOVER

Bodycover, as the word suggests, means using your body as a shield to protect your Principal from an attack. This is where the term 'Bullet-catchers' comes originated as the Bodyguard, by placing himself between the attacker and his Principal will 'catch' the bullet as was the case with the attempted assassination of President Reagan.



ASSES – COVER - EVACUATE – A.C.E.

ASSESS:

As a CPO you are constantly assessing situations, looking out for possible threats. In regards providing Bodycover you may be reacting to a gunshot or a shout or even something that you simply don't like the look of, such as a suspect package or person, but before you can act you need to assess the situation

It's no good running away with the Principal if you are running towards another threat or the wrong direction. Your actions will differ should a gun attack be short or long range, or whether it is a knife, a grenade or even a flour bomb!

Assessing the situation might take you a nano-second or ten seconds but providing good cover and evacuation depends upon the accuracy of your initial assessment. This is what is commonly known as the 'Soak Period', or Condor moment as the older members amongst us remember the cigar advert

COVER AND CONTROL

Providing bodycover as we have already discussed, means placing your body between the danger and the Principal to provide cover to his head and vital organs. This action needs to be quick and instinctive and must be practiced religiously in a variety of scenarios and positions to develop the muscle memory required to react instinctively

You should practice whilst walking, static, sitting, driving and running. You need to be able to run with your Principal providing bodycover, defend yourself, punch or shoot a weapon and identify hard cover or an escape route all concurrently

What type of cover you use will depend upon factors such as what is actually happening and whether you have PES. It may be a case of running for cover or using the PES to 'Cave-in' on the Principal to give maximum body cover whilst facing the threat.

EVACUATE

The best evacuations are planned for, but the next best thing is just to quickly remove the Principal away from the danger maintaining as much bodycover as possible, which is easier said than done whilst moving at speed, It is easier with the cooperation of the Principal, but must also be practiced without cooperation as it is likely that your Principal may be have gone into shock and be largely unresponsive or a belly full of adrenalin and be experiencing 'fight or flight'.

The technique you will be taught acts to counteract this possibility however and you will need to communicate through this phase to ensure the Principal does not hamper the evacuation

Bodycover must be practiced

Providing bodycover must be turned into muscle memory and become instinctive. Practicing cover from left, right, front, rear and above will cover most situations and by focusing and practicing the main directions you will build enough instinctive muscle memory to react to an attack from any direction.

“Actions On” or “Immediate Action Drills”

Responses to attacks are known as **“Actions On” or “Immediate Action Drills”**. Your Actions On (AO) will vary depending upon lots of different factors, such as:

1. The type of attack
2. Your location
3. Working one on one or as a team

ACE will almost always apply, but there may be occasions where evacuation is simply impossible, or where the CPO’s best Course of Action (COA) is to stay and fight. Common sense combined with experience will be your only guide in such situations, but as a way of developing the necessary muscle memory we will practice ACE, which will need to be as instinctive as ducking a punch.

We achieve this by ensuring we get the basics right from a static position initially before adding other elements to the equation such as movement or being in confined spaces such as vehicles, stairwells or Hotel corridors etc. These practices should be carried out with fellow CPO's whenever possible and not the Principal

However, once you have developed your skills and achieved 'expertise', you ***could and should*** run your Principal through the drills, so he knows what to expect, but only do this once or twice as he certainly will not forget the experience and if he is not too robust, the risk of causing injury is too high!

Using weapons with bodycover

If you are on an assignment where you routinely carry weapons then the AO must be practiced with the weapon. Most of the following drills can be used with or without a weapon, as the responses to attack aim to provide bodycover whilst at the same time leave your strong arm free to punch, shoot or assist in the Principal's evacuation.



Start slow and stand still

Initially you should start from the classic position of behind and slightly to the right or left of the Principal in a static position. You will have enough to think about to begin with without having movement to consider which can be introduced gradually as the muscle memory kicks in and the basics are mastered. It is like learning to drive

Once you have mastered the art of moving the gear stick whilst depressing the clutch and taking your foot off the accelerator without having to think about it, you can then apply all of your attention on the road ahead

The same principles apply here, as once you develop the muscle memory of instinctively taking control of the Principal in order to affect bodycover, you will then have more time to think about the right COA to take immediately and then during the soak period after the initial attack has been avoided / dealt with.

Assess the situation;

You need to be able to affect the bodycover without taking your eyes away from the immediate threat. This will require you step in between the threat and the Principal and get the bodycover applied. You should always take hold of and control the Principal; this will be done simultaneously, and can be both physically, by grabbing him, and by voice commands; **'GET DOWN'** or **'WITH ME'**

His fight or flight mechanism brought on by his sudden rush of adrenalin, may well choose to *fight*, or, conversely, you need to ensure that if you both decide on *flight* that you are both flying in the same direction while you are giving bodycover as the last thing you need is the Principal doing a Forrest Gump in the opposite direction to you!.

Understand fully that when an attack is imminent or happening **'YOU BECOME THE BOSS'** and will be the one giving the orders. Your highest priority is to evacuate the Principal and remove him from the danger and it is imperative that you provide bodycover during those milliseconds of assessment
Hence the *absolute need* to dedicate copious amounts of time.

Attacked from the front

When attacked from the front, it is almost as though the Principal is giving you the bodycover, which isn't exactly what the job is about! Therefore, your positions must be reversed **IMMEDIATELY**. Whilst keeping your head up towards the threat, use your weak hand nearest to the Principal to take control of him as you are stepping forward and across to put yourself between the Principal and the threat

With practice, you will be able to draw your pistol or block the attack concurrently whilst taking control of the Principal, rather than having to wait until you are providing bodycover before taking offensive action against the threat. Then you can evacuate while you provide bodycover.

Attacks from the rear

By taking control of the Principal as you turn you head (head-switch) to locate the threat, the Principal, who was slightly in front of you, will now be close behind you and receiving bodycover. You now have exactly the same options as attack from the front because you are now facing the threat or attack and can shoot, punch and run etc.

Attacks from the right

If you are right handed this is the quickest move to effect the cover. You are already on the right side of the Principal and your head switch and turn is made at the same time you are taking control of the Principal with your weak hand. Pull him close behind you so that you are providing effective cover and can shoot, punch or run in under a second

Attacks from the left

This one poses the most problems for a right-handed CPO. The weak hand reaches to take control, taking hold of the collar or shoulder of the Principal. With the weak hand, the CPO must swing the Principal behind him as he moves towards the threat. As the Principal needs to move 180 degrees before the cover is on, this must be done quickly. This technique will take lots of practice and will feel slow and clumsy to begin with, but with practice you will be able to put in the bodycover quickly and efficiently.

Remember; Slow is Smooth and Smooth is Fast'

There are some schools of thought that suggest telling the Bodyguard not to take hold of the Principal, but rather just move between the Principal and the threat. This will be OK for some situations, but you should first train to take hold and to get control of the Principal

If you practice this enough it will become as fast and slick as any other method, with the advantage that the Principal is tight behind you and under your control, rather than succumbing to his own ***fight or flight*** dilemma and doing something foolish!.

Attacks from above

This type of attack could come from a sniper with a high firing position, mortar or grenade. ACE will still almost always apply except that sometimes finding hard cover or remaining on the ground providing bodycover may become the priority, depending upon the type of attack. A grenade style attack can be better defended by remaining low and providing cover

Common sense and your wits being your very best weapon of defense from an attack from above!.

Moving with the Principal

There are a few schools of thought as to the best and quickest way to move the Principal into cover or away from an attack after the initial confrontation has been dealt with and bodycover has been applied

Through experience, I have found the most effective and efficient way of achieving this does not necessarily conform with many schools of thought as it can look as if you have your Principal in a wrestling hold, which, I hasten to add is certainly not the case. This technique needs to be practiced with the Principal so he knows exactly what is required of him.

Continued.....

Once you are ready to move from the initial defensive position after dealing with the attack, using your weak (controlling) arm put the clients head under your armpit and bring him down and across the side of your body. At the same time the Principal takes a firm grip of the CPO's belt with both hands wrapped around the CPO's waist

This position prevents any chance of legs becoming tangled whilst moving off at speed in any direction whilst affording the CPO a full field of vision whilst maintain full control of the Principal.

The Principals head is now also looking down and therefore not looking at any secondary threat that may be taking place. Remember the likelihood of your Principal being in a state of shock at this stage is quite likely and if that is the case the he will instinctively want to go into the foetal position and want shielding from any threat. If he cannot see this threat this will act to both calm him down and at the same time ensure he only responds to your voice commands and movements

You will find that with very little practice you can then move off at great speed in any direction with the Principal under your complete control whilst your strong arm is able to shoot or punch your way through any threat in your path as required.

To be effective, training to provide bodycover must be carried out hard and aggressively. Sometimes there may well be slight grazes and injuries, but should carry no more risk than a friendly game of rugby!

The Personal Escort Section – Engaging an attacker

If a CPO / BG comes under a short range attack when working with a PES, it is the PES's job to engage the threat aggressively while the BG employs ACE. There are no strict rules about who does what, because this must be decided upon at the time, given the circumstances that you find yourself in.

Short range attacks

The instant a team member sees anything that looks like an attack he will shout out the nature of the threat and direction.
E.g. ***'GUN-TWO-O-CLOCK – ROOFTOP'***

Who does what next depends largely on where you are at the time. If you are between the threat and the Principal then you should engage the threat whilst concurrently moving in front of the Principal and BG to offer a degree of enhanced bodycover. If you are closest to the Principal and not closest to the threat then you may have to decide whether to help with the evacuation of the Principal or to assist your colleagues in engaging the threat.

It is however, good practice for the member furthest from the threat i.e. 'Tail end Charlie' in a Diamond formation to then clear a route to hard cover for the Principal and the BG to in case this is a complex ambush attack from more than one direction

Do not expect to be told what to do, you must use your common sense and training to tell you what the right thing to do is. Once the attacker(s) has been identified and is being engaged then the team will then move tactically into an identified safe haven (rally point). Good CPO's are intelligent and able to think quickly and logically under pressure. Unfortunately, no amount of training and dry-drills can totally prepare you for the real thing, so CPO's who appear to be good in peace time have been known to fall to pieces when the chips are down, which your instructors have witnessed on occasion!

If you are part of the team that is engaging the threat, then you must do this very aggressively and noisily. Engaging someone in this way cuts down their angles and they have to convert their attention from the Principal to you! This can buy your Principal and BG precious seconds in which to make good their escape out of the 'Kill-Zone' Two or three CPO's charging aggressively at a lone gunman or knifeman would be enough to ruin the aim of even the coolest (or most psychotic) of attackers

Once the BG perceives himself and the Principal to be out of immediate danger, he can then relax his grip on the Principal and ask him to stand up from his crouched position and run freely whilst keeping his weak hand on the Principals collar or shoulder. All other team members should be alert and ready to step in and take over should anything happen to the BG such as a trip or injury.

Long range attacks

In the event of you coming under a long range attack the PES is best employed providing full bodycover and evacuation to the Principal out of the Kill-Zone. Because the attacker is much further away from his target, trying to engage him would be rendered futile

Some long range attacks such as a mortar or grenade attack may require that you stay where you are initially and provide bodycover if there is no natural or man-made hard cover within close proximity until such time you can move swiftly and safely into better cover, such as a duck and cover shelter.

Bodycover using a Handgun

This classic picture showing Jack Ruby killing Lee Harvey Oswald shows the detectives 'WOW' factor. Everything just happens so fast they have no time to react as they were not switched on and in code 'YELLOW'. Ruby had approached with an outstretched hand holding the gun, so if the detectives had been alert and looking out for an attack they would have had ample time to take action and prevent the assassination.



One hand or two?

If you have time to - stand, get two hands on the weapon, bring it up to the eye and take careful aim before shooting, as quite obviously this is going to produce the most accurate shot. The chances are however, you are never going to be in such a situation. You are going to be relating to the sound or sight of a gun or maybe the threat of a knife

Because your reaction time is not on your side and speed is everything, you will need to get the weapon out and make a noise with it, if only to ruin your attackers aim and get his head down. If that first, quick shot can also be accurate, this is going to greatly increase your chances of survival, so you must train to be prepared.

for such situations.

Most of your training should therefore be carried out using one hand. As a CPO, your weak hand may well be doing other thing such as controlling your Principal. Two hands will always mean greater accuracy, especially after the first shot when you have to handle the weapons recoil

We should always train for the worst case scenario, so if we do most of our training with one hand and in a situation we get to use two hands then this is a bonus. It follows that if we always train with two hands and a situation occurs where we are forced to use one hand then we could be found wanting!.

The Draw

We can safely say that 99 times out of 100 when we need a weapon quickly, we will be reacting to something and the weapon will not be in our hand but in a holster. In other words, someone may well already have the upper hand on us. Because of this need for speed this must take precedence over all aspects apart from safety

When we draw, we need to have the sharp end of the weapon pointing in the direction of the threat as soon as possible. This is why cross draws are not recommended. In a cross draw, when the weapon is clear of the holster, it is still at least 90 degrees off target.

Compare this to a strong hand, straight draw and the weapon can be making a noise the second it clears the holster and the rounds are travelling in the right direction, especially when the body is tilted back into the 'Short Draw', which in America is known as the 'Speed Rock'

The combination of your wrist bringing the barrel up on to target as soon as the barrel clears the holster, and pushing the hips forward and leaning back brings the weapon trajectory up very quickly so that the round can hit someone in the centre mass.



Above shows two slight variations of the drill. The one on the right is the 'classic' short draw or 'Speed Rock'. The gentleman on the left, if you notice, has brought the weapon up alongside his chest with his arm tight into his side. The advantage of this option is that, if you get into a wrestling match with your attacker then it is far easier for you to retain your weapon due to the tighter leverage you now have

Both however offer speed, which is what we are after. But you must remember to rock back as this will save valuable time in bringing the weapon on target whilst at the same time using your voice commands to control the Principal and get him in tight behind you.

Getting slick

Draws must be practiced repeatedly to become proficient and should be practiced from a variety of positions. Many people only practice drawing their weapon while standing in a very strong position such as the Weaver, but you must condition yourself to draw quickly and smoothly from all positions you are likely to find yourself in, such as sitting in an armchair, in a vehicle, walking or running. Drawing a weapon is an emergency drill and should therefore be a priority for all CPO's to develop the required muscle memory. Don't be embarrassed about facing yourself in a mirror and practicing your draw and if a fellow CPO finds this reason enough to take the Mickey, then, he is in the wrong business as it will be your slick drills that may well save your life and that of your Principals one day!.

Practice each draw slowly to begin with making sure you have a good grip on the weapon and don't have to then adjust before squeezing the trigger, thus losing valuable time and accuracy. Take the safety off as soon as it's safe to do so and get the weapon pointing in the right direction (with a Glock you don't have to worry about this as it has no safety catch). Remember **'Slow is Smooth and Smooth is Fast'**. When you are training, do it right making sure you perform the drills nice and slow and keep it as smooth as you possibly can. With practice and while keeping it smooth, the speed will come, but you have to be prepared to put the time in at first, and then keep it slick by dedicating plenty of training time to the art of drawing your handgun.

Weapons and Body cover

When someone is 100 percent safe and well drilled in the basics of using a firearm when stationary, the training that is specifically for Close Protection can commence. Firstly, people need to be taken from the comfort zone of a static, strong standing position and other positions such as kneeling, sitting and lying should be introduced. Weapons should always start in the holster and ready 'ready' weapons in holsters are inherently dangerous as many CPO's have found out over the years!.

The CPO needs excellent concentration and safety awareness is essential at all times, even when put under stress. When standing and drawing from the hip, most of the body is already behind the weapon, which is, of course, where you want to be. Drawing a weapon when sitting or lying means some of your body will be in front of the weapon when it is drawn and before it can be brought to bear on the target. Sometimes, even experienced shooters shoot themselves and when they do it is usually as a result of stress or complacency, and it is usually with a Glock! Even if you don't die of your wounds you may well die of embarrassment in front of your mates!

Providing bodycover should initially be taught without weapons and certainly not with live ammunition until the student is proficient at providing the cover. It might seem a bit silly at first but no one was ever shot with an index finger!.

Summary

Bodycover is a basic skill that you need to master. You need to be an expert at providing bodycover in any given situation from; sitting, walking, in a vehicle, with weapon or without. Bodycover should always be applied in the very first instance of something appearing wrong!

If you need to fight yourself out of a situation, then to do so whilst trying to hold on to your Principal is folly. Unless you have a pistol, you may well need to use your fists and/or feet in an overwhelming counter-attack to eliminate the initial threat to the Principal. If this is the case you should control the Principal by using strong, loud and clear voice commands.

If you are going to be employed to carry a weapon you should always impress upon your employer the need to practice. This can be difficult (but not impossible) in certain theatres of operation, due to the availability of ranges, but my experience has found that 'shy boys come last' and as long as you approach the military unit, who usually control the ranges overseas on deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan, in the right manner, they are normally only too happy to help out. If you are working in Europe or the US, see if you can get your boss to pay for range time and plenty of ammunition for practice, as one thing is for sure; you cannot rely on the skills you learned with a weapon years ago to help you win a fire-fight today!.

If you are in a situation where there is even a remote chance that you will need to draw your weapon you must ensure that you are well practiced in its use. Remember that getting used to the fit of the pistol is vitally important if it is not an exact fit for your hand so you don't drop it or worse, have an ND through having to fumble your drills

If you are to buy your own weapon ensure try as many weapons as you can before committing to buy the best fit for you. When you are on the range practice a lot with one hand shooting, and draw the weapon from situations you may find yourself in, like:

- 1. Sat in a car or on a chair*
- 2. One hand controlling the Principal*
- 3. From a gun port / hatch in a moving vehicle*
- 4. Attacks from all different angles.*

Practice firing as soon as the weapon has cleared the holster, do not wait to take perfect aim, keep both eyes open and shoot at the centre mass of the target

Remember '**Practice makes PERMANENT**' and your aim should be to practice these skills enough so that bodycover becomes as instinctive to you as blinking or ducking!

NB:

Bodycover techniques, with and without firearms will be taught from day one of this course and subsequently every day thereafter in our purpose built training tactical training wing. By the end of the course each student will be well drilled in the techniques and tactics of bodycover (if a little scuffed and bruised slightly!).

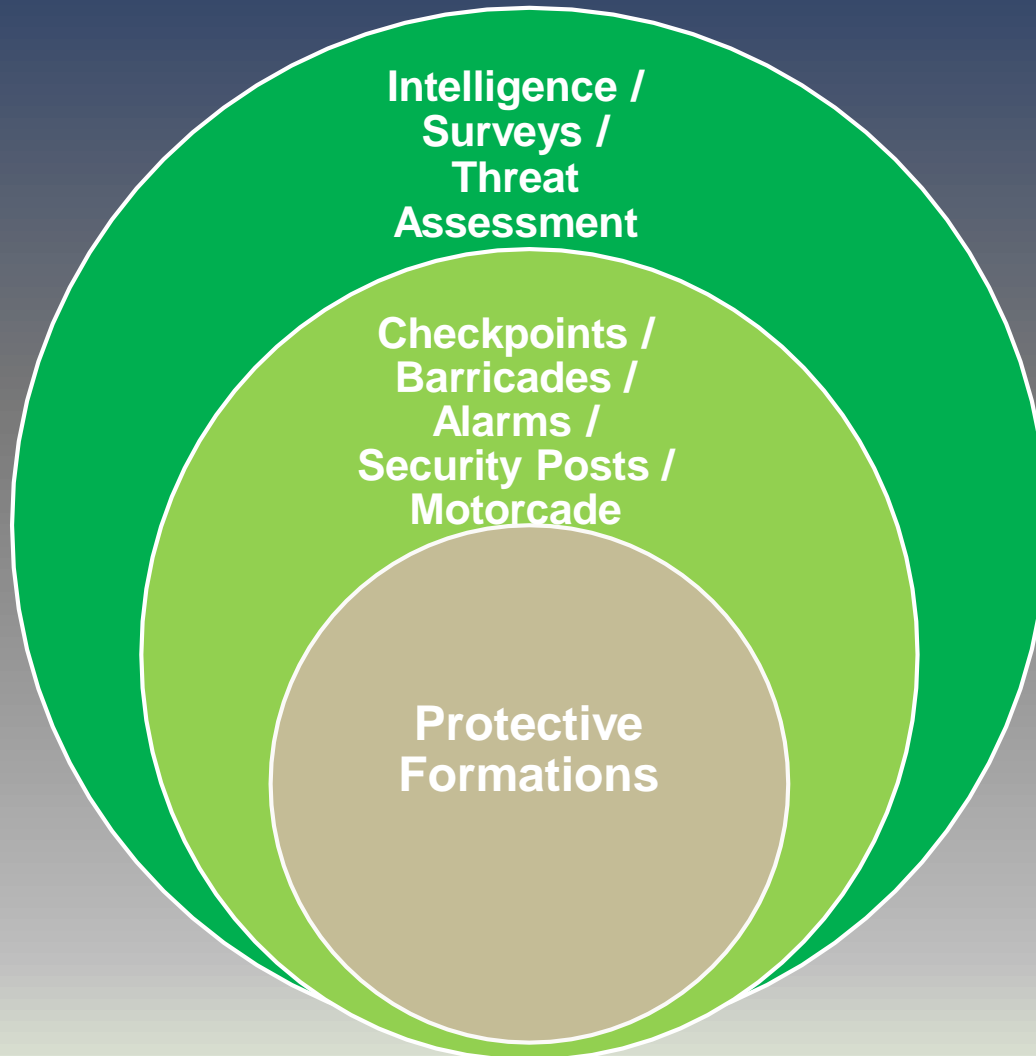
Communication techniques when in a foot-formation

1. Good communications within a walking formation is vitally important to a protection operation. Anyone on the team must be able to pass on information quickly and precisely. Likewise his fellow operators must be able to hear and understand exactly what is said and meant
2. The preferred communication tools on protection operations are a combination of the two-way radio (walkie-talkie), quietly spoken commands, and subtle hand signals along with head & eye movements
3. Remember that **RADIOS ARE NOT SECURE**; never talk in clear (use code-words and spot-codes explained in Chapter 11). Always assume someone is listening in to your transmissions. Change frequencies or channels frequently and keep the transmission down to a minimum and even then, keep them in short burst messages.
Also understand that your radio is capable of setting off an IED so always turn it off if you are near anything suspicious.

4. Radio's when they are raised to the mouth always raise the profile so make sure that the team uses earpieces at all times and if you don't have an earpiece when in the car, just rest the radio on your lap and you will transmit
5. Voice procedure (VP) will change between companies and countries, it does not matter what you use as long as everyone knows the procedure and it is designed around brevity and clarity.

Protective Formations

***‘Protective Formations Are the Last Line of Defence
in Close Protection’***

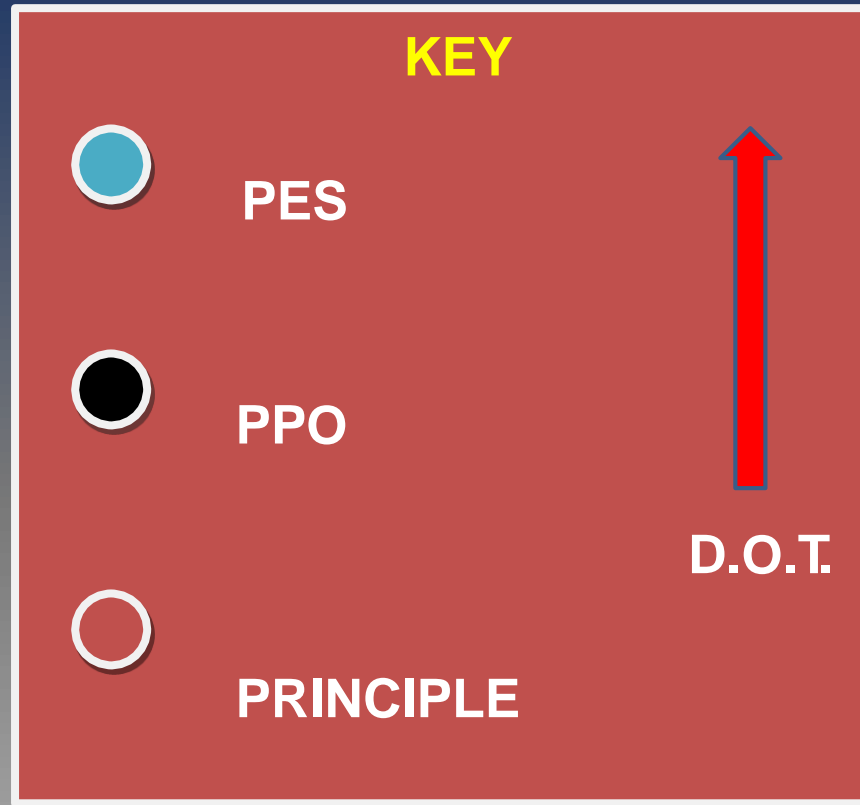


Purpose of Formations

1. To provide a last line of defence around a Principal
2. In position to provide physical control and restraint to protect the Principal where necessary
3. Consists of concentric circles so arcs of observation/responsibility overlap
4. 360 degree coverage

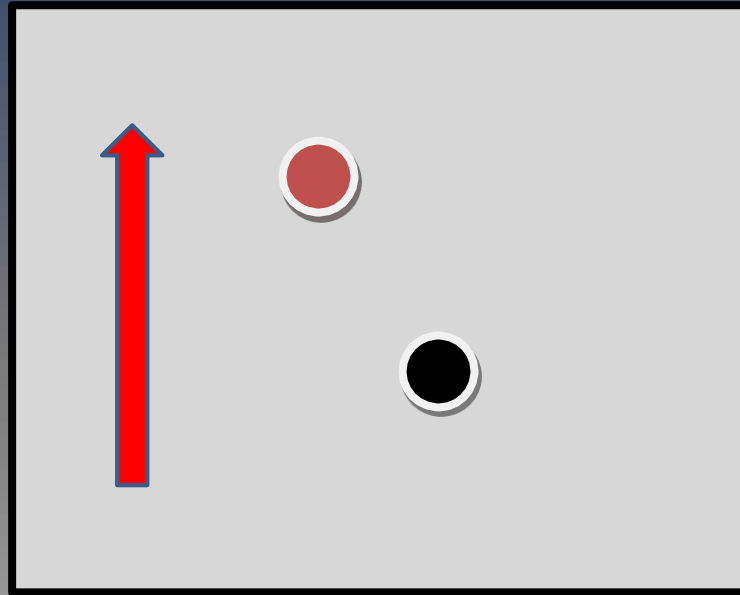
The two most basic five man formations are the box and the 'V', however, the box is being phased out due to its field of view, manoeuvrability and openness. The five man formations that are easiest to control whilst offering the best arcs of observation and protection are the 5 man Diamond and the 'V' Formations.

TYPES OF FORMATIONS:



ONE PROTECTION OFFICER:

A single protection officer should position him/herself slightly behind and to one side of the Client.

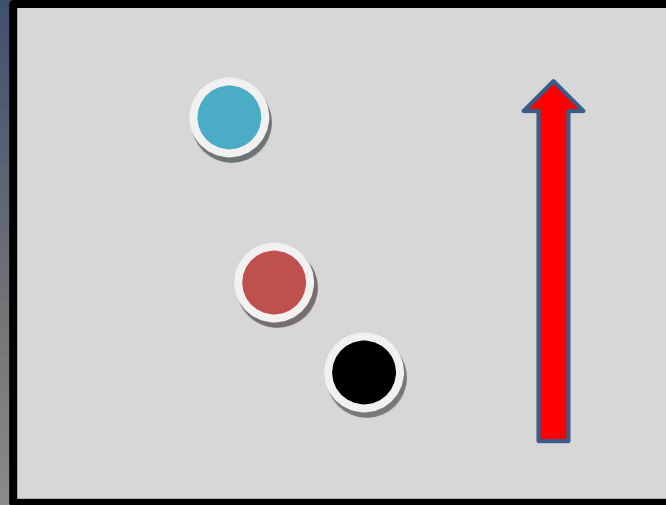


As a general rule if they are right handed they should be on the Principals right if left handed, his left. This rule is not invariable, however, and full account must be taken of the *'Main direction of any likely threat'* as this is the weakest of formations and most vulnerable to attack.

TWO PROTECTION OFFICERS

Classic formation.

Good for low profile and 'last second' physical protection of the Principal, but cannot always spot danger early.

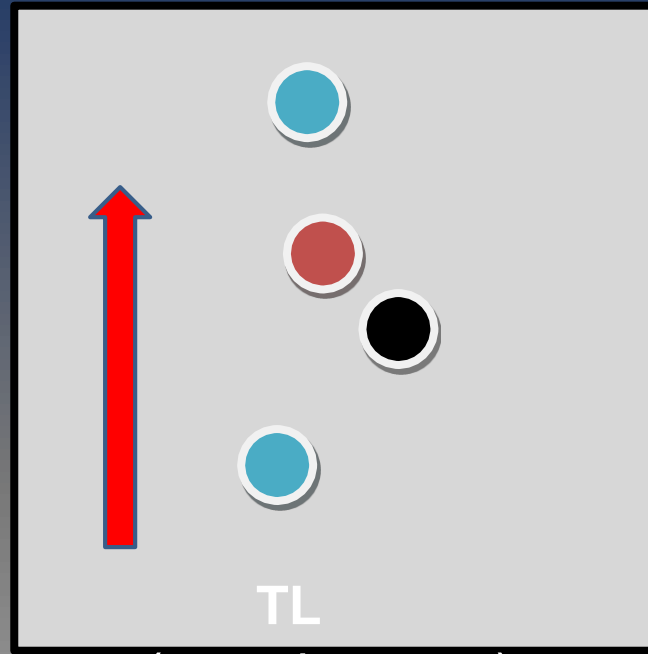


Can be used in busy shopping precinct, etc, to check areas in advance of the Principal. Good if danger ahead is seen but leaves physical protection to one officer.

One officer drops back slightly. This allows better view of overall picture and protection from behind. Only one officer provides physical protection, however the view ahead can be restricted.

THREE PROTECTION OFFICERS

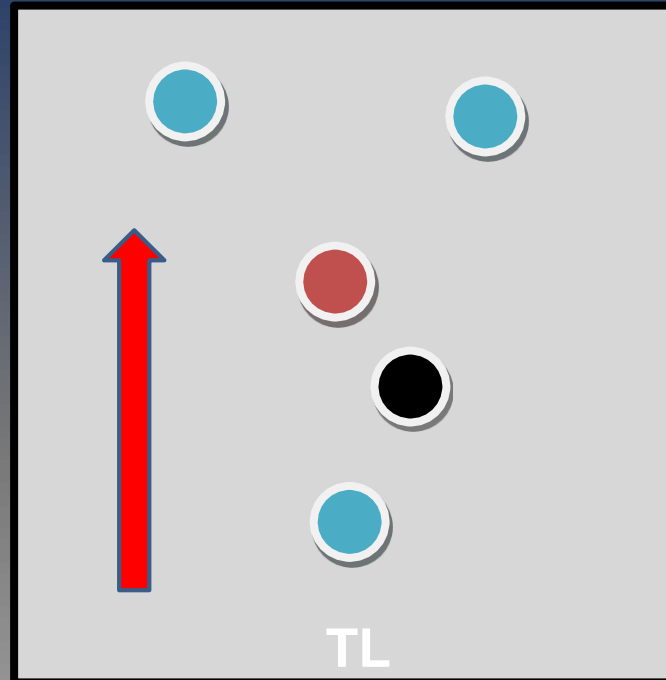
Classic formation. (Wedge Formation)



1. One CPO in advance (sets the pace)
2. TL controls the formation
3. One CPO (TL) drops back several paces to gain a better overall view of direction; but the front view is restricted. Also known as the 'Tail Gunner' or 'Tail-end Charlie'.

FOUR PROTECTION OFFICERS (MOST COMMON)

Variations on the previous can be used as circumstances dictate.



1. This formation offers the ability to change direction without losing formation
2. Front two CPO's also known as the **'Front Left and Right Horns'**
3. T.L. controls from the 'Tail end Charlie' position, to enable maximum observation of all arcs. (but may end up in the front of the formation).

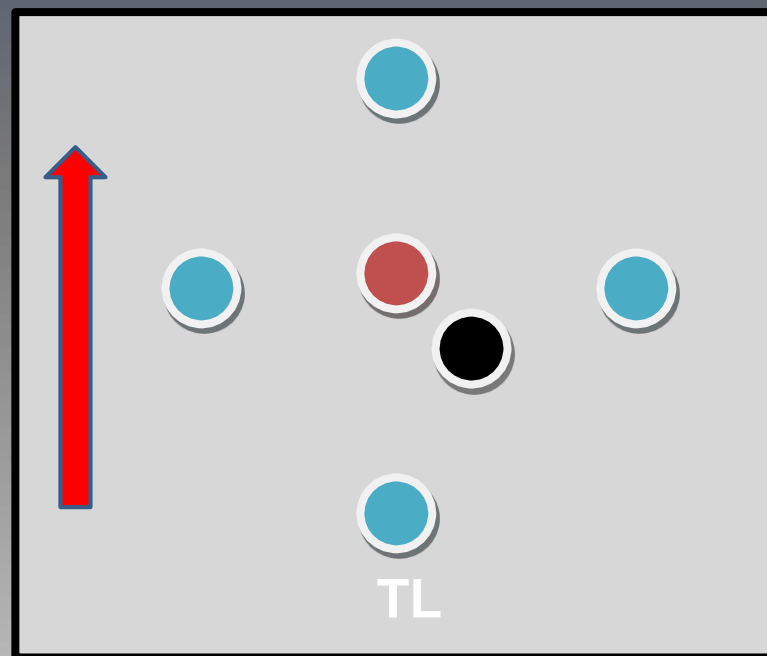
FIVE MEN FORMATIONS

It is not suggested that five men must be used, but this is about the maximum that a T.L. is able to operate closely and efficiently, whilst maintaining full control.

1. Diamond Formation (Open and Closed):

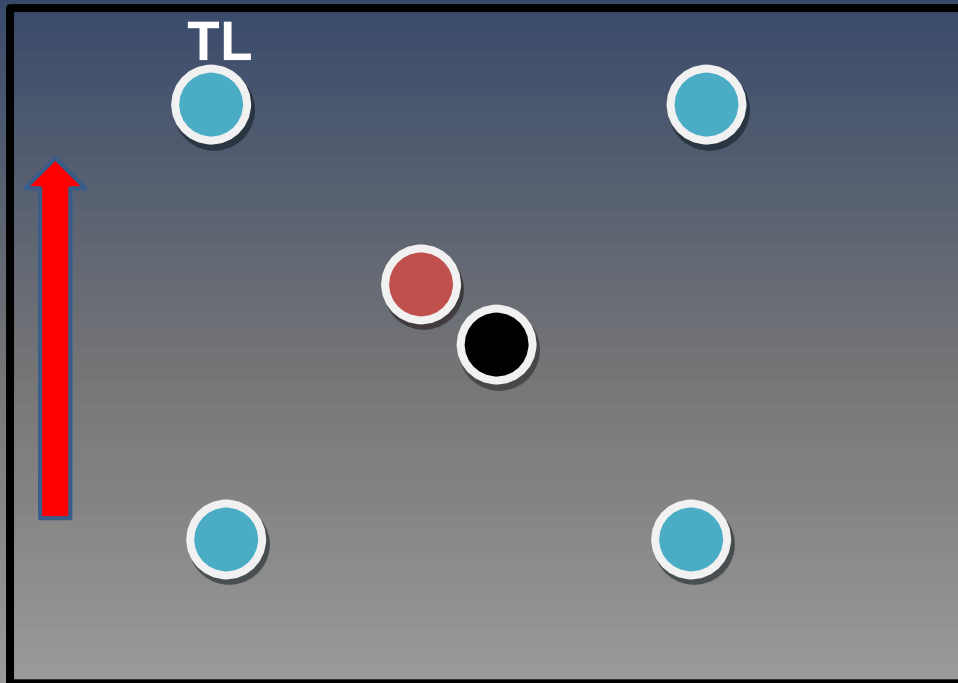
Symmetrical & Fluid able to instantly change direction whilst maintaining formation

1. One CPO in advance (sets the pace).
2. Excellent for protection and ease of control when changing direction or adjusting from an Open Diamond when threat situation is low, to a Closed Diamond if the situation deteriorates.
3. Can present a bad image and can draw attention. Used when crowds push in or danger threatens.
4. Offers excellent arcs of observation coverage and all round protection.
5. One CPO (TL) drops back several paces to gain a better overall view of direction; but the front view is restricted..



2. Box Formation

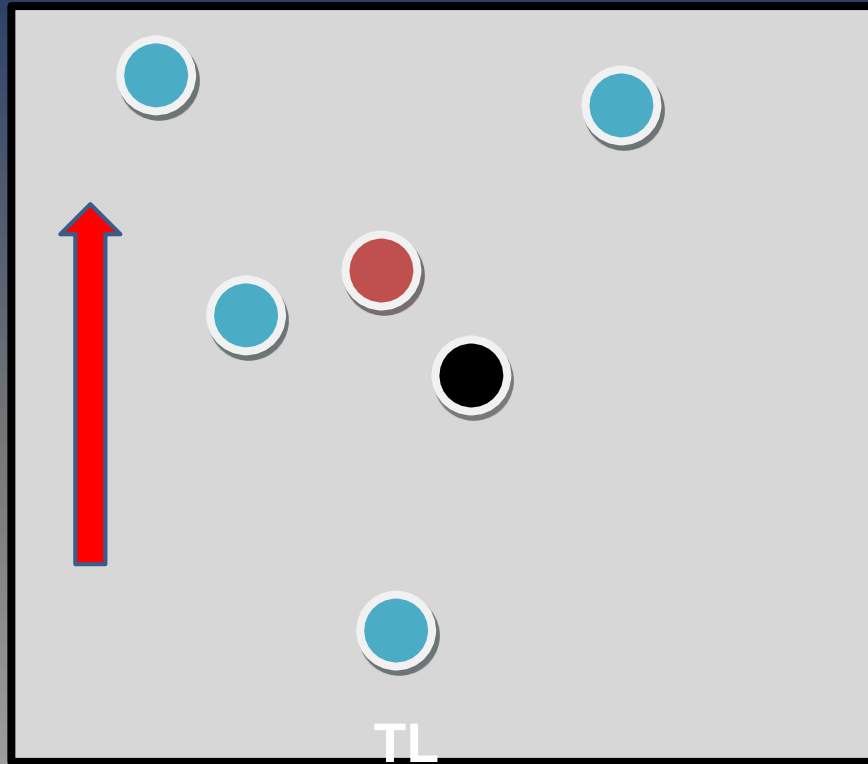
This is gradually being phased out as is difficult to control for the TL during a change in direction and offers little cover from the flanks



1. Difficult to maintain formation when changing direction
2. Image is not that good and offers poor protection
3. Open at the front & sides, but staff can fill the gaps.

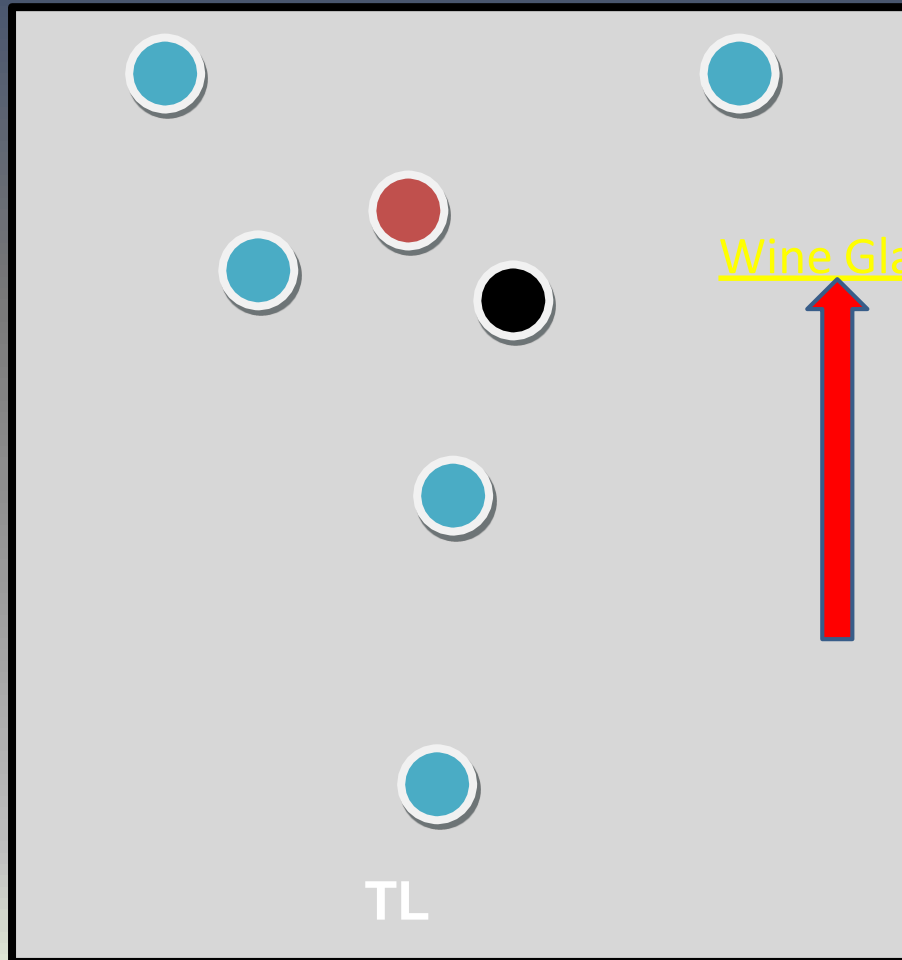
3. Open 'V' Formation

Symmetrical & Fluid able to instantly change direction whilst maintaining formation



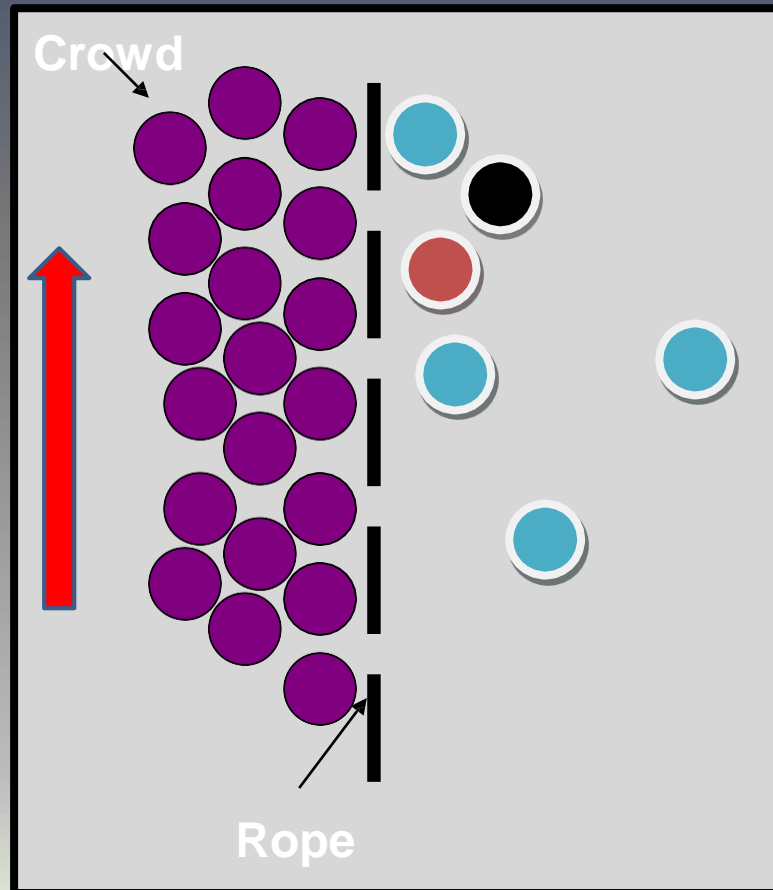
1. Allows reasonable public image
2. PPO only one step away from covering the Principal from the front arcs of observation and fire
3. Good all round cover and observation.

As with the Open 'V' formation, the Wine Glass, with one extra CPO is Symmetrical & Fluid able to instantly change direction whilst maintaining formation, with the added benefit of affording the TL the ability to drop off to gain better arcs of observation.



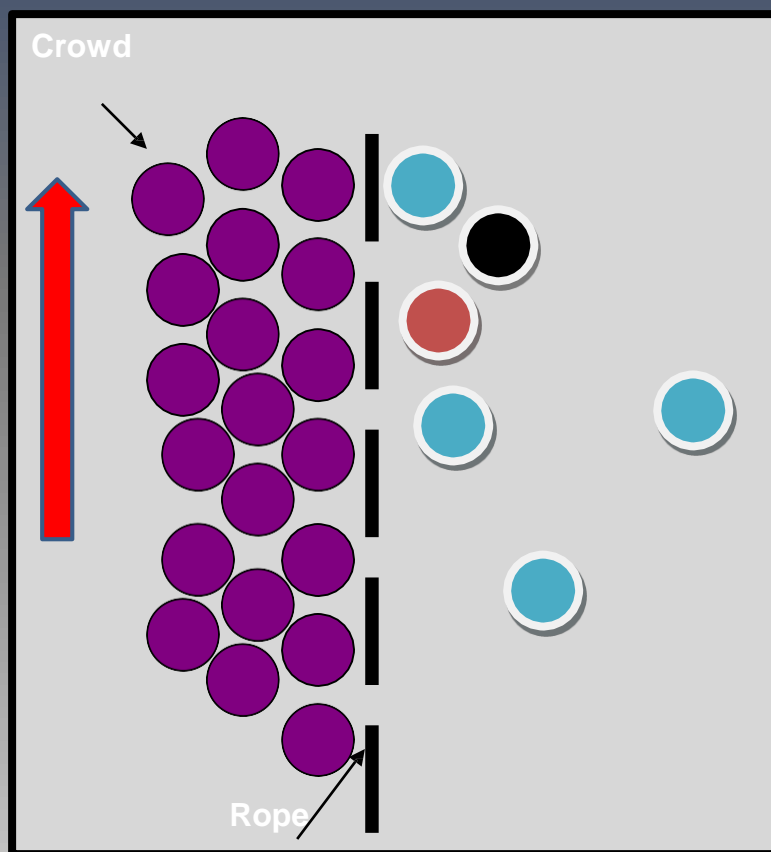
LINE OF ROUTE: (Public Barricades/Rope-Lines)

1. Prearranged security is a must
2. Two detail members walk near Principal (One on each side)
3. Detail members should be as unobtrusive as possible.



Formation used for high profile public events when the Principal plans to meet and greet the public e.g. The Oscars

The PES need to be fully focused on potential threats from both; the front row of the crowd; and also in depth. The PPO and one other member of the PES are close enough for him to be able to instantly thrust himself between the Principle and the threat, whilst the PPO takes control and moves the Principal towards safety.



“Most assassinations attempts take place within 10 feet of the victim”!

Dealing with crowds

If your Principal is a celebrity who is likely to attract crowds of well-wishers / fans / paparazzi etc, then you should discuss with the Principal what his priorities are because crowds, no matter who they are, should always be best avoided

If you need to face the crowd, then in order to move the Principal around you must be very assertive and positive. Use your communication skills and always use your voice to move people, touching them only as a last resort and even then with a positive “Excuse me Sir / Madame”. Never swear or get aggressive when working with crowds unless absolutely necessary to maintain the safety of the Principal. He won't thank you for the snarling pictures of you in the News of the World standing with your arm on his shoulder!.

If you are trying to prevent the paparazzi from getting pictures of your Principal then place your body between the camera and the Principal. Do not place an outstretched hand towards the camera as this can make for very dramatic pictures that can be damaging to the image of your boss! If photographs are taken you cannot demand that the film or memory be given to you as the law will more often than not always be on the side of the photographer.

If crowds are surrounded a car that you need to exit from or gain entry to, you must try and control the crowd with your voice. Fans can be told to give you some room, and photographers can be told that they will get their pictures if they move back. This can be a difficult position to be in if you are working alone, but if you have a PES, then they can of course clear a channel to the door of the venue or back to the car

With the press, unless your Principal wants to talk to them you should always keep moving. If they are in your way just walk right at them. Photographers will try and move out of the way as their best pictures are obtained when they are at least a metre away. They are experts in the art of walking backwards, taking pictures as they go.

Most press photographers these days really do have to work hard to make a living and the 'Press-Pack' seem to be getting scruffier, more aggressive and much more determined to take risks and liberties to get the picture

You do not want to make enemies of these people and should always treat them with respect, but if you are too nice to them, they will see that as a weakness and exploit it to the max! Always be firm and professional in your dealings with them.

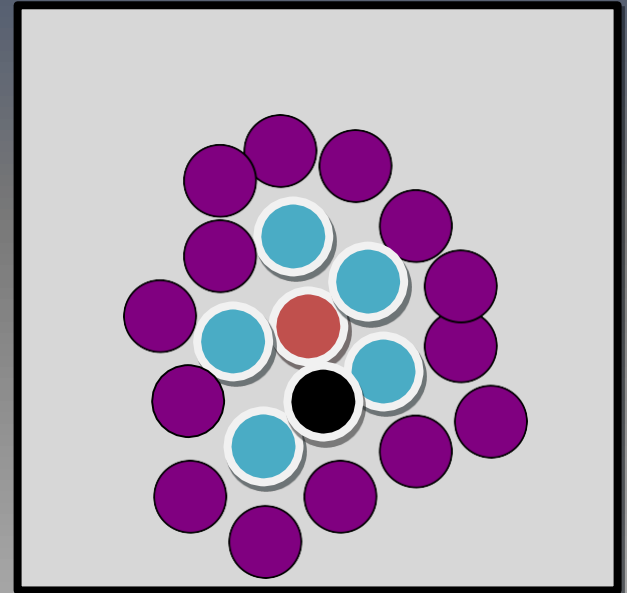
EMERGENCY FORMATIONS:

Defensive Circle Formation

1. Used to move Principal through dense crowd that cannot be avoided
2. All detail members move to the Principal and interlock arms, facing inward
3. Each person visually covers area across from him/her
4. Weapons can be extremely vulnerable to theft in this formation

Cave-In Formation

1. Formed immediately when a Team Member **“WARNS”** after spotting a weapon, thrown object or an attacker
2. PPO puts Principal in a crouched position while rest of the detail close in and cover the Principal. (see Defensive Circle Formation Diagram).



EMERGENCY FORMATIONS:

SITUATION MODIFICATIONS

Stairways and Escalators

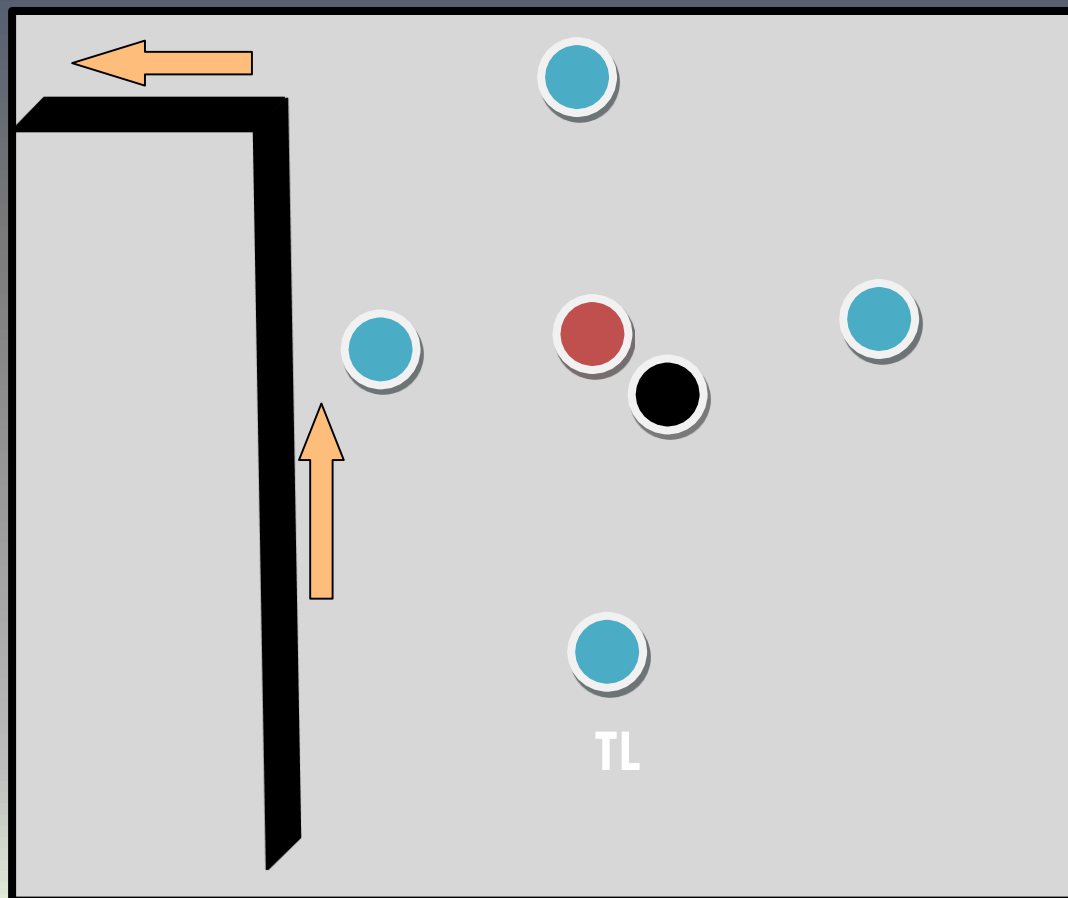
- 1.Keep Principal in center of formation
- 2.Stagger the detail to obstruct any direct attack
- 3.Advance person clears the stairwell
- 4.Trail person protects the rear
- 5.Secure all entrances, exits, landings
- 6.Secure floor above and below Principal

Lifts

- 1.Block for exclusive use of the Principal
- 2.Entry
- 3.Principal, PPO, other detail members, Advance
- 4.Exit
- 5.Other detail members, Principal, DL, Advance
- 6.Must reform quickly after exit.

Corner Adjustments

When carrying out a movement on foot, members of the protective team must be trained to adjust the formation to fit various circumstances. When approaching a blind bend for example, the PES in the lead position opposite the corner, should move ahead to confirm that the route is clear.



Training in team formations

All team formations will need to be practiced on a large scale. Other formations will need to be learnt when dealing with the following:

1.Lifts

2.Staircases

3.Doors

4.Double corners

5.Escalators

6.Ski lifts

7.Corridors and alleyways.

Other Considerations

- 1.Principal's personality / feelings toward security / image he wants to portray
- 2.Detail not permitted to walk in front of Principal
- 3.Principal wants security out of site
- 4.Errands
- 5.Don't talk too much
- 6.Converging dignitaries
- 7.Psychological effects:
- 8.Bonding
- 9.Principal becomes overly dependent
- 10.Respect Principals space
- 11.Remember your mission/purpose.

Summary

Remember the protection of the Principal is paramount to any close protection operation. Learn your drills well but above all you must make the drills flexible. The appropriate formation must be selected based upon the threat and situation on the ground

Constant vigilance must be maintained while conducting formation drills, along with the flexibility, sharpness of mind and ability to change formation at a moment's notice.

QUESTIONS?