

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS AND ACTIVE SHOOTER PREPARATION IN THE WORKPLACE

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“Certainly, there is no hunting
like the hunting of armed
men...” -Ernest Hemingway, On
the Blue Water, April 1936

ADVANCED SITUATIONAL AWARENESS (ASA)

Is the ability to be alert, prepared to take actions in any environment. Always know your space, distance and control to others.

Situational Awareness isn't one thing; it isn't a single skill, rather it is a frame of mind in which you are relaxed, aware of your surroundings, and aware of whom or what could be of help to you if a problem were to arise.

CONT.

To develop situational awareness, you must:

- Acknowledge that threats exist.
- Take responsibility for your own safety.
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Be aware of the people around you.

THE STUDY OF YOU

- Habituation
- Godai
 - Earth
 - Water
 - Fire
 - Wind

NORMALITY

Need to understand what is normal in that location:

What is normal for:

1. Your campus.
2. Any store you are in.
3. Your current town.
4. Your current county.
5. Your current state.
6. Know the finances of the location.

ASSESSMENT TYPES

In situational awareness your sight or hearing is what draws your attention.

- **Direct Assessment:** Focus on the persons shoulders, hands (Paying close attention to their dominate hand.) Type of clothing worn.
- **Indirect Assessment:** Focus on the eyes, waist, direction of movement, language, and attitude.

LEVELS OF THREAT ASSESSMENT

Green: You are calm and in a non-threatening environment.

Yellow: You are out at football game. You are observant but very comfortable.

Orange: You are walking at night, and you notice behaviors that concern you. You are no longer comfortable in the environment.

Red: Something is very wrong. People have entered your body ellipse space and they are threatening.

Black: You have entered to fight or evacuate mode to survive.

PRINCIPLES OF ADVANCED SITUATIONAL AWARENESS (ASA)

Observable behaviors indicate mental state, motives, and intentions.

- Human beings leave indicators (also called signs) of their movements, mindset, and intentions in the environment that can be detected, analyzed, and interpreted.
- Baselines are developed by detecting, observing, and analyzing signs, characteristics, events, and interactions.
- Individuals should determine a baseline to identify anomalies that fall above or below that baseline.

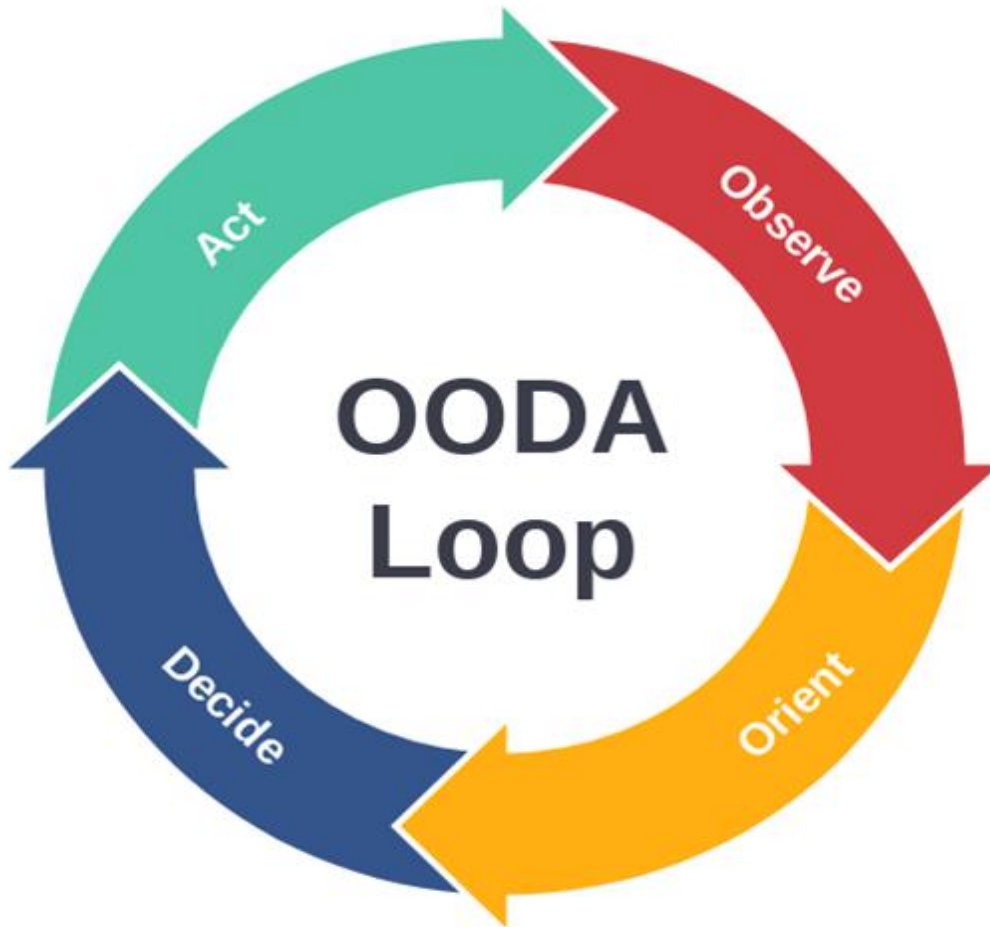
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- Identification of an anomaly initiates the decision-making process.
- Experience, training, perception, critical thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making skills can determine the threat's **most likely course of action** (known as MLCOA) and **most dangerous course of action** (known as MDCOA).
- Individuals can detect and deter imminent threat events through understanding.
- Understanding is knowledge that has been synthesized and had judgment applied to it to comprehend the situation's inner relationships.

OODA LOOP

- Was developed in the mid-20th century by the military strategist, US Air Force Colonel John Boyd.
- It was initially used to train soldiers to make time-sensitive decisions rapidly when there may not be time to gather all the information.

CONT.



Observe

What is the current situation? What is the reason you want to change? how bad do you want to change?

Orient

Where are you currently at relative to where you want to go? How far is it to your destination?

Decide

What is the exact path you are going to take? How are you going to handle challenges and set backs?

Act

What's the approach and method you will take to implement the decisions? What is your action plan?

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

After a baseline has been determined, Individuals should actively hunt for and identify anomalies. Once they identify anomalies, they decide on a course of action. This is called the situational analysis.

- $\text{Baseline} + \text{Anomaly} = \text{Decision}$

APPROACHES OF PREPARATION

- Wolf- Red Teams (Primary Prevention Prep)
- Sheep Dog- Blue Teams (Secondary or Tertiary Defense)
- Sheep- Followers

MOST COMMON TYPES

- Direct Attack-
 - The person was sought out and killed for a reason.
- Indirect Attack-
 - The person was shot randomly.

ENEMY ANALYSIS

Base Attackers

1. Most attackers will pray on the weaker. They do not want to attack a wolf or sheep dog.
2. Most attackers will go after nonobservant behaviors.
3. Most attackers will pray on areas that have low light and locations that are far from others.

TAKE ACTION

The final component to situational awareness is deciding on what action to take when you perceive a threat. The two most common options are to flee (if you can) or confront the threat.

Which action you decide to take will depend on many different factors, such as:

- Type of threat
- Ability to respond effectively
- Number of identified threats
- Weapon involvement

HOW TO DEFEND YOURSELF

- Evasion
- Chemical
- Neuro-point
- Gross motor movements
- Feet-Low line
- Hands- High line
- Clothing
- Daily Supplies

POINTS OF ACTION

- Have you and your staff practice ASA.
- Assess your EOPs for ASA trainings.
- Be honest about your capabilities as a group.
- Work with your local law enforcement and security groups.
- Have public works in all meetings—they secure your infrastructure.
- Plan and implement drills.