


Church Safety Team

Protecting the Sheep

5: Introduction to Use of Force Laws for Safety Team Member's Response Part 3

Prepared by Bob Soule



WARNING: This training series examines the topic of church attacks and preparedness. Graphic Violence from actual incidents is depicted and discussed for informational and educational purposes in some of these presentations. Children should not view this presentation except when allowed by their parent and/or guardian.

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In this presentation, you will learn:

- Boyd's (OODA) Loop.
- The Tueller Study.
- The Tueller Study: How Close is Too Close?
- The Tueller Study: Reality.
- Tactics for Charging Attacker Armed Edged and/or Impact Weapons
- The Tactical "L" in Reaction to a Charging Attacker
- The Tactical "J" in Reaction to a Charging Attacker

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Boyd's Loop

Boyd's Loop (also known as the O.O.D.A. Loop) demonstrates the steps all human beings must go through before deciding on a course of action. This progressive cycle of Boyd's Loop, includes the steps of:

1. Observe
2. Orient
3. Decide
4. Act

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5: Introduction to Reality Based Training for Safety Team Member's Response

Boyd's Loop Continued

Observe
What is the current situation? What is the reason you want to change? How fast 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 get back?

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

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Boyd's Loop Continued – Observe

During the Observation step, information is being gathered at high speed.

Keep in mind that we process approximately 80% of the information we receive with our sense of sight.

We can and do make observations with our other senses.

Observe
What is the current situation? What is the reason you want to change? How fast 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 get back?

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

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Boyd's Loop Continued – Orient

You might hear a gunshot and not see the person who fired it.

Once you look and see the source of the gunfire you are now in the Orient stage of the process.

In the Orient stage you are now focusing your attention on what you have just observed.

During the Orient step, the information is analyzed and crosschecked with possible courses of action.

Observe
What is the current situation? What is the reason you want to change? How fast 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 get back?

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


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Boyd's Loop Continued – Decision

Once a proper course of action has been chosen during the Decision phase, only then can Action begin.

In the Decision step you have to make a choice on what to do about what you have just observed and have focused your attention on.




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Boyd's Loop Continued – Act

Finally, you have made your decision and the last step is to Act upon that decision.

Keep in mind that the O.O.D.A loop is what happens between the onset of a stimulus and the onset of a reaction to that stimulus.



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Boyd's Loop Continued – Conclusion

The problem with someone who is confronted with a high stress situation that they have never experienced; is that they will often get stuck between the observation and the orientation steps since there is no previous experience nor any programmed responses upon to draw.

They become disoriented and cannot proceed through the decision step, which is necessary prior to reaching the action phase.

When someone doesn't have a pre-programmed response to a life-threatening event, survival is sheer happenstance.



Experience is the key to decisive action in a lethal force encounter. The big question becomes, where are officers going to acquire the requisite number of decisive combat engagements necessary to tip the scales in their favor? In the absence of combat experience, the answer is Reality Based Training (Murray (2004, p. 54)).

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The Tueller Study

The study conducted by Dennis Tueller determined that:

- On average it took a uniformed officer approximately **1.5 seconds** to perceive a threat, unholster their handgun to use it in the defense of the attack. Uniformed officer with uncovered duty holster on the left or right hip (dependent on their dominant hand).
- On average, a charging attacker armed with an edged or impact weapon could close the **distance of 21 feet** (7 yards) to launch an effective attack.
- The study did not consider holstered handguns concealed by clothing, or holstered in other areas of your body.
- The distance could be greater and is dependent on the your competency, skills and ability to draw your holstered handgun and shooting in defense of the attack.
- **For the record**, the 21-Foot Rule, when accurately stated, says that in the time it takes the average officer to recognize a threat, draw his sidearm and fire 2 rounds at center mass, an average subject charging at the officer with an edged weapon can cover a distance of 21 feet.


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The Tueller Study Continued

The Tueller Study
How Close is Too Close?


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The Tueller Study Continued – Los Cruces, New Mexico; February 11, 2024

The Tueller Study
In Reality

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The Tueller Study Continued – Tactics for Charging Attacker Armed Edged and/or Impact Weapons

The Tactical "L" in Reaction to a Charging Attacker

- Using or creating obstacles (standing behind a tree or shoving a chair between you and the offender).
- With the Tactical "L":
 - You move laterally to a charging offender's line of attack.
 - With the right timing, this surprises and slows the attacker as he processes the movement and scrambles to redirect his assault, and gives you the opportunity to draw and get on target.
 - Think about moving in the direction of the attacker's empty hand side.

Tactical "L"
Fleeing from a charging attacker at 90°.

Attacker

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The Tueller Study Continued – Tactics for Charging Attacker Armed Edged and/or Impact Weapons

The Tactical "J" in Reaction to a Charging Attacker

- You move obliquely forward at a 45-degree angle to the charging attacker.
 - This tends to be more confusing to the attacker.
 - ✓ Requires more of a radical change on their part to come after you.
 - ✓ Timing has to be such that the attacker is fully committed to their charge and can't readily adjust to what you've done.
 - ✓ Think about moving in the direction of the attacker's empty hand side.
 - **Key Point:** It requires a lot of practice with a wide variety of training partners.

Tactical "J"
Fleeing forward of a charging attacker at 45°.

Attacker

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Presentation Goals

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Questions?

Should you have any questions, you may contact me at:

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The next training series presentation:

6: Fear, Physiological Arousal and Performance




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Sources and Further Reading:

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- ⁵ *Mitigating Attacks on Houses of Worship Security Guide*. (2021). Department of Homeland Security. <https://www.cisa.gov/resources-tools/resources/mitigating-attacks-houses-worship-security-guide>
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Sources and Further Reading Continued:


¹⁴ Rensberg, C. (2009, April 22). Is The 21-Foot Rule Still Valid When Dealing With An Edged Weapon? (Part 1). Force Science. <https://www.force-science.com/2005/04/is-the-21-foot-rule-still-valid-when-dealing-with-an-edged-weapon-part-1/>

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¹⁶ Lott, J. (2022, October 3). Massive errors in FBI's Active Shooting Reports regarding cases where civilians stop attacks. Crime Prevention Research Center. <https://crimeresearch.org/2022/10/massive-errors-in-fbis-active-shooting-reports-regarding-cases-where-civilians-stop-attacks-instead-of-4-4-the-correct-number-is-at-least-34-4-in-2021-it-is-at-least-49-1-excluding-gun-free-zones/>

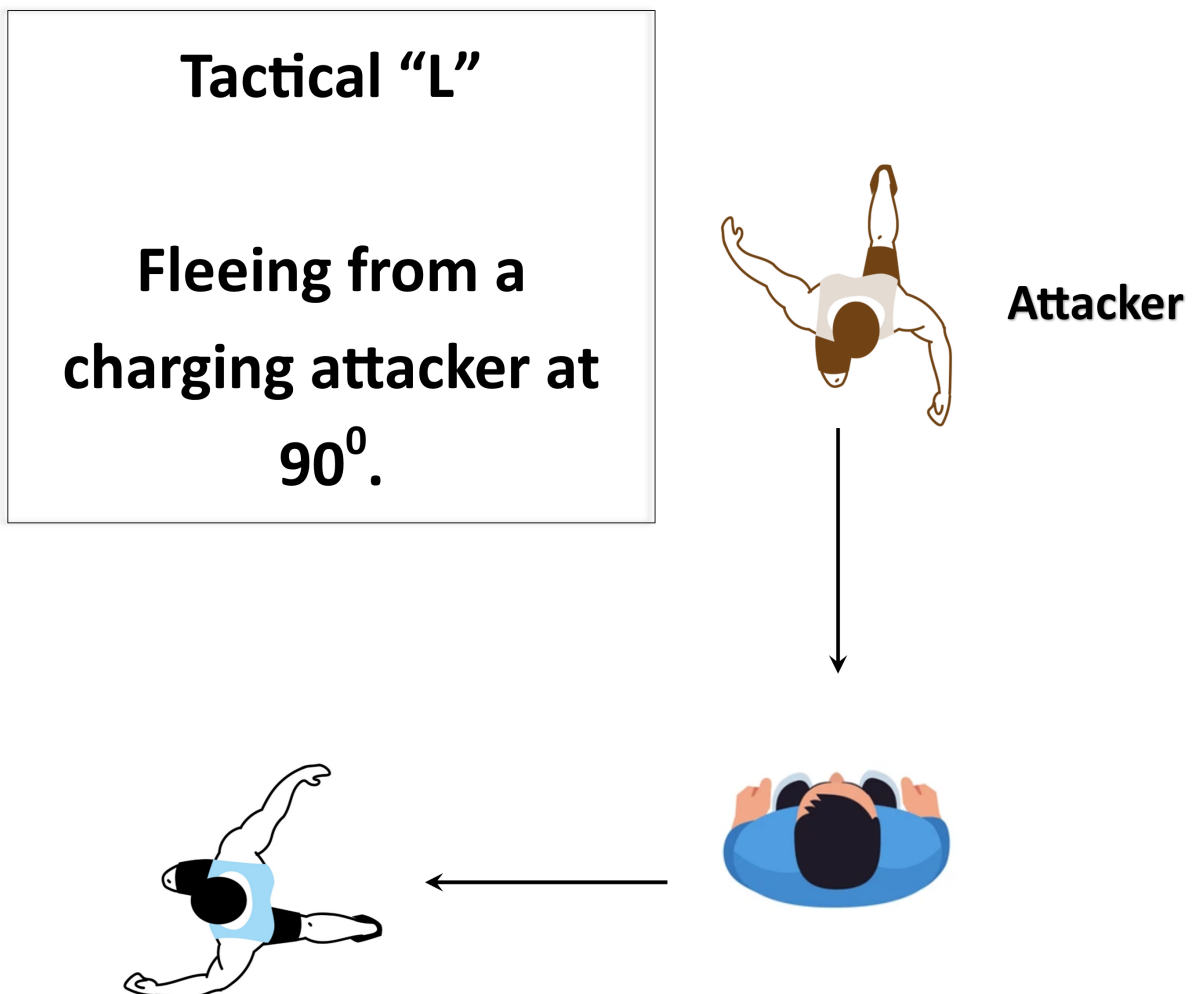
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The Tactical “L” in Reaction to a Charging Attacker

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 - ⇒ Timing has to be such that the attacker is fully committed to their charge and can't readily adjust to what you've done.
 - ⇒ Think about moving in the direction of the attacker's empty hand side.

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