




OFFICER
MEDIA GROUP
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**BOYD'S
CYCLE
APPLIED TO
CONFLICT
SURVIVAL**


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- ▶ Observe. Orient. Decide. Act.
- ▶ Col. John Boyd, first person to articulate and document the human decision-making cycle.
- ▶ We all do it every day in the things we do.

BOYD'S CYCLE – THE OODA LOOP


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- ▶ While driving you approach a stop sign. The Observation step begins.
 - ▶ Is it a four way stop? How much visibility do I have at the intersection? Are there are cars approaching? Are there pedestrians?
- ▶ After observing, you orient yourself to the circumstances you see and hear.
- ▶ Based on your observation and orientation, you make a decision – slow or stop completely. (Being realistic)
- ▶ After making the decision you perform the action.

CONSIDER DRIVING A CAR


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- ▶ In a conflict, whoever performs the fastest OODA Loops with the most accurate observations and orientations makes the most appropriate decisions resulting in the best actions toward victory.
- ▶ To impede your opponent's successful OODA Loops, you can distract them or interrupt their cycle.
- ▶ Distraction can be bright light, waving a hand in their field of view, a distraction strike to a large muscle group or bone point.

RESETTING THE SUBJECT'S OODA LOOP


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- ▶ The third hidden "O" as in "Oh, sh**!")
- ▶ It affects law enforcement professionals more than the criminals
- ▶ Usually introduced via total surprise such as in an ambush or otherwise unexpected attack
- ▶ Have to train to jump out of the Observe/Orient half of OODA to restart a loop with an action – even if it's just temporary escape.

THAT THIRD (HIDDEN) "O"

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- ▶ If we can cause the subject to be "stuck" in the OODA Loop process by forcing them to never get to ACT, we can always win the conflict.
- ▶ This can be done by distracting them or simply changing their circumstance so quickly they can't adapt.
- ▶ A subject that makes inappropriate ("stupid") decisions performs fewer potentially high-threat actions
- ▶ Winning the OODA Loop race repeatedly results in victory, not just survival


TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SUBJECT'S STUCK LOOP

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AVOIDING PANIC


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- ▶ Observe. Orient. Decide. Act.
- ▶ Failure to complete the loop results in no action.
- ▶ In a conflict, whomever completes the most appropriate actions the fastest wins.

OODA LOOP REVIEW

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- ▶ No mental rehearsal of any given circumstance can result in a blank/stuck state of mind. No loop being completed.
- ▶ One cause of the blank/stuck state is panic.
- ▶ Panic stops the loop prior to an appropriate decision being made
- ▶ Training can help reduce or remove the panic response.

AVOID THE BLANK/STUCK STATE


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- ▶ Threatening or unexpected circumstances can be duplicated, created in training scenarios
- ▶ Trainees repeatedly exposed to such circumstances can be trained to operate more comfortably, to adapt to the unexpected.
- ▶ With sufficient training, appropriate performance can become almost second nature, even in threatening or unexpected circumstances

FAMILIARITY BREEDS COMFORT


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- ▶ The first step in escaping the frozen loop is recognizing it.
- ▶ Mentally step out of the loop; forcing yourself to re-enter at Observe.
- ▶ Cycle through your OODA Loops quickly but appropriately.
- ▶ Doing so faster than your opponent, or while creating distractions for your opponent, can force them into the frozen loop.

RECOGNIZE THE MOMENT

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AAR YOUR OODA

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- ▶ First step: Check your ego at the door
 - ▶ Typical Type A personality officers have a hard time admitting if they did something wrong – until they see the learning value in it
- ▶ Usual debrief focuses on
 - ▶ What went wrong
 - ▶ What went right
 - ▶ What was LUCK vs what was due to good training/performance
 - ▶ What can be improved upon


VALUE OF DEBRIEFS



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- ▶ 75% of learning occurs during the debrief/AAR
 - ▶ NOT during the event itself
- ▶ Personal perception can be very different from Objective Observation
- ▶ Only during a debrief/AAR can this difference be seen, identified and learned from


WHERE LEARNING OCCURS



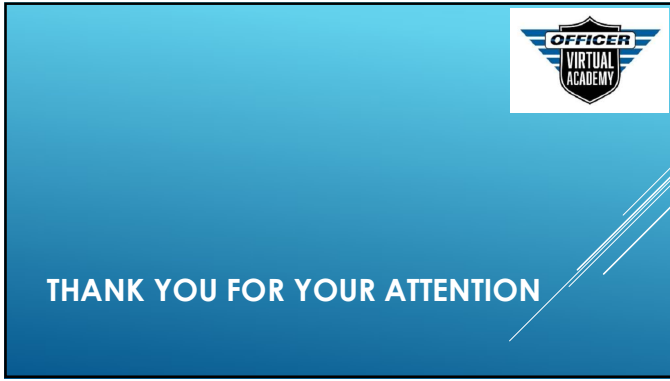
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- ▶ Critique offers coaching/learning moments.
- ▶ Criticism is purely negative with no benefit gained.
- ▶ All debriefs/AARs should be CRITIQUE of performance.
- ▶ Any criticism that is appropriate should be delivered in private.

CRITIQUE VS CRITICISM



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