

# Situational Awareness

PRESENTED BY: ED BOGATS, JR. PHD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE FOAC  
AND ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS



# Situational Awareness (USCCA)

- ▶ Do you have the right mindset? That's truly the most important thing you can arm yourself with. You have made the determination that you will *not* be a victim.
- ▶ You make smart, conscious decisions, but you also count on those God-given, subconscious reactions. You always live in the present, but you look forward to the future, and you have learned from the past.
- ▶ You are mentally prepared. And you are willing to take action.
- ▶ With increases in crime such as theft, rape, and assault, you realize that this world isn't perfect and that you need to be prepared for yourself—and quite possibly for your family and for others around you.
- ▶ You embrace your natural fear, your gut instinct, that intuition that tells you when something is just not right.
- ▶ You do your very best to plan ahead...and to always be prepared.



# Situational Awareness

- ▶ Situational awareness can be defined simply as “**knowing what is going on around us**”, or – more technically – as “**the perception of the elements in the environment within a volume of time and space, the comprehension of their meaning and the projection of their status in the near future**” .
- ▶ What does that mean to us in a self defense mindset – it simply means being aware of your surroundings and being able to adapt and respond to a perceived threat!



# Situational Awareness

- ▶ The first part of situational awareness can be achieved by situation assessment using perception and attention.
- ▶ Comprehension follows this, the interpretation of the situation assessment. Knowing how the situation is likely to evolve is projection.
- ▶ Once complete, situational awareness forms the foundation of good decision making. Once we have formed a mental model of the environment, our communication skills allow us to share this with others.

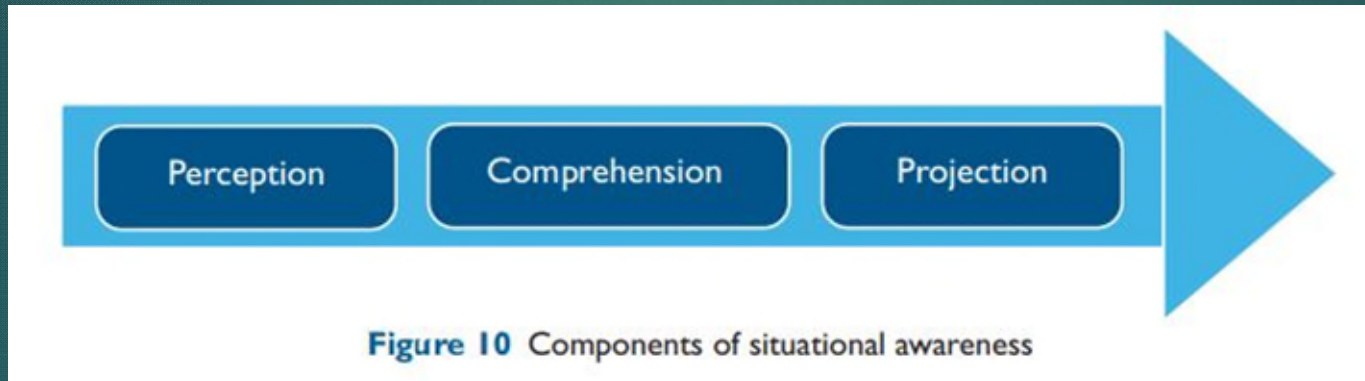


# The Warrior Mindset

- ▶ **Lt. Colonel David Grossman** (On Killing – the warrior mindset) who is an expert on “**killology**” (the study of why humans kill) has often stated the following.
- ▶ In the mindset of responding to a proposed threat. It is basic human instinct to survive the threat by whatever means.
- ▶ When we train both mentally and physically by arming ourselves with tools of self defense and knowledge we are afforded a greater ability of surviving a threatening encounter.
- ▶ Whether we choose a less lethal option or a lethal option, one must train both mentally and physically for any possible type of event.



# Situational Awareness – Response is key after a recognized threat!



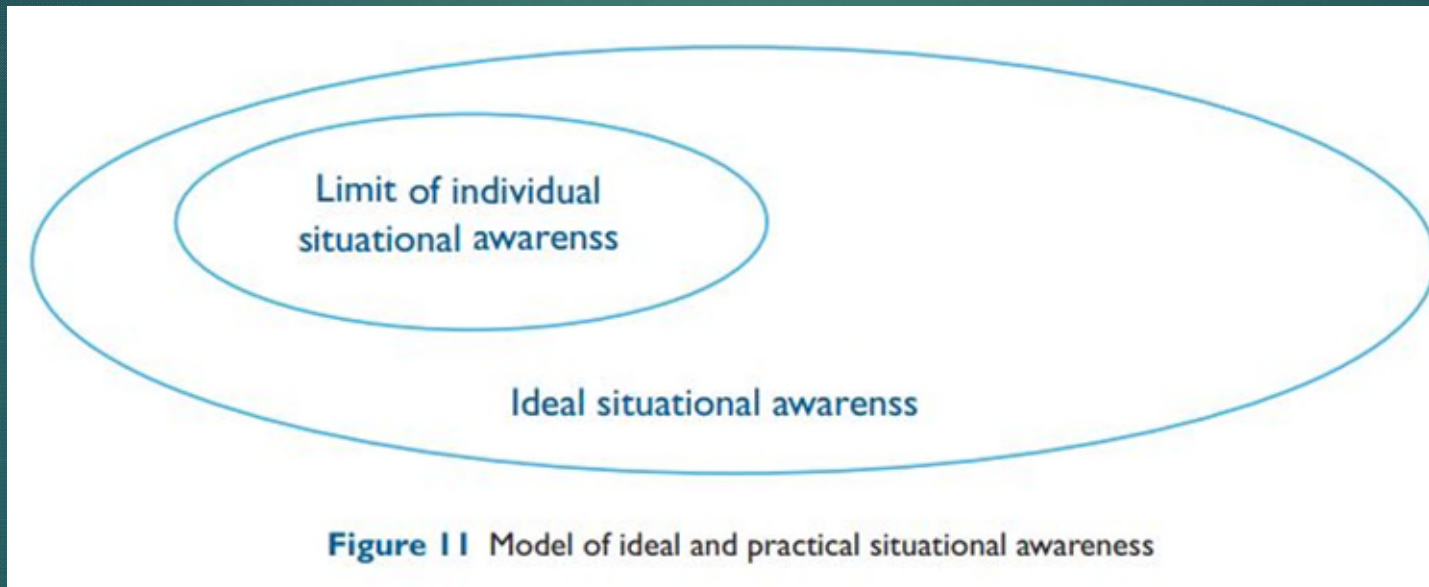


# Situational Awareness

- ▶ In an ideal situation, one has a complete '**helicopter view**' of the overall picture in any given situation and can respond to it. Unfortunately this is not always the case!
- ▶ Interpreting a threat is a key finding or result on the state of preparedness. Working memory is limited based upon stressors of the situation at hand! If working memory becomes overloaded, training items and thought process will simply be forgotten.
- ▶ Given that there may be many more variables to contend with in a situation at any one time, muscle memory of the brain must be relied on to respond automatically. Hence for the need to practice, practice, practice our survival responses either mentally and/or physically.



# Practical situational awareness – What is the difference? It is in your preparation





# Situational Awareness

- ▶ The construct of situational awareness, the limitations of human memory and the complexity of any given situation mean that, inevitably, situational awareness will be suboptimal at any one time.
- ▶ Put simply, we cannot remain aware of everything which is going on around us.
- ▶ When looking in retrospect or in hindsight at an incident with all of the available information, it will always be possible to highlight where situational awareness failed because the key, critical variables will be obvious.
- ▶ This is an inherent bias we have to consider when conducting manners of response.



***In closing – I want to thank FOAC, Kim and the entire board for being able to share this vital information with you all. God Bless and be safe! ED***

- ▶ Try to create a situational awareness response in your mind, train your self both mentally and physically to respond to a perceived threat.
- ▶ Get out to the range and practice based upon real life self defense strategies and responses while at the range.
- ▶ Be creative in shooting by not just participating in plain old “target practice” that is not reality.
- ▶ Get to a comfort level with yourself on which way to conceal carry any of your less lethal and/or lethal weapons choices you decide to carry.
- ▶ Remember no one loves you more than you!!!