

Tactical Response's Fighting Pistol

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Background & Expectations:

Over the past few years I have been trying to arrange opportunities to improve my capability and understanding of the use of a handgun, with an emphasis and personal and family security. Like most folks it started first by improving the quality & quantity of my tools rather than a better understanding of how to use them. After a bit of self-examination I realized that this was not going to meet any of my needs, I sold off some of the less than stellar purchases from my past "*plan*" and began to save the funds for more time on the range and future training classes.

Over time I pieced together a short list of schools I wanted to try and arrange an opportunity to train with. Tactical Response was one of those schools. Three factors made Tactical Response one of those choices.

1. James Yeager has a reputation for being a stand up dude. (*when he finds he was wrong he admits it.*)
2. They have a varied group of instructors. (*from a broad range of backgrounds: Police, Military, etc.*)
3. Customer Satisfaction: (*The vast majority of former students are happy and willing to train with them again.*)

My personal training history to this point included:

- **Conceal Carry for Oregon - Jim Jacobe**
 - <http://www.jimjacobe.com/>
- **"FAS-0" FREE HANDGUN SAFETY SEMINAR**
 - Review: <http://www.tacticalpreacher.com/2005/07/my-review-of-firearms-academy-of.html>
- **Range time with Molalla, OR P. D. SWAT officer R. L.**

Overall Analysis of the effect of this training on *my Skill Set and Knowledge.*

From the "Practical" side:

- I was able to identify a few hurdles impeding my marksmanship/skill from improving.
 1. Poor Grip
 2. Inconsistent Trigger Pull.
 3. A few more were pointed out, but it seems to me that there were the most significant.
- Some of my normal day to day to gear just does not cut it, namely my Soft-shell, simply speaking it was too short and interfered with my Holster and Magazine Pouch.

From the "Knowledge & Theoretical" side:

- The Lectures really drove home some my past failing about what I thought I needed to accomplish my goals. I.E. I had been following the standard model of, if I have good gear I am good to go. The progression for my past really had been (as explained in the class) Gear, and a little bit of skill, and some faltering mindset considerations where it should have been, *Mindset → Tactics → Skill → Gear*. That being said, I am still a gear nut, but at least I can put it in it's proper perspective.

- In particular the section on Mindset both by James and A Special Guest have forced me to reevaluate a number of my preset opinion on what to expect and how to handle future potential events.

Final analysis

- Team Room:
 - The team room was an excellent experience and is one of the highlight for me. The only downsides that I can see are:
 1. Yeager's library is going to cause me to buy some more books,
 2. I should have arrived sooner to secure a bed,
 3. Gear you see and might want.
- Gear Notes:
 - Replace Tad Gear Stealth Soft Shell: Reason too short for practical use, current leader Arc T. Theta AR or SL
 - Jetboil worked like a champ as always
 - NEVER EVER BUY another Round of WOLF Ammo, from now own I will stick with Winchester White Box.
 - Get some Normal Capacity Magazines and ditch the 10 rounders. (less loading, more training)
 - Consider going to a G19 instead of G23 to reduce ammo cost
- Points For Continued personal improvement
 - Hit the range and work on the Tactics shown to make then part of my regular practice. I plan on using PDT's Dot torture drill to incorporate this into my range trips which will now be weekly rather than monthly.
 - Make plans to attend another formal training in no less than a year.

Some things that might make the class better for me, but perhaps not everyone

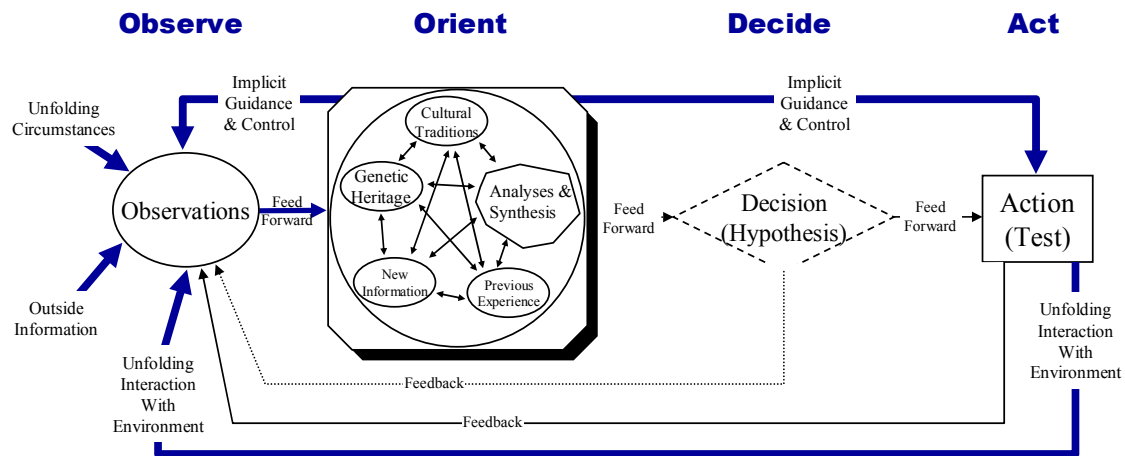
- Make the quality of the handbook match the quality of the instruction, I think I heard that they were revising the hand book, and this should be a good thing, there were some minor typography issues with the handbook and it could be better. The content was great, photos where fair, but it could be executed cleaner.
- Speech - James knows this, but I will add it here, while he may consider himself inarticulate, I know it is not true, and in my opinion he does not need to rely on the crutch of foul language.

Advice for former, fellow, and future students — for ANY training class

- Shut up and listen, you will learn more.
- One student noted *"I just want to paraphrase what the last thing James told me about his course and what he teaches in his class; "I am known in the tactical community as "The Light". If you have any issues, come to me, for my way of doing things is the only way. Only through ME can true tactical and mind set Nirvana be reached. Don't you agree Matt?... Shake your head yes."* — Matt E.

Included for future use are some notes on Boyd's Loop

An OODA "loop" with power



J. R. Boyd, "the Essence of Winning and Losing," 1995.

Unfortunately, it can not as simple as "observe, then orient, then decide, then act." In fact such a sequential model would be very ponderous.

The key to quickness turns out to be the two "implicit guidance and control" arrows at the top. In other words, most of the time people and groups do not employ the explicit, sequential O-to-O-to-D-to-A mechanism. Most of the time, they simply observe, orient, and act. There is data coming out to support this (see Gary Klein's book, *Sources of Power*.)

The question, of course, is, "What action?" A thinking opponent doesn't provide us with a laundry list of his tactics so we can work out responses in advance. The mechanism which handles this uncertainty and makes the loop function in a real world situation is "Orientation."

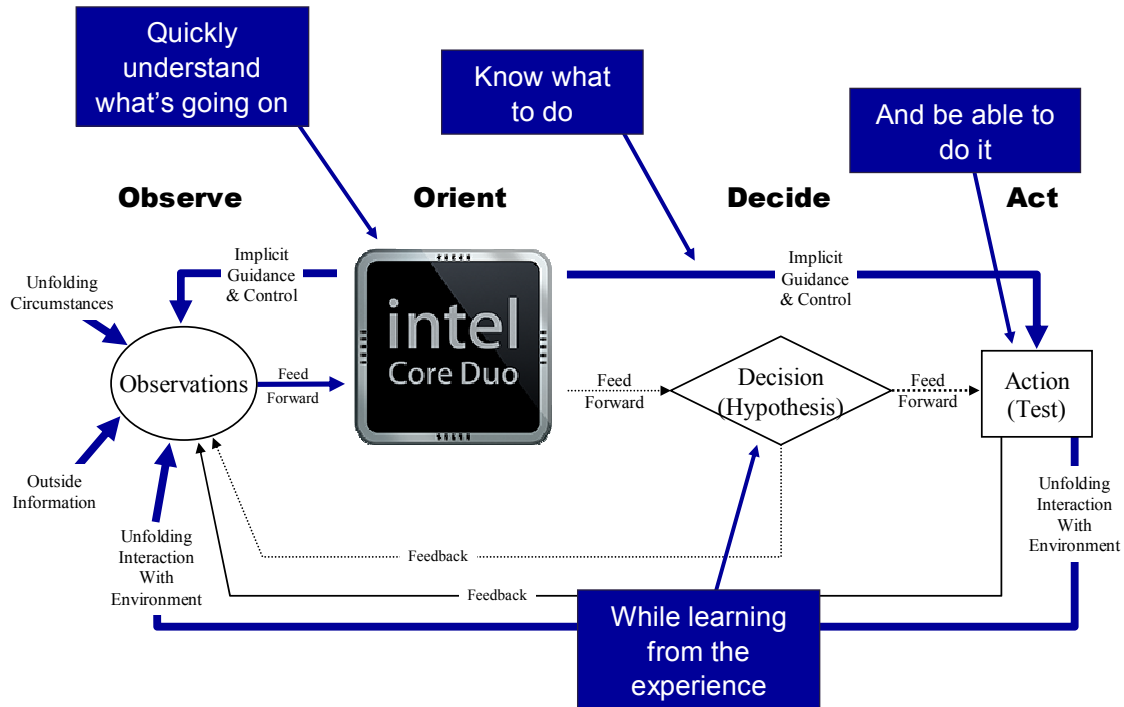
As we suck in information via the "Observe" gateway, it may happen that we notice mismatches between our orientation and what we're observing in the real world. If we don't spot these mismatches and correct our orientation, the actions that flow from it may not be as effective as we intend. This can open up opportunities for our opponents. Boyd's concept of strategy places heavy emphasis on attacking the other side's orientation to open up just these kinds of opportunities, and he suggests many ways to do this.

Note that "OODA" speed is quite different from the speed of our actions. Doing something dumb or irrelevant, but doing it at high speed, may not provide much of a competitive advantage.

The "Decision/hypothesis" block is the learning part of the loop, where we experiment and in the process add new actions to the Implicit Guidance and Control link. You can also think of it as programming orientation for future intuitive actions.

~ Summerrized notes from various books (P. W. M.)

What OODA "loop" speed really means



If action is flowing smoothly and (nearly) instantaneously from orientation, as it should the vast majority of the time, then the speed that counts is the speed to reorient in response to changing external and internal conditions. That speed is symbolized by the Intel Core Duo™ chip. There is no case where slower is better. You may not take any action (that is, no action may flow from your current orientation), but your internal processor should always be faster than those of your competitors.

Note that in the "incorrect" concept of the OODA loop (the O to O to D to A variety), speed and accuracy of decisions will tend to trade off. That is, you improve one only by shortchanging the other. This doesn't happen in the OODA loop that Boyd actually drew.

OODA Loops in Action

Military analysts say we are becoming skilled disciples of John Boyd. That is, we execute the Boyd Loop—observation, orientation, decision, action (OODA)—far better and far quicker than our enemies.

Dick Couch
The Finishing School, p. 258
(on US Navy SEALs)

Dick Couch commanded a SEAL platoon in Vietnam. He also wrote *The Warrior Elite*, which details the experiences of SEAL Class 228 in their initial SEAL training, BUD/S. *The Finishing School* describes the second phase of SEAL training, SEAL Qualification Training, where they actually earn their SEAL Tridents. Roughly one out of every five applicants accepted into BUD/S becomes a Navy SEAL.