

The Defensive Tactics Time Bomb and the Coming Liability Explosion

The case for an “Assessment-Disengagement” training platform for the Canadian Security Industry in the Absence of a Use of Force Training Standard

A crucially practical and honest evaluation of our current Canadian Law Enforcement and Security Open-Hand Defensive Tactics training platform reveals that we are heading for a major liability explosion without course correction. The following equation is a reality...

A training platform which has EVER increasing demands placed upon it for successful, real time stress-based learning outcomes and less and less time to teach and instill it.

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A current training platform that is struggling extensively to accomplish even basic outcomes and which is actually beginning to slide backwards in relevancy to the general public because of a serious degradation of our physical culture.

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The consequences for officers/guards not producing these abilities has never been greater

= A liability explosion

Our Defensive Tactics origins did not intend to produce a skill set within a short period of time. Our view to this training has been given to us by popular culture.

In North America since the WW2 era we have internalized a misconception that Law Enforcement based Defensive Tactics must be based upon learning “bio-mechanical” movement skills such as “striking, kicking, joint-locking, leveraging, throwing” etc... We come by this view honestly as North American Defensive Tactics was born out of a response to Eastern Martial Arts during that era. Since then, North American popular culture was inundated with what it had to oppose during the previous era seeing an introduction of Judo, Jiu-Jitsu, Karate and Kick Boxing in the 1960’s, Kung Fu in the 70’s, Ninjitsu in the 80’s and from the early 1990’s to present Mixed Martial Arts (MMA Sport Arts) has dominated our consciousness.

Our current platform by its nature cannot produce its desired outcomes:

“Bio-mechanical” movement skills take years to master especially for real life stress application. Mechanical movements such as “striking, kicking, joint-locking, leveraging, throwing” etc... also have the following very serious limitations... They require balance, superior body positioning and vision. They are very difficult to learn and apply under stress for female or smaller male officers and are extremely difficult to functionally apply when an officer is facing the physical movement restrictions imposed by gear and equipment and confined space environments such as narrow doorways, hallways, stairwells, elevators and escalators and within any vehicle, bus or aircraft. This platform, in addition, is not visually friendly, does not integrate well with hand-held Use of Force options which generally promotes the definition of such as being to “physically strike” the subject with that implement and it does not intuitively modify in a

short period of time for “special roles” or environments. ie. VIP Protection, Undercover applications, K9, Tactical, Marine etc... To complicate matters to a maximum, today even “gross motor skill” striking and leveraging movements are no longer “as gross-motor” to today’s generation as for the last 20 years a serious degradation of our physical culture (the massive introduction of insular video gaming, text messaging such cultures) and the rise of unhealthy living trends and health issues (obesity, diabetes etc...) has birthed a young and adult generation that possesses no where near the level of physically fit or athletically inclined individuals.

Plain and simple... what our Defensive Tactics platform is teaching because of its very nature of physical tactics and required time to deliver cannot produce on-masse the needed outcomes because of a rapidly changing physical cultural environment. This leaves us open to very serious and increasing health and safety, legal and political liability issues.

Mechanical “Striking” based tactics within our platform are actually contradictory to our Use of Force Tactical outcomes: An overlooked physiological reality

An honest evaluation and comparison of our current training platform with some very often overlooked physiological research and understanding also reveals that a “striking” or combative platform actually “promotes” a fight as opposed to an immediate and rapid tactical conclusion to the physical confrontation. A strike to a sensitive region of the body (particularly the face and neck) most often triggers a highly tuned and deeply embedded nervous system protective response known as “the flinch”. This mechanism is not meant to be combative but simply says “I don’t want to get hit again so my hands are going up to protect these sensitive areas.” Unless the officer manages to make contact almost perfectly with a handful of immediate physiological shutdown targets under stress (which industry accepted ASP Expandable Baton training says they have somewhere near only a 10% chance of doing (the forgiving target principle) after a first point of contact they will now in addition have to battle through the subjects protective reflexive responses which now ends-up in a cluster of flying arms and legs and then often a standard outcome proverbially known as the “pig pile” once others get involved. The average officer today does not have the skill to execute striking skills under stress and this will actually promote the wrestling match and not immediate tactical control of the situation which poses increasing health and safety, legal and political liabilities with cell phones bearing video cameras and immediate access from that very phone to post it on the worldwide web.

The Perpetual Liability Cycle:

The culmination of all that has been outlined here can be summed up by recognizing that our Law Enforcement and Security Industries are caught-up in an ever increasing *Defensive Tactics “Perpetual Liability Cycle”*. The current platform does not effectively instill stress-based Self-Protection skills. Without achieving this, officers/guards are pushed to learn and attempt physical control tactics which require far more skill and ability than a basic Self-Protection or “Assessment Disengagement” skill set. This is putting “carts before horses” or as Graham Ospreay, former 3-Term CSIS President has noted, *“Is putting a 16 year old who just earned his “G” Class drivers licence behind the wheel of an 18 wheel transport!”*. How can you expect an officer to control a subject when the moment that subject resists efforts to control them the officer is defenceless to protect themselves? The end result is that these officers do not have the confidence needed to then control this situation, they naturally blunder in their attempt, lose their cognitive abilities under stress to execute already learned incident policies and procedures and/or increase their force option unnecessarily operating in highly elevated fear... all of which spells liability. Until we return to basics and find a method of instilling actual Self-Protection ability within a short period of time this cycle will continual and increasing trails of liability and expense behind it

Proposing a Solution: A “Tactile” method of foundational “*Assessment-Disengagement*” training which can be learned and functionally reproduced within hours, empowering officers with confidence to extricate from dangerous and unanticipated physical aggression

In Canada over the last 6 years Canadian Law Enforcement Special Operations and Canadian Forces assets have been exposed to and have been adopting a “Tactile” short-duration, high-retention training platform which is based upon instilling an immediate disengagement skill set where even the highest level of trained, world class “martial artists” within those communities are recognizing that “traditional” bio-mechanical striking and control tactics are not working.

The benefits to the “Tactile Assessment-Disengagement “ approach known as “*The Immediate Recall*” method are as follows: Can be learned and functionally produced within hours creating a significant increase in personal confidence, does not require balance or vision. The method bypasses nervous system flinch responses preventing “wrestling matches”, is entirely functional for male and female officers when facing the physical movement restrictions imposed by gear and equipment, use of force options and confined space environments. The approach is extremely low-visual or low-profile assisting in minimizing legal and political liabilities and is entirely congruent and with current Use of Force models. The platform intuitively modifies for special roles or environments within an additional handful of hours and immediately translates into full 360 degree no-vision, use of force option integration and retention.

A task-specific application of the Assessment–Disengagement “Immediate Recall” method for the Private Security Industry with the absence of mandated Use of Force training standard:

With ever increasing demands on training and stress-based outcomes, the continual degradation of the physical culture of our officers, the spiralling consequences for misuse of force and confusion regarding an actual industry standard... a proposal for the recognition of the need for a short-duration/ high-retention training platform reinforcing perceived standards instilling an ability for an officer to “**assess**” and then safely “**disengage**” from a physical confrontation. Where security business owners have strictly mandated their staff not to physically engage the general public this training permits them TO disengage and to functionally then implement under stress learned related incident policies and procedures with confidence. “Intervention Capable” staff are given the self-protection, disengagement missing link within the standard Law Enforcement and Security training platforms and have a heightened, effective ability to begin to safely and successfully affect control tactics.

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