



# POSITION SUL

**The one 'ready position' that ensures team safety & weapon retention—even in CQB!**

By Max Joseph Photos by Alan Brosnan

**D**uring operations involving close quarter work, the importance of weapons control can not be overstated. During any operation, we must always be conscious of where our muzzles are pointed, which is critical for the safety of ourselves and our team members, as well as any non-combatants. Various ready or carry positions have come into being over the years. Some were developed at the range, where all personnel are on line, facing downrange, which is contrary to the reality of working in a close, fast paced tactical environment.

Over the years we have seen SWAT trainers and operators continually caution their fellows to watch their muzzles during training, without really trying to develop an alternative. It is our purpose here to expose the reader to a new and progressive technique that's been in use for some time by a small, but ever growing, operator community.

For the patrol officer on the street, the Weaver position is, in my opinion, probably still the most practical. However, the standard Weaver can be rigid and inflexible during room combat or crowd situations. In addition, Weaver practioners often commit a tactical handling error: During entries, projecting their weapon through doorways and around corners. And then, how many times have you been in a tight stack waiting to make entry, only to sense or see a team member's muzzle covering one of your teammate's 6 o'clock? For those of you who have been trained in weapon retention and officer survival, how many times have you been in a crowded environment, whether a bar or during a raid, and said to yourself, "I better keep this weapon close as possible to my body?" The answer to these questions could be Position Sul.

The name Sul is taken from the Portuguese language. It simply means "south", since that's where your muzzle is directed. This position has now been employed operationally many times by both military and police special operation personnel.

We may transition either from the low-ready or on-target, to Position Sul. The elbows simply retract towards the body as the weapon begins rotating downward. The key is to keep the middle knuckle of the



1) While in Position Sul, the elbows are kept close into the body. 2) The key to fast acquisition, is to keep contact between the middle knuckle of the shooting hand with the knuckle of the non-shooting index finger. 3) While in Sul, the open palm of the non-shooting hand should be flat against the solar plexus. 4) As the weapon is brought up, it is presented in a straight line punch to the target. Finger is straight until the sights are on the target.

shooting hand in contact with the index finger of the weak hand while in Position Sul. This is your index, or reference point, to your normal grip. In Position Sul, the open palm of the non-shooting hand should be flat against the solar plexus. Additionally, the elbows should be kept in close to the body to facilitate movement through tight areas. Trigger finger is always straight when the weapon is not on target.

The presentation from Sul to a proper shooting grip and sight plane is extremely fast, smooth and natural. Unlike the past techniques of competition Isosceles or the tried and true Weaver, this technique offers a very natural "punch" method. This is where the weapon is tactically presented in a fashion that allows instant access to our sight plane without making our body unduly rigid or unstable. As the arms are extended toward the threat, the weapon rotates toward the target, using the knuckle reference point, until the arms are extended to the semi-isosceles straight-punch position. By the time the arms reach this extended position, the weapon should be locked into your normal grip. Finger is placed on the trigger as the sights come on target.

One must remember that this position was developed for Close Quarter Battle, where suspects and possible hostages may be moving about in very tight quarters. While moving through doorways or down the crowded passageways of a aircraft or bus our weapon must be pulled in, close to our body for purposes of weapons retention. The operators must be constantly aware of both their muzzle control for basic safety, and weapons control for retention.

Most significant, with Sul when working as a team, our ability to move together in close confines without violating muzzle control is greatly enhanced. Additionally, for training purposes, Position Sul allows a whole new array of drills to be executed safely. Everything from stationary and moving turns, to stacks on the door, can be made much safer with this technique.

As with any technique, you will formulate your own opinion after trying it out at the range. Hopefully though, the next time you find yourself in a tight spot in regards to weapons control, you will naturally bring that pistol into SUL!