

HK Never Sleeps

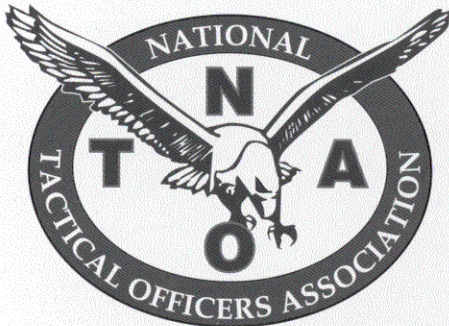
Heckler & Koch, with its weapons in use worldwide (over 160 countries), and a virtual stranglehold on the sub-gun market with its MP5 series, is now poised to grab a larger portion of the defensive/tactical handgun market (as it did in the tactical shotgun field ten years ago with its introduction of the Benelli M1 Super 90 system). The USP .45 has enough variants of fire mode and control functions to satisfy most anyone who has a

**THE USP .45 IS
A VERY CONTROL-
LABLE PISTOL IN RAPID-
FIRE DRILLS.**

strong opinion as to the superiority of single-action, double-action, "locked and cocked," ad nauseum . . . In addition to its strong tactical features, the USP is also much more affordable, retailing at \$695. ■

About the Author

Lieutenant Robert W. Parker is a 25-year veteran of the Omaha (NE) PD and regular contributor to *The Tactical Edge*. Formerly a Team Leader for the Department's Emergency Reaction Unit, he completed the USAF Emergency Services Team Course, and attended the U.S. Army Intelligence Anti-Terrorist School. Lt. Parker earned a B.S. Degree from Nebraska Wesleyan University, and has done graduate work at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. A technical consultant to the International Wound Ballistic Association (IWBA), he is presently assigned as Commander of the OPD Emergency Response Unit.



TACTICAL TERMINOLOGY

Implementation (Tempo and Initiative)

By Sid Heal

Every tactical operation is a result of a unique and temporary combination of circumstances. Unique, because each circumstance is dependent only upon those factors present at the particular time and place of the operation. Temporary, because the outcome of actions affects the next set of circumstances. Thus, tactical operations are always time sensitive.

Decisions and actions delayed are rendered ineffectual because the situation will have changed. When suspects are involved, tactical operations are not only time sensitive, but time competitive. Since both the authorities and the suspects attempt to influence circumstances in their favor, time and opportunities abandoned by one side are available for exploitation by the other. Therefore, time is always a crucial element in the resolution of any tactical operation.

When evaluating the influence of time in tactical operations, two factors take on particular significance: tempo and initiative. Tempo refers to the speed, rhythm, or rate of movement of something. In a tactical operation it describes the speed at which events are unfolding. The impact that tempo has on tactical operations can easily be illustrated by recalling the advantage of the "fast break" in basketball or the "breakaway" in hockey. The team which moves the fastest gains a considerable advantage. However, tempo is relative. It cannot be measured in RPMs, miles-per-hour, or cycles-per-second. It is only useful when compared to how fast an opponent can react. Consequently, speed is not the critical factor. It is only relevant in that, whatever you do, you do it faster than your adversary.

Closely associated with tempo is initiative. Initiative refers to the power or ability to begin to follow through with some plan or task. Imagine a new game of chess. The game board displays sixteen white pieces opposed by sixteen black pieces on the other side of the board. Neither side has moved. Why, then, do chess players choose who has white? It is because white is first to move, and in doing so gains a substantial advantage. Black cannot move without first observing white, and then must effectively react to the move lest white gain even more advantage. Initiative, then, refers to which side has the ability to act. A tactical commander who has the initiative places the suspect in a reactionary mode and forces him to respond rather than act. Thus, an implied objective of every tactical operation is to gain and maintain the initiative. ■

Charles "Sid" Heal has worked in law enforcement for more than twenty years, and has an extensive background in law enforcement special operations and emergency management. Sid has lectured throughout the U.S. in several foreign countries. He has four degrees and has authored two books and numerous articles in the field. He is also active in the United States Marine Corps Reserve, with more than 27 years experience, and has served in seventeen countries including combat tours in Vietnam and the Persian Gulf.