

When one man begins to effect entry, that is when his partner brings his weapon to Sul. As soon as the number one man finishes crossing number two man's sector, the number two man brings his weapon back up to bear on the threat area as he begins to make his entry.

When men are stacked—whether two men or twenty—the number one man's weapon needs to be up on the threat. Everyone else should be in Sul (with the possible exception of the rear security man).

# POSITION

◎ BY MAX F. JOSEPH

Have you ever felt that a teammate's muzzle was sweeping you whether in training or on an operation? If you have, you are not alone. They used to say a long time ago that it is normal for men's muzzles to sweep each other. Say again? There may be some men who still subscribe to that theory today, but I am not one of them—nor should you be if you take your job and life seriously.

There is a position that has been in wide usage for the past eight years now that is a solution to the potential lethality of pistol muzzles flagging other officers during high intensity, live-fire activities. Position Sul has been in use since 1997.

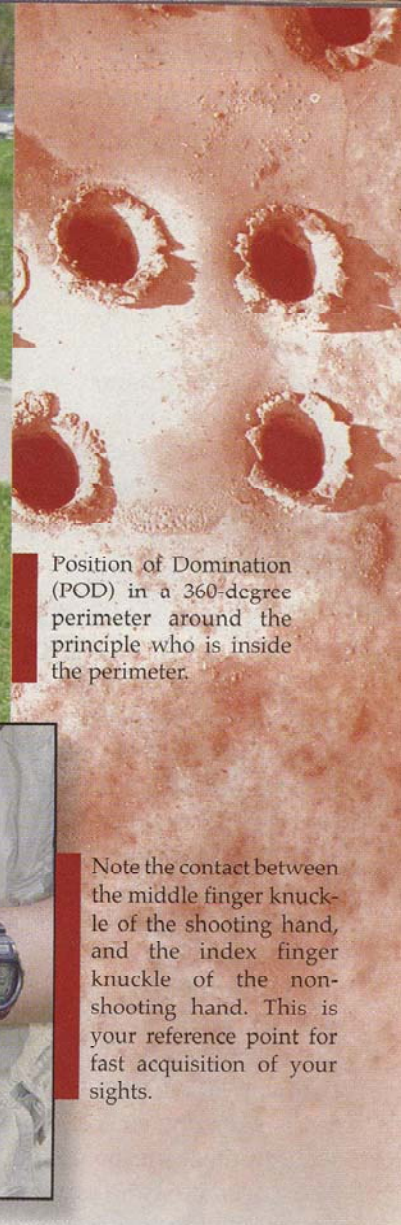
Alan Brosnan (TEES) and I (TFIT) developed it jointly. The word Sul means "south" in Portuguese, as this is where your muzzle is directed. Sul was developed as an answer to wild muzzle control by men armed with pistols during CQB training and operations.

Sul is a close-in ready position where the muzzle is directed at the ground about twelve to eighteen inches in front of you. The muzzle is permitted to float slightly left or right if the situation dictates, but is usually directed right at the deck. The presentation up to the target from Sul is every bit as quick as the traditional Low Ready. The traditional Low Ready or "Position 3" (Arms locked and

weapon down somewhere around 45 degrees) is somewhat awkward and stiff during close quarter work. In addition, men who maintain the traditional Position Three have the tendency to cover their partner's legs or butt when crossing sectors, and also sometimes present their weapons out too far when they are dynamically going through doors or around corners.

Since 1997 Sul has been adopted by thousands of operators—real operators, not armchair warriors or laptop commandos. The consensus is 95% positive from those who have been properly indoctrinated in Sul and its use. This speaks volumes for the quick ease of





Position of Domination (POD) in a 360-degree perimeter around the principle who is inside the perimeter.

Note the contact between the middle finger knuckle of the shooting hand, and the index finger knuckle of the non-shooting hand. This is your reference point for fast acquisition of your sights.

# SUL

## HERE'S THE SCOOP

learning and adaptability of Position Sul.

First let it be said that at no time does your muzzle ever cover any part of your body when you are in a proper Position Sul. Not while you are moving, nor while you are static. This position was developed for teams, not for individual tactics. Training civilian shooting enthusiasts to clear their house in the event of an intruder, or training individual patrol officers for that matter is vastly different from training SWAT and Special Operations personnel. The difference is that the individual needs only to worry about *his* muzzle—not his teammates' bodies or his teammates' muzzle.

Those who point out that Position Sul "Takes the gun out of the fight" are very astute—that is exactly what it was designed to do. To take the weapon out of the fight is precisely the reason we do it. You are not in the fight or else your weapon would be up on target or on a horizontal bore axis. The mental "Tactical Toolbox" for all special operators needs to be diversified, to allow us to adapt ourselves to the great variety of situations that may confront us. If one only has a "Bob the Builder" toolbox, one probably won't see any use for this position.

A team member who lets his muzzle cover his partner or non-combatants

creates issues for the entire team. Such a person needs to sort out his existing skills and determine where he is in the food chain.

There has been a great amount of misconception by various entities out there regarding Sul. For those out there who have already made up their minds and discarded this position out of hand, I am not the least bit concerned about what they think—I don't have to go through a door with them. I am, however, very concerned with the operators out there who may benefit from proper utilization of this technique. The purpose of this article is to allow those who are undecided or possibly misinformed about Sul to



