



INTELNET PROTECTIVE SERVICES

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Reconnaissance

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Tune in to Don Hubbard's presentation on Executive Protection at the IntelNet Virtual Conference: March 25 at 4:15 PM.

If interested in joining, contact us at IPS@intellenet.org

Quincy MaGoo was a stubborn traveler with extremely poor vision. Mr. MaGoo's lack of vision never impaired him from doing the things he wanted with his trusty dog, Mr. Barker, by his side. Also, Mr. MaGoo had an assistant name Mr. Cholly who allowed Mr. MaGoo to take credit for his good fortune. Mr. MaGoo never realized that the directions, planning, and foresight of Mr. Cholly saved Mr. MaGoo from tragedy (1). Technology has changed but our client's needs for directions, planning, and foresight remains the same.

Direction

Executive Protection dictates that the operative knows the route, directions, alternate directions, construction, traffic patterns, and impediments from getting the client from one location to another. The United States Army defines reconnaissance as a mission to obtain information by visual observation or other detection methods, about the activities and resources of an enemy or potential enemy, or about the meteorologic, hydrographic, or geographic characteristics of a particular area. Based on the weather, location, and time of day, the operative needs to be prepared to move quickly yet cautiously without attracting attention (2). Mr. Cholly lacked the reconnaissance skills and often was the brunt of violent encounters because he did not map his route. Reconnaissance is more than having a map or route considering the need for safe alternate directions and modes of travel are ever present.

Planning

Reconnaissance derives from the French word *reconnaître* which translates to recognize. Prior to coining the phrase reconnaissance, early American settlers used the term tracker. A tracker needs to pay close attention to both the environment and the psychology of his enemy. Knowledge of human psychology, sociology, and

cultural backgrounds is necessary to know the actions of the enemy and where the enemy is heading. Trackers became Scouts. The celebrated Chief of Scouts Frederick Russell Burnham had this to say:

It is imperative that a scout should know the history, tradition, religion, social customs, and superstitions of whatever country or people he is called on to work in or among. This is almost as necessary as to know the physical character of the country, its climate and products. Certain people will do certain things almost without fail. Certain other things, perfectly feasible, they will not do. There is no danger of knowing too much of the mental habits of an enemy. One should neither underestimate the enemy nor credit him with superhuman powers. Fear and courage are latent in every human being, though roused into activity by very diverse means. Military leaders plans included the: mission, enemy, terrain, troops and support available, time available, and civil considerations (4).

Foresight

The Art of War, Strategy 35, “Scheme in continuous circles” is loosely defined as having several plans operating in concert. As the executive protection professional, this is paramount to your success and the safety of those you protect. Bob Violino offers five fundamental tasks for success (5).

- Conduct a risk analysis.
- Make a strong case for protection, even if executives resist.
- Ensure that executives' personal and work devices are secure.
- Educate executives about attacks such as phishing.
- Create and enforce rules for executive travel.

Many that work as executive protection professionals for wealthy families, corporate executives, celebrities, and business-people traveling in high risk areas, have experienced a Mr. MaGoo like client. Unlike Mr. Cholly, our professional requires that nothing is left for chance.

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