

**SPECIAL TACTICS**



**SINGLE-PERSON**  
**CLOSE QUARTERS BATTLE**



**URBAN TACTICS FOR CIVILIANS,  
LAW ENFORCEMENT AND MILITARY**

DEVELOPED BY SPECIAL OPERATIONS VETERANS

# SINGLE-PERSON

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# CLOSE QUARTERS BATTLE

**URBAN TACTICS FOR CIVILIANS,  
LAW ENFORCEMENT AND MILITARY**

SPECIAL  TACTICS

Special Tactics, LLC

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ISBN 978-0-9984555-0-1 (Ebook - PDF)

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*To those who have gone before us, the living and the fallen*

# COURSE OVERVIEW

## The Neglect of Single-Person Tactics

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Most modern urban combat and CQB (Close Quarters Battle) tactics trace their origins to hostage-rescue techniques developed by elite special operations forces. These tactics evolved dramatically over the years. Conventional military units and other security forces adapted the hostage rescue tactics for application in a broad range of operations including stability operations and conventional warfare. During the process of this evolution, a critical capabilities gap developed in the area of single-person tactics.

In military units, soldiers are encouraged never to operate alone. Also, the fact that military units rarely operate independently in elements smaller than a squad or section (approximately 9 soldiers) leaves little reason for them to practice single-person tactics. When asked about how a single person would clear a building, military personnel would likely respond that such scenarios only occur in movies.

Law enforcement units, like SWAT teams, that specialize in CQB also typically bring a large force to the fight and often have numerous supporting assets such as snipers, helicopters and tactical vehicles. Thus, the scenario of a single SWAT officer having to operate alone is also relatively unlikely and

often receives less attention.

However, for ordinary citizens in a home-defense scenario or for police officers responding to an emergency call, the chances of having to operate alone are quite likely. In these types of situations, backup is frequently unavailable or will not arrive in time. The citizens and officers who are forced to operate on their own face potentially the greatest risk, yet there are almost no tactical references (books, videos or classes) that provide useful information on the subject of single-person tactics.

This manual and the associated training courses were developed by a team of experts with extensive special operations and law-enforcement experience to help fill the dangerous capability and knowledge gap in the area of single-person tactics. This manual can provide citizens and officers with critical, life-saving tactical knowledge that will give them a marked advantage in an emergency situation. The manual is designed to be short, easy to read and focused on the most important information for surviving a real-life emergency. The manual also uses many pictures and illustrations to accelerate learning and help students absorb knowledge faster.

## How is Single-Person CQB Different?

Single-person CQB tactics are different from tactics developed for teams and multiple teams. The reason for this is the increased risk associated with operating alone. Even if you are very experienced in team-level operations, it may still take time for you to master the specific skills and movements needed for single-person operations.

Team-level CQB is generally divided into “immediate entry” and “delayed entry” tactics. Immediate entry methods call for offensive, aggressive movement and were developed by elite military special operations forces for hostage rescue situations. Delayed entry tactics are more common in the law enforcement community and are designed to minimize your exposure and maximize the benefits of cover and concealment.

For single-person operations, delayed entry is generally a safer option than immediate entry. If you have a team behind you, it is possible to aggressively rush through a door to dominate a room. However, if you are operating alone with no support, it is dangerous to rush into a fight when the odds might not be in your favor. By employing delayed entry tactics you clear as much of a room or hallway as possible from the outside, before you actually make entry. The tactics in this book are primarily delayed entry tactics.

Team-level CQB can also be divided into “deliberate” tactics and “emergency” tactics. The difference has less to do with speed and more to do with the level of care and attention applied to the clearing process. It is possible to execute deliberate tactics very quickly, as long as you are careful to clear each room and danger area completely. Essentially, when conducting a deliberate clear, you will not take any shortcuts.

Emergency tactics are the opposite of deliberate tactics. In an emergency situation,

you may need to take shortcuts and not clear every room or danger area completely. This increases the level of risk. However, in an emergency situation where time is critical or there is imminent danger to innocent people, a tactical team might choose to assume a greater level of risk. Because of the increased danger typical of single-person operations, deliberate tactics are generally the best option. Most of the tactics in this book are deliberate rather than emergency.

While deliberate tactics are preferable for single-person operations. You might end up facing an emergency situation alone and you will have no choice but to move at maximum speed and assume greater risk. This type of scenario is extremely dangerous and as an individual, there is little you can do to reduce the risk. Your best option is generally to move as quickly as possible and use speed as security, hoping that adversaries will not react fast enough to see you or shoot at you.

In summary, single-person tactics generally call for delayed entry instead of immediate entry and deliberate movement instead of emergency movement. Caution is the key concept in single-person operations. A committed adversary does not care who you are or how much experience and training you have. Carelessness can cause even the most skilled tactician to fall victim to a committed adversary.

## Optimizing Learning Speed

Every Special Tactics course subject is scalable, modular, and incorporates state-of-the-art multimedia sequencing learning methodology. In the case of single-person CQB and urban combat, this digital manual represents the most basic and fundamental level of instruction. However, because every course is scalable, readers interested in more training or information on single-person CQB,

two-person CQB, team operations, multiple team operations and specialized skills can sign up for training courses on the Special Tactics website. These courses can be scaled to meet individual time and financial constraints.

This digital manual provides a baseline of instruction for single-person operations that applies primarily to civilians. However, the Special Tactics modular course structure makes this manual useful for law enforcement and military personnel as well. Each Special Tactics course is designed in multiple blocks that can connect to form countless custom-tailored curricula. While Special Tactics does not publish sensitive military and law enforcement tactics in digital form for security reasons, these courses are available through printed manuals or in-person instruction and build directly off this digital manual. Private citizens can also take part in some of these more advanced, in-person courses.

This digital manual is also designed to connect with other Special Tactics digital manuals such as the *Tactical Home Defense Manual*, *Tactical Self-Defense Manual*, *Deadly Attack Response Manual* and numerous combat shooting manuals. The Special Tactics

website is also continuously publishing new digital training supplements including videos, presentations, scenario playbooks and certification tests. These training supplements are also designed to be modular and interconnect with other training materials and digital manuals. This approach of multimedia sequencing offers a much better way to learn than traditional models that employ only a book or classroom instructions. Essentially, this book is designed to be part of a much larger package of instructional materials available from Special Tactics.

## Important Notes on Classification, Security and Safety

Special Tactics is very serious about security and safety. This digital manual does not contain any classified information, sensitive information or information that might prove useful to criminals or terrorists. This manual focuses on defensive and emergency response combat scenarios appropriate for citizens, law enforcement officers and first

## SCALABLE MODULAR MULTIMEDIA SEQUENCING

COURSE LENGTH	SKILL LEVEL	AUDIENCE	MULTI-MEDIA
1-hour	Basic	Open-source	Digital manual
2-hour	Intermediate	Civilian	Class presentation
4-hour	Advanced	Private security	Video demonstration
6-hour		Law enforcement	Audio companion
1-day (8-hours)		Conventional military	Practical exercise
2-day		Special operations	Table-top exercise
3-day			Lesson plan
5-day (1-week)			Scenario playbook
2-week			Evaluations

responders. If a criminal or terrorist employed the tactics in this manual, he or she would find it more difficult to kill large numbers of innocent people. This is because the tactics in this manual focus on deliberate procedures, designed to maximize the chances of survival rather than cause maximum destruction.

Special Tactics specifically designed the manual in this way to ensure it would be useful for citizens and officers but useless to criminals and terrorists. Even if criminals or terrorists read this manual to learn how law enforcement and military personnel operate, they will learn nothing of use. As already explained, the techniques in this manual are generalized and modified for civilian use. Special Tactics has left out the techniques specific to law enforcement and military personnel. However, this manual still provides a solid foundation for tactical professionals.

The techniques described in this manual are dangerous and are intended only for use in an emergency situation when all other options have been exhausted. If you are a civilian, escape should always be your first option. Also, do not attempt to practice or apply these techniques without first consulting a law enforcement officer or security professional since improper application of these techniques can cause death or serious injury.

## Content Summary

The following chapters will teach you the fundamentals of how to move, fight and survive as an individual in a variety of combat and emergency scenarios. Given that this is a CQB manual, most of the instruction assumes that you will be carrying a pistol or rifle. The instruction begins by discussing the “four pillars” of survival: proper mindset, situational awareness, skill proficiency and physical fitness.

The next sections explain CQB tactical techniques. The first three sections describe three methods for clearing a single room: clear without entry, shallow entry (limited penetration) and deep entry (full penetration). The remaining sections show you various techniques for clearing hallways, stairwells and multiple rooms.

The final sections describe how the tactics and techniques might apply in real-life scenarios including home invasion, deadly attack (active shooter), sniper attack, armed robbery and hostage situations. These sections discuss critical factors and concerns including how to avoid being accidentally shot by police first responders or other armed citizens trying to help.

# INTRODUCTION

## The “Four Pillars” of Survival

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The “four pillars” of survival are proper mindset, situational awareness, skill proficiency and physical fitness. These pillars form the basis for success in all combat situations. This manual is not intended only to teach specific techniques but rather to increase the reader’s actual chances of survival and success in a real-life emergency. An expert marksman who is not mentally prepared for the stress of combat and not ready to employ lethal force can lose to an untrained adversary. Lack of situational awareness, even for a moment, can cause experienced military and law enforcement professionals to fall victim to unskilled enemies. Therefore, any combat training program must rest on the following four pillars.

### Proper Mindset

Proper mindset is the most critical of the four pillars. In the simplest terms, people with the proper mindset devote a large volume of time and energy to protecting themselves and their loved ones from the worst-case scenario. Many people will learn to shoot a pistol or study a martial art but their skills decline quickly because they fail to practice every day. Having the proper mindset means being

tough, determined, never cutting corners and taking every precaution to ensure survival. In a combat situation, having the proper mindset means being prepared to employ lethal force without hesitation and never quitting during the fight regardless of fear or pain. The training suggestions in this manual will help you develop the proper mindset.

### Situational Awareness

Lack of situational awareness is one of the leading causes of failure or death in combat situations. In modern society, most people’s situational awareness is very low. They generally spend their day wrapped up in their own thoughts and problems and pay little attention to what is going on around them. People who live in relatively secure environments fall into even deeper levels of complacency and unpreparedness. The mentality of, “it can’t happen to me,” can ultimately prove to be disastrously wrong. Most victims of crime, terrorism and other deadly attacks lived their lives thinking, “it can’t happen to me.”

People with the proper mindset described earlier understand the importance of situational awareness and make disciplined

efforts to cultivate it. Situational awareness begins with awareness of the threat and awareness that bad things can happen to anyone. Situational awareness involves trying to remain alert at all times without being paranoid. Situational awareness also involves keeping up with local news, studying trends in violent crime and knowing which neighborhoods and streets to avoid. Those committed to protecting their families might also conduct research to identify registered sex offenders in their area. The best way to improve your situational awareness is to make a conscious effort to continually cultivate and improve it.

## **Skill Proficiency**

Once you have the proper mindset and maintain good situational awareness, the next step is to ensure you have the proper skills or “tools” to protect yourself in a combat situation. When striving to improve skill proficiency it is important to choose the best skills and techniques that are simple, effective, easy to perform and can realistically apply to a real-life scenario. Then you must practice these techniques repeatedly until they become second nature. This will maximize the

chances that you will respond immediately in a high-stress situation. The central focus of this manual is to help you build skill proficiency.

## **Physical Fitness**

Fitness is a critical but often overlooked factor that affects your chances of survival in a combat situation. Even skilled fighters with the proper mindset and high levels of situational awareness can lose a fight simply because they run out of energy. In order to maintain adequate levels of combat fitness, you do not need to achieve the same fitness level as a professional or Olympic athlete. Rather, the key is merely to stay healthy, maintain a decent level of cardiovascular endurance, running speed, functional strength and coordination. Popular commercial fitness programs don't always focus on the most useful abilities needed for combat. For example, many people jog but how many also run sprints to build speed? Simply being able to run fast without falling is one of the most critical survival skills in a gunfight or emergency situation, yet most people rarely practice sprinting. For those interested in combat fitness, Special Tactics provides a range of books and courses on the subject.



# TACTICAL TECHNIQUES

## Single-Room Clearing Without Entry

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The following six chapters explain specific tactical techniques for room clearing without entry, shallow entry, deep entry, multiple rooms, hallways and stairwells. These techniques were developed and selected by a team of experts with extensive special operations and law enforcement experience and every technique has been vetted in real combat situations. However, no technique is perfect and there are many disagreements among professionals about which techniques are best for which situation. Therefore, you may not agree with all the points in this manual. If this is the case, simply take what is useful and adapt it to your own personal needs and situation.

The first thing you should learn in single-person CQB is how to safely clear a room without entering the room or “clear without entry.” Unlike in team operations, as a single-person you will often avoid entering a room if you do not have to, in order to minimize your

exposure and maximize your personal safety. This means you will clear the room (as much as possible) from the outside and avoid getting drawn into a fight with adversaries who might possess superior numbers and weapons. By remaining outside of a room you make it easier to break contact with the adversary and create distance if needed.

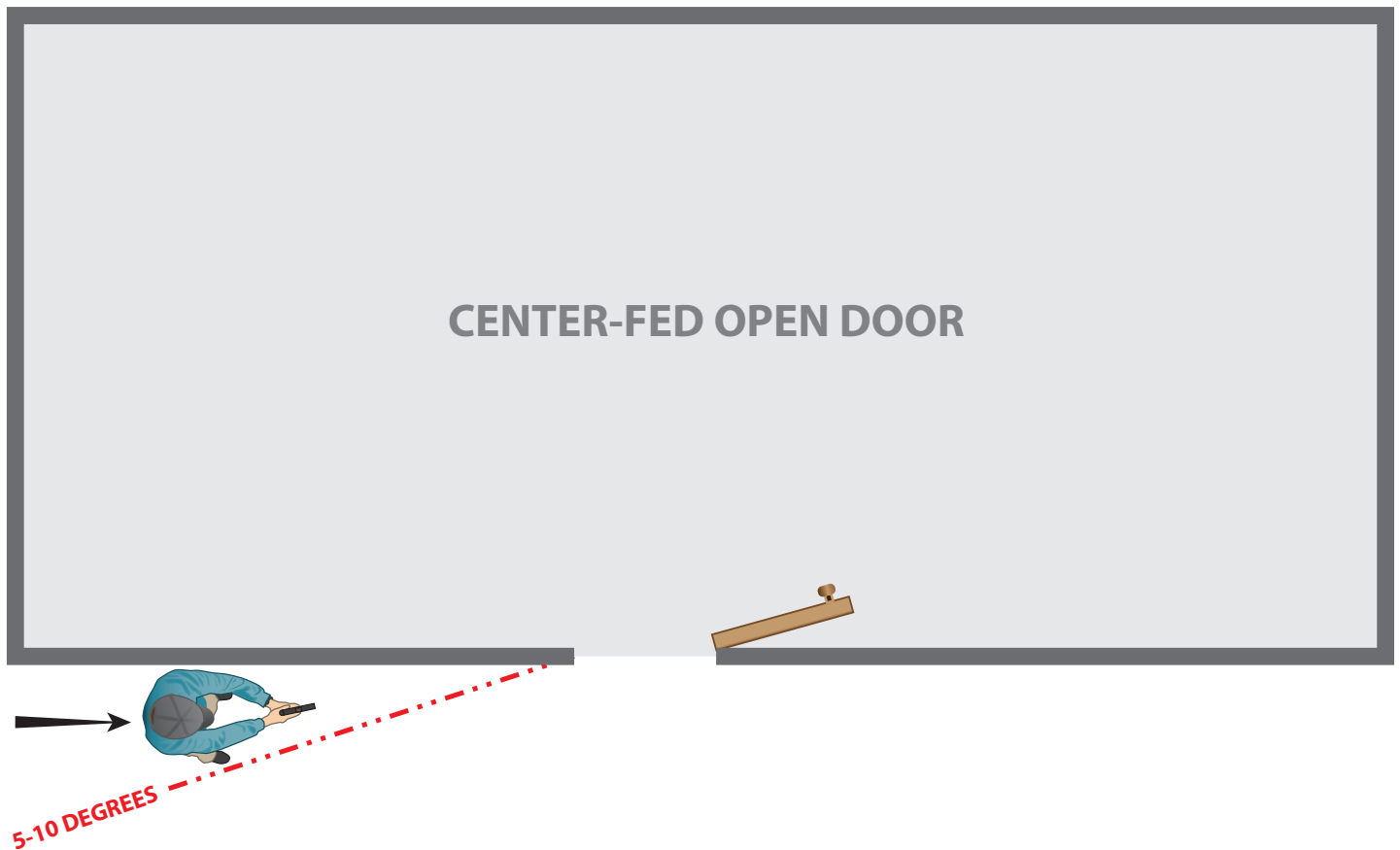
How you clear a room from the outside will depend on two factors: whether the room is center-fed or corner-fed, and whether the door is open or closed. Rooms generally fall into two categories: center-fed and corner-fed. A center-fed room is a room where the door is in the center of the wall, allowing you to move either left or right when entering the room. A corner-fed room is a room where the door is flush with the corner of the room, allowing you to turn only one direction when entering the room. Whether the door to a room is open or closed also affects how you will clear the room.



## CLEAR WITHOUT ENTRY: CENTER-FED OPEN DOOR

### STEP 1 - Approach the Door

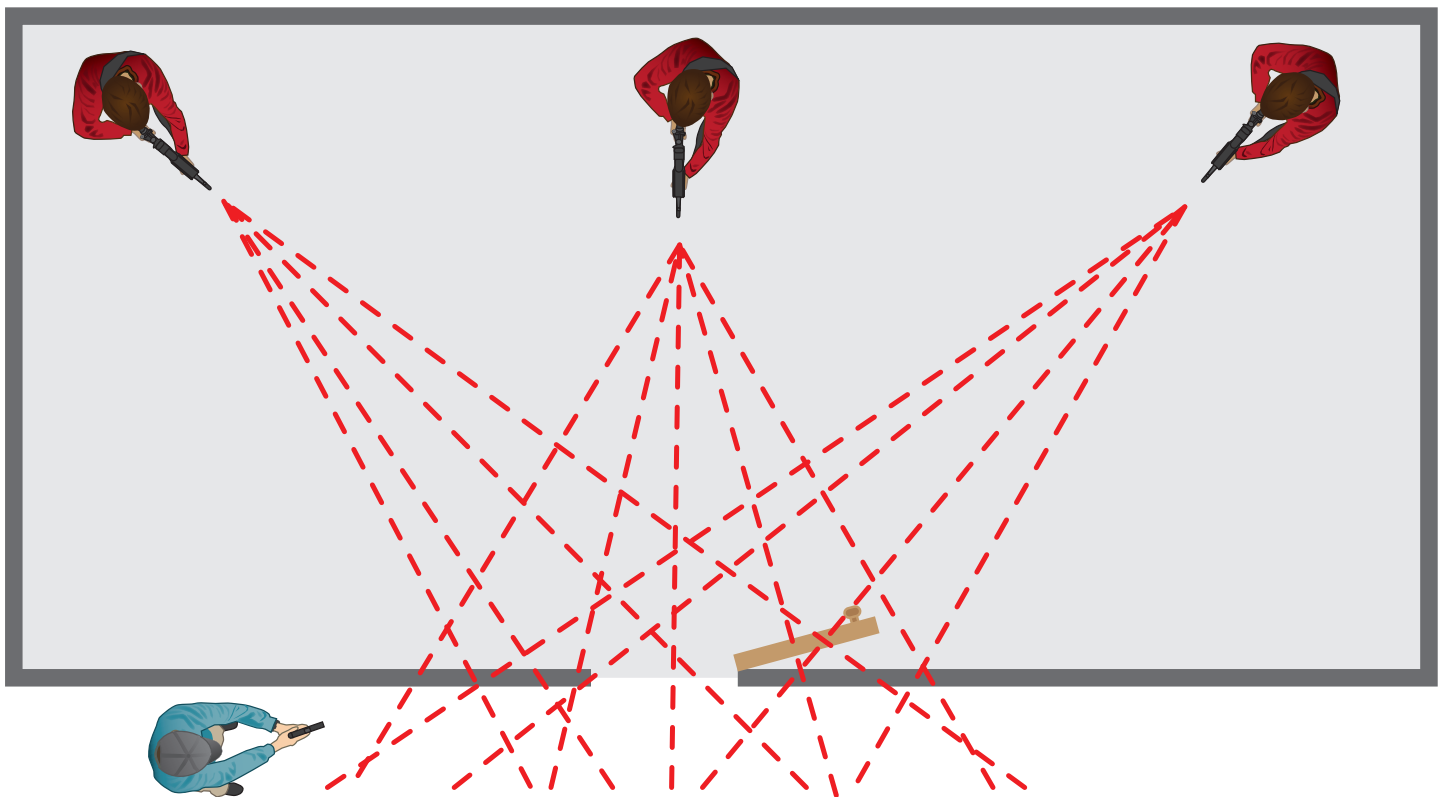
As you approach an open door from the outside of the room, begin by positioning yourself close to the wall, several meters from the doorway. Stay close to the wall but avoid touching or bumping into the wall because doing so will make noise and might also increase your chances of getting shot, since bullets tend to travel along walls.



## CLEAR WITHOUT ENTRY: CENTER-FED OPEN DOOR

### STEP 2 - Avoid Indiscriminate Fire

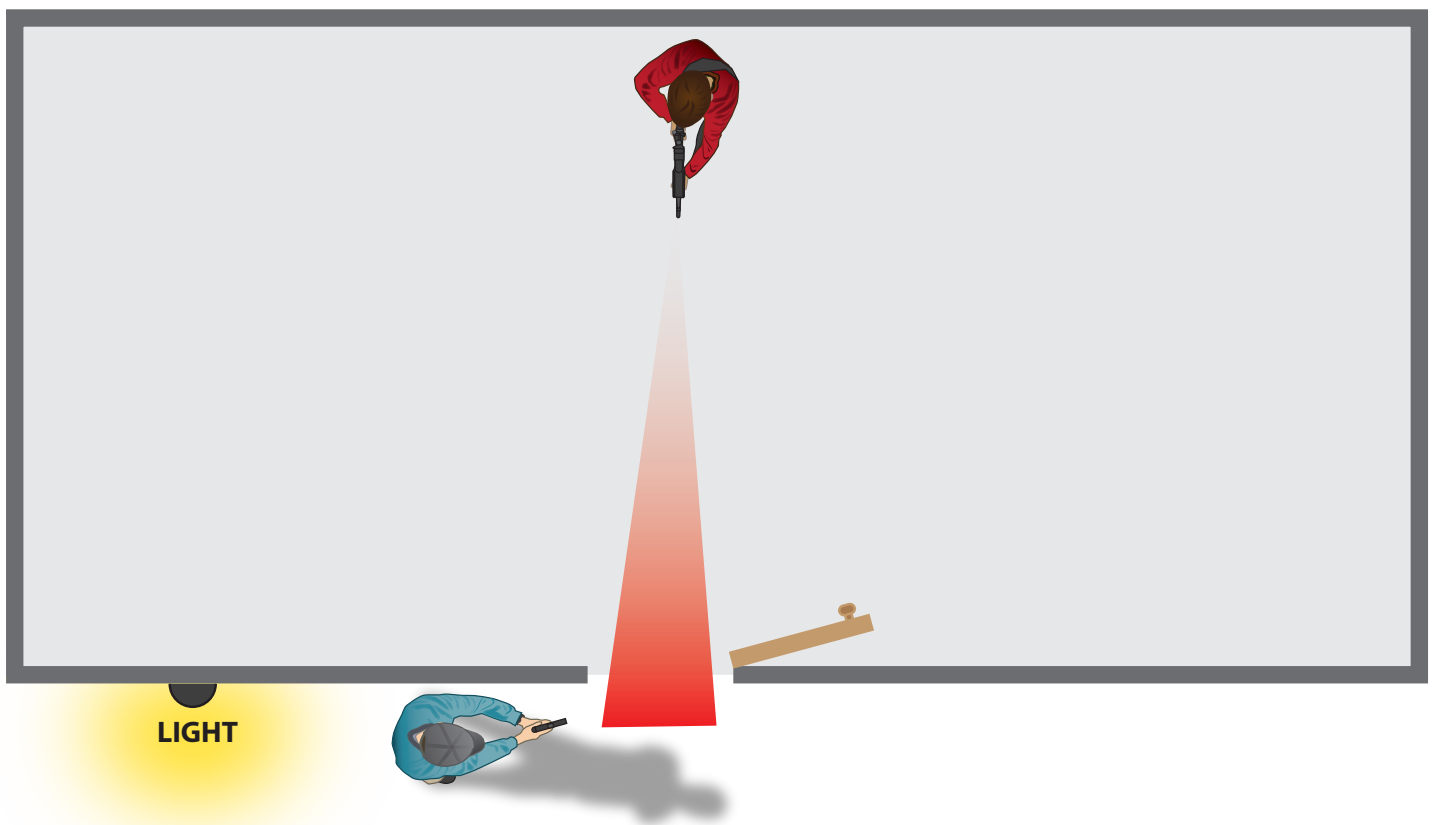
Staying away from the doorway is also important. Many adversaries, especially terrorists with automatic weapons, will not fire single, aimed shots but will rather spray bullets indiscriminately in the direction of any noise or potential threat. This spray of bullets will generally form an arc several meters wide. If you stay close to a door and the adversary detects you, you might get hit with a barrage of bullets coming through the doorway and the walls surrounding the doorway. Remember, that most interior walls are not bulletproof and the chances of getting shot through a wall are very high. By staying several meters back from the door, you minimize the chances of getting hit by indiscriminate fire.



## CLEAR WITHOUT ENTRY: CENTER-FED OPEN DOOR

### STEP 3 - Watch Your Shadow

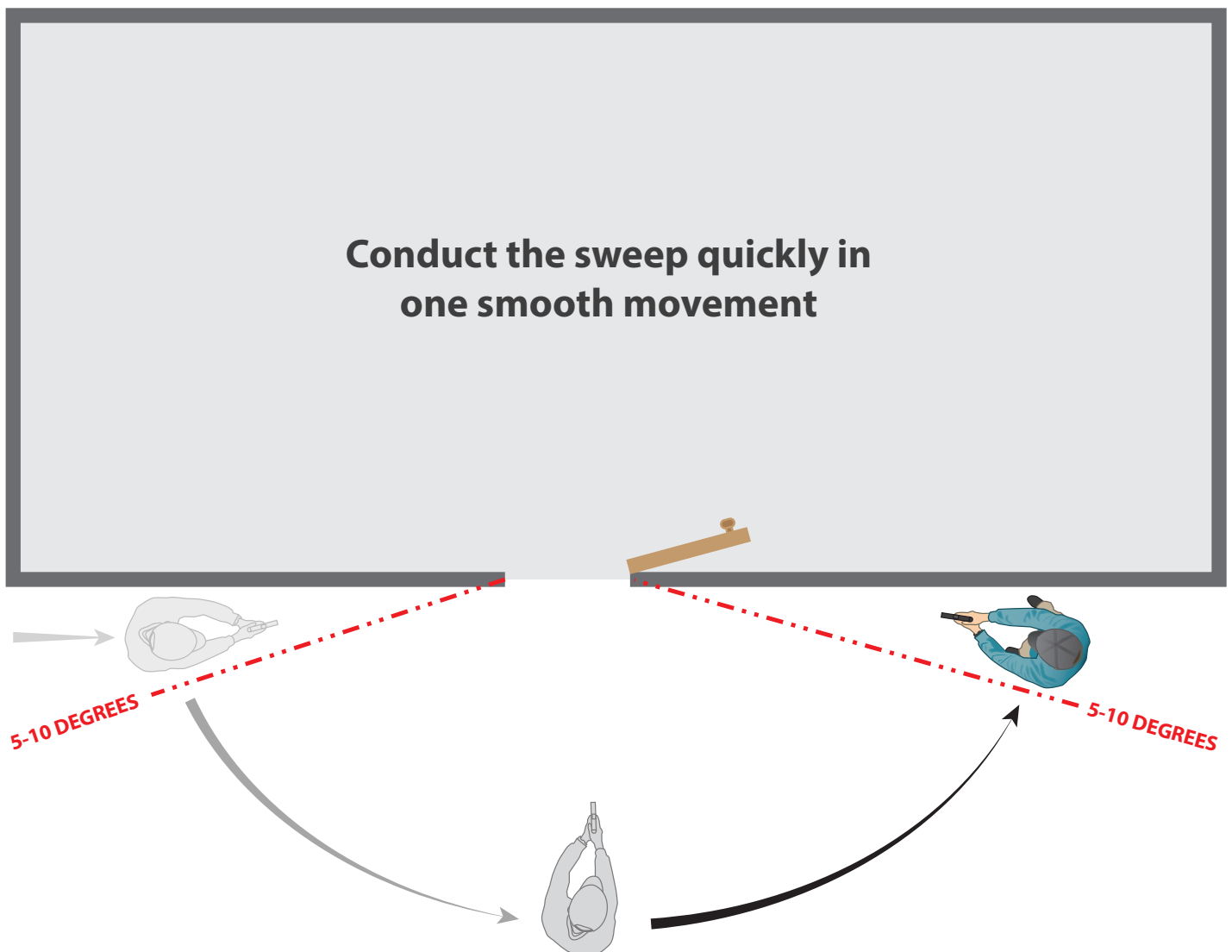
Staying back from the door also minimizes your chances of detection, especially in terms of shadows created by interior lights. Most buildings have multiple light sources in each room or hallway. This means that when you come close to an open door, someone standing inside the room can most likely see your shadow moving across the floor behind the opening. Keep your distance from the door and try to remain aware of your shadow as you move.



## CLEAR WITHOUT ENTRY: CENTER-FED OPEN DOOR

### STEP 4 - Conduct "Sweep" Movement

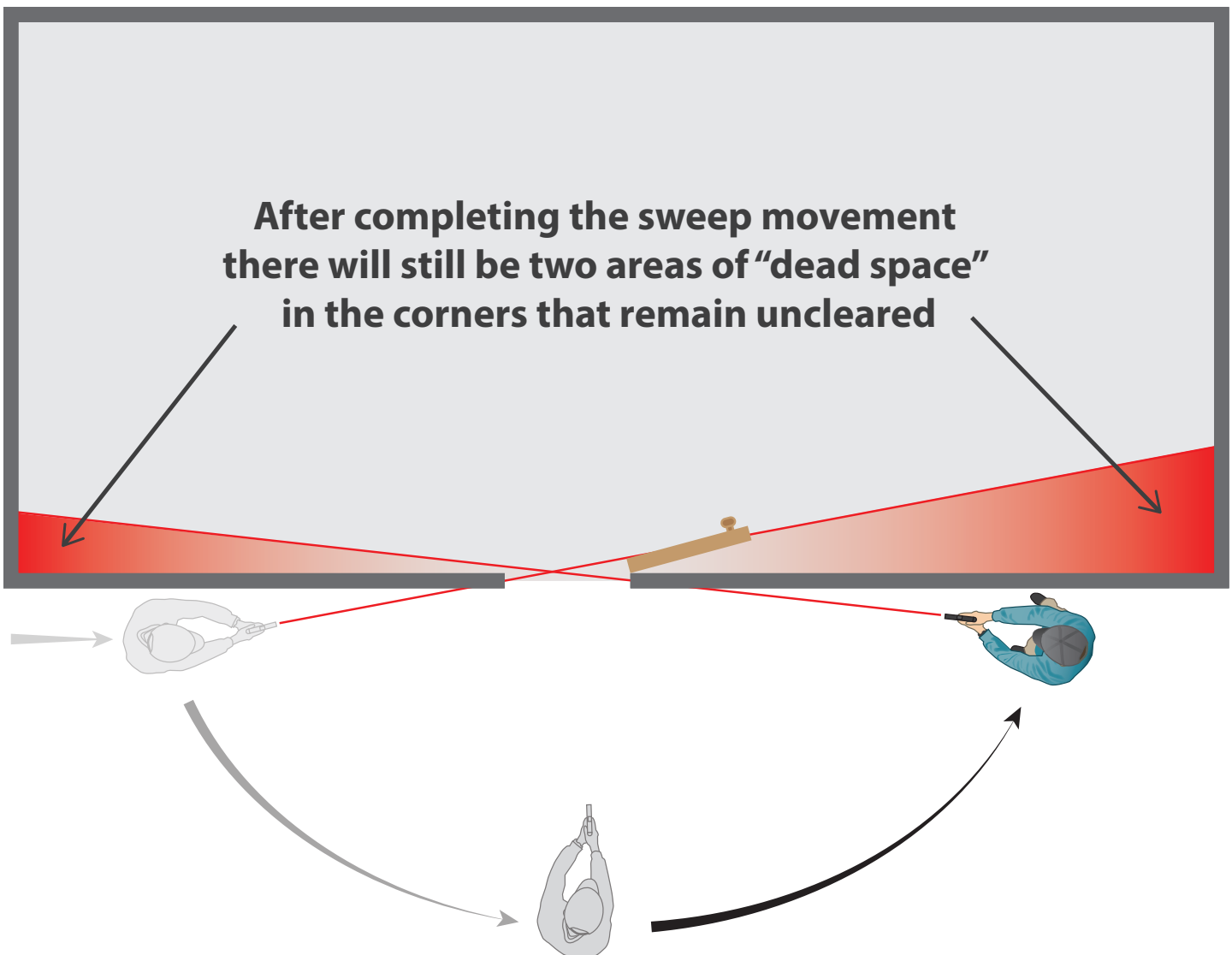
The next step is to sweep out in a wide arc, keeping your weapon focused on the doorway. Keep your distance from the door and move all the way across until you are positioned close to the wall on the opposite side of the door. The purpose of the sweep is to visually clear the room as quickly as possible to identify any threats inside and possibly draw those threats out of the room. When executing the sweep, move in an arc as fast as you can while keeping your weapon relatively steady and taking care not to trip. You are giving up some weapon accuracy in order to minimize exposure and make yourself less of a target. By moving quickly along the arc it will be quite difficult for an adversary to shoot you since you will be exposed for only a fraction of a second. Remember that bullets travel very fast and you will be an easy target if you stop moving. With practice you will also learn to engage targets as you sweep across the door. Once you have completed your sweep, you can conduct additional sweeps if needed to check the room more carefully.



## CLEAR WITHOUT ENTRY: CENTER-FED OPEN DOOR

### STEP 5 - Recognize "Dead Space"

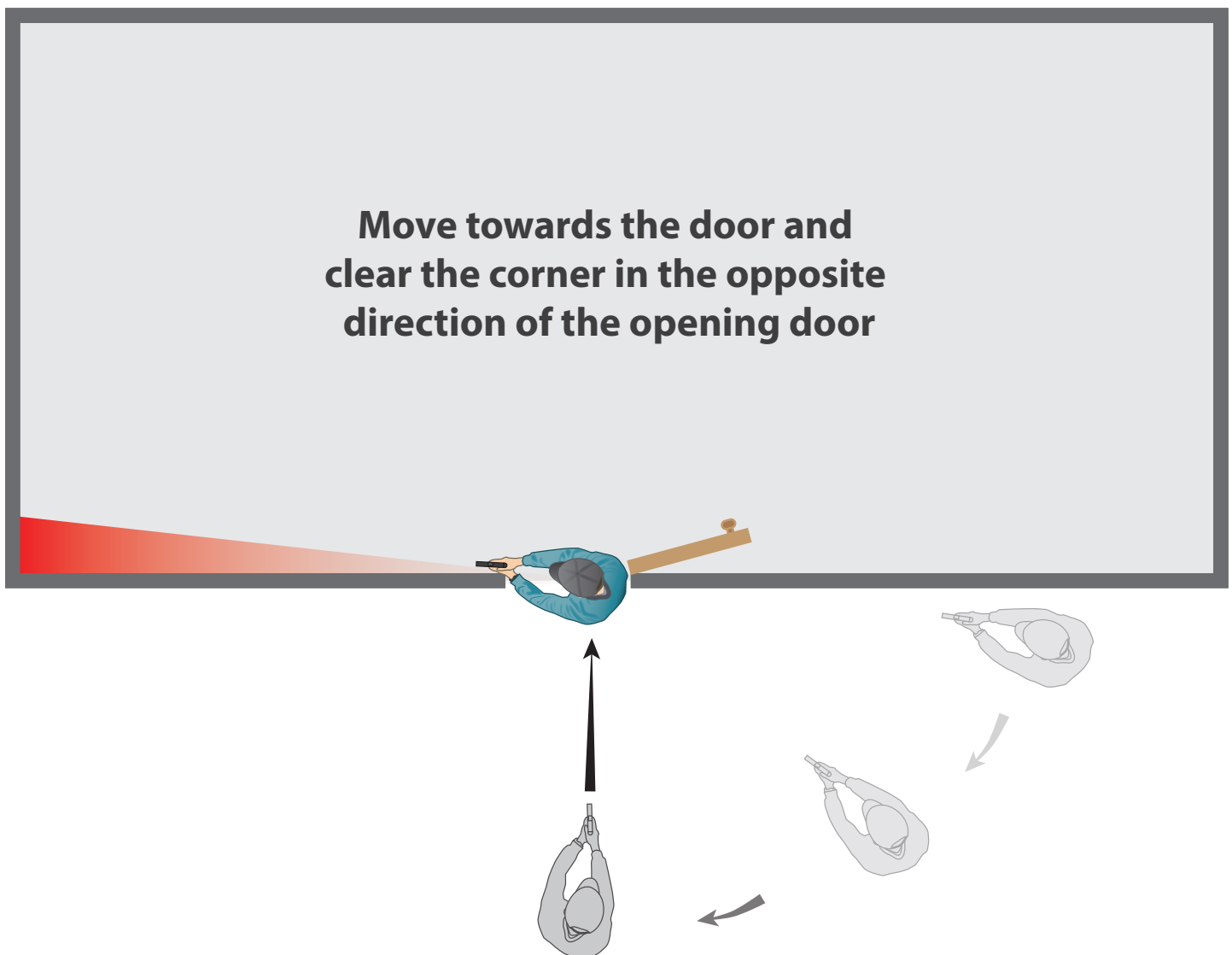
Once you reach the opposite side of the door, keep your distance since the adversary might fire indiscriminately in the direction of the doorway. Keep your weapon at the ready, focused on the door. One of the main advantages of the sweep technique is that it can draw adversaries out of the room, directly into your sights as you wait covering the door. So, once the sweep is complete, you can wait momentarily to draw adversaries out or listen to hear movement coming from inside the room. However, do not wait too long since the longer you stay in one place the easier it is for adversaries to maneuver against you. The task of clearing the room is not yet complete because even if your sweep revealed no threats, there will still be two slices of "dead space" that are not yet clear in each corner of the target room.



## CLEAR WITHOUT ENTRY: CENTER-FED OPEN DOOR

### STEP 6 - Clear the Corner Away from the Door

To clear the two remaining corners, you will sweep along the arc in the opposite direction until you are facing directly towards the door. Move towards the door and as soon as you reach the threshold, lean into the room and clear one of the two corners, exposing as little of your body as possible. Generally, if the door opens inward, it is best to clear first in the direction opposite the swing of the door. However, if you hear noise or see light or movement coming from either direction, you might want to clear in that direction first, regardless of which way the door opens.

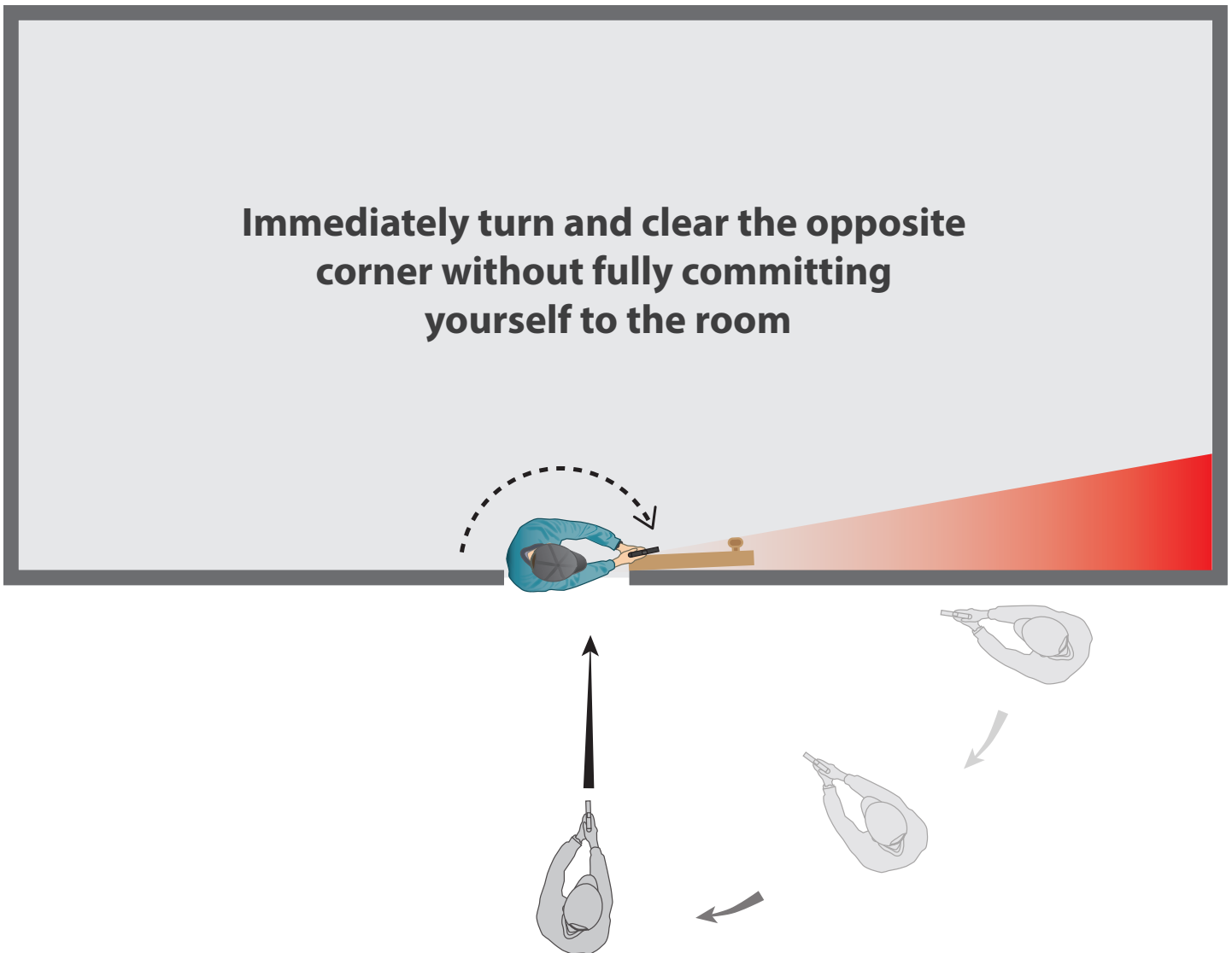


## CLEAR WITHOUT ENTRY: CENTER-FED OPEN DOOR

### STEP 7 - Clear the Corner Towards the Door

Once you have cleared one corner, rapidly turn 180-degrees and clear the opposite corner. Then, immediately back away from the doorway just in case an adversary is hiding in the room behind furniture. Use this technique when you want to clear a room from the outside without committing yourself to entering the room.

**Immediately turn and clear the opposite corner without fully committing yourself to the room**

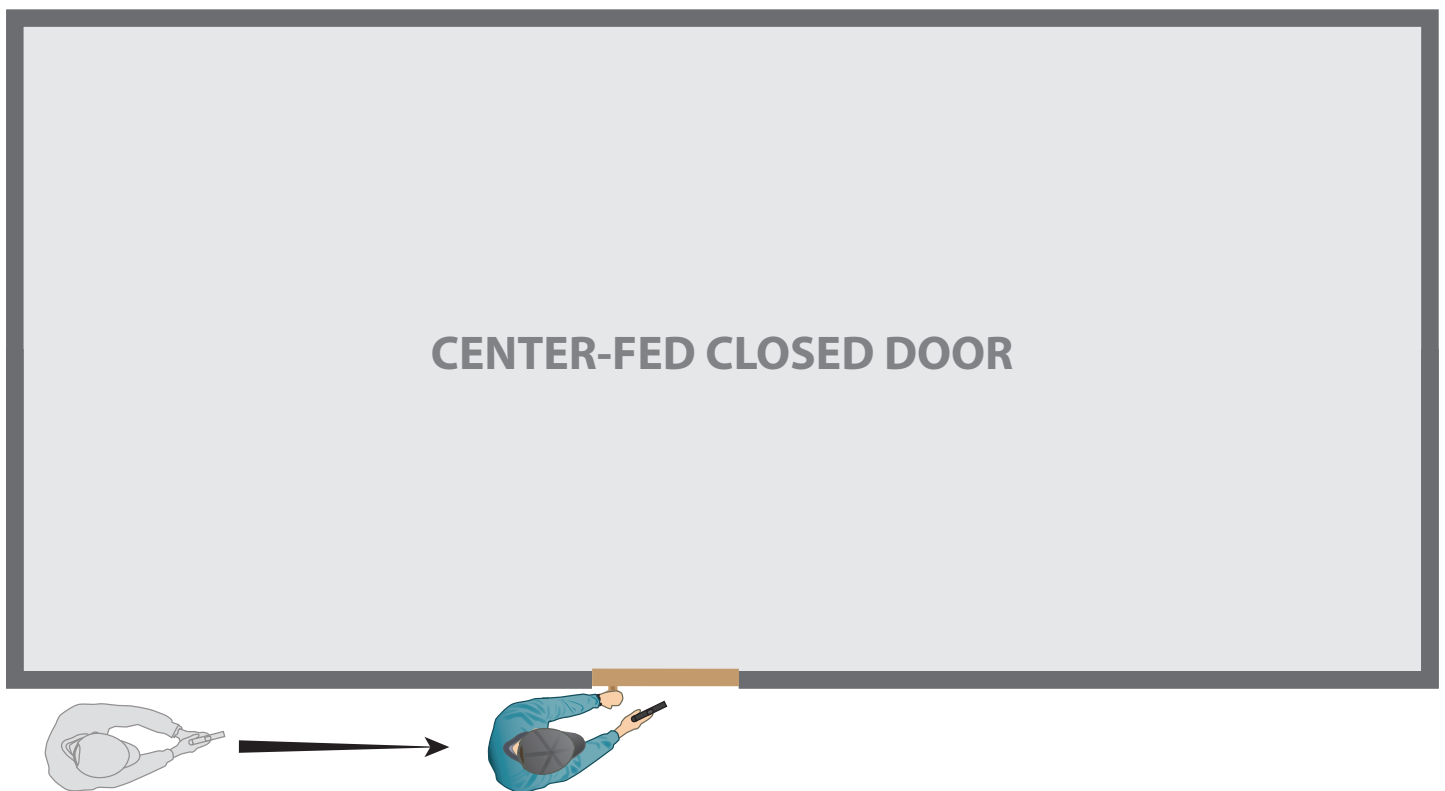




## CLEAR WITHOUT ENTRY: CENTER-FED CLOSED DOOR

### STEP 1 - Open the Door

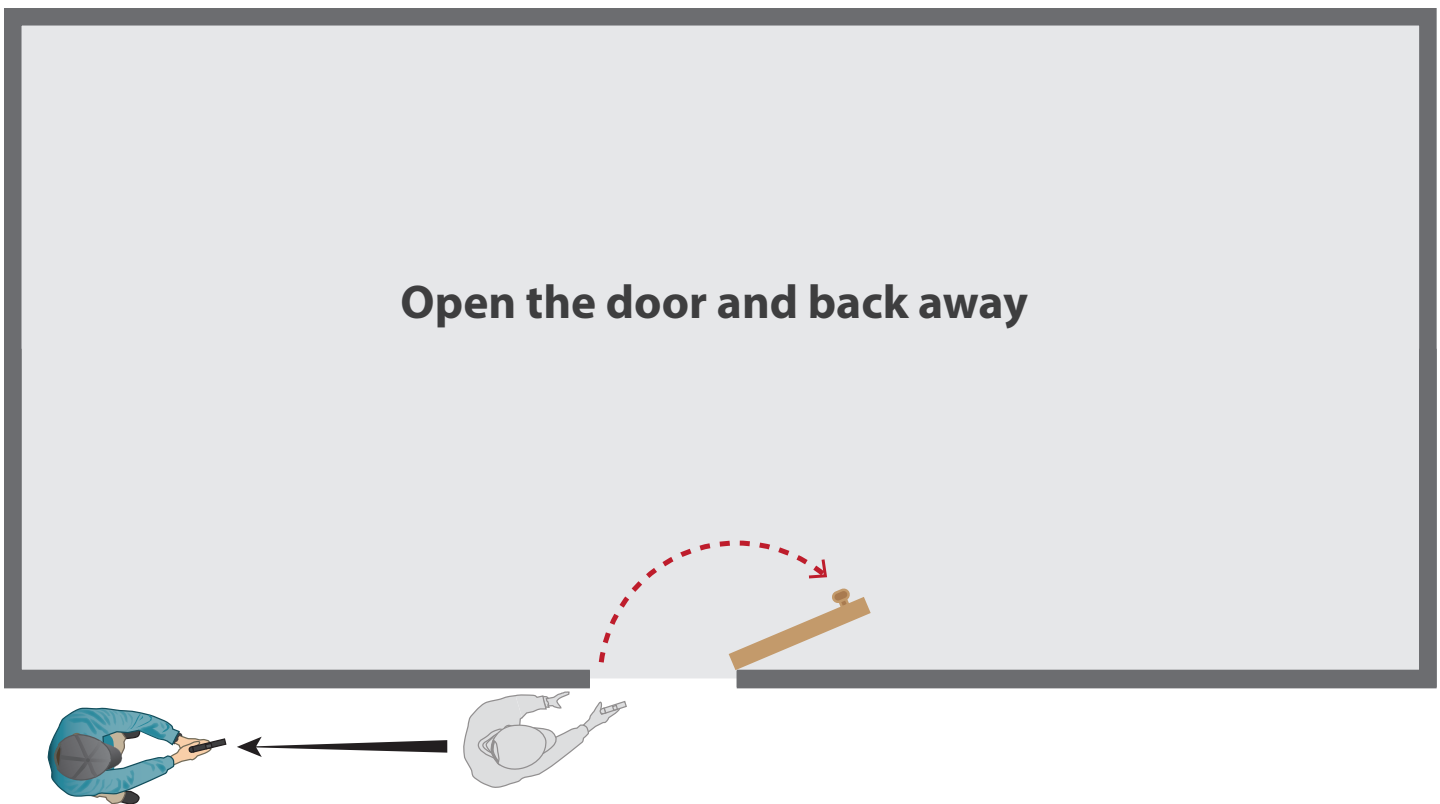
The technique for clearing a center-fed closed door is almost the same as the technique for clearing the open door with a few minor adjustments. The first difference is that because the door is closed, you must first open the door before you can conduct your sweep. To open the door, position yourself close to the wall and away from the door, just as you did in the last technique. Keep your weapon at the ready and oriented towards the door just in case the door opens and an adversary walks out. Move towards the door quickly, grasp the doorknob with your non-firing hand and swing the door open.



## CLEAR WITHOUT ENTRY: CENTER-FED CLOSED DOOR

### STEP 2 - Back Away

Once the door is open, back away from the door immediately. You will need to use your arm to push or pull the door as hard as possible to ensure it swings open while you begin to back away. Once again, you back away from the door because if adversaries inside the room see the door open, they will probably spray bullets indiscriminately in the direction of the door. You want to be outside of that cone of fire. As you open the door, your first objective is to draw the adversary out or trigger a response that allows you to detect the adversary while still keeping your distance from the door.



## CLEAR WITHOUT ENTRY: CENTER-FED CLOSED DOOR

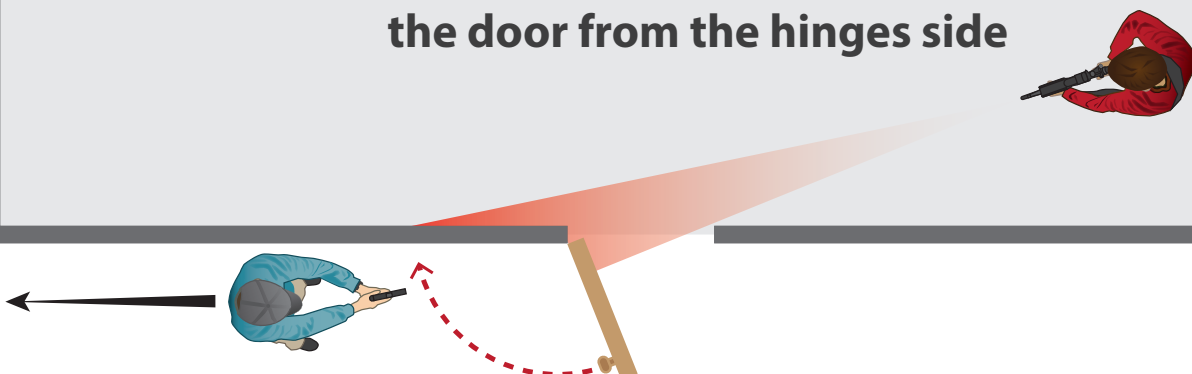
### STEP 3 - Use the Door to Your Advantage

Which way the door opens and which side the hinges are on is not critical. However, if the door opens inward it is ideal to open the door from the doorknob side if possible. This is because as the door swings inward and you are backing away, the opening door will momentarily conceal you as you back away. If the door opens outward, it is ideal to open the door from the hinges side (opposite the doorknob) for the same reason. The opening door will provide at least some degree of concealment and protection, even though it is probably not bulletproof. When opening the door, make sure to step out of the way and let the door swing open in front of you so it does not interfere with your vision or your weapon.

**If the door opens inward it is best to open the door from the doorknob side**



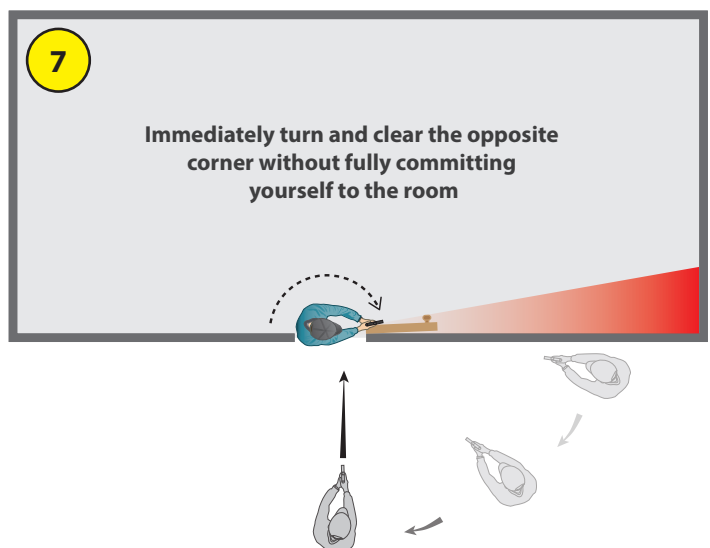
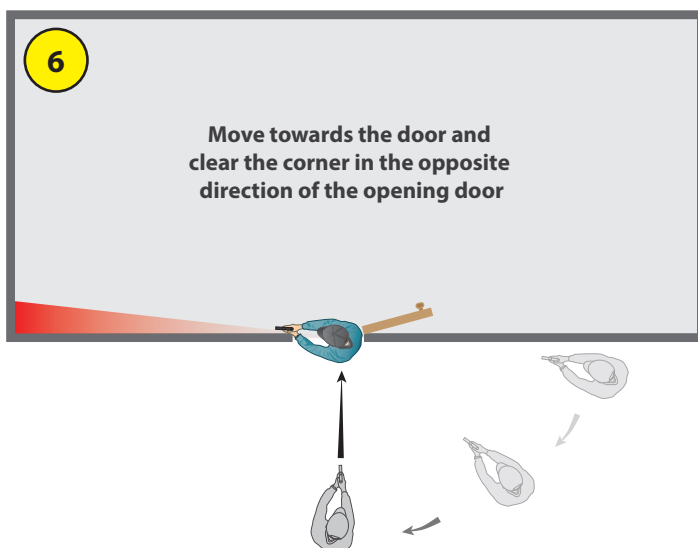
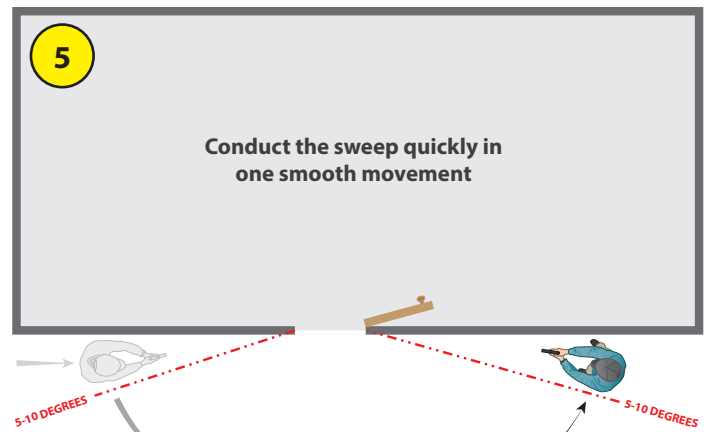
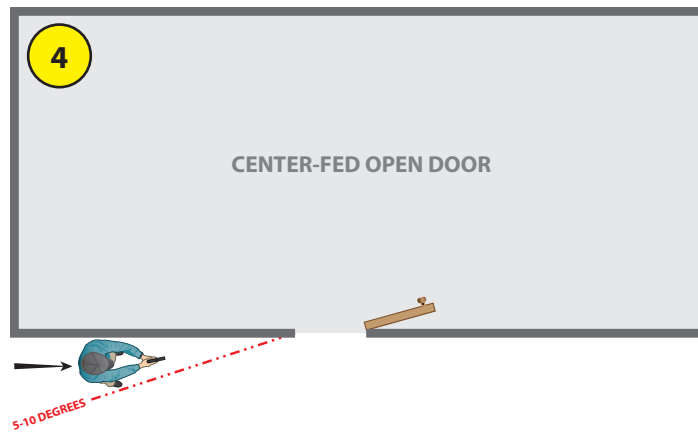
**If the door opens outward it is best to open the door from the hinges side**



# CLEAR WITHOUT ENTRY: CENTER-FED CLOSED DOOR

## STEPS 4 to 7 - Sweep and Clear the Corners

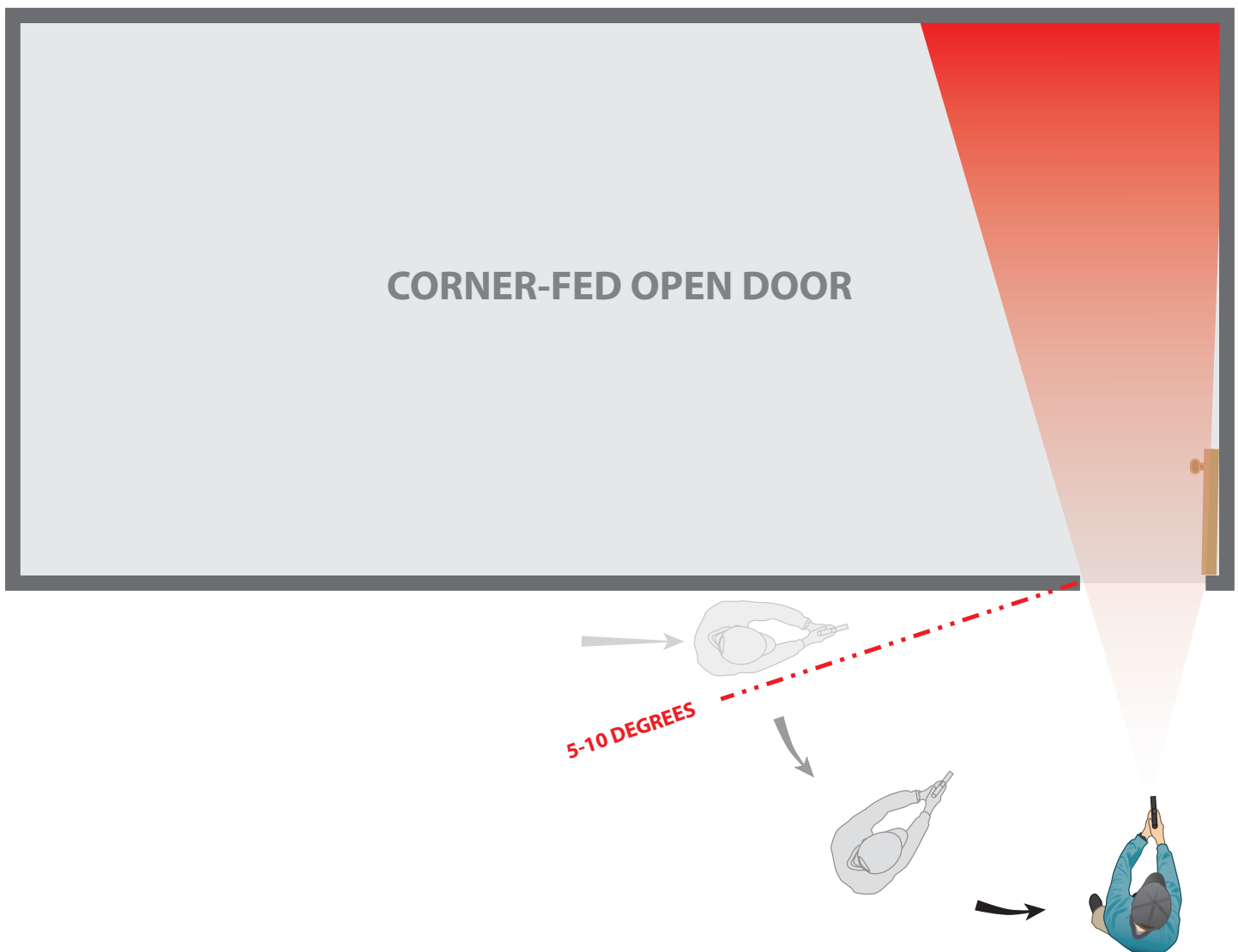
Once the door is open, you will be in position to clear the room in exactly the same way described for the center-fed open door. Therefore, in single-person CQB, the main difference between a closed door and an open door is that you will have to quickly approach the door, open it yourself, and back away before you start the clearing process.



# CLEAR WITHOUT ENTRY: CORNER-FED OPEN DOOR

## STEP 1 - Half-Sweep

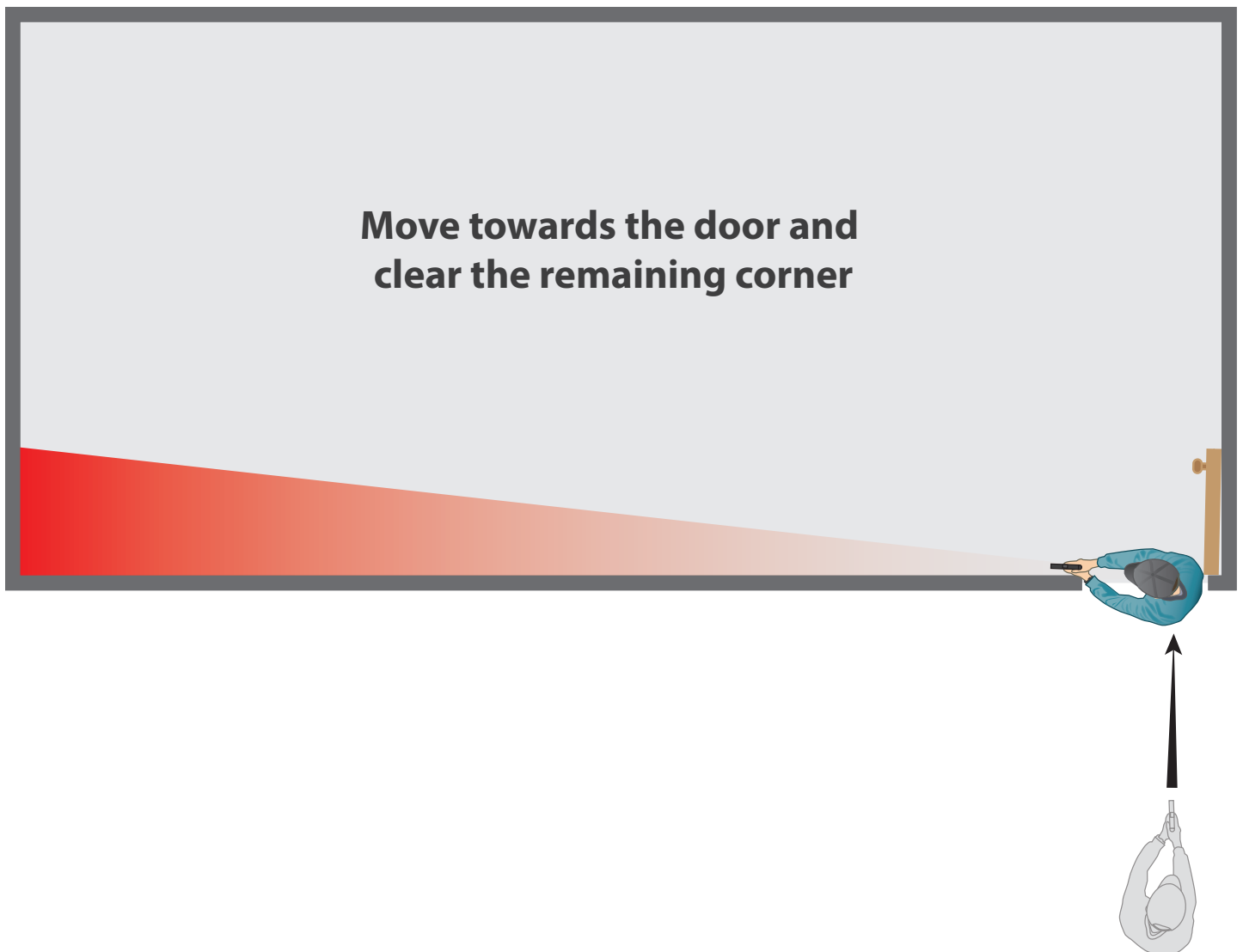
Clearing a corner-fed open door is similar to clearing a center-fed open door. If you are clearing without entry, the term “corner-fed” or “center-fed” usually refers to the room you are in as opposed to the room you are clearing. Since you are not entering the room, the internal configuration of the target room will have less effect on your movements. When clearing a corner-fed door you can only approach from one side. Start close to the wall while staying several meters away from the door. In most cases, the target room will also be corner-fed which means you will start out looking at a wall and have limited visibility into the room. As in the previous techniques, sweep out in a quick but smooth arc, keeping your distance from the doorway while you clear the interior of the room.



# CLEAR WITHOUT ENTRY: CORNER-FED OPEN DOOR

## STEP 2 - Clear the Corner

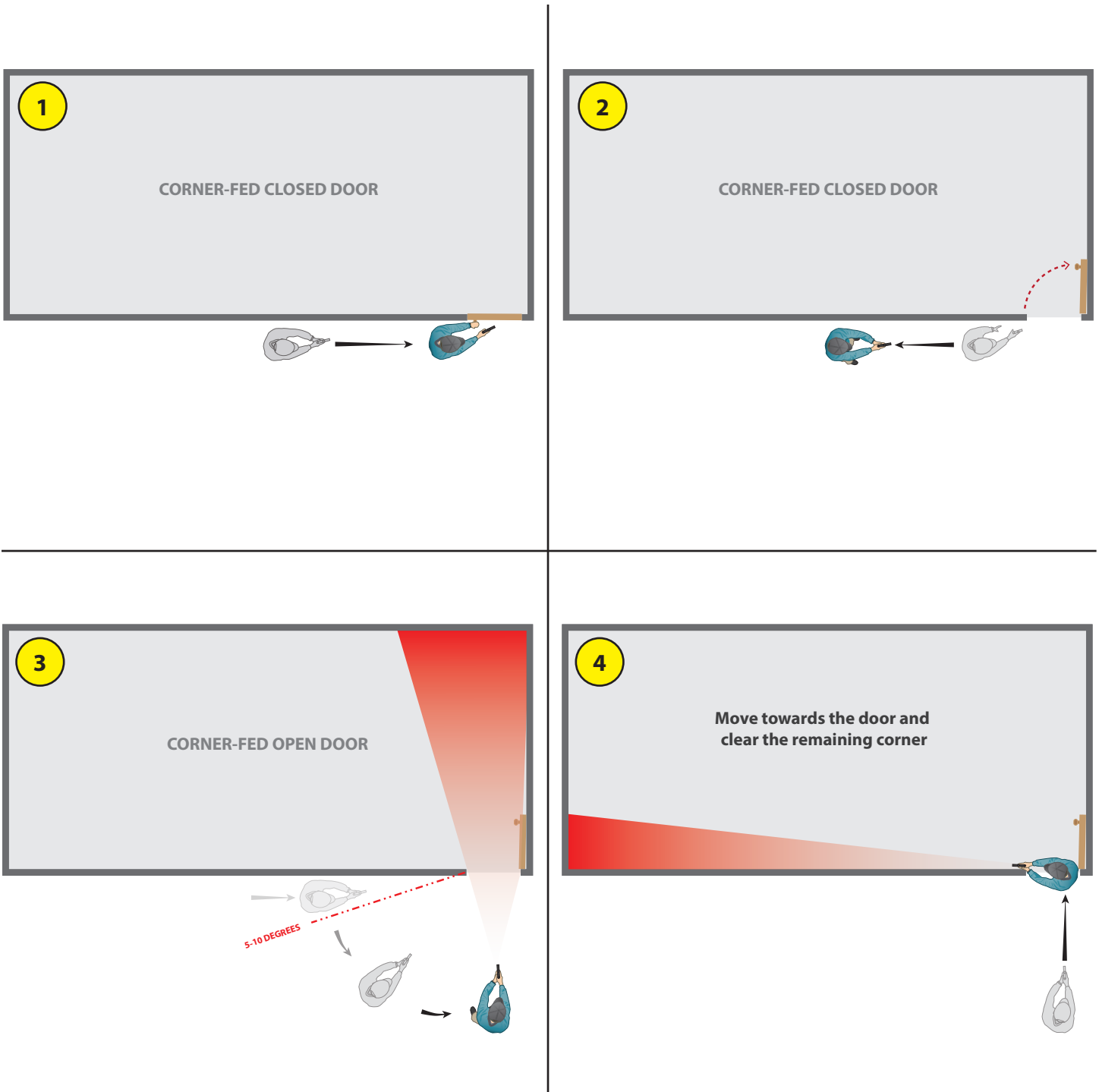
When clearing a corner-fed door, you will only be able to complete half of the sweep. Once you complete the half-sweep and find yourself facing the open door, you will now only have to clear in one direction. Move towards the door, focusing in the uncleared direction as you move. As soon as you reach the threshold, quickly lean into the room with your weapon to clear the corner, then back away from the door in case an adversary is hiding somewhere in the room. However, be advised that sometimes corner fed rooms have a small space between the door and the wall where someone could be hiding. In these cases make sure to clear *both* corners just as you would in a center-fed room.



# CLEAR WITHOUT ENTRY: CORNER-FED CLOSED DOOR

## STEPS 1 to 4 - Open the Door Sweep and Clear

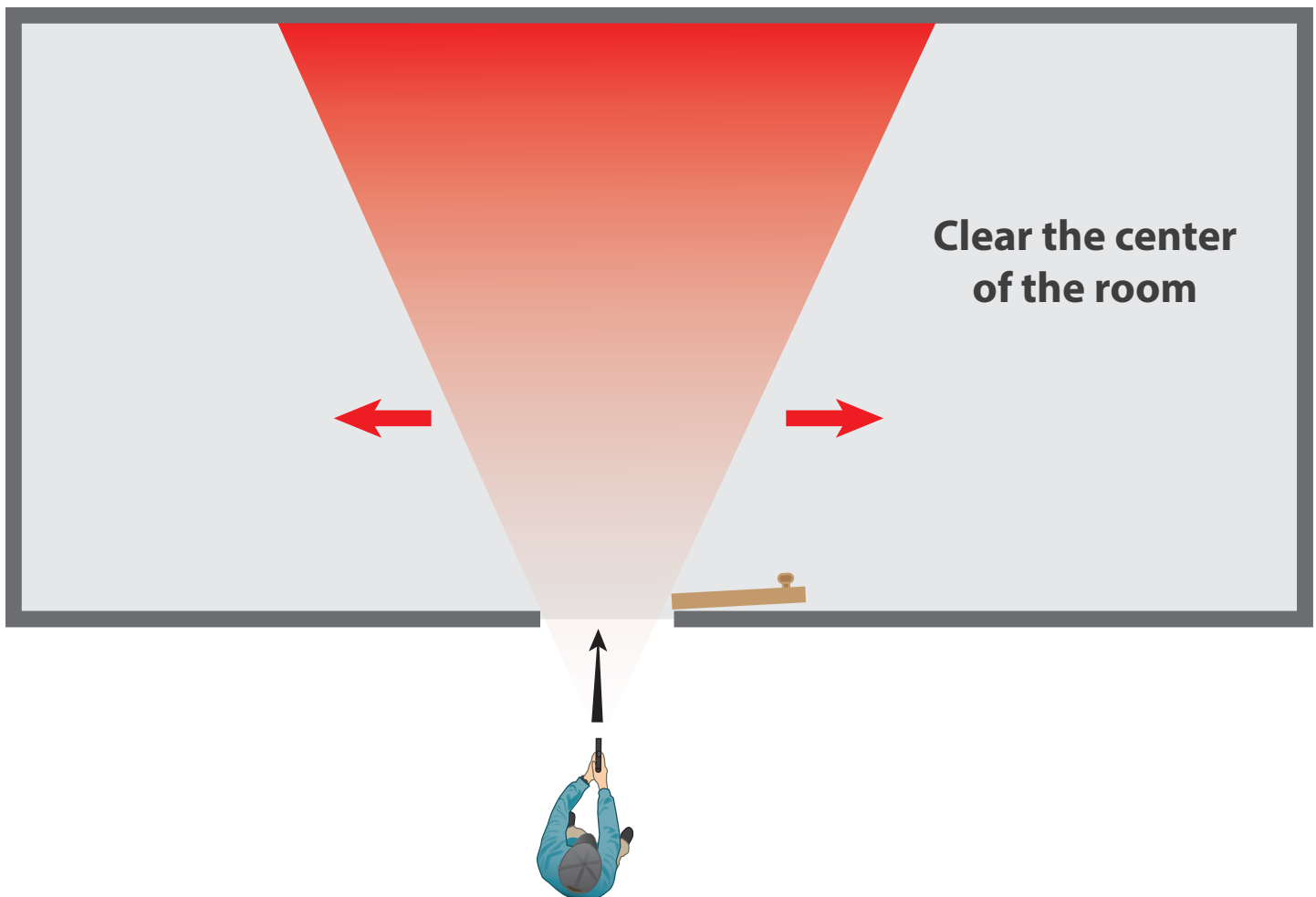
Clearing a corner-fed closed door is very similar to clearing an open door, except you will need to quickly approach and swing the door open before starting the clearing process. The method for approaching and opening the door is exactly the same as for a center-fed room. Open the door and back away quickly to avoid getting hit by indiscriminant fire. Once the door is open, proceed to clear the room in the same manner described for the previous technique.



## CLEAR WITHOUT ENTRY: QUICK CLEAR

### STEP 1 - Clear the Center of the Room

While it is ideal to conduct a full sweep before approaching a doorway, if time is critical or if the room configuration or furniture makes it impossible to conduct the sweep, you can clear a room more quickly simply by approaching the door head-on and then clearing each corner in succession. First, approach the door directly. As you get closer, more and more of the room will come into view as the angle of your vision widens. Stay alert for threats as you approach.

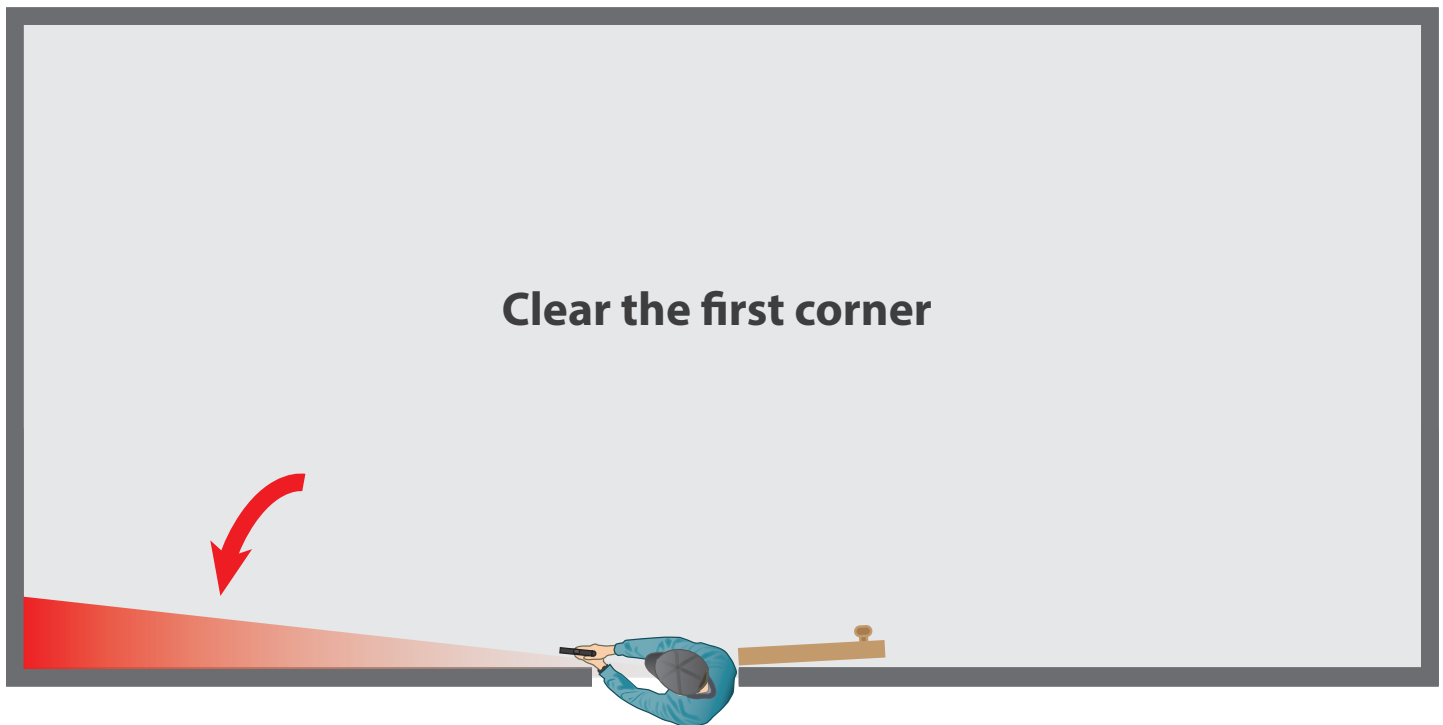




## CLEAR WITHOUT ENTRY: QUICK CLEAR

### STEP 2 - Clear the First Corner

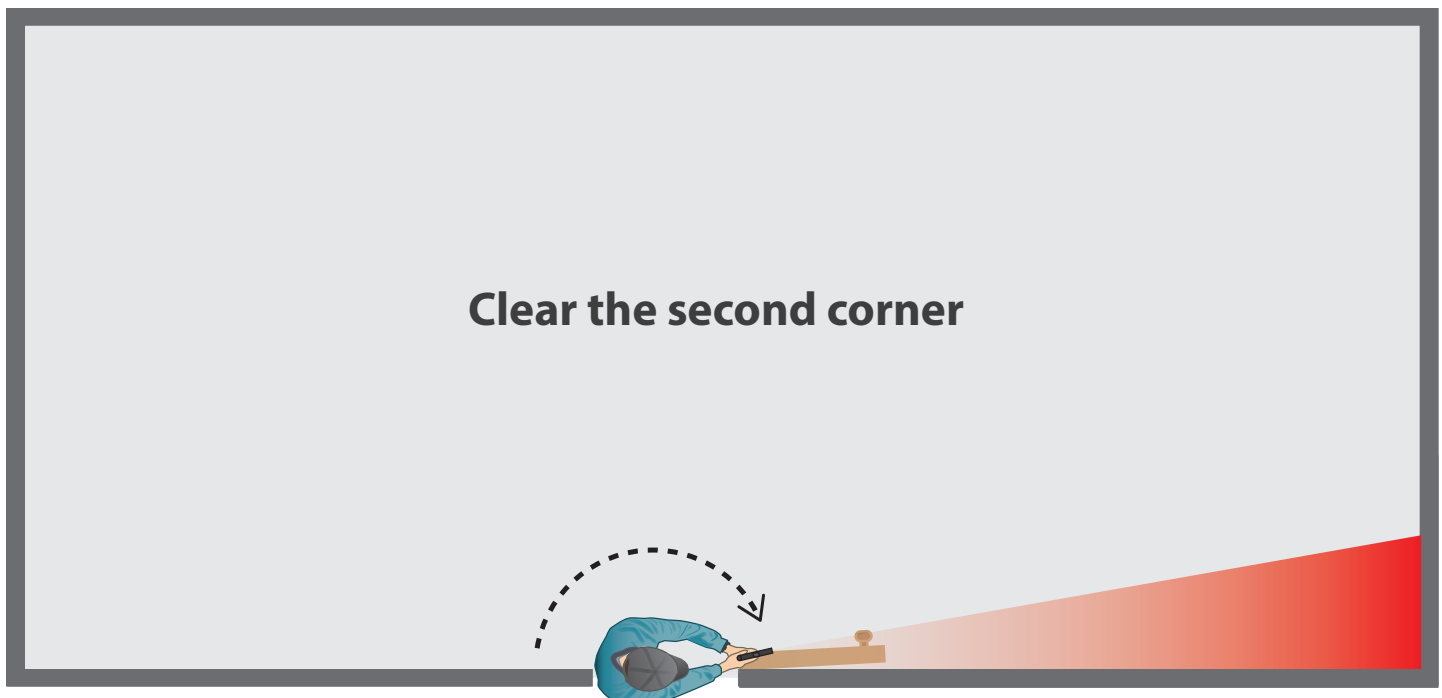
Once you reach the door, quickly turn to clear one of the two corners. If you hear or see signs of a threat in either corner, clear that corner first. Otherwise, it is generally a good idea to clear first in the opposite direction that the door opens since the door can sometimes provide a degree of concealment for your exposed back. Clear the corner quickly and be prepared to turn and clear the opposite corner.



## CLEAR WITHOUT ENTRY: QUICK CLEAR

### STEP 3 - Clear the Second Corner

After you clear the first corner, quickly turn and clear the second corner. With practice, you can learn to rapidly clear both corners in a very short time. Once the second corner is clear, you can leave the room and move on, or you can choose to enter the room and conduct a shallow or deep entry. These entry techniques are described in the next chapters.



# TACTICAL TECHNIQUES

## Single-Room Shallow Entry

---

Another key difference between team operations and single-person operations is that as a single-person, there are many cases when you will not want to penetrate too far into a room. You may want to get into the room quickly to avoid greater exposure in a hallway, but you will want to stay close to the door so you can escape the way you came should more adversaries come at you from adjacent rooms.

The shallow entry techniques (sometimes called “limited penetration” techniques) are designed to prevent you from becoming over-committed or trapped deep in a target room. In single-person operations, it is often better to stay closer to a door so you can quickly move through it to avoid threats coming from either direction. Don’t commit too far into the room and cut off your own route of escape. However, still observe the rule of keeping several meters between you and the door to avoid getting hit by indiscriminate fire.

If there is a lot of furniture and uncleared dead space in the room, the shallow entry can make you vulnerable since you have not gone deep enough to see if anyone is hiding behind the furniture. In this situation, you might want

to penetrate deeper and clear the entire room using the deep entry technique described later on.

It is also advisable to go on and complete the deep entry if you plan on staying in the room for any length of time. In general, the shallow entry is most useful if you want to quickly enter and clear the room to momentarily get out of an exposed area or hallway. Once you are ready to keep moving, you will exit the room and move along to clear the next room.

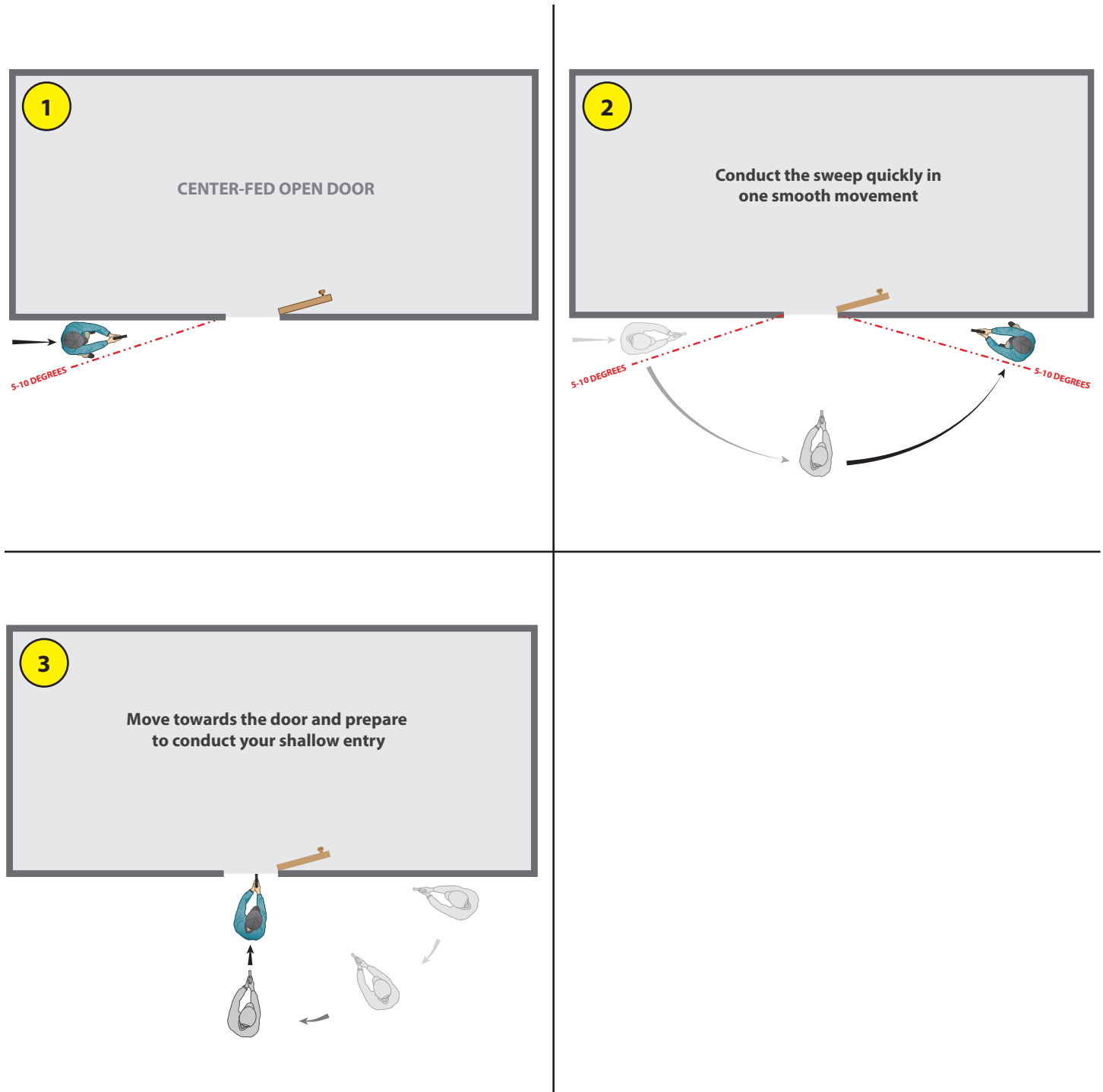
The shallow entry techniques begin with the same sweep technique used for the clear without entry. If time is critical, you can perform any of the shallow entry techniques immediately without first conducting the sweep. However, eliminating the sweep greatly increases the level of risk during the clearing process.

The shallow entry techniques also call for a 180-degree kneeling pivot movement. If you have trouble conducting this movement it is possible to execute the shallow entry techniques without kneeling, though kneeling helps reduce your risk of getting shot by an adversary hiding in the corner of the room.

# SHALLOW ENTRY: CENTER-FED OPEN DOOR

## STEPS 1 to 3 - Sweep and Move Towards the Door

This technique begins with conducting the same steps as directed for the “clear without entry” technique. Therefore, position yourself near the wall several meters from the door and conduct your sweep all the way across the open door until you reach the opposite side. Then, conduct a half-sweep in the opposite direction until you are facing the open door. Then, move towards the door just as you did in previous techniques.

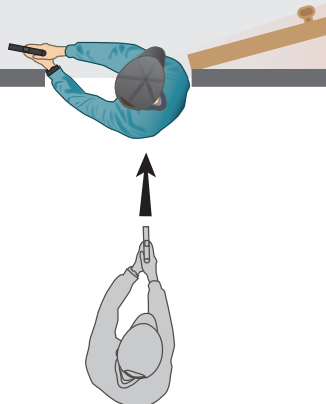


## SHALLOW ENTRY: CENTER-FED OPEN DOOR

### STEP 4 - Quick-Look Opposite the Direction of Clear

As you approach the doorway begin to orient your weapon in the direction you are going to clear first. If the door opens inward, it is generally best to clear in the opposite direction of the door, unless you detect noise, movement or light coming from the opposite side. As you break the plane of the door, give a quick look over your shoulder in the direction opposite the direction you are clearing. Then look back in the direction your weapon is pointing and clear that corner. While it might not seem logical to look over your shoulder, away from the direction your weapon is pointing, repeated practice will show you that this move actually makes it easier to hit targets in each corner. If you do not get in the habit of looking over your shoulder when you enter the room, it is very easy to get "sucked in" and focus completely on the first corner and be slow to pivot and clear the opposite corner. Looking over the shoulder takes only a fraction of a second and gives you a quick snapshot of any adversaries in that corner, which makes it much easier for you to identify them and engage them after you turn. The movement is similar to quickly looking both ways before crossing the street or checking oncoming traffic before making a turn at an intersection.

**As you break the plane of the doorway quickly glance over your shoulder in the opposite direction you are clearing**

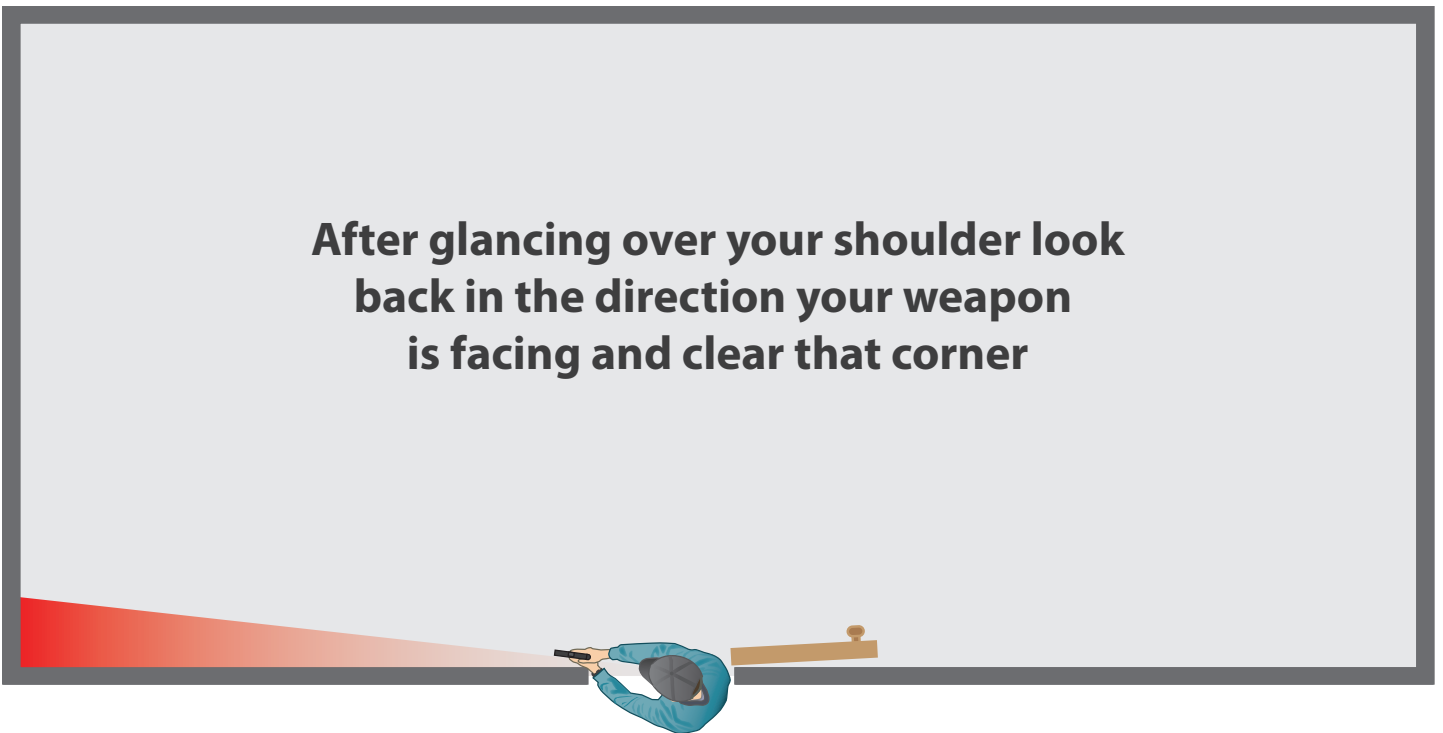


## SHALLOW ENTRY: CENTER-FED OPEN DOOR

### STEP 5 - Corner Clear

After glancing over your shoulder, look back in the direction your weapon is pointing and clear that corner as you move into the room.

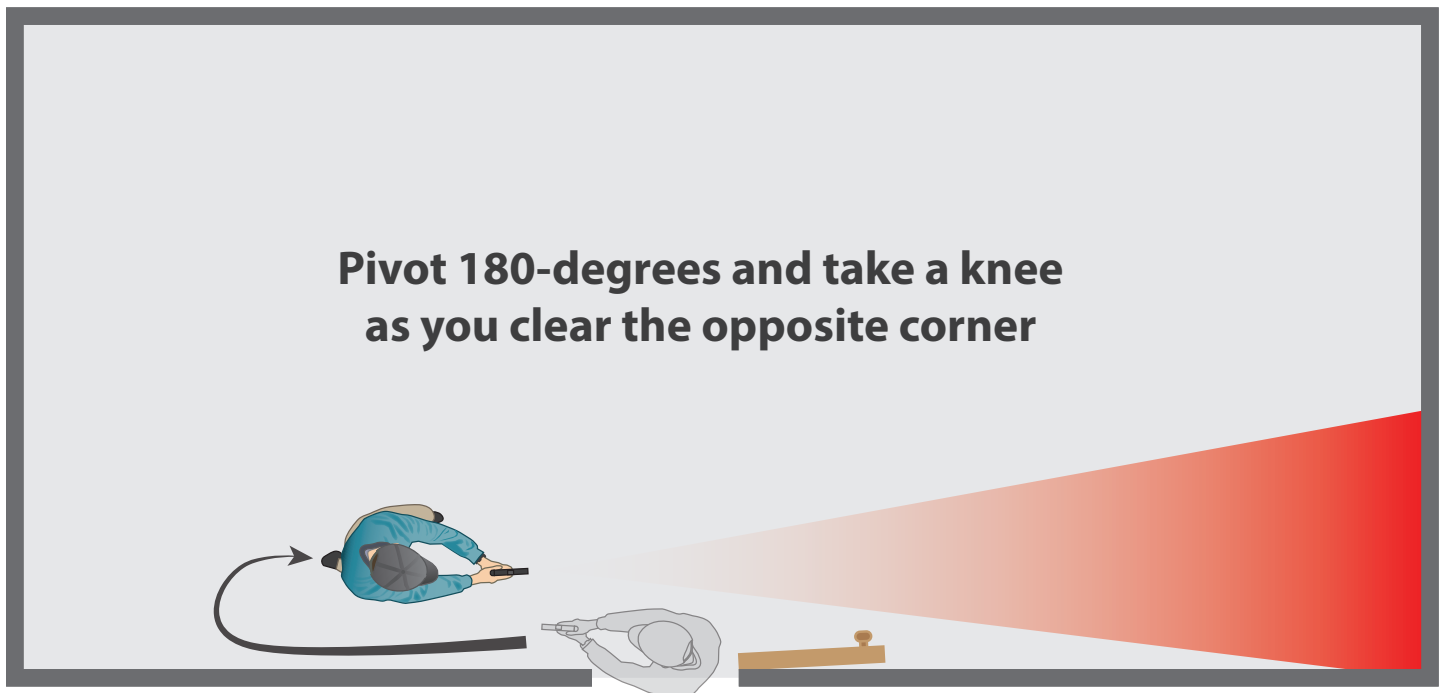
**After glancing over your shoulder look  
back in the direction your weapon  
is facing and clear that corner**



## SHALLOW ENTRY: CENTER-FED OPEN DOOR

### STEP 6 - Kneeling Pivot

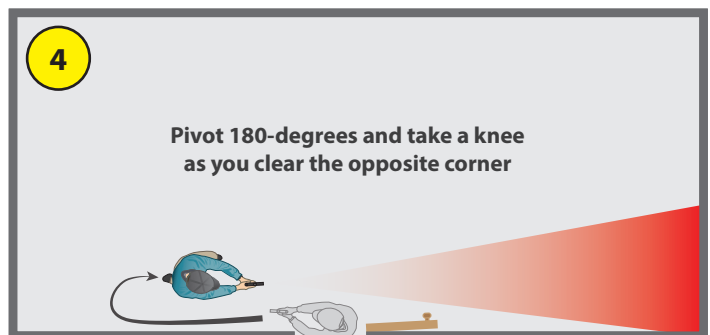
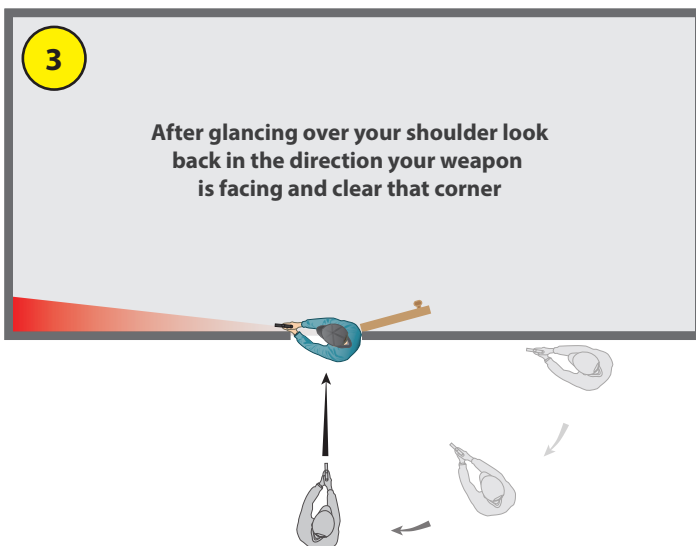
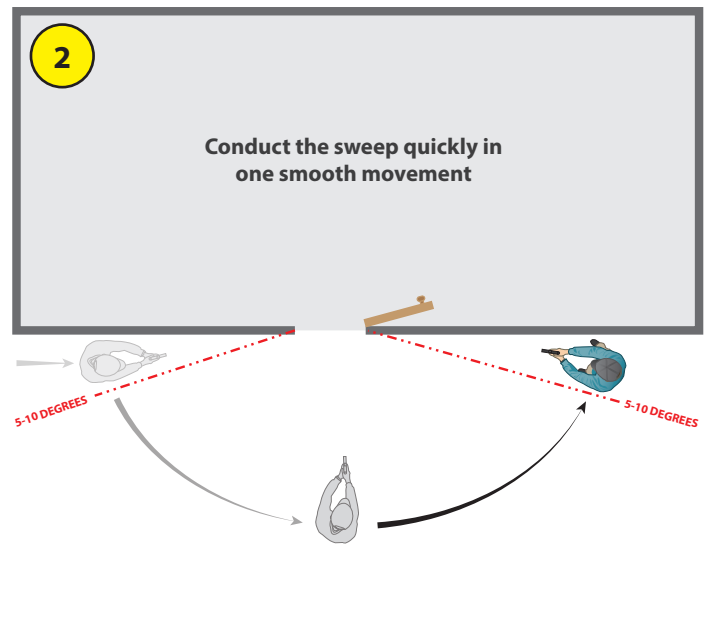
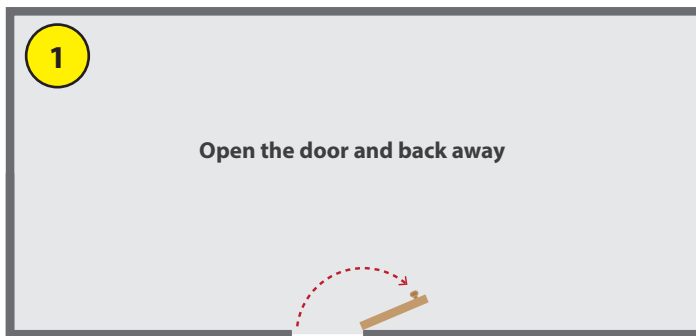
From here, pivot 180-degrees, turning towards the direction of the room and clear the opposite corner. If possible, drop to a knee or squat down while you conduct this movement. Dropping to a knee or squatting makes you more difficult to hit in the event that there is an adversary in the corner who was about to shoot you in the back as you entered the room. You would see this adversary when you glanced over your shoulder, coming into the room. That initial snapshot will make it easier to engage the adversary as you turn. Once you have cleared both corners, remain in the room and back away from the door slightly.



# SHALLOW ENTRY: CENTER-FED CLOSED DOOR

## STEPS 1 to 4 - Complete Sequence

The technique for entering a center-fed closed door is almost the same as the technique for the open door except that you will need to open the door yourself, just as you did in previous techniques. Keep your distance from the door, approach quickly to open it and then step back to create distance. Then conduct your sweep and move in to execute the shallow entry technique as described above.

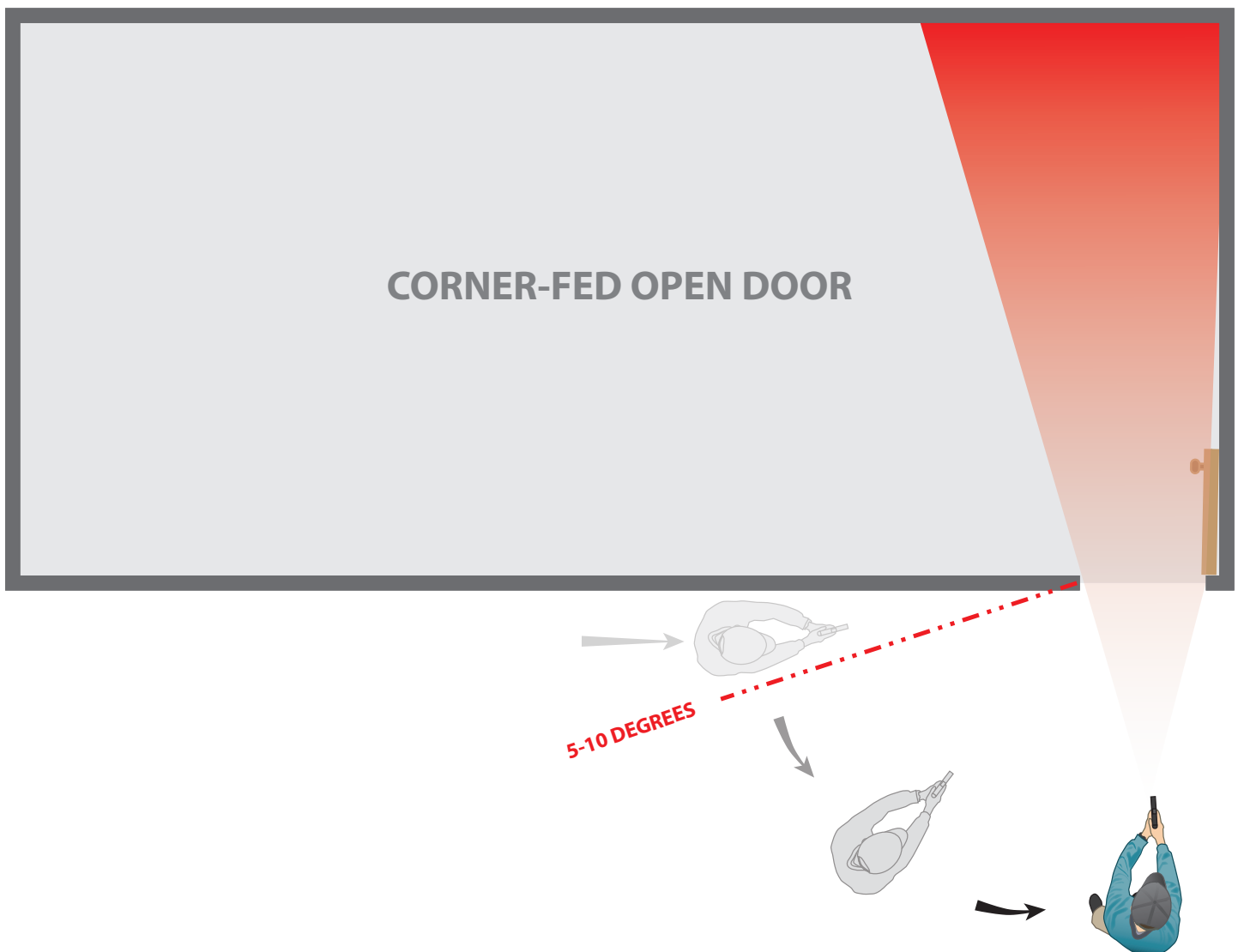




# SHALLOW ENTRY: CORNER-FED OPEN DOOR

## STEP 1 - Half-Sweep

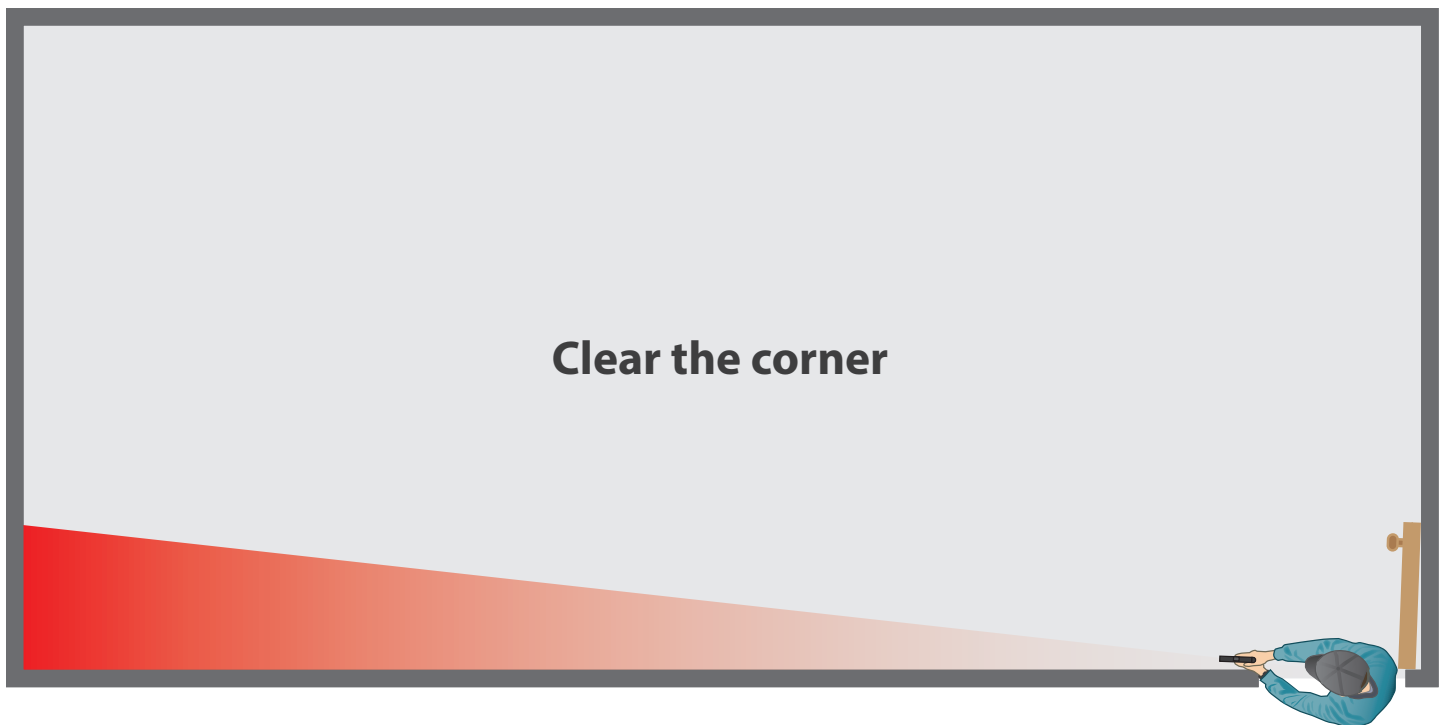
Entering a corner-fed open door is similar to entering a center-fed open door. First, conduct your half-sweep. As you approach the door and prepare to make entry, begin to focus your attention towards the remaining uncleared corner.



## SHALLOW ENTRY: CORNER-FED OPEN DOOR

### STEP 2 - Clear the Corner

As you break the plane of the door, clear the corner as you move into the room.

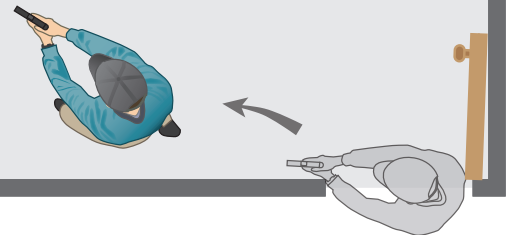


## SHALLOW ENTRY: CORNER-FED OPEN DOOR

### STEP 3 - Enter the Room

After entering the room, position yourself in a good defensive position within a few meters of the door and cover in the direction of the most likely threat. In some cases this will mean turning around to provide rear security on the door you just came through.

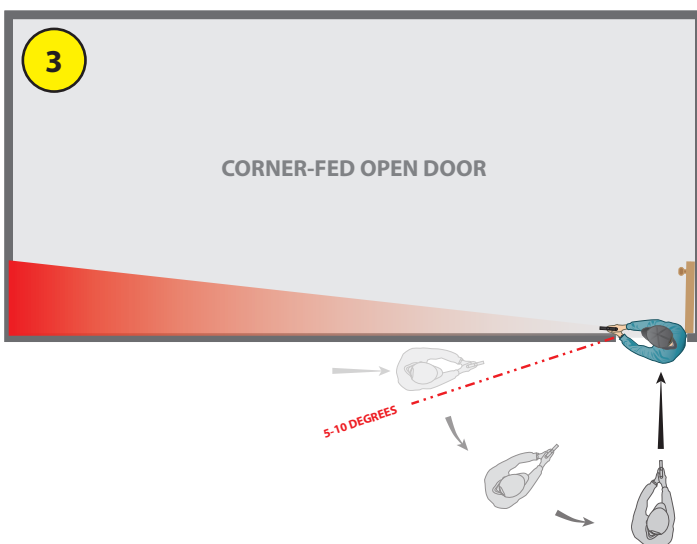
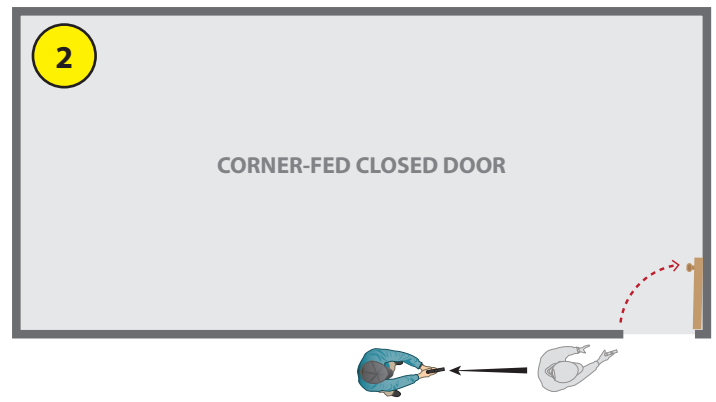
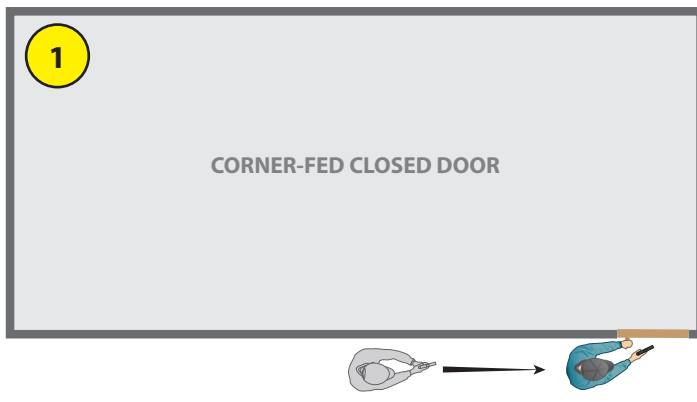
**Enter the room and turn to face the  
direction of greatest threat**



# SHALLOW ENTRY: CORNER-FED CLOSED DOOR

## STEPS 1 to 4 - Complete Sequence

Entering a corner-fed closed door is similar to entering an open door, except you will need to quickly approach and swing the door open before starting the clearing process. Open the door and back away quickly to avoid getting hit by indiscriminate fire. Once the door is open, proceed to clear the room in the same manner described for the previous technique.



# TACTICAL TECHNIQUES

## Single-Room Deep Entry

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While shallow entry helps you avoid getting overly committed in the room and keeps you close to your path of escape, there are situations where you will want to clear the room completely. This is of particular importance in situations where you plan to remain in the room for an extended period of time, use the room as a safe area for family members, or if there is a lot of furniture in the room. Deep entry involves penetrating fully into the room, clearing behind furniture and ensuring no adversaries are hiding behind the door.

When conducting deep entry techniques, penetrate only as far into the room as you need to. The advantages of staying close to the door still apply. Therefore, unless there is furniture or dead space deep in the room, conduct your clearing movement relatively close to the door. As described earlier, you can also start by conducting a shallow entry and then move on to a deep entry once you have

had time to assess the layout of the room and the situation.

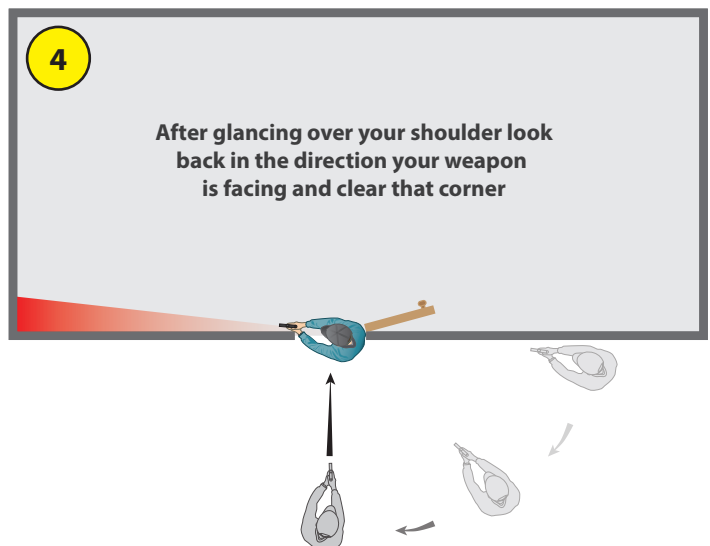
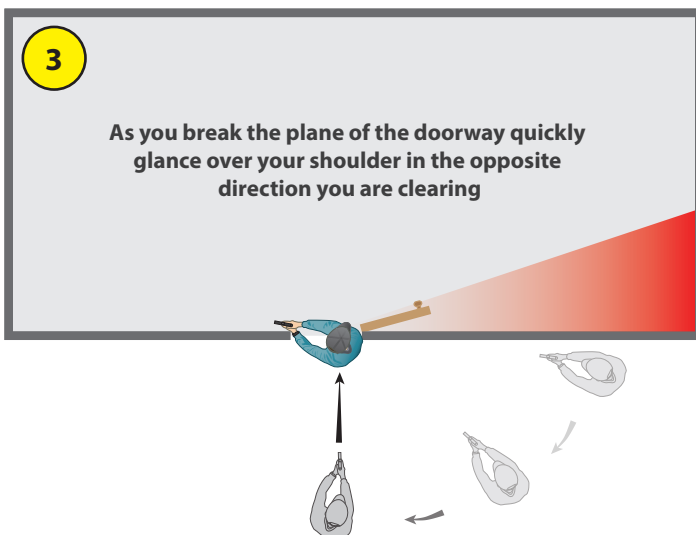
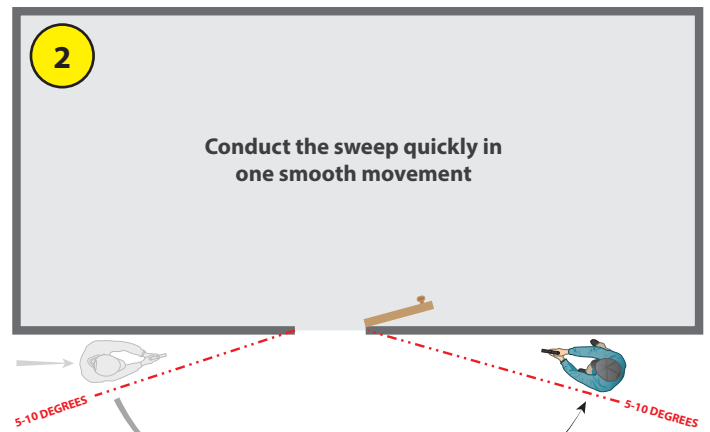
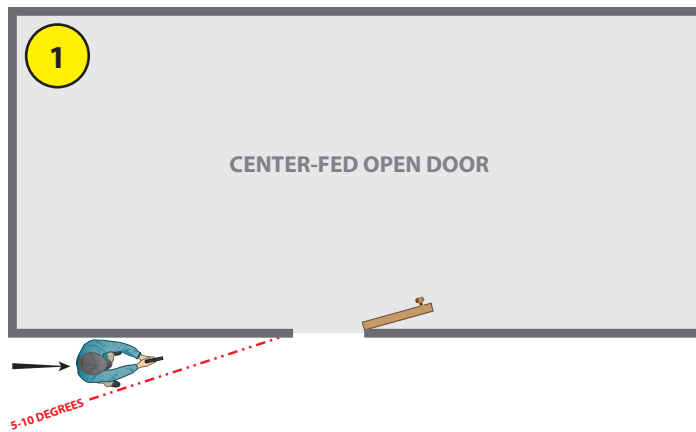
When executing the deep entry, try to move as quickly as possible. You will be sacrificing some of your shooting accuracy in order to reduce your vulnerability. If there are multiple threats in the room, you will be extremely vulnerable as soon as you pass through the door and your best option is to move quickly enough so adversaries find it difficult to target you. Still, while speed is important, do not move so fast that you will trip over objects in the room or completely lose your ability to shoot accurately.

In most rooms, the furniture is located near the walls. Therefore, when conducting the deep entry and moving along the wall you may need to adjust your path or scan to deal with various furniture configurations. There are no fixed formulas or solutions, so use your common sense.

## DEEP ENTRY: CENTER-FED OPEN DOOR

### STEPS 1 to 4 - Sweep and Clear the Corner

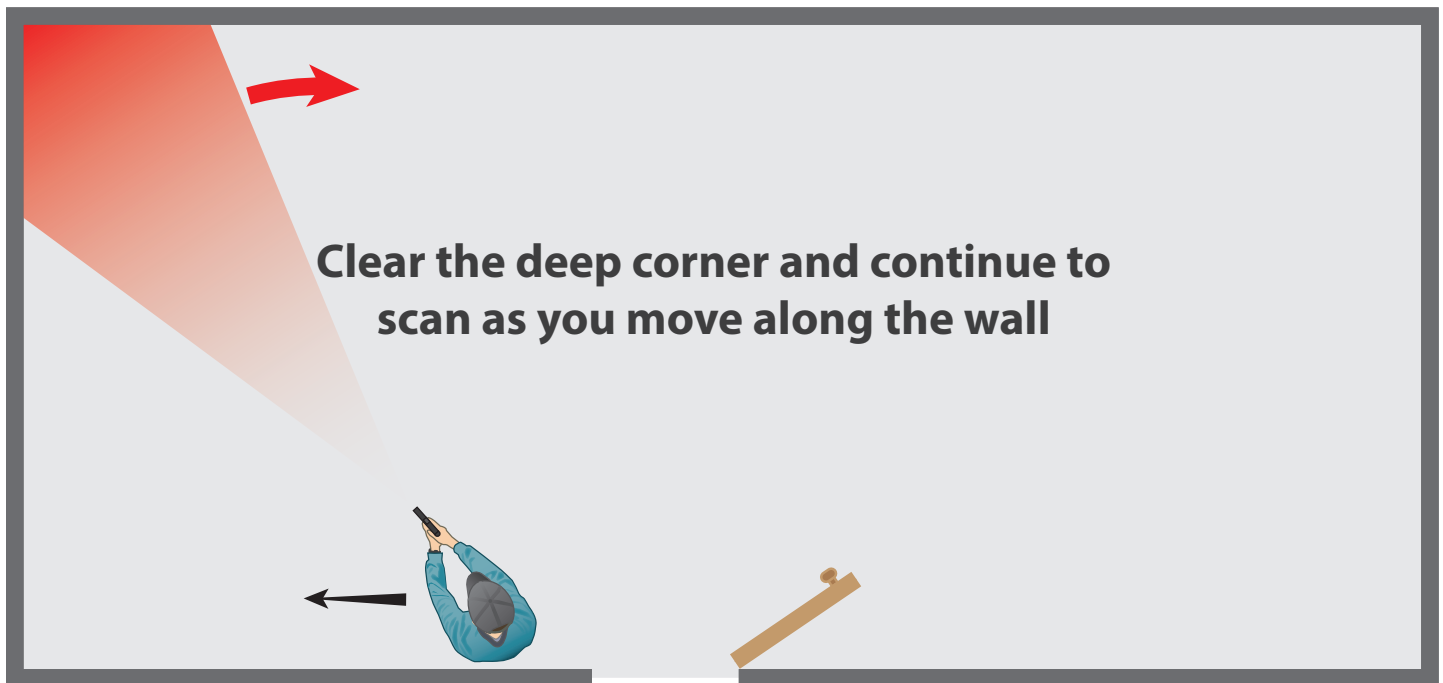
Position yourself near the wall several meters from the door and conduct your sweep all the way across the open door until you reach the opposite side. Then, conduct a half-sweep in the opposite direction until you are facing the open door. Move towards the door and enter the room just as you did in the shallow entry, looking quickly over your shoulder in the opposite direction you are moving, then clearing your corner.



## DEEP ENTRY: CENTER-FED OPEN DOOR

### STEP 5 - Scan and Clear the Deep Corner

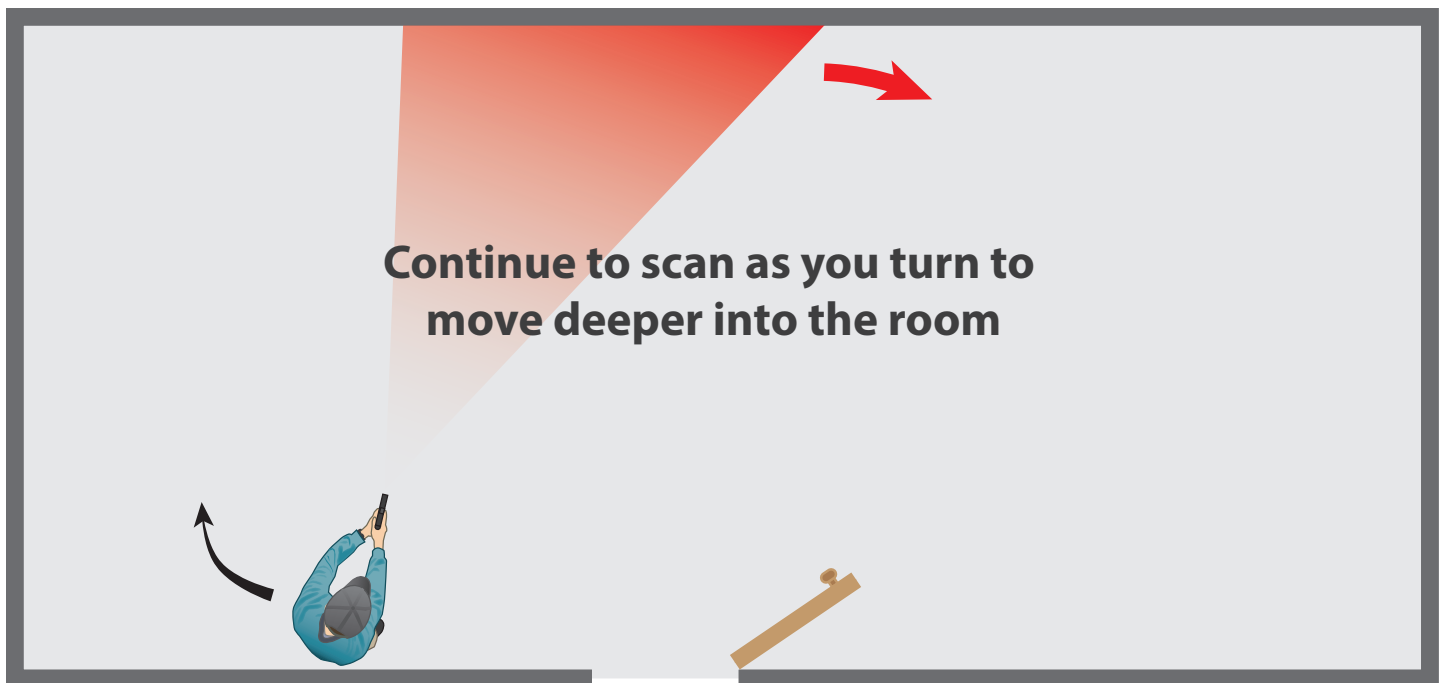
For the deep entry, the quick look over the shoulder is even more important. If you look over your shoulder and see a possible adversary, immediately switch to the shallow entry technique to address the threat, pivoting 180-degrees and dropping to a knee. If you do not see an adversary over your shoulder continue to move into the room along the wall while you scan towards the deep corner.



## DEEP ENTRY: CENTER-FED OPEN DOOR

### STEP 6 - Continue Your Scan

Continue your scan as you start to move away from the wall, penetrating deeper into the room. Moving in an arc like this will give you the best angle to see behind any objects or furniture in the room where adversaries might be hiding.

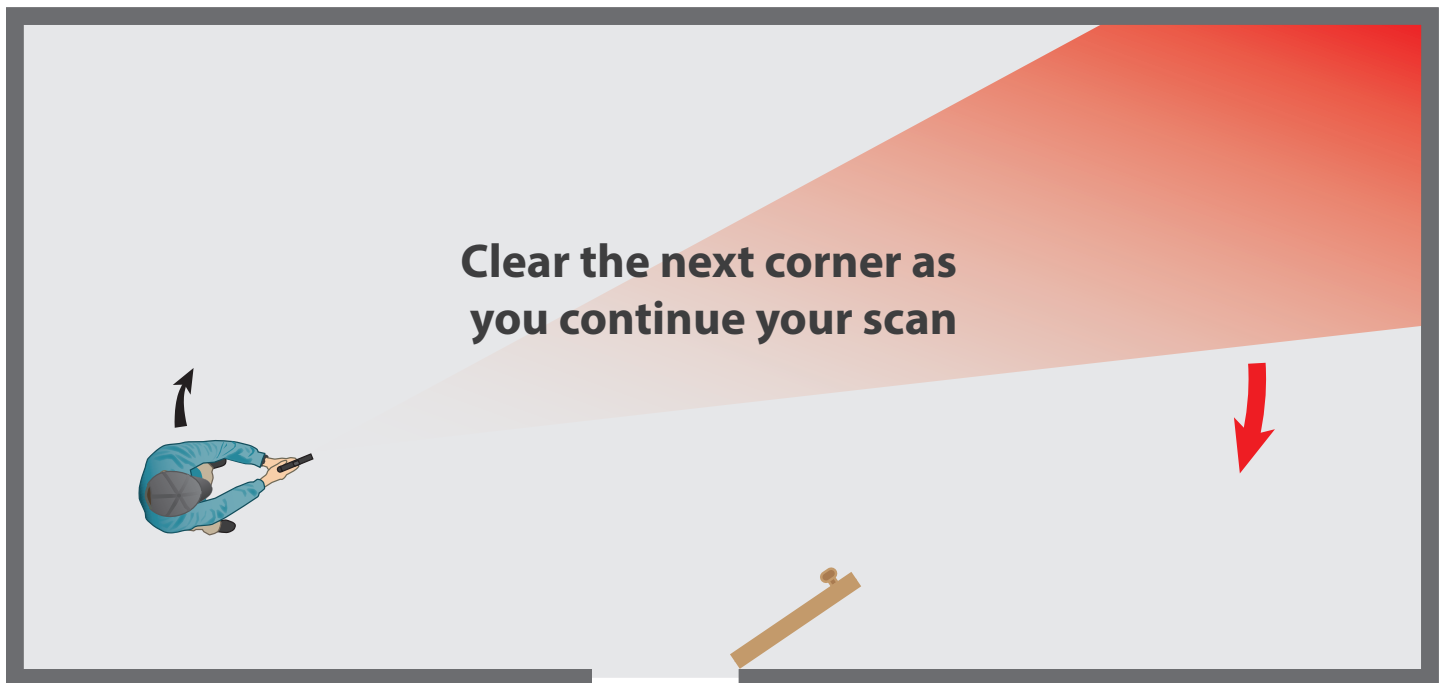




## DEEP ENTRY: CENTER-FED OPEN DOOR

### STEP 7 - Scan to Clear the Next Deep Corner

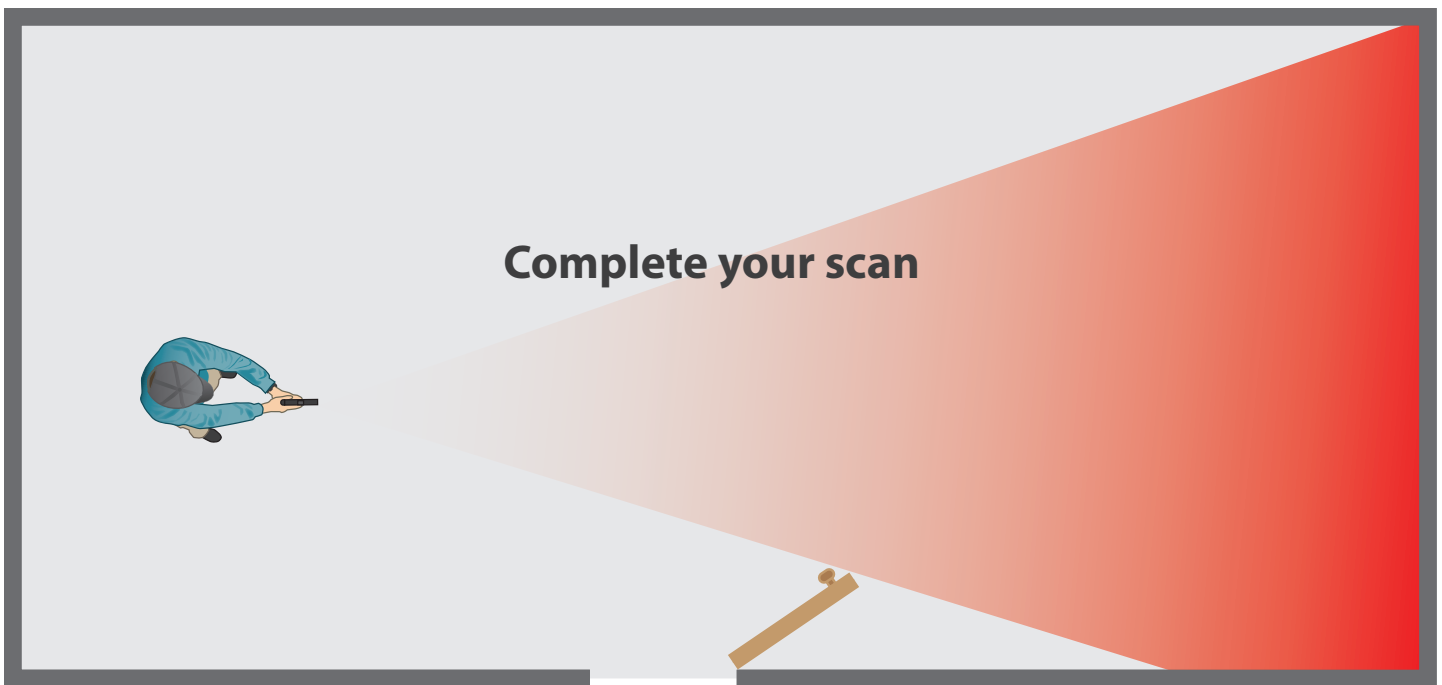
Continue to scan to the next deep corner as you move further into the room. However, only move as deep into the room as necessary in order to clear behind objects and furniture. In general, it is best to use a smaller arc and stay closer to the door in case you need to make a quick exit.



## DEEP ENTRY: CENTER-FED OPEN DOOR

### STEP 8 - Complete Your Scan

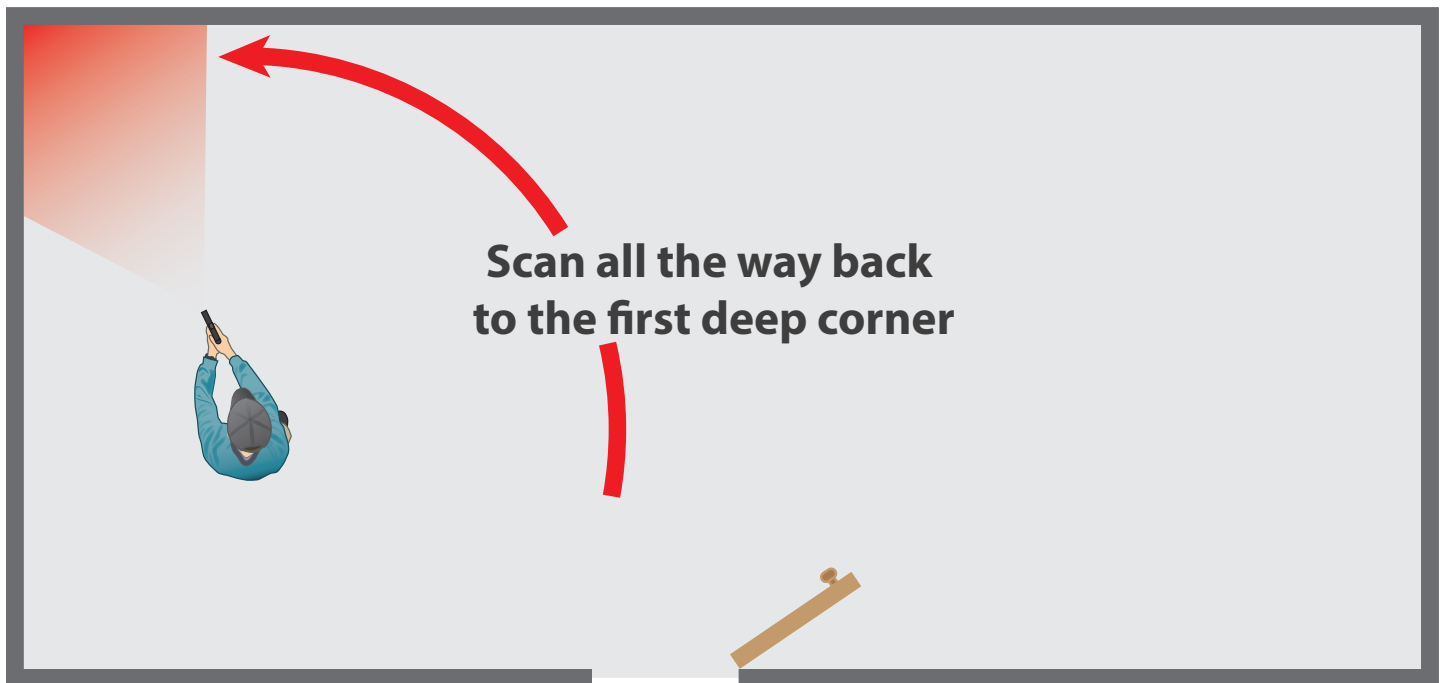
Continue to scan all the way around to the doorway you entered through. Be sure to penetrate deep enough to clear behind objects and furniture in the room. At this point the room is clear except for the dead space behind the door.



## DEEP ENTRY: CENTER-FED OPEN DOOR

### STEP 9 - Scan Back to the First Deep Corner

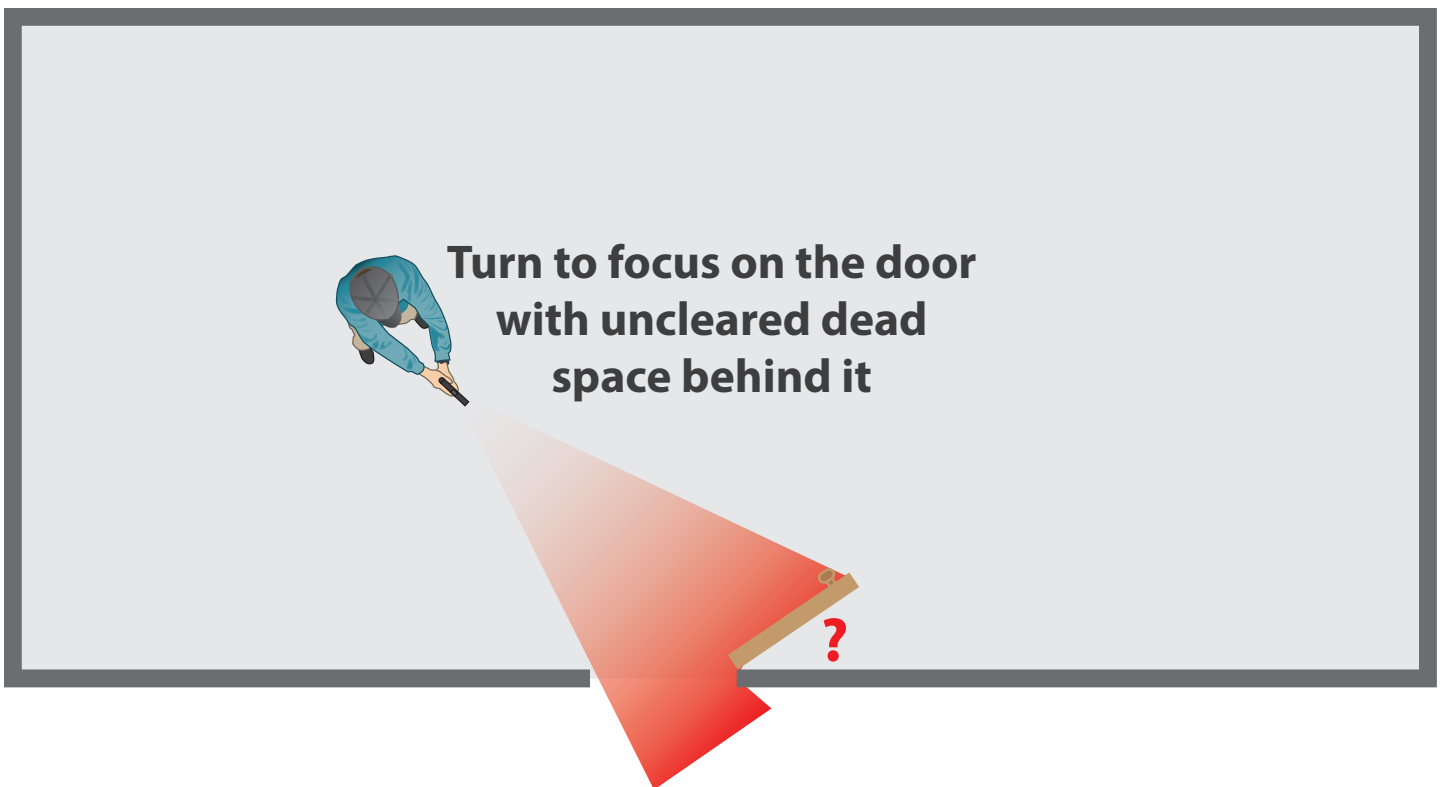
Before moving deeper into the room to check the door, complete a secondary scan all the way back to the deep corner closest to you. This second scan ensures you have checked behind all objects and furniture in the room before you expose your back to potential threats by penetrating deeper into the room. Highly experienced individuals may eliminate this second scan if time is critical. However, it is always a good idea to take extra precautions given how easy it is to make mistakes in a stressful combat environment.



## DEEP ENTRY: CENTER-FED OPEN DOOR

### STEP 10 - Focus on the Door

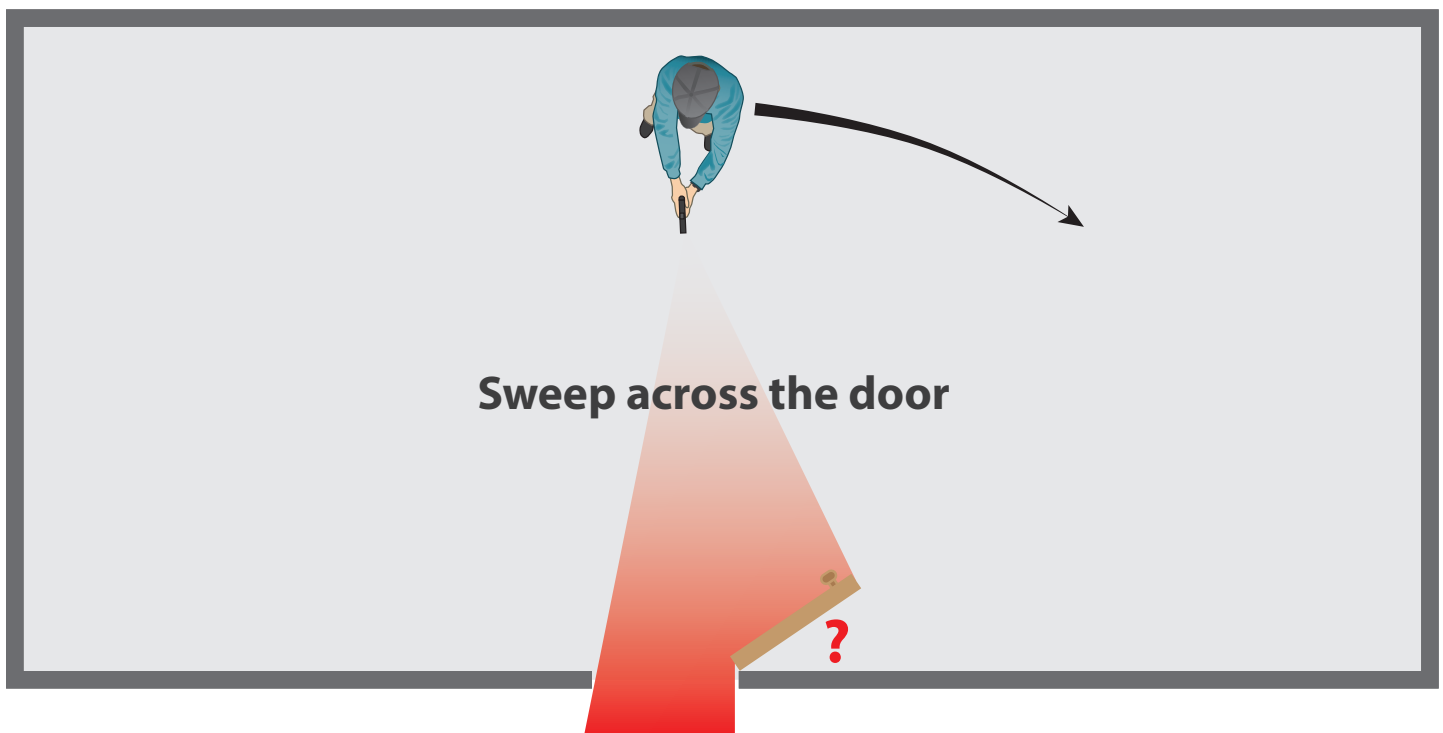
Once you have completed your second scan, turn to focus on the door and the uncleared dead space behind it. Be prepared to engage an adversary who jumps out from behind the door. Obviously, this step is only needed if the door opens inward. Also, if the door is completely flush with the wall and there is no way to hide behind it, you may skip this step if time is critical. However, it is possible for smaller adversaries to flatten themselves tightly to the wall behind the door. In other cases, buildings are designed in a way that leaves a small space or indentation behind the door. Finally, in a high-stress situation, you may think the door is flush against the wall when it actually is not. Because of these factors it is always preferable to check behind the door.



## DEEP ENTRY: CENTER-FED OPEN DOOR

### STEP 11 - Sweep to Clear Behind the Door

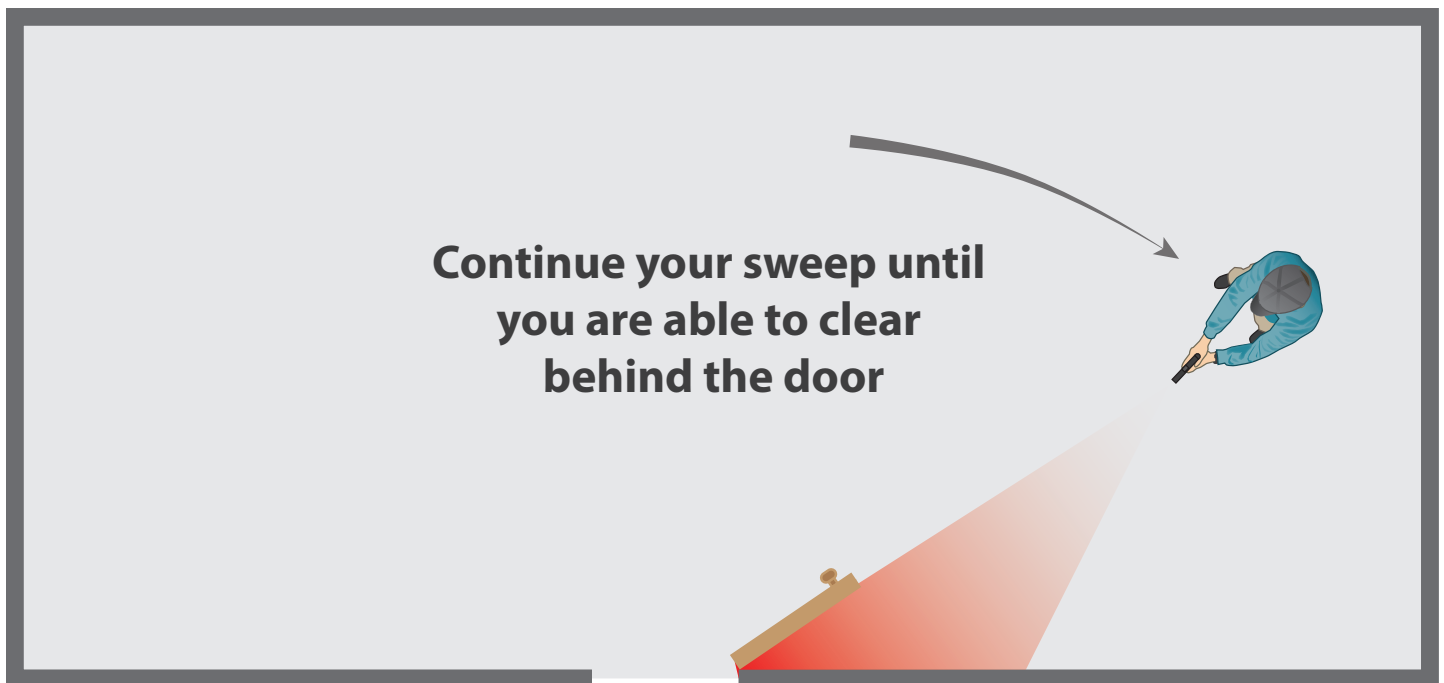
Begin to sweep deeper into the room, keeping your focus on the door and the space behind it. The angle of the door will determine how wide a sweep you will have to conduct in order to check behind the door. While moving through the room, watch your step and move carefully to avoid tripping over furniture or objects lying on the ground.



## DEEP ENTRY: CENTER-FED OPEN DOOR

### STEP 12 - Clear Behind the Door

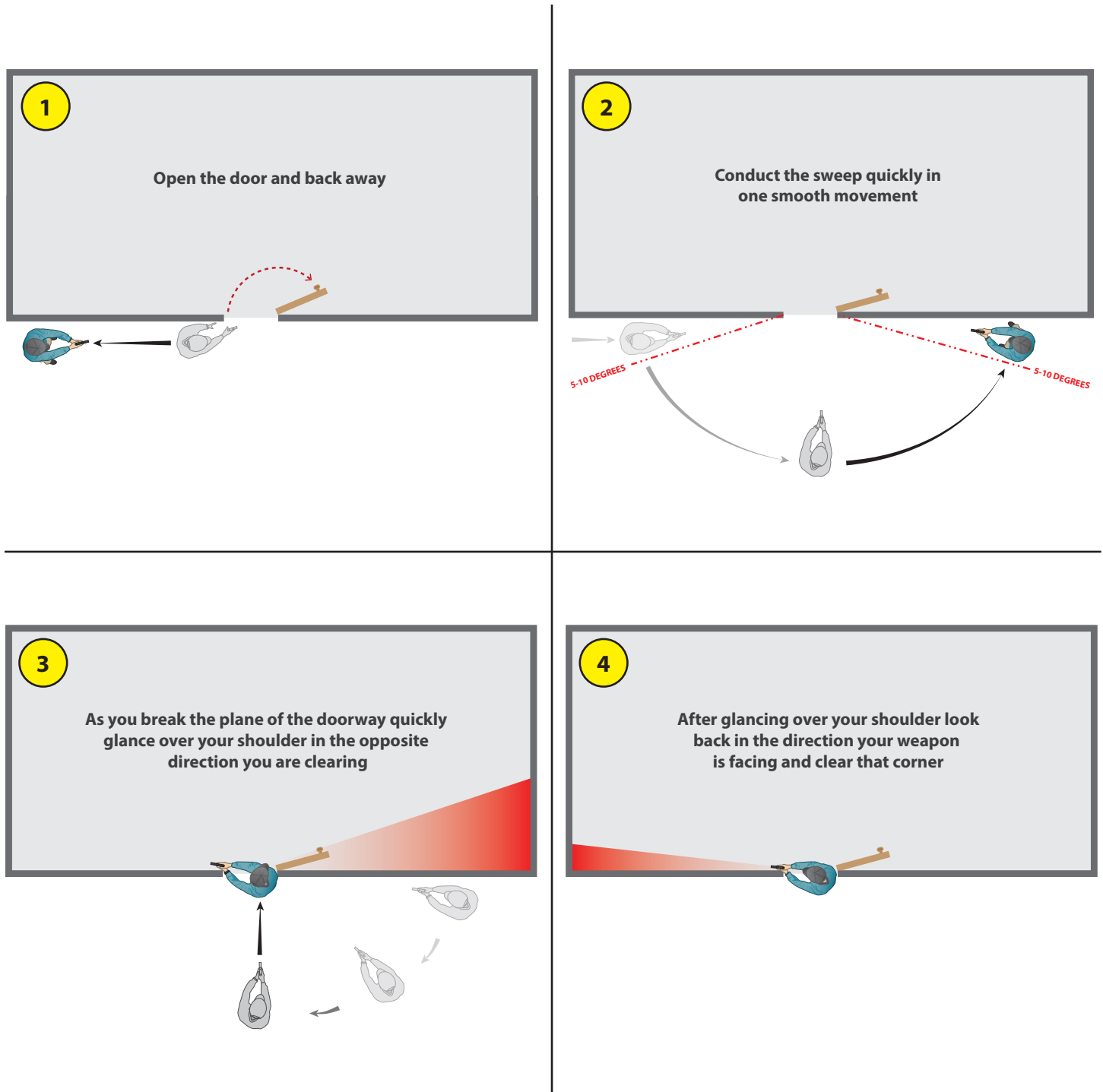
Continue your sweep until you are able to clear behind the door. If furniture blocks you from moving far enough to see behind the door, you may have to approach the door and quickly move it away from the wall with your non-firing hand. If you do this, be sure to back away quickly to prevent anyone who is hiding behind the door from rushing you and grabbing your weapon. At this point the room is clear.



# DEEP ENTRY: CENTER-FED CLOSED DOOR

## STEPS 1 to 4 - Sweep and Clear the Corner

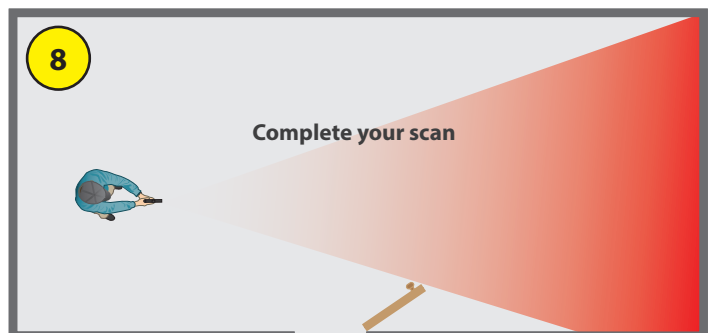
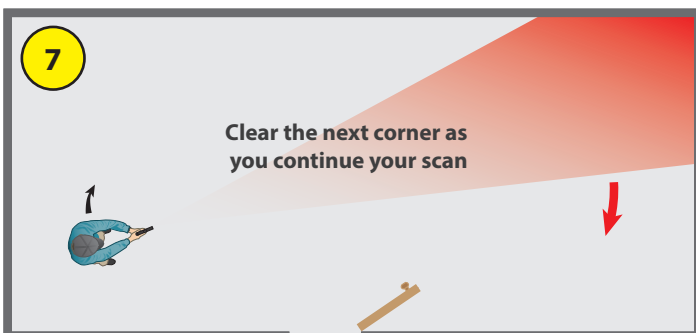
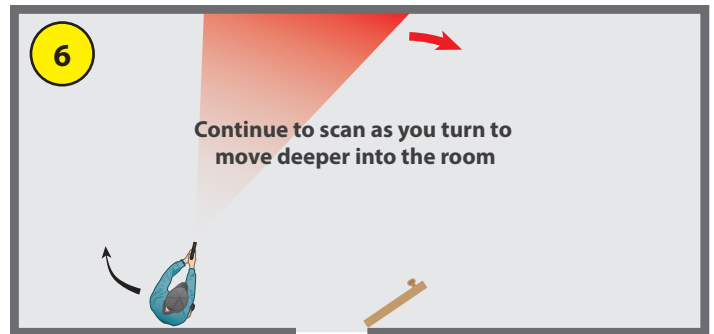
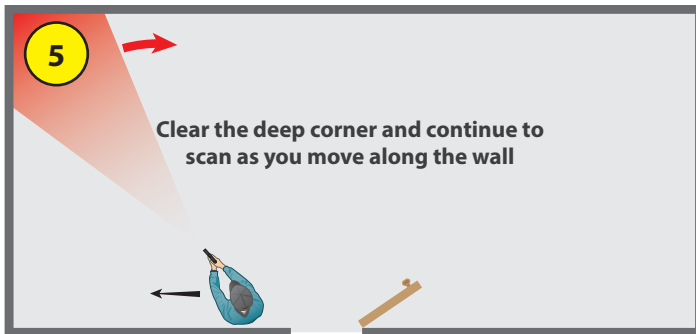
The technique for entering a center-fed closed door is the same as the technique for the open door except that you will need to open the door yourself, just as you did in all the other previous techniques. Keep your distance from the door, approach quickly to open it and then step back to create distance. Then conduct your sweep and move in to execute the deep entry technique as described above.



## DEEP ENTRY: CENTER-FED CLOSED DOOR

### STEPS 5 to 8 - Complete Your Scan

After looking over your shoulder and clearing your corner, continue to scan in the direction of the room as you move along the wall, then turn to penetrate deeper into the room as you continue to scan until your weapon reaches the door you entered through.

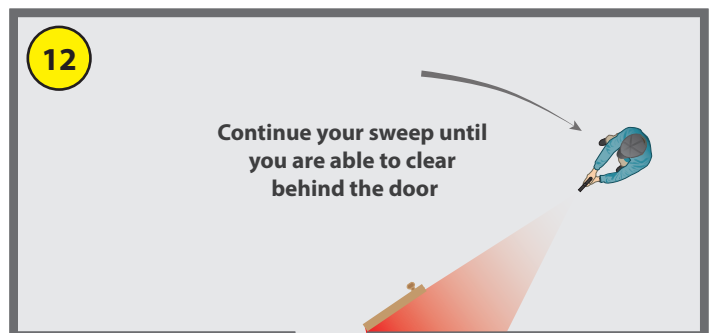
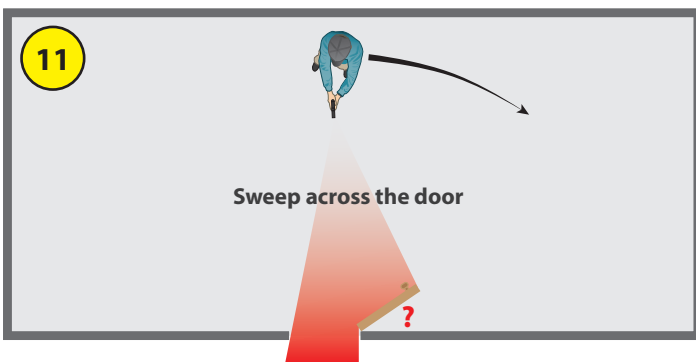
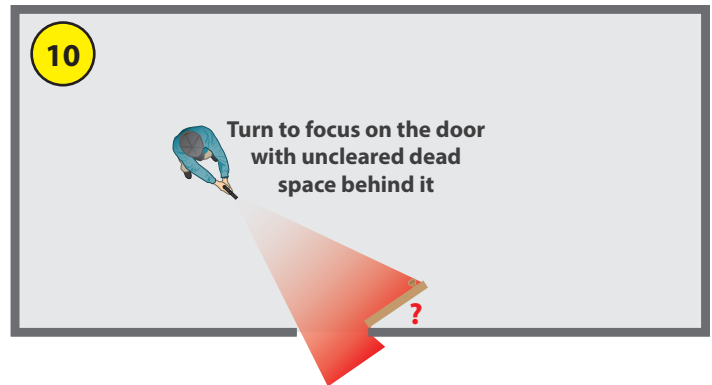
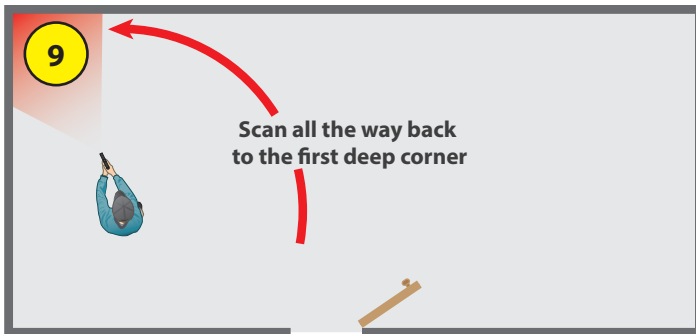




# DEEP ENTRY: CENTER-FED CLOSED DOOR

## STEPS 9 to 12 - Check Behind the Door

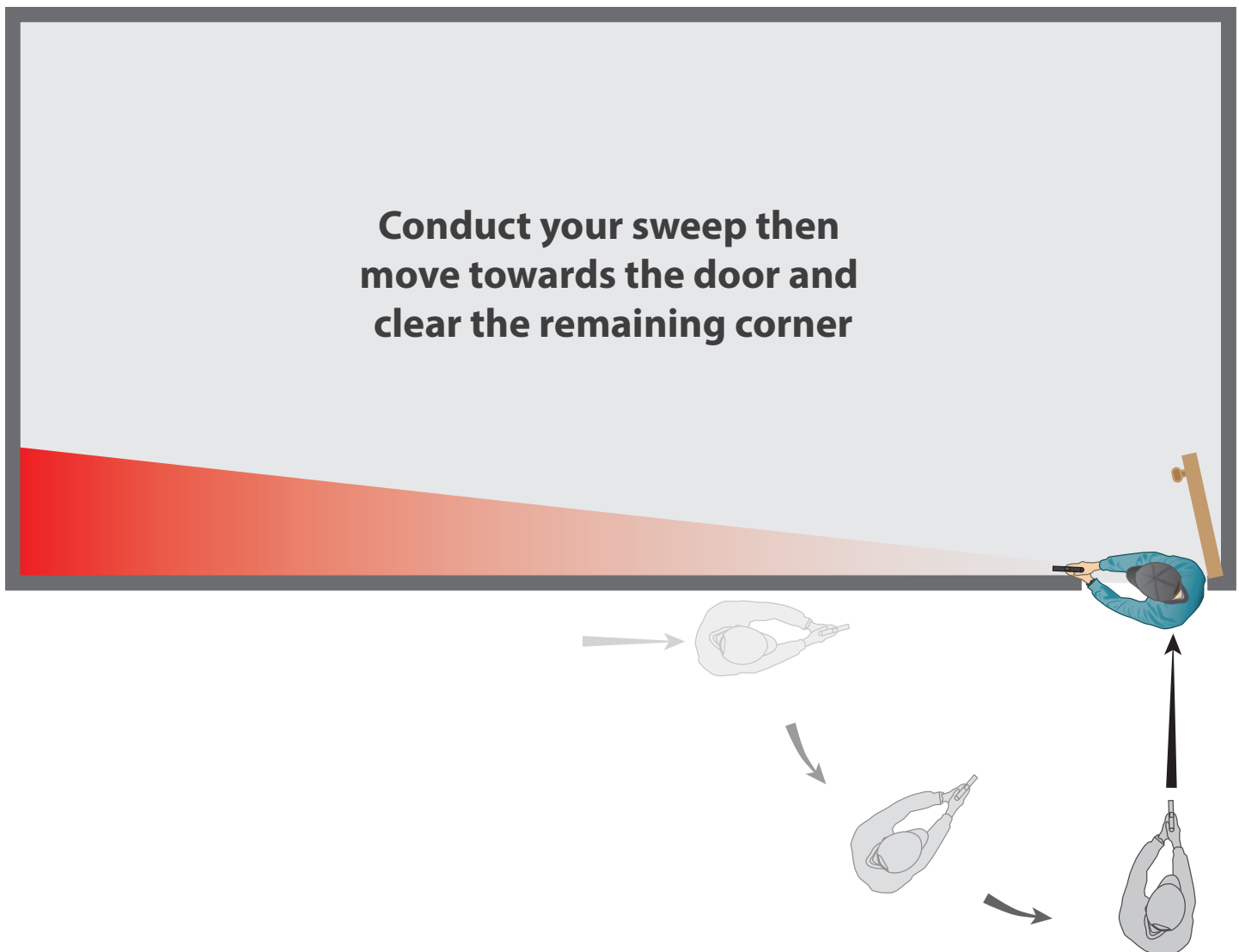
After completing your scan, conduct the second scan back to the deep corner nearest to you. Once the second scan is complete, focus on the door and the uncleared dead space behind it. Sweep around to clear behind the door.



## DEEP ENTRY: CORNER-FED OPEN DOOR

### STEP 1 - Sweep and Clear the Corner

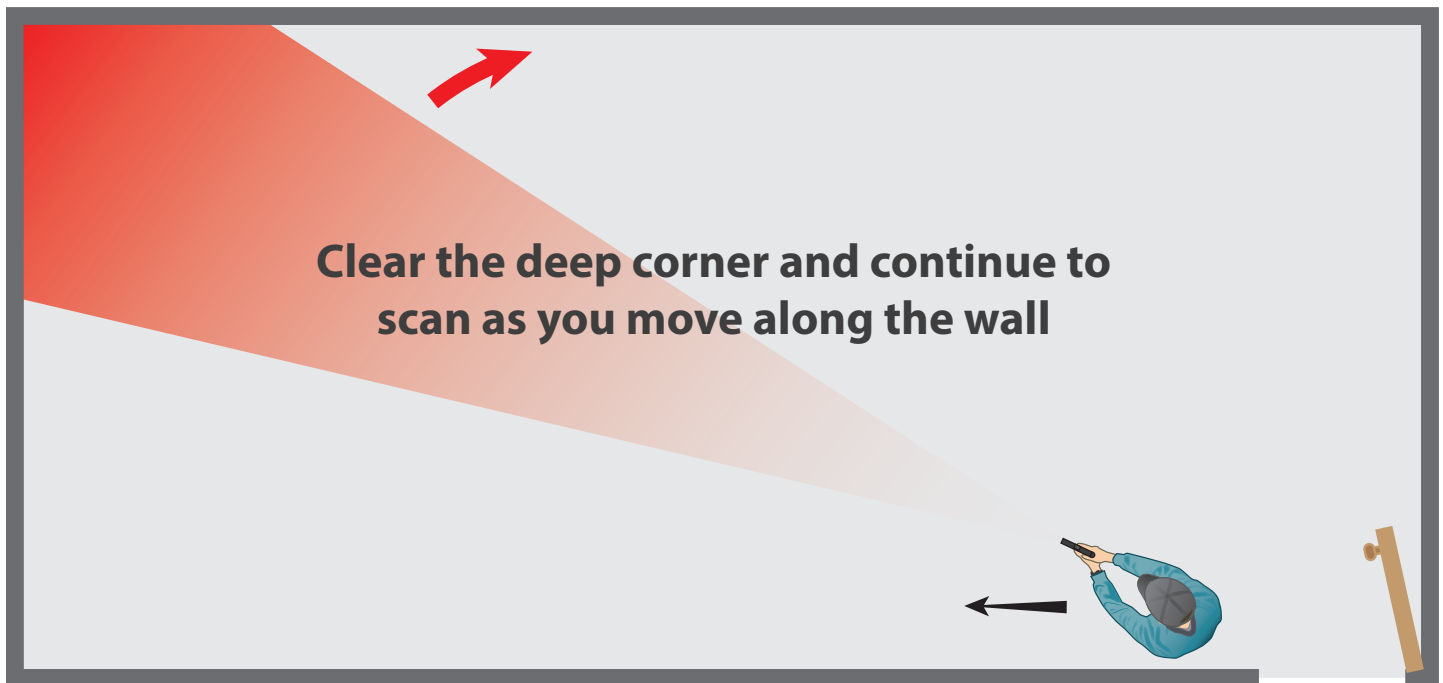
Conduct your half-sweep and move towards the door to clear your corner. At this point, it is possible to slam the door against the wall to ensure no one is hiding behind it. However, it is preferable not to touch the door and stay focused on possible threats within the room since slamming the door will require attention and energy. The threats facing you in the room should be your primary focus. Also, if there is someone hiding behind the door, slamming it might provoke an immediate physical confrontation when the adversary is close to you and can grab your weapon. Given these factors it might be better to move away from the door into the room as quickly as possible or conduct a shallow entry.



## DEEP ENTRY: CORNER-FED OPEN DOOR

### STEP 2 - Scan and Clear the Deep Corner

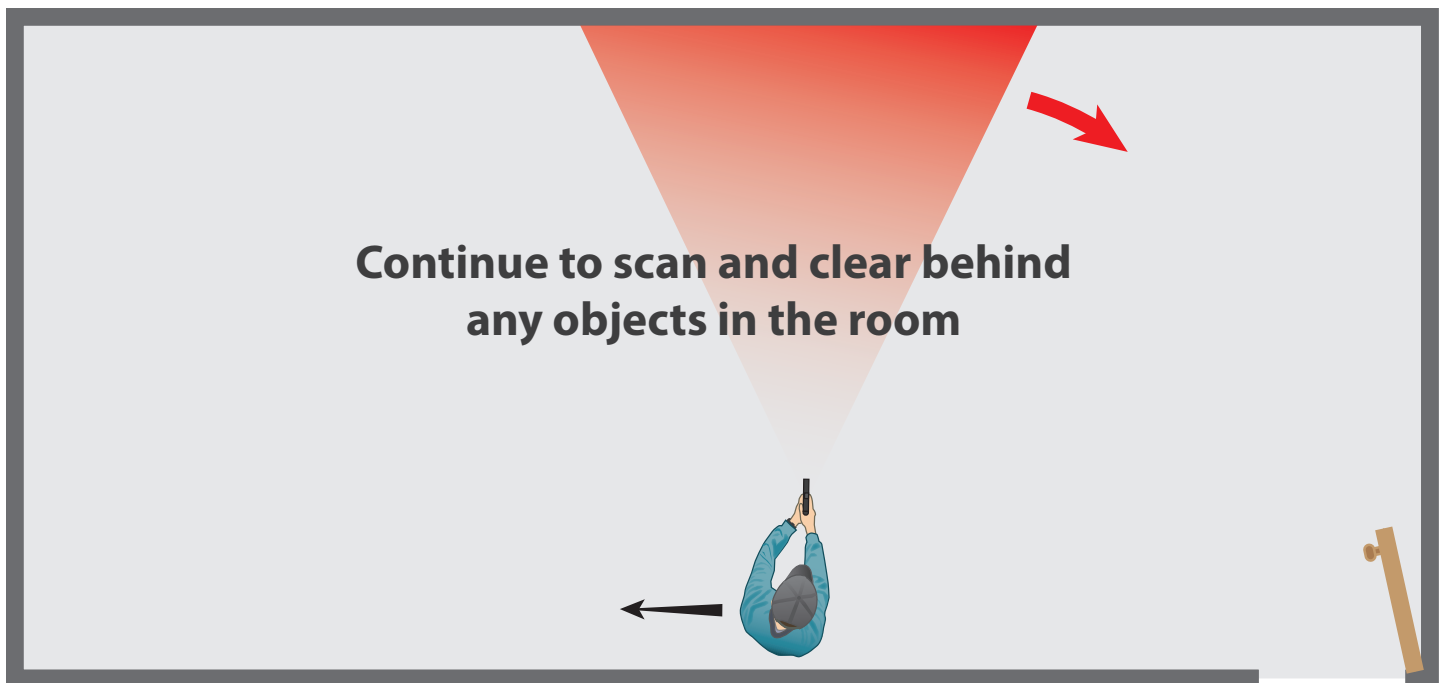
Continue to move into the room along the wall while you scan towards the deep corner.



## DEEP ENTRY: CORNER-FED OPEN DOOR

### STEP 3 - Continue to Scan

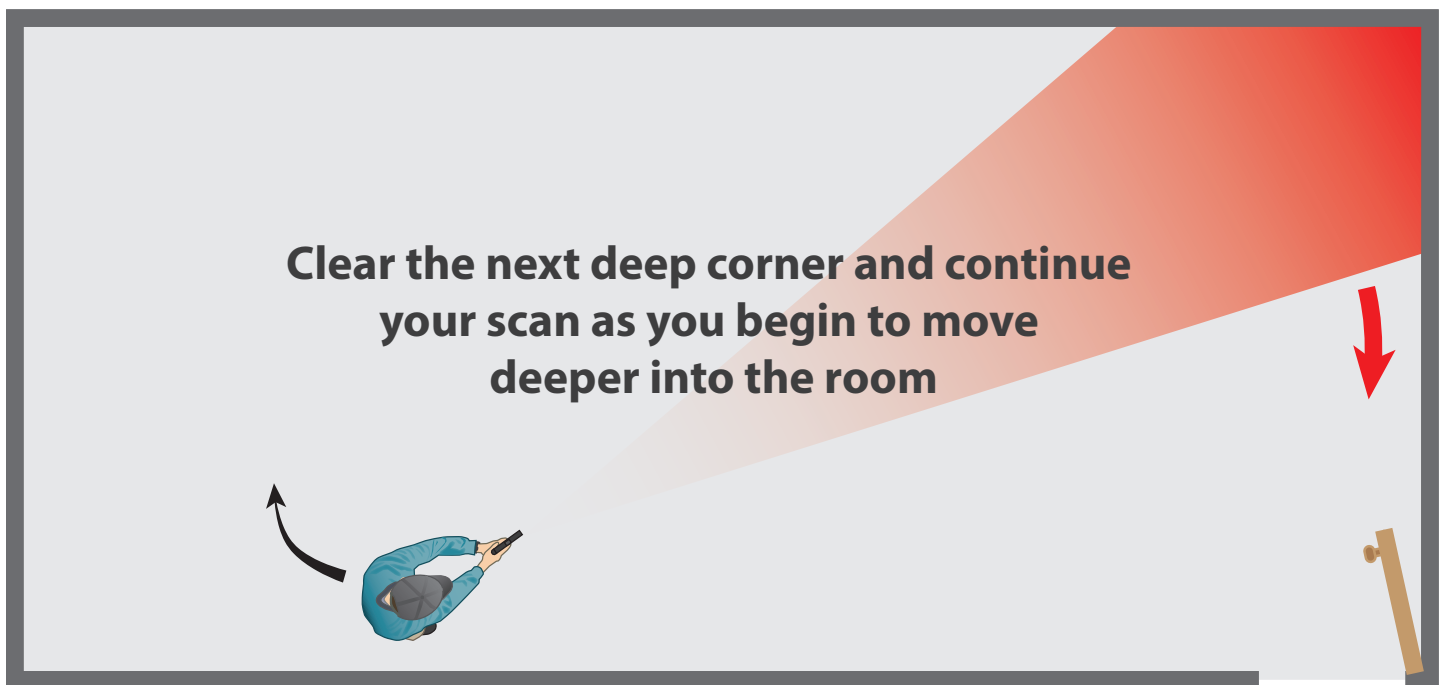
Continue your scan as you move along the wall, checking behind any obstacles or furniture in the room.



## DEEP ENTRY: CORNER-FED OPEN DOOR

### STEP 4 - Clear the Next Deep Corner

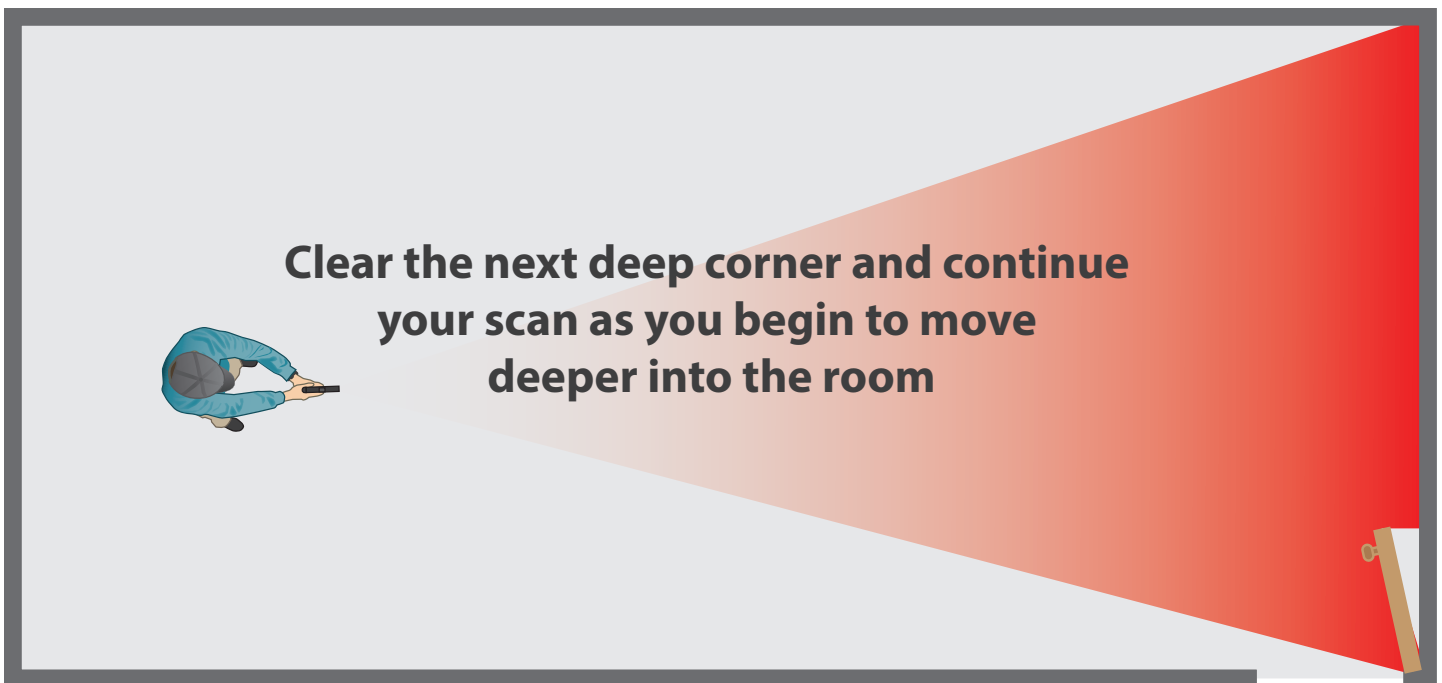
Continue your scan to the next deep corner. Depending on the configuration of the room you should also be starting to move away from the wall, deeper into the room. This will provide the correct visual angle to check behind objects and furniture. However, as before, only penetrate as far into the room as necessary in order to clear these areas of dead space.



## DEEP ENTRY: CORNER-FED OPEN DOOR

### STEP 5 - Complete Your Scan

Complete your scan by clearing all the way around to the door you entered. Ensure that you have cleared behind all objects in the room. At this point the only remaining uncleared dead space is behind the door. Once again, if the door is completely flush with the wall, it might not be necessary to clear behind it.



## DEEP ENTRY: CORNER-FED OPEN DOOR

### STEP 6 - Move to Clear Behind the Door

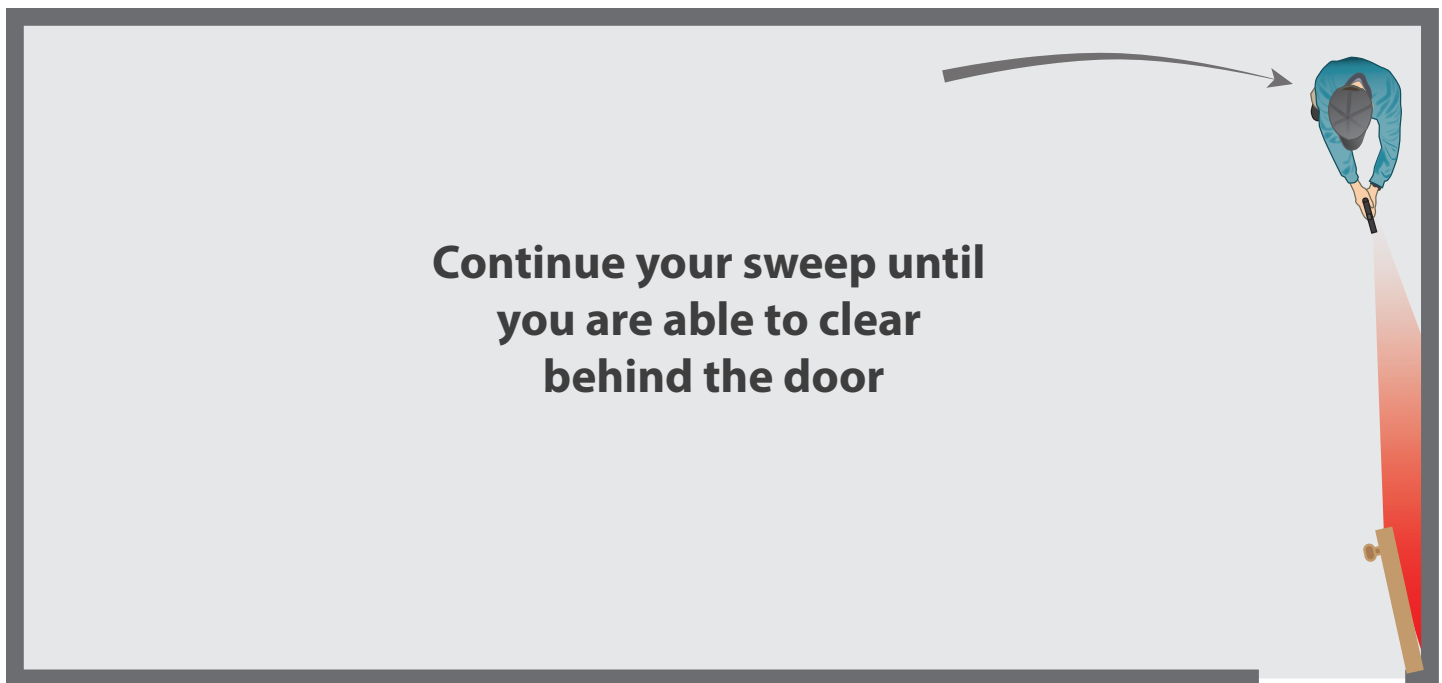
Begin sweeping deeper into the room while keeping your weapon oriented towards the door and the uncleared dead space behind it.



## DEEP ENTRY: CORNER-FED OPEN DOOR

### STEP 7 - Clear Behind the Door

Continue your sweep until you are able to clear behind the door. If furniture blocks you from moving far enough to see behind the door, you may have to approach the door and quickly move it away from the wall with your non-firing hand. If you do this, be sure to back away quickly to prevent anyone who is hiding behind the door from jumping at you and grabbing your weapon. At this point the room is clear.

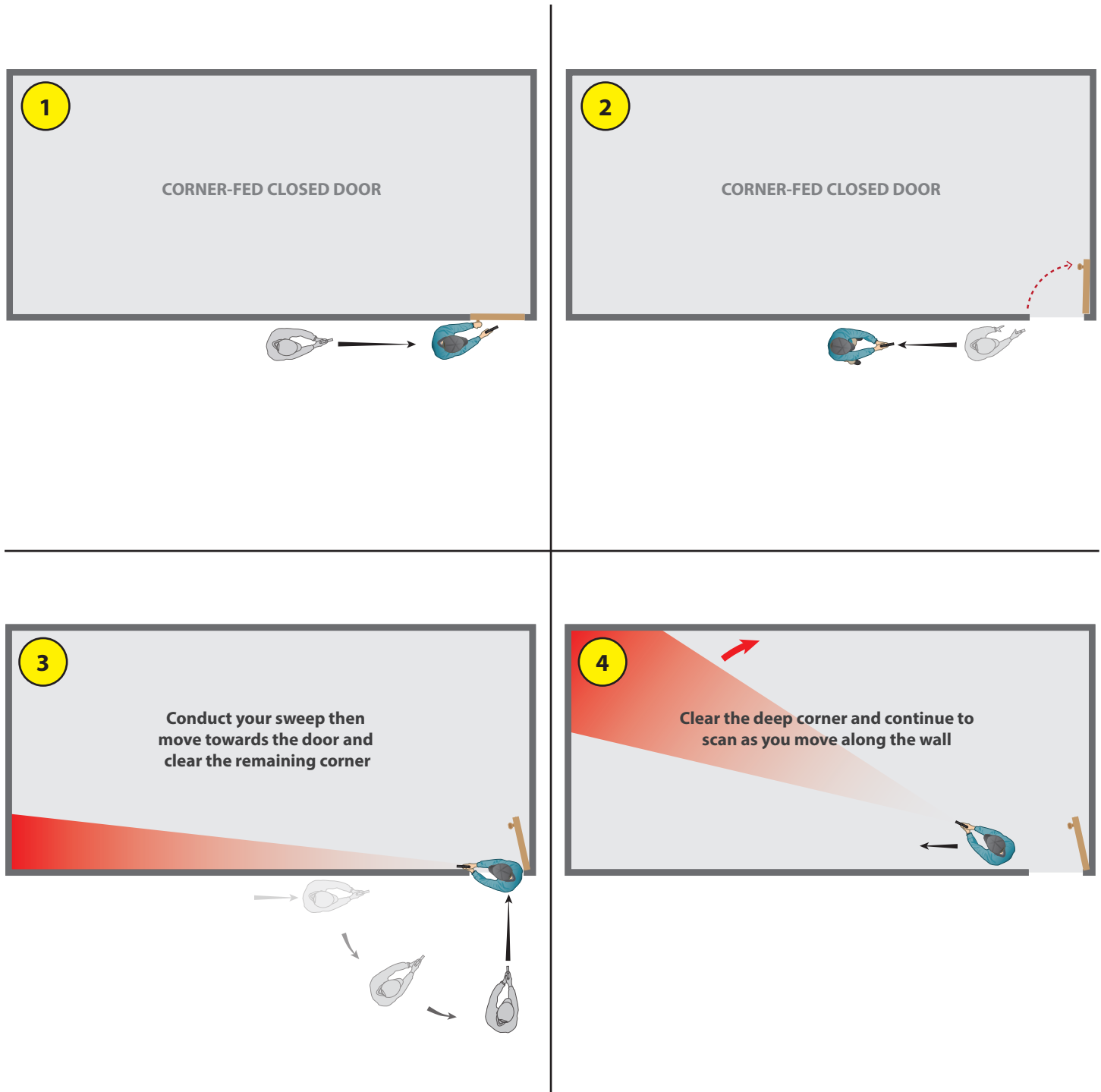




# DEEP ENTRY: CORNER-FED CLOSED DOOR

## STEPS 1 to 4 - Sweep and Clear the Corner

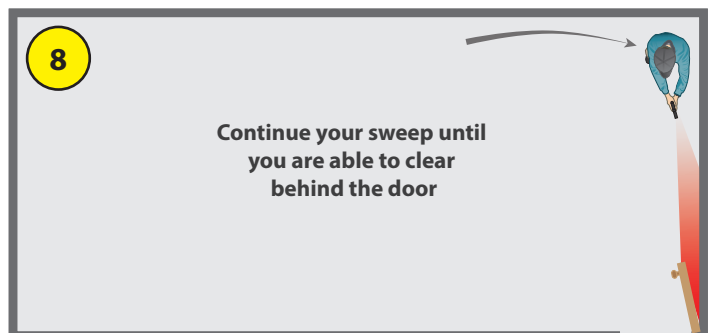
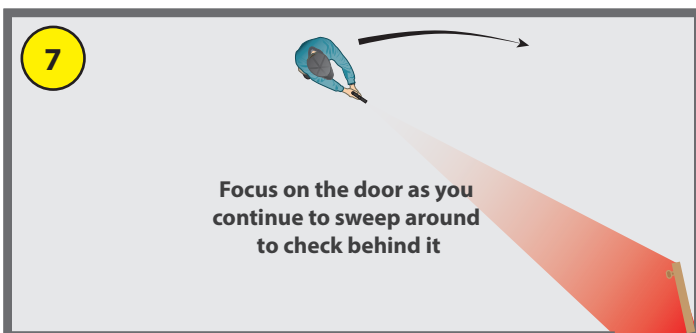
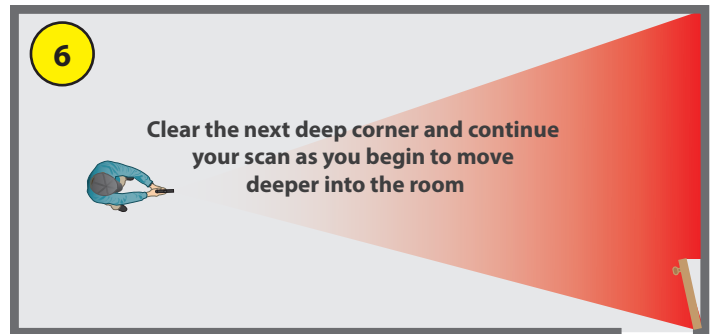
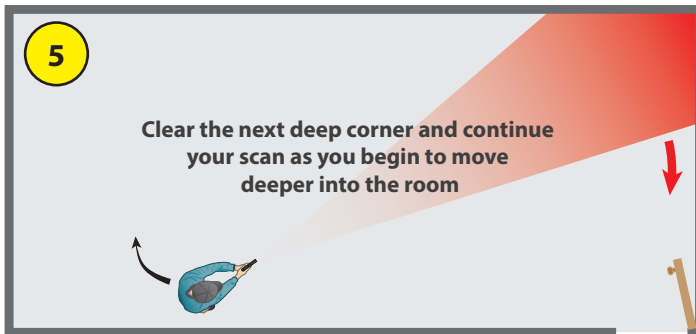
Entering a corner-fed closed door is similar to entering a corner-fed open door, except you will need to quickly approach and swing the door open before starting the clearing process. Open the door and back away quickly to avoid getting hit by indiscriminant fire. Once the door is open, conduct your sweep, clear the first corner and begin your scan as you move deeper into the room.



## DEEP ENTRY: CORNER-FED CLOSED DOOR

### STEPS 5 to 8 - Complete Scan and Check Behind the Door

Continue to move deeper into the room as you continue your scan, clearing behind objects and furniture as you go. Once you complete your scan, the only remaining uncleared area should be the dead space behind the door. Focus your weapon on the door and sweep around the room until you are in a position to clear behind the door.



# TACTICAL TECHNIQUES

## Hallways

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Hallways can be found in the vast majority of residential and commercial buildings. Hallways, by nature, are danger areas. When moving through a hallway, your first objective should be to get out of the hallway as soon as possible. Hallways frequently have multiple doors all along their length, offering many potential openings from which adversaries might emerge. Hallways also frequently have little furniture that can be used for cover and concealment. Finally, the shape of the hallway makes it easy for an enemy at either end to spray a large number of bullets down the hallway that will most likely hit anyone standing exposed. For all these reasons, hallways are danger areas and you should try to spend as little time in the hallway as possible.

Most of the following techniques focus on the most deliberate and thorough methods for hallway clearing. However, keep in mind that once you understand and master these techniques, there may be situations when you will want to simplify or modify the techniques in the interest of speed. Remember that hallways are danger areas and it is best to

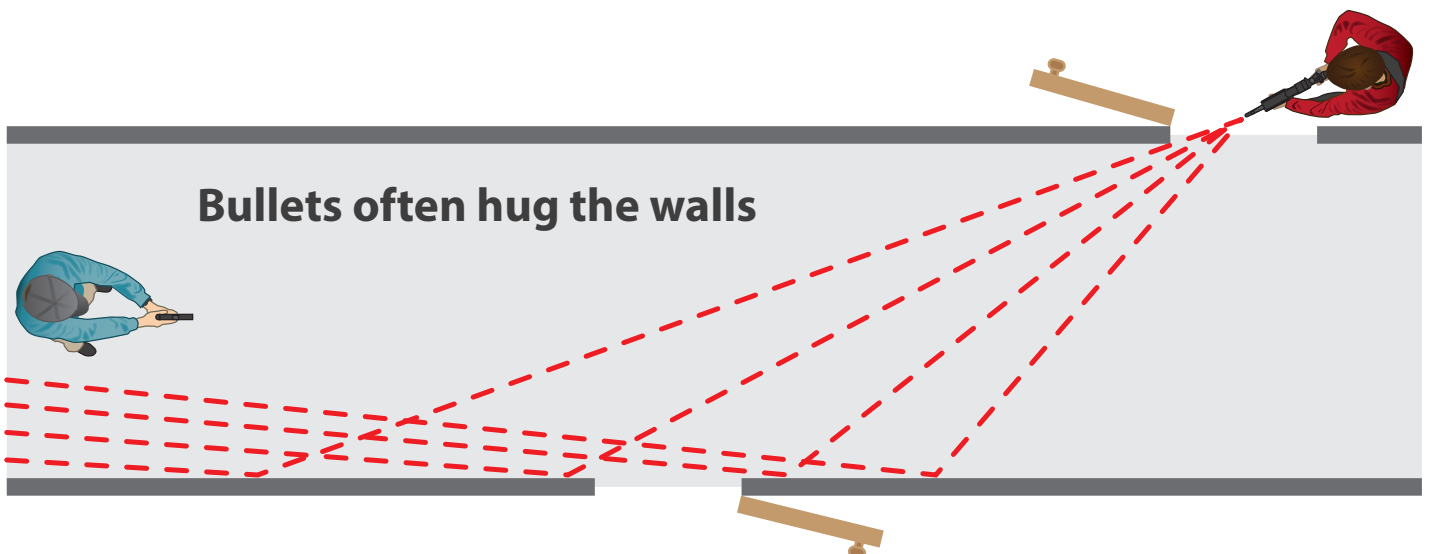
spend as little time in the hallway as possible. This might mean not conducting a full sweep when standing in a hallway but rather moving directly into the room and conducting a shallow or deep entry. In other cases, your best course of action might just be to run down the hallway as quickly as you can and try to find a covered and concealed position before addressing the threat. There are no fixed solutions. The key point is to avoid being exposed in the hallway, improvising as necessary to minimize risk.

Because you are alone, it is also critical to provide your own rear security. To do this, simply look over your shoulder frequently and watch out for possible threats coming from any direction. However, never walk backwards since walking backwards makes it very easy to trip and fall down, especially in the dark. Unlike team operations when your eyes and weapon are usually pointing in the same direction, for single-person operations it is necessary to keep your “head on a swivel,” constantly looking around you to identify danger areas and potential threats.

# HALLWAYS

## Moving Down the Hallway

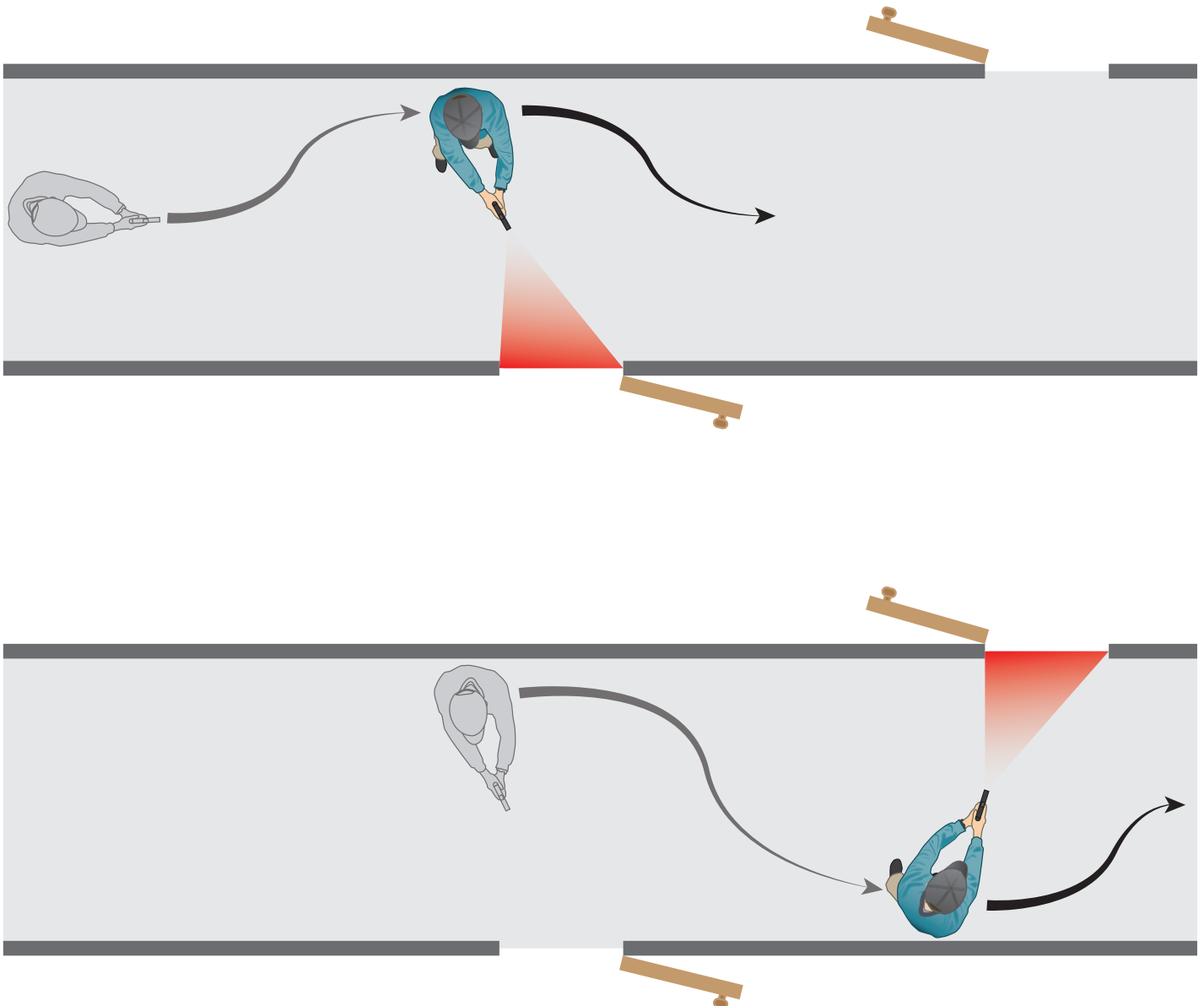
If you are moving down a hallway with no doors or openings to your immediate front, it is best to remain near the middle of the hallway as you move. This will give you the best angle to observe doorways or openings on each side of the hallway as early as possible, giving you time to react and plan your movements. If you stay very close to one wall or the other, it will be more difficult to see doors on that side of the hallway and determine if they are open or not. Therefore, it is generally best to stay near the middle of the hallway as you move. You might feel more exposed in the middle of the hallway but bullets traveling down the hallway will often hug the walls, making the space near the walls more dangerous.



# HALLWAYS

## Passing Open Doors

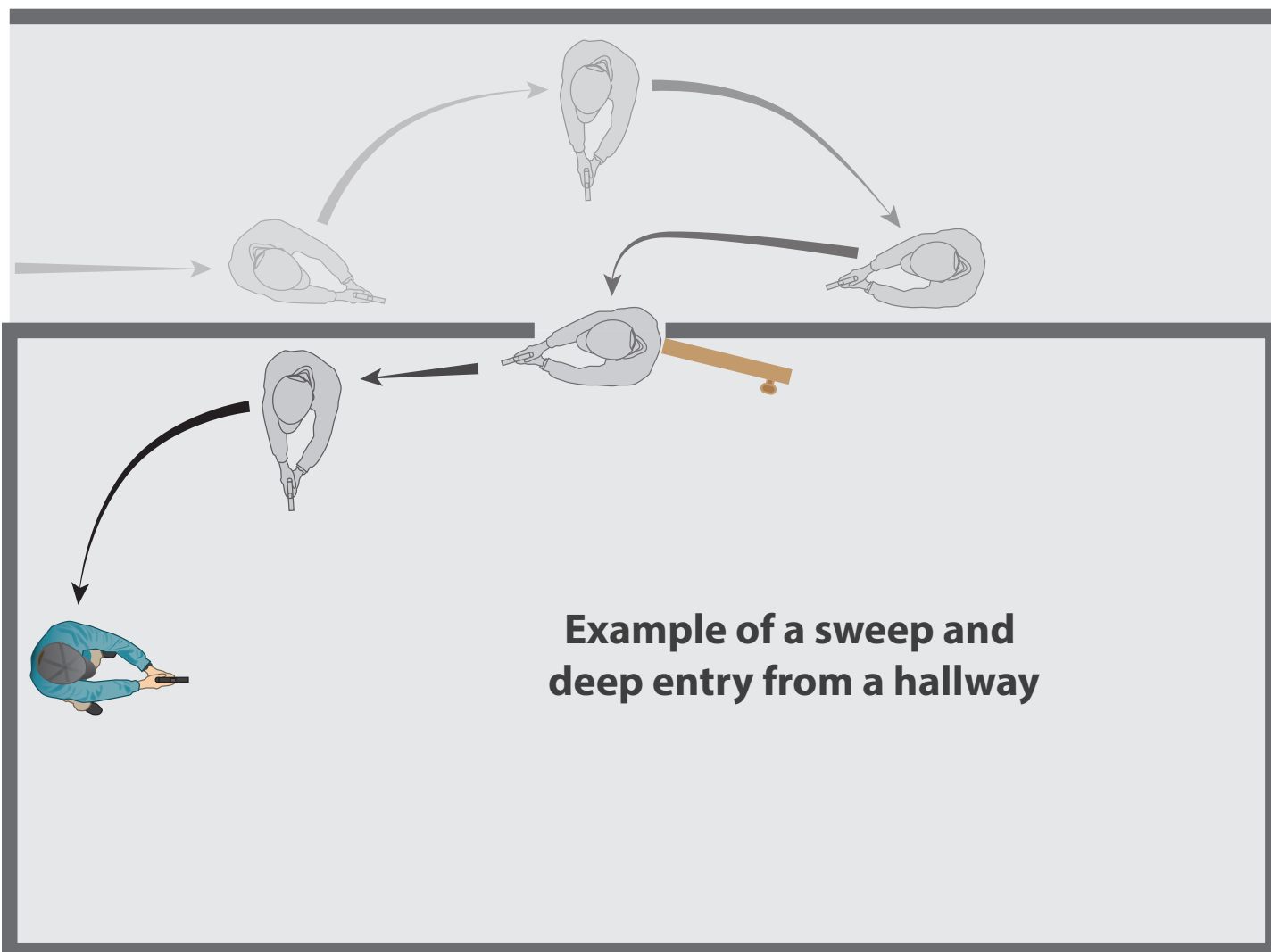
Once you identify an open door down the hall you can begin to move towards the opposite wall. This will give you the best field of vision into the room. Essentially, you will widen your path to conduct a hasty sweep of the door as you pass. By moving in this way you will be “weaving” down the hall, covering each door as it emerges. This technique only applies to alternating open doors (doors directly across from one another) require a different technique that will be explained later in this chapter.



## HALLWAYS

### Clearing a Room from the Hallway

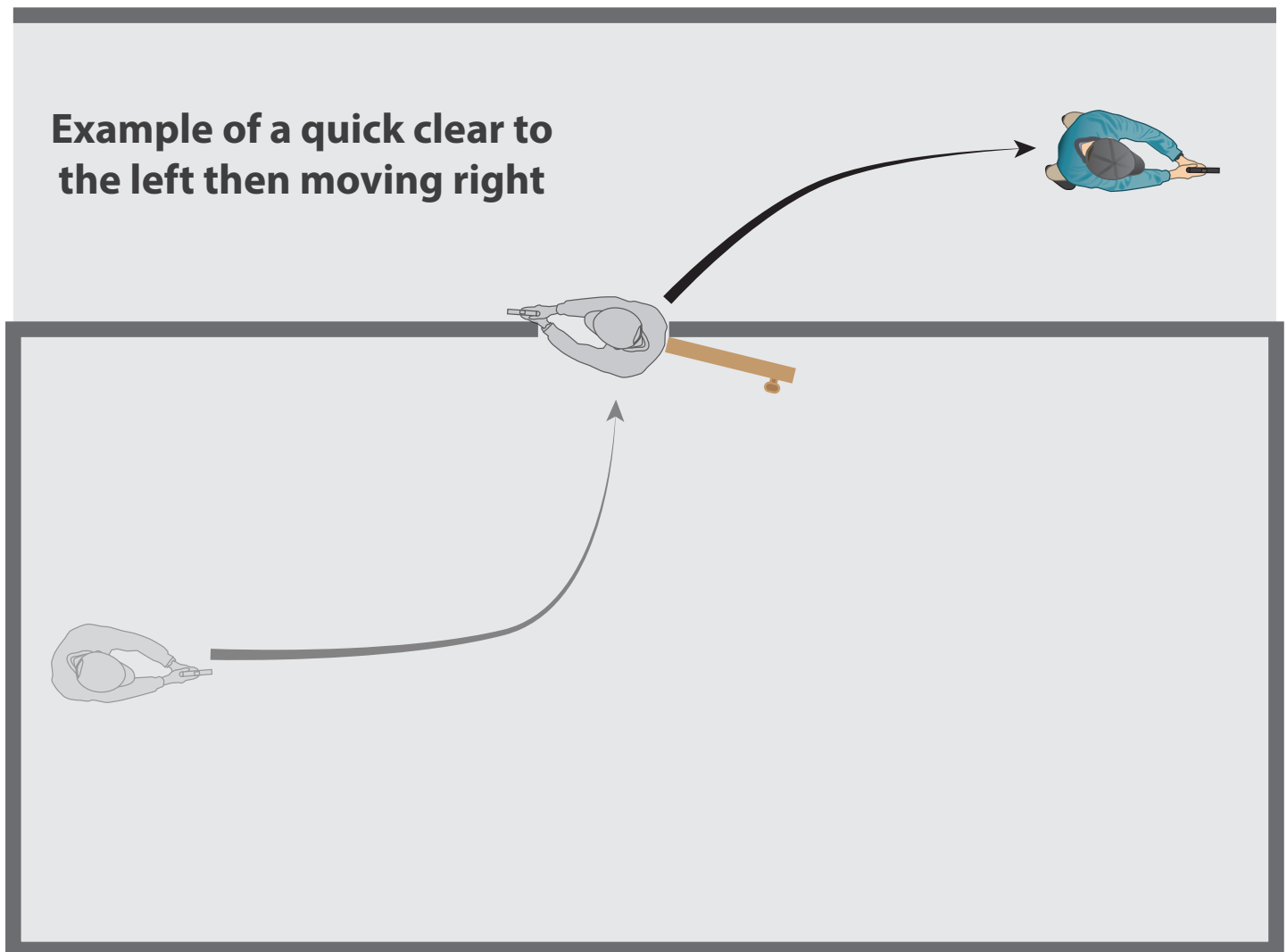
The procedures for clearing a room from a hallway are similar to the room clearing procedures described so far. You can use any of the techniques already described to clear a room from a hallway including clear without entry, quick clear, shallow entry and deep entry. However, the main difference is that the depth of your sweep will be limited by the width of the hallway.



# HALLWAYS

## Moving from a Room Into the Hallway

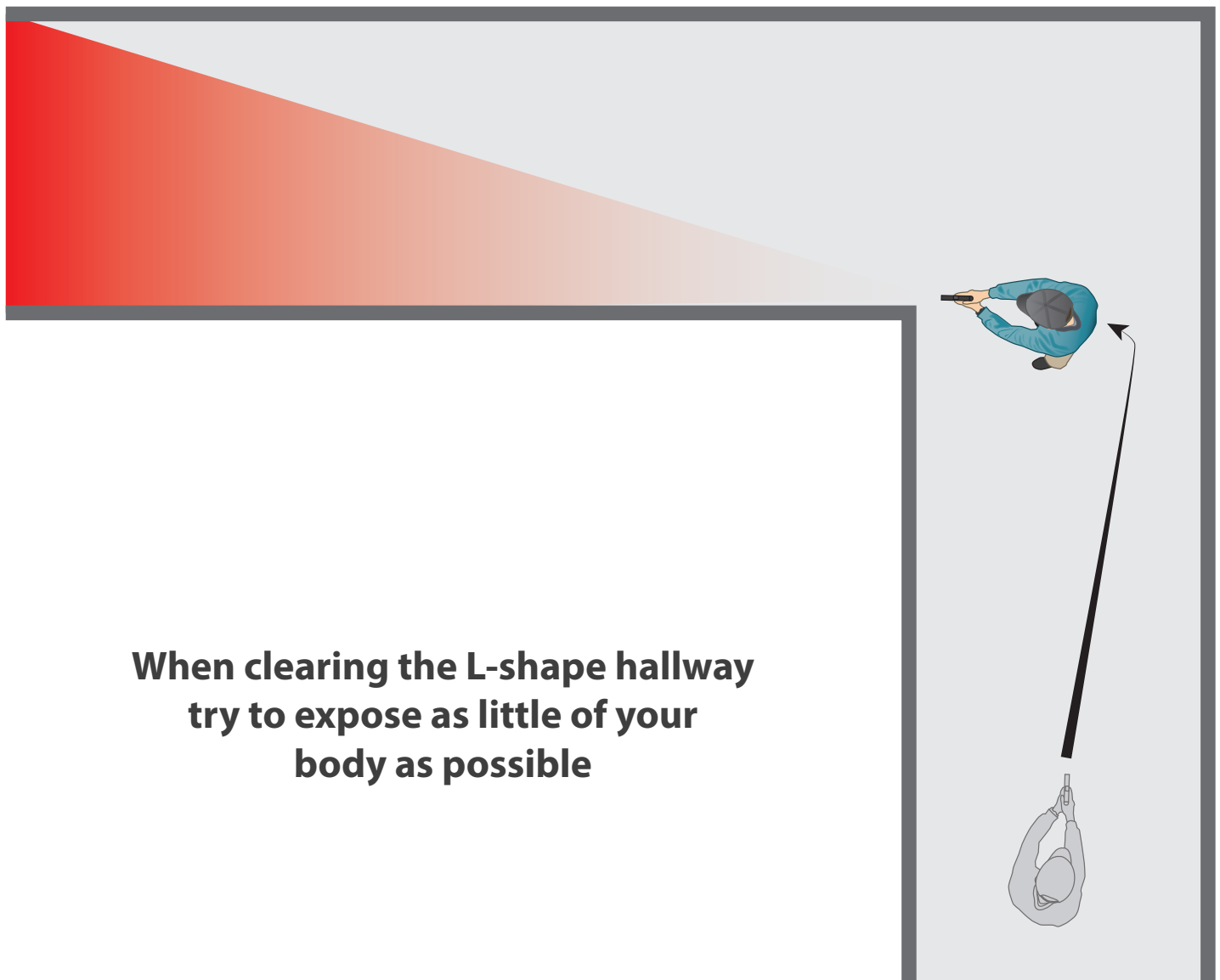
When you are finished clearing a room and want to move back out into the hallway, it is best not to just walk through the door assuming the hallway is still clear. The safest approach is to clear the hallway again before you walk out and expose yourself. You can clear the hallway using any of the clearing techniques already described for clearing rooms. However, probably the easiest and fastest is to just conduct a quick clear by checking right and left from the door. Once the hallway is clear resume your movement down the hallway in the desired direction of travel.



## HALLWAYS: L-SHAPE INTERSECTION

### Clearing an L-Shape Intersection

The L-shape is the simplest of the hallway intersections. To clear an L-shape intersection position yourself close to the corner, then quickly step out and direct your weapon around the corner. The key point is to expose as little of your body as possible. Do not step or jump fully into the hallway but rather move just enough to get your weapon around the corner, using the wall for cover and concealment as much as possible. While the wall is probably not bulletproof, it will at least provide some protection. Once the hallway is clear, continue your movement in the desired direction.

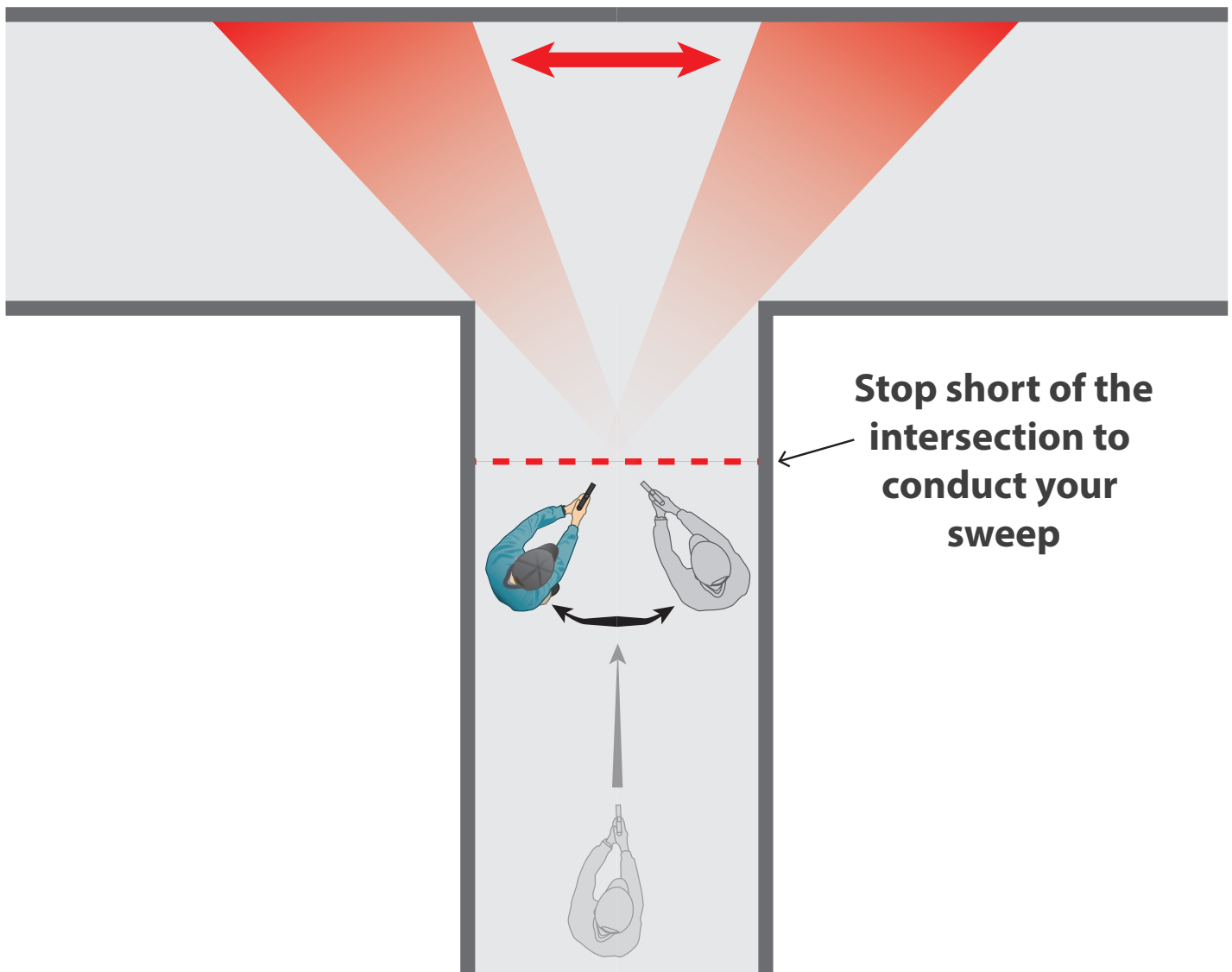




## HALLWAYS: T-SHAPE INTERSECTION

### STEP 1 - Conduct Sweep Before the Intersection

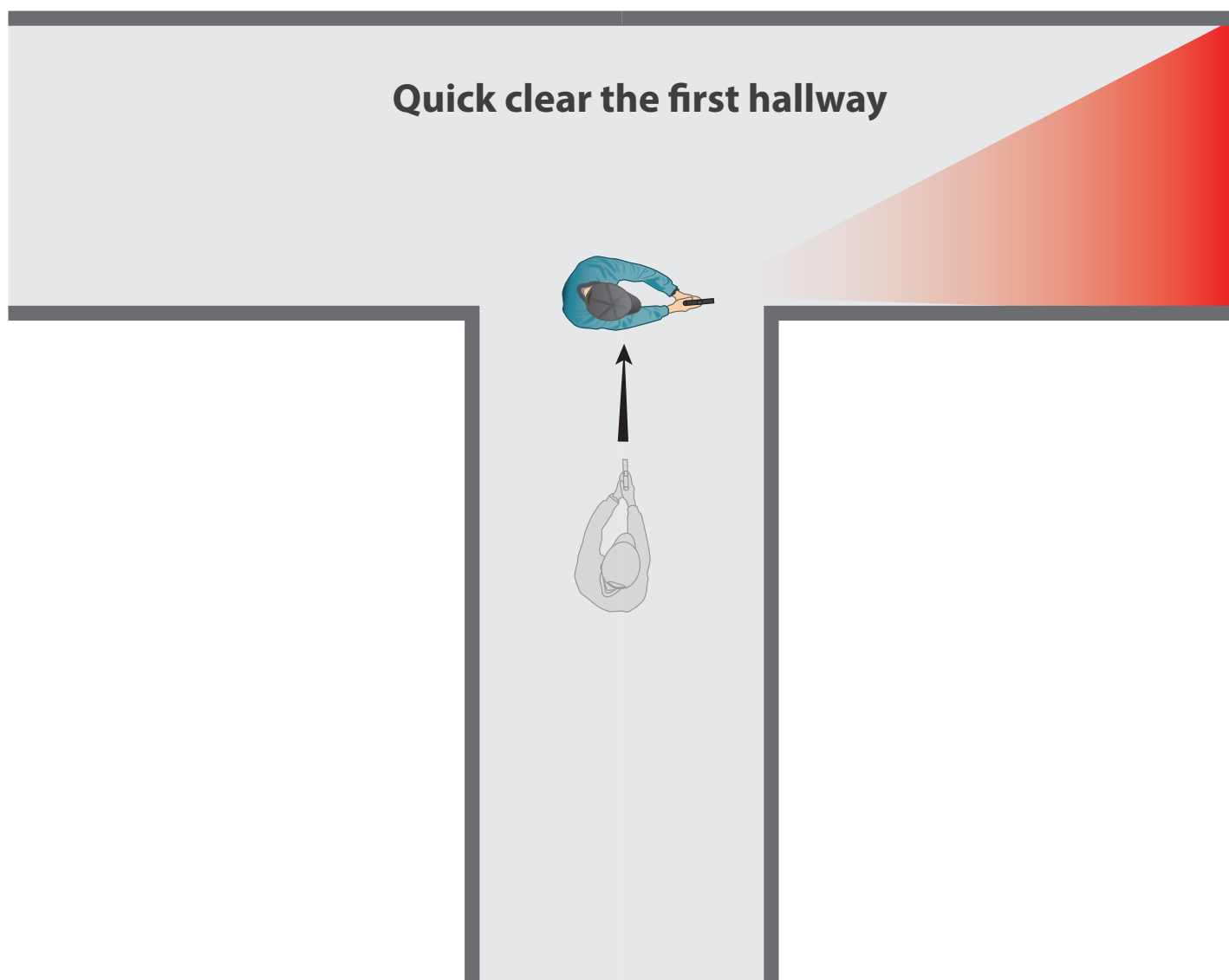
As you approach the T-intersection stop short of the intersection to avoid exposing yourself and to ensure your shadow does not extend into the hall and give away your position. This stopping point is marked with the dashed red line below. From this position conduct a sweep to clear as far as you can to the right and left down each hallway. You will not be able to see all the way down either hallway but the sweep will help identify any adversaries hiding behind the corners. In general, it is best not to take too much time conducting the sweep. You are still in a danger area and should conduct the sweep as quickly as possible and then move on.



## HALLWAYS: T-SHAPE INTERSECTION

### STEP 2 - Clear the First Hallway

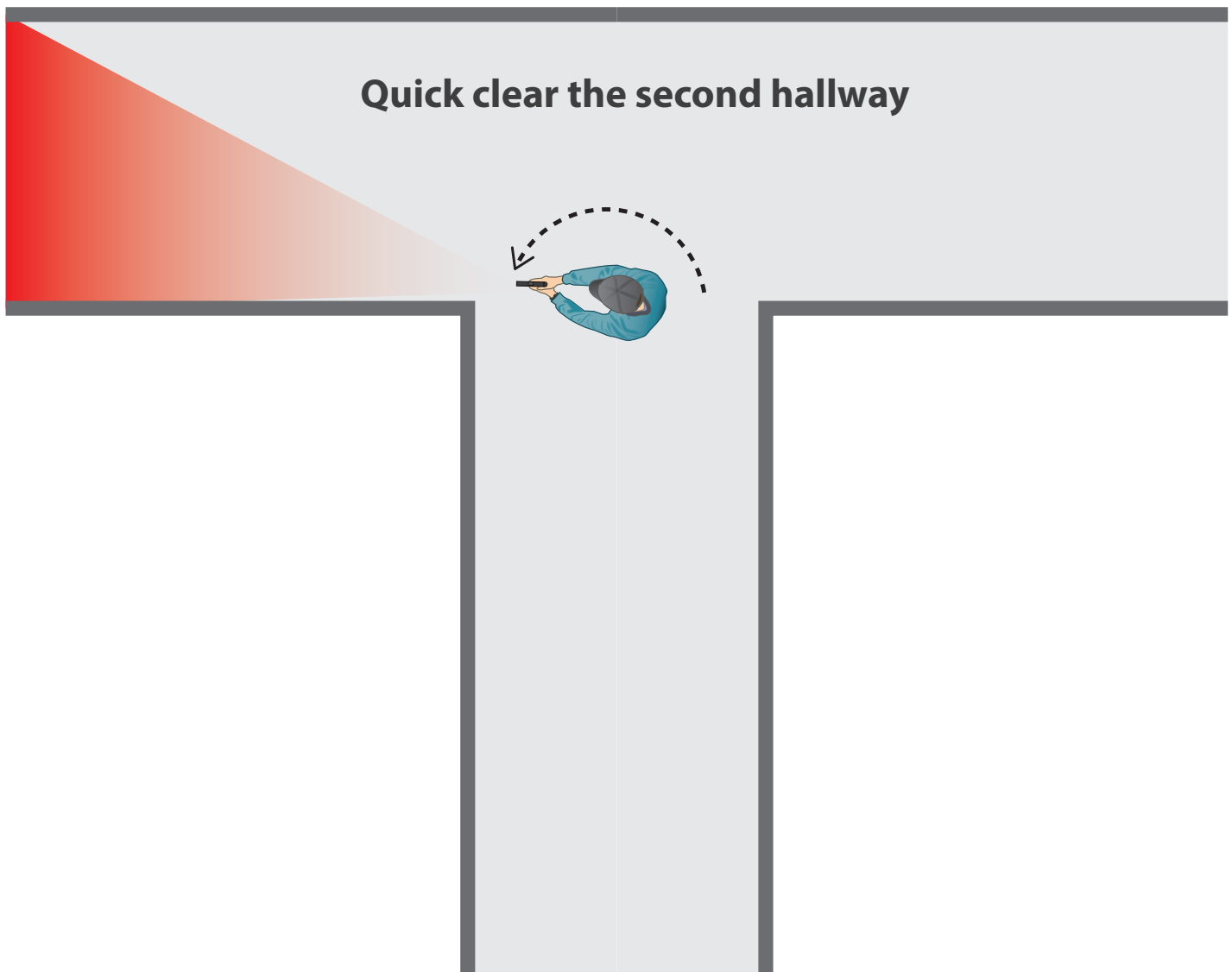
By conducting your sweep and listening for sounds coming from either direction, you must determine which direction you are going to clear first. Ideally, if you hear something or see something coming from either side during your sweep, clear that side first. If you do not hear or see anything it is generally easier to clear your strong side (weapon hand side) first. When you are ready to clear, move up quickly to the intersection and bring your weapon around the corner. You want to expose yourself as little as possible while still ensuring you can see all the way down the hallway.



## HALLWAYS: T-SHAPE INTERSECTION

### STEP 3 - Clear the Second Hallway

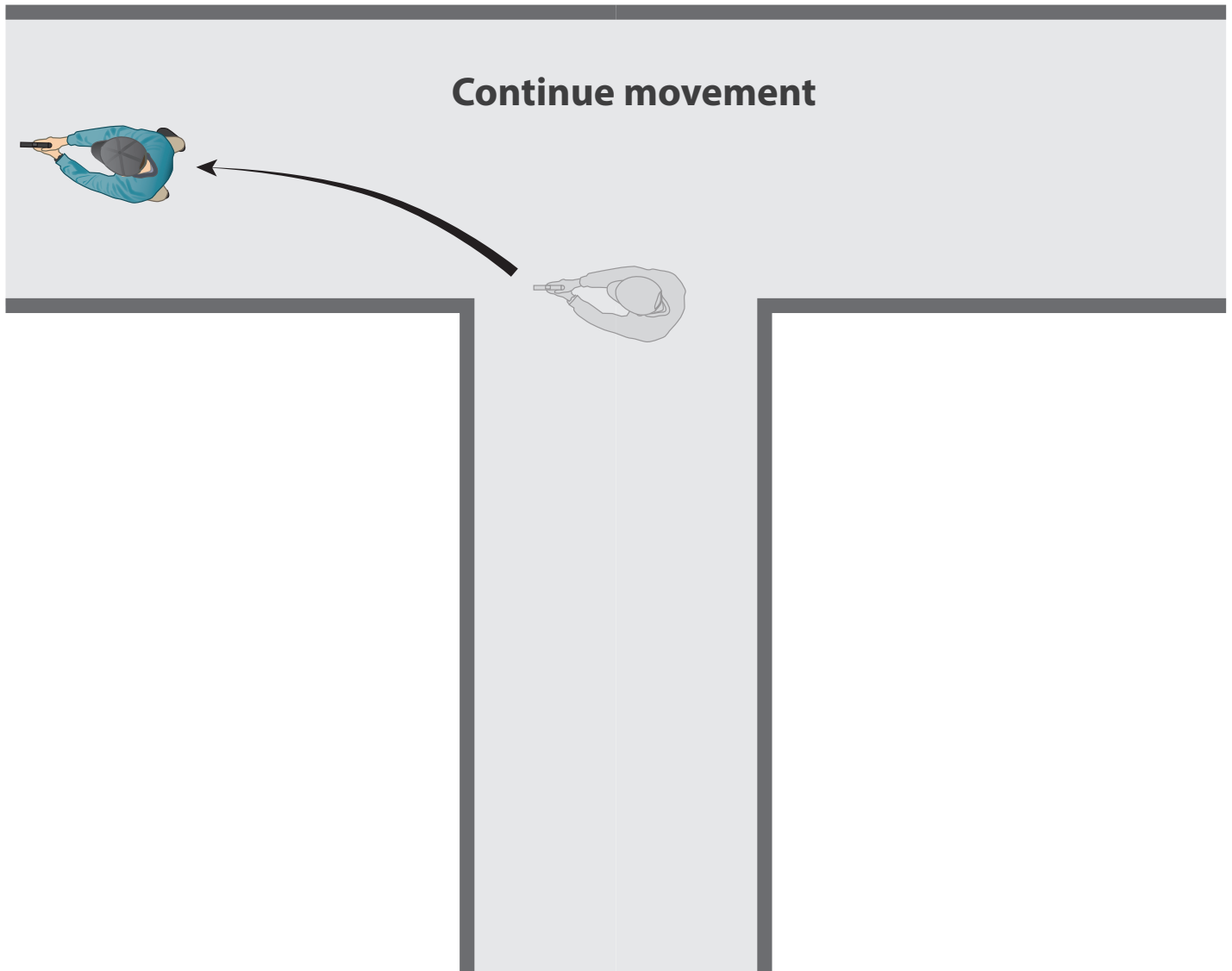
Once you have cleared down one hallway, quickly turn 180-degrees to clear down the opposite hallway. If you have identified adversaries to either the left or right you can decide to remain in place and engage them from the corner, or you can quickly fall back to a room or covered position and try to draw them out.



## HALLWAYS: T-SHAPE INTERSECTION

### STEP 4 - Continue Movement

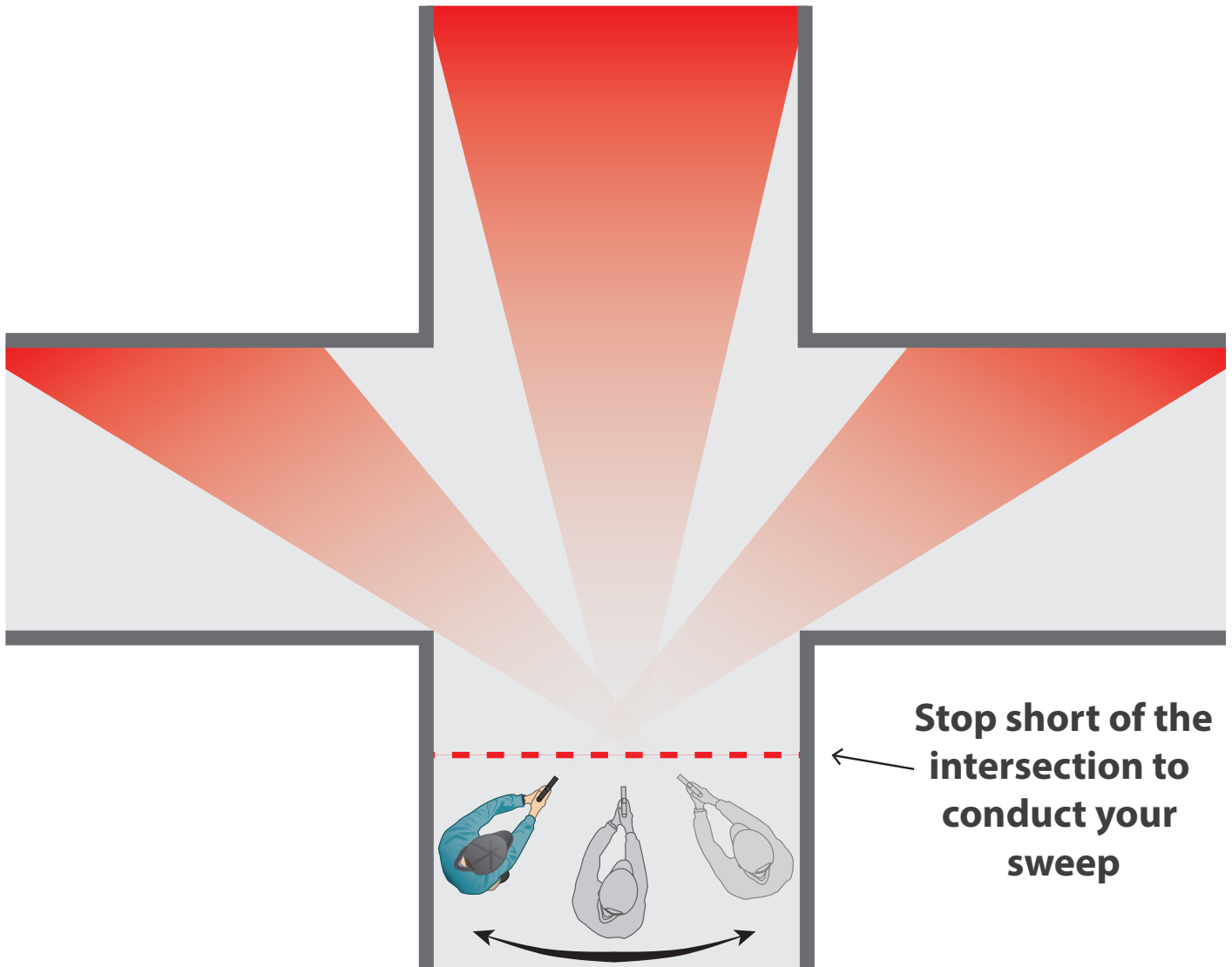
Once the hallway is clear you can continue movement in the direction of your choosing. Remember that hallways are danger areas so you should continue to move quickly and get out of the hallway as soon as possible. Also, remain aware of your surroundings. Listen for footsteps and periodically check behind you.



## HALLWAYS: X-SHAPE INTERSECTION

### STEP 1 - Conduct Sweep Before the Intersection

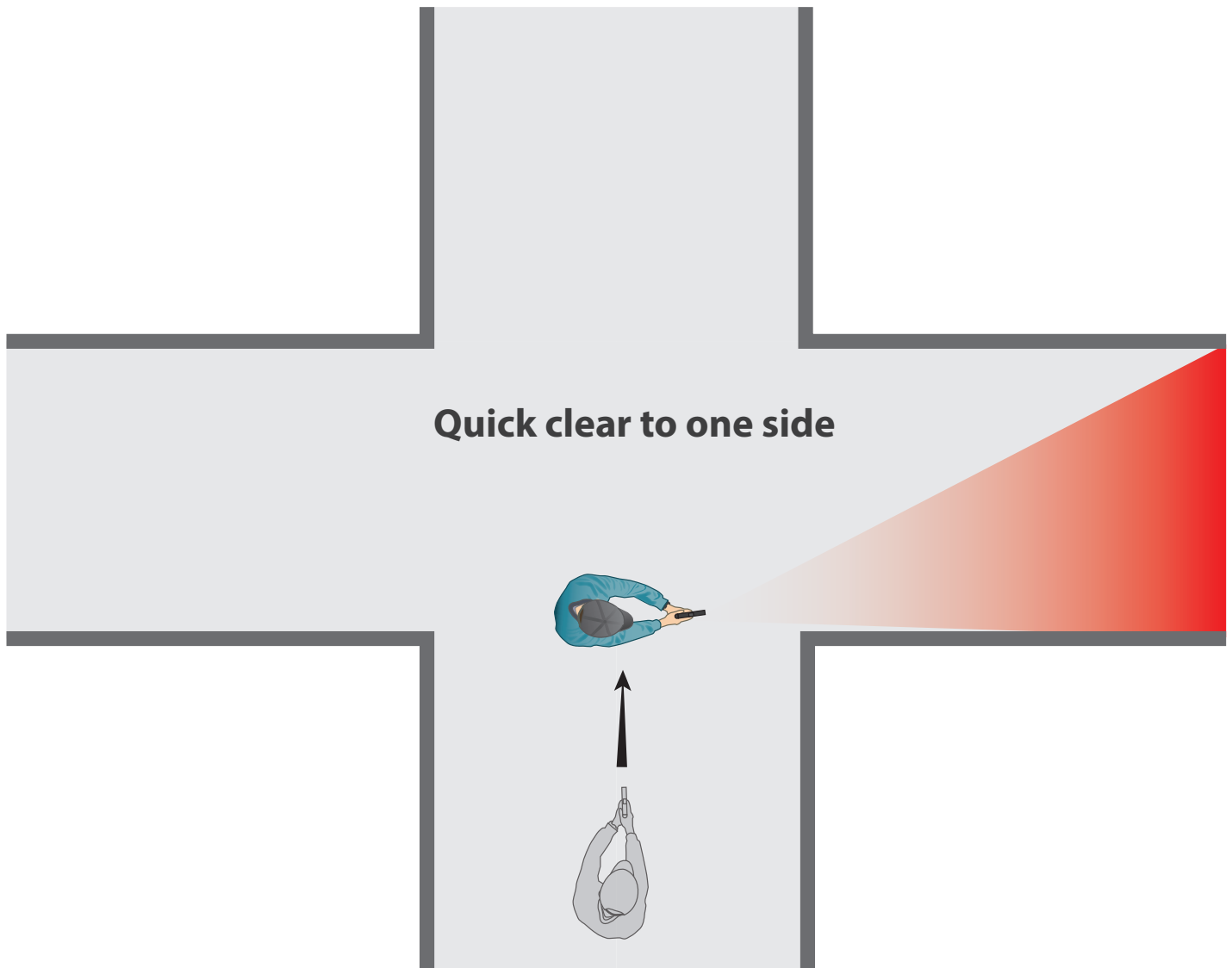
As you approach the X-intersection stop short of the intersection to avoid exposing yourself and to ensure your shadow does not extend into the hall and give away your position. This stopping point is marked with the dashed red line below. From this position conduct a sweep to achieve maximum visibility down the hallways to the left, right and front. As with the T-intersection, it is best not to take too much time conducting the sweep. You are still in a danger area and should conduct the sweep as quickly as possible and then move on.



## HALLWAYS: X-SHAPE INTERSECTION

### STEP 2 - Clear to One Side

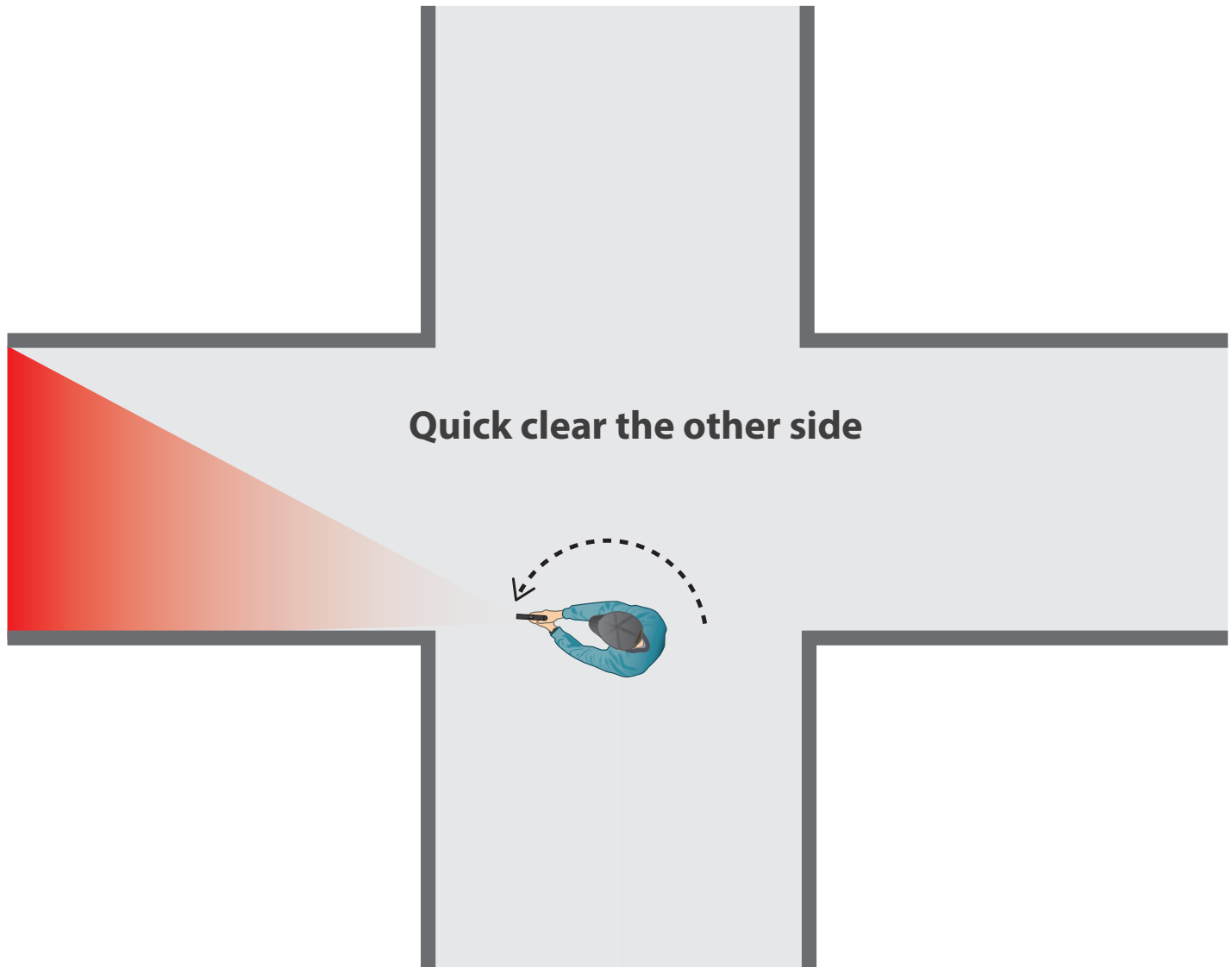
By conducting your sweep and listening for sounds coming from all directions, you must determine which direction you are going to clear first. Ideally, if you hear something or see something coming from either side during your sweep, clear that side first. If you do not hear or see anything it is generally easier to clear your strong side (weapon hand side) first. When you are ready to clear, move up quickly to the intersection and bring your weapon around the corner. You want to expose yourself as little as possible while still ensuring you can see all the way down the hallway. In an X-shape intersection, you must also remain alert for possible threats to your front.



## HALLWAYS: X-SHAPE INTERSECTION

### STEP 3 - Clear the Other Side

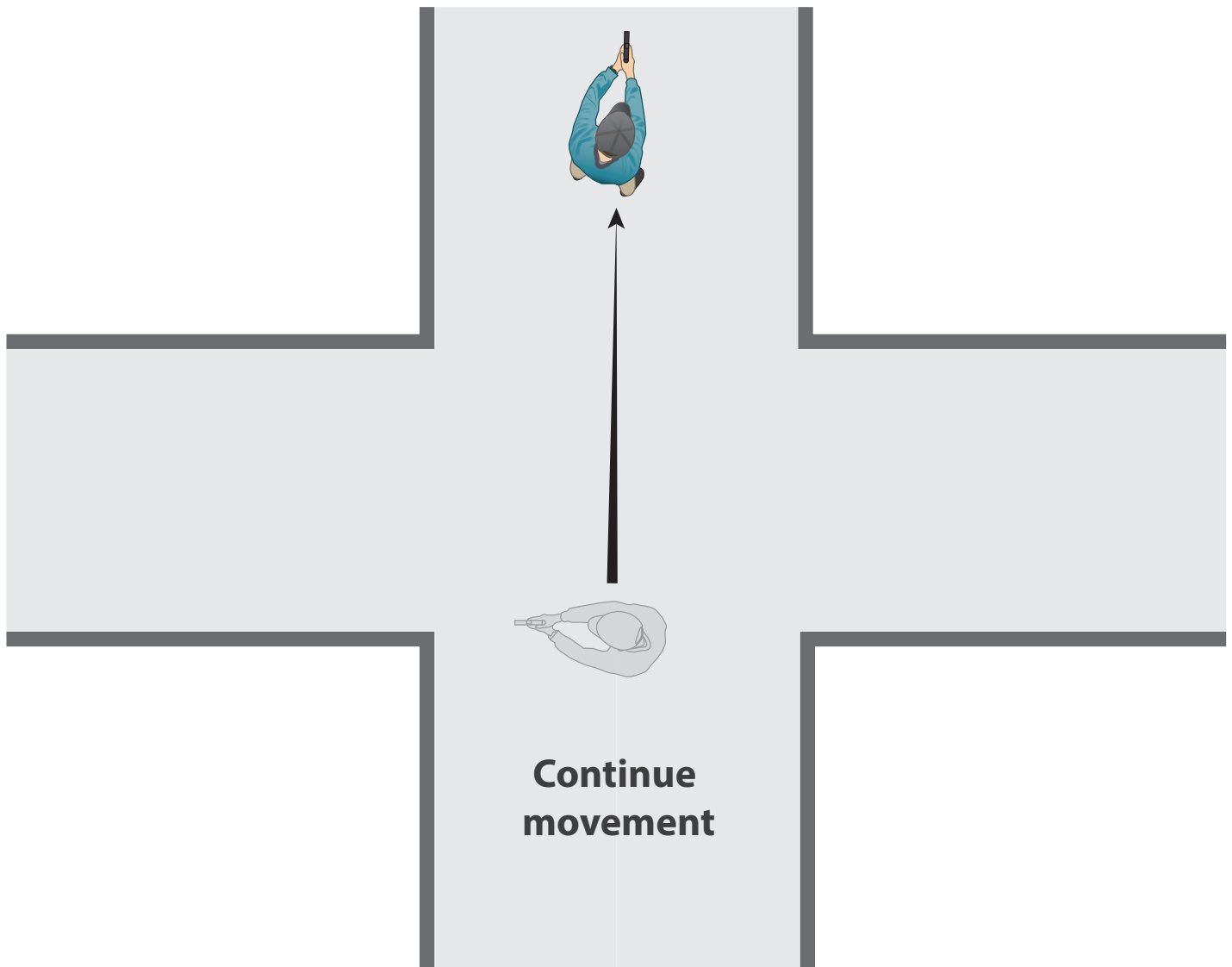
Once you have cleared one side, quickly turn 180-degrees to clear the other side. If you have identified adversaries to either the left or right you can decide to remain in place and engage them from the corner, or you can quickly fall back to a room or covered position and try to draw them out.



## HALLWAYS: X-SHAPE INTERSECTION

### STEP 4 - Continue Movement

Once the hallway is clear you can continue movement in the direction of your choosing. Remember that hallways are danger areas so you should continue to move quickly and get out of the hallway as soon as possible. Also, remain aware of your surroundings. Listen for footsteps and periodically check behind you. If you choose to move forward, do not stop right after you pass the intersection but instead keep moving quickly and create distance from the intersection, minimizing your exposure.

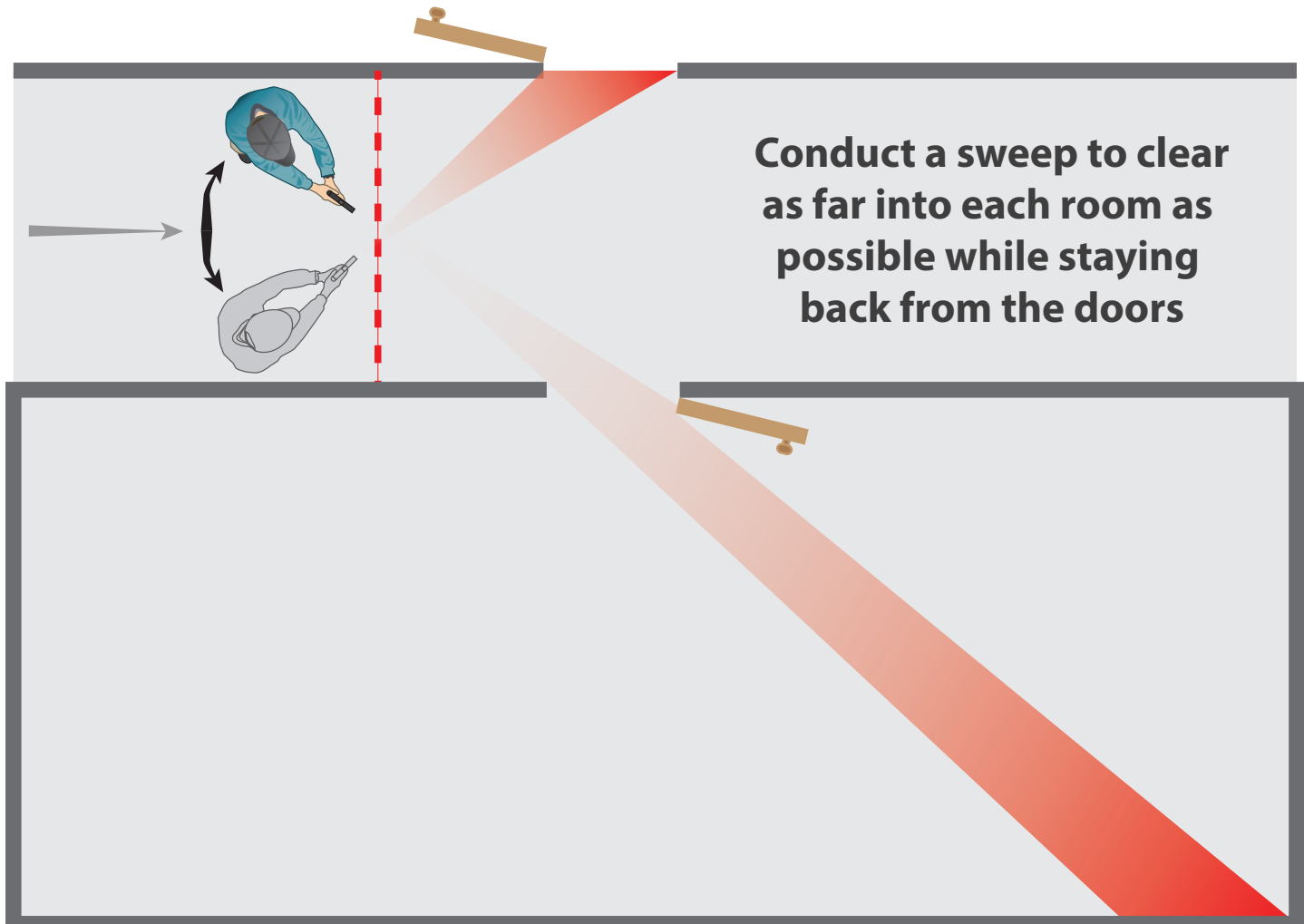




## HALLWAYS: OPPOSING OPEN DOORS

### STEP 1 - Conduct Sweep

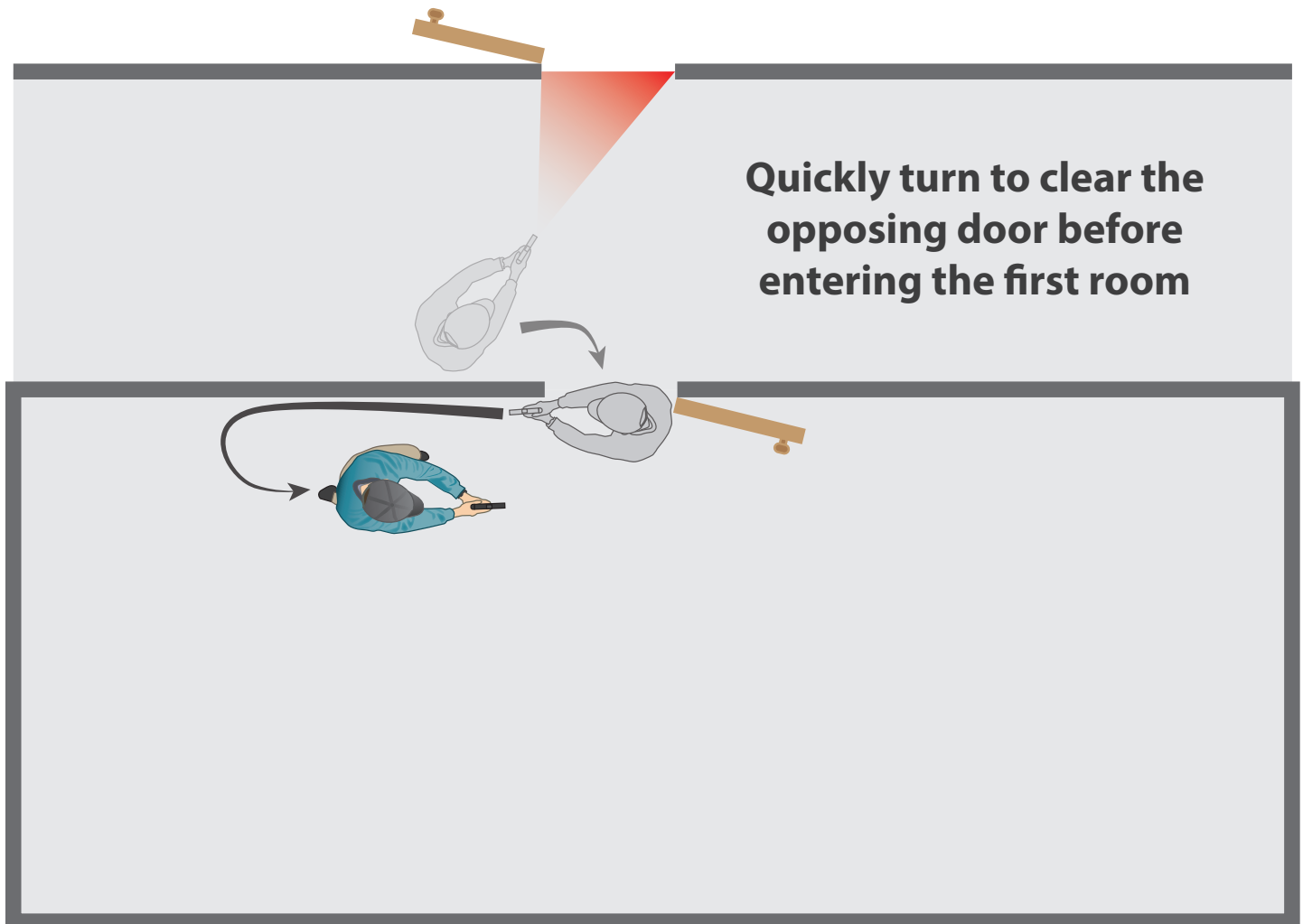
Opposing open doors present one of the most dangerous challenges in single-person CQB because as a single person it is impossible to cover two directions at once. There is no perfect solution to this problem and you will be assuming some risk whatever you choose to do. The safest way to approach the problem is to begin by conducting a sweep at a safe distance from the opposing doors. This distance is represented by the red dashed line in the diagram below. You are keeping your distance to minimize your exposure and to prevent noise or shadow from compromising your position. Conduct the sweep in order to clear as much of the two rooms as possible while remaining at a safe distance.



## HALLWAYS: OPPOSING OPEN DOORS

### STEP 2 - Enter One Room

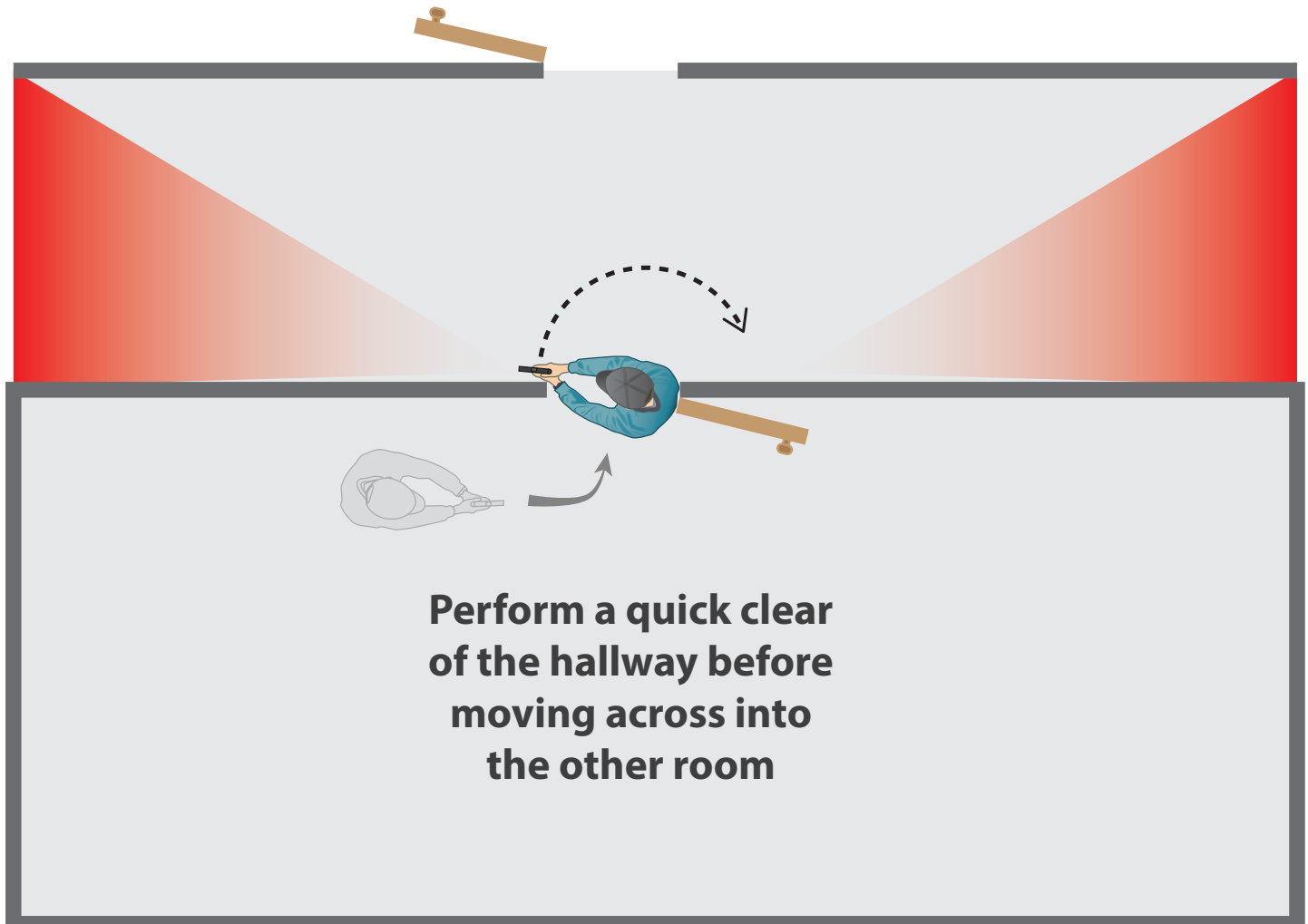
Conducting your sweep and listening for movement should help you prioritize which room to enter first. Ideally, you want to enter the room with the greatest potential threat first. However, when you turn to enter one room you will be exposing your back to the opposing door. The best you can do to minimize the risk is to momentarily turn and clear the opposing door, then enter the room quickly using either a shallow or deep entry technique.



## HALLWAYS: OPPOSING OPEN DOORS

### STEP 3 - Quick Clear the Hallway Again

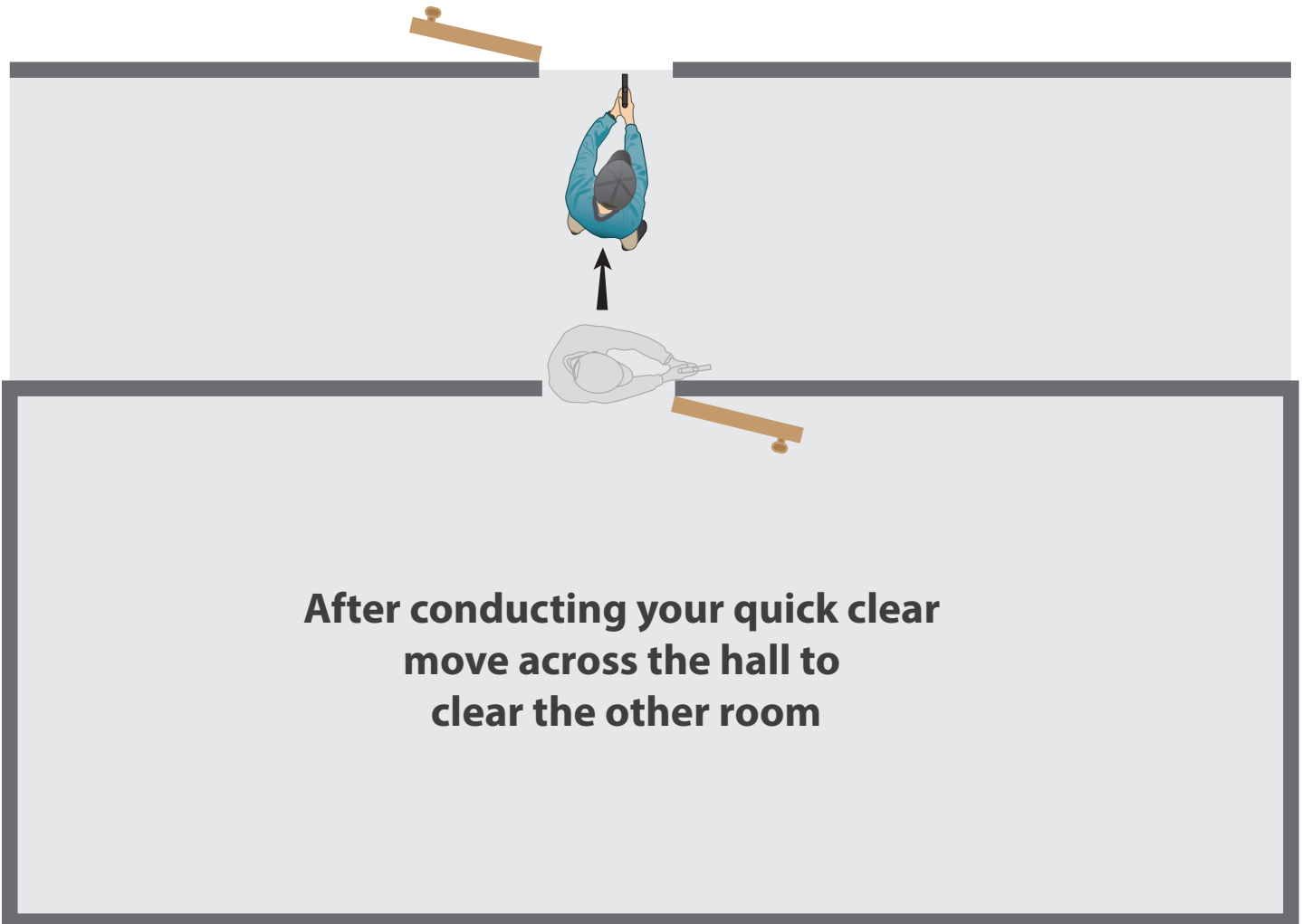
Clearing the first room will simplify the tactical equation. Once the first room is clear, all you have to do is re-enter the hallway and move across to clear the second room. Before entering the hallway, it is best to perform a quick clear from the doorway, checking both left and right before moving.



## HALLWAYS: OPPOSING OPEN DOORS

### STEP 4 - Move Across to Clear the Other Room

After performing your quick clear, move across the hall and enter through the opposing door to clear the second room using either shallow or deep entry. Once the second room is clear you can safely continue to move down the hallway. While it is possible to bypass opposing open doors in an emergency situation where time is critical, it is better to clear both rooms before proceeding since exposing your back to two open doors as you move down a hallway assumes a high level of risk.



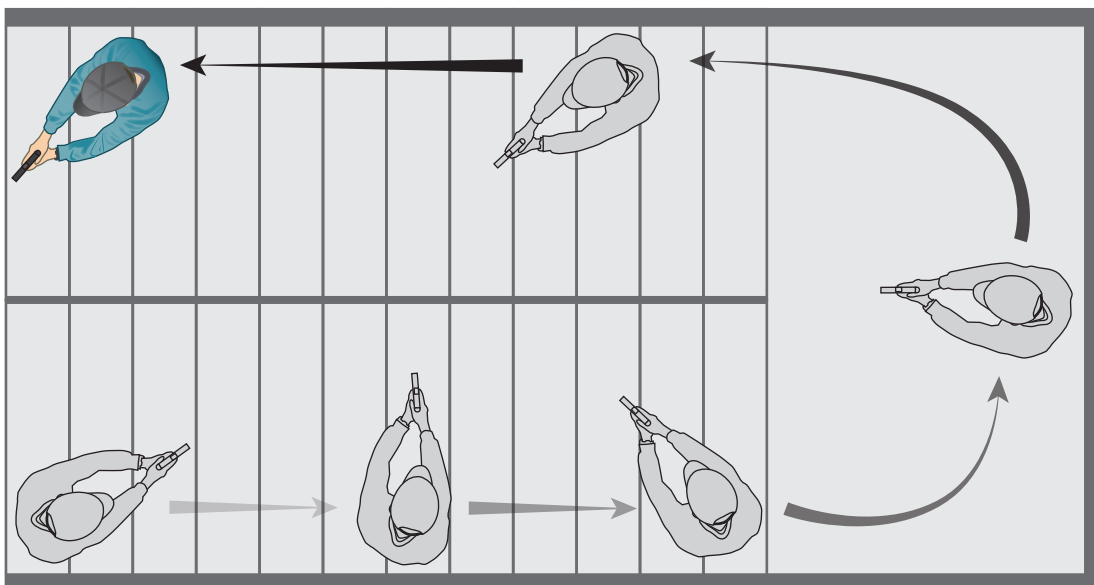
# TACTICAL TECHNIQUES

## Stairwells

Clearing stairwells as an individual is very dangerous and you should avoid stairwells if at all possible. If you must enter a stairwell, the clearing process is actually relatively simple because there is only so much you can do to cover all of the potentially exposed angles in a stairwell. As in the hallway, your best option is to use speed to your advantage and get out of the stairwell as quickly as possible. Stairwells are danger areas so move through quickly and find a better fighting position. In commercial or industrial buildings, stairwells typically consist of sturdy metal and concrete construction with steel beams, making them

particularly dangerous since bullets are more likely to ricochet off the solid walls.

Whether you are moving up a stairwell or down a stairwell, the technique remains the same. Orient your weapon in the direction of travel (up or down) and keep as close as possible to the wall, away from the center banister. This will give you the best angle to see around the bend in the stairs. Turn your body towards the bend in the stairwell as you move, being careful to watch your step and not trip. This way you will be ready to engage any adversaries waiting around the bend in the stairs as soon as they emerge.



# TACTICAL TECHNIQUES

## Multiple Rooms

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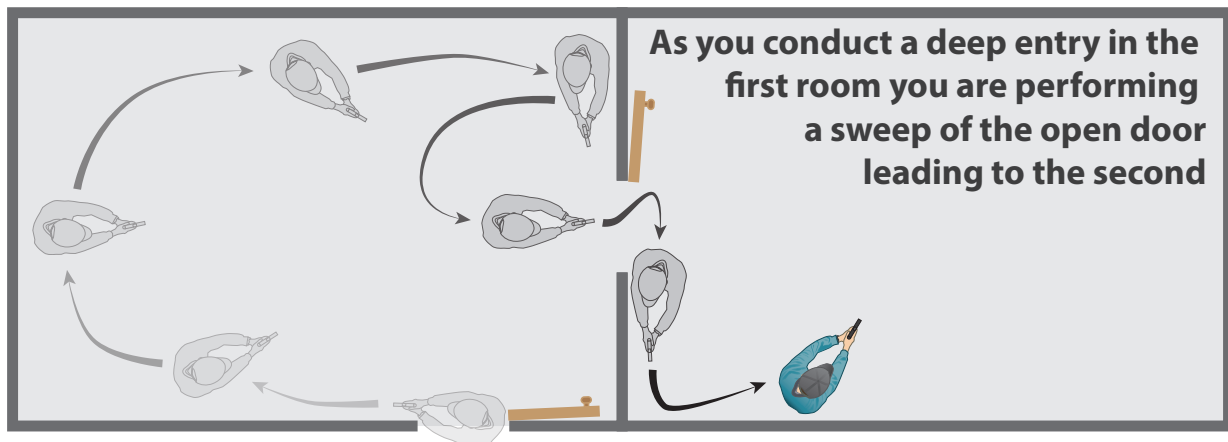
Moving from room to room is difficult and dangerous when you are operating alone. Because you can only look and fire in one direction at a time, there is no perfect technique that eliminates all risk and covers all danger areas.

If all doors are closed doors, moving from room to room is not as difficult, since the sound of an opening door will give you time to pivot and orient your weapon towards the threat. You can treat each room as a separate problem, opening doors in sequence and using the various clearing techniques described so far to make your way through the entire house or building.

When you enter a room that has additional open doors the situation becomes more

complex. The easiest situation is one where the sweep of your deep clear movement can also serve as a partial sweep of the open door leading into the next room. To do this, move into the room away from other open doors in the room and then approach and enter those doors after the deep clear is complete (see diagram below). In some cases, you will have to use your judgment and decide not to clear behind certain pieces of furniture or behind doors.

If there are multiple open doors in a room, your best option is to use speed to your advantage and move to a better fighting position as quickly as possible. The quick clear technique is useful when you need to clear multiple open doors quickly.



# SCENARIOS

## Tactical Applications and Considerations

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The techniques described so far will provide you with all of the fundamental tactical building blocks you will need to clear the vast majority of room and hallway configurations you will encounter as a civilian in a single-person CQB situation. The techniques are designed in a way to allow you to use them in an unlimited number of combinations to deal with unique situations.

While it is impossible to predict the most effective way to apply these techniques in a real fight, there are a number of key factors and considerations associated with each potential scenario. The following sections provide additional information to help you plan and execute your CQB techniques in the situations you are most likely to encounter as a private citizen.

### Home Invasion

In a home invasion situation, one or more criminals break into your house with the intention of stealing your property or harming you and your family members. There are many measures you can take to prevent this from happening or to increase your odds of survival should it happen. For more detailed instructions on this subject, consult the

Special Tactics *Tactical Home Defense Manual*. However, while escape is generally the best option, for the purposes of this manual, assume that your preventative measures have failed and escape is not possible. You have no other choice but to confront the intruders using the CQB techniques you learned in this manual.

The first thing you must do in a home invasion situation is call the police. As soon as the line connects, say the words home invasion and give your name and address even if they do not ask for it. If you are calling from a mobile phone, the police may not be able to locate you and in the stress of the situation you may not realize what phone you are using. Give your name and address immediately.

It is important to tell the police that you are armed and prepared to defend yourself from the intruders. This will help prevent the police from accidentally shooting you if they see you holding a gun. If you have time, it might also help to tell the police what you are wearing so they can identify you more easily. From there, follow the instructions of the person on the phone. He or she will instruct you to stay on the line if possible. Therefore, it is good to have a headset ready so you can keep both hands on your weapon and still communicate with the police. Give them as much information on

the situation and the intruders as possible.

As you prepare to fight, understand that you have many advantages working in your favor. First, this is your home and you know the layout better than the intruders. Ideally, you have practiced using CQB techniques to clear your house many times and this will make your movements faster and smoother. Another advantage you have going for you is that you do not need to find and engage the intruders. If you hide in one place and avoid contact until the police arrive, that is a satisfactory outcome. This means there is no need to expose yourself, cross hallways, stairs or other danger areas. Since you are on the defensive, you can isolate the fight to one or two rooms, simplifying the problem for you but making it harder for the intruder.

Another advantage you have is that closed doors work in your favor. The intruder has to open closed doors or break through locked or barricaded doors. This makes noise and buys you time to call the police, set up your defensive position or escape. Given this fact, if you have time you might want to barricade doors to protect yourself. Have a barricade plan and practice moving the furniture to barricade doors beforehand to ensure the furniture is not too heavy to move in an emergency situation. You can also purchase regular rubber doorstops to jam a door and make it more difficult to force open. Finally, be prepared to use improvised weapons in the event that you lose your gun or run out of ammunition. Improvised weapons could include broomsticks, chairs and throwing-objects.

If you are with your family, your priority is to keep them as protected as possible. Ideally, attempt to “back them into a corner” by putting them in a room or closet with only one entrance and exit. This allows you to guard that entrance and not have to worry about the intruders coming from a different direction. Also, be sure to position your family away from

any doors since doors tend to draw fire. Once your family is in the safest possible position tell them to be quiet at all costs and choose your own defensive position to guard them. Ideally you should be close to your family but not right next to them. If the intruders shoot at you, even if you get shot, you do not want the bullets to strike your family as well. Also, if the intruders shoot you, they might panic and run away. If your family is not visible the intruders may not go looking for them.

When choosing a defensive position, pick a place with good cover and concealment that allows you to surprise intruders from an unexpected angle as they turn a corner or walk into a room. It is useful to plan multiple fighting positions. Ideally, pick a good position, remain quiet and move as little as possible. Wait for the intruder to walk into your sights. If you shoot one intruder, be prepared for more intruders to follow. If necessary, fall back to another fighting position and close doors behind you. This might discourage intruders from following you or give you time to find a better defensive position.

Finally, remember that loud noise can be an effective weapon in a home invasion scenario. In some cases you might want to remain quiet and not give away your position. In other cases you might want to make as much noise as possible by yelling, blowing whistles or blasting an air horn. Loud noises have been known to intimidate intruders or make them nervous because all of the commotion might lead to their arrest.

## **Deadly Attacker (Active Shooter)**

Unfortunately, deadly attacker (active shooter) situations are becoming more and more common. Most deadly attackers are perpetrating acts of terrorism, are very committed, ready to die and seek to cause maximum death and destruction. A



deadly attacker situation is one of the most dangerous situations you can face as a civilian. It is also important to realize that the term “active shooter” can be misleading since in some recent attacks, terrorists have killed large numbers of people with knives, cars or other deadly weapons. Therefore, while most of this section deals with a shooter, be aware that deadly attackers can use a wide range of weapons.

As soon as you hear shots fired, do not look around for the shooter. Immediately drop to the ground and take cover behind something solid. If possible, do not attempt to hide behind bushes, small trees, wood, drywall or other flimsy materials. Bullets will pass right through these objects. Instead, pick something big and heavy made of steel, concrete, rock or earth like a stone wall, vehicle engine block or wheel well. However, don't waste time looking for the perfect piece of cover, look for the closest covered position.

Once you are behind cover, look around and try to evaluate the situation. Don't be in a rush to draw your weapon. If you draw your weapon, you run the risk of being shot by first responders or other armed citizens who mistake you for the shooter in the stress of the situation. One thing that can help solve this problem is carrying a very small, lightweight fluorescent vest on your person. Once you are behind cover, don the vest as quickly as possible. The vest will cause you stand out and make the police think twice before shooting you. There is also little risk of criminals or terrorists wearing orange vests to fool the police.

Whether or not you have an orange vest available, still make an effort not to get shot by police or armed citizens. The best way to do this is keep your weapon holstered until you identify the shooter and have a clear shot. While you are doing this, look around and try to identify any police or armed citizens around you. People on your side who are in the fight

will have different posture than people who are terrified or fleeing for their lives. If you see a fellow citizen, hiding behind cover with a weapon unholstered, call out to him or her and identify yourself as a “good guy.” Try to link up with other armed citizens so you can fight as a team from behind cover and don't accidentally shoot each other. If you eliminate a threat, be prepared to re-holster your weapon or even raise your arms if police or citizens challenge you.

If you have to move in the open, move as quickly as possible in a dead run. Do not look down your weapon sights as you are running since shooting accurately on the move is very difficult. It is better to sprint as fast as possible to a covered position, then bring your weapon up to shoot from a more stable platform.

## Sniper Attack

Sniper attacks are different than an active shooter with an automatic weapon and require a different response. A sniper fires precision shots from a distance, usually from a concealed position. This means that a sniper is much more difficult to spot and engage with a small weapon like a concealed pistol. Once you hear shots, immediately drop to the ground and crawl to cover. If the shots are spaced out, accurate and you cannot see the shooter, it is probably best to remain in place and take cover. Leaving your covered position and attempting to go after the sniper with a pistol would offer a low chance of success.

## Holdup or Armed Robbery

If you are in a store or bank during a holdup, it can be dangerous to attempt to resolve the situation yourself. The best option is to stay down and wait for the police to arrive.

However, if it appears that innocent lives are at risk and the police will not arrive in time, you may decide to take action to stop the gunman.

As soon as the action starts, your first objective is to run away and create as much distance between you and the gunman as possible. Do not run away in a straight line but rather try to use corners and cover to your advantage. The gunman will probably not shoot you just for running away. If possible, run into another room, run out the back exit or run and hide behind a desk or store aisle. If the gunman can see you, it will be hard for you to draw your weapon and engage if the gunman's weapon is already out. If you create distance and the gunman cannot see you, it will be easier to draw your weapon and fire an aimed shot from a covered position if you decide to do so.

Once you are in a covered position, stay out of sight but attempt to hear what is going on. Time your move for a moment when the gunman is distracted, talking or yelling. Once you identify your target, draw your weapon and engage. Ideally, shoot around the cover instead of popping your head up over it. Stay low if possible and shoot from a crouched position. Not only will this reduce your vulnerability but it will also raise the trajectory of your bullets so stray rounds will go into the ceiling instead of hitting other innocent people. When firing, expose as little of your body as possible and take maximum advantage of cover and concealment.

## Hostage Situation

In a holdup or armed robbery, the attackers want to take what they came for and get away as quickly as possible. They are only threatening you because you can get in their way or call for help. In a hostage situation, the attackers will make a deliberate effort to control you and prevent your escape and may be less hesitant to shoot you if you are not compliant. For all these reasons, hostage situations are much more dangerous than regular holdups or robberies.

In general, the best course of action in a hostage situation is to lie low, not draw attention to yourself and wait for a hostage rescue team to arrive. However, if you decide to resist, your best chance is to do so early in the chaotic atmosphere of the initial attack, while the hostages are still panicking and out of control. If you see the hostage taker wearing a suicide vest or showing evidence of being part of an extremist group, you might want to take your chances and try to end the fight early.

If you manage to get outside the terrorists' line of sight, it is better not to draw your weapon and go back into the fight unless absolutely necessary. Instead, it is preferable to try to escape. By escaping and turning yourself over to authorities you might be able to provide valuable information to help the hostage rescue team establish an assault plan.

# FURTHER TRAINING

## Courses and Resources

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This manual provides a solid foundation in single-person CQB for any civilian, law-enforcement or military tactician. However, for those wishing to take their training to the next level, Special Tactics provides a wide selection of additional courses and resources on the topic of single-person CQB tactics. For additional training, visit the Special Tactics website at [www.specialtactics.me](http://www.specialtactics.me). If some courses are not yet available, check back frequently since Special Tactics is always publishing new courses and updating content.

In addition to this basic course in single-person CQB, Special Tactics offers intermediate and advanced courses that discuss more aggressive clearing procedures and go into more detail on complex room configurations and furniture arrangements. Law enforcement and military units might be interested in training courses on two-person

operations, team operations and multiple-team operations.

Readers might have also noticed that this manual does not provide any specific instructions on shooting technique. This manual assumes that readers already have a familiarity with firearms and combat marksmanship fundamentals. However, for readers who want additional instruction in these areas, Special Tactics provides a range of resources and courses on many aspects of combat marksmanship including combat pistol, combat rifle, barricade shooting and shooting on-the-move.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions regarding this manual, the Special Tactics staff welcomes you to contact us on our website at [www.specialtactics.me](http://www.specialtactics.me). We look forward to hearing from you and hope you found this manual worthwhile.