



ShastaDefense.com
Concealed Weapon Training Classes

**INTRODUCTION
TO
POSITION "SUL"**
[as a tool for the armed citizen]

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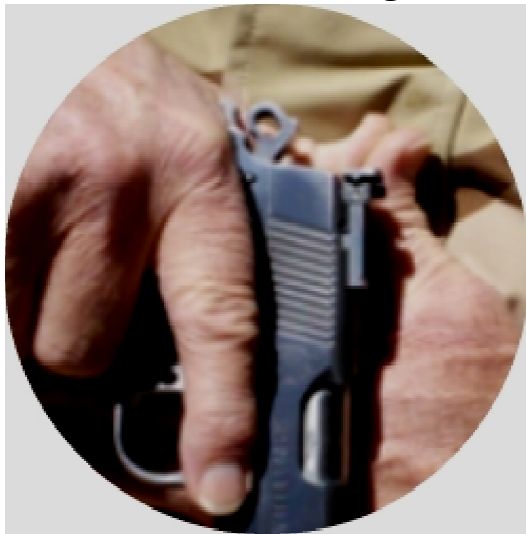
[SEE NOTE 2 FOR SOURCE MATERIAL USED IN DRAFTING THIS PUBLICATION]



Front View - Image 1



Side View - Image 2



Zoom View Thumbs - Image 3



**Do NOT "chicken wing" your elbow
- Image 4**

PURPOSE AND REASONS FOR USING POSITION SUL:

[FOR SOURCE MATERIAL – SEE NOTE 2]

- SUL is intended to be a position of “restraint”, “not of menace”, non offensive.
- Muzzle control – the gun is pointed in a “safer” direction. (Also, can scan 360 degrees).
- It is not designed for covering, or covering corners.
In position SUL, The gun is “out of the fight”.
If you need to be covering, then your weapon should be up in a ready position, not SUL.
- It is for the purpose of getting the weapon into a safer angle so your partners, family, and non-threats can move around your firearm. Example, you are in a crowded mall with innocent persons all around you, and no visible threat. SUL can be used for very tight movement around other innocent persons. Can be utilized when moving through a structure, vehicle, or around other people.

HOW TO DO POSITION SUL:

- The Non gun hand (inboard hand) acts as a spacer so that the muzzle has about a 12 to 15 degree offset from your body such that if the weapon discharged the bullet would strike between 12 to 24 inches from shooters body.
- Your wrist should not be too high up where it has an uncomfortable torque to it.
- Your hands rest down lower in a comfortable position (see images 1 and 2). Hands down closer to the belt line can take strain off of the wrists.
- Slide of the weapon lies comfortably across the back of the support hand. Separation of the support hand fingers allows better grip formation when handgun is presented.
- Thumbs are “pyramiding”, which allows a smooth transition to the shooting grip.
- The Key POINT of contact is between (see image 1):
 - The index finger first knuckle of the shooters support hand; and
The middle finger knuckle of the shooting hand (acts as “cam”, “hinge”, “pivot point”).
 - This allows the weapon to be brought into position and indexed on target with sighted index to eye.
- The gun is **not** canted off to the side (i.e., pointing at an angle and to the left of your body, in the case of a right handed shooter). Rather, the barrel is in line with the shooter’s spine when viewed from the front (see image 1). [Note: If going up stairs, canting muzzle at 45 degree angled toward weak side with muzzle down and away from persons legs in front of you].
- Your forearms are against your body. Do not project your elbows too far out from your body.
- Your trigger finger is (off the trigger and outside the trigger guard) extended and indexed along the side of the frame (NOT on the slide).
- From a ready position, you recover to SUL. If you have a weapon that requires de-cock or a single action safety such as a 1911, you should first come back to a ready position and then de-cock / safety on, and after that is done, go to position SUL.
- One handed SUL may be employed where ushering family members to safety. Strong hand in position SUL – other hand escorting persons.

When is the SUL position used:

- When “you are in transit” (moving from Point A to Point B) “and you are not the cover man”. [NOTE: if you are the cover man, your weapon belongs up on the threat area.]
- “When friendlies are crossing in front of your sector of fire or arc of coverage”.
 - Example: a friendly is crossing in front of you.
 - Example: maneuvering in your home with family members being directed to safe room.
- “For domination of crowds”.
 - Examples: individuals are “under your control”; “they are complying with your verbal Commands” and “not offering you any resistance, either verbal or physical”; but, you don’t feel comfortable putting your gun in the holster yet.

CAUTIONARY STEPS THAT MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT:

- When moving, turning, or leaning forward – the following are necessary procedures to avoid having firearm cross your body! (do not laser your body!).
 - Increase the angle of the firearm outward relative to the body so that the Muzzle doesn’t cross your body, legs or feet. [Be sure not to laser others].
 - when checking threat areas to your left, right and rear:
Step and pivot into the direction you desire to check. This tends to avoid pointing the gun at your body, legs or feet. You may also have to increase the angle of the firearm away from your body.

Remember, you may be handling your firearm safely and professionally, but others may still view you as a threat. Although the following quotation was addressing plainclothes police (and how to avoid being shot by other police), the recommendations also apply to law abiding citizens in order to avoid getting shot by police, responders, other CCW holders, etc... .

As stated in Force Science News #216 (readers experiences section):

“...The longer the [plainclothes] presents himself holding a gun or displaying armed behavior, the higher the likelihood of being misidentified and fired upon.

- As a [plainclothes] choosing to respond to an armed threat, we recommend keeping your weapon concealed as long as possible as you maneuver to a position of advantage. Only present the weapon when you absolutely, positively have to engage bad-guy threats. After engaging and conducting necessary after-action procedures, immediately holster, conceal the weapon, move to cover, and be prepared to "halo" your badge.

- Open up all trainees' situational awareness to understand they are an UNKNOWN person when in plainclothes and their behaviors when holding a gun may be perceived as a threat to other first responders (uniformed as well as plainclothes and off-duty).”

END NOTES:

(1) A. Nathan Zeff is a California Attorney at Law. He is also a Certified NRA Pistol Instructor, Certified NRA Rifle Instructor; Certified NRA Range Safety Officer; Certified NRA Personal Protection in the Home Instructor; and Approved Firearms Instructor for CCW instruction classes required for original and renewal permit applications in Shasta County and Tehama Counties.

(2) **Primary Source of Information on Position SUL.** [Direct Action Group](https://youtu.be/Cq-amA56Ge4) (link)

<https://youtu.be/Cq-amA56Ge4>

Position SUL The complete scoop from Max Joseph, co-founder of position SUL).

Position SUL was developed by Max Joseph and Alan Brosnan of TEES.

[Material was sourced from Max Joseph materials (video and written) in an effort to provide a correct overview and introduction for position SUL].

Although emphasis in source materials focused on application to law enforcement, there may be appropriate situations when the law abiding citizen may find use of position SUL beneficial, and “safer” than other options.