

WODAN SECURITY

IBC4 | SEPTEMBER | 2019



IBC4
THE MAGAZINE



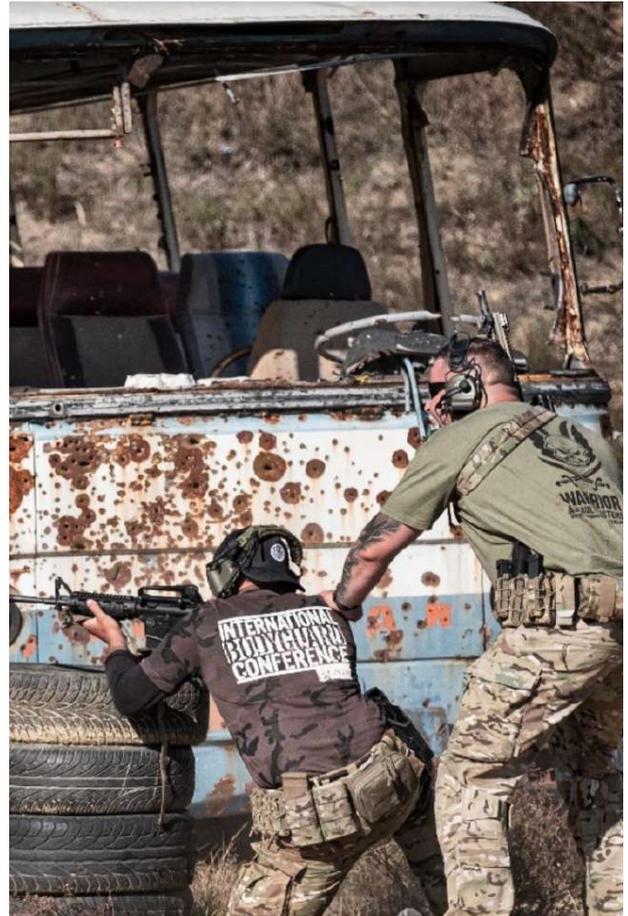
RALF KASSNER
IBC4 (2019)



When I started Wodan Security International Bodyguard Conference in 2015, I could't even imagine how far we would make it with my idea to create a training platform that would bring together the world's leading instructors and professional close protection service operators.

Over the years, Wodan Security International Bodyguard grew into an opportunity to train with Instructor Zero, Paolo Simeone, Paul Bonnici, Alan Omer, Trend and Yuri, and of course with the highly specialized SOF cadre of Team Wodan.

Now, the 4th IBC lies behind us! And I want to say thank you to those who made it possible: Bonowi, Velocity Systems, Camp X, Tacwerk, Peter Busch (Photos), Age Two (Video), Good Guys in Bad Lands, of course the cadre of our instructors, and the Wodan Security community.



INTRODUCTION

Wodan Security International Bodyguard Conference stands for a training environment that meets special operations standards, including the most realistic scenarios an operator could face during a field mission.

All instructors of IBC have a background in special operations, and they all join Wodan's training event with real-life combat experience. We teach only field-proven combat tactics that have stood the test of real battlegrounds in at least one of today's worst security hot spots.

This year, IBC focused on vehicle assault training, carbine to pistol drills, and knife defense, because these are the common tactics in operations, today.

CARBINE TO PISTOL



This year's focus of our live fire training was the transition from carbine to pistol and vice versa. The ability to choose the right weapon platform within any given scenario is crucial for a professional operator, today.

Especially, during overseas mission and in complex overly violent environments. Or in specific regions with a higher frequency of random threat scenarios, like those operators commonly have to counter in areas like Africa, and in the risk hot spots of the Middle East.

We executed our drills in various scenarios. All drills ran through carefully selected stages of escalation. Starting point: slow motion drills.

After basics in slow motion our training moved on to more aggressive stages: Speed transition of carbine to pistol, and from pistol to carbine. After while, we escalated the scenarios for our students.

The training moved on to drills under stress, distraction, and a fast execution within common close quarters combat situations. The perfect application of basic principles in all environments and under all conditions must be the goal.

Understanding when to use a carbine in combat scenarios and when to switch to pistol is a crucial skill for CPS professionals. A real-life operator has to handle malfunction or moving targets or simultaneous attacks accordingly.



HOSTILE VEHICLE CHECKPOINT DRILLS

An important aspect in many of today's CPS missions is an operational low profile. The preparation of civilian vehicles plays a crucial part, here. An operator needs to know how to adapt to the given environment and prepare his equipment, including the vehicle.

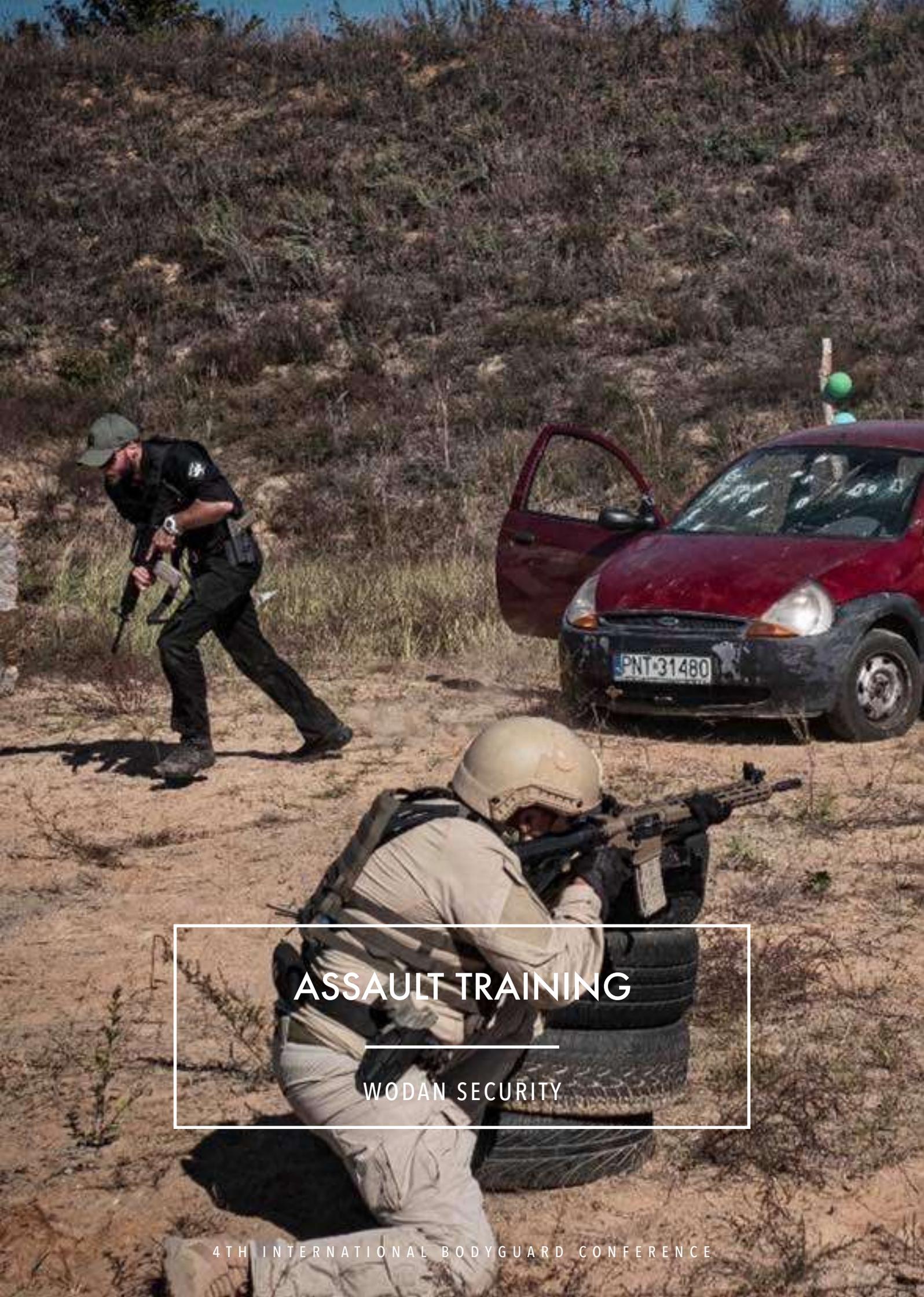


Therefore, modern vehicle CPS tactics include also: installation of ballistic plates, quick draws but hidden compartments for weapons, grenades and essential equipment for a mission. After this part, our training moved on to low profile movement, and then to aggressive engagement with live fire.



Driving a vehicle, or leaving it to move away while using specific small unit tactics under live fire is a highly important CPS skill. Extensive live fire drill training and preparation for the worst case where part of IBC4 2019. We used team drills and tactics to train communication and escape strategies.





ASSAULT TRAINING

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IBC4 INSTRUCTORS



IBC4 INSTRUCTORS

Ralf Kassner • Wodan Security founder and CEO. Former GSG9 and SEK (Germany) with over 20 years of experience in special operations and close protection services.



James Collier • British military special operations background and over 25 years of international experience in close protection and risk management



Mark Human • South Africa, trainer for military, law enforcement, and private security. Subject matter expert in knife defense, and ultra close quarters combat.

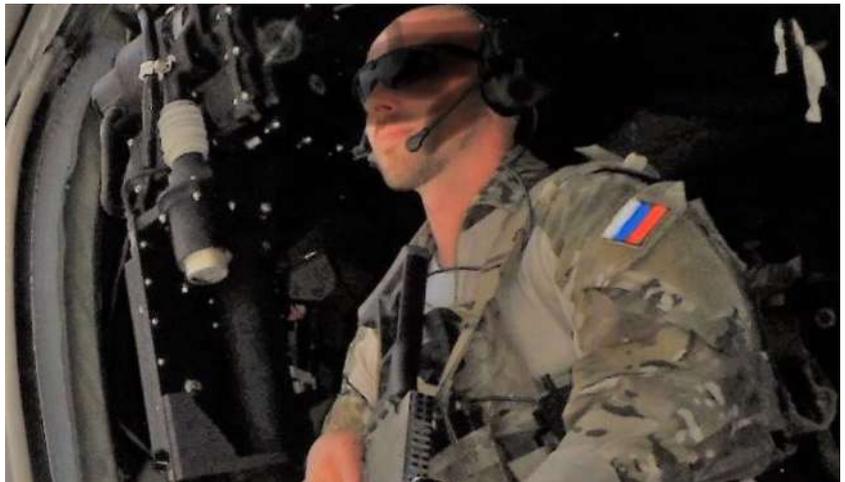


IBC4 INSTRUCTORS

Diego • Former US army military police, firearms instructor, SME carbine to pistol transition, and combat carbine.

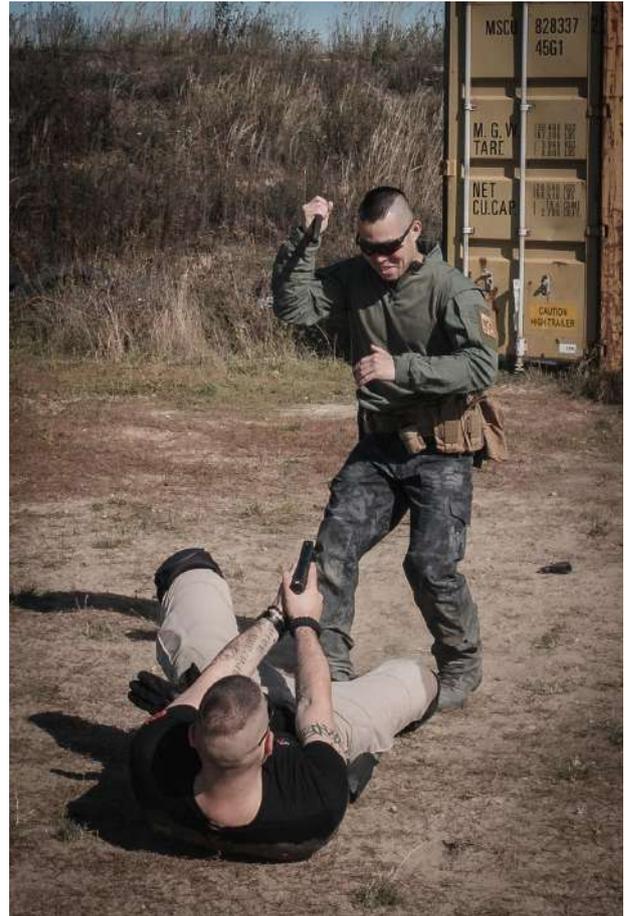


Andrej • East European military SOF, weapon and tactics instructor, vehicle assault scenarios.



Dr. Kurt Pelga • SME of international terrorism. He lived and worked under death threats of middle east terrorists for years.





KNIFE DEFENSE

Knife defense is one of the hottest topics in the CPS community. Knife attacks come out of the blue and are extremely hard to counter, even with a firearm.

With Mark Human's background as a trainer of South African law enforcement units he was able to demonstrate the latest and most realistic techniques to counter knife attacks, based on his own operational experience.

Mark covered more advanced topics of knife defense during IBC4. Especially regarding close protection services, where you often face a scenario like firearm vs. knife. He also trained IBC4 attendees in using a knife as a backup weapon, e.g. in case of malfunctions.



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RALF KASSNER INTERVIEW



Question: How did you choose the training scenarios and topics of the 4th International Bodyguard Conference, this year?

Ralf Kassner: Every single Wodan Security team member and every single instructor in our extended network has a strong background in special operations and real-life close protection services. We are out there, facing the constantly evolving threats of our times. I won't reveal any secrets, if I just remind you about the rising numbers of attacks by knives, all around the world. And in hot zones like Afghanistan, Mali, Iraq and Libya, you won't make it very long without a proper training in armed assaults counter tactics, and defense training for security checkpoints or vehicle convoys. That's essentially everyday's reality in our line of work. And that's why I put these topics on the schedule of Wodan Security's IBC4, this year.

Q: It seems, that knife defense played an important role in the IBC4 agenda?

Ralf Kassner: Absolutely, and we had one of the best SME on this topic worldwide: Mark Human. His experience in CQB and his reputation as one of the best instructors for LE, Military, and CPS is unmatched. He knows the real-world challenges we have to face as

CPS operators, because of his own background and real-life experience.

There is a lot of bad advice about knife defense out there, but Mark comes from the application of modern CQB tactics in the real world. His teachings aren't theoretical. That's why his advice is realistic and highly valuable. Even seasoned operators were surprised by his experience and skills as CQB instructor.

Q: And the assault training and live fire part?

Ralf Kassner: We had a strong focus on carbine to pistol transition training, this year.

Because that is what's awaits you, if you are working in risk hot spots like Africa or in the Middle East.

Combat conditions are constantly changing in these countries: An assault can move from a convoy into close quarters battle within seconds. Operators have to prepare for it.

A solid foundation in how to move from carbine to pistol and back is crucial for today's operational environment.

Q: How important is live fire training for CSP?

Ralf Kassner: Essentially, like water for a fish. You can't train for a real combat situation without at least some rounds of live fire.

RALF KASSNER INTERVIEW



FX training is good. But there is a point, where you have to go beyond it and make your trainees feel what it takes to make tough decisions or remember complex drills under the impression of real bullets flying around.

It needs a highly controlled environment and responsibility to get into live fire training, With our experience of many years in counter-terror units or military operations, we can handle scenarios that are realistic and safe at the same time.

Question: That's why you set up IBC4 in Camp X in Poland?

Ralf Kassner: Camp X offers highly flexible and realistic training condition for SOF and professional CSP personnel. I am very tough, when it comes to chose our training environments. Camp X delivers. Their team comes from a SOF background. They understand what we need. It makes their range one of the best in Central Europe. But the sad truth is also, that German politics make our life harder, every year. Today, it's impossible for operators to train on an advanced SOF level in Germany. The moment you pick up a gun on a shooting range and you just move with the gun in your hand, you face enormous legal

consequences. With these crazy legal policies, how can we train people for facing what is going in in Iraq, Somalia, or Libya? Its impossible. That's why we move to Eastern Europe, and with Camp X we have found the perfect partner for our training.

Question: Do you think these policies will change, any time soon?

Ralf Kassner: I doubt it. On the other hand, diplomats and CEOs demand professionalism in CPS. But the administration in Germany or Central Europe doesn't give our industry, what it needs to provide professionalism. That's why people move to questionable ranges and train under questionable instructors. That endangers all of us. One sucker in the team who trained cheap crap under cheap conditions because of crazy politics can cost a whole team's life.

Question: This year, one of your guests was a journalist, Dr. Kurt Pelda. Why?

Ralf Kassner. Dr. Kurt Pelda, an authority in terrorism reports, has faced life-threats by middle east terrorists. Everything that helps you to understand, what you may face during a operation, can help you to stay alive and bring your VIP and your team back home.

360° TRAINING



WODAN 360° TRAINING

The IBC4 360° training was designed to train tactical room entries, evacuation scenarios, and operational flexibility in a highly hostile environment. The IBC4 participants had to form small teams and to face constantly changing threat scenarios under ongoing fire in the CQB facility of Camp X in Poland.



Scenarios with wounded VIPs or team-mates were on the agenda to push the participants abilities to make tough decisions while counter a highly hostile environment. Wodan Security has a worldwide reputation to set up some of the toughest and most realistic scenarios in the industry.



With his operational experience as a former GSG9 unit member, and as a CPS professional in security hot spots like Iraq and Africa, Ralf Kassner knows exactly what kind of living hell could await an operator during a mission. That's why Wodan Security is highly regarded for its realistic training scenarios.





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KILL HOUSE TRAINING

GOODBYE





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