

OpSec Newsletter

NEW COURSES: SPG Non-Verbal Surveillance & Analysis Training (N-VSAT) Programme

Article: The Power of Collaboration: How Private Sector Industries can assist in restricting organised crime & enhance the security of their industry as well as National Security

Over the last three decades, organised crime has been allowed to grow within the cracks and evolve in step with the global economy and advancements in technology to levels hardly imaginable.

Hostile Environment Readiness Training (HERT) Programme for Military Units, Civilians, & the Private Security Sectors

SPG release their new, upgraded Classroom-based HERT Programme to prepare personnel deploying to, working, or living in, Austere or High-Threat Environments with risk mitigation.



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SEASON'S GREETINGS

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

Season's Greetings from Special Projects Group

We would like to send a big thank you out to everyone who has helped SPG grow into the 'beast' it is becoming. We have some very exciting courses coming up in 2024, including our new N-VSAT Programme and HERT Programme. These are covered in greater detail within this Newsletter.

We wish you all the very best for the festivities, and celebrations for the New Year. We hope that you will continue to support Special Projects Group and look forward to presenting you with some very exciting updates on potential business we have in the works.

All the very best from the Team.



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New Courses: SPG Non-Verbal Surveillance & Analysis Training (N-VSAT) Programme

Introduction

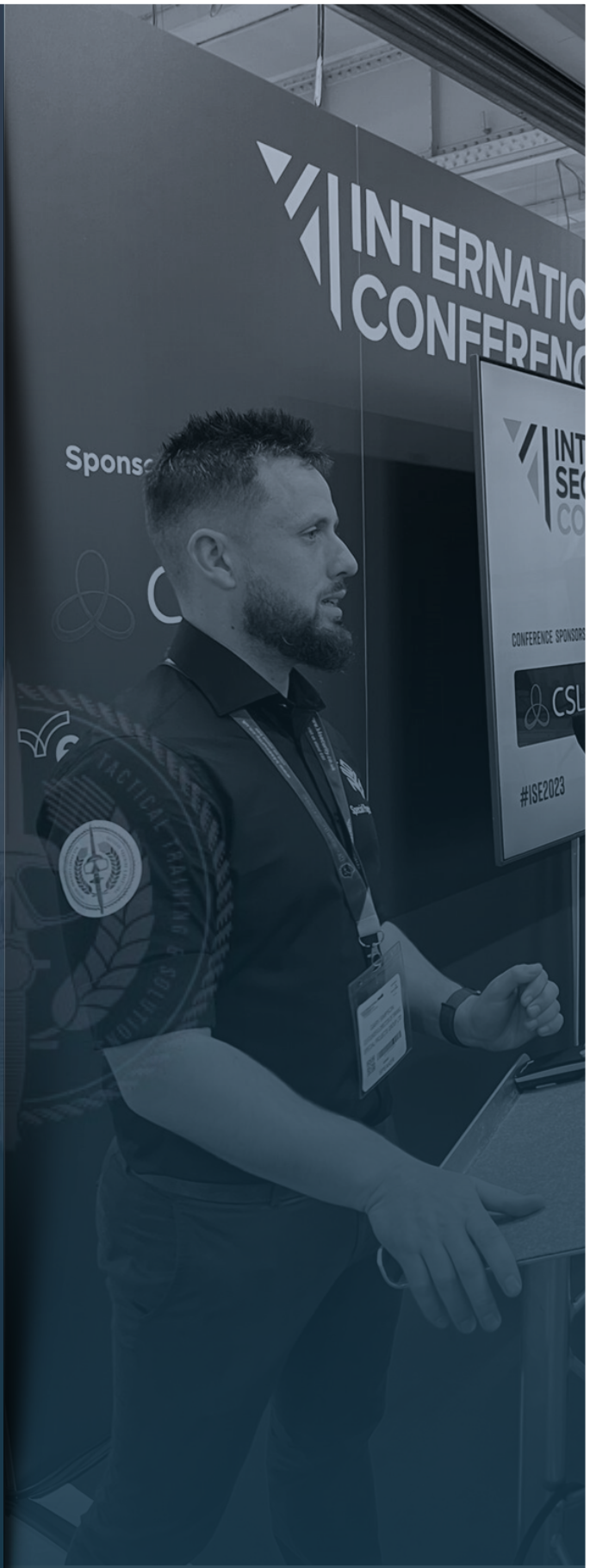
In the realm of security, mastery of Non-Verbal Communication (NVC) is not just a skill, it's a critical asset. Security specialists operate in high-stakes environments where the ability to interpret and convey messages without words can be the key to success. Non-Verbal Surveillance & Analysis Training (NV-SAT) serves as an invaluable tool for security specialists, allowing them to establish rapport, project authority, and navigate complex scenarios with heightened situational awareness.

Special Projects Group Non-Verbal Surveillance & Analysis Training (N-VSAT) Programme

Understanding subtle cues in body language, detecting shifts in facial expressions, and recognising patterns of behaviour are paramount in assessing potential threats and de-escalating tense situations.

Non-Verbal Communication (NVC) serves as an invaluable tool for security specialists, allowing them to establish rapport, project authority, and navigate complex scenarios with heightened situational awareness.

Whether it's 'reading the room' during crowd control or assessing the demeanour of an individual during a security screening, proficiency in non-verbal communication is a force multiplier, enabling security professionals to enhance safety measures and respond effectively to constantly evolving, dynamic, and challenging situations.



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Taking courses in body language offers a range of practical skills that can positively impact various aspects of an individual's personal and professional life. It is an investment in communication proficiency, interpersonal relationships, and overall self-improvement.

Unit 1: Foundation Course: Non-Verbal Communications for the Security Environment (NVC-SE)

This is the base-level course that will provide the learner with a foundation NVC Course, covering all the mandatory learning required to gain a good grounding.

The course takes you on a transformative journey that will enhance your instinctive skills in reading non-verbal cues, honed and tested on the battlefields of Afghanistan, and now tailored specifically for the Security Environment.

The NVC for the Security Environment Course has a specific focus on non-verbal cues – the silent language of threat detection.

Understand how to 'read the human landscape' and identify subtle, pre-incident indicators utilising our **A.N.O.T.A** and **A.N.P.A** situational awareness mechanisms.

Unit 2: Non-Verbal Communications for Front Line Personnel (NVC-FLP)

This course advances the knowledge instructed on the NVC-SE course and is ideal for security personnel such as Door Supervisors, Close Protection Operators, members of Military Units and Law Enforcement Agencies operating in potentially medium to high-threat environments.

The course covers key subject areas explaining how we rely on our ability to assess situations, build rapport, de-escalate threats, and communicate efficiently to get the job done, and keep your front-line personnel safe.

Our coaching and training is geared to support you in this by enhancing your ability operate safely through Non-Verbal Communication training, using our N-VSAT Programme.

To learn more about the Non-Verbal Surveillance & Analysis Training (N-VSAT) Programme, visit our website and go to 'Courses' in the main menu.



Silent Signals - The Crucial Role of Non-Verbal Surveillance & Analysis Training in Hostile Military Operational Environments

Introduction

In the high-stakes world of military operations, effective communication is paramount. While verbal communication does play a significant role, the importance of Non-Verbal Communication, or 'Body Language', cannot be overstated. Military personnel operating in hostile environments often find themselves in situations where words alone may not suffice. This article explores the critical role of Non-Verbal Surveillance & Analysis Training (N-VSAT) in enhancing the effectiveness, cohesion, safety and security of military operations in challenging and often, dangerous settings.

Adaptability & Situational Awareness

In austere or hostile environments, circumstances can change rapidly, literally in the blink of an eye, requiring quick and precise response measures. Non-Verbal Cues, such as facial expressions, gestures, and posture, play a crucial role in conveying urgency, identifying danger, or a need for caution. Military personnel who are trained in interpreting these signals can enhance their overall situational awareness and adaptability, these are key components in navigating hostile terrain.

Stealth & Covert Operations

When conducting covert military operations, maintaining silence is often paramount to operational success. Non-Verbal Communication becomes the primary means of conveying often complex messages without compromising the mission.





Understanding and utilising subtle signals allow military personnel to coordinate movements, anticipate threats, and execute missions with a higher degree of security, stealth and efficiency.

Team Cohesion & Trust

In the chaos of hostile environments, trust amongst the team members is essential to the success of the operation. Non-Verbal Cues contribute significantly to building and reinforcing trust within a team or even that of a whole unit. Mutual understanding of each other's body language fosters a cohesive and synchronised team, where members can rely on implicit communication to coordinate actions seamlessly.

Cultural Sensitivity

The Military frequently operate in diverse, multicultural environments. By understanding the nuances of Non-Verbal Communication in different cultures can be crucial for successful interactions. Misinterpreting gestures or body language can also lead to misunderstandings or create unintended escalations. Training in cross-cultural body language can enhance military personnel's ability to navigate diverse settings with sensitivity.

Managing Stress & De-Escalation

Hostile environments are by their very nature, inherently stressful, and effective communication becomes even more challenging when you find yourself under duress. Non-Verbal Cues can convey feelings of reassurance, calmness, or alertness, contributing to the overall management of stress within a team or unit. Additionally, understanding the signs and body language of potential adversaries can also aid in de-escalation efforts, preventing unnecessary conflict and ultimately saving lives.



Non-Verbal Surveillance & Analysis Training (N-VSAT) Programme

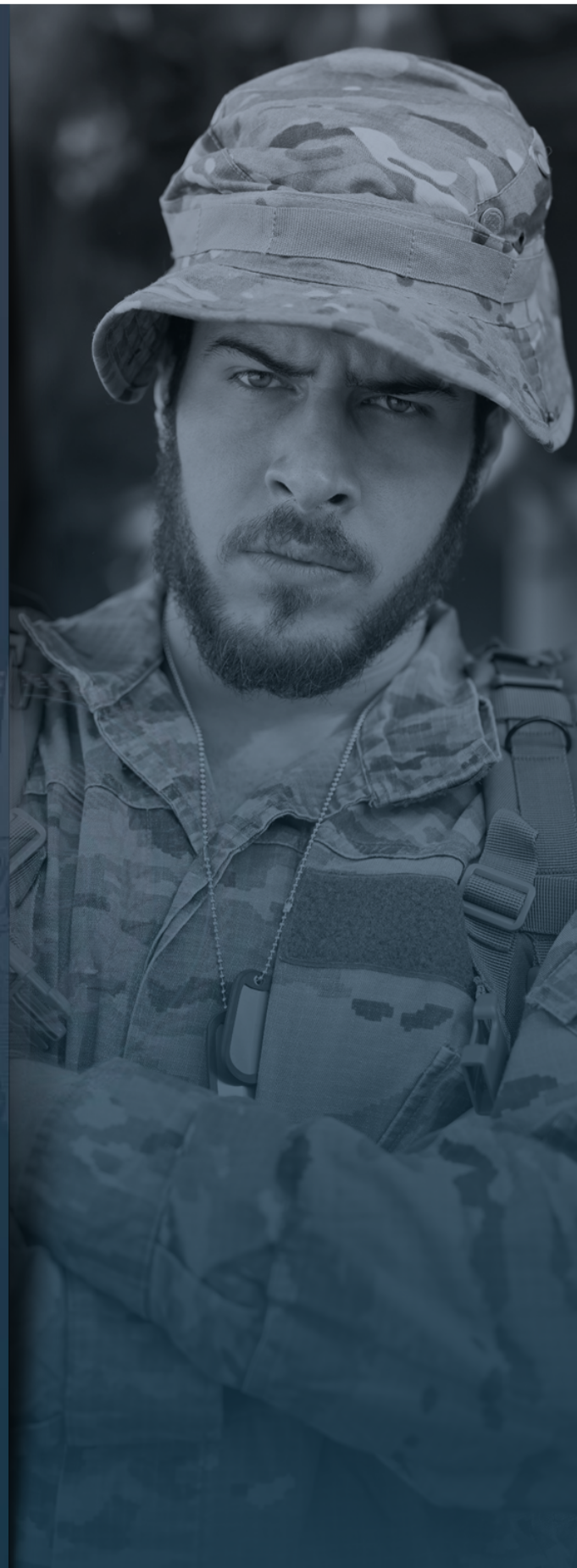
The integrating of Non-Verbal Surveillance & Analysis Training into military training and Individual Pre-Deployment Training (IPDT) is essential. This involves teaching personnel to recognise and utilise Non-Verbal Cues effectively to 'read the human landscape'.

Classroom-delivered training courses such as our NVC for Security Environments (NVC-SE) and NVC for Front Line Personnel (NVC-FLP), simulation exercises, role-playing scenarios, and real-world case studies can greatly assist military personnel hone their Non-Verbal Communication skills in preparation for hostile environments, mitigating the risks associated with a security-related incident.

To Summarise

In the unpredictable and perilous world of military operations in conducted in austere or hostile environments, Non-Verbal Surveillance & Analysis Training emerges as a silent, yet very powerful tool. Its role in enhancing adaptability, promoting team cohesion, and mitigating misunderstandings cannot be overstated.

By recognising the significance of body language and incorporating related training into military programmes, personnel can elevate their effectiveness, safety, and security in the face of adversity. In the realm of silent signals, Non-Verbal Surveillance & Analysis Training stands as a linchpin for success in the most challenging of circumstances.



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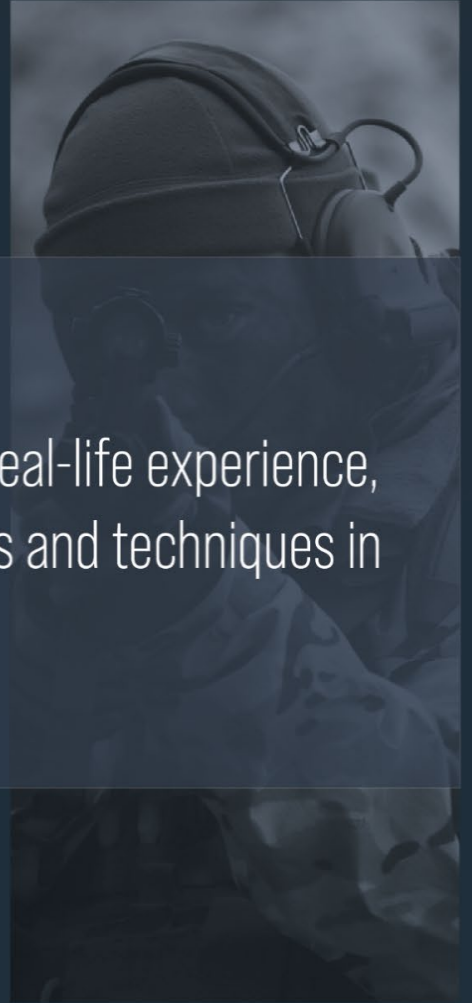
N-VSAT Programme Course Dates February to June 2024

Course Name	Dates	Location
NVC for Security Environments (NVC-SE)	12 th to 14 th Feb 2024	Manchester, UK
NVC for Security Environments (NVC-SE)	11 th to 13 th March 2024	Manchester, UK
NVC for Security Environments (NVC-SE)	15 th to 17 th April 2024	Manchester, UK
NVC for Security Environments (NVC-SE)	20 th to 22 nd May 2024	Manchester, UK
NVC for Security Environments (NVC-SE)	17 th to 19 th June 2024	Manchester, UK
NVC for Frontline Personnel (NVC-FLP)	15 th to 16 th Feb 2024	Manchester, UK
NVC for Frontline Personnel (NVC-FLP)	14 th to 15 th March 2024	Manchester, UK
NVC for Frontline Personnel (NVC-FLP)	18 th to 19 th April 2024	Manchester, UK
NVC for Frontline Personnel (NVC-FLP)	23 rd to 24 th May 2024	Manchester, UK
NVC for Frontline Personnel (NVC-FLP)	20 th to 21 st June 2024	Manchester, UK

You can view the information on the SPG Website and book onto our classroom courses from the relevant course page.

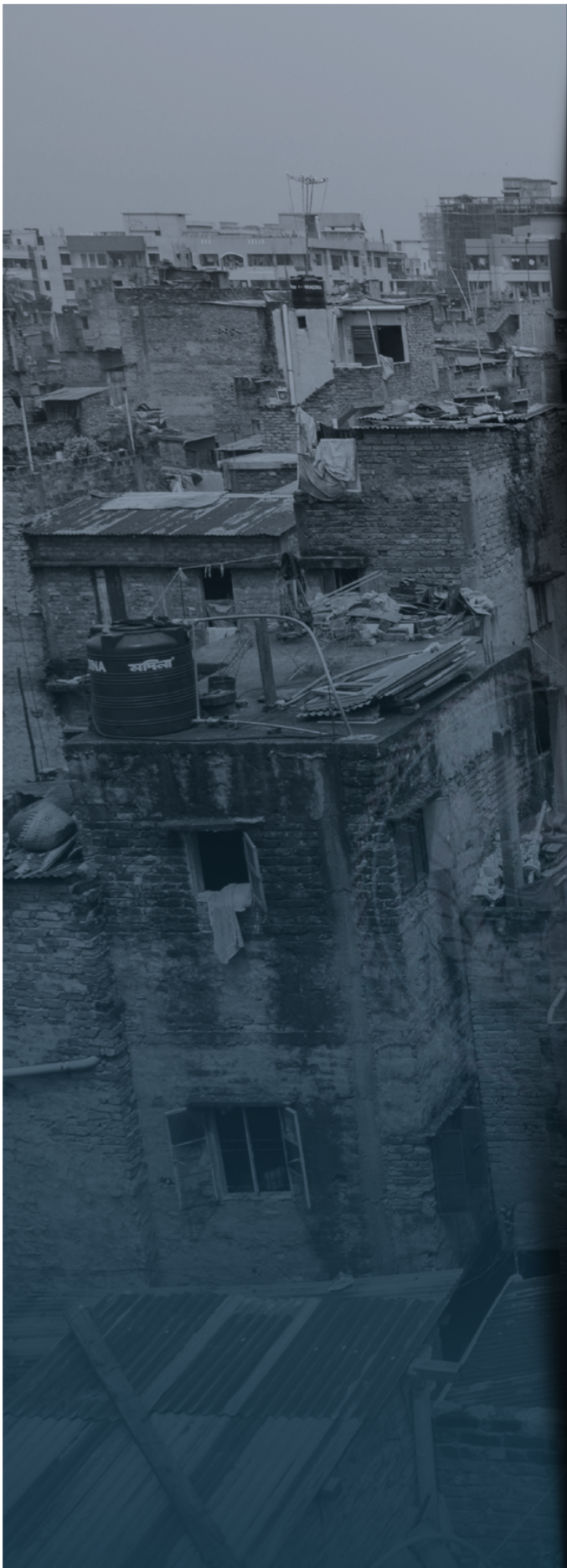
NVC-SE Website Page Link: <https://specialprojectsgroup.org/courses/nvc-se-course>

NVC-FLP Website Page Link: <https://specialprojectsgroup.org/courses/nvc-flp-course>



SPG's approach to training is based on real-life experience, combined with the latest methodologies and techniques in Security Operations.





SPG Hostile Environment Readiness Training (HERT) Programme for Military Units, Civilians, & the Private Security Sectors

In an ever-changing world, individuals and groups working or living in hostile environments face unique challenges that require specialised preparation.

Hostile Environment Training (HET) is a crucial program designed to equip personnel with the necessary skills and knowledge to navigate challenging and potentially dangerous situations.

This type of training falls under the 'Duty of Care' of companies and organisations in assisting in the prevention of security-related incidents to their staff and personnel.

Special Projects Group Hostile Environment Readiness Training [HERT] Programme

The Hostile Environment Readiness Training (HERT) Programme – Units 1 & 2, have been specifically designed for anyone living in, and / or operating in potentially hostile, austere environments anywhere in the world.

These courses are designed and written by Close Protection Specialists and former members of the Elite British Royal Marines Commandos, and Special Forces Support Group [SFG] who have operated in high-threat environments around the world.

SPG Directing Staff have provided HET Training to members of Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), Government Personnel, and Media, greatly assisting our Clients in the risk-mitigation of security-related incidents towards their staff and personnel.



Unit 1: 3-Day Hostile Environment Readiness Training for Team Members (HERT-TM) Course

The course has been written and designed for personnel from all sectors, including, but not limited to the following: Members of International Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), Media Professionals, Relief and Charity Organisations Personnel, Corporate Company Staff and Management, Private Security Sector, and Oil & Gas Workers who fall under a 'duty of care' by their employers.

About The HERT Team Member (HERT-TM) Course

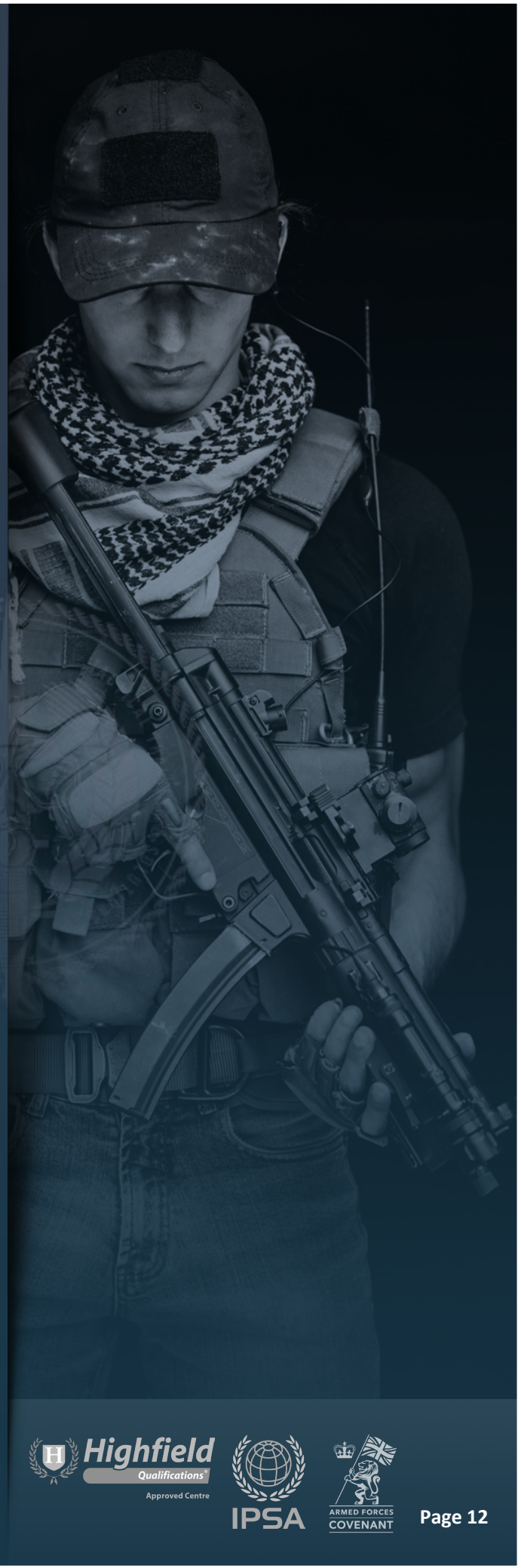
Performing your daily tasks under often arduous and potentially life-threatening conditions can take its toll on both your mental, and physical wellbeing. Hostile Environment Readiness Training is designed to instil in the course delegate vital and potentially life-saving security protocols, tactics and operational procedures.

Teaching delegates how to perform due diligence, practice security protocols, and function at a heightened level of mental awareness is paramount to assisting them in mitigating the risk of a security-related incident.

Designed and written by former Elite Military Unit Operators (Royal Marines Commandos / SFSG), HECPO Team Leaders, and Security Project Managers, the HERT Programme prepares the delegates to effectively live and work in medium, to high-threat, or austere environments.

Unit 2: 1-Day Hostile Environment Readiness Training for Team Leaders (HERT-TL) Course

Our HERT Team Leader Course has been designed for Military Personnel Team Leaders and staff, volunteer Team Leaders, or Managers from the various 'Frontline' International NGOs, Charity Organisations, Media Staff and Professionals, Financial Institutions, Oil, Gas & Utilities Workers managing others who are operating within austere, or high-threat environments.



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About The HERT Team Leader (HERT-TL) Course

Written and designed by Close Protection Specialists possessing many years combined tactical training and operational experience in high-threat environments such as Iraq, Afghanistan and SE Asia, and former members of the Elite British Royal Marines Commandos and Special Forces Support Group [SFSG].

The course focuses on subjects related to critical subject matter with regards to the managing, planning and maintaining key elements within the Protective Effort, threat and action of kidnap and associated areas of targeting indication, as well as surveillance recognition, mitigation, and associated countermeasures.

The training covers key subject matter and areas associated with the management and welfare of team members, as well as the elements associated with task planning, maintaining the protective effort, and the safety and security of personnel.

Customised Corporate Training

Special Projects Group also offers HERT Courses tailored to the specific needs of your organisation.

Our corporate training programs ensure that your team is well-prepared to operate in any hostile environment they may encounter, and our Course Directing Staff guarantees that their expertise ensures that our training is not just theoretical but grounded in practical knowledge.





HERT Programme Course Dates February to June 2024

Course Name	Dates	Location
HERT for Team Members (HERT-TM)	19 th to 21 st Feb 2024	Altcar Camp
HERT for Team Members (HERT-TM)	18 th to 20 th March 2024	Altcar Camp
HERT for Team Members (HERT-TM)	22 nd to 24 th April 2024	Altcar Camp
HERT for Team Members (HERT-TM)	27 th to 29 th May 2024	Altcar Camp
HERT for Team Members (HERT-TM)	24 th to 26 th June 2024	Altcar Camp
HERT for Team Leaders (HERT-TL)	22 nd Feb 2024	Altcar Camp
HERT for Team Leaders (HERT-TL)	21 st March 2024	Altcar Camp
HERT for Team Leaders (HERT-TL)	25 th April 2024	Altcar Camp
HERT for Team Leaders (HERT-TL)	30 th May 2024	Altcar Camp
HERT for Team Leaders (HERT-TL)	27 th June 2024	Altcar Camp

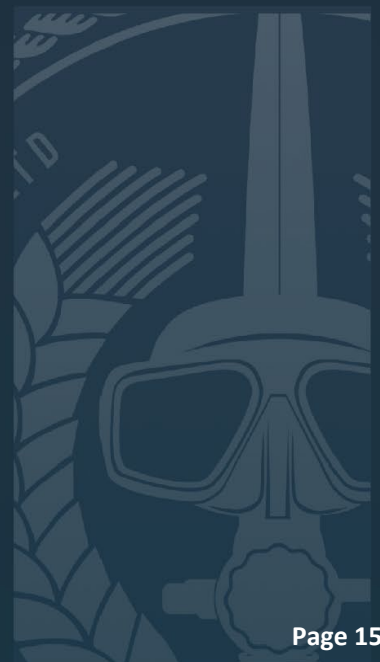
You can view the information on the SPG Website and book onto our classroom courses from the relevant course page.

HERT-TM Website Page Link: <https://specialprojectsgroup.org/courses/hert-team-members>

HERT-TL Website Page Link: <https://specialprojectsgroup.org/courses/hert-team-leaders>



SPG's Tactical Training & Solutions Wing provide a range of tailored & specialist services to clients who require that 'extra mile' to enhance their overall operational capabilities





The Power of Collaboration: How Private Sector Industries can assist in restricting organised crime & enhance the security of their industry as well as National Security

‘Over the last three decades, organized crime has been allowed to grow within the cracks and evolve in step with the global economy and advancements in technology to levels hardly imaginable. In contrast, governments have been slow to respond to the threat that organized crime poses. A more concerted, adaptive approach to tackling criminal flows and corruption by policymakers, law enforcement agencies, and civil society and the media is needed’.

Corruption and crime, measuring the links | Global Initiative

One thing that I have learnt as a security manager and now a director with Invisible Traffick, is that companies who just think of their security team members as door people or an overhead which has to be there, are undermining and undervaluing an important resource within their company.

As illustrated by Global Initiative above, organised crime is a growing concern, and as stated by Interpol’s Secretary General Jurgen Stock, within their Vienna Declaration, Transnational Organised Crime ‘is an epidemic’. This is why combating organised crime is not just down to Interpol and national policing, it is down to all of us no matter what industry we, as security professionals are employed in.

From frontline experience within industry, the introduction of awareness training covering telltale signs of human trafficking to frontline staff and security staff has proven effective in not just identifying human trafficking, but also identifying other organised crime activities.



Knowing what to look for, the absence of the normal and the presence of the abnormal can empower your teams as well as motivate staff, which in turn enhances an organisations security deterrent as well as its security / safety culture.

Security Teams traditionally protect assets and manage controls to mitigate violence, theft, safety, customer service and crowd management. However, by enhancing training to include human trafficking behavioural tells organisations can enhance security as well as safety at their locations.

With the recent increase in conflict in Europe and middle east as well as demonstrations and unrest within the UK and Europe which has spilt onto the streets, this unrest produces opportunities for Organised Crime Groups, (OCG).

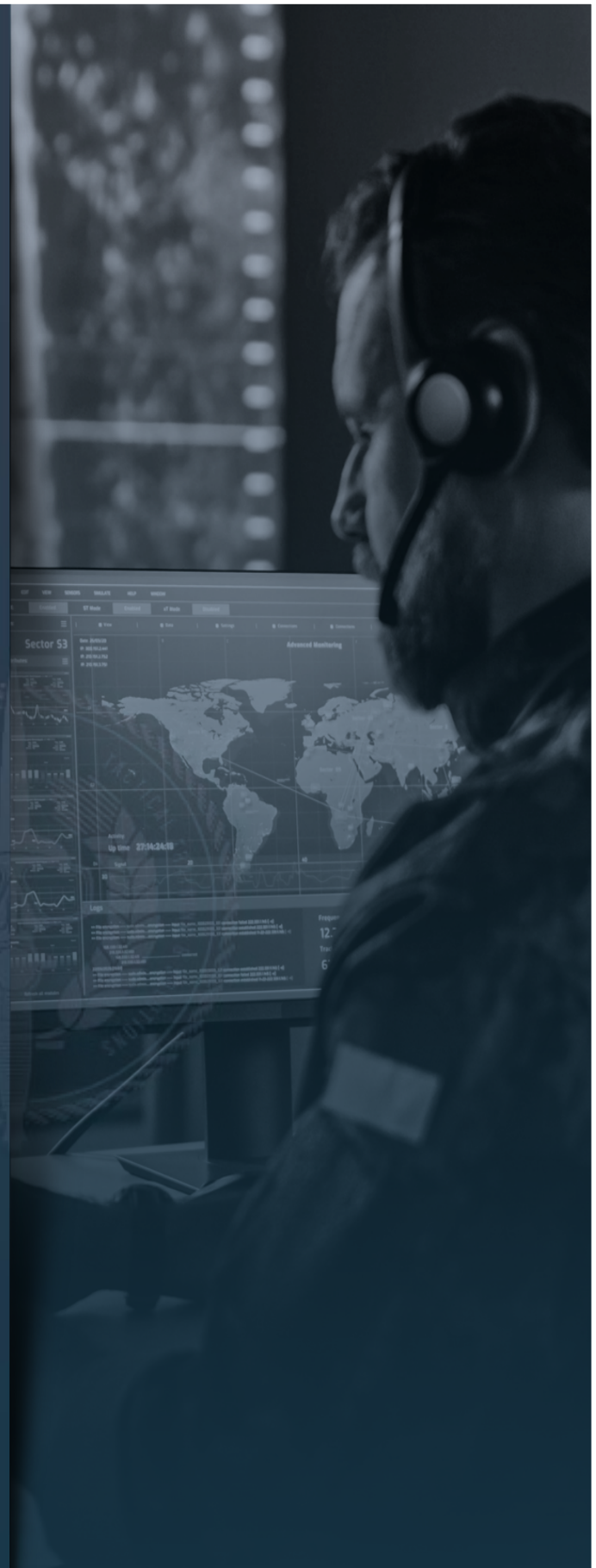
OCG activities consist of human trafficking, child abuse, people smuggling, drug smuggling, weapons smuggling, smuggling of black-market and counterfeit goods, and much more, including these routes being used by terrorist organisations.

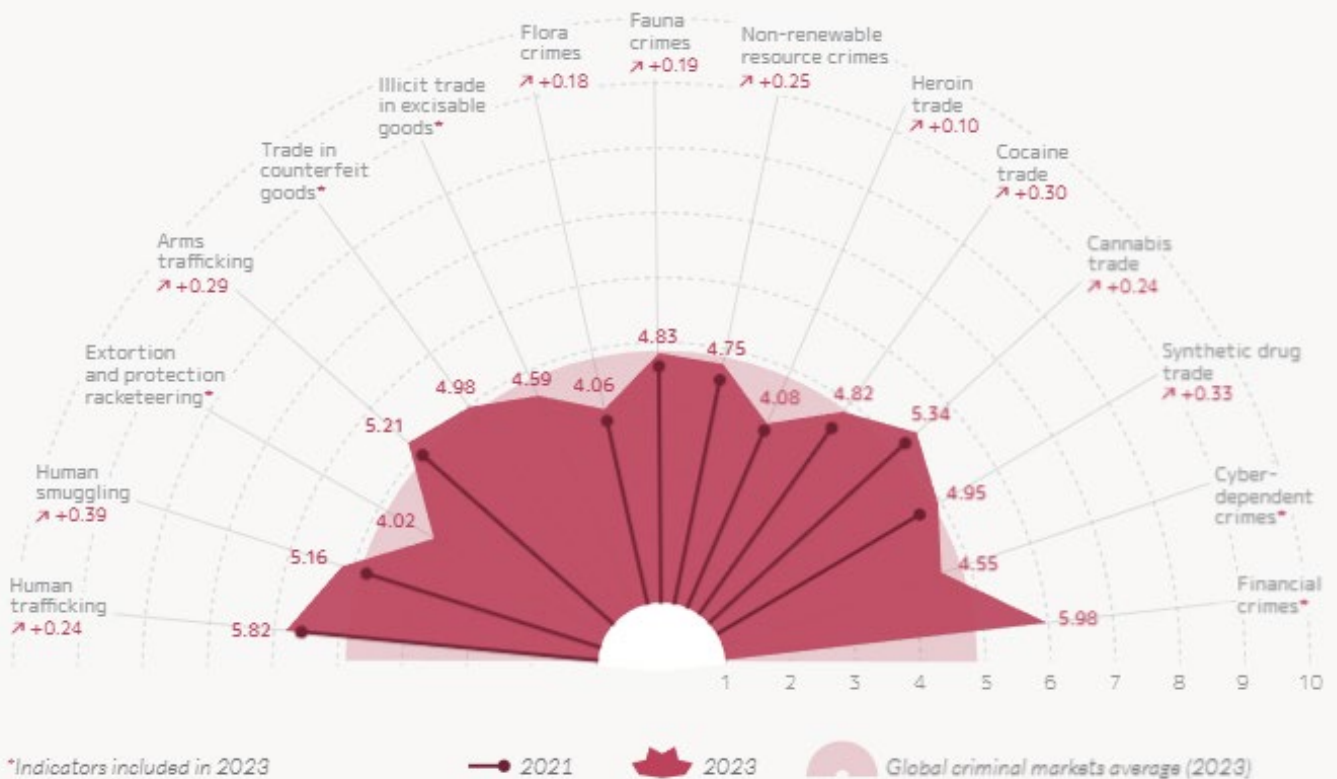
As illustrated by Global Initiative's 2022 Organised Crime Index, Human Trafficking and People Smuggling list within the Top Five organised crime activities. As stated by Global Initiative:

'The continued growth of human trafficking serves as a sobering reminder of this market's impact on society, where humans are the transactional commodity.'

As the image on the following page illustrates both Human Trafficking and Human Smuggling, (People Smuggling), continue to be on the increase, this creates more and more victims, resulting in increased abuse, neglect, growth in illegal activities which influences increased criminality and smuggling.

Human Trafficking awareness training focuses on behavioural tells not a person's age, ethnicity, or religion including the following examples on the following page.





- Visual Appearance: Inappropriate dress, e.g. summer dress or light clothing in the hight of winter, they seem to wear the same clothes all the time, clothes seem tattered etc, they are travelling with no luggage or everything they own is in one plastic back, disorientation, lack of knowledge regarding where they are, who they are with.
- Behaviour: appearing frightened, reluctant to make eye contact, appear lost.
- Physical Signs: Looking ill or frail, potentially due to lack of food, sleep or both.
- Controlling Companion: Someone continually speaking on behalf of another person or persons.
- People travelling or hanging around street corners at odd hours.
- People calling at an address all times of the day and night.
- People appearing unable to talk on their behalf and have a person speaking for them.
- People who work excessively long hours.
- Large group of people who live at the same address.
- Live in degraded, unsuitable places, such as in agricultural or industrial buildings
- Not dressed adequately for the work they do, for example, they may lack protective equipment or warm clothing.
- People in a group that seem to be under the control of one person.

Where a smuggling route which is regularly used by OCG's for human trafficking is deemed reliable, this route can also be used to smuggle other items into the UK, and Europe, including weapons, drugs and counterfeit or illicit black-market items. However, by building awareness and empowerment of your security personnel, organisations can enhance their location's deterrents as well as resilience towards these crimes, which threated their people, customers, assets as well as their reputation.

Case Study

Invisible Traffick, commenced delivering Human Trafficking awareness within UK Ports and airports back in 2019.

This training of front-line staff achieved almost instant success with staff identifying 8 suspicious behaviours of passengers, who they reports to Portal Police, which led to 8 arrests, mobile phone and laptops being seized, and as a result disrupted 2 international human trafficking organisations.

From the training staff confirmed that they felt more empowered to know what to look for and in reporting their concerns to their manager and or police. Behavioural tells, and tell-tale signs (red flag indicators) can be a powerful tool to train staff in.

Since this initial training and a follow up refresher training, staff have not just continued in reporting suspicious activity in relation to human smuggling or people smuggling, their observations have also resulted in observations which have led to assisting in disrupting:

- drug smuggling
- puppy smuggling
- food smuggling

And it has also identified two instances of passengers trying to leave the country against their bale conditions, and identified to Portal Police a suspicious male who was eventually identified as an international diamond smuggler wanted by Europol.

INVISIBLE TRAFFICK



Conclusion

SIA currently provides training for the following sectors: Door Supervisor, Security Officer (Guarding), Security Officer (Key Holding), Cash and valuables in transit operatives, CCTV Operators and Close Protection Operatives.

The range of operatives covers most industries and one which provides a vital service to industry both public and private sectors.

Training security operatives and frontline staff in human trafficking tell-tale signs, behavioural tells as part of their normal duties, not only assists in combating this horrific crime, but it also raises the awareness of staff toward other organised crime activities which can threaten your organisation as well as the country.

By building awareness of human trafficking among frontline staff can not only achieve benefits to your staff, your organisation and government agencies, it also builds knowledge in identifying other organised crime activities which can threat organisations, industry markets, corporate identity, commercial supply chains and our country as a whole.

Encourage Your Staff to Observe and Report!

Never Underestimate the Power of Collaboration! #NUTPOC

Article by William Dill

Invisible Traffick

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Other Courses Dates February to June 2024

Course Name	Dates	Location
Anti-Kidnap & Targeting Indication (AKTI)	23 rd Feb 2024	Altcar Camp
Anti-Kidnap & Targeting Indication (AKTI)	22 nd March 2024	Altcar Camp
Anti-Kidnap & Targeting Indication (AKTI)	26 th April 2024	Altcar Camp
Anti-Kidnap & Targeting Indication (AKTI)	31 st May 2024	Altcar Camp
Anti-Kidnap & Targeting Indication (AKTI)	28 th June 2024	Altcar Camp
Leadership Training Course	09 th to 11 th April 2024	Altcar Camp
Leadership Training Course	3 rd to 5 th June 2024	Altcar Camp

PLEASE NOTE: These courses are not currently on the website, but if you wish to learn more about them, please email us at enquiries@SpecialProjectsGroup.org and a member of our Directing Staff will contact you.



Form a Strategic Partnership with Special Projects Group Ltd.

Are you interested in becoming a Strategic Partner for Special Projects Group? We are looking to develop strong business relationships with proven, established companies within the Security Sector. We offer excellent commission rates, and partnerships on key projects.

Areas we are looking to collaborate right now are:

- Close Protection Services
- Security Consultancy

Contact us today either through our website, or by emailing us at the following address: enquiries@SpecialProjectsGroup.org.



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Contact Details

To contact Special Projects Group Ltd, you can email us at: enquiries@SpecialProjectsGroup.org and one of our Consultancy Team will respond within 24 hours.

You can also visit our company website at: <https://SpecialProjectsGroup.org> and use the form available through the contact page on the website.

If you wish to make a WhatsApp call, please use the following number: +44 (0)7584 353 932.

To keep informed about the various Security Consultancy Services and Training Services that we provide, as well as updates, tips, and much more, why not sign up to this FREE Newsletter. Simply go to our website at <https://SpecialProjectsGroup.org> and sign up.