APPROACH-VECTOR MAP

[RDCTD]

FRONT, REAR, OBLIQUE, BLIND-SIDE, AND CONVERGING APPROACH PATTERNS



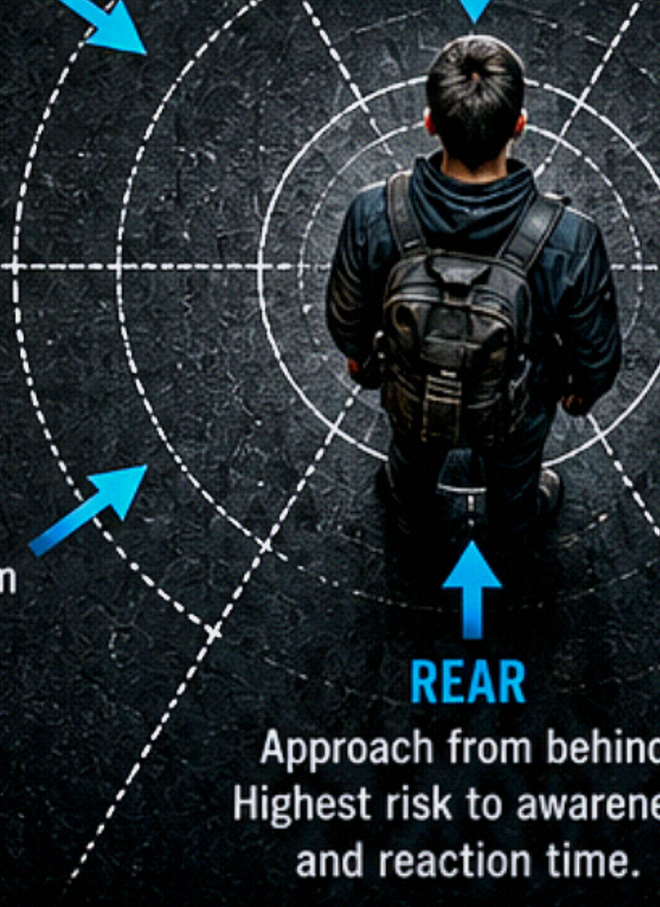
You are never approached from just one direction.
Map the vectors, recognize the pattern,
and control the space before contact.
Awareness of approach is the first layer
of personal security.

THE FIVE PRIMARY APPROACH VECTORS

FRONT
Direct approach within your field of view.

OBLIQUE
Angular approach from the front. Harder to read intent early.

OBLIQUE
Angular approach from the front. Harder to read intent early.



BLIND-SIDE
Approach from your peripheral or attention boundary. Low visibility risk.

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Approach from your peripheral or attention boundary. Low visibility risk.

REAR
Approach from behind. Highest risk to awareness and reaction time.

KEY OBSERVATION POINTS

HEADS & SHOULDERS
Watch for orientation changes and line-of-sight commitment.

FOOTWORK
Steps reveal intent before the body reveals purpose.

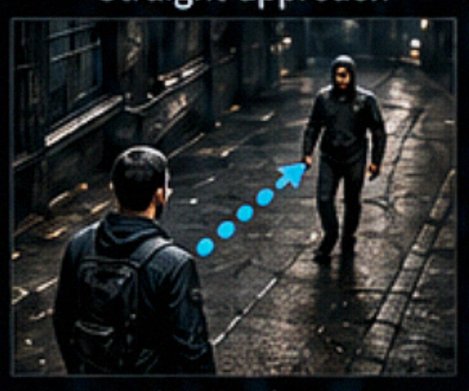
PACE & RHYTHM
Sudden changes in speed or rhythm indicate possible interception.

ENVIRONMENT
Use cover, reflections, and elevation to extend detection.

MULTIPLE ACTORS
Two or more vectors increase complexity and reduce options.

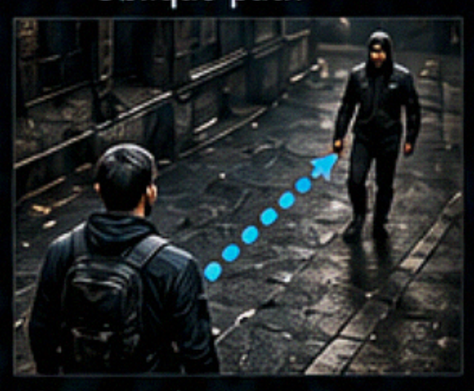
COMMON APPROACH PATTERNS

1 SINGLE VECTOR
– Straight approach



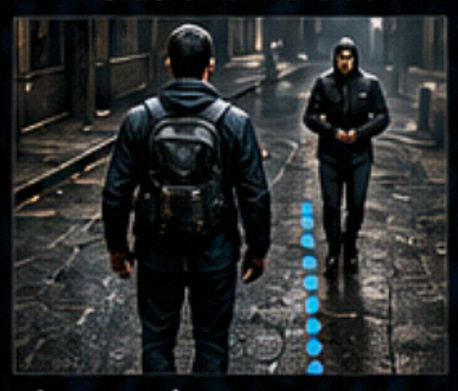
One individual on a direct path. Easiest to detect and predict.

2 ANGLED APPROACH
– Oblique path



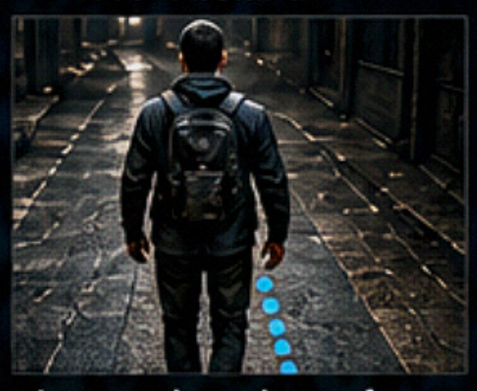
Approacher uses an angle to reduce your early detection window.

3 FLANKING
– Side or blind-side



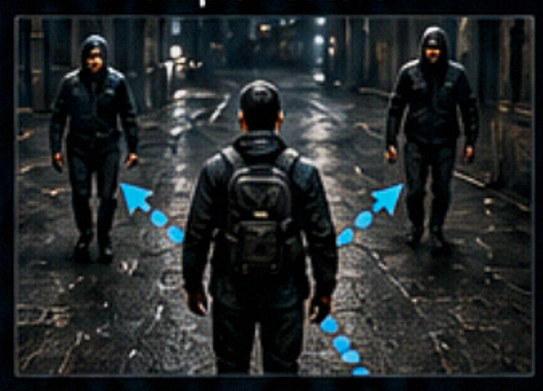
Approacher moves to your side or blind-side to avoid direct engagement.

4 REAR APPROACH
– From behind



Approacher closes from the rear to remove visual contact and reaction time.

5 CONVERGING
– Multiple vectors



Two or more individuals close from different vectors simultaneously.

COUNTERMEASURES



360° AWARENESS
Continuously scan all vectors. Don't fixate.

CONTROL YOUR PATH
Use route variation and obstacles to break predictability.

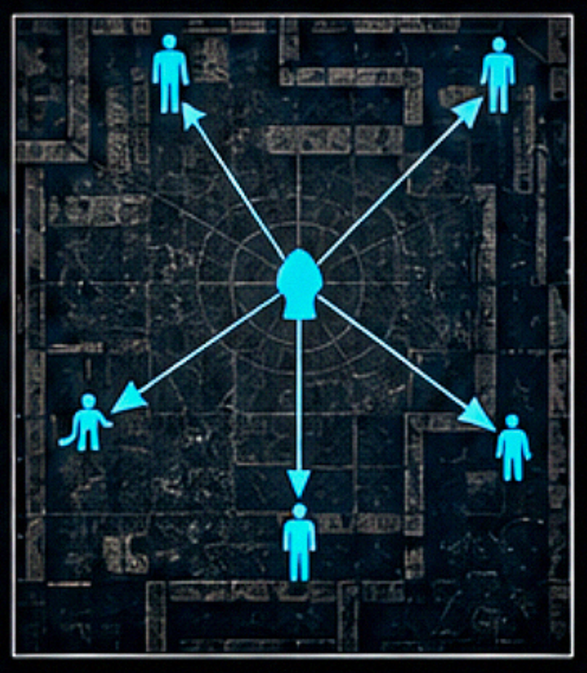
POSITION ADVANTAGE
Stay off walls and out of dead spaces. Keep options open.

MANAGE DISTANCE
Maintain reactionary gap. Too close reduces options.

DECEPTION & MISDIRECTION
Vary pace, change direction, use environmental distractions.

OPERATOR CHECKLIST

- ☐ Identify all approach vectors before movement.
- ☐ Continuously update your vector map as environment changes.
- ☐ Watch for pattern shifts in behavior, pace, and pathing.
- ☐ Avoid predictable routes and habits.
- ☐ Establish position of advantage whenever possible.
- ☐ If multiple vectors converge, create space and break the pattern.



FIELD NOTE

Every approach has a purpose. Your job is to detect it early, understand it clearly, and decide the terms of contact.

REMEMBER

Awareness of direction is survival.
Control the space. Control the outcome.