

## **KAPAP: Principle of Relative Positioning**

In the last KAPAP article we described the principle of Relative Positioning as a combat necessity. (We have at times also referred to it as “Gyro”.) To know your Relative Position, how to you locate yourself relative to your enemy’s position and status during combat, is an essential KAPAP principle to master. It applies whether you are fighting alone or as a team.

KAPAP Academy has the good fortune of working with Professor John Machado and his concepts of positioning. When you study the art of BJJ with the Machado brothers, they first teach you “positions” before they teach you how to end a fight. It is very important to learn this way. If you don’t first get into a good position it’s very hard to end the fight. From a good position you move in the most efficient and effective way from one technique to another. As you adjust position relative to the enemy you feel for the appropriate end; if it isn’t a choke, it’s an arm bar or something as effective.

Relative Positioning is unique to KAPAP and John Machado BJJ Academies. We’ve been involved with John for several years. John and the Machado family have been part of a program to enhance defensive tactics training for law enforcement in the USA. We’ve collaborated to bring together new ideas based on our mutual expertise and experience. Using the principle of Relative Positioning, we’ve improved arrest and control tactics. We demonstrate them in our new DVD set, with an example here as follows.

As two police officers approach a suspect, one officer is the “contact man”.



He reports to the station, talks with and instructs the suspect’s movements, takes identification, handcuffs and searches, reads his rights and so forth.



The other officer is the “cover man”. His ONLY job is to cover the “contact man”.





He ensures the “contact man” is safe and cannot be attacked by anyone outside the first circle of defense or the suspect. The “cover man” covers the suspect with his gun if needed, and he stands a safe distance away.



Using his Relative Position to provide cover for the “contact man”, he can neutralize the situation if something gets out of hand, freeing the “contact man” to perform his duty with improved safety.



The “cover man” consistently adjusts his Relative Position so that he has a clear shot at the suspect and will not shoot the “contact man”.

As you can see, KAPAP uses Relative Positioning in all areas, including what is known as “defensive tactics” - tactics used by law enforcement. Due to liability and legal issues, law enforcement must follow rules governing the amount of force

used, so it's important to train to use the correct level of force. Military or civilian CQB is NOT the same as law enforcement in that different rules apply. Relative Positioning helps in all cases to best choose the "finish" that is most appropriate for your situation and thus apply the appropriate force.

*[Caution: we've seen military people market as "official instructors" for law enforcement "defensive tactics" training without understanding the basics of what "defensive tactics" means to law enforcement.]*

In CQB, it's common to apply one method or technique and find it doesn't work. As your KAPAP studies advance, you'll begin to see how the opponent can counter you and how you can counter his counter. In KAPAP, we use the big game of the "Moon and the Sun"; where you are the "Earth" detecting and adjusting to the movements of the bodies around you. Relative Positioning exercises help you learn how to apply the appropriate systems; to think faster and counter better. As you become more experienced you predict what can happen before it happens, and you adapt. Your reflexes improve. Relative Positioning, the "Moon and the Sun" practice, helps you learn to move with your opponent and apply the next appropriate technique or finish. You seek automatic responsiveness...without thought...because in CQB you don't have time to think, only time to use your reflexes.

As you advance with KAPAP Relative Positioning training, you can add more complexity by increasing the

number of opponents you face.



You can study how to approach them, changing your position relative to their position.





You can also study the use of a shield...by using one of *them* as your shield, if that is what makes the most sense. You can study the use of covers, and so forth. The most difficult situations are when you are one-on-one, or when you face multiple attackers by yourself. We demonstrate these and other Relative Positioning concepts in our new DVD set.

Once your KAPAP Relative Positioning is good, your fighting will become such that you can dominate the enemy all of the time!