



Protection Academies

Protection academies have long focused on the fundamentals — firearms, physical fitness, defensive tactics, and threat assessments. But in today's evolving threat landscape, students must be trained in skills that go beyond traditional curriculum. The inclusion of edged weapons training doesn't just modernize an academy's offering — it directly enhances the effectiveness, adaptability, and readiness of its graduates.

Here's why protection academies should integrate a professional defensive knife program into their training portfolio:

Elevating Graduate Readiness

Real-World Threats Are Often Close-Quarters:

Most violent encounters don't occur at a distance. Whether on public transportation, in elevators, stairwells, or crowded venues, protectors need close-quarters options when space and time are limited.

Edged Weapon Training Fills the Gap:

When a firearm cannot be drawn, or when empty-hand tactics are insufficient, a blade offers the speed, precision, and stopping power required to survive. A well-trained protector knows how to respond when distance disappears.

Modernizing Academy Standards:

By offering knife training, academies demonstrate a commitment to staying at the forefront of protective education. Graduates leave with more - they leave with an additional skillset that directly applies to modern, unpredictable threats.

Enhancing Tactical Integration

A Tertiary Weapon System:

Knife skills don't replace firearms or defensive tactics, they complete them. In a total weapons system, the blade functions as a bridging tool between lethal and non-lethal force.

Retention and Transition Skills:

Knife training reinforces hand control, weapon retention, and close-range transitions, giving students the confidence to maintain control when a situation devolves into a hands-on struggle.

Improvised Weapon Concepts:

In locations where weapons are restricted, protectors must think creatively. Knife training teaches the principles behind edged weapon dynamics, which can be applied to improvised tools like pens, broken glass, or flashlight rims.



Increasing Graduate Value and Employability

Certification Advantage:

A Tom Sotis-edged weapons certification sets graduates apart in a competitive job market. Employers notice training that exceeds industry standards, especially when it includes critical gaps often ignored by other schools.

Realistic Drills, Real-World Preparedness:

Training includes scenario-based drills, instinctive movement, pressure testing, and combat-intent training that mimics real-world violence. This gives your graduates an edge—in every sense of the word.

Adaptability Across Roles:

From close protection to high-threat environments, the principles taught in knife training apply across protective roles. Whether graduates become DSOs, EP agents, or corporate security leads, they carry forward versatile, scalable skills.

Customizable Program Delivery

On-Site or License-Based Delivery:

Tom Sotis LLC offers instructor-led training for academies or can license its edged weapons program to be taught by your in-house staff. We provide full support, materials, and ongoing consultation to maintain quality and consistency.

Seamless Curriculum Integration:

The knife training module can be taught as a standalone program or integrated within your defensive tactics track. We help tailor delivery to match your academy's flow, student tempo, and instructional capacity.

Professional Credibility:

All Tom Sotis certified trainers meet rigorous standards. When your academy adds this program, you're aligning with a respected global authority in edged weapons training.

Conclusion: Build Protectors, Not Just Graduates

In a profession where hesitation can cost lives, your academy's training must address the full spectrum of real-world threats. By equipping students with the mindset, tactics, and skills to handle edged weapons—both defensively and offensively—you're not just producing graduates.

You're producing protectors.