

# I Corps & Fort Lewis

## Force Protection Division / Task Force Protector

### FORCE PROTECTION ADVISORY & INFORMATION

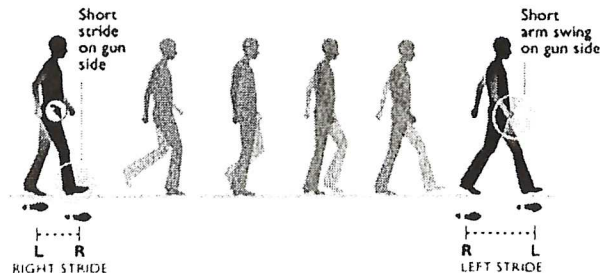
Purpose: Provide situational awareness and recommendations on Force Protection areas of concern.

## Spotting a hidden handgun

### ASYMMETRICAL GAIT

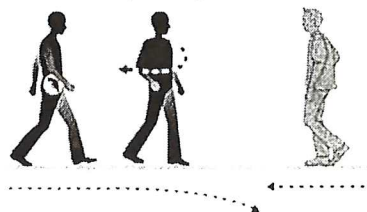
A gun in a right-hand pocket or tucked into the right side of a waistband may hinder leg movement on that side, making the right stride shorter than the left.

A slightly clipped arm swing may also signal a hidden gun; the forearm on the gun side will tend to stay close to the body, instinctively guarding the weapon.



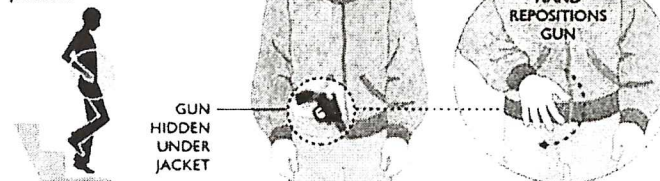
### UPPER BODY SHIFT

When approached from the front, a person with a hidden gun will instinctively turn the gun side of his body away from the person approaching, and may veer to that side to avoid a face-to-face encounter. He is also likely to pull his arm in toward his body on the gun side.



### A QUICK ADJUSTMENT

A gun's weight is distributed unevenly, with more of its weight in the grip than in the barrel. Vertical motion — like descending stairs or stepping onto a curb — tends to shift the barrel upward. A quick, circular movement of the hand or forearm adjusts the gun's position.



### RUNNING FROM THE RAIN

When running toward shelter from rain, or across a busy street, a person concealing a gun is likely to brace the weapon with an arm or hand.



### CONSPICUOUS CLOTHING

Garments worn to conceal weapons often appear odd, mismatched, or out of season, and can actually draw attention to a person trying to avoid scrutiny. A closer look may reveal movements or other characteristic signs of a hidden handgun.

**JACKET FITS UNEVENLY**  
One side hangs lower than the other, and swings like a pendulum with each step

**HAND RESTS ON GUN**  
Hand constantly feels for gun through clothing

**HOLSTER BULGES**  
A holstered gun appears as a lump when arms are extended or when the body bends at the waist

**STYLES DON'T MATCH**  
Oversized or mismatched coat seems incompatible with other clothing

**CLOTHES DON'T SUIT WEATHER**  
A coat is open in cold weather, for quick access to a gun... or closed in hot weather, to conceal one



Source: Robert T. Gallagher, former detective, Anti-Robbery Tactical Unit, New York City Police Department

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