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Episode #363 Show Notes

**Rethinking The OODA Loop: Tactical
Lessons From A Fight At Disney World**

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Jeff Anderson spent ten years in light infantry in the military and is a combat war veteran. Most of Jeff's military service was spent with the 10th Mountain Division – an elite light infantry force of highly trained warriors specially trained for warfare under all conditions – arctic, jungle, desert, mountains, urban terrain – you name it.

After 10 years of military training in additional elite infantry units around the world, Jeff began working as a security consultant and executive protection specialist for private clients and the entertainment industry, eventually earning his industry recognized Certified Protection Professional (CPP) designation. Later, he went on to instruct hand-to-hand combat and weapons combat and eventually organized a unique combatives association focused on all areas of survival, called The International Society Of Close Quarter Combatants (www.ISCQC.org).

Jeff's work has been published in several magazines and expert blogs and his manuals and survival combat training DVDs have long been best-sellers. As the Editor in Chief of Modern Combat & Survival, a publication of the ISCQC that provided focused training strategies for all areas of survival for men and women of all walks of life, Jeff determined the next step: the lifestyle brand **Warrior Life**. To learn more about *Warrior Life* and the way of life it promotes, [visit us online](#).

Rethinking The OODA Loop: Tactical Lessons From A Fight At Disney World

with Jeff Anderson from <https://www.WarriorLife.com/>

1. The OODA Loop Is NOT A One-Sided Process

- The OODA Loop is Observe, Orient, Decide, Act. It's the decision-making process that takes place when engaging in any altercation.
- This is a two-way street. You have an OODA loop, and your opponent has an OODA loop. These loops trade back and forth like a tennis match.
- In a fight, your goal is to create chaos and act unexpectedly to "get inside" the attacker's OODA loop decision cycle, get them to show their hand, and use the information to gain an advantage.

2. Orientation Is The Most Critical Aspect Of The OODA Loop

- Orientation goes deeper than physical posturing. It's a combination of factors concerning how you approach a situation, and it shapes all the other factors in the OODA loop.
- The way we observe, the way we decide, and the way we act are all affected by our orientation.
- Everything from genetic heritage and cultural traditions to analysis and synthesis (risk and reward), previous experiences, and the introduction of new information affects your orientation.

3. The Dynamics Of A Confrontation Can Change Instantly

- In the case of our Disney confrontation, the woman wasn't prepared to be confronted, so she backed down.
- She now understands the risks associated with something that seemed like a "small" risk before confrontation.
- Your assessment, and the outcome, can change instantly if something you didn't anticipate occurs, throwing off your risk/reward analysis.

4. Don't Write Checks Your Skills Can't Cash

- In every confrontation, you've got to be able to back up what you're doing. Had the woman's boyfriend or husband showed up and been twice the size of our Disney hero, this confrontation might have been very different.

5. No One Is Coming To Help You

- There was more at risk in this situation than either party realized. No one helped during the verbal altercation, and they definitely wouldn't have helped in a physical fight.

In next week's podcast, we'll cover a second part to this confrontation, concerning the question, "What would YOU do in this situation?"

Prepare. Train. Survive.

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Hey there. What's up Warrior? It is Jeff from Warriorlife.com and welcome to podcast episode number 363. So I just got back from the happiest place on Earth but it wasn't happy for one mother and her two young children as they were confronted by this large loud, angry man, who made an example out of them. And you know what? They got what they deserved their story and what it means to you is coming right up. Let's talk tactics.

Hey, welcome back Warrior. This is Jeff Anderson, executive director of warrior, life.com. Okay, so let me go ahead and set the scene for you here. This past week, I went to the happiest place on Earth, Walt Disney World with my shmoop's Melissa and our two grandsons 12 and 14 years old and it really brought back a lot of great memories for me as a kid going to Walt Disney World that only been there a couple of times. And this is, it's been a long time since I've been there. Despite it being the pandemic period here.

Where people are still kind of hungering down a little bit or maybe not traveling as much. The crowds were still pretty large at the park it was a three-day event for us. We went to Epcot Center the first day we went to Magic Kingdom the second day and then the final day, we went to Hollywood Studios and it was a lot of walking felt like I was back in 10th Mountain there on my Hundred Mile Road March again. And if you've ever been to Walt Disney World, then, you know, that especially when there are a lot of crowds there, the weight lines can be really.

I long for some of these rides anywhere from about 30 minutes to 50 minutes typically, it was 70 minutes or even up to 90 minutes. Just for some of the main rides there that were the most popular and this was no exception. So in Magic Kingdom, we were waiting in line for what is my favorite ride or event or activity at Magic Kingdom? That is the Haunted Mansion. I remember that as a kid like it just it just seeing those the

Images of goes like the Holograms just really just blew me away as a kid. I couldn't wait to get back in there. Another line for this attraction was really long, it was 70 minutes and and it's this same zigzaggy sort of line that you would expect at like a concert or anything that you do like that where you're kind of zigzagging back and forth in the line and everybody's waiting their turn. In fact, there is a person at the very end of the line with this big large sign on this wooden post with the current wait time.



Time on the sign and it said, 70 minutes when we got up there and then more people come into the back of the line and that person judges, where they're at in the line and that will to step back to the end of that line again and change that number if they need to, but it stayed a pretty long, 70 minute, wait to get into that attraction. That's a long time to wait, for anybody for something. That's going to take maybe 10 minutes of your time, right? Well, we were about halfway through

I would say about 25 minutes in or so in the zigzaggy part of the line where we're surrounded by other people there and all of a sudden out of nowhere, this very loud voice from this man spoke out and he was yelling at not angrily but yelling very loudly at a woman that was behind him. I looked over to see what was happening in this man. Was I would say, in his early to mid 30s had

His daughter with him, who I would say, it was about 10 years older. So he was a large guy about 6 feet taller. So not exactly hugely muscular, little bit of a pooch on them, but he had this bright white hairs. One of the biggest things that I remember about him was he had this kind of hair that was shaved on the sides and it was very spiky on top, and it was like died, like, super bright kind of like, you know, like super blond, right?

And the one behind them was another, she was probably in her late 30s, maybe early 40s and she had two children with her a daughter who looked like about nine years old. And I think believe it was a son that she had with her, that was probably about five or six, maybe even seven years old with her, and then was yelling that she had cut in line and that she needed to get to the back of the line. And wait with everybody else that it wasn't fair to everybody. Now, this was excessively,

Out this wasn't just him talking to her. This was a man who was speaking loud for the sake of being loud and drawing attention to the woman in the middle of the line to go back and get to the end of the line. It drew everybody's attention over to what was going on over there and the woman tried to really kind of brush it off at first. I think she kind of hope that he would just make his statement and then leave her alone.

But he didn't, he said, ma'am I will walk you over to the end of the line. It's right back there. He pointed to the back of the line. He said that's right back there, I will walk you over there if you need to, but it's not fair to everybody else here. You need to go to the back of the line and not cut in front of everybody else. It's not fair. Well, the woman realize that he was really not going to give up and her response back to him. Was you're being mean to me? Now she said this in a hushed tone because she obviously didn't want attention drawn to her.

But she wasn't denying that she hadn't cut in line. In fact, by, you know, 25 minutes into the line.

Well, you pretty much you would have known whether somebody had cut in line or not, right? So she had just entered into the line and the zigzaggy part probably when nobody was really looking or she thought nobody was looking and thought she could kind of get away with it. Well, the man wasn't letting up.

She said to him, you're being mean to me. He's like, ma'am, I'm not being mean to you. I'm speaking to you in a very polite tone right now, but it is not fair to everybody else. In fact, I will walk you to the back of the line in case you don't know where it is. It's back there. Where that sign is, that says, this is the back of the line, but I will walk you over there to make sure that, you know, where it is. I'm not being hostile with you. I'm even offering to help you and she wasn't moving out of the line. And the man wasn't letting up.

And he said it again, man. You need to leave this line. It's not fair to everybody here. He spoke even louder and you need to go to the back of the line. It's not fair to everybody else, it was here. Now, she got really flustered and frustrated, and angry and she stomped out of the line through about three rows of people. And I was only about five to six feet away from where they were at. So I got a front row view to everything that was happening here. Now she left out of there with their kids, holding them by

Hand and dragging them out of there and she went away very upset and everybody in the line clapped everybody in the line clapped and you could see the guy kind of beaming, it wasn't really boasting, he just kind of made a joke out of. He's like thank you very much everybody. I'll be here all day. He kind of made a joke out of it, right? But everybody was very happy that somebody spoke up and said that to her. Now, I don't know who knew that she was there and who didn't know that she was there but with my front row view, I

Found it very interesting and it gave me a real insight into the thought process of what was playing out in front of me and everybody else there, which got me thinking about the ooda loop.

And how most people misunderstand or entirely miss out on the most critical lessons that it has to offer us. Now, for those of you not familiar with the ooda loop, the outer loop, the ooda loop Ood, a was created by US Air Force, Colonel and Military strategist. John Boyd in a study that he did. That was known as the at are the aerial

attack study and it represented the decision-making process that takes place in engaging the enemy specifically the letters used

In this process cycle through Ood a Cuda which is observe Orient, decide and act now foundationally that model was built from Boyd's perspective of surviving an aerial dogfight, but this same principle has been used in everything from business to self-defense. Both armed and unarmed self-defense. Now the ooda loop has mostly been used in tactical training circles for self-protection with a gold.

Able to think as quickly as possible and act faster than your attacker in order to short-circuit their ooda Loop and therefore gain the advantage there.

But what I've found is that Boyd's real message is, and the most critical tactical insights.

That they get misunderstood or they get completely passed by and this is so critical that what I'm going to do is I'm going to approach this in a two-part series because there are a couple of different angles that are important here. So in this episode of the podcast, what I want to do is I want to share with you five, tactical, ooda, Loop observations. That I noticed during the exchange between the woman in that man in line and share them and how they apply to you tactically. What are the lessons that you can take from this? Because I learned a whole hell of a lot of, from this,

And I have five good tips here that you can take away from it as well. So let's go ahead and jump into these now. So first the ooda loop is not a one-sided process so it's often been seen as like the loop is being kind of like a scenario for there's the threat and then shorten your ooda Loop and fight back quickly. In other words, the attacker there they've oriented they've, I'm sorry, they've observed.

Did you? They've already in it on you, they've decided that they're going to act and then they take action and for you you want to shortcut that process as much as possible. I mean, criminal, I always talk about it. Criminals are not as stupid as we sometimes make them out to be, that's why they get close to you. That's why most attacks happen as an ambush because they don't want you to have time to orient on them and observe them and all this other stuff like they just want to make their mission successful. And so the longer it takes you to really kind of Orient and

What's going on and then make a decision, then act, like it could be all over by them, which means that you can be lying on the ground bleeding unconscious or dead with your wallet gone. Your car gone your family, gone, who knows, right? So it's always been thought that this is basically a one-sided process that you as the defender, you

have to shorten that Loop. You have to act as quickly as possible. That means shortened, it Loop, and fighting back and, and making the decision and acting is quick as possible, but it's a two-way street.

The ooda loop is yours but it's also your aggressors. And these Loops actually trade back and forth, more like a tennis match. There you go through a loop yourself, but it's a true back and forth with your aggressor. So in this situation that I was in, and what in Walt Disney World, the man raised his voice, very, very loudly and drew attention to them. Now, she responded by first trying to ignore him, he kept it up.

She called him mean, he yelled to everyone out there how polite he was being and offered to even walk her to the end of the line. So the same goes for you and an attacker. In fact, Boyd's intention was to create chaos and act unexpectedly in your actions to get inside the opponents who decision cycle to get them to show their hand. And then use that new information to gain the advantage in the dogfight.

So the first thing here is for you to understand that while yes, you have that little Loop going and you're going to try and shorten it as much as possible and create and decide how you're going to act. It also goes for the other person. So this is a a back-and-forth situation as it was with this man and this woman lesson. Number two here, is that the most critical aspect of here of this of the ooda loop gets missed? And that is orientation. Now, most people think of

Station. Which is that second step there as physical posturing. So how do you Orient? You You observe the attack coming, how do you Orient your body? How do you Orient based upon the environment around you? What if you have people with you, you're defending your family. Like most people think of orientation as a physical orientation but it's actually deeper than that. You see, Boyd saw orientation as a combination of several factors.

And how somebody approaches a situation and how and how it shapes. All the other factors in the ooda loop, the way that we observe things around us the way that we decide what action to take and the way that we actually act. So that's why in the aerial attack study Boyd. Really takes this into account with things such as genetic Heritage, cultural Traditions analysis and synthesis. In other words like sometimes like Risk and reward, what previous

Experiences somebody had. And then what new information is brought to the process. So why all of these things aren't really physical, orientations. These are, how do you Orient who you are and what's happening around you based upon your entire life

history, your culture? How do you see the world around you? What experiences have you had before? That's going to decide how you observe things around you?

You. In other words, if you are a person who never had any element of danger around you at all, you grew up in an upscale neighborhood. There was never any crime, nothing really happened like that. And you go out into the big city, you might not necessarily have this perception, that there is danger around you and you could be projecting that.

Whereas somebody who grew up in an inner city, who realized that the only way you're going to get ahead in life is by taking it and preying upon the weak? Well, they see you coming. It changes how they observe the people around them. It did serve it, decides how they act. So, going back to the Disney confrontation here, to apply this, to what I witnessed. Their, the mom was a predator.

She counted on the weakness of others and she asserted herself for her own gain. Now, her OODA Loop was already in progress, she observed the Longline, she observed that it was going to be 70 minutes. There her orientation was that? She thought it was okay to bypass everyone else and cut in line in front of a group that looked safe to her, she made her decision and then she acted on that decision by getting in front of the right, people who did not say anything to her.

And she's short circuited probably about a good 25 30 minutes off of her and her kids. Wait, in line, now, the people behind her and from what I remember, they look to be like kind of like foreign visitors. Like obviously a lot of people travel from foreign countries to come to the happiest place on Earth. It's a, it's a, it's a big destination for for travel for foreign visitors and the people behind her would have observed, her, observed her cutting in line. Because now remember, we've been 25 30

It's into the line here and they would have noticed all along the way there as they're moving up. Inches inches by inches that they were not there and then all of a sudden they were there. So they observed her and their orientation be it cultural or just the way that most people would respond was that it wasn't worth calling her out. I mean the risk may have been embarrassment if they had called her out and they drew attention to themselves. Maybe if they were if they were from a foreign land, they didn't really know what the cultural norms were in our

Country. Like maybe if they if they called it out and maybe maybe they thought Americans don't like foreigners. And if they said, why are you cutting people would revolt against them? I don't know what their thought process was, because they didn't say anything. So maybe that risk would have been embarrassed. While reward would



have only been a minute or two longer, wait, right. So, I mean, that's what, I think. A lot of people thought, maybe other people did notice that the woman was there. In fact, I remember times where I've seen people cut in line way up ahead of me, I could have said something, but, you know,

You know what, screw it like, what am I going to do? Make a big fuss out of it ruin the day for me before my kids, or who knows what's going to happen? If I do this, it's only going to be like a few extra seconds. Wait, right. So, that's maybe that was their decision regardless. They made their decision, to just let it be and their action was to do nothing. So, there we have, the ooda loop for the mom, and we have the ooda loop for the people behind her based upon orientation. Now, the guy in front of her at some point, noticed her cutting in line.

Line. Now, his orientation was that. It wasn't right. It wasn't fair what she was doing. He analyzed the risk and reward for him. I mean, for him, there was little risk of not saying anything, because he knew he was in the right. He was bigger. She had small children with her. She wasn't really a threat to him. She wasn't with a male partner where it could have become a fight though. Maybe it still could have. You never know what's going to happen and, you know, the real of the risk for him.

He wasn't even like it wasn't even affecting his weight at all. So where was the reward for him? Right? He decided based on his orientation in low-risk that he would use embarrassment as his weapon and he called her out loudly and he didn't let up. So here we can see that orientation for all three of these parties, the woman that was the Predator. The people that were the Sheep behind her and the man who was a

A wolf in front of her, the protector standing up for right. Even though it really didn't affect him. Their orientations of who they are as people affected everything in that situation. And ultimately the woman left, the Sheep left or not the Sheep but the Predator left the flock of sheep there. Nobody else said anything.

Now, let's move on to tip number three here, or observation number three, which is the Dynamics of a confrontation can change instantly. So, in this case, for for the woman, the Predator she wasn't prepared to be confronted and she backed out with her tail between her legs and everybody was clapping about the verbal beating that she got, she looked bad in front of her kids and I mean I can pretty much say that it ruined her day in a probably ruined her kids day. What should have been like a super happy day?

In the happiest place on Earth, probably end up becoming a scar in the memory of both her and her kids. It probably ruined that entire vacation there and I'm sure she

was, she probably couldn't stop thinking about it. The rest of the day. Her kids probably couldn't stop thinking about it, the rest of the day. She looked bad in front of her kids.

Now, my guess is that she'll probably likely never do it again. And now, this is part of her experience and probably understands the real risks that are associated. Associated with something that seemed like it was so small to her, but

It could have also been a confrontation change for him as well. Which brings us to Observation number 4, which is don't write checks that your abilities aren't able to cash. So for her,

It was the threat of him. Right? But for him. What if her husband or boyfriend showed up?

What if he was three times, this guy's size?

What if she got in a fight with him? What if they both got thrown out?

You never know what is going to happen, right? So many people get into this situation where they think we tend to think of like the best outcome there. The truth is, you never know what's going to happen. This guy might have called her out and her boyfriend may have shown up and he may have been some gigantic bodybuilder and that might have resulted in this guy doing the right thing as the Sheepdog protector, he could have gotten his ass.

Beep. This is why we look at situations like at with our with our defeat larger attackers product that DVD that we have, you can see in that video on the sales page for it. That there is a man who is in a confrontation with a woman in a pizza parlor. And it seems pretty safe until her boyfriend comes in

and then things aren't so safe. You haven't seen that video, it's definitely worth checking out because there's a lot to be seen in their related to what we're talking about today, but you can't write checks that your abilities aren't able to cash. You need to understand that what might look like one situation here. Again, part of the orientation part of the information Loop that Boyd was talking about is based upon new information that comes in as well. And you do understand that there can always be new information.

So you need to be ready for whatever those possibilities are. That doesn't mean don't take action. This guy did a very commendable thing from from what we can see from the outside. I don't know what this woman's actual story was at Walt Disney World. If

you have children with handicaps, or if you have a disability in some way, they allow you to go to the front of the line. There's special accommodations made for that. I don't know what the reasoning was for this woman. But nonetheless, it looked like she deserved what she got.

But the guy got lucky also that maybe there was another Factor here that he wasn't prepared to do something about. So you just need to keep that in mind there. So let's go onto observation number five here and that is no one is coming to your Aid.

Look no one else came to this guy's Aid during the verbal fight. Nobody did. Nobody said a single thing. Nobody spoke up and said, yeah, lady, you need to go to the back of line just like everybody else and it would have been easy to do that because this guy was very loud. He was. He seemed like he was obviously in the right to everybody around and judging from the Clapping that happened as the woman left.

Everybody was kind of silently urging him on or wishing that. He would really kind of see-through on this because it's not fair, we all know, it's not fair.

But nobody came to his Aid during the during the verbal fight. So, going back to number four here. If her husband or boyfriend showed up, and he was a big badass if nobody came to his Aid during the verbal fight. Do you really think anybody would come to his Aid during a physical fight? I'm going to say no. So there was more at risk here than he realized and things turned out, okay. But what if they didn't, what would you do?

What would you do in a situation like this? And that my friends is part two of this two-part, series of the Buddha lessons and it's coming up in next week's podcast episode. But for now, please share your thoughts, in a comment on our blog over at War life, podcast.com where you see this episode. And hey, I want to give a quick shout-out to real video, man. Who left us five stars on our podcast at or iTunes? And he said, when I get when I started getting interested in survival and protection,

Was I was super new to all of it through Jeff's bucks and their guests advice. I ended feeling confident enough to purchase a rifle. Their advice for Airsoft training has made me much more comfortable and safe using my actual Gun. There's rarely an episode that I don't get at least a half dozen or more and ideas and insights from highly recommended. Keep it up. Jeff. Well, thank you real video, man, I will keep it up. Alright, so now if you're loving our podcast, please go on over and leave us.

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