

## Does a close protection officer only protect?

Often the public sees the close protection officer as a protection officer of a well-known and or threatened person.

Recently we saw how the U.S. Secret Service (= USSS) removed demonstrators during a speech of President Bush. Or how the president pulled his personal close protection officer (= CPO) thru a cordon of "fighting" CPO's during a state banquet in Chile.

But is protection the only thing what the USSS agents and or (private) CPO's do? Fortunately not, because in some situations the outcome would have been dramatic! CPO's are not only trained to protect, they are also trained to offer first aid when needed! Beside it, they are also trained to secure an object like a residence, an office, etc. Self-defense, shooting and specialized driving courses are also among their intense heavy trainings.

Actually, you can state that a CPO is a all-round person, which should be home at all markets and still it is a specialist!

Not everybody can become a CPO. For even a good "ordinary" security officer is almost impossible to become a CPO. That a CPO has worked in the past as a security officer is more than an asset but is certainly not a requirement.

The CPO must reach some specific requirements. A CPO should possess 3 types of skills, which are:

- 1) Learnable skills,**
- 2) Not-Learnable skills,**
- 3) Useful skills.**

What do these 3 types of skills actually mean?

- 1) "Learnable skills"** are skills that in principal can be learned,
- 2) "Not-Learnable skills"** are skills that cannot be taught, you need to possess them; You can call them also talents.
- 3) "Useful skills"** says it all, useful skills.

If someone wants to become a Close Protection Officer he or she must at least possess the **Not-Learnable skills**. Which are, will be discussed in the next appearing article. The **Learnable skills** are the second important skills to have, while it's good to possess some **useful skills**. All of these skills are discussed in the next article.

CPO's on governmental level are especially recruited on these skills. On the private level it is often different, partly because some skills or selection points are difficult to check. This is because the private sector is not authorized to check these points.

As earlier mentioned the outside world, sees the CPO only as a protection officer and yet he or she is doing really much more than that. There are CPO's who are very good drivers or child protectors and there are also female CPO's who only protect women.

Because the CPO stands very close to the VIP, it may be that you're the target of his emotions, especially if something went wrong. Sometimes you are the VIP Personal Assistant (= PA) because you have to book a restaurant or travel for him. In addition to the all-round protection officer are you really a man of everything, but to some extent. Because arranging illicit affairs, such as drugs, etc., is absolutely not an option.

What many people don't see is that you sometimes even as a CPO you have to operate as an paramedic. In the following video ([http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=264\\_1227273278](http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=264_1227273278)) you can see how the CPO's react as paramedics.

The speaker looks drunk and speaks at a certain moment with a double tongue. But if you look

closely, especially to the symptoms, you see that there is really something else is going on!  
Even if you did not recognize symptoms, you might have noticed it by the reaction of the public that something was wrong.

It concerns a older person, who was probably still working hard for his age with the result that he collapsed. He fell on to the pulpit, actually he was lucky because otherwise the person had fallen hard on the ground. The CPO's react very quickly, catching the person and put him on his back discreetly on the ground outside the view of the cameras. They provide first aid and then you can hear commands in the background. Then there is a slight panic among the public and that is also good to hear.

In the meanwhile the CPO's are busy check the collapsed person. To eliminate the panic, probably the team leader says to the public that CPO's are having everything under control. In my opinion it was very professional how they reacted to everything. Thus the CPO does more than just protecting, also providing first aid.

I see you all looking surprised and hear you saying it does belong to the responsibilities of a CPO?

Of course you are right if you say that, but I found it interesting just to prove to you that the CPO does not only protects the VIP by putting his body between threat and the VIP.

First aid is a form of protection, but more from the inside (read internally), if you have such persons in your team, then you really have to care less!

"Stay Safe!"

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