



# First Five Command



- 25+ years fire service
- Firefighter
- fire & SWAT medic
- engine/truck/rescue Captain
- Company Chief
- Chief of Training
- Chief of Department

# Proud ISFSI Member



Online Member Community



Networking & Mentorship



Professional Development



Regional to International Exposure



Programs/  
Conferences/  
Training



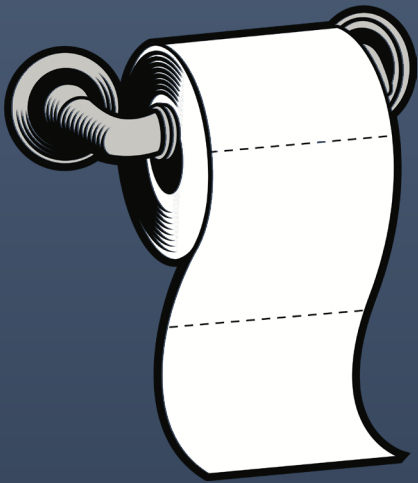
Industry Advocacy



Peer Resource Sharing

[isfsi.org](https://isfsi.org)







*Command Basics – A Review*



*Mindset*



*Benchmarks/initial actions*



*Exercises*

# Why?





# Normalization of Deviance

- *Gradual process*
    - *Failure creep*
    - *90 mph rule*
  - *unacceptable becomes acceptable*
-

# Why establish command?



- Foundation
- Hub
  - *Communication*
- Stability
  - *ongoing*





# What is Command?



- ▶ To have authority over
- ▶ To exercise authority or control over
- ▶ To direct with authority
- ▶ The activity of directing the activities and movements of the people who are being commanded

*The direction of mission critical teams to perform mission-specific operations to collectively achieve a strategic goal.*

# What is Command?

- Decide what to do
- Determine how to do it
- Tell people what to do
- Ensure they get it done



*GOOD* Command

=

*Effective* command

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# *effective* Command

- Prompt determination of situation
- Decisive in determining action
- Decisive directing teams
- Goal oriented



# *effective* Command

- clear, concise, effective communication
- detachment/aerial view of the event
- Agility - “what’s next” attitude



# *effective* Command

- Constant data intake  
*(situational awareness)*
- Has *Command Presence*
- *Calm*





# *Commanding the Scene*



# Fight or Flight





# Fight or Flight

brain is trying to **save you** *or* **fool you**

- Ready to fight/ready to run
- Auditory exclusion
- Visual “tunneling”
  - “camp fire effect”
- Norepi and Cortisol “dump”



# Fight or Flight

Affected by:

- ✓ physical & emotional state
- ✓ confidence level
  - *(competent, proficient or excellent?)*
- ✓ Previous calls
- ✓ Level of threat
- ✓ Complexity of event

# Detachment

*By detaching both physically and mentally, you can **see so much more** than just the task or tactic.*

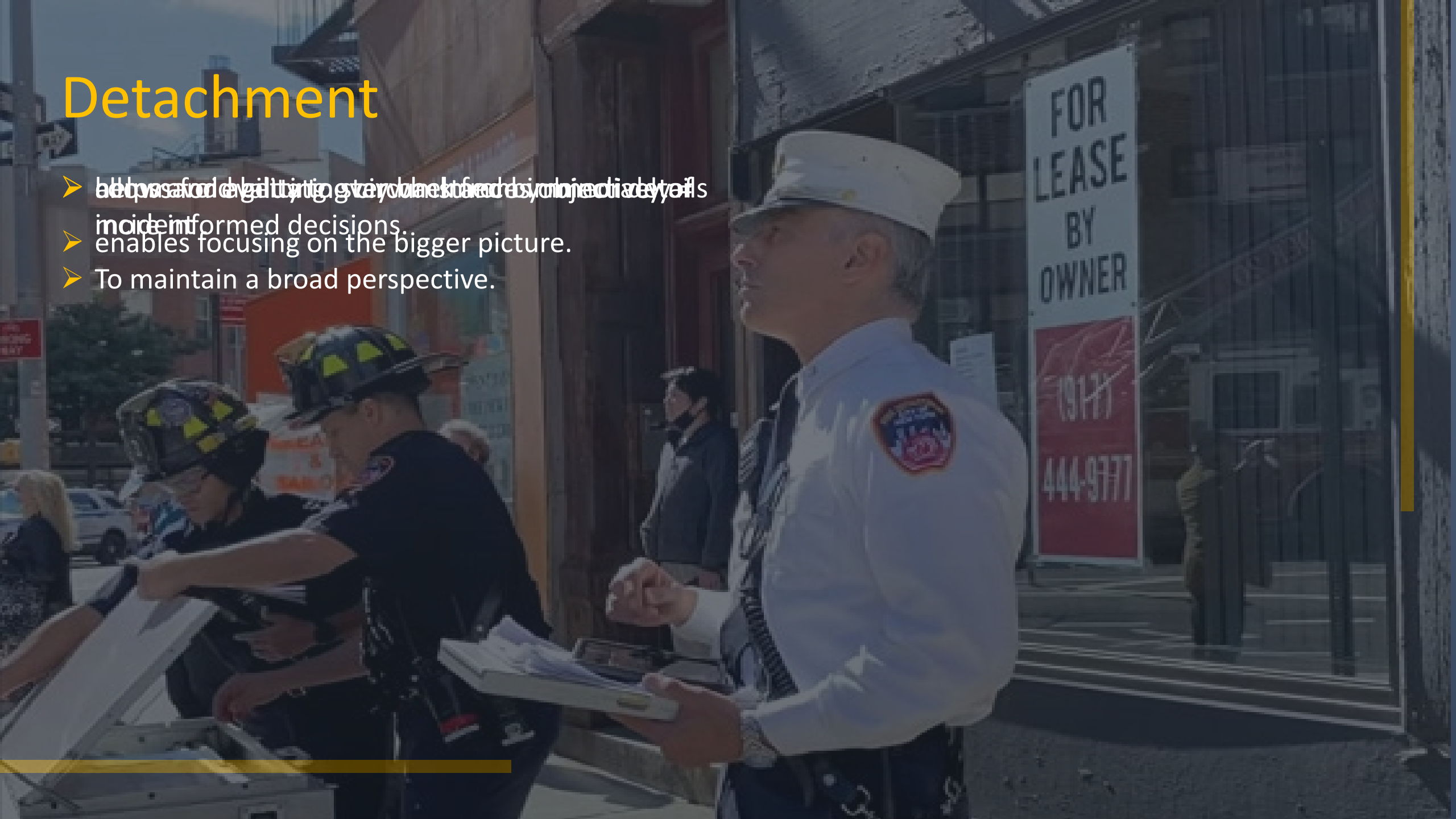


*This broader “read” on the situation allows you to take in more info which in turn has you making better decisions.*

*Jocko Willink*

# Detachment

- allows for evaluating various factors by immediate staff
- more informed decisions.
- enables focusing on the bigger picture.
- To maintain a broad perspective.



SA toggle to “ON”



# When in Command, **COMMAND.**

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*Admiral Chester Nimitz*

- ✓ Decision making
- ✓ Agility – make the hard decision to change your decision
- ✓ Ties in with presence





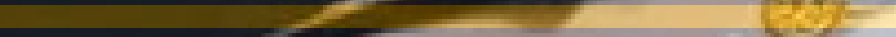
# Exercise





# Presence

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# Presence

- ✓ Voice
  - *Tone*
  - *Cadence*
  - *volume*
- ✓ Physicality
  - *Shoulders*
  - *stance*
- ✓ gaze



# Exercise





# FIRST FIVE

- Initial actions
- Size up
- Initial report
- benchmarks

A photograph of a residential fire scene in winter. Thick white smoke billows from a two-story house. A red fire truck with a ladder extended to the roof is on the right. Several firefighters in full gear are visible, some near the truck and others near the house. The ground is covered in snow. The text 'Initial actions' is overlaid in yellow at the top center.

## Initial actions

### Tactical authenticity

- ✓ Crew size
- ✓ Crew ability
- ✓ Water supply
- ✓ Tool complement
- ✓ Next in



## Initial actions

- ✓ victims
- ✓ rescue
- ✓ Op mode
  - Offensive
  - Defensive
  - With search



## Initial actions

- ✓ Additional resources
- ✓ FF safety



# First Five



1. Size Up
2. Life priority
3. Plan
  - a. Strategy
  - b. Tactics
  - c. tasks



## First Five

4. Operational Mode
5. Initial Report
6. Accountability
7. establish command

# Benchmarks



- Written
- Communicated
  - *Dispatch*
  - *TAC*

# Benchmarks

1. Size Up

2. Operations

a. Fire attack

*water on fire/fire knockdown/  
local verbiage*

b. Search & rescue

*All Clear or Victim found*

# Benchmarks

5. Report on Conditions
6. Fire Timer
7. PAR
8. Secondary Search – all clear

# When does size up start?



➤ Population vs time of day

➤ Commercial considerations

➤ Ingress/Egress

➤ Fuel load

➤ Access issues

# When does size up start?



- ✓ Time of day
- ✓ Crew
- ✓ Next in
- ✓ Previous calls
- ✓ Getting there/access

# When does size up start?



©Image By Design Works



# When does size up start?



# When does size up start?



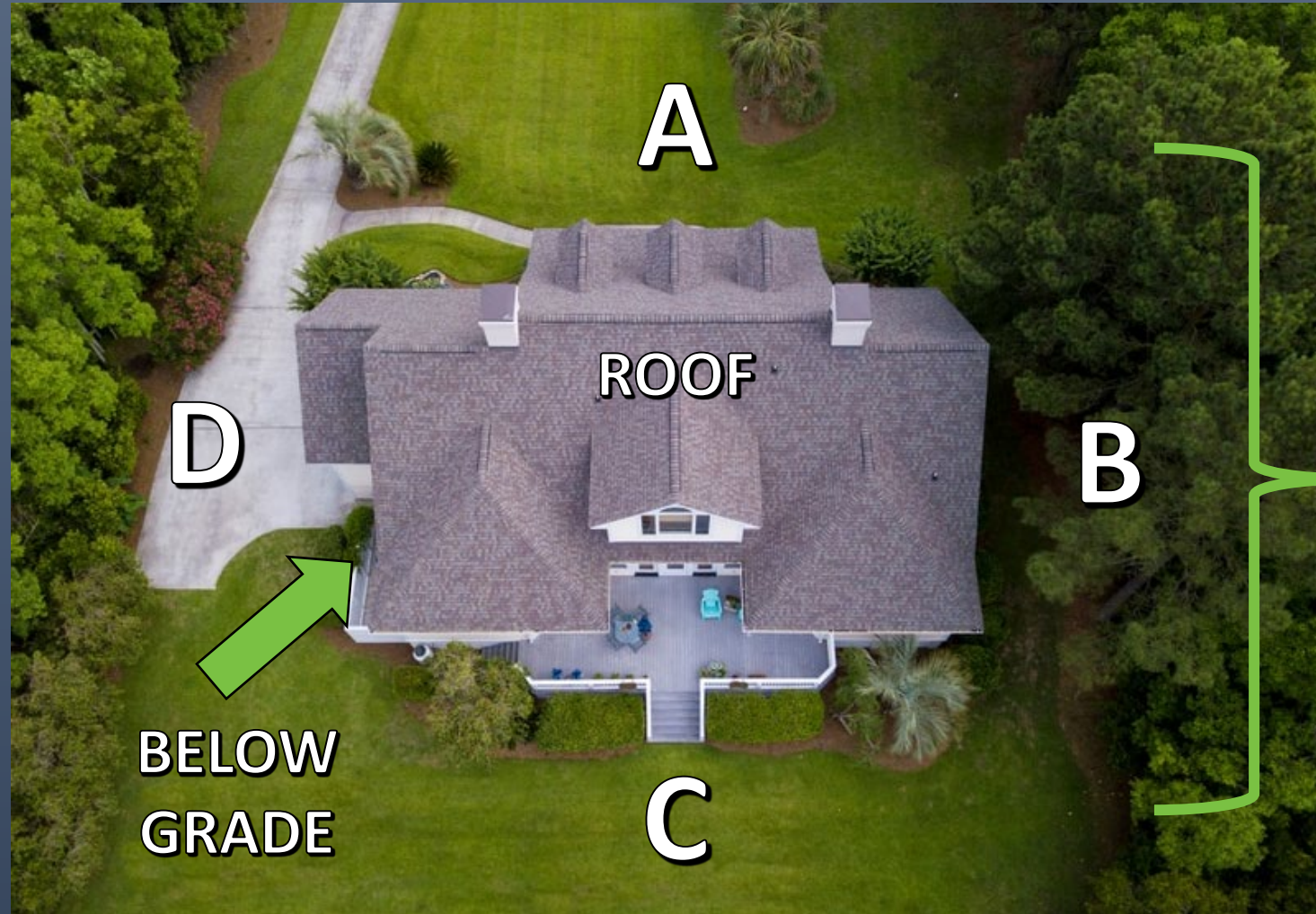


## 360° Size Up – 7 Sides

### Sides

- A. Alpha
    - Top side
  - B. Bravo
    - Below grade
  - C. Charlie
    - inside
  - D. delta
- 
- 

# 360° Size Up – 7 Sides



INSIDE

# Initial report



©2015 Tim Olk



## Initial report



Initial Report On Conditions relies on size up



incoming units visualization  
*"Paints a picture"*



Drives the direction of the incident



Starts framing the incident for IC



# Initial report

1. Announce unit arrival at scene of address
2. Describe building/area (size, height, occupancy)
3. Describe situation (nothing showing, smoke conditions)
4. Initial IAP (Task, location, objectives, actions taken)
5. Operation mode (offensive, defensive, combination)
6. Additional resources required
7. Accountability location (if not engine/pumper)
8. Assume command – identify yourself, name command

# Initial report

1. *Dispatch (your unit) has arrived at (address)*
2. *Structure is (building description)*
3. *With (what you see/situation)*
4. *What you are doing*
5. *TFD will be in (declare op mode)*
6. *(name add'l resources needed)*
7. *Accountability will be at (location)*
8. *(your name) is establishing (event name)*



# Initial report

1. Unit arrival
2. Describe building/area
3. Describe situation
4. Initial action
5. Operation mode
6. Additional resources
7. Account. location
8. establish command



1. Who you are - Unit
2. Structure type + occupancy
3. What's happening. Where?
4. What are you going to do
5. How you're going to do it
6. What do you need to do it
7. State location
8. Establish command

# Initial report

1. Unit arrival
2. Describe building/area
3. Describe situation
4. Initial action
5. Operation mode
6. Additional resources
7. Accountability location
8. establish command

1. *Dispatch, TFD 51 is on scene at 889 Townsend Rd.*
2. *Scene is a 2 story, single family residential structure*
3. *Smoke showing from 2<sup>nd</sup> story window A side*
4. *TFD 51 is deploying an attack line, entering the structure...*
5. *...and will be in fast attack offensive mode.*
6. *Begin a response for a tanker water relay*
7. *2<sup>nd</sup> in truck you'll be water supply and accountability*
8. *(Officer name) is establishing Townsend Command*

# Initial report

1. Unit arrival
2. Describe building/area
3. Describe situation
4. Initial action
5. Operation mode
6. Additional resources
7. Accountability location
8. establish command

## CAN report

- ✓ Who you are
- ✓ Conditions
- ✓ Actions
- ✓ Needs
- ✓ Establish Command



## Last Word on Comms

- ✓ Radio work
  - Mic placement
  - Troubleshooting
  - Tone/Volume
- ✓ 2 Second Rule



## Last Word on Comms

- ✓ Verbiage
  - “At this time”
  - “Be advised”
- ✓ Breathing
- ✓ Thought Process

# Head on a swivel



# Effective Command

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- SA Switch to “ON”
  - Stay calm
  - Command Presence
  - Benchmarks / tools
  - Train, train, train
  - When in Command, ***COMMAND***
-

**YOU CAN'T TRAIN  
TOO HARD**

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**FOR A JOB  
THAT CAN KILL YOU**

