

The Short Guide to becoming a

CLOSE PROTECTION OPERATOR

Licensing and Qualification



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INTRODUCTION

**SO, YOU ARE CONSIDERING A
CAREER AS A CPO?**

You are more than likely flicking through this on a Monday morning. Possibly a Sunday evening.



An office job beckons tomorrow – your day spent filing emails as your mind wanders about a role with more adventure, more travel and possibly a touch more gravitas.

Bodyguard ticks those boxes right?

Well, yes and no. It *can*.

If a Hollywood-inspired life of action is what you are seeking then becoming a professional CPO is not for you.

CPO

A bodyguard (security operative) who protects clients from the threat of theft, assault, kidnapping, homicide, harassment and other miscellaneous criminal threats.

Popular misconceptions such as running gunfights, high speed car chases and explosions plague the security industry. The media does a poor job of displaying the softer skills that encompass a diligent approach to effective bodyguarding.

This short guide is your introduction to the **reality** of becoming and working as a Close Protection Operator under UK guidelines.

Any comments or questions can be addressed directly to enquiries@yojisecurity.com



SKILLS

EXCELLENT VISION

TEAMWORKING

COMMUNICATIONS

ADMINISTRATION

ABILITY TO FOCUS FOR
LONG PERIODS

CALM

FITNESS

IMPROVISATION



“The Role of Close Protection encompasses all aspects of protective measures that work in concert; physical and technical combined with constant thorough planning and sound operational [knowledge] to minimise the risk or the threat of risk to kill/ injure/ or harm another in any way”

RICHARD AITCH
AUTHOR



THE INDUSTRY

What would you like to do?

Hostile Environment



2 INDUSTRIES

Executive Protection



HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT



Hostile Environment Close Protection Operations (HECPO) involves protecting a principal within an environment requiring firearms. Often HECPO work will be conducted via a Private Military Company (PMC) but not always.

Typically such environments include warzones or nations in transition but it can also include relatively stable countries with extremely high levels of violent crime.

HECPO work commands a higher salary than benign Executive Protection work and typically involves a greater separation from your UK based family.

In addition to firearms familiarity, CPOs will also typically have additional medical training to deal with ballistic injuries.

Language skills are also at a premium for HECPO positions including Arabic, Farsi, Spanish or French depending on the region of operations.

Average Wage : £180-250 Per Day

Barriers to Entry : Medium to High

INC.

Afghanistan

Iraq

Venezuela

Mexico

DR Congo

Sudan

Palestine



The Close Protection industry has seen rapid growth in the last 15 years mirroring the rise of the **private military company** (PMC).

The nature of the geopolitical landscape has led to much tighter and asymmetric conflicts often with globalized economic impacts.

To bridge the gap between combat and the reconstruction of deteriorating security environments, governments turned to PMCs which in turn fueled the rise of the Close Protection Operator (CPO) to secure the safety of key personnel.

From 2002 onwards, an experienced CPO could command a relatively high salary for his or her services but over the years market forces, in conjunction with high number of new CPOs have led to a stabilizing of the employment market which is lower than most new entrants consider.

PMC

A provider of armed services in which employees are typically referred to as contractors.

Often staffed by ex-military personnel, PMC's are not mercenaries by law.



Is the industry only open to ex-military or Special Forces?

No.

It is true that many people entering the close protection industry come from a military background as familiarisation with firearms, covert operations and strategic planning make them ideal candidates.

However, much close protection work in the UK will not involve the use of firearms and military experience is useful but not a prerequisite.

Military personnel do have the advantage of a large network of associates through which they can facilitate interviews, job offers and industry news. Since the hardest part of becoming a CPO is not the training, it is securing your first role, this puts them in a decidedly stronger position.



EXECUTIVE PROTECTION



INC.

UK
Canada
Europe
Japan
China
Egypt
Cyprus
Scandinavia

This area of work requires a very different skill set to the Hostile Environment work.

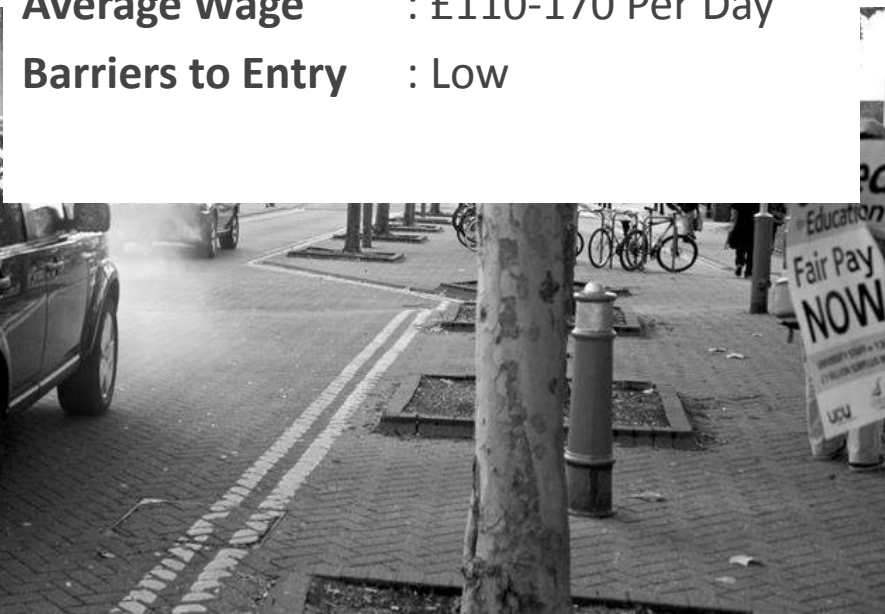
Typically a good operative will have the ability to be as inconspicuous as possible and possess good planning and communication skills.

Many employers begrudge the expense of a security detail whilst others, including celebrities, may see you as an outright intrusion into their lives.

Although not strictly necessary, many benign environment operators are skilled in martial arts including restraints.

Average Wage : £110-170 Per Day

Barriers to Entry : Low





The **Security Industry Authority (SIA)** is the organisation responsible for regulating the private security industry in the UK. It is a [non-departmental public body](#) reporting to the Home Secretary and was established in 2003 under the terms of the Private Security Industry Act 2001.

The Security Industry Authority (SIA) is the primary body responsible for the licensing of CPO's within the United Kingdom.

The legislation regarding the SIA and the licensing requirements of working in the security industry can be found [online](#).

They conduct two main duties. One is the compulsory licensing of individuals undertaking designated activities within the private security industry; the other is to manage the voluntary Approved Contractor Scheme, which measures private security suppliers against independently assessed criteria.

The SIA also run the Close Protection Stakeholder meeting, a formal networking event based in London.

The most recent notes, from 18 June 2012 are available for [download](#).



“To establish and maintain a safe working environment in which a Principal can live and work whilst continuously minimising risk.”

SIA JOB DESCRIPTION



LICENSE

**HOW TO GAIN YOUR CPO
BADGE**

Complete a recognised First Aid
qualification



Complete a Level 3 Certificate in
Close Protection



APPLY FOR LICENSE



CP TRAINING

At the last audit there were over 300 CP Training Course providers in the United Kingdom and a further 19 listed providers abroad.

Choosing a course provider is a daunting task, especially with the confusing list of accredited bodies.

The handy table should break it down. You must complete one of the following certificates. The SIA does **not** license hostile environment training. Such services are *added extras* by training providers.

| Qualification | Awarding Body |
|---|---|
| Level 3 Certificate in Close Protection | Buckinghamshire New University (0800 0565660) |
| Level 3 Certificate in Close Protection | City & Guilds (020 7294 2800) |
| Level 3 Certificate in Close Protection | Edexcel (0844 576 0026) |
| Level 3 Certificate in Close Protection | HABC (0845 226 0350) |
| Level 3 Certificate in Close Protection | IQ (01952 457 452) |



CP SYLLABUS

Yoji Security currently offer the [HABC Level 3 Certificate in Close Protection \(QCF\)](#) which has been accredited by the regulators of England and Wales (Ofqual and the Welsh Government) and is part of the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF).

It is supported by Skills for Security, the Sector Skills Body for the Security sector.

Credits : 16
Guided Learning : 140 Hours

**DOWNLOAD THE FULL
SYLLABUS IN PDF**



CP SYLLABUS

Threat & risk assessment

Surveillance awareness

Operational planning

Close Protection team work

Reconnaissance

Close Protection foot techniques

Debriefing

Route selection

Close Protection vehicle techniques

Search awareness

Incidents and dilemmas

Venue based security

Communication and conflict management skills

Paramedic Care

Response to Ambush

Assessment is via a 60 question exam to be sat within two hours.



MEDICAL TRAINING

In addition to the Level 3 Certificate in Close Protection you must also complete a recognized first aid qualification.

Although the SIA will accept **the First Aid at Work (FAW)** it is widely advised that candidates for CP work complete the **First Person on Scene – Intermediate (FPOS-I)** which has been adopted by the industry as the *minimum standard*.

The majority of training providers will bundle the Level 3 Certificate in Close Protection with the FPOS-I training for a flat cost.

The First Person on Scene qualifications (there are 3) are clinically endorsed by the Faculty of Pre-Hospital Care (Edinburgh), the leading clinical body for pre-Hospital Care in the UK. The qualifications are valid for 3 years and periodic re-training is suggested in order to keep skills up to date.

You can view the full qualification framework [online](#).



COSTS

The cost of completing the full spectrum of qualifications can vary widely between providers and certain individuals may be entitled to discounts.

We advise that candidates should budget approximately the following

| | |
|---|------------|
| Level 3 Certificate in Close Protection | £1800-2200 |
| FPOS-I Qualification | £400-650 |
| SIA License Application | £220 |

Further professional development or overseas firearms courses can hugely inflate the cost, although each candidate may find the experience highly valuable.

Yoji do not criticize other training providers, indeed, many of the most reputable companies are staffed with friends and/or former colleagues.

The most important aspect of entering the industry to find a training provider that you trust and feel you can work with.



SUMMARY

10 THINGS TO REMEMBER



10.

You must complete either a FAW Certificate or FPOS-I qualification **before** you arrive for CP Training.

9.

You are not required to be ex-military but it would be disingenuous to say that it does not help.

8.

Each CP operator in the UK **must** be licensed by the SIA.

7.

There are 5 bodies that accredit CP courses which are compliant with the SIA. You only need to pick one.

6.

Overseas hostile environment / firearms training is not strictly necessary but some candidates feel it is worth the additional cost.



5.

Find a training provider with a legacy of Close Protection work and good standing within the community

4.

Finding your first contract is difficult, your reputation is arguably more important than your CV.

3.

Fitness is important. Your body is partly your business card.

2.

There are a number of additional qualifications available to increase employability.

1.

Nothing in life is certain – do not trust any course providers which guarantee employment.



YOJI SECURITY

WHO ARE WE?



LOGO

We chose the *kurumaken* or wheeled shuriken to act as the logo of Yoji Security as it best represents our ethos.

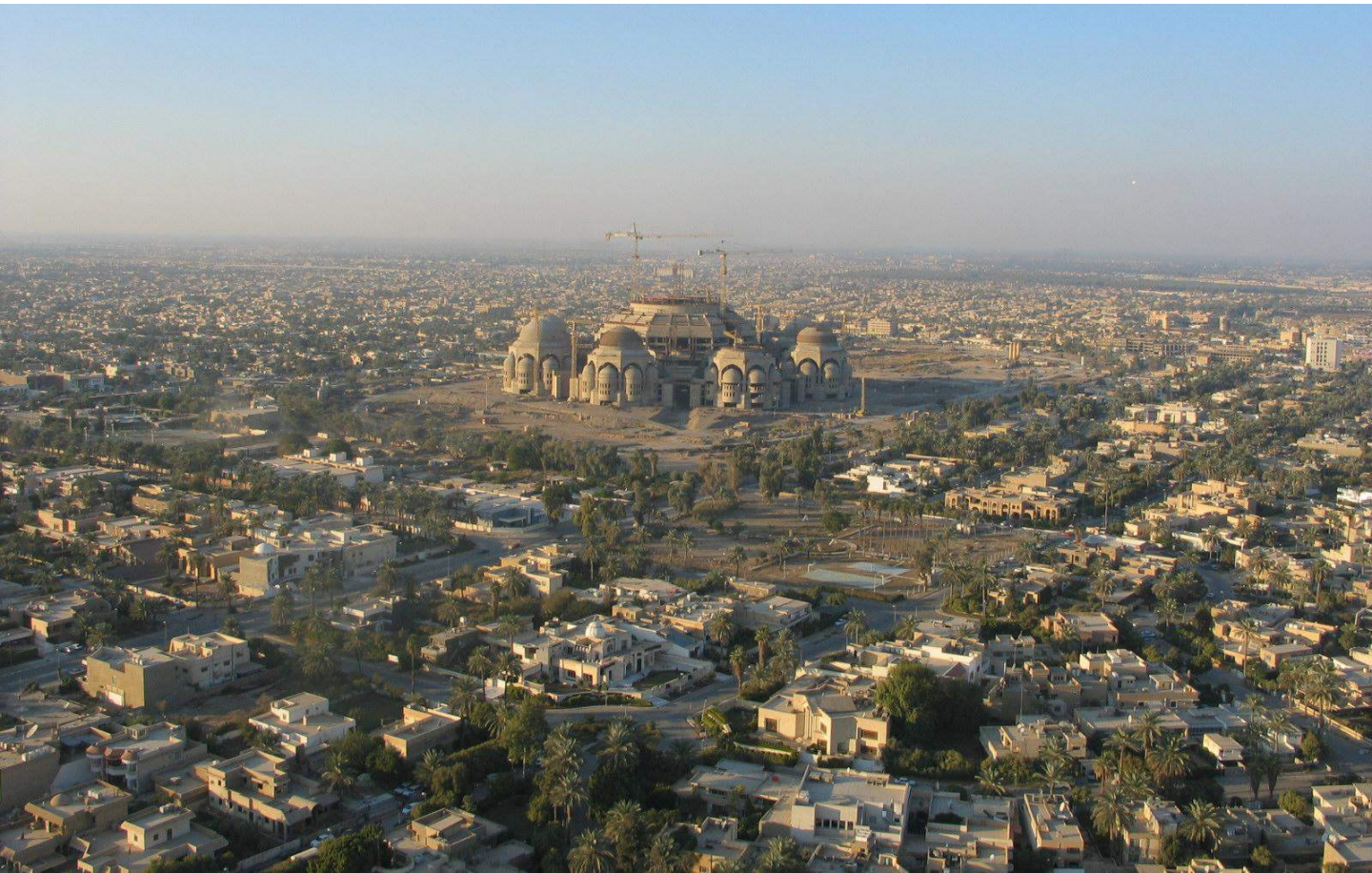
Loosely translated as *the sword in the hand*, the Shuriken acted as support device, to be deployed stealthily. The item, although unobtrusive, played a pivotal role, only being used when necessary to ensure the escape and survival of the principal.

It could be adapted into many situations, often limited only by the imagination of the owner.



Yoji Security is comprised of former Special Forces Support Group and Military Intelligence operators.

Collectively we have over 25 years experience in Close Protection Operations and hostile environment risk management.



“Man maintains his balance and sense
of security, only as he is moving
forward

- Maxwell Maltz

READY TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP?

Yoji Security are currently accepting applications for our next training syllabus.

[**TAKE A LOOK**](#)



WE HOPE YOU FOUND THIS USEFUL

Please feel free to visit www.yojisecurity.com for comments or criticisms.

In the near future we will be publishing guides on

Close Protection Further Qualifications
Fitness for Close Protection
Open Source Intelligence for Security

Stay tuned and good job hunting