

# **Perceptual Distortions in Combat**

From *Deadly Force Encounters* by Dr. Alexis Artwohl & Loren Christensen  
Based on Survey of 141 Officers

- ❖ **85% Diminished Sound (auditory exclusion)**
- ❖ **16% Intensified Sounds**
  
- ❖ **80% Tunnel Vision**
  
- ❖ **74% Automatic Pilot**  
(“Scared Speechless?”)
  
- ❖ **72% Heightened Visual Clarity**
  
- ❖ **65% Slow Motion Time**
- ❖ **07% Temporary Paralysis**
  
- ❖ **51% Memory Loss for Parts of the Event**
- ❖ **47% Memory Loss for Some of Your Actions**  
(“Perseveration?”)
  
- ❖ **40% Dissociation (detachment)**
- ❖ **26% Intrusive Distracting Thoughts**
- ❖ **22% Memory Distortions (“Perceptual Set?”)**  
(Role of fear and past associations)  
(Role of videotaping)
- ❖ **16% Fast Motion Time**

For additional info on perceptual distortions in combat, *Into The Kill Zone* by  
Dr. David A. Klinger is highly recommended.