COMPANION GUIDE TO ONLINE TRAINING

SEC-03:
WATCHING THE WATCHERS
STUDENT COMPANION GUIDE

The Operator's Field Reference

Team Structure and Method · Recognizing and Understanding the Threat
Fixed, Mobile, and Technical Surveillance · Collection Objectives · Team Vulnerabilities

Edition v1.0 · 2026

Semper Paratus, Semper Gumby

https://fortunefavorstheprepared.com/
Nick Meacher

SEC-03: WATCHING THE WATCHERS — STUDENT COMPANION GUIDE

Companion Guide to Online Training

Copyright © 2026 Nick Meacher / Fortune Favors the Prepared

All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means without prior written permission from the publisher.

Published by Fortune Favors the Prepared

Thomasville, Pennsylvania

fortunefavorstheprepared.com

Edition v1.0 | 2026

ONLINE TRAINING ACCESS

The two online lessons are available at fortunefavorstheprepared.com/sec-03-landing/. Support the development and availability of these courses by subscribing to my Patreon: patreon.com/fortunefavorstheprepared

INSTRUCTOR-LED GROUP TRAINING

Group sessions and facilitated training are available. Contact: fortunefavorstheprepared@protonmail.com

How to Use This Companion Guide

Support the development and availability of these courses by subscribing to my Patreon: patreon.com/fortunefavorstheprepared

Online curriculum: fortunefavorstheprepared.com/sec-03-landing/

What This Guide Contains

For each of the two online lessons: a condensed reference summary covering the same material as the lesson, formatted for quick field reference rather than first-time learning. This guide is not a substitute for the online lessons — it is a companion to them.

Required Workflow — Online Lessons Before Using This Guide

- Step 1 — Support the development and availability of these courses by subscribing to my Patreon: patreon.com/fortunefavorstheprepared.
- Step 2 — Access the online lessons at fortunefavorstheprepared.com/sec-03-landing/.
- Step 3 — Complete both lessons including knowledge checks.
- Step 4 — Use this guide as a field reference to reinforce what you learned online.

> **WHAT THIS COURSE IS NOT**
>
> SEC-03 is an awareness course. It teaches you to recognize what you're looking at — it does not train you to actively detect or counter surveillance. That operational training is SEC-07: Watching the Watchers — Operations, which this guide references throughout as the next step.

Guide Map — What to Reference When

If You Need…	Go To…
A refresher on team roles, the box, or the leap-frog	Chapter 1
To tell fixed, mobile, and technical surveillance apart	Chapter 2
The four collection objectives a watcher might have	Chapter 2
The team vulnerability reference table	Chapter 2
What comes after SEC-03	What's Next
Doctrinal sources used in this course	Appendix A

CHAPTER 1: TEAM STRUCTURE AND METHOD

SEC-02 taught your group what it reveals. This chapter covers how the people who might be collecting on that exposure actually organize and move. You cannot recognize surveillance you don't understand.

Why This Course Exists

SEC-02 is the recognition-level baseline for every member: what critical information is, how indicators are created, how to recognize that you might be watched, and what to do about it in the moment.

SEC-03 goes one level deeper without yet asking you to act operationally. If your group later designates you for an active detection or countersurveillance role, SEC-07 (Watching the Watchers: Operations) builds directly on what you learn here.

> **DOCTRINE NOTE — NOTICE VS. COUNTER**
>
> Camp X SOE tradecraft draws a distinction that runs through this entire course: the operator who merely notices a follower has done nothing yet. The operator who can check for surveillance, confirm it, and either shake it or use it has done the job. SEC-03 teaches the first half. SEC-07 teaches the second.

The Team Roles

Role	Function
Eyeball	Direct visual contact on the subject at any given moment. Rotates constantly — sustained proximity gets noticed.
Floaters	Positioned ahead, behind, or parallel to the subject, ready to assume eyeball when needed.
Control / Net	Coordinates the team by radio or signal, tracks who has eyeball, directs repositioning.

The Box

A common surveillance formation: team members positioned on multiple sides of the subject — ahead, behind, and at least one flank — rather than strung out in a single line behind them. A subject who only watches their six will miss a team running the box.

The Leap-Frog

Team members alternate who holds eyeball: Team Member A follows for a stretch, then peels off, while Team Member B — already positioned ahead or nearby — assumes the follow. No single person or vehicle stays in view long enough to register as familiar.

> **WHY THIS MATTERS LATER**
>
> This is why the rule of three from SEC-02 matters more than it first appears. A well-run leap-frog defeats casual, single-observation awareness — but not pattern recognition across multiple separate sightings. Repetition is the most dangerous element for the watcher too. SEC-07 builds the surveillance detection route around forcing that vulnerability to show itself.

CHAPTER 2: RECOGNIZING AND UNDERSTANDING THE THREAT

Fixed, Mobile, and Technical Surveillance

Fixed surveillance is a static observation post — a parked vehicle with sightline, a person stationed for an extended period, a vantage point overlooking a location you use. It trades mobility for persistence; it cannot follow you once you leave the area.

Mobile surveillance is a team or individual that moves with you, on foot or by vehicle. This is what the box and leap-frog are built to sustain. It's resource-intensive but follows you wherever you go.

Technical surveillance doesn't require a human being physically present — a vehicle tracker, a camera, a compromised phone, an RF intercept. SEC-07 covers detecting technical collection in depth; COM-03 (COMSEC) and COM-04 (EMCON) cover protecting your own communications and emissions.

> **FIELD DISTINCTION**
>
> Same person/vehicle always in the same place regardless of where you go: fixed. Same person/vehicle appearing at different places you go: mobile. Nothing visible ever repeats but someone keeps showing up who shouldn't know where you'll be: suspect technical.

What They're Looking For

Objective	What It Requires
Pattern of life	Longest observation period; usually fixed surveillance over days or weeks
Associations	Watching for who you meet, where, and how often — often the real target
Confirmation of a suspicion	Brief, targeted observation; can end abruptly once answered
Vulnerability assessment	Security posture, routine, predictable or exposed points

The Surveillance Team's Own Vulnerabilities

A surveillance operation, however well run, is not invisible — it is only harder to see than an amateur effort. This is the foundation SEC-07 is built on.

Vulnerability	Why It Exists
Repetition	Finite people, vehicles, and cover identities — the same faces and vehicles eventually reappear.
Choke points	A route with few natural bottlenecks forces the team to be visible at a point you control.
Reaction to the unexpected	A sudden change in your behavior forces a real-time decision the team would rather not make.
Communication signature	Coordinating a leap-frog or box requires communication, which is itself detectable and creates synchronized, patterned behavior.

DOCTRINE NOTE — CAMP X SOE CHECKS

Walk up a comparatively empty street and see who follows; cross the street and see who does likewise; enter and leave a shop and note who lingers outside. Each is a deliberate, low-risk action forcing a genuine surveillance element to make a choice it would rather not make. SEC-07 formalizes this into a designed surveillance detection route.

What's Next

SEC-03 ends at understanding. It does not train you to actively detect surveillance, run a countersurveillance operation, or report findings in an operational format — that is SEC-07: Watching the Watchers — Operations.

SEC-07 covers:

- Designing and running a surveillance detection route (SDR)
- Building a pattern-of-life baseline and reading contrasts against it
- Civilian observation post practice and SALUTE reporting
- Countersurveillance team roles, communication, and abort criteria
- Technical surveillance awareness — detecting RF, tracker, and camera collection
- Reporting, decision-making, and escalation criteria

PREREQUISITES FOR SEC-07

SEC-02 and SEC-03 must both be complete. SEC-07 assumes the team-structure and threat-recognition knowledge in this guide as a starting point — it does not re-teach it.

fortunefavorstheprepared.com/sec-07-landing/

Appendix A: Doctrinal Sources

- FM 2-22.3 — Human Intelligence Collector Operations
- FM 34-2-1 — Reconnaissance and Surveillance and Intelligence Analysis Support to Counterreconnaissance
- MCRP 3-11.3 — Scouting and Patrolling
- AR 530-1 — Operations Security
- Camp X SOE Training Manual (STS 103)
- Counterintelligence for National Security

Semper Paratus, Semper Gumby