



FIREARMS/SELF DEFENSE CONSULTANTS

WAYNE N. HILL SR.

Fellow, Board Certified Forensic Examiner

P.O. Box 873 * 335-17th Ave.(UPS/FEDEX),East Moline, IL 61244

(309) 755-0551 * Fax # (309) 755-5770

Website * <http://www.derbytech.net/forensics>



MEMBER

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Forensic Examiners
& Investigators

American Board of Forensic
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APPROVED INSTRUCTOR

Homicide Events Reconstruc-
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Crime Scene Photography

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Bullet Performance In Hu-
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Homicide Events Reconstruc-
tion Guide

Homicide Events Resonstruc-
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BOARD CERTIFIED FORENSIC EXAMINER

Homicide Events Reconstruc-
tion Sciences

Date: 01/21/00

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RE: DYNAMICS OF OFFENSIVE vs DEFENSIVE PALMAR INCISED WOUNDS.

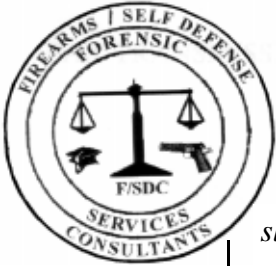
BACKGROUND: *A case was presented to this Examiner wherein one subject was stabbed to death by another wounded subject, within a residential dwelling. Blood spatter evidence indicated that the edged weapon confrontation began in the kitchen and progressed to the attached garage area where the deceased received the bulk of the stabbing wounds inflicted. The Deceased bleed to death within the garage area, which displayed cast off blood patterns showing a passionate assault, without evidence of psychosexual wound patterning. (Grouping of the wounds into the genitals/breast areas, genital mutilation.)*

The surviving Participant displayed an incised, knife wound in the web/peripheral palmar area of his hand. The Participant claimed that the Deceased had grabbed a kitchen knife and come at him and that the displayed wound had been inflicted when he had grabbed the blade of the knife to try and take it away. The Participant further stated that another attempt to gain possession of the knife was successful.

Of relevant consideration is the fact that several cast off blood droplets within the kitchen area, near the door to the garage were identified as the Deceased's blood. Additionally several cast off blood droplets and a small blood smear (contact transfer onto interior side doorknob) were identified as the Participant's blood. These were the only blood deposits within the kitchen area.

At issue was whether the incised wound to the Participant's hand was defensive as the Participant described or was this wound, in fact, an offensive type wound. An offensive wound would be one consistent with the Participant's making a frenzied, forceful stabbing movement where the knife's tip impacts onto a solid object, such as the skull, spinal vertebrae or even the floor underneath or wall behind the stabbed subject, causing the hand to





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slide forward/down onto and over the blade itself.

To demonstrably answer and resolve this question a live action test was conducted as reported below.

EXPERIMENT USING DULLED KNIFE TO DEPICT LOCATION AND LENGTH OF INCISED WOUNDS CREATED FROM GRABBING KNIFE AWAY FROM PERSON vs HAND'S SLIPPING FORWARD ONTO AND DOWN BLADE FROM STRIKING SOLID OBJECT.

TESTING METHODOLOGY

Two kitchen knives, one with an 8 inch long blade and one with a six inch blade, as well as a tube of lipstick (grease paint) were purchased. The 8 inch bladed knife was selected and the sharp cutting edge dulled so that the testing Examiner would not actually be cut, while applying appropriate gripping pressure. The knife's dulled blade edge was coated with a light layer of lipstick to provide visible and durable marking of the tester's hand, indicating where an incised cut would occur with a sharp edged blade during the particular dynamic used.

DYNAMIC # 1-STABBING ONTO A HARD SURFACE, WITH HAND SLIPPAGE.



As illustrated in the test documenting photograph panel above, as the hand grips the knife handle and slides forward onto/over the blade, the firm grip of the "fisted" hand forces the edges of the gripped blade tightly against the palm. The sliding action of the palm effectively provides a slashing style interaction between the skin of the palm and the blade's sharp cutting edge. The exception being that the hand is the moving object rather than the knife blade. As also shown in the photograph panel, the entire palm's width is cut and if the knife is gripped tightly enough at the moment of hand slippage some or all of the fingertips may be cut as well.

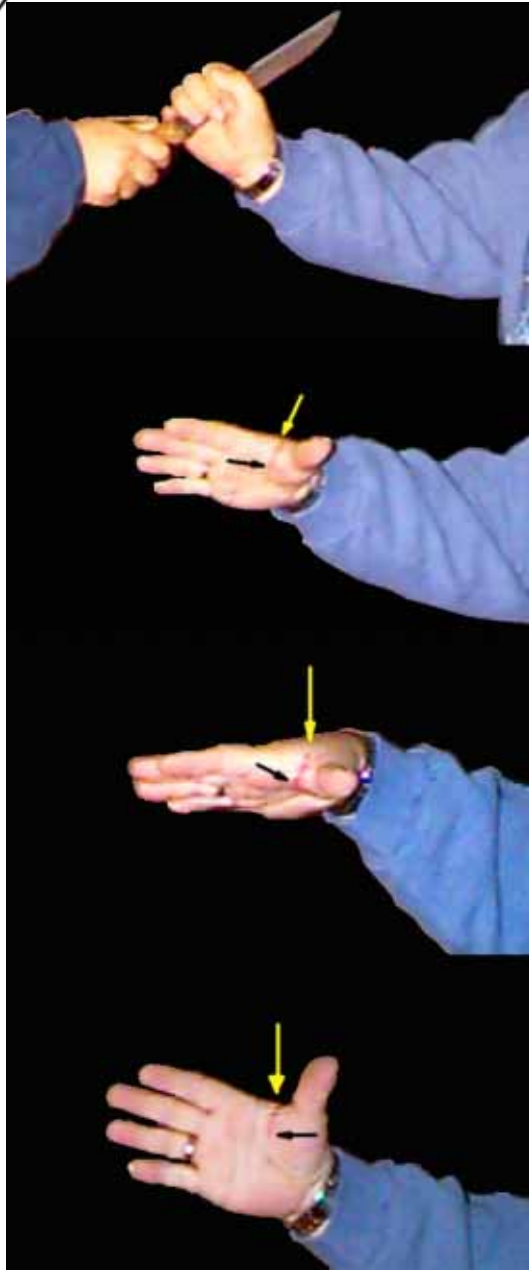
DYNAMIC # 2-GRABBING A KNIFE BLADE AND PULLING AWAY FROM ANOTHER PERSON'S GRIP WITH HAND SLIPPAGE.

As illustrated in the test documenting photograph panel inset on the following page (page 3) when a person grabs onto the blade of a knife held in the hands of another person, who is facing the grabbing subject, the fingers are the hand portion primarily pressing against the blade. Further the fingers are pressing/gripping against the flat, non-cutting edge of the blade, while the



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palm is loose to largely separated from the blade, particularly the cutting edge. This is simply because as the hand pulls backwards toward the “disarming” subject the pulling pressure must be against the top portion of the blade, thereby drawing the lower portion of the palm away from the blade. However since a circle of hand is formed by the gripping (encircling) thumb, forefingers and web of the hand this area does remain in contact and slides against the cutting edge of the

Respectfully Submitted

Digitally Applied Signature

Wayne N. Hill Sr., A.A.S, BCFE, FACFE, VSM
Consulting Forensic Scientist

Member:

International Academy of Forensic Examiners & Investigators

ABFE Executive Board of Scientific & Technical Advisors (1994-1997)

Diplomate-American Board of Forensic Examiners

Fellow-American College of Forensic Examiners

Professional Criminologists Association of the Philippines

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Law Enforcement Alliance of America

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