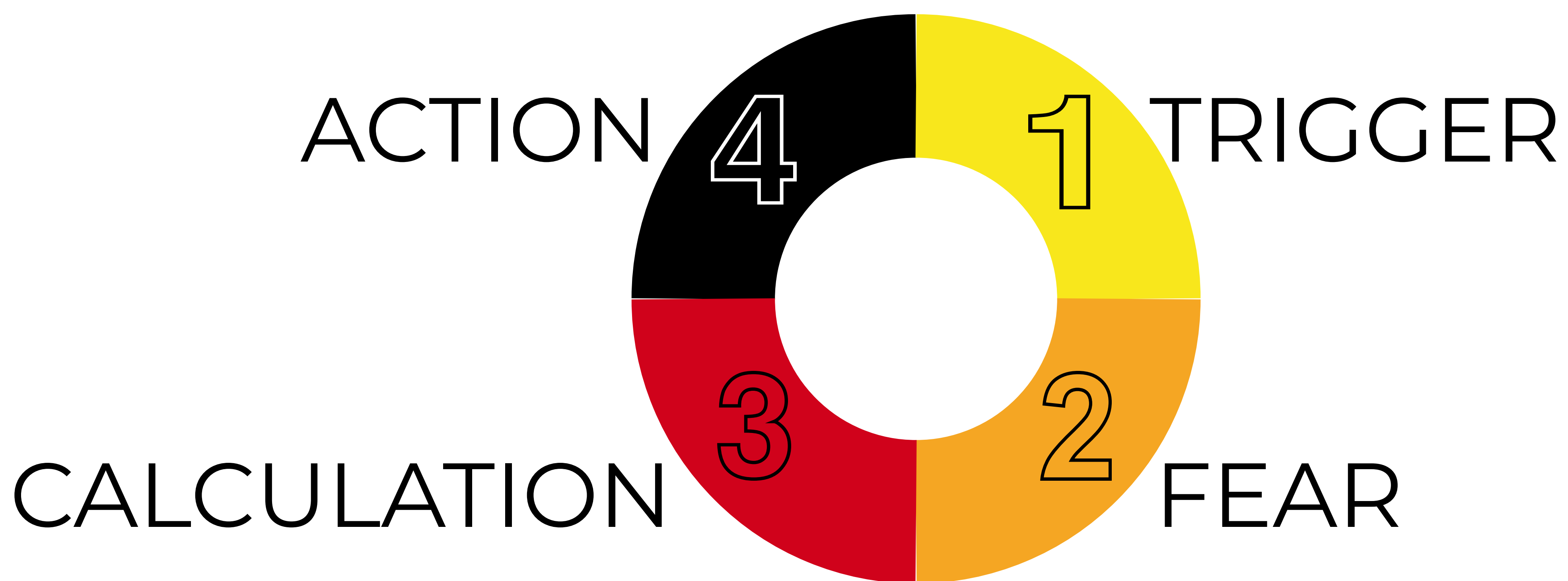


THE T.F.C.A. CYCLE

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The T.F.C.A. (commonly pronounced 'tiffka') Cycle illustrates the prevalent decision cycle a suspect goes through before committing violence. It has been applied elsewhere, but is typically applied in officer-involved shooting analysis and violent behavior analysis courses. The cycle indicates that suspects go through a mental process (however irrational) before taking action, and that officers can capitalize on this by identifying these mental processes before violent behavior takes place.



TRIGGER

The trigger is any mental process that activates a fear response. For some suspects, it may simply be a uniform. For others, it can be a second squad car coming to a scene, a request for identification, or the mention of a person's name.

FEAR

Every violent action has been precipitated by fear. This fear response is inherent in all human beings, and is unavoidable, even in hardened criminals. The fear response, while different for every suspect, will cause very similar behavior patterns. As fear increases, so does human predictability.

CALCULATION

The suspect enters a phase of weighing options. This may take only a hundredth of a second, but it will happen. This is usually where the fight or flight response is in control of the suspect, and the reticular activation system (RAS) in the brain is running the show in a fear-based, irrational mindset. Even if the suspect initially complies, the behaviors for future resistance will show up.

ACTION

The action phase is when the suspect commits to taking violent action to evade or attack.

"We didn't invent the time machine, we just figured out a way to move the OODA Loop backward in time through behavior training."

-Chase Hughes