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Covert operations

Regular guy moonlights as raider

Editor's note: To protect his identity, the subject of this article has requested that his real name not be used.

"Don" leads a fairly typical life during the day. He attends classes, works, does all of the things the rest of us do.

But sometimes he goes raiding at night. Few people know about Don's raiding, and few know anything about raiding in general.

There is no specific art or technique to raiding; it is a collection of techniques and practices drawn from martial arts, such as ninjutsu and shinobijutsu, with a concern for practicality in the contemporary world.

The emphasis of raiding lies in getting in and out of places without being detected.

A raid might have practical applications but, is also described as being fun for its own sake. The essence lies solely in penetration and escape; raiding does not involve theft or vandalism.

Don is part of a small group that engages in raiding, though he sometimes practices alone.

"We're not violent by nature," he stresses. "We do our thing and stay out of people's way."

"I love dressing up in black and running around at night," he explains. "If there is a reason, all the better. Otherwise, it is still good practice."

Raiding can take many forms and can be fun or deadly serious.

Most of Don's activities occur at night, though planning and reconnaissance may take place during daytime hours. The most common type of raid involves entry and evasion and might focus on a part of a building or an entire area.

Closely related is investigative raiding, in which the focus is more on exploration of an area after entry.

A third type of raiding, one which highlights evasion techniques, Don jokingly refers to as "tempting fate." It involves letting people know that an entry has taken place yet trying to avoid capture after detection.

The smallest proportion of raids are those that are paramilitary in nature. These are the raiding activities that have the greatest practicality and most closely resemble military maneuvers. Don, however, is reluctant to use the word "paramilitary" because of its association with survivalist groups, with which Don's group has no ties.

A type of raiding that crosses the above four boundaries is commando reconnaissance, or recondo, in which a participant is dropped into an unknown situation without preparation "to see what develops."

In contrast, other raiding activi-

ties are marked by specific goals and much preparation, such as seeking out sources of light and observing the schedule of security patrols.

Don also divides raiding activities into those of support and threat.

“ I love dressing up in black and running around at night.

“Don” night raider

A supporting action might involve helping a friend patrol property when involved in a dispute with a threatening party.

Sometimes he may act as an

unseen bodyguard, acting without the knowledge of his beneficiary.

Raiding activities of threat might involve posting warnings or actions designed to discourage an adversary.

Don's interest in raiding began several years ago, when he was the subject of repeated attacks by a group of students. Believing he could not fight back by conventional means, he turned to covert actions. Once involved, he noticed "a real rush," a thrill he did not find elsewhere.

His actions continued and techniques developed into systems as others got involved. Don still practices by himself as well as with

See COVERT on 10



"Don" demonstrates his technique.

Photo illustration by Jeff Haller/DN