

Published by
Action Pursuit Games
January 2014

6 TIPS TO WIN IN THE WOODS

by Greg Hastings / Photos Courtesy of Greg Hastings

Listening can enhance your
game and lead to kills.

It's been four or five years now.

That is how long I've dedicated my passion and focus on woodsball. It's kind of a "back to my roots" sort of thing. Big games and scenarios are where it's at for me.

In my opinion, these formats are so much more challenging than the speedball competition I've every played. So, when you're up at the front, where all the action is, or creeping in the thick cover, here are some tips to make you more deadly.

“ ... USING YOUR LISTENING SKILLS
WILL HELP YOU IN OFFENSE AND
DEFENSE. ”

— GREG HASTINGS



They key to successful listening is remaining calm and relaxed.

TIP 1 LISTEN UP

Rely on your hearing skills. This is the No. 1 sense you must lean on further.

When you are behind cover of any kind, using your listening skills will help you in offense and defense. Defensively, you should not be sticking your head up or around bunkers or other cover, where your opponent will see you fumbling about trying to get “eyes on” everything. Without any movement at all, you can ascertain most of the information you’ll need about where the good guys are and where the bad guys are or aren’t.

With all the possibilities of sun in your eyes, thick cover, dirty goggles or whatever, your ears will become your primary source of information sooner or later. To break down what your ears are hearing, and even heightening this sense, takes practice.

TIP 2 DECIPHER ECHOES

Recently, I played at a few events where echoes were really messing with my sense of direction to where some bad guys were. So, from behind cover, I began to rotate my head, to verify the direction of the sound. On

PAINT THAT VISUAL PICTURE OF THE BATTLE SPACE IN YOUR HEAD FROM ONLY WHAT YOU HEAR.

— GREG HASTINGS

I have, on many occasions, been completely surrounded by bad guys but never engaged them. Sometimes, I’ve been able to blast a few before getting destroyed. On other occasions, I’ve been able to make a few quick kills and remain visually undetected.

More often nowadays, I’m not afraid to make my quick kills, retreat and then reestablish all my advantages. One time, I was able to detect the code phrases a squad was using to establish “friend or foe” while moving through unfamiliar territory. I was able to give their counter sign and move among them for more than 30 minutes as an enemy player! I never shot any because my goal was to make it to a position across the field, and they unwittingly helped me do that. Mission accomplished ... all because I used my hearing well.

several occasions, I had completely heard a bad guy’s gun from one direction, only to verify it was 180 degrees in another direction, just because of echoes.

TIP 3 DETERMINE LOCATION ON SOUND ONLY

Practice evaluating where the good and bad guys are from sound alone. From behind cover, any cover, take a few seconds and take a complete listening scan of everything around you. You may have to shift your focus to really make a solid note of where your biggest threat may be and how far away it is.

Keeping your cover, especially when you are feeling you are up against advancing bad guys, is key to making some easy kills.

KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL LISTENING

1. Take a complete listening scan of everything around you.
2. Relax
3. Be calm

THE SOUND OF SILENCE

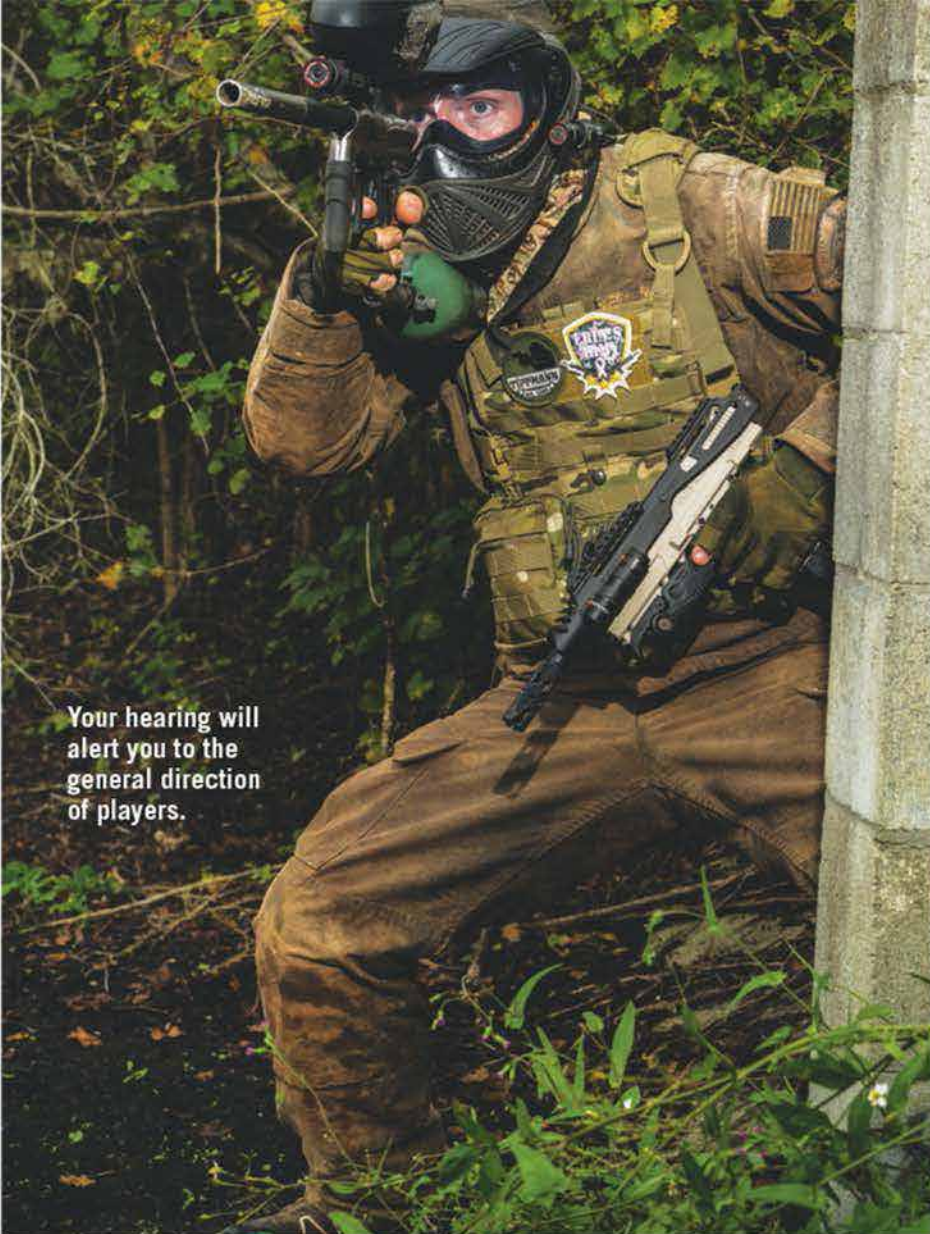
How Listening Can Enhance Your Game

- It helps offensively and defensively
- It allows you to remain concealed while determining where the others are

You are still and behind cover, so your opponents will have to leave cover to gain ground, so the advantage will come to you. Paint that visual picture of the battle space in your head from only what you hear.

TIP 4 WHEN IN FOLIAGE

If you are within foliage as cover, it is important to not move your head around. If you lift your head slowly, keep it still. Move only your eyes, and intensify your analysis of what you hear. Do you hear talking, gunfire or maybe footsteps or movement through foliage? Remain calm. Take a deep breath and just evaluate what you want to do next. That could very well be nothing. Letting bad guys go by or even good guys could be a great idea.



Your hearing will alert you to the general direction of players.

I do not mind when a bunch of my own teammates come crashing through the foliage, standing tall, etc. This will most definitely allow me to make moves and kills because of their lack of concern for stealth. They will get all of the attention and gunfire. It's not your fault they suck at paintball, so let them get all shot up while you shoot from cover and remain silent.

TIP 5 RELAX AND LISTEN

I think the more you relax, the more you hear.

No reason to be scared or nervous if you have cover or you know you have distance between you and any bad guys. Your hearing will alert you to the general direction of players. Then you will be

able to determine friend or foe. At this point, you can decide to set up for an attack, remain in position quietly or maneuver to better cover or retreat. The human eye is designed to detect movement. Use this to your advantage. Remain still and concealed, and let your hearing take the lead in detection of long-range targets. You have heard gunfire in the distance before, right? Well, that is the direction to the fight. Go get some.

TIP 6 QUIET ASSASSIN

Most recently, I played a solo role on the field. I wanted to try something new and be a sniper. So I found a great choke point where I mainly had a good escape route but had lots of low, ground level cover. I spent most of the day on my belly, crawling around a 30-yard area. With my face buried into tall grass, I found myself 100% relying on my ears. Detect, shoot, maneuver and disappear—I was able to get dozens of kills and take on squads of up to a dozen players, no problem. Yeah, I got eliminated a few times, but going super stealth was fun. It reminded me of when I was a SONAR man on a submarine. It's all about sound.

HEARING TEST

Next time you play, test your hearing. See if you're able to detect bad guys with only your ears. It will require you to remain calm and relaxed. If you are breathing heavily and fidgeting, you will not be able to hone this skill. Get yourself into some low, ground cover. No bunker, no tree, just foliage.

Remain still, relax, be patient and let your hearing take over. 🎧

THIS IS GUARANTEED

With the sun in your eyes, thick cover, dirty goggles and who knows what else, your ears will become your primary source of information.