

## 3-10/004.00 - Use of Force Terms Defined

Force is defined as any physical effort used to control or restrain another, or to overcome the resistance of another. Other terms used within this chapter are defined below:

- **Reportable use of force for on-duty personnel is defined as any physical effort to overcome a suspect's physical resistance, or any use of force which results in a suspect's physical injury or complaint of pain attributable to an identifiable injury. All force used off-duty while taking law enforcement action is reportable.**
- *Deadly Force is defined as any use of force that creates a substantial risk of causing death or serious bodily injury. Deadly Force includes, but is not limited to, the discharge of a firearm.*
- *De-escalation is defined as the process of using strategies and techniques intended to decrease the intensity of the situation with the goal of persuading a suspect to voluntarily comply or mitigating the need to use a higher level of force to safely resolve a situation.*
- Directed Force is defined as force used in the execution of one's duties under the immediate direction of a supervisor.
- Rescue Force is defined as any instance when it is necessary for a Department member to use force in order to prevent harm from occurring to medical staff, professional staff, or any non-Department member.
- Medical Assistance Force is defined as any instance when a Department member restrains an individual under the immediate direction and supervision of medical staff.
- Imminent Threat is defined as a threat of death or serious bodily injury, based on the totality of the circumstances, and a reasonable peace officer in the same situation would believe that a person has the present ability, opportunity, and apparent intent to immediately cause death or serious bodily injury to the peace officer or another person.
- Proportional in the context of a use of force is defined as, given the totality of the circumstances, there is a balance between the threat posed, the seriousness of the crime as reasonably perceived by the deputy, and the amount of the force used. Proportional force does not require members to use the same type or amount of force as the suspect. The more immediate and severe the threat perceived by the Department member, the more likely that a greater level of force used may be considered proportional, objectively reasonable, and necessary to counter it.
- Unreasonable Force is defined as force which is unnecessary or excessive given the totality of the circumstances presented to the Department members using force.
- Feasible is defined as reasonably capable of being done or carried out under the circumstances to successfully achieve the arrest or lawful objective without increasing risk to the officer or another person.
- Exigent Circumstances are defined as those circumstances which would cause a reasonable person or deputy to believe that a particular action is necessary to prevent physical harm to an individual, the destruction of relevant evidence, and the escape of a suspect.
- Serious Bodily Injury is defined as a serious impairment of physical condition, including, but not limited to the following: loss of consciousness, concussion, bone fracture, protracted loss or impairment of function of any bodily member or organ, a wound requiring extensive suturing, and serious disfigurement.
- Totality of the Circumstances is defined as all facts and information known to or reasonably perceived by the Department member at the time, including the conduct of the member and the suspect leading up to the use of force.

- Tactical Repositioning is defined as maneuvering to obtain, sustain, maximize and/or upgrade position, concealment, or cover from a perceived threat.
  - Force Options is defined as choices available to Department members in any given situation to overcome resistance, to effect an arrest, to prevent escape, in the defense of self and the defense of others, and to gain control.
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