2021 In-Service Use of Force Training
Opening slide

Use of Force 2021
Cleveland Police Academy

Narration:

Welcome to the Division’s use of force e-learning course. In this block of instruction, we will review material from the previous use of force courses, de-escalation strategies, levels of resistance and critical firearms discharge. We are going to discuss levels of force, reporting requirements and when intermediate weapons are authorized per our policy. Finally we will analyze and apply our use of force general police orders using two use of force video case studies.
Slide #2 Student Performance Objectives

Narration:

At the conclusion of this activity, students will be able to:

- Identify the procedure for reporting a pistol point
- Recognize when O.C. spray is authorized
- Identify when EMS shall be requested
- Recognize when the Asp baton is authorized
- Identify critical firearms discharge
- Recognize de-escalation strategies using two use of force case studies
- Recognize use of force reporting requirements in two use of force case studies
Slide #3 Review

Narration:

These are the general police orders that we will be covering in this course. The GPOs have been attached to the resources tab for your review. During this block of instruction, we discuss animal incidents as it relates to intermediate weapons. I included the animal incident GPO for your review as well. Please take a few minutes to review the GPOs then continue the assignment.
Narration

Force has a lawful objective when it is used for any of the following, please click on the icons for further information

**To effect a lawful arrest or detention of a subject** - Every officer conducting a stop must be prepared to articulate specific facts and circumstances in support of the officer’s determination that reasonable suspicion or probable cause was present and identified.
**To gain control of a combative subject**-Assess the situation to determine whether the individual may be in crisis, and if so, request a Specialized CIT Officer if one is not on scene.

**To prevent or terminate the commission of a crime**-When safe and feasible to do so, and before using force and/or to reduce the need for force, officers shall attempt to slow down the situation so that more time, options and resources are available for the incident to be resolved.

**To intervene in a suicide or self-inflicted injury**-Consider the possibility of the individual being under the influence of medication, street drugs and/or alcohol; mental illness, developmental disability, or behavioral crisis incident.

**To defend or protect an officer or an individual from the violent or resistant physical acts of another**-Remember your tactics and training, always de-escalate when safe and feasible and be prepared to articulate specific circumstances in reports.
Necessary

Officers will use physical force only when no reasonably effective alternative appears to exist, and only then to the degree which is reasonable to effect a lawful purpose.

Narration

The question here is “was the force necessary to achieve a lawful objective.” Meaning when safe and feasible, did you exhaust all other options before using force. Safety is paramount for officers and citizens. However, using de-escalation tactics may alleviate the need to use force.
Narration

Officers shall use force only as necessary, meaning only when no reasonably effective alternative to the use of force appears to exist, and then only to the degree which is reasonable to effect the intended lawful objective.
Narration

The reasonableness inquiry with respect to force is an objective one, whether the officer’s actions are objectively reasonable in light of the facts and circumstances confronting and reasonably known to the officer at the time of the incident. These factors include, but are not limited to, the following: The severity of the crime(s). Whether the subject is actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight. Whether the subject poses an immediate threat to the safety of the officer(s) or others.
De-escalation techniques shall be used, if feasible, once officers assess any threats present at the incident. The nature and immediacy of the threat will help determine what de-escalation or other tactics an officer may use to address the threat. If the officer must use force, officers shall continue to evaluate whether the force response being deployed remains proportional to the changing nature of the threat or circumstances being encountered, while still achieving the lawful objective. **Officers shall reduce the level of force applied as the nature of the threat diminished.**
Let’s discuss some de-escalation techniques. **Click each box** for more understanding on the specific technique

**Proactive use of distance, cover, concealment and time:** With safety in mind we want to separate ourselves from the threat and create a safe distance. This allows you to assess the situation and your options, bring resources, slow down the pace of the incident and develop a plan without using force. In many prior trainings we discussed moving from a position that exposes you to threats to a safer position. You can do this by placing barriers between yourself and the subject, objects like the zone car, brick pillar or similar items.

**Hearing and listening:** people have a desire to be heard. If safety permits, give the subject a voice and LISTEN to what they have to say. This is also a great way to slow down the situation
Strategic communication or voice commands to de-escalate the situation: talk to the subject, in a calm manner and normal tone of voice, about all the options available to them. Try to ask questions and listen. As a last resort, inform the subject that not following orders may result in the need to use force.

Increase officer presence: call for back up, a CIT officer, request a supervisor and if feasible await their arrival to develop a plan.

- Calling for additional back up is an important strategic option. But unless immediately necessary, request the back up stage in a secondary area. Sometimes, more uniformed officers on scene can increase the tension or stress of the situation by virtue of the increase presence. Use sound judgement when making these types of decisions. The totality of the circumstance will dictate how and when you will utilize officer presence in a given situation.
Narration

Let’s talk about the levels of resistance. There are three distinct levels of resistance officers may encounter when interacting with a subject. The first is passive, this may include linking arms with another during a protest, or verbally signaling an intention to avoid arrest. These individuals are uncooperative but not violent. Officers shall not use intermediate weapons on subjects who are passively resisting.
Active resistance refers to actions in which a subject takes physical actions to defeat an officer’s attempts to place the subject in custody and/or take control. It is important to remember when a subject is displaying active resistance, it is not directed toward the officer. This is an attempt to flee, hide from detection, push away or tense muscles to avoid handcuffing.

Aggressive physical resistance refers to when a subject poses a threat of harm to officers. This is when the subject attempts to attack, does attack an officer and/or displays combative behavior.
Narration

Let’s talk about level 1 uses of force. Force that is reasonably likely to cause only transient pain and /or disorientation during its application as a means of gaining compliance, including pressure point compliance. An example of a level 1 use of force would be pressure points at the triceps area-ulna nerve and joint manipulation techniques that would include wrist locks or shoulder torques. These are not reasonably expected to cause injury, and if they do not result in an actual injury and do not result in a complaint of injury they are a level 1.
The complaint of an injury is a very important factor here. If you use *de minimus* force as in escorting a person or using your hands to stop, push back or separate parties and that person complains of pain, that action is now a reportable level 1 use of force.
Level 1 Use of Force

- It does not include escorting, touching, or handcuffing a subject with no or minimal resistance.
- Un-holstering a firearm and pointing it at a subject is reportable as a Level 1 use of force.

Narration

It does not include escorting, touching, or handcuffing a subject with no or minimal resistance. Un-holstering a firearm and pointing it at a subject is reportable as a Level 1 use of force.

- Distinguishing between di-minimus force and a level use of force can often be challenging. When in doubt officers should request a supervisor respond to the scene and make that determination. If there are any doubts if di-minimus force or another level of force is used, error on the side of making the report.
It is important to remember about level 2 uses of force, that it is force that causes injury, is *reasonably likely* to cause an injury, or results in the complaint of an injury. So the key word in this GPO is *injury*. If you use force that does or may during its application cause an injury, it is a level 2 use of force. Keep in mind all intermediate weapons are level 2 uses of force. Any time there is the use of an impact weapon to the head, neck or face or canine bite, it rises to a level 3 use of force, that we will talk about next.
Narration:

Level 3 uses of force include all uses of deadly force. Take a look at bullet point number two, uses of force resulting in death or serious physical harm. Examples of serious physical harm may include but are not limited to: broken bones, depending on the severity second and third degree burns, loss of limb or limb function or serious cuts or burns.

The definition of deadly force per GPO 2.01.01 is any action that is likely to cause or does cause death or serious physical harm. It may involve a critical firearm discharge, but also includes any force or instrument of force (e.g., vehicle, edged weapon) capable of causing death or serious physical harm. Deadly force includes firing at or in the direction of a subject, head and/or neck strikes with any hard object, and any action that restricts the blood or oxygen flow through the neck.

There have been some questions on in the past about uses of force that result in hospital confinement. If the patient is admitted to the hospital, not the emergency room but as an inpatient, that would rise to a level 3 use of force irregardless of the force application. However, keep in mind that there are injuries that qualify for Level 3 investigations, even if they do not result in hospital admission. Example, you utilize your taser to effectuate an arrest of an irate, combative subject (level 2). EMS transports the subject to the hospital to be treated by a physician. Due to a heart problem the physician admits the subject to the ICU for further evaluation (that level 2 use of force is now a level 3 due to the hospital admission). When in doubt, report the force at the higher level. Supervisors should screen the incident with FIT to determine the proper level.
Canine bites are level 3 uses of force. More than 3 applications of the CEW on an individual during a single interaction, regardless of the mode or duration of the applications. A CEW application longer than 15 seconds whether continuous or consecutive. And any level 2 use of force against a handcuffed subject are all examples of level 3 uses of force.

An example of that would be if you have a subject handcuffed and you are walking them to your zone car. If the arrested person, becomes aggressive and attempts to bite an officer, you may have to use a takedown. That takedown coupled with the arrested person being handcuffed, makes this a level 3 use of force.
Narration:

When officers point their firearm at an individual they shall notify a supervisor and by the tour of duty complete and forward to the supervisor an individual use of force entry into blue team. Always be mindful of clear and concise articulation. Do not use boilerplate language without specific articulable facts.
Narration

Officers shall not use conclusory statements, “boilerplate” or “canned” language (e.g., furtive movement, fighting stance), without supporting details that are well articulated in the required reports. Do not use jargon or unnecessary abbreviations in your report. Remember, these reports will be reviewed by everyone and are a reflection of your work product.
### Knowledge Check #1

**Knowledge Check**

What are the reporting requirements for pointing a firearm at an individual?

*Select all that apply*

- [x] Advise a Sector Supervisor
- [x] Complete a Blue Team entry and forward the completed entry to the Sector Supervisor
- [ ] A Supervisor needs to respond to the scene
- [ ] No Blue Team entry needs to be completed

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Correct</th>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>A Supervisor needs to respond to the scene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No Blue Team entry needs to be completed</td>
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Feedback when correct:

That's right! You selected the correct response.

Feedback when incorrect:

You did not select the correct response. Please review GPO 2.01.05 and try again.
This is the OC Spray GPO. Like other parts of the policy, be prepared to articulate why the use of force was necessary, proportional and objectively reasonable. If de-escalation was safe and feasible and what use of force techniques were used. If de-escalation was not feasible, why was it not feasible? What actions did the individuals display that made the techniques not safe or feasible before the force was applied.
Always be aware of positional asphyxia and do not use a technique that may impair someone’s breathing after deploying OC spray. Be aware of risks of confined spaces, cars, closets, small rooms and be aware of the environment around you. Each one second application is considered a separate use of force that needs to be proportional, necessary and objectively reasonable to the level of resistance encountered. The use of OC Spray on a dangerous animal is permissible to deter an attack or to prevent injury to persons present. The animal incident GPO was added to the resources tab for your review.
**Knowledge check 2**

When is OC prohibited?

*Select one response*

- A person with a known respiratory condition unless it is an extreme and articulable situation
- An animal
- An aggressively resistant individual
- None of these are correct

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>None of these are correct</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Feedback when correct:

That's right! You selected the correct response.

Feedback when incorrect:

You did not select the correct response.
Narration

As soon as practicable, but no later than 20 minutes after establishing control of the scene, the officer shall make a reasonable effort to relieve the subject’s OC Spray discomfort by washing OC Spray from the subject’s eyes with cool water. This may be accomplished by a water source or if EMS is already on scene, ask EMS if they have something to assist. If the subject was exposed in a confined space, officers will remove the subject as soon as possible from the contaminated area and expose the individual to fresh air.
Narration:

Again, all uses of force must be necessary, proportional and objectively reasonable to achieve a lawful objective.
Asp Baton

- Officers shall consider each separate ASP baton strike as a separate use of force that officers must individually justify and report as objectively reasonable, necessary and proportional.

- The use of riot batons are authorized only during field force deployments.

Narration

Just like OC spray, each separate ASP baton strike is considered a separate use of force.
Asp Baton

Officers shall not target ASP baton strikes to sensitive tissue area, such as the head, neck, spine or genitalia. Baton strikes to the head and neck constitute deadly force.

The preferred target areas are the arms, legs and torso.

Narration

The preferred target areas for the ASP baton are the arms, legs and torso.
Medical Attention After of the use of ASP Baton

- Officers shall request EMS after striking a subject to the head, neck, spine or genitalia with an ASP baton or any other impact weapon for an examination.
- If needed, officers and supervisors shall obtain any necessary medical care while providing emergency first aid until professional medical care providers arrive.

Narration

Highlights of the slide with below addition

Officers shall closely monitor subjects who are taken into custody if injured, exhibiting physical distress, complaining of pain, or have been rendered unconscious.
Duty to Provide Medical Attention

- Immediately following any use of force and when the scene is secure, officers, and upon their arrival, supervisors, shall inspect and observe the subject for injury or complaints of pain resulting directly or indirectly from the use of force.

- Officers shall closely monitor subjects who are taken into custody if injured, exhibiting physical distress, complaining of pain, or have been rendered unconscious.

Narration

Read this slide word for word
Slide 26

Duty to Provide Medical Attention

Officers shall immediately request Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to respond for the following use of force applications regardless of visible injury or complaint of injury:

- Discharge of a firearm that strikes a subject.
- Impact of subject's head against any hard, fixed object.
- With the exception of pointing a firearm at an individual, any reportable use of force on subjects who are reasonably believed or known to be pregnant, children, elderly, physically or medically frail, or disabled.

Narration

Read the slide contents word for word
Member encountering a medical emergency shall:

1. Immediately request EMS to respond.

2. Based on the totality of the circumstances (e.g., the nature of the injury, location of the incident, proximity of the hospital and/or EMS) determine the best course of action including, but not limited to:
Narration

- Waiting for EMS arrival
- Transporting the injured person to the hospital
- Providing trauma aid in the manner trained
Narration

Always remember to be aware of your surroundings, pay particular attention to not get tunnel vision on a subject, you do not want to injure an uninvolved party. Be aware of your target, backstop and beyond.
Narration

We are going to complete two use of force case studies. As you watch each video we will ask you a series of questions. After you complete the questions, we will go over the videos again and discuss aspects of the videos.
Question #1

**Assessment and Application to GPO**

- Was the initial police action taken (vehicle stop) justified?

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<td>X</td>
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<td>NO</td>
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</table>
Feedback when correct:
Correct it was a Traffic stop in connection with speeding

Feedback when incorrect:
Incorrect it was a Traffic stop in connection with speeding
Question #2

The officer in the video orders the driver out of the car. At this point in the video, what other options does the officer have? Select all that apply.

- Use strategic voice commands to slow down the pace of the incident
- Call for back up and wait
- Use time to avoid a physical confrontation
- Ask questions rather than issue orders
- Advise the driver options available to him which could bring this to this interaction to a conclusion

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<td>Use time to avoid a physical confrontation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>Ask questions rather than issue orders</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Advise the driver options available to him which could bring this interaction to a conclusion

Feedback when correct:

That's right! You selected the correct response. He could have also requested a supervisor, used distance time and concealment to help de-escalate the situation

Feedback when incorrect:

Please review GPO 2.01.02 and try again
Question #3

The officer was aware the driver’s son is in the car. Was it necessary for the officer to break the window?

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<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>No</td>
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</table>

Feedback when correct:

That's right! There was no immediate need to gain access to the vehicle and breaking by the window, the officer put an innocent bystander at risk of injury.

Feedback when incorrect:
There was no immediate need to gain access to the vehicle. Officers shall use force only as necessary, meaning only when no reasonably effective alternative to the use of force appears to exist, and then only to the degree which is reasonable to effect the intended lawful objective.
Question #4

Assessment and Application to GPO

> Did the officers on scene request medical assistance?

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<th>Correct Choice</th>
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<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>X</td>
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Feedback when correct:
They did not request EMS, Per GPO 2.01.03 immediately following any use of force and when the scene is secure, officers, and upon their arrival, supervisors, shall inspect and observe the subject for injury or complaints of pain resulting directly or indirectly from the use of force.

Feedback when incorrect:

They did not request EMS, Please review GPO 2.01.03 and try again
Question #5

Assessment and Application to GPO

> What Level of Force would be reported under our General Police orders?
> Choose all that apply.

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<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>Level 1</td>
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<td>X</td>
<td>Level 2</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Level 3</td>
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Feedback when correct:
Level 2 for the CEW, use of the ASP as an impact weapon, level 2 use of force for the closed fist strikes and Level 1 for the pointing of the firearm. Also remember when reporting, officers shall report uses of force in accordance with the reporting requirements of the highest level of force used during the incident. (For example, if an officer uses both Level 1 and Level 2 force during an incident, the incident is classified as a Level 2 force for reporting and review purposes) GPO 2.01.05 2, E.

Feedback when incorrect:

Please review GPO 2.01.01 and try again
Narration

No narration of this slide
Keep these principles in mind when watching the video. Once again, you will be asked a series of questions after the video. When the video is complete, we will give you an analysis of the video.
Slide 33

**Video #2**
Question #1

Assessment and Application to GPO

What was the nature of the police action?

- Traffic stop for Tinted Headlights and Tail lights
- Traffic stop for Speeding
- Traffic stop for Left of center

Correct Choice

<table>
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<td>X</td>
<td>Traffic stop for Tinted Headlights and Tail lights</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Traffic stop for Speeding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Traffic stop for Left of center</td>
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Feedback when correct:
That’s right! You selected the correct response.

**Feedback when incorrect:**

Traffic stop for Tinted Headlights and Tail Lights

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**Question #2**

Assessment and Application to GPO

- What actions led to the initial officer’s use of force?
  - Suspect fled the scene
  - Suspect refused to be handcuffed
  - Suspect spit on the officers
<table>
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<td></td>
<td>Suspect fled the scene</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Suspect spit on the officers</td>
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**Feedback when correct:**

That's right! You selected the correct response.

**Feedback when incorrect:**

Suspect refused to be handcuffed
Question #3

Assessment and Application to GPO

- Were de-escalation techniques used?

<table>
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<td>X Yes</td>
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Feedback when correct:
The officer was professional and allowed the suspect time to regain self-control, and to cease struggling. He also requested assistance from additional officers, and verbalized his commands in a calm manner and normal tone of voice. But he did not tell the subject why he was being cuffed. The officer could have used other de-escalation techniques like time, giving set choices, explaining the officer’s order, and further calm communication.

**Feedback when incorrect:**

The officer was professional and allowed the suspect time to regain self-control, and to cease struggling. He also requested assistance from additional officers, and verbalized his commands in a calm manner and normal tone of voice. But he did not tell the subject why he was being cuffed. The officer could have used other de-escalation techniques like time, giving set choices, explaining the officer’s order, and further calm communication.
**Question #4**

**Assessment and Application to GPO**

- Did the officer give commands?

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**Feedback when correct:**

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Yes, he gave multiple verbal commands, some were obeyed, and some were not.

**Feedback when incorrect:**

He gave multiple verbal commands, some were obeyed, and some were not..
Question #5

Assessment and Application to GPO

➢ Did the subject comply?

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Feedback when correct:

Refused the search, said he would get out of the car. Refused to be arrested or handcuffed.
Feedback when incorrect:

Refused the search, said he would get out of the car. Refused to be arrested or handcuffed.
**Question #6**

Assessment and Application to GPO

- Did you observe any possible threats?

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**Feedback when correct:**
The suspect reached around inside the car. The officer smelled marijuana and observed a knife. Keep in mind the smell of marijuana is not a threat, however it may lead an officer to understand a particular individual’s mental state.

**Feedback when incorrect:**

The suspect reached around inside the car. The officer smelled marijuana and observed a knife. Keep in mind the smell of marijuana is not a threat, however it may lead an officer to understand a particular individual’s mental state.
**Question #7**

Assessment and Application to GPO

- What Level of Force would be reported under our General Police orders?

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Feedback when correct:

Level 1, because the officers used force to restrain the subject against the car. By the end of their tour of duty, complete and forward to the reviewing/investigating supervisor, an individual use of force entry in the use of force tracking software, providing a detailed account of the incident from the officer’s perspective and including all of the following information: The reason for the initial police presence. A specific description of the acts that preceded the use of force, to include attempts to de-escalate. The level of resistance encountered. A complete and accurate description of every type of force used or observed.

Feedback when incorrect:

Please review GPO 2.01.02 and try again.
Video #2 Analysis
Our goal of this training course is to assist you in becoming more safe law enforcement professionals. The point of this training is to strengthen your understanding of CDP’s main use of force objectives. The use of force must be necessary, proportional and objectively reasonable to achieve a lawful objective. And when safe and feasible to do so, use de-escalation strategies.