

# FORCE OPTIONS SIMULATOR COURSE

(6 – hours PSP )

Maximum class size is 8 students with 2 instructors.

## I Introduction and Lecture (1.5 - hours)

A Goal: Improve decision making skills related to use of force.

B Objectives:

Increase awareness in current law and departmental policy in the use of force.

Increase proficiency in selection of appropriate force options.

Improve skills in tactics and force options by utilization of simulator.

## C Law I(h)

Federal law

a. Title 18, USC Sec 242 and 1983 (Civil Rights)

2. State

a PC 835, Method of making arrest, amount of restraint

b PC 835a, Use of reasonable force to effect arrest, prevent escape or overcome resistance

c PC 843, Arrest under warrant; force permissible, what force may be used.

d PC 196, Justifiable homicide; public officers

e PC 197, Justifiable homicide; any persons

f PC 198, Justifiable homicide; sufficiency of fear

g PC 198.5, Home protection; use of deadly force: Presumption of fear of death or great bodily injury

3. Case Law Reasonable Force

a **Tenn. vs Garner** (deadly force)

*In order for peace officers to employ lethal force, they must consider:*

1) Life-threatening escape-“Where the officer has probable cause to believe that the suspect poses a threat of serious physical harm, either to the officer or others..”

2) Life-threatening felony – “..if the suspect threatens the officer with a



- 6) Concealment (hides officer's position)
- 7) Distance to enhance tactical advantage (distance = time)
- 8) Communications
  - a) With - subject/suspect
  - b) Fellow officers
  - c) Dispatch

- 6. Force options I (i)
  - a Uniform Presence
  - b Verbal
  - c Chemical Agents
  - d Hands/ Control Holds
  - e Impact Weapons
  - f Electronic Disruption Weapons
  - g Less Lethal
  - h Lethal Force
- 7. Weapons Safety I (c)
  - a Four basic safety rules.
    - 1) Guns are always loaded
    - 2) Never allow muzzle to cover anything you are not willing to destroy.
    - 3) Keep finger off trigger until ready to shoot.
    - 4) Be sure of your target and background.
- 8. Weapons Familiarization specific to simulator I (f)
- II. Practical Application Simulator Scenarios (2 - hours) I(a) (g)
  - A. Minimum of 3 scenarios for each student (one non-shoot) II (a,b,c)
  - B Critique and debrief after each scenario.
- III. Course Evaluation and Final Review (1/2 - hour)

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**ADDITIONAL**

**Use of Force Report Writing Portion– 2 hours**

**Instructor Steven Dexheimer only teaches for these 2 hours**

- V. Write a BART Police Department Use of force Report

- A. Debrief of Scenario (15 minutes)
- B. Pre-Load of Call for Service
  - 1. Type of Call/ Seriousness of Offense as reported
  - 2. Potential for injury to citizens, officers, and suspects
- C. Observed Behavior
  - 1. Proximity of weapons
  - 2. Pre-Assaultive Indicators
    - a) Suddenness
    - b) Aggressiveness
    - c) Destructiveness
- D. Conclusions/ Decision-making
  - 1. DUI/ 647(f) example
    - a) Objective symptoms of intoxication → impairment
  - 2. Given the observed behavior, what did you feel?
- E. Writing Exercise (1/2 – Hour)
  - 1. Narrative format
    - a) Outline/ Highlights acceptable
  - 3. Limited Time
- F. Use of Force/ Legal Issues (1/2 - Hour)
  - 1. Discussion
  - 2. Example: Knife Attack by Woman
    - a) Details matter
    - b) Perception matter
    - c) Distance matters
      - (1) 21-foot rule/ fallacy
- G. Guidelines for Report Writing (15 Minutes)
  - 1. Review Policy 300.2.2
- H. Basic Report Writing Techniques (15 Minutes)
  - 1. Make an outline

- a) Review the video
  - b) Review the call notes
  - c) Add thoughts, feelings, training and experience
2. Chronological
- a) Logical
  - b) In order
3. Don't
- a) Use generic/ canned expressions
    - (1) "your safety and mine"
    - (2) "officer safety"
  - b) Assume the reader knows what's going thru your mind

I. Today's Reports and Video (15 Minutes)

1. Review the video first
2. Use the call notes
3. If you can, review the radio traffic
4. Make notes