

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
PROBATION DEPARTMENT
DIRECTIVE

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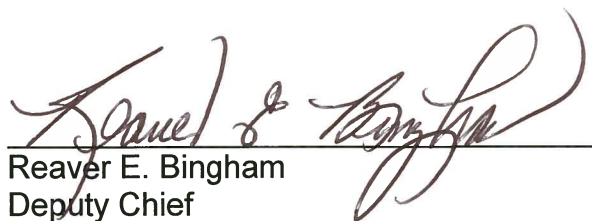
SUBJECT: SSB MANUAL POLICIES – FIELD USE OF FORCE

The Field Use of Force section of the Special Services Bureau Manual has been approved for distribution. The policy is to be incorporated into the Special Services Bureau Manual which is currently in progress.

The Field Use of Force (SSB-300), which includes the following sections:

- Introduction
- Determination of Reasonableness of Force
- Responsibility for Training
- Situational Use of Force Options
- Use of Force Control Techniques
- Use of Force Control Devices
- Reportable Force
- Supervisor Responsibilities
- Director Responsibilities
- Medical Treatment & Transportation of Suspects
- Use of Force on Animals
- Forced Entry
- Agency Review Use of Force Incidents

If you have any questions, contact the SEO Director at (213) 220-7134.


Reaver E. Bingham
Deputy Chief

10.10.14
Date

LOS ANGELES COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

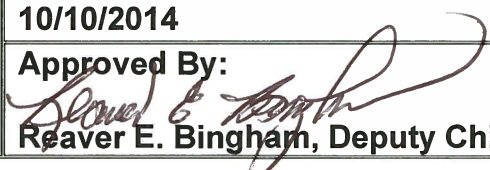
Subject: SPECIAL SERVICES BUREAU MANUAL FIELD USE OF FORCE POLICY	Section Number: SSB-300
	Effective Date: 10/10/2014
	Approved By:  Reaver E. Bingham, Deputy Chief

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FIELD USE OF FORCE – USE OF FORCE INTRODUCTION**301 USE OF FORCE INTRODUCTION**

Force is defined as “any physical effort used to control or restrain another or to overcome the resistance of another”. Any peace officer that has reasonable cause to believe that the person to be arrested has committed a public offense may use reasonable force to effect the arrest, to prevent escape, or to overcome resistance. A peace officer who makes or attempts to make an arrest need not retreat or desist from his/her efforts by reason of resistance or threatened resistance of the person being arrested nor shall such officer be deemed the aggressor or lose his/her right to self-defense by the use of reasonable force to effect the arrest or to prevent escape or to overcome resistance (Penal Code § 835a).

Officers shall use only the amount of force deemed reasonable in order to bring an incident under control. "Reasonableness" of the force used must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene at the time of the incident. Any interpretation of reasonableness must allow for the fact that probation officers are often forced to make split-second decisions in circumstances that are tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving. Officers should make an effort to de-escalate confrontations through verbal communication, warnings, and other common sense methods preventing the need to use force whenever reasonably possible.

FIELD USE OF FORCE – DETERMINATION OF REASONABLENESS OF FORCE**302 DETERMINATION OF REASONABLENESS OF FORCE****302.1 REASONABLE FORCE**

When determining whether or not to apply any level of force and evaluating whether an officer has used reasonable force, a number of factors should be taken into consideration. These factors include, but are not limited to:

- 1) The conduct of the individual being confronted (as reasonably perceived by the officer at the time)
- 2) Officer/subject factors (age, size, relative strength, skill level, injury/exhaustion and number of officers vs. subjects)
- 3) Influence of drugs/alcohol (mental capacity)
- 4) Proximity of weapons
- 5) Time and circumstances permitting, the availability of other options (what resources are reasonably available to the officer under the circumstances)
- 6) Seriousness of the suspected offences or reason for contact with the individual
- 7) Training and experience of the officer
- 8) Potential for injury to citizens, officers, and subjects
- 9) Risk of escape
- 10) Other exigent circumstances

It is recognized that officers are expected to make split-second decisions and that the amount of an officer's time available to evaluate and respond to changing circumstances may impact his/her decision.

While various degrees of force exist, each officer is expected to use only that degree of force reasonable under the circumstances to successfully accomplish the legitimate law enforcement purpose in accordance with this policy.

It is recognized however, that circumstances may arise in which officers reasonably believe that it would be impractical or ineffective to use any of the standard tools, weapons or methods provided by the Department. Officers may find it more effective or practical to improvise their response to rapidly unfolding conditions they are confronting. In such circumstances, the use of any improvised device or method must nonetheless

FIELD USE OF FORCE – DETERMINATION OF REASONABLENESS OF FORCE

be objectively reasonable and utilized only to the degree reasonably necessary to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement purpose.

Note: The basis in determining whether force is “unreasonable” shall be consistent with Supreme Court decision of *Graham vs. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386 (1989)

302.2 UNREASONABLE FORCE

Officers shall use only that force which is objectively reasonable. Unreasonable force is that force that is unnecessary or excessive given the totality of the circumstances presented to the officer at the time the force is applied. Unreasonable force is prohibited. The use of unreasonable force may subject officers to discipline and/or criminal prosecution.

The following uses of force are prohibited unless circumstances justify the use of deadly force (i.e., the individual's actions fall in the life-threatening/serious bodily injury category):

- Deliberate Head strike(s)
- Deliberately or recklessly striking an individual's head against a hard, fixed object (e.g., roadway, driveway, concrete floor, wall, etc.)
- From a standing position, deliberately kicking an individual in the head while the individual is lying on the ground/floor
- Deliberately kneeing an individual in the head
- Deliberately or recklessly causing an individual's head to strike the ground, floor, or other hard, fixed object.

FIELD USE OF FORCE – RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRAINING**303 RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRAINING**

Officers are mandated to complete a department approved training curriculum specifically focusing on the department approved "Situational Use of Force Options" policy/continuum. The officer is mandated to have a functional comprehension of said policy. The officer must also be able to engage in the practical, reasonable application of said policy. The officer is mandated to complete said training, complete all required ongoing training at an acceptable level of proficiency as determined by the Department and comply with the departmentally approved "Use of Force Policy/Continuum" or be subjected to remedial and/or administrative actions by the Department.

FIELD USE OF FORCE – USE OF FORCE CONTROL TECHNIQUES

304 SITUATIONAL USE OF FORCE OPTIONS

The Los Angeles Probation Department utilizes the Use of Force Options Model. However, given that no policy can realistically predict every possible situation an officer might encounter in the field, it is recognized that each officer must be entrusted with well-reasoned discretion in determining the appropriate use of force in each incident. While it is the ultimate objective of every law enforcement encounter to minimize injury to everyone involved, nothing in this policy requires an officer to actually sustain physical injury before applying reasonable force.

In the performance of duty, an officer will be presented with particular facts which he/she will analyze and then compare with what he/she must do according to law, Department policy, or in self-defense. These facts, taken as a whole, should lend themselves to categorization into one of four areas identified for individual action/behavior. The officer's perception of the incident and analysis of the facts will be influenced by a number of factors, including the following:

- The officer's understanding of State and Federal laws, Department policies, etc. these areas constitute what is referred to as *legal standing*.
- Other considerations including Departmental training and other non-Departmental training.
- Officer/subject factors (age, size, relative strength, skill level, injury/exhaustion and number of officers versus subjects).
- Influence of drugs/alcohol/mental capacity.
- Proximity of weapons.
- Time and circumstances permitting, the availability of other options (what resources are reasonably available to the officer under circumstances).
- Seriousness of the suspected offenses or reason for contact with the individual (
- Training and experience of the officer.
- Potential for injury to citizens, officers, and subjects.
- Risk of escape
- Other exigent circumstances.

The Situational Use of Force Options Chart (Appendix A) provides a visual aid that depicts the Los Angeles County Probation Department's policy with respect to options available to officers when they have to handle certain types of situations/conditions. The following four general categories of individual behavior were identified with respect to potential citizen contacts. Each category of behavior was analyzed for the type of force response which may be appropriately applied if force is perceived to be necessary by the officer. The listings are not be construed as meaning that the force options are to be used only in the order listed.

FIELD USE OF FORCE – USE OF FORCE CONTROL TECHNIQUES**CATEGORY 1 - Individual Action: Cooperative**

"Cooperative" is the category that the majority of people fall into. "Cooperative" means that individuals respond in a positive way to an officer's mere presence and are easily directed with verbal requests and commands such that no physical force is needed to gain cooperation. Those that require control or searching allow this to take place with no resistance. Cooperation is often achieved by non-verbal acts such as gestures, stance, and facial expressions.

Officer Use of Force Options:

If an individual's behavior falls into the cooperative category, the following options are available:

- **Non-verbal:** That which is expressed without the use of words (gestures, posturing, facial expressions, etc.)
- **Professional Presence:** Visual appearance and confidence projected to others by physical condition, hygiene, uniform appearance
- **Verbal:** That which is communicated by the use of words (inflection, pitch, tone)
- **Control/Search Handcuffing:** To control in a case and manner authorized by law (firm grip, escort, wrist locks etc.)
 - To visually/physically examine a person for contraband/weapons concealed (visual, cursory)
 - To restrain a person by use of authorized handcuffs (standing, kneeling and prone)

CATEGORY 2 - Individual Action: Resistive

"Resistive" behavior is defined as physical or verbal resistance to lawful orders and commands. If the resistance is verbal, the subject has refused to follow orders given by the officer. However, if the resistance is physical, the subject may display a number of actions such as running away, arms flailing, or pulling away. There are two categories of resistance: passive and active. Examples of physical resistance can include the subject assuming an aggressive posture or stance, running away, physically resisting the officer's efforts to secure/handcuff/control or obscene gestures to lawful presence or request. An individual's verbal/non-verbal physical actions can be interpreted to mean that he/she will not comply with orders or requests made and will resist so as to now allow control to be exerted over him/her, yet the subject is not "attacking" the officer- does not fully intend to assault or batter the officer. Measures and options to address these behaviors are meant to obtain and secure control of the situation.

FIELD USE OF FORCE – USE OF FORCE CONTROL TECHNIQUES

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution protects a certain amount of verbal criticism and peaceful challenge of officers. Verbal complaints, insults, and peaceful challenge to officers, where an individual is otherwise cooperative, do not constitute "resistive" behavior.

Officer Use of Force Options:

If an individual's behavior falls into the resistive category, the following options are available:

- **Control Holds:** To restrain the movements of another by utilizing arms and hands (firm grip, escort, wrist locks, etc.)
- **Firm Grip:** Solid and stable grasp of another's arm by the use of one's hands for purpose of control-gaining compliance, usually applied to the arm/shoulder area
- **Defensive Tactics:** Weaponless maneuvers used to overcome resistance
- **Intermediate Weapons Control Techniques:** controlling another by the use of an impact weapon in a restraint capacity
- **Chemical Agents:** Department-issued Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray/Gel
- **Hobble:** Only authorized for staff who have been trained on the restraint device

CATEGORY 3 - Individual Action: Assaultive/High Risk

The "assaultive"/"high-risk" category is defined as an unlawful threat or unsuccessful attempt to do physical harm to another, causing a present fear of immediate harm, a violent physical attack, a situation in which the totality of the articulated facts/circumstances causes a reasonable officer to form the opinion that a significant credible threat of violence exists. The assaultive subject is one who has crossed the line of resistance and is threatening an assault, or physically assault of the officer or a citizen. This category also deals with a high-risk situation such as a fleeing subject who is hiding in a yard. In this category, the likelihood of the officer (or citizen) to be injured is obvious because of the subject's deliberate assaultive actions or other significant potential actions. The actions (or potential action) of a subject are so obvious as to make a reasonable person (officer) realize that he/she must do something to defend himself/herself or others and then employ options to effect control of the situation or safely effect an arrest.

Officer Use of Force Options:

If an individual's behavior falls into the assaultive/high risk category, then the following options are available:

- **Impact Weapons:** collapsible baton

FIELD USE OF FORCE – USE OF FORCE CONTROL TECHNIQUES

- **Chemical Agents:** Department-issued OC Spray/Gel
- **Personal Weapons:** Body parts used to impact another (i.e. hands, feet, arms, etc.)

CATEGORY 4 - Individual Action: Life Threatening/Serious Bodily Injury

The "life threatening" category encompasses actions which are likely to result in serious bodily injury or possibly in the death of officers or of another. Utilizing firearms or impact/personal weapons to vital areas of the body would be reasonable to employ at this level in self-defense, the defense of others, and in conjunction with other available options to ultimately gain control of the situation.

Justification for the use of deadly force is limited to what reasonably appears to be the facts known or perceived by the officer at the time the officer decides to shoot. Officers must have an independent basis to use deadly force and shall not base actions solely on the observation of another peace officer. Facts unknown to the officer and which could not reasonably have been expected to be known by the officer cannot be considered later in determining whether the use of deadly force is justified. The justification will be assessed by the legally-authorized agency or department.

In determining whether the circumstances justify the use of deadly force, the officer shall consider and give relative weight to the following factors:

- Whether a firearm has been displayed or any article that can be used as a weapon by an individual in a threatening manner that might reasonably cause the death or serious bodily injury to the officer or another person.
- Whether the subject is known to the officer to have a record and/or history of violent behavior.
- Whether the officer has information from a reliable source (such as a spouse, law enforcement official, employer, or landlord) that an individual is or may be armed and dangerous.
- Whether there have been auditory or visual indicators at the scene of the potential threat (such as the sound of gunshots, screaming, or cries, or sounds or signs of an altercation in process).
- Whether the deadly force can be tactically utilized.

FIELD USE OF FORCE – USE OF FORCE CONTROL TECHNIQUES**Officer Use of Force Options:**

If an individual's behavior falls into the life-threatening/serious bodily injury category, then the following options are available:

- **Firearms:** Use of authorized firearms (For additional information refer to Arming Policy, SSB-800).
- **Impacting vital areas:** Striking an individual in the head, neck, clavicle, spine or other vital areas with any impact weapon.

FIELD USE OF FORCE – USE OF FORCE CONTROL TECHNIQUES**305 USE OF FORCE CONTROL TECHNIQUES**

As discussed in Section 304, Department-approved control holds and defensive tactics can be used in controlling a passive or actively resisting subject. Officers shall only apply those techniques for which the officer has received Departmentally-approved training and only when the officer reasonably believes that the use of such techniques appears necessary to further a legitimate law enforcement purpose. Officers using such techniques should consider the totality of the circumstances, including but not limited to the following:

- A. The potential for injury to the officer(s) or others if the technique is not used.
- B. The potential risk of serious injury to the subject being controlled.
- C. The degree to which the pain compliance technique may be controlled in application according to the level of resistance.
- D. The nature of the offense involved.
- E. The level of resistance of the subject(s) involved.
- F. The need for prompt resolution of the situation.
- G. If time permits (e.g., passive subjects), other reasonable alternatives.

The application of any control holds and defensive tactics shall be discontinued once the officer determines that compliance has been achieved.

FIELD USE OF FORCE – USE OF CONTROL DEVICES**306 USE OF CONTROL DEVICES**

To reduce and minimize altercation-related injuries to officers and subjects, the Department authorizes the use of selected control techniques and devices. Certain control devices are provided in order to control violent or potentially violent subjects. It is anticipated that the use of these devices will generally result in fewer altercation-related injuries to officers and subjects. Only those control devices that have been approved by the Chief Probation Officer or his/her designee are authorized to be carried by members of this department. The authorized control devices and procedures for their use are as follows: Oleoresin Capsicum (Pepper) Gel/Spray and Impact Weapons.

306.1 OLEORESIN CAPSICUM (PEPPER) SPRAY/GEL

It is the policy of the Los Angeles County Probation Department that Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray/Gel may be used within the scope of peace officer authority to control, restrain or subdue imminent or actual violent behavior by subjects or others if such behavior presents a clear danger. OC Spray/Gel shall not be used for punishment, retaliation or disciplinary purposes. The use of OC Spray/Gel is permitted under Section 22820 of the California Penal Code. Only personnel who are properly trained and certified are authorized to use OC Spray/Gel.

Prerequisites

Only officers who have completed the departmentally provided 832 PC Chemical Agents course will be issued and authorized to possess OC Spray/Gel while on duty.

- A. OC Spray/Gel will only be used in accordance with the departmentally approved Use of Force policy and when reasonably and lawfully necessary.
- B. The completion and maintenance of Standard First Aid and CPR training/certification will be a requirement for the issuance of OC Spray/Gel.
- C. When not on the officer's person, the canister is to be kept in a safe and secure location to prevent unauthorized access.
- D. The use of OC Spray/Gel is only authorized in the course and scope of employment with the Los Angeles County Probation Department and must be done in compliance with the requirements as set forth in training and general guidelines.

FIELD USE OF FORCE – USE OF CONTROL DEVICES**Use of OC Spray/Gel**

The following guidelines apply when using OC Spray/Gel:

- A. The level of force must be based on what is reasonable, appropriate and necessary given the totality of individual circumstances, including the behavior of the subject and other people involved.
- B. Use of OC Spray/Gel on passive non-compliant subjects is prohibited. If the subject is non-responsive to verbal commands and displays passive resistive behavior (non-physical resistance), departmentally approved control holds should be considered to gain control.
- C. Generally, OC Spray/Gel should be considered the safest option when the subject's behavior is physically resistive and/or aggressive.

Deployment of OC Spray/Gel

- A. Prior to the deployment of OC Spray/Gel, the officer will give a verbal command to stop the behavior and warn the subject that OC Spray/Gel is about to be deployed. If the behavior exhibited is of such nature that even momentary delay would clearly result in injury to the officer, OC Spray/Gel may be used without the warning. Otherwise, an officer should allow the subject reasonable time under the circumstances to comply with the command before deploying the OC Spray/Gel.
- B. Aim the canister at the subject's eyes area and direct an approximately one-second long burst of spray/gel at the subject from a distance of three to five feet from the subject.
- C. The deployment of OC Spray/Gel may be repeated if the first spray fails to effect compliance. In instances in which one application of OC Spray/Gel fails to produce the desired results and stop the physically resistive or aggressive behavior and repeated application(s) of the spray are necessary, staff shall clearly document the need for additional discharges of the canister in the written Use of Force Report.
- D. The application of OC Spray/Gel shall not be continued once the subject has been subdued.

Follow-Up Procedures

The officer shall first ensure that the surrounding area is reasonably safe from any further threat to officer safety. The officer is responsible for a subject's safety once OC Spray/Gel has been applied and must start decontamination and provide medical care

FIELD USE OF FORCE – USE OF CONTROL DEVICES

once it is safe to do so. Emergency medical care must be summoned to provide additional treatment and decontamination. The officer must take all reasonable precautions to ensure that the subject is not injured while incapacitated by the agent.

This may result in the officer's relocation to a more secure environment, such as a locked vehicle or evacuation from the location.

If it is safe to proceed with decontamination, officers shall adhere to the following procedures:

- A. Handcuff the subject as soon as possible and instruct the subject to breathe normally. The officer should be careful to avoid contamination.
- B. Instruct the sprayed subject to relax, as a continued agitated state will only exacerbate the effects of the OC Spray/Gel. Reassure subject that the effects are temporary and that you will assist in providing relief.
- C. Move the subject to uncontaminated air.
- D. If OC Gel was used, clean skin with a wet cloth soaked in water. Any clean cloth can be soaked in cool clean water and used to wipe any visible product from the subject's skin. Do not rub the subject's eyes.
- E. Flush the affected area with cool tap water. The officer should apply cold or cool water as soon as reasonably possible. Never use warm or hot water. The subject shall be advised not to wipe his or her face as it may aggravate the effects of the chemical agent. The time the cool-water decontamination occurred is to be noted on the Use of Force Report.
- F. If available, a water hose with clean cool water can be utilized to flush the affected area. A garden hose held upright until 1.5 inches of water deploys with create the proper water pressure for decontamination. The hose should be held over the bridge of the nose aiming horizontally over one eye towards the outside of the face as not to re-contaminate the other eye. The time the cool-water decontamination occurred is to be noted on the Use of Force Report.
- G. If OC Gel was deployed, encourage the subject to open and close their eyes to help speed up the recovery process by creating natural tears. Instruct subject to close their eyes tightly and then open them widely using their eye muscles only. Do not use hands to assist. Repeat numerous times to create a natural flow of tears to reduce dryness and irritation.
- H. The officer shall continue to observe the subject until emergency medical personnel arrive to provide additional treatment and decontamination. The officer will remain on scene until assisting law enforcement arrives to take the subject into custody or until the subject is booked into local custody or Juvenile Hall.

FIELD USE OF FORCE – USE OF CONTROL DEVICES

- I. The officer is to contact their supervisor to report the Use of Force incident once the situation is under control and it is safe to do so.
- J. The officer will complete a follow-up Use of Force Report documenting the use of force and submit it to their supervisor within 24 hours.

If and when the affected individual is delivered to law enforcement personnel, the officer will notify the police that the OC Spray/Gel was utilized.

306.2 IMPACT WEAPONS

The baton is authorized for use when, based upon the circumstances perceived by the officer, such force reasonably appears justified and necessary to result in the safe control of the subject.

The need to immediately incapacitate the subject must be weighed against the risk of causing serious injury. The head, neck, throat, spine, heart, kidney and groin should not intentionally be targeted except when the officer reasonably believes that the subject may cause serious bodily injury or death to the officer or others.

Before an officer may carry a collapsible baton, they must have satisfactorily passed the basic certification course for the particular device. Additionally, personnel must demonstrate proficiency at least once per year. Proficiency tests shall be conducted by a certified training instructor for impact weapons and involve both cognitive and manipulative skills.

Personnel who fail to demonstrate proficiency with any impact device shall attend remedial training within ten working days. Remedial training will be conducted by a certified training instructor and shall be designed to meet the specific needs of the officer.

The officer's supervisor shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with the proficiency requirement..

The Impact Weapons Striking Chart (Appendix B) serves as a visual aid which displays areas of the body to strike when such force is justified. Striking Areas have been divided into three categories based on the likely effect of a properly accomplished strike. The categories of Striking Areas are defined as follows:

FIELD USE OF FORCE – USE OF CONTROL DEVICES**I. *PRIMARY* Striking Areas**

- * Body parts which pose the greatest potential or actual threat to the officer (i.e., hands, arms, legs)
- * Strikes in these areas normally result in minimal levels of trauma.
- * Resultant injuries tend to be temporary rather than permanent.
- * Striking bony areas/impact points may cause pain, breakage, and/or dysfunction of limb.
- * Striking a muscle mass may cause trauma and/or pain.
- * Striking a motor point may cause pain or temporary motor dysfunction for five to ten minutes.

Due to the potential direct threat posed by a subject's hands, arms, and legs, these striking Areas are considered "Primary".

II. *SECONDARY* Striking Areas

- * Body parts/areas which do not pose an inherent direct threat to the officer.
- * Strikes in these areas normally result in moderate levels of trauma.
- * Resultant injuries tend to be more serious and of longer duration.
- * Striking body areas/impact points may cause pain or breakage.
- * Striking a motor point may cause pain or temporary motor dysfunction for five to ten minutes.
- * Striking a body organ may cause intense pain, internal bleeding, and organ dysfunction.

These striking areas are considered "Secondary" in a progression or escalation of force situation. These targets may be chosen when strikes to "Primary" striking areas have proven ineffective in responding to a threat or attack. "Secondary" target areas may also be resorted to initially and immediately to counter immediately increased aggression, heightened levels of threats or sudden attacks justifying a higher level of initial force.

III. *VITAL* Areas

- * Vital body parts as well as near vital body parts (i.e., head, facial area, neck, throat)
- * Strikes in these areas normally result in the highest level of trauma.
- * Resultant injuries more likely to be permanent and may include unconsciousness, shock, nervous system damage, paralysis, or death.

FIELD USE OF FORCE – USE OF CONTROL DEVICES

- * Striking in these areas may cause intense pain, breakage, paralysis, organ dysfunction, asphyxiation, hemorrhaging, unconsciousness, and death.

Strikes to these areas are to be avoided except in situations which compel and justify a level of force which may result in the severe trauma described.

Once again, officers are responsible for understanding the potential impact of various categories of force application. Officers are expected to use good judgment and discretion in selecting the appropriate level of force.

FIELD USE OF FORCE – REPORTABLE FORCE**307 REPORTABLE FORCE**

Each officer that uses, assists with, or witnesses a reportable use of force option is required to immediately and separately report the Use of Force Incident via telephone to their supervisor (Supervising Deputy Probation Officer) as soon as safely possible. In addition, each officer is required to submit a Use of Force Report (Appendix C) to his/her supervisor which details his/her actions prior to the end of the next workday. Officers that witness the use of reportable force by any peace officer shall similarly advise their immediate supervisor as soon as reasonably possible but no later than the end of the involved officer/staff's work shift and will complete a detailed Use of Force Report.

The following incidents constitute reportable force for the purpose of this policy:

- Any use of force that resulted in visible injury, complaint, unconsciousness or continuing pain to the subject
- Any use of force which is greater than that required for un-resisted Department approved searching or handcuffing, control holds or come-alongs
- Use of Force Option: Defensive Tactics
- Use of Force Option: Intermediate Weapons Control Techniques
- Use of Force Option: OC Spray/Gel (Chemical Agents)
- Use of Force Option: Hobble
- Use of Force Option: Impact Weapon
- Use of Force Option: Impact of vital areas
- Use of Force Option: Firearm*

Required Use of Force Reports must be submitted promptly, completely, and accurately. The officers shall describe in detail the use of force incident, including the actions of the subject necessitating the use of force and the specific force used in response to the subject's actions. Any injuries or complaints, of injuries, and any medical treatment or refusal of medical treatment shall be fully documented in related reports and whenever practical should be witnessed by another officer and/or medical personnel. If an audio recording is made of the contact or an interview with the subject, any refusal should be included, if possible.

***Note:** Staff are referred to the Arming Policy, SSB-800, for the policies and procedures to report a Use of Force with Firearm.

FIELD USE OF FORCE – SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES**308 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

The supervising officer shall respond without unnecessary delay to any incident involving reportable force and shall immediately advise the Director who will advise the Bureau Chief of any incidents of force. In addition, the supervising officer shall be responsible for the following:

- A. Obtain the basic facts from the involved officer(s)
- B. Ensure that any injured parties are examined and treated
- C. Separately interview the subject(s) upon whom force was applied
- D. Ensure that photographs have been taken of any areas involving injury or complaint of pain as well as overall photographs of uninjured areas
- E. Identify any witness not already included in related reports
- F. Review and approve all related reports
- G. The Director will maintain a log of all the Use of Force incidents that occurred under his/her chain of command to include the following:
 - a. Date
 - b. Time
 - c. Staff involved
 - d. Reason for force and summary of injury
- H. Prior to the end of the next working day, complete and route to the Director the Supervisor's Use of Force packet summarizing the Use of Force incident that includes the Supervisor's Use of Force Report (Appendix D) and the Operational Plan/Search Packet. The supervisor's review should include appropriate recommendations, including whether or not the use of force was within policy, the need for additional training, , and whether or not additional investigation is required.

In the event that a supervisor is unable to respond to the scene of an incident involving the reported application of force, the supervisor is still expected to complete as many of the above items as circumstances permit.

FIELD USE OF FORCE – DIRECTOR RESPONSIBILITIES**309 DIRECTOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Director shall respond without unnecessary delay to any incident involving reportable force and shall immediately advise the Bureau Chief of any incidents of force. In addition, the Director shall do the following:

- A. Obtain the basic facts from the supervising officer
- B. Review and approve all related documents, reports, photographs, and the operational plan to ensure that all applicable Probation policies, procedures, and Directives were followed.
- C. Maintain a log of all the Use of Force incidents to include the following:
 - a. Date
 - b. Time
 - c. Staff involved
 - d. Reason for force and summary of injury
 - e. Summary of treatment provided by staff and medical personnel
- D. Within three working days, complete and route to the Bureau Chief the Supervisor's Report along with a Director report recommending any further investigation of the incident. The Director's report shall concur or disagree with the supervisor's written report as to whether the action of the officer was appropriate pursuant to the Use of Force Policy.
- E. Should the Director determine that any application of force was not within policy, a separate internal administrative investigation shall be initiated.

In the event that the Director is unable to respond to the scene of an incident involving the reported application of force, the Director is still expected to complete as many of the above items as circumstances permit.

FIELD USE OF FORCE – MEDICAL TREATMENT & TRANSPORTATION**310 MEDICAL TREATMENT & TRANSPORTATION****310.1 REQUIREMENT FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT**

Officers must contact emergency personnel (via 911) if during a Use of Force Incident, the subject of that force:

- Suffers a gunshot wound;
- Strikes their head on a hard object, or sustains a blow to the head/face, as a result of the application of force by a member, regardless of how minor any injury to the head/face may appear;
- Has injuries that appear to require medical treatment;
- Alleges any injury and requests medical treatment, whether or not they have any apparent injuries;
- Alleges that substantial force was used against them, whether or not they have any apparent injuries or requests medical treatment.

The subject must be transported to a medical facility via ambulance for examination/treatment by qualified medical personnel. If a subject refuses medical treatment, the subject shall be asked to complete and sign a Medical Treatment Waiver form (Appendix E). The Medical Treatment Waiver shall also be signed by a witness that did not participate in the use of force.

310.2 TRANSPORTATION OF SUBJECTS

Whenever a subject upon who force was used is transported to a medical facility for examination or treatment prior to booking or housing in a custody facility, the transporting member shall immediately advise the supervisor who will advise their chain of command.

Any doubt regarding the need for medical treatment shall be resolved by transporting the subject to an appropriate medical facility. Except in the most compelling of circumstances, personnel involved in a Use of Force Incident - including participants, witnesses, and supervisors directing force - shall not transport the subject subjected to the use of force. If compelling circumstances require that the subject be transported by involved personnel, detailed justification shall be made in all supervisors' subsequent reports. The supervisor shall immediately advise the Director that the subject is being treated or examined following a member's use of force.

If the subject refuses medical treatment in any of the cases previously described, they shall be transported to a medical facility and required to personally inform the medical staff of their refusal to receive medical treatment. The member transporting the subject shall include in the appropriate report or memorandum the name of the medical personnel to whom the subject indicated their refusal and the name of the medical staff member authorizing booking. In addition, an effort should be made to have the medical

LOS ANGELES COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT	SSB-300
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staff complete an admission report on the subject and to indicate the subject's refusal of medical treatment on that report.

If the medical staff indicates that the subject should be treated despite their refusal, the subject shall be transported to the County-USC Medical Center Jail Ward or to the appropriate Custody Division medical facility for treatment or medical review.

FIELD USE OF FORCE – USE OF FORCE ON ANIMALS**311 USE OF FORCE ON ANIMALS/**

Just as with human life, force on animals should be used only for self-defense or the defense of others in life-threatening situations or threat of serious bodily injury. Officers shall assess all reasonable means of self-protection and the protection of others before resorting to the use of a force on an animal.

Officers may employ force on animals only when they reasonably believe the animal poses an immediate threat of death or serious physical injury to themselves or other persons.

FIELD USE OF FORCE – FORCED ENTRY**312 FORCED ENTRY**

Entry into a subject's business, residence, vessel, or dwelling is not to be gained through force except in those rare situations where officer or community safety warrants forcible entry due to exigent life threatening circumstances. A situation where officer or community safety warrants forcible entry means that the officer must have a reasonable belief that there is an immediate danger of death or serious injury to someone inside the business or dwelling and be able to articulate their reasons in detail in a written Use of Force Report.

In all other situations, including refusal by a subject inside the residence to admit the officer does not constitute sufficient basis to force entry. In situations such as this, the probation officer shall report the situation to the supervisor and contact local law enforcement to respond to the scene.

At that point, when assisting law enforcement officers arrive and assess the situation, it will be at their discretion to determine whether or not to force entry. If they choose to do so, they will be responsible for coordinating and directing the operation from that point forward. Officers may assist in their efforts as determined necessary and if they have been trained to do so.

FIELD USE OF FORCE – AGENCY REVIEW USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS**313 AGENCY REVIEW USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS**

As necessary, the Chief Probation Officer or designee will submit requests to the Professional Standards Unit to investigate the facts surrounding use of force incidents, and whether staff adhered to departmental rules, regulations, policies, and procedures. Following completion of the IIO investigation, all investigative materials shall be submitted to the Use of Force Review Board for review. The Chief Probation Officer has the authority to accept or reject the findings of the Board. Additional information on the Use of Force Review Board is in SSB Manual Section 206 – Committees & Review Boards.

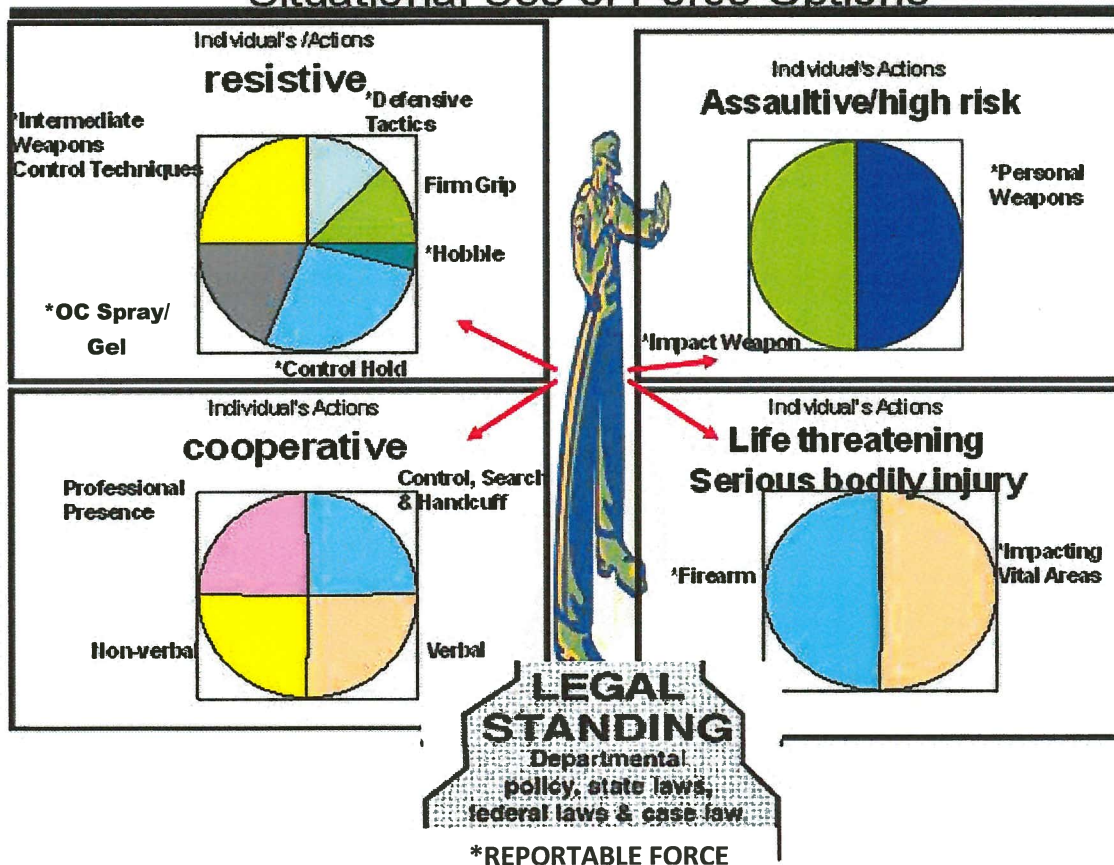
FIELD USE OF FORCE – APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: SITUATIONAL USE OF FORCE OPTIONS

The Situational Use of Force Options Chart was designed to be a visual aid which best depicts the Los Angeles County Probation Department's policy with respect to options available to officers when they have to handle certain types of situations/conditions. The chart is intended to enhance the individual officer's understanding of the utilization and application of force given a specific situation or set of circumstances. The arrows emanating from the figure in the middle of the chart depict how the officer may choose any of the options available depending upon what he/she perceives about the incident, i.e., what the behavior or change in behavior is perceived. Escalation/de-escalation is achieved via the changing perceptions of the officer involved and guidelines provided (i.e., force options identified to address each behavior exhibited by an individual). Once again, the officer's perceptions and actions are based upon all the information he/she takes into the incident. This is guided by the knowledge, understanding and confidence level the officer has with respect to the potential options available to him/her depending on the individual's actions perceived and understood. In addition, it is recognized that circumstances may arise in which officers reasonably believe that it would be impractical or ineffective to use any of the standard tools, weapons or methods provided by the Department. Officers may find it more effective or practical to improvise their response to rapidly unfolding conditions they are confronting. In such circumstances, the use of any improvised device or method must nonetheless be objectively reasonable and utilized only to the degree reasonably necessary to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement purpose.

Los Angeles County Probation Department

Situational Use of Force Options

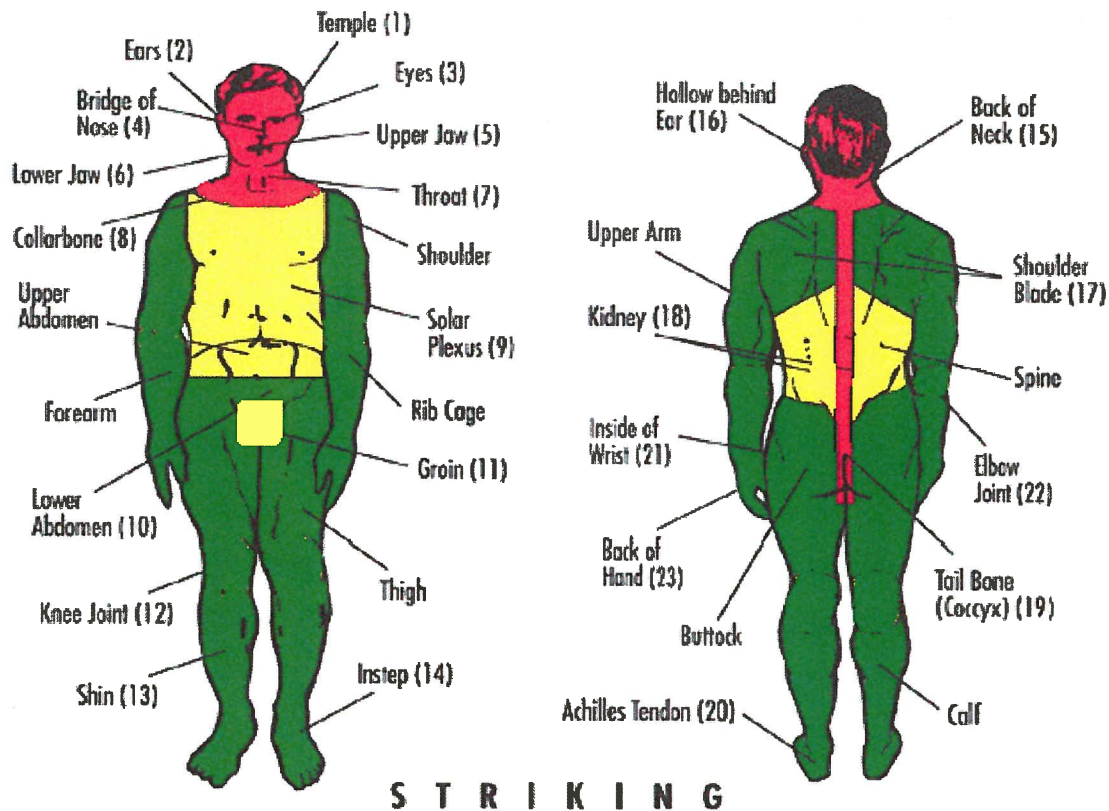


FIELD USE OF FORCE – APPENDICES

APPENDIX B: IMPACT WEAPONS STRIKING CHART

The following chart serves as a visual aid which displays areas of the body to strike when such force is justified. Striking Areas have been divided into three categories based on the likely effect of a properly accomplished strike.

On the charts, the three categories of striking areas have been labeled "Primary" (green), "Secondary" (yellow), and "Vital" (red). For each category of striking areas, target body parts have been identified and are listed on the charts.

**S T R I K I N G****GREEN TARGET AREAS**

REASONING: Minimal level of resultant trauma. Injury tends to be temporary rather than long-lasting, however exceptions can occur.

Except for the HEAD, NECK, and SPINE, the whole body is a Green Target Area for the application of baton blocking and restraint skills.

YELLOW TARGET AREAS

REASONING: Moderate to serious level of resultant trauma. Injury tends to be more long-lasting, but may also be temporary.

RED TARGET AREAS

REASONING: Highest level of resultant trauma. Injury tends to range from serious to long-lasting rather than temporary and may include unconsciousness, serious bodily injury, shock or death.

Officers are responsible for understanding the potential impact of various categories of force application. Officers are expected and entitled to use good judgment and discretion in selecting the appropriate level of force.

FIELD USE OF FORCE – APPENDICES

APPENDIX C: USE OF FORCE REPORT (EXCERPT)

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT
FIELD SERVICES
USE OF FORCE REPORT**

Staff Information									
Employee # :		Last Name:		First Name:		Middle Name:			
Unit of Assignment:					Work Assignment:				
Incident Information									
Date:		Time:		Location:					
Type of Force:						Operations Plan Attached: YES ☐ NO ☐			
Injury/Damage: Staff YES ☐ NO ☐		Subject: YES ☐ NO ☐		Witness: YES ☐ NO ☐		Other: YES ☐ NO ☐			
SDPO notified: YES ☐ NO ☐		SDPO Name				SDPO Rollout: YES ☐ NO ☐			
Time:									
Involved Employee									
Employee # :		Last Name:		First Name:		Middle Name:			
Unit of Assignment:					Work Assignment:				
☐ Injured ☐ Treated ☐ Declined Treatment ☐ Admitted Hospital:									
Subject Information									
Last Name		First Name		Middle Name		X or PDJ #			
AKA Last Name		First Name		Middle Name		X or PDJ #			
Sex: ☐ M ☐ F		Race:		Street Address:		City:		Zip Code:	
Cell/Home Telephone/Work Number(s):			Age: yrs.	Height:	DOB	Weight: lbs.	Armed? ☐		
Booking #:		Primary Charge Code:			Secondary Charge Code:			Criminal History ☐	
EMT in attendance? ☐ YES ☐ NO		Name:			Unit:		Phone Number		
☐ Injured ☐ Treated ☐ Declined Treatment ☐ Admitted Hospital:									
Hospital Address				Treating Physician			Phone Number		
Under Influence: ☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ UNK				Substance(s):			Mental Illness: ☐		
Coroner Case #:		Date of Death:							
Subject Interview									
Date:		Time:		☐ Audiotape ☐ Videotape ☐ Photos of Injuries ☐ Admits Hearing Announcements					
Non-Employee Witness(es)									
1. Last Name		First Name		Middle Name		Age yrs.		D.O.B.	
Street Address		City		Zip Code		Contact Numbers			
2. Last Name		First Name		Middle Name		Age yrs.		D.O.B.	
Street Address		City		Zip Code		Contact Numbers			
3. Last Name		First Name		Middle Name		Age yrs.		D.O.B.	
Street Address		City		Zip Code		Contact Numbers			

FIELD USE OF FORCE – APPENDICES

APPENDIX D: SUPERVISOR'S USE OF FORCE REPORT (EXCERPT)

LOS ANGELES COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT FIELD SERVICES SUPERVISOR'S USE OF FORCE REPORT								
Supervisor Information								
Employee # :		Last Name:		First Name:		Middle Name:		
Unit of Assignment:				Work Assignment:				
Incident Information								
Date:		Time:		Location:				
Type of Force:				Operations Plan Attached: YES ☐ NO ☐				
Injury/Damage: Staff YES ☐ NO ☐		Subject: YES ☐ NO ☐		Witness: YES ☐ NO ☐		Other: YES ☐ NO ☐		
SDPO notified: YES ☐ NO ☐		SDPO Name			SDPO Rollout: YES ☐ NO ☐			
Time:								
Involved Employee(s)								
E__	Employee # :		Last Name:		First Name:		Middle Name:	
	Sex: Male ☐ Female ☐		Race		Unit of Assignment:		Work Assignment:	
	Shift:		☐ Regular Shift ☐ OT Shift ☐ Off Duty		Age:		Height: Weight:	
	☐ Injured ☐ Treated ☐ Declined Treatment ☐ Admitted Hospital: _____							
E__	Employee # :		Last Name:		First Name:		Middle Name:	
	Sex: Male ☐ Female ☐		Race		Unit of Assignment:		Work Assignment:	
	Shift:		☐ Regular Shift ☐ OT Shift ☐ Off Duty		Age:		Height: Weight:	
	☐ Injured ☒ Treated ☐ Declined Treatment ☐ Admitted Hospital: _____							
E__	Employee # :		Last Name:		First Name:		Middle Name:	
	Sex: Male ☐ Female ☐		Race		Unit of Assignment:		Work Assignment:	
	Shift:		☐ Regular Shift ☐ OT Shift ☐ Off Duty		Age:		Height: Weight:	
	☐ Injured ☐ Treated ☐ Declined Treatment ☐ Admitted Hospital: _____							
Subject Information								
Last Name		First Name		Middle Name		X or PDJ #		
AKA Last Name		First Name		Middle Name				
Subject Interview								
Date:		Time:		☐ Audiotape ☐ Videotape ☐ Photos of Injuries ☐ Admits Hearing Announcements				

FIELD USE OF FORCE – APPENDICES

APPENDIX E: MEDICAL TREATMENT WAIVER



JERRY E. POWERS
Chief Probation Officer

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

9150 EAST IMPERIAL HIGHWAY – DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA 90242
(562) 940-2501

**MEDICAL TREATMENT WAIVER**

I, _____ (subject) hereby acknowledge
that I decline the offer of medical treatment on _____ (date) which was
offered by Probation employee _____ (name).

Subject Name (print)

Signature

Date

Witness Name (print)

Signature

Date

Rebuild Lives and Provide for Healthier and Safer Communities