I. LEARNING NEED

Peace officers must recognize that they have the their authority to use objectively reasonable force under the totality of the circumstances to effect an arrest, to prevent escape, or to overcome resistance, or in defense of self or others as authorized by by the California Penal Code law. For their safety, and for the safety and well-being of fellow officers, it is critical that peace officers know and apply the laws governing the use of force.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

A. Discuss reasonable force as stated by law

A. Identify that the goal of using force is to gain control of an individual and the situation

B. Discuss the components of the Fourth Amendment standard for determining objectively reasonableness force under the totality of the circumstances as determined by the U.S. Supreme Court

C. Identify the factors used to determine whether an officer’s use of force is objectively reasonable under the totality of the circumstances

C. Explain the legal framework establishing a peace officer’s authority during a legal arrest, including:

1. A subject’s requirement to submit to arrest without resistance

2. Peace officer’s authority to use reasonable force during a detention or arrest

D. Identify the circumstances framework set forth in the California Penal Code regarding use of force when a peace officer has the authority to use force
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II. LEARNING NEED

Peace officers must recognize that they have a range of force options available to them. However, in all cases, the use of any force option, including deadly force, must be objectively reasonable under the totality of the circumstances known to the officer compared to the threat, resistance, and other circumstances known to the officer at the time the force was used.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

A.  Define- Discuss the term “force option”

B.  Identify that the objective of using force is to overcome resistance to gain control of an individual and the situation

C.  Recognize force options and the practical considerations involved with regard to the various force options and the amount of force peace officers may use based on the subject’s resistance

D.  Explain the importance of using force in preparation for responding to potentially dangerous situations that may require the use of force

D.  Discuss the importance of effective communication when in situations that may require the use of force including:

1. Verbal warnings
2. De-escalation

III. LEARNING NEED

Peace officers must fully comprehend their authority, and responsibility, and liability regarding the use of deadly force as authorized by law.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES
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A. **Identify the legal standard for the use of** deadly force

B. **Identify the factors required to establish sufficiency of fear for the use of deadly force**

C. **Recognize** an officer should consider when determining whether or not to use deadly force

D. **Discuss the role of agency policies regarding the use of deadly force**

E. **Recognize the law regarding the use of** deadly force including justifiable homicide by a public peace officer and the circumstances under which the homicide is considered justifiable

IV. **LEARNING NEED**

When a force option has been employed, police officers’ use of force reports must include the facts and circumstances the officer recalls that influenced their decision to use force and the option(s) chosen, critical information to ensure that the chronology, specifics of the events, and the people involved are properly documented.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

A. Describe why complete documentation of the use of force is critical to the peace officer and the peace officer’s agency, to include:

1. Justification for using force
2. Relevant factors and details
3. Justification for using force

B. **Recognize potential consequences of inadequate or inaccurate documentation**

V. **LEARNING NEED**

20-3
Peace officers must should recognize, and be prepared for, the emotional and physiological effects of stressful situations in order to perform their job effectively. Be ready to, and capable of, safely taking control of a dangerous situation.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

A. Discuss factors that can affect a peace officer’s response when threatened with danger, to include:
   1. Fear
      a. Reasonable
      b. Unreasonable
   2. Anger
   3. Indecision and hesitation

B. Give examples of acceptable techniques for managing anger

C. Describe the benefits of ongoing physical and mental training for peace officers involving the use of force

VI. LEARNING NEED

Peace officers must recognize the consequences of using unreasonable force, and their legal and ethical responsibilities to intervene if the force being used by another peace officer is inappropriate, unreasonable or unlawful.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

A. Explain the individual peace officer’s potential legal and administrative consequences associated with the use of unreasonable force

B. Explain an agency’s potential liability associated with the use of unreasonable force

C. Explain the consequences of an officer’s failure to intervene when unreasonable force is used by another peace officer when there is an apparent need and opportunity to intervene
D. Discuss immediate and delayed intervention techniques and duty to report.

E. Discuss factors that may inhibit a peace officer from intervening in a situation where a fellow officer may be applying unreasonable force.

VII. REQUIRED TESTS

A. The POST-Constructed Comprehensive RBC Test 1.
B. The POST-Constructed Comprehensive RBC Test 2.
C. The POST-Constructed Comprehensive RBC Test 3.
D. The POST-Constructed Comprehensive SIBC Test 1.
E. The POST-Constructed Comprehensive SIBC Test 2.
F. The POST-Constructed Comprehensive SIBC Test 3.
G. The POST-Constructed Comprehensive PC832 Test.
H. The POST-Constructed Comprehensive Module III Test.
I. The POST-Constructed Comprehensive Module II Test.
J. The POST-Constructed Comprehensive Module I Test.
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**K.** The POST-Constructed Comprehensive Requalification Test.

**L.** A scenario test that requires the student to demonstrate proficiency in the use of force. The test must result in the student making a deadly force option decision.

The student is required to demonstrate proficiency in the following competencies:

1. Use of Force – The ability to distinguish and apply reasonable force options in given circumstances.
2. Problem Solving/Decision-Making – Analyzing situations and implementing plans to solve problems in a timely manner. Using verbal or physical skills to determine the appropriate resolution to a situation.
4. Officer Safety – The demonstration of situational and tactical awareness and appropriate response.
5. Communication – The use of effective verbal and non-verbal skills to convey intended meaning and establish understanding.
6. Ethics - Using accepted principles of conduct that govern decisions and actions based on professional values and expectations.

Presenters must use the POST-developed Scenario Test and the POST Scenario Competency Evaluation and Grading Test Forms or presenter-developed forms approved by POST, which minimally include the performance dimensions used for this scenario test.

**M.** A scenario test that requires the student to demonstrate presenter-approved impact weapon techniques in a force-on-force simulation against an instructor who is dressed in a protective suit.

The test must simulate the physical and mental stress that would be imposed by an actual street encounter where the student would be required to use an impact weapon to control a suspect and effect an arrest.

The student is required to demonstrate proficiency in the following competencies:

1. Use of Force – The ability to distinguish and apply reasonable force options in given circumstances.
2. Problem Solving/Decision-Making – Analyzing situations and implementing plans to solve problems in a timely manner. Using verbal or physical skills to determine the appropriate resolution to a situation.


4. Officer Safety – The demonstration of situational and tactical awareness and appropriate response.

5. Communication – The use of effective verbal and non-verbal skills to convey intended meaning and establish understanding.

6. Ethics - Using accepted principles of conduct that govern decisions and actions based on professional values and expectations.


Presenters must use the POST-developed Scenario Test and the POST Scenario Competency Evaluation and Grading Test Forms or presenter-developed forms approved by POST, which minimally include the performance dimensions used for this scenario test.

N. A scenario test that requires the student to demonstrate proficiency in the use of effective communication, command presence, and appropriate physical control during the detention of a verbally passive non-compliant uncooperative individual.

The student is required to demonstrate proficiency in the following competencies:

1. Use of Force – The ability to distinguish and apply reasonable force options in given circumstances.

2. Problem Solving/Decision-Making – Analyzing situations and implementing plans to solve problems in a timely manner. Using verbal or physical skills to determine the appropriate resolution to a situation.


4. Officer Safety – The demonstration of situational and tactical awareness and appropriate response.

5. Communication – The use of effective verbal and non-verbal skills to convey intended meaning and establish understanding.

6. Ethics - Using accepted principles of conduct that govern decisions and actions based on professional values and expectations.

Presenters must use the POST-developed Scenario Test and the POST Scenario Competency Evaluation and Grading Test Forms or presenter-developed forms approved by POST, which minimally include the performance dimensions used for this scenario test.

VIII. REQUIRED LEARNING ACTIVITIES

A. The student will participate in one or more learning activities from the POST-developed Instructor’s Guide to Learning Activities for Leadership, Ethics and Community Policing (December 2005) or other comparable sources regarding use of force. At a minimum, each activity, or combination of activities must address the following topics:

1. Exercise of leadership in the application of reasonable force
2. Impact of ethical decision-making on the selection of appropriate force options
3. Evaluation of the effectiveness of force option choices
4. Consequences for the use of unreasonable force on the officer, community perception and public trust

IX. HOURLY REQUIREMENTS

Students shall be provided with a minimum number of instructional hours on the use of force.

X. ORIGINATION DATE

January 1, 2001

XI. REVISION DATE

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