



**California State University, Los Angeles**  
**Department of Public Safety**

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NUMBER: IV-1 APPROVED: Larry Bohannon, Interim Chief of Police  
EFFECTIVE: February 3, 2021  
SUPERSEDES: 5/4/2020 Reviewed/Revised: February 3, 2021  
SUBJECT: **Use of Force**

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I. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this directive is to establish guidelines for the use of force by officers of this department. This order recognizes that the use of force by law enforcement officers requires constant evaluation and review.

II. POLICY:

A. It is the policy of this department that personnel will use reasonable force when force is necessary to accomplish lawful objectives, given the facts and circumstances known at the time of the event. An officer may use deadly force only when the officer reasonably believes that the action is in defense of human life, including the officer’s own life, or in the defense of any person in imminent danger of serious physical injury.

B. California Penal Code Section 835a provides that:

Any peace officer who 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 efforts by reason of the resistance or threatened resistance of the person being arrested; nor shall such officer be deemed an aggressor or lose his right to self-defense by the use of reasonable force to effect the arrest or to prevent escape or to overcome resistance.

III. DEFINITIONS:

A. Lethal Force. Lethal force is that force likely to cause serious physical injury or death, also known as deadly force.

B. Less Lethal Force. Less lethal force is that force which is unlikely, when properly used, to result in serious physical injury or death.

C. Reasonable Belief. The facts or circumstances the officer knows, or should know, are such to cause an ordinary and prudent person to act or think in a similar way under similar circumstances.

- D. Serious Physical Injury. A bodily injury that creates a substantial risk of death; causes serious, permanent disfigurement; or results in long-term loss or impairment of the functioning of any bodily member or organ.
- E. Use of Force Continuum Model. A model, which provides a visual representation of force options, designed to facilitate an understanding of appropriate levels of force by officers. This is accomplished by establishing parameters, which exhibit the actions of both the subject and the officer on a comparative scale. It is designed to be easily understood and readily recalled by officers under the stress of a confrontation. It is valuable as a training aid in preparing for situations which may require the use of force. The continuum is viewed as an “elevator.” The elevator goes directly to the necessary level of force. It is NOT a step by step process.

#### IV. PROCEDURES:

##### A. Determining Appropriate Force Options

1. 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 and necessary force.
2. A number of factors are taken into consideration when an officer selects force options, and when evaluating whether an officer has used reasonable and necessary force. The department recognizes that officers are expected to make split-second decisions and that the amount of time available to evaluate and respond to a situation may impact the officer’s decision. Examples of factors which may affect an officer’s force option selection include:
  - a. The conduct of the individual being confronted (as reasonably perceived by the officer at the time);
  - b. Officer/subject factors (age, size, relative strength, skill level, injury/exhaustion, number of officers vs. number of subjects);
  - c. Influence of drugs or alcohol (mental capacity);
  - d. Proximity of weapons;
  - e. Availability of other options;
  - f. Seriousness of the offense in question or reason for contact with the individual;
  - g. Training and experience of the officer;
  - h. Potential for injury to citizens, officers and suspects;
  - i. Risk of escape; and
  - j. Other exigent circumstances.
3. The use of force continuum is designed to provide an overview and visual representation of the force options available to officers of this department. It is a fluid instrument, which attempts to embody the dynamics of confrontation.

- a. A number of factors are taken into consideration when an officer selects force actions options, and when evaluating whether an officer has used reasonable force. The department recognizes that officers are expected to make split-second decisions and that the amount of time available to evaluate and respond to a situation may impact the officer's decision. By establishing a policy that includes a use of force continuum the department's goal is to provide additional guidance to officers in making those split second decisions. Example of factors that may affect an officer's force option selection include, but are not limited to:
  - 1) Officer/subject factors (age, size, relative strength, skill level, injury/exhaustion, number of officers versus number of subjects);
  - 2) Influence of drugs or alcohol;
  - 3) Proximity to weapons;
  - 4) Availability of other options;
  - 5) Seriousness of the offense in question; and
  - 6) Other exigent circumstances.
- b. It is important to note that an officer need not attempt to gain control over an individual by use of the lowest level of force on the continuum when reason dictates and the officer can articulate that the higher level of force is reasonable and necessary. The skipping of steps may be appropriate given the resistance encountered. The continuum should be viewed as an elevator, not a ladder – an officer may go directly to any level in the continuum provided that the force selected is reasonable.
- c. Actions of subjects: the category descriptions below are non-exclusive, and are intended to serve as illustrations of actions which fall within various levels (as reasonably perceived by the officer and based on the officer's reasonable perception).
  - 1) Cooperative – Subject is cooperative and complies with verbal commands or other directions.
  - 2) Cooperative, non-responsive or uncooperative – subject is cooperative when taken into custody or fails to respond to verbal commands or other directions.
  - 3) Passive or low level resistance – subject is passively or defensively resisting an officer's authority and direction. Includes verbal or physical uses of non-compliance.
  - 4) Active resistance or aggression – subject is attempting to interfere with the officer's actions by inflicting pain or physical injury to the officer without the use of a weapon.
  - 5) Assault or threat of assault – subject assumes a fighting stance, charges an officer or verbally or physically indicates an intent to commit an assault.
  - 6) Life threatening assault or assault likely to cause great bodily harm – subject commits an attack using an object, a weapon, or an empty hand assault, wherein the officer reasonably believes that the assault will

result in serious physical injury and/or death and the force applied is necessary.

d. Officer response options:

- 1) Professional presence, verbalization, and restraining and detaining – includes the display of authority as a peace officer and such non-verbal means of communication as body language, demeanor, and manner of approaching. Verbalization involves the directions and commands given to the subject. Restraining and detaining includes an officer laying hands on a subject with the intention of gaining control. Examples include the use of firm grip, escort position, or grappling types of techniques designed to hold a subject down by using the weight of an officer's body. Also included in this level would be the application of temporary devices such as handcuffs and leg restraints.
- 2) Compliance techniques – includes joint manipulations, pressure point applications, tie down type techniques and the use of intermediate weapons in control type configurations.
- 3) Intermediate force – includes chemical agents such as oleoresin capsicum base products; the use of impact weapons such as hands, feet, elbows, and knees to strike subject [Note: lateral vascular or other neck restraints are NOT authorized].

a. Restrictions on the use of carotid control hold.

Officers of this department are not authorized to use a carotid restraint hold. A carotid restraint means a vascular neck restraint or any similar restraint, hold, or other defensive tactic in which pressure is applied to the sides of a person's neck that involves a substantial risk of restricting blood flow and may render the person unconscious in order to subdue or control the person (Government Code § 7286.5).

b. Restrictions on the use of a choke hold.

Officers of this department are not authorized to use a choke hold. A choke hold means any defensive tactic or force option in which direct pressure is applied to a person's trachea or windpipe (Government Code § 7286.5).

- 4) Lethal force – includes the use of a firearm or any force which has a reasonable likelihood of causing death or serious harm.

4. Intermediate Force Options include the following Authorized Less Lethal Weapons by certified department personnel:

- a. Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray – A chemical agent that is used for the temporary disabling of violent or otherwise resisting subjects. OC shall not be used when taking non-resistant persons into custody. OC is used to incapacitate those who resist or attack members of the Department or others.

- b. Baton – A Straight Baton, PR-24 or ASP may be used whenever an officer is faced with a situation in which reasonable force becomes necessary to affect an arrest or to defend against aggression when the officer believes empty hand methods will be inadequate and the use of deadly force is not justified.
    - c. Less Lethal Shotgun – Remington 870 less lethal, shotgun, 12 gauge, “Super-sock Bean Bag Cartridge.” This weapon has an “orange” stock to clearly define less lethal designation.
    - d. Conducted Electrical Weapon (CEW) - Taser X26P shall be deployed with an XP Cartridge (25’ green blast door). The X26P shall only be used on suspect(s)/subject(s) who are actively resisting and pose an immediate threat to sworn personnel or others.
  5. Lethal Force Options include the following Authorized Lethal Weapons:
    - a. Department issued firearm – Glock 22, 40 caliber, Glock 17, 9mm or any other department authorized handgun
    - b. AR-15 platform, .223;
    - c. Department issued MP5; and
    - d. Authorized secondary weapons – Approved .38, .380, 9mm, .40 and .45 caliber firearms that may be carried as a backup weapon and/or off-duty. Officers carrying a secondary weapon must obtain permission and must qualify with the weapon as specified.
  6. Specialized Firearms: Officers assigned to the system-wide Critical Response Unit receive specific training in the use of specialized firearms and may be require to deploy such weapons while in the performance of their duties. While using alternative/special firearms, those officers assigned to the unit will fall under the policy and procedures for Critical Response group. However, anytime an officer from CSU Los Angeles is involved with a use of force incident connected to the Critical Response Unit, they shall follow the procedures outlined in this directive for reporting the incident. This action will ensure that a constant record of force used by an individual officer is a reviewed by this agency. The firearms that may be included in a Critical Response Unit deployment are:
    - a. 37/38mm Shoulder GAS Gun;
    - b. 40 mm Launcher;
    - c. Shotgun, loaded with lethal and non-lethal ammunition (bean bag or rubber rounds);
    - d. MP5 A2 or A3; and
    - e. AR-15 rifle.
  7. Officers shall not fire warning shots.
- B. Procedures for Appropriate Medical Aid after use of lethal or less lethal weapons, or use of force incidents.
  1. Any injured person will be given medical attention as soon as possible or when safe to do so.

2. Persons injured from the use of less-than-lethal force shall be treated by paramedics or at a designated treatment hospital as soon as practicable after the incident.
  3. Appropriate medical aid includes:
    - a. increased observation to detect obvious changes in condition;
    - b. flushing chemical agents from the eyes;
    - c. evaluation by paramedics; and/or
    - d. for serious or life threatening incidents, immediate, or as soon as safely possible, aid by medical professionals.
  4. All medical aid provided, arranged, or requested shall be recorded within the incident written report.
  5. All injuries, officer and/or suspect, shall be detailed in the written incident report and the Use of Force Report.
- C. Documentation and Reporting of Use of Force (includes use of force actions when an officer is assigned either through mutual aid or an agreement between chiefs of police).
1. A written report is submitted whenever an officer:
    - a) discharges a firearm, for other than training or recreational purposes;
    - b) takes an action that results in, or is alleged to have resulted in, injury or death of another person;
    - c) applies force through the use of lethal or less lethal weapons; or
    - d) applies weaponless physical force at a level as defined in the Use of Force Report, Sections "Level of Resistance" and "Police Force Used."
  2. Officers utilizing force to subdue a subject or discharging a weapon will immediately, as soon as the situation is stabilized, notify their supervisor.
  3. The supervisor will respond to the location of the incident and conduct a preliminary investigation, after ensuring that those in need of medical attention receive it. The investigation will include:
    - a) assessment of the incident;
    - b) collection of evidence;
    - c) witness identification;
    - d) photographing of injuries and general scene; and may include
    - e) the use of departmental resources, such as Criminal Investigation personnel to assist.
  4. The supervisor will ensure a written incident report and a Use of Force Report is completed before the end of duty on the date of occurrence.
- D. Review of Use of Force Incidents.
1. All reported uses of force will be reviewed by the Operations Lieutenant or Administrative Lieutenant to determine if:

- a) department rules, policy or procedures were violated;
  - b) the relevant policy was clearly understandable and effective to cover the situation;
  - c) Department training is currently adequate.
2. All findings of policy violations or training inadequacies will be reported to the Chief of Police for resolution and/or discipline via a written investigative report. The report shall be completed and submitted by a Command Officer within 10 days of the incident.
  3. The Chief of Police, or a Command Officer assigned by the Chief, will conduct a written documented analysis of all use of force reports to determine patterns or trends that could indicate training needs, equipment upgrades, and/or policy modifications.
  4. The Chief of Police or designee will conduct a documented annual analysis of all use force incidents to reveal patterns or trends that could indicate training needs, equipment upgrades, and/or policy modifications.
  5. The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office shall investigate officer involved shootings or in-custody deaths to determine whether any violation of criminal law may have occurred. This includes:
    - a. An officer, on or off duty, shoots and injures any person during the scope and course of employment.
    - b. An individual dies while in the custody or control of an officer or the department where the use of force may be a proximate cause of death.

E. Force or actions resulting in death/serious injury

1. The criminal investigative authority will be the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, unless the incident occurred outside the City limits.
2. The Department of Public Safety will maintain administrative investigative authority.
3. The role of the prosecutor's office, if any, shall be determined by the criminal investigative authority.
4. Any public information provided by the University and/or Department will be done through the University Communications Office, or the Chief of Police. Public information to be released by other involved organizations, should be coordinated with the Chief of Police, or their designee.
5. Process training will be conducted for Department personnel responsible for managing such incidents.
6. Awareness training will be conducted for all Department personnel potentially impacted.

F. Removal from line duty assignment in use of force incidents.

1. An employee shall be removed from line duty assignment, pending administrative review, whose action(s) or use of force in an official capacity results in a death or serious physical injury.
2. Where an employee's use of force causes death, the employee shall be placed on administrative leave after completing all internal investigative requirements, and until it is determined by a mental health professional that the officer is ready to return to duty.
3. The department shall conduct both an administrative and a criminal investigation of any use of force incident that results in a death or serious physical injury.

G. Agency personnel in law enforcement responsibilities shall use only weapons and ammunition authorized by the department. Including those weapons used by members of any tactical teams or other specialized personnel. This criteria is established for both on and off-duty.

1. Less lethal types and specifications of weapons approved for use include:
  - a) Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray, *First Defense*..
  - b) 26", 29" or 36" straight handle baton.
  - c) Side handle baton.
  - d) Expandable baton.
  - e) Remington 870 less lethal deployment system, shotgun, 12 gauge, powder projectile, for barricade situations.
  - f) Remington 870 less lethal, shotgun, 12 gauge, "Super-sock Bean Bag Cartridge."
  - g) Taser International, X26P with XP Cartridge.
2. Lethal weapon types and specifications approved for use include Glock 22, 40 caliber or Glock 17, 9mm. These are authorized primary duty weapons and shall be used by all personnel while on uniformed patrol duty. Other handguns may be authorized by the Chief of Police based on the officer's assignment.
3. Procedures for the review, inspection and approval of all weapons intended for use by each employee in the performance of duty, prior to carrying, by a qualified weapons instructor, and a process to remove unsafe weapons are as follows:
  - a) Supervisors shall make unannounced inspections of department issued weapons, including firearms and ammunition.
  - b) Supervisors will review and inspect firearms and ammunition making certain they are department issued equipment, that no unauthorized modifications have been made, that the weapon is clean, properly lubricated and in a safe, serviceable condition. [Note: No employee shall modify, or cause to be modified, any department issued handgun]

- c) All new weapons placed into inventory or assigned to personnel, shall be reviewed for safe operation by the Range Master.
  - d) All personal weapons approved for carry by an officer, on duty or off duty, shall be reviewed and inspected by the Range Master for safe operation and conformance with department policies.
  - e) If a weapon malfunctions, is unsafe, and/or becomes inoperable, a supervising officer shall be notified immediately. The weapon shall be taken out of service until the Range Master approves it for operational readiness.
4. Procedures for maintaining a record on each weapon approved by the department for official use includes the following:
    - a) The Range Master shall maintain an inventory of all approved firearms.
    - b) The inventory shall identify the type, model, description, serial number, and the officer assigned.
    - c) A record of the department official approving, date approved, course(s) fired, and qualification scores shall also be maintained by the Range Master.
  5. Only department personnel demonstrating proficiency in the use of agency-authorized weapons shall be approved to carry such weapons.

#### H. Training related to Use of Force.

1. All sworn personnel are required to receive annual in-service training on the department's use-of-deadly force policies.
2. All line personnel, from officer through sergeant, shall demonstrate proficiency with all approved lethal weapons at the following minimum standard:
  - a) department issued weapon [at least once annually];
  - b) approved personal weapon on-duty [at least once annually];
  - c) approved to carry personnel weapons off-duty [at least once annually]; and AR-15 rifle.
3. The Chief of Police and Command Officers shall demonstrate proficiency in all approved lethal weapons carried by him/her once a year.
4. In-service training for less than lethal weapons shall occur at least biennially (once every two years).
5. Proficiency training must be monitored by a certified weapons or tactics instructor.
6. Training and proficiency must be documented within the individual officer's training file and the centralized training record system.
7. Procedures for remedial training for those employees who are unable to qualify with an authorized weapon prior to resuming official duties include:

- a) a review of the safe and general operation of the weapon by the Range Master with the officer;
- b) one-on-one training with the Range Master or another certified weapons instructor; and
- c) Retesting/qualification.

I. Guidelines for the Safe and Proper Storage of Agency Authorized Firearms

1. Police officers are required to ensure that all Department authorized firearms are properly and safely stored.
  - a) Officers who store authorized firearms at the police station shall secure and lock those weapons in their personal lockers or a gun locker.
  - b) Officers who store their department issued firearm at home shall ensure that they are kept in a locked location or have a functioning gun lock attached to them.
2. Officers are further required to comply with all Federal, State or Local laws related to the safe storage of firearms at their residences.

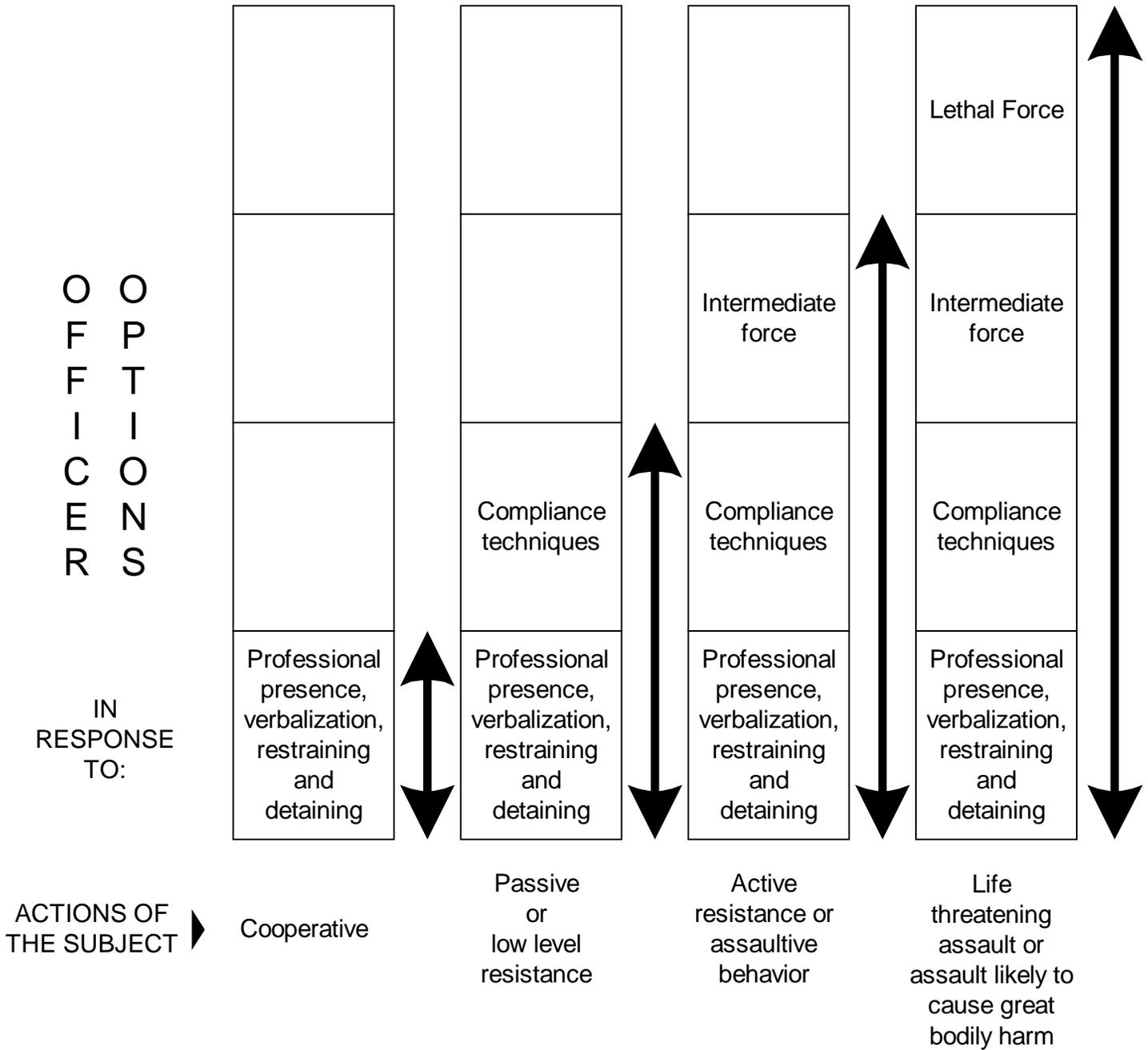
J. All department personnel authorized to carry lethal and less lethal weapons shall be issued copies of and instructed in the policies set forth in this directive before being authorized to carry a weapon. Issuance and instruction will be documented within training files.

V. Appendices:

1. Use of Force Continuum;
2. Department, *Use of Force Report*

# USE OF FORCE CONTINUUM

**UNIVERSITY POLICE  
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LOS ANGELES**



# USE OF FORCE REPORT

**UNIVERSITY POLICE  
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LOS ANGELES**

**ALL PURSUITS REQUIRE THIS REPORT TO BE COMPLETED BY THE WATCH COMMANDER**

ARMS Case Number (DR)	Name (Last, First, M.I.)			
Date of Incident	DOB	Age	Sex	Race
Time of Incident	Suspect appeared to be under the influence of <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol <input type="checkbox"/> Narcotics <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Nothing Apparent			
Classification of Incident	Location of Incident			

<b>LEVEL OF RESISTANCE</b> (may <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> more than one)	<b>PURSUIT REPORT</b> - This part and all other applicable sections to be completed by the Watch Commander along with CHP 187 Pursuit Report form	<b>Charge(s) Resulting from Suspect's Resistance</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If Yes, list pending charge(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> Unarmed suspect resisted control, had to be physically handled with minimal force, no blows were struck, all parties remained standing. <input type="checkbox"/> Plus - at least one more officer was needed for assistance.	Length of time of the pursuit: _____ Distance Traveled: _____ Involved Officers: _____ Initial Reason for Pursuit: _____ Starting point: _____ Ending point: _____ Disposition [arrest/citation/etc.]: _____ Other Jurisdictions involved/assisted: _____ Property damage: _____	Location of Incident <input type="checkbox"/> On Campus <input type="checkbox"/> Off Campus <input type="checkbox"/> Parking Lot <input type="checkbox"/> Roadway <input type="checkbox"/> Inside a Building <input type="checkbox"/> Inside PD Temporary Holding Facility <input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Unarmed suspect resisted control, officer or suspect fell to the ground or blows were struck, NO police weapons were used. <input type="checkbox"/> Plus - at least one more officer was needed for assistance. <input type="checkbox"/> Unarmed suspect resisted control, police weapon(s) used. <input type="checkbox"/> Plus - at least one more officer was needed for assistance. <input type="checkbox"/> Suspect armed with a club or similar weapon and threatened or attacked officer. <input type="checkbox"/> Suspect armed with a knife or similar weapon and threatened or attacked officer. <input type="checkbox"/> Suspect armed with a firearm threatened officer. <input type="checkbox"/> Suspect armed with a firearm shot at officer. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____		

<b>Police Force Used</b> (may <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> more than one)	<b>Effect of Force / Resistance on Suspect / Police</b>	Witnessing Officer(s)	Unit #																					
<input type="checkbox"/> Fists / Hands <input type="checkbox"/> OC Spray <input type="checkbox"/> PR-24 / baton / ASP <input type="checkbox"/> Service Weapon pointed at suspect <input type="checkbox"/> Service Weapon fired at suspect <input type="checkbox"/> MP5 pointed at suspect <input type="checkbox"/> MP5 fired at suspect <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 10%;">Suspect</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Police</th> <th style="width: 80%;">Observations</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>No visible injury; no complaint of pain.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>No visible injury; complaint of minor pain; no medical treatment required.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Minor visible injury (redness, swelling, abrasion); no medical treatment required.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Injury requiring outpatient medical treatment (stitches, x-rays, doctor's exam).</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Injury requiring hospitalization.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Death</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Suspect	Police	Observations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No visible injury; no complaint of pain.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No visible injury; complaint of minor pain; no medical treatment required.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minor visible injury (redness, swelling, abrasion); no medical treatment required.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Injury requiring outpatient medical treatment (stitches, x-rays, doctor's exam).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Injury requiring hospitalization.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Death	_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Death																						
		<b>Watch Commander: Do the actions of the officer involved in the incident indicate a need for additional training?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, provide additional written memorandum with specifics.																						

Reporting Officer	#	Date of Report	Supervisor	#	Date
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Command Level Review (Signature)	Date Reviewed	Finding: <input type="checkbox"/> Level of force/actions taken within departmental guidelines <input type="checkbox"/> Assigned for follow-up internal investigation
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