

Summary of 2017 Use of Force Policies and  
Central Differences With Prior Policies

**Main Use of Force Policy (G03-02)**

1. Describes central goals and values that underlie use of force policy
  - Places sanctity of human life at center of policy
  - Emphasizes overall goal of seeking voluntary compliance
2. Describes standard for assessing uses of force in plain English, minimizes legalese and case citations
  - Standard is based on reasonable officer on the scene, not 20/20 hindsight
  - Emphasizes the difficulty of split-second officer decision-making
  - Highlights officer safety concerns: no requirement that officers take actions that create danger to themselves
  - Previous policy contained same standard but less clearly described
3. Provides more detailed guidance on use of force
  - Objectively reasonable
  - Necessary
  - Proportional
4. Contains specific prohibitions on uses of force
  - Bars use of excessive force, discriminatory force, force as punishment or retaliation, and force in response to exercise of 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment rights
  - Prior policy did not contain these specific prohibitions
5. Provides more detailed guidance on deadly force
  - Limits use of deadly force on fleeing felons – requires existence of imminent threat, which exists when:
    - Subject’s actions are immediately likely to cause death or great bodily harm;
    - Subject has means or instruments to cause death or great bodily harm;
    - Subject has opportunity and ability to cause death or great bodily harm.
  - Deadly force may only be used as last resort
  - Defines uses of force that constitute deadly force
  - Includes intentional head strikes with impact weapon, and chokeholds

6. Contains specific prohibitions on using firearms, with limited identified exceptions:
  - Warning shots
  - Shots at people threatening suicide
  - Solely to protect property
  - Firing into crowds
  - Firing into buildings
  - Firing at moving vehicles
  - Prior deadly force policy contained generally same prohibitions
  
7. Requires use of de-escalation to prevent or minimize uses of force
  - Specific de-escalation techniques:
    - time as tactic
    - distance
    - positioning
    - warnings
    - additional personnel
    - specialized units
  - Prior use of force policy did not refer to de-escalation, although CPD 2016 Force Options policy incorporated concept of force mitigation
  
8. Providing medical aid to injured persons
  - Immediately request medical aid for injured person
  - May provide medical care consistent with training
  - More specific guidance on appropriate action than in prior policy
  
9. Violations of use of force policy must be reported
  - Verbal intervention
  - Report to supervisor
  - If supervisor, must issue direct order to stop violation
  - Bars retaliation for reporting improper use of force, or for cooperating with investigation
  - More specific guidance on reporting requirements than in previous policy

## Force Options (G03-02-01)

1. Incorporates the same central goals and values of the main use of force policy
  - Sanctity of human life
  - De-escalation
  - Objectively reasonable, necessary, and proportional
2. Explains force mitigation principles
  - Continual communication with subject
  - Tactical positioning
  - Time as a tactic
3. Condenses and refines definition of assailant
  - Subjects threatening only themselves no longer considered assailants
  - Only two (rather than three) types of assailants:
    - Subject's actions aggressively offensive and may cause physical injury
    - Subject's actions likely to cause death or serious physical injury to someone else
4. Revises and clearly describes force options authorized for different types of subjects
  - Cooperative subject (no physical force necessary)
  - Passive resisters (holding and compliance techniques, control instruments, chemical agents with limitations)
  - Active resisters (stunning, OC spray, canines, Tasers)
  - Aggressively offensive assailants (direct mechanical techniques, impact weapons, impact munitions)
  - Assailants likely to cause death or serious physical injury (deadly force)
5. Requires post-force monitoring and positioning
  - No kneeling or sitting on a subject's chest
  - Position subject to allow free breathing
  - Monitor subject until transported
6. Main changes from 2002 policy
  - Eliminates use of force model as part of policy, but new version will be used in training
  - Assailants now include only subjects threatening imminent use of force against others, not against themselves

- Broadens, strengthens, and renames the affirmation life principle as the “Sanctity of Human Life” to emphasize that the sanctity of all human life for all persons is the Department’s highest priority

### **Taser Use (G03-02-04)**

1. Incorporates the same central goals and values of the main use of force policy
  - Sanctity of human life
  - De-escalation
  - Objectively reasonable, necessary, and proportional
2. Revises and clearly describes situations in which Taser use is authorized
  - Active resisters
  - Assailants
3. Gives straightforward guidelines on authorized applications
  - Three five-second energy cycles
  - Each application must be separately justified
4. Clearly describes prohibitions on Taser use
  - Explosion hazards
  - Removing barbs
  - Multiple Tasers on one subject
  - Drive stuns
  - Persons vulnerable to injury from Tasers
5. Condenses post-discharge responsibilities for deploying officer and supervisors
  - Deploying officer:
    - Avoid placing stress on the subject
    - Notify supervisors and emergency services
    - Request appropriate medical aid
    - Complete TRR and other appropriate reports
  - Focuses on supervisory responsibilities specific to Taser use incidents for:
    - Responding supervisor
    - Investigating supervisor
    - Street Deputy

## **OC Spray and Chemical Agent Use (G03-02-05)**

1. Incorporates the same central goals and values of the main use of force policy
  - Sanctity of human life
  - De-escalation
  - Objectively reasonable, necessary, and proportional
2. Clearly describes prohibitions on chemical agent use
  - Persons vulnerable to injury from chemical agents
  - In enclosed areas
3. Provides guidelines on mitigating effect of spray discharge
  - Relocate individuals to uncontaminated area
  - Provide opportunity to flush with water
  - Advise subject to refrain from rubbing affected area
4. Condenses post-discharge responsibilities for deploying officer and supervisors
  - Deploying officer:
    - Notify emergency services and supervisors
    - Request medical aid
    - Complete TRR and other appropriate reports
  - Focuses on supervisory responsibilities specific to chemical agent use incidents for:
    - Responding supervisor
    - Investigating supervisor
    - District Commander

## **Canine Use (G03-02-06)**

1. Incorporates the same central goals and values of the main use of force policy
  - Sanctity of human life
  - De-escalation
  - Objectively reasonable, necessary, and proportional
2. Revises and clearly describes for which types of subject canine use is authorized
  - Active resisters when:
    - Subject alleged to have committed a felony or violent misdemeanor

- Subject reasonably believed to be armed
  - Search for felony subject conducted in areas or buildings that contain hidden locations
- Assailants
- 3. Describes prohibitions on canine use
  - Crowd control situations, unless authorized
  - Subjects at greater risk of serious injury or death from canines
- 4. Provides additional safety and reporting guidelines
  - Canines must be kept in range of the handler
  - TRR required
  - Supervisor must be notified before deploying
  - Warning must be provided
  - Guidelines for handler when canine finds a subject