Use of Force:

NM Law Enforcement Academy Core Curriculum

Instructor Guide
COURSE TITLE: Use of Force: NM Law Enforcement Academy Core Curriculum

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS:

1. To present and review information that impacts the officer’s use of force “decision making” process. This includes a review of United States Constitutional Law, applicable state law, agency policy, case law, civil law, civil liability (both state and federal), the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics, training, technology, and officer experience.

2. The course will offer the student an opportunity to analyze scenarios from real life situations (by videos or incident description) and apply the legal standards to determine the appropriateness of the actions of the involved officers.

INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this block of instruction the participant will be able to:

1. Identify what guides a police officer in the use of force decision.

2. Identify the Constitutional protections and relevant laws that apply to law enforcement use of force.

3. Determine how and why civil liability is created.

4. Determine what case law is relevant to law enforcement use of force.

5. Identify the importance of proper documentation of use of force incidents.

6. Apply pertinent case law to use of force situations and determine the validity of the officer’s actions

7. Identify weapons and their potential for harm

8. Identify subject actions and behaviors that indicate threat of attack

9. Identify reasonable force options given a set of circumstances
INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS: Lecture, Class participation

HANDOUTS:
1. AELE Monthly Law Journal 2008:10
2. AELE Monthly Law Journal 2008:11
4. AELE Monthly Law Journal 2012:10
5. AELE Law Library of Case Summaries: civil liability of LE agencies & personnel
8. Excited Delirium, Restraint Asphyxia, Positional Asphyxia and “In-Custody Death” Syndromes….
10. Law Enforcement Responses to Excited Delirium
11. NMDPS Use of Force Case Law
12. PoliceOne Analysis: 12 Supreme Court cases affecting cops
14. Taser Guidelines updated for first time since 2005

COURSE DURATION: 12 hours

CURRICULUM REFERENCES:
2. Crime Control Digest, articles 1990-1999
3. Deadly Force – What We Know; Police Executive Research Forum; 1991, PERF, Washington, DC
6. IACP & ASLET seminars, articles
   PERF, Washington, DC
10. United States Constitution
11. Rose, Dave & Warren, Rocky, Police Use of Force Case
   Law; Varro Press, 2008
12. Ross, Darrell L. et al., Analyzing Perceptions and
   Misperceptions of Police Officers in Lethal Force Virtual
   Simulator Scenarios; Law Enforcement Executive Forum, 2012

SAFETY CONSIDERATION: None

EQUIPMENT, PERSONNEL, AND SUPPLIES NEEDED: ppt,

TARGET AUDIENCE: Certified Law Enforcement Officers

COURSE PREREQUISITES: None

INSTRUCTOR RATIO: 1:60

EVALUATION STRATEGY: 100% participation

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REVISED / REVIEWED BY: NMLEA Staff, 8 Satellite Academy Instrs to include Director Byrd and Dr. Fons.