



# GENERAL ORDER

Loudoun County Sheriff's Office

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<b>Chapter:</b> Operations	<b>Section:</b> 403.4	
<b>Subject:</b> Use of Force	<b>Topic:</b> Active Counter Measures	
<b>Accreditation:</b> A.05.01, A.05.02, A.05.04, A.06.01	<b>Revised:</b> 10/19/2015	<b>Reaffirmed:</b>
<b>Enacted:</b> 07/30/2015	<b>Last Review:</b> 10/19/2015	<b>Review:</b> 01/30/2016

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## I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this General Order is to establish policy and procedures governing the use of Active Counter Measures by members of the LCSO.

## II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office that sworn personnel shall attend and successfully complete all applicable training. The deployment of the Active Counter Measures by sworn personnel shall be done in accordance with General Order 403.1 and all applicable LCSO training protocols. However it is ultimately the responsibility of the deputy deploying Active Counter Measures to ensure that it is deployed within the standards of *Graham v Conner*.

In the course of their duties, deputies may find it necessary to use force to overcome resistance, protect property and defend themselves or another person. In any encounter where the use of force becomes necessary, only reasonable force will be used. Under no circumstances will the force used be greater than necessary to achieve lawful objectives and to conduct lawful public safety activities.

Deputies have an affirmative duty to act if they observe another deputy using force that is clearly beyond that which is objectively reasonable under the circumstances, and shall safely intercede to prevent the use of excessive force. Deputies shall promptly report the incident to a supervisor.

## III. PROCEDURE

A. Deputies of the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office shall use only that degree of force which is reasonable and necessary in any given situation. Deputies must understand how to recognize increasing or decreasing levels of threat and respond appropriately. Deputies may employ needed and reasonable physical force in order to defend themselves or other persons, or to gain control of a resisting subject, in both on-duty and off-duty situations.

B. Active Counter Measures are empty hand techniques that include the use of close quarters striking, grabs, takedowns, and proper arrest techniques to effect control of a resistant/combatative subject. The use of one's hands and feet as defensive weapons,

and/or to gain control of a resistant subject, is permitted and shall be consistent with LCSO training protocols.

C. Post-Deployment Considerations

1. Due to the wide range of possible outcomes to the use of empty hand techniques officers are expected to immediately assess the subject for visible injuries or complaints of injuries once control is gained and the scene is secure.
2. In situations where the combative subject is forced into a face-down position, when safe to do so officers are expected to:
  - a. Release pressure/weight from the subject
  - b. Monitor the subject for any respiratory or breathing problems
  - c. Position the subject on their side or sit them up as circumstances allow so as not induce reduced airflow or diaphragm function

IV. MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

- A. In most cases, transport of the suspect to a medical facility will not be necessary. However, transport becomes mandatory in any case where:
1. The individual requests transport, or medical personnel recommend it
  2. The individual was struck in the head, throat, chest/breast, kidneys or groin
  3. The individual is discovered to be pregnant or suffering from a heart condition
  4. The individual complains of (or appears to be suffering from) chest pains, irregular heartbeat, difficulty breathing, and/or diminished consciousness
  5. The individual has sustained a secondary injury that cannot be adequately treated by medical personnel at the scene
  6. The individual exhibits behavior and physical signs of possible "excited delirium."
- B. If the suspect is transported to a hospital or other medical facility, the deputy who maintains custody at that facility shall obtain a written medical release upon the suspect's discharge, if available, provided the suspect remains in custody following discharge.

V. REPORTING

- A. Any deputies involved, or who witnessed the incident, shall submit an IBR or supplemental incident report thoroughly documenting the events.
- B. In all cases where there is a use of force, regardless of injury or complaint of injury, the supervisor shall complete a full and thorough investigation of the incident and document the investigation on the Administrative Investigation Inquiry Use of Force form.
  - 1. Refer to General Order 302 for further direction on completing Administrative Investigation Inquiries.
  - 2. Any injury received that results in serious injury or requires hospitalization shall be reported to the Internal Affairs section, which shall conduct the investigation.
  - 3. If a death occurs, it shall be investigated in accordance with General Order 403.12.
- C. In all cases that result in injury or complaint of injury, the impact area shall be photographed and any other evidence shall be documented appropriately.
  - 1. Typical evidence related to uses of force may include, but are not limited to: video (in-car and/or body cameras), witness statements, incident reports and/or supplemental incident reports, related physical evidence, etc.
- D. The on-scene supervisor shall notify the chain of command of the deployment of Active Countermeasures in all cases that result in death, serious injury or requires hospitalization.
- E. Copies of all documents shall be forwarded to the Internal Affairs section.