

MESA POLICE Department Policy Manual	Use of Force	DPM 2.1.1 Effective 03/10/2021 Reviewed 10/16/2023 Revised 04/30/2025
Approved by: Chief of Police	Chapter: Use of Force	Page: 1 of 16

1. PURPOSE

This order sets forth Mesa Police Department (MPD) policy and procedures for the use of force, guided by and consistent with applicable state and federal law, the Arizona Constitution, the U.S. Constitution, and U.S. Supreme Court precedent.

2. PHILOSOPHY

2.1 Sanctity of Life

The Department's highest priority is the sanctity of life. In all aspects of their conduct, Department members will act with the foremost regard for the preservation of life and the safety of all persons involved, human rights, the dignity of every individual, and the Constitution of the United States and the State of Arizona.

2.2 Public Cooperation

A strong partnership with the public is essential for effective law enforcement. Inappropriate or excessive uses of force damage that partnership and diminish the public trust that is a cornerstone of policing in a free society. Department members will act:

- A. With a high degree of ethics, professionalism, and respect for the public; and
- B. In a manner that promotes trust between the Department and the community it serves.

2.3 De-escalation

The goal of de-escalation is to increase voluntary compliance, slow down the situation so that the subject can be guided toward a course of action that will not necessitate the use of force, reduce the level of force necessary, and allow time for additional personnel or resources to arrive.

When reasonable under the totality of the circumstances, members should gather information about the incident, assess the risks, assemble resources, and coordinate a response. In their interaction with subjects, members should use warnings, verbal persuasion, and employ proper tactics. Members should recognize that they may withdraw to a position that is tactically more secure or allows them greater distance in order to consider or deploy a greater variety of force options. Members shall perform their work in a manner that avoids unduly jeopardizing their own safety or the safety of others.

3. DEFINITIONS

MESA POLICE Department Policy Manual	Use of Force	DPM 2.1.1 Effective 03/10/2021 Reviewed 10/16/2023 Revised 04/30/2025
Approved by: Chief of Police	Chapter: Use of Force	Page: 2 of 16

Deadly Force: Any application of force that is used with the purpose of causing death or serious physical injury or in the manner of its use or intended use creates a substantial risk of causing death or serious physical injury.

~~**Focused Fire (formerly Suppression Fire):** A controlled volume of weapons fire directed toward a suspect, allowing a member to move. This tactic can be deployed against a target specific threat (i.e., active shooter) or toward a specific threat area (i.e., known area occupied by the suspect).~~

Immediate or Imminent Non-Deadly Threat: When it is objectively reasonable to believe that:

- A subject's actions are immediately likely to cause physical injury to the member or others unless action is taken;
- The subject has the means or instruments to cause physical injury; and
- The subject has the opportunity and ability to cause physical injury.

Immediate Deadly Threat or Imminent Deadly Threat: When it is objectively reasonable to believe that:

- The subject's actions are immediately likely to cause serious physical injury or death to the member or others unless action is taken; and
- The subject has the means or instruments to cause serious physical injury or death; and
- The subject has the opportunity and ability to cause serious physical injury or death.

Less Lethal Force: Force, other than deadly force, which by design and application is less likely to cause serious physical injury or death than deadly force. Less lethal force has the possibility of causing death or serious physical injury in rare circumstances.

Non-Involved Supervisor: A supervisor who may be at the scene and witnessed the incident but was not directly involved in the application of force.

Objectively Reasonable: Reasonableness is not capable of precise definition or mechanical application. The main issue in evaluating every use of force is whether the amount of force used by the member was objectively reasonable in light of the totality of the circumstances faced by the member on the scene. Factors to be considered by the member include but are not limited to: [ALEAP 1.3A]

- The nature of the offense, including the severity of the crime and the level of violence;
- The immediate threat posed by the suspect to the safety of officers or others;
 - This is the most important factor to be considered.

MESA POLICE Department Policy Manual	Use of Force	DPM 2.1.1 Effective 03/10/2021 Reviewed 10/16/2023 Revised 04/30/2025
Approved by: Chief of Police	Chapter: Use of Force	Page: 3 of 16

- Whether the suspect is actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight.

Physical Force: Force used upon or directly toward the body of another person and includes confinement but does not include deadly physical force.

Physical Injury: The impairment of physical condition ([ARS 13-105.33](#)).

Serious Physical Injury: Includes physical injury that creates a reasonable risk of death, or that causes serious and permanent disfigurement, serious impairment of health or loss or protracted impairment of the function of any bodily organ or limb ([ARS 13-105.39](#)).

Resistance: A subject's failure to comply with a member's attempt to establish control.

Weapons & Control Methods: Equipment and verbal or physical techniques, used by members when objectively reasonable based on the totality of the circumstances, to control a non-compliant or actively resistant subject. These include but are not limited to:

Carotid Control Technique: Bilateral vascular restraint where pressure is applied to the sides of the neck, resulting in diminished oxygenated blood flow to the brain without compressing or restricting the airway. [ALEAP 1.3E]

Chemical Agents: Substances that cause a physiological response to the eyes and/or respiratory passages, including OC Spray and SWAT chemical munitions.

Control Holds: Techniques used to control a subject that have a minimal chance of injury. These include the O'Donnell Continuous Control System (OCCS), pressure points, empty-hand escort controls, takedowns, and firm grips.

Dangerous Instrument: Anything that under the circumstances in which it is used, attempted to be used or threatened to be used is readily capable of causing death or serious physical injury ([ARS 13-105.12](#)).

Deadly Weapon: Anything designed for lethal use, including a firearm ([ARS 13-105.15](#)).

Impact Weapon: Instrument by design used to apply force through physical contact. Impact weapons can include the expandable baton, side-handle baton, less lethal shotgun (bean bag shotgun) and 40mm Specialty Impact Weapons.

Less Lethal Weapon: Device which by design is less likely to cause serious physical injury or death than a deadly weapon.

Police Service Dog (PSD): A dog trained to assist members of law enforcement. PSDs are operated by PSD handlers and may be deployed in limited situations

MESA POLICE Department Policy Manual	Use of Force	DPM 2.1.1 Effective 03/10/2021 Reviewed 10/16/2023 Revised 04/30/2025
Approved by: Chief of Police	Chapter: Use of Force	Page: 4 of 16

defined by policy. All dog bites, whether intentional or unintentional, are reportable uses of force. PSDs used as force are considered a less lethal force option.

Strike: Techniques that have more than a minimal chance of injury. Examples include kicks, elbow, palm or knee strikes, and punches. The officer will consider the totality of circumstances in evaluating which area of the body to strike.

Limited Strike: Impact push or strike applied to limited target areas, including the brachial plexus tie-in, radial, medial, femoral, common peroneal, and tibial nerves, and major muscle groups.

TASER Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW): An electro-muscular disruption device that disrupts the body's ability to communicate messages from the brain to the muscles causing temporary motor dysfunction to a subject. Synonymous with TASER, Electronic Control Device (ECD), and Electronic Control Weapon (ECW).

4. USE OF FORCE

4.1 Authorized Force [ALEAP 1.3B]

Officers may use **objectively reasonable** force to:

- A. Protect themselves;
- B. Protect others;
- C. Effect a lawful detention;
- D. Effect a lawful arrest;
- E. Conduct a lawful search.

4.2 Use of Force Guidance [ALEAP 1.3A,B]

- A. Officers shall use only the force that is **objectively reasonable** to effectively bring an incident under control, while protecting the safety of the officer and others. Officers shall use force only when no reasonably effective alternative appears to exist and shall use only the level of force which a reasonably prudent officer would use under the same or similar circumstances.
- B. The decision to use force requires careful attention to the facts and circumstances of each particular case, to include the nature of the offense, including the **severity of the crime** and the level of violence, whether the suspect poses an **immediate threat** to the safety of the officer or others (*the most important factor*), and whether he is **actively resisting arrest** or attempting to **evade arrest** by flight.

<p>MESA POLICE</p> <p>Department Policy Manual</p>	<p>Use of Force</p>	<p>DPM 2.1.1</p> <p>Effective 03/10/2021 Reviewed 10/16/2023 Revised 04/30/2025</p>
<p>Approved by: Chief of Police</p>	<p>Chapter: Use of Force</p>	<p>Page: 5 of 16</p>

C. In addition, “*the ‘reasonableness’ of a particular use of force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, rather than with the 20/20 vision of hindsight...the question is whether the officers’ actions are ‘objectively reasonable’ in light of the facts and circumstances confronting them.*” ([Graham v Connor, 490 U.S. 386 \(1989\)](#))

5. FORCE & DEADLY FORCE

5.1 Force

When de-escalation techniques are not effective or appropriate and force is authorized, members may use force to control a non-compliant, actively resistant, or actively aggressive subject using Department approved control methods and equipment.

- A. Once a subject no longer resists, the member will reassess the level of force used and apply only the level of force objectively reasonable to maintain control. [ALEAP 1.3H]
 - 1. Both the need for and the level of force that would be reasonable are dictated by the subject’s actions and may increase or decrease based on compliance or non-compliance from moment to moment. When the subject is under full control, force must terminate.
- B. When feasible, members shall make every reasonable effort to identify themselves as law enforcement and give commands and warnings before resorting to force. [ALEAP 1.3I]

5.2 Deadly Force [ALEAP 1.3B]

A member is authorized to use deadly force when the member perceives it as objectively reasonable under the totality of the circumstances:

- A. In defense of life; or
- B. When necessary to prevent the escape of a dangerous fleeing felon and the member has **probable cause** to believe that: [ALEAP 1.3C]
 - 1. The subject has committed a felony involving the infliction or threatened infliction of serious physical injury or death; and
 - 2. The escape of the subject would pose an imminent threat of death or serious physical injury to the officer or to another person.
- C. When feasible, members shall make every reasonable effort to identify themselves as law enforcement and give commands and warnings before resorting to deadly force. [ALEAP 1.3I]
- D. Whenever a firearm is discharged, exercise reasonable caution for the protection of the lives of innocent persons and for the protection of property.

MESA POLICE Department Policy Manual	Use of Force	DPM 2.1.1 Effective 03/10/2021 Reviewed 10/16/2023 Revised 04/30/2025
Approved by: Chief of Police	Chapter: Use of Force	Page: 6 of 16

6. LEVELS OF RESISTANCE

It is important for members to consider that a subject may be resisting a Fourth Amendment seizure or may be unresponsive for many reasons. The subject may not be capable of understanding the gravity of the situation. Officers must consider several factors when dealing with a non-compliant subject. Non-compliance may be due to a medical condition, mental, physical, or hearing impairment, language barrier, drug interaction, or emotional crisis and have no criminal intent. These situations may require a change in tactics that will be more effective while maintaining officer safety or to protect the public. Levels of resistance include:

- A. **Compliant:** A person contacted by an officer who acknowledges direction or lawful orders given and offers no resistance or aggression.
- B. **Passive Resistance:** Physical actions that do not prevent an officer's attempt at control; may include verbal responses, going limp, but does not include attempts by the subject to actively resist.
- C. **Active Resistance:** Physical actions on the part of a subject who is not complying with verbal commands and actively attempting to prevent the officer's control, but do not constitute an assault (e.g., pulling away, pinning arms under the body, thrashing around, and/or body going rigid).
- D. **Danger to Self:** Physical actions on the part of a subject resulting in self-inflicted injuries or that indicate intent to harm oneself or commit suicide.
- E. **Active Aggression:** Assault or attempted assault with non-deadly physical force. The aggression may manifest itself through a subject taking a fighting stance, punching, kicking, striking, or other actions which present an immediate threat of physical harm to the officer or another.
- F. **Aggravated Active Aggression:** Assault or imminent assault with deadly force. The subject's actions are likely to result in the death or serious physical injury to the officer or another. These actions may include a firearm, use of blunt or bladed weapon, and physical force likely to result in serious physical injury, physical incapacitation, unconsciousness, or death.

7. FORCE PROHIBITIONS

7.1 General Prohibitions

- A. The use of **excessive** or **unlawful** force by a Department member is prohibited.

<p>MESA POLICE</p> <p>Department Policy Manual</p>	<p>Use of Force</p>	<p>DPM 2.1.1</p> <p>Effective 03/10/2021 Reviewed 10/16/2023 Revised 04/30/2025</p>
<p>Approved by: Chief of Police</p>	<p>Chapter: Use of Force</p>	<p>Page: 7 of 16</p>

- B. Department members are prohibited from using force based on **bias** or any other legally protected characteristics. Refer to [DPM 1.4.75 Biased Based Profiling](#).
- C. Force used as **punishment** or **retaliation** is prohibited.
- D. Force used in response to a person's mere lawful exercise of First Amendment rights (e.g., protected speech, lawful demonstrations, observing or filming police activity, or criticizing a Department member or conduct) is prohibited. [\[ALEAP 17.12\]](#)
- E. Physical force on a **restrained** subject is generally unjustified, except in circumstances when the subject's actions must be immediately stopped to prevent injury, active aggression or aggravated active aggression, escape, or destruction of property and doing such is objectively reasonable.
 - 1. Subjects who are refusing to get out of a Department vehicle may be forcibly/physically removed after reasonable attempts to gain voluntary compliance have failed.
- F. **Face, head** and **neck** strikes are prohibited absent active aggression/aggravated active aggression.
- G. The **Carotid Control Technique** is prohibited absent aggravated active aggression. [\[ALEAP 1.3E\]](#)
- H. Deadly force may not be used against a person who is only a danger to self.

7.2 Firearm Use Prohibitions

- A. Warning shots are prohibited as they may prompt a suspect to return fire and may endanger innocent bystanders. [\[ALEAP 1.3F\]](#)
- B. Officers shall not fire into buildings where suspects are concealed. The only exception to this shall be in those instances where there is no doubt of the suspect's location and only when an active or ongoing deadly assault or intended deadly assault is being directed from the location at the members or others.
- C. ~~Focused fire is prohibited except under exigent circumstances when the member reasonably believes the subject poses an immediate threat of death or serious physical injury to the member or another person, and the subject has demonstrated the ability to cause death or serious physical injury to others (e.g., downed officer or citizen rescue).~~
 - 1. ~~This tactic shall not be employed if it would place innocent bystanders or victims in greater harm than the actions of the suspect.~~

7.3 Shooting at or from Moving Vehicles [\[ALEAP 1.3J\]](#)

Shots fired at or from a moving vehicle are rarely effective at immediately halting the progress of a vehicle. The potential harm to others within the vehicle and surrounding area may outweigh the need to immediately apprehend the suspect. Such action may

MESA POLICE Department Policy Manual	Use of Force	DPM 2.1.1 Effective 03/10/2021 Reviewed 10/16/2023 Revised 04/30/2025
Approved by: Chief of Police	Chapter: Use of Force	Page: 8 of 16

produce unintended consequences. A moving vehicle may become an uncontrolled deadly weapon that could seriously injure or kill the occupants of the vehicle and/or subjects in its path.

- A. Members must consider whether the threat to the member or other persons is increased by incapacitating the operator with deadly force, considering that, if the operator is incapacitated, the vehicle may still be a threat to anyone in the vehicle's path. This threat must be weighed against the threat posed by the suspect continuing in control of the vehicle.
- B. The use of deadly force against the operator/occupant of a motor vehicle is only authorized when it is reasonably necessary to:
 1. Defend the member or another person against the vehicle operator/occupant's imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury by means other than the vehicle; OR
 2. Defend the member or another person against the vehicle operator's use of the vehicle to cause death or serious bodily injury and the member or other person has no reasonable avenue of protection or escape.
- C. Members must avoid positioning themselves in a location vulnerable to vehicular attack;
 1. A member should attempt to move out of the way of the vehicle instead of discharging a firearm at the operator/occupant.
- D. Members shall not discharge a firearm at the operator/occupant of the vehicle when the vehicle has passed and is attempting to escape.
- E. Firearms shall not be discharged under the following circumstances:
 1. As a warning;
 2. At a moving vehicle except as defined in Part B. above; or
 3. From a moving vehicle.
- F. Units within the Special Operations Division may deviate from this section of policy based on the seriousness of the crime, the suspect's actions, and in compliance with approved tactics and training.

8. DUTY TO INTERVENE [ALEAP 1.3D]

Any officer present and observing another officer using force clearly beyond what is objectively reasonable under the circumstances shall, when there is a realistic opportunity and means to do so, safely intercede to prevent the use of such excessive force. Officers shall promptly report these observations to a supervisor.

9. MEDICAL ATTENTION [ALEAP 1.10]

MESA POLICE Department Policy Manual	Use of Force	DPM 2.1.1 Effective 03/10/2021 Reviewed 10/16/2023 Revised 04/30/2025
Approved by: Chief of Police	Chapter: Use of Force	Page: 9 of 16

- A. Once the scene is safe and as soon as practical, ensure appropriate medical aid whenever:
 1. An individual has sustained visible injury, complains of injury or continuing pain, or requests medical attention;
 2. A subject has been rendered unconscious; and/or
 3. A conducted energy weapon (CEW), impact weapon, and/or the Carotid Control Technique has/have been deployed on a subject.
- B. In every incident in which a person has been bitten by a PSD:
 1. If there is a visible injury have:
 - a. The Mesa Fire & Medical Department (MFMD) respond; and
 - b. Photographs taken of the injury.
 2. If there is no visible injury, ask the person if medical treatment is desired, and if so, request the MFMD respond.
 - a. If the person refuses medical treatment, ensure a witness is present and document.
 - b. Ensure photographs are taken to document lack of visible injury.
 3. If the visible injuries are significant, requiring additional medical treatment, the suspect will be transported to the nearest hospital:
 - a. At the recommendation of the MFMD.
 - b. At the request of the person.

10. INITIAL RESPONSIBILITIES AFTER USE OF FORCE [ALEAP 1.6A-D]

The following protocols will be followed by involved members and supervisors when force is used:

10.1 Involved Member

- A. Apprehend suspect(s) and secure the scene.
- B. Request/provide appropriate medical aid, if necessary.
- C. Notify a supervisor.
- D. Identify witnesses to include their information in related reports.
- E. Request a Crime Scene Specialist (CSS) to take photographs of injuries sustained by the subject, or complained areas of injury, as well as overall photographs. [ALEAP 1.10]
 1. If a CSS is not available for an extended period, members should take initial photographs and request CSS follow-up photographs as soon as practical. See [DPM 3.4.15 Evidentiary Recordings](#).
- F. Each member that uses reportable force will complete an incident report or supplemental report, unless directed not to by a lieutenant or Homicide

MESA POLICE Department Policy Manual	Use of Force	DPM 2.1.1 Effective 03/10/2021 Reviewed 10/16/2023 Revised 04/30/2025
Approved by: Chief of Police	Chapter: Use of Force	Page: 10 of 16

supervisor. See **Section 11, Use of Force Reporting** for definitions of reportable force and reporting guidelines.

10.2 On-Scene Response by a Supervisor

- A. A non-involved supervisor is required to respond to all incidents involving:
 - 1. Strikes to the face, head, or neck; and/or
 - 2. Deployment/use of:
 - a. Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW);
 - b. Impact Weapon;
 - c. Police Service Dog (PSD) which results in an intentional or unintentional bite;
 - d. Carotid Control Technique; and/or
 - 3. Any other use of force causing the subject to be treated at the hospital for a physical injury, as defined in policy.
- B. For all other incidents, it is optional for a supervisor to respond to the scene.

10.3 Supervisor Investigatory & Notification Responsibilities

- A. Obtain basic facts from the involved officer(s).
- B. Ensure appropriate medical aid has been/is provided/requested, if necessary.
[ALEAP 1.10]
- C. Conduct initial review of the use of force.
 - 1. If there is an allegation of **excessive force**:
 - a. Obtain the subject's statement to include clarification of the allegations being made related to the use of force.
 - b. Conduct preliminary review of available facts, on-officer body camera video and/or witness statement(s).
 - c. Immediate notification by phone to the on-duty patrol or specialty unit lieutenant is required if the subject is transported to the hospital for a serious physical injury or is complaining of serious physical injury.
 - d. The on-duty patrol or specialty unit lieutenant will immediately notify the affected Division Commander or Duty Commander.
 - 2. If force meets the definition of a **Category 1** or **Category 2 Critical Incident**, including **excessive force**, follow the protocols described in [DPM 2.1.11 Concurrent Investigations](#).
 - 3. For police incidents involving death/serious injury, officer involved shootings, or in-custody death, see [DPM 2.1.10 Police Incidents Involving Death/Serious Injury, Officer Involved Shootings, and In-Custody Death Investigations](#) for additional responsibilities regarding on-officer body cameras, public safety statements, etc.
- D. Ensure:
 - 1. Overall photographs are/have been taken, as well as areas involving visible injury or complaint of pain;

MESA POLICE Department Policy Manual	Use of Force	DPM 2.1.1 Effective 03/10/2021 Reviewed 10/16/2023 Revised 04/30/2025
Approved by: Chief of Police	Chapter: Use of Force	Page: 11 of 16

2. All necessary evidence has been/is collected; and
 3. All members who used force complete an incident report and/or supplemental report(s) prior to the end of shift and are approved by a supervisor.
- E. Complete MPANS when required. See [DPM 2.8.100 Mesa Police Activity Notification System \(MPANS\)](#).

11. USE OF FORCE REPORTING [ALEAP 1.6A-D]

11.1 Reportable Uses of Force

- A. All **uses of force**, including takedowns and pressure points, are reportable.
 1. Exceptions which **do not** require reporting unless a subject is injured, thought to be injured, or the person complains of injury and requests medical aid include:
 - a. Verbal commands;
 - b. Handcuffing (including OCCS holds);
 - c. Empty-hand escort control holds; and/or
 - d. Police Jiu Jitsu Segmenting Technique.

11.2 Notification

- A. Members shall verbally report all uses of force to an immediate or functional supervisor as soon as practicable.

11.3 Documentation

- A. Member:
 1. Each member shall document the use of force in an incident report or supplemental report, as soon as possible but prior to the end of shift, unless directed not to by a lieutenant or Homicide supervisor.
 - a. Articulate the specific facts and circumstances to explain the member's own decision to employ the particular use of force.
- B. Non-Involved Supervisor/Internal Affairs (IA):
 1. A non-involved supervisor shall complete the Use of Force Report for all reportable uses of force, with the exception that IA will complete the Use of Force Report for all officer involved shooting (OIS) incidents.
 2. For **uses of force**, one BlueTeam Use of Force Report shall be completed per incident.
 - a. In the report, include:
 - All involved officers who applied reportable force;
 - Subject(s) on which reportable force was used;

MESA POLICE Department Policy Manual	Use of Force	DPM 2.1.1 Effective 03/10/2021 Reviewed 10/16/2023 Revised 04/30/2025
Approved by: Chief of Police	Chapter: Use of Force	Page: 12 of 16

- Circumstances surrounding the use of force;
 - Results of the use of force;
 - Supervisor's actions taken in the investigative process;
 - Who was interviewed;
 - Name or description of materials reviewed; and
 - Justification for not speaking with any subject alleging excessive force.
3. For uses of force involving a Police Service Dog (PSD), the PSD Sergeant when available, or a non-involved supervisor when the PSD Sergeant is unavailable, shall complete the **Service Dog Utilization** module in BlueTeam in accordance with [PSD 2.3 Police Service Dog Incidents Involving Bites, Injuries or Property Damage](#).
 - a. The Incident Summary will include:
 - Time of announcement;
 - Time of deployment;
 - Duration of bite; and
 - A brief summary of the incident.
 - b. If completed by a non-involved supervisor, the Service Dog Utilization module will be forwarded to the PSD Sergeant.
 - The PSD use of force review will be completed by the PSD chain of command, following use of force review protocols.
 4. All PSD bites will be documented via the Service Dog Utilization module. All other uses of force during the incident will be documented in a single Use of Force Report in BlueTeam.

12. OFF-DUTY OR WHEN NOT ON DUTY USE OF FORCE REPORTING [ALEAP 1.6A-D]

12.1 Off-Duty (Includes Off-Duty Employment) or When Not On Duty Incidents

- A. Any member who uses reportable force in an off-duty or when not on duty incident **within or outside** the City of Mesa (COM) shall:
 1. Immediately notify the appropriate local authorities.
 2. Immediately notify an on-duty supervisor (via radio, 911, etc.).
 3. Notify the chain of command when practical.
 4. Follow documentation procedures outlined above.
- B. See [DPM 1.2.115 Off-Duty & Outside Employment Protocols](#) and [DPM 2.5.60 Police Action When Not On Duty](#).

13. REVIEW OF USE OF FORCE [ALEAP 1.6A-D]

MESA POLICE Department Policy Manual	Use of Force	DPM 2.1.1 Effective 03/10/2021 Reviewed 10/16/2023 Revised 04/30/2025
Approved by: Chief of Police	Chapter: Use of Force	Page: 13 of 16

13.1 Sergeant Review in BlueTeam

- A. Complete **within two shifts** but prior to regular days off.
 1. If additional time is needed for review, an extension request must be approved by the Division Commander and documented in BlueTeam.
- B. Review all applicable on-officer body camera (OBC) footage, reports, and materials related to the use of force incident, to include OBC footage of members present who did not utilize reportable force (i.e., uninvolved perimeter units, etc.).
 1. Sergeants will review a reasonable amount of OBC footage for all members on scene (i.e., approximately 10 minutes before and after the use of force incident; possibly longer if the scene is still elevated or less if the incident has concluded and been de-escalated).
 - a. If any issues are discovered during the review for any member (i.e., tactical concerns, discourtesy, legal issues, vulgarity, other policy violations, etc.) that doesn't result in a Notice of Investigation (NOI) but requires corrective action (such as training or counseling), the sergeant shall document in the Use of Force Report comments in BlueTeam and include documentation detailing what actions were taken to remedy the issue.
 - This may include, but not be limited to, oral counselling, training, memorandum of understanding, written counselling, or a corrective action plan. See [DPM 1.4.10 Disciplinary Process](#).
 - Every effort should be made to complete the corrective action before routing the report to the next level in the chain of command; otherwise, it can be added to the BlueTeam entry at a later time.
 - **Note:** If the member with discovered performance issues did **not** apply reportable force during the incident, only document their name in BlueTeam routing notes; do **not** add their name to the BlueTeam Use of Force Report names module.
 - b. Any actions that are observed to be more serious in nature (i.e., egregious or repetitive; an IA disciplinary history report may be requested though IA) and require further investigation, an inquiry or a formal investigation shall be completed. See [DPM 1.4.5 Administrative Investigations](#).
 - c. If exemplary performance is identified, supervisors are encouraged to recognize the member following procedures in [DPM 1.11.30 Awards](#).
- C. Indicate the appropriate determination in the "instructions" box when forwarding the incident to the next level in the chain of command:
 1. "No issues identified"; or
 2. "Additional review required".

MESA POLICE Department Policy Manual	Use of Force	DPM 2.1.1 Effective 03/10/2021 Reviewed 10/16/2023 Revised 04/30/2025
Approved by: Chief of Police	Chapter: Use of Force	Page: 14 of 16

- a. Other identified performance issues outside of the reportable use of force shall also warrant additional review by the lieutenant.
- D. Forward the completed Use of Force Report to the member's lieutenant, or an equivalent lieutenant in the Division if the chain of command is unavailable for an extended period, and copy (cc) the Division Commander.

13.2 Lieutenant Review in BlueTeam

- A. Completion dates:
 1. If marked "Additional review required" during the first level review, complete by the **next shift**.
 2. If marked "No issues identified" after initial review, complete within **four shifts** but prior to regular days off.
 3. Any deviation from the time requirement will be approved by a commander and documented in BlueTeam.
- B. Conduct a second-level review of all applicable reports and OBC footage. If applicable, ensure appropriate comments and documentation have been added for any corrective action in BlueTeam.
- C. Complete "enter policy outcome" for each involved member to include selecting the appropriate policy review outcome (e.g., within policy, not within policy, etc.).
- D. Any actions that are observed to be more serious in nature (i.e., egregious or repetitive; an IA disciplinary history report may be requested though IA) and require further investigation, an inquiry or a formal investigation shall be completed. See [DPM 1.4.5 Administrative Investigations](#).
- E. Indicate the appropriate determination in the "instructions" box when forwarding the incident to the next level in the chain of command:
 1. If determined "No issues identified":
 - a. Provide final comments and forward to **PDUseofForce** in BlueTeam;
 - b. Copy (cc) the Division Commander.
 2. If determined "Additional review required":
 - a. Forward the completed Use of Force Report via BlueTeam to the Division Commander;
 - b. Copy (cc) **PDUseofForce** in BlueTeam.

13.3 Commander Review in BlueTeam

- A. Completion dates:
 1. Complete within **two business days** but prior to regular days off.
 - a. Any deviation from the time requirement will be documented in the BlueTeam review.

MESA POLICE Department Policy Manual	Use of Force	DPM 2.1.1 Effective 03/10/2021 Reviewed 10/16/2023 Revised 04/30/2025
Approved by: Chief of Police	Chapter: Use of Force	Page: 15 of 16

- B. For all Use of Force Reports designated as “Additional review required”, conduct a third-level review of all applicable reports and on-officer body camera footage.
- C. Consult with the sergeant and lieutenant regarding recommendations for additional actions to be taken such as:
 - 1. Tactical debriefing;
 - 2. Officer training;
 - 3. Squad training;
 - 4. Supervisor training;
 - 5. Counseling/Work Station File (WSF) entry;
 - 6. Corrective Action Plan (CAP); and/or
 - 7. Formal Administrative Investigation.
- D. Provide final comments in the “instructions” box when forwarding the use of force incident in BlueTeam to **PDUseofForce**.
- E. If a determination is made to conduct an Administrative Investigation, notify the:
 - 1. IA Lieutenant; and
 - 2. Affected Bureau Chief.

13.4 Advanced Training Unit

- A. The Advanced Training Unit receives each completed Use of Force Report sent to the **PDUseofForce** inbox.
 - 1. If the information is incomplete, route the report to the originating supervisor for corrections.
 - 2. If the information is complete, forward to IA for closure.

13.5 Internal Affairs Unit

- A. Responsibilities:
 - 1. Report will be assigned a file number (e.g., “UOF2024-178”).
 - 2. Change the report disposition to “completed” in IAPro.
 - 3. Move BlueTeam report into IAPro.

14. TRAINING DIVISION RESPONSIBILITIES

The Training Division will monitor trends and emerging issues by tracking data found in Use of Force Reports. Specifically, the Training Division will monitor the types of force being used and the reasons for use of force. This review will allow instructors to identify needs for future training sessions.

14.1 Advanced Training Lieutenant Responsibilities

MESA POLICE Department Policy Manual	Use of Force	DPM 2.1.1 Effective 03/10/2021 Reviewed 10/16/2023 Revised 04/30/2025
Approved by: Chief of Police	Chapter: Use of Force	Page: 16 of 16

- A. Assist Division Commanders as requested with:
 1. Tactical debriefing;
 2. Officer training;
 3. Squad training;
 4. Supervisor training; and/or
 5. Corrective Actions Plans (CAPs).
- B. Review Department use of force.
- C. Provide to Executive Staff:
 1. Quarterly reports reference:
 - a. Department overview of use of force.
 - b. Identified use of force trends.
 2. Recommendations for Department training to include:
 - a. Officer specific training;
 - b. Supervisor specific training; and
 - c. All sworn member training.

REFERENCES

- [ARS 13.105.12, 13,105.15, 13-105.33 & 13-105.39](#)
- [DPM 1.2.115 Off-Duty & Outside Employment Protocols](#)
- [DPM 1.4.5 Administrative Investigations](#)
- [DPM 1.4.10 Disciplinary Process](#)
- [DPM 1.4.75 Biased-Based Profiling](#)
- [DPM 1.11.30 Awards](#)
- [DPM 2.1.10 Police Incidents Involving Death/Serious Injury, Officer Involved Shootings, and In-Custody Death Investigations](#)
- [DPM 2.1.11 Concurrent Investigations](#)
- [DPM 2.1.20 Firearms Use](#)
- [DPM 2.1.25 Impact Weapons](#)
- [DPM 2.1.30 Chemical Agents](#)
- [DPM 2.1.35 Conducted Energy Weapon \(CEW\) Protocols](#)
- [DPM 2.1.60 40mm Specialty Impact Weapon](#)
- [DPM 2.5.60 Police Action When Not On Duty](#)
- [DPM 2.8.100 Mesa Police Activity Notification System \(MPANS\)](#)
- [DPM 2.10.30 Police Service Dog \(PSD\)](#)
- [DPM 3.4.15 Evidentiary Recordings](#)
- [Graham v Connor, 490 U.S. 386 \(1989\)](#)
- [PSD 2.3 Police Service Dog Incidents Involving Bites, Injuries or Property Damage](#)