



# FIELD ORDERS

Chapter

**USE of FORCE**

Subject

**Factors Influencing Use of Force****POLICY**

To respond with the level of lawful force appropriate for the situation.

**ARIZONA REVISED  
STATUTES (ARS)**

According to the criteria in the [ARS Title 13](#), Chapter 4/Justification, officers may use the degree of force that is reasonable under the following circumstances:

- ARS [13-409/Justification; use of physical force in law enforcement](#).
- ARS [13-403/Justification; use of physical force](#).
- ARS [13-404/Justification; self-defense](#).
- ARS [13-410/Justification/Use of deadly physical force in law enforcement](#). *See also*, Field Order (FLD) [1204/Deadly Physical Force](#).

**FACTORS to CONSIDER**

Determining whether to use any level of force and the reasonableness of that action is based on a number of factors. Those factors include, but are not limited to:

1. The conduct of the individual being confronted.
2. The comparison of the officer and subject (age, size, strength, sex, skill level, conditioning, injury).
3. Influence of alcohol or drugs.
4. Number of officers in comparison to the number of subjects.
5. Weapons involved in the incident or in proximity to the incident.
6. Seriousness of the offense.
7. Department approved training.
8. Experience of the officer.
9. Potential for injury to citizens, officers, and involved subjects.
10. Risk of or attempting to escape.
11. Amount of time to deal with the situation.
12. Duration of resistance.

13. The suspect has committed, attempted to commit, is committing, or is attempting to commit a felony involving the use or threatened use of a deadly weapon.
14. The suspect is attempting to escape by use of a deadly weapon.
15. Through past or present conduct of the person, which is known by the officer, the person is likely to endanger human life or inflict serious bodily injury to another unless apprehended without delay.
16. Other exigent circumstances.

**INTERMEDIATE WEAPONS**

Intermediate weapons can be used when empty hand techniques have failed, or the trained officer can reasonably articulate that empty hand tactics would have failed, and deadly physical force is not justified.

**MEDICAL ASSISTANCE**

As a direct result of a use of force incident, any time a subject is injured, alleges injury, is rendered unconscious, was the recipient of a weapon deployment, and/or is in apparent medical distress, officers will obtain appropriate medical treatment when it is reasonably safe to do so.

**EXCESSIVE FORCE**

1. Excessive force issues are handled according to standard disciplinary policy. *See* General Orders chapter [2500/Disciplinary Procedure](#).
2. Officers have a duty to intervene to prevent or stop what a reasonable officer believes to be another officer using, or about to use, excessive force beyond what a reasonable officer would use given the circumstances of the situation.
  - a. Officers will prevent or stop the excessive use of force by another officer when it is safe and reasonable to do so.
  - b. Report the incident to a supervisor as soon as it is safe and reasonable to do so.
  - c. Failure to report incidents involving excessive force will result in disciplinary action.

**WEAPON PROFICIENCY**

Only department personnel who demonstrate proficiency in using department authorized weapons are approved to carry such weapons.

**DEPARTMENT APPROVED  
TECHNIQUES**

1. Officers receive training and must demonstrate proficiency in department approved use of force techniques.
  - Vascular neck restraint (VNR) is not a department approved technique and will not be used unless deadly physical force is authorized per FLD [1204/Deadly Physical Force](#).
2. Except under exigent circumstances, officers are expected to utilize only department approved techniques during use of force situations.
3. The [Use of Force Review Board](#) (UFRB) reviews use of force incidents, including department approved techniques used during the incident. Supervisors also review all use of force incidents involving personnel under their chain of command.

