



HIRAM POLICE DEPARTMENT

S.O.P. 1.11

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USE OF FORCE

APPROVAL: CHIEF T. A. VANDE ZANDE

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I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to direct officers in the appropriate use of force.

II. POLICY

The policy of this Department is to protect and serve all citizens while at the same time respecting the rights of suspects and balancing the need for officer safety in use of force events. It is the policy of this Department that officers will use only reasonable force to bring an incident or event under control. Reasonable force is only that force which is necessary to accomplish lawful objectives. (GA 1.10 5th) (CALEA 1.3.1 5th)

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. Authorized Weapon - Those weapons with which the officer has qualified and received Department training on proper and safe usage. In addition, the weapon(s) must be registered and comply with Department specifications.
- B. Deadly Force -Any force that is likely to cause serious bodily harm or death.
- C. Force -The unwanted touching directed toward another. This may involve the direct laying on of hands or the putting of an object into motion that touches the individual; therefore, tasers, as well as a push from the hands are “use of force.”
- D. Forcible Felony (OCGA § 16-1-3) - Any felony which involves the use or threat of physical force or violence against any person.
- E. Non-Deadly Force - All uses of force other than those likely to cause serious bodily harm or death.

- F. Imminent -Impending or about to occur.
- G. Reasonable Belief (OCGA §16-1-3) - Reasonable belief means that the person concerned, acting as a reasonable man, believes that the described facts exist.
- H. Reasonable Force - Only that force which is necessary to accomplish lawful objectives.
- I. Serious Bodily Harm (18 U.S.C. § 1365 (h) (3)) - The term "serious bodily injury" means bodily injury which involves:
 - 1. a substantial risk of death;
 - 2. extreme physical pain;
 - 3. protracted and obvious disfigurement; or
 - 4. protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty.
- J. Compliance - State in which a subject responds to verbal commands and cooperates with requests regarding his/her behavior.
- K. Control - State in which a subject is not a threat to the safety or security of officers and any other person(s) on a scene.
- L. Drive Stun – Use of the Taser in which one of the prongs fails to attach or use of the Taser without discharging the cartridge for pain compliance.

IV. PROCEDURE

In determining the appropriate level of force officers should apply the levels of force under the Department's trained use of force options along with the following three factor test:

- How serious is the offense the officer suspected at the time the particular force used?
- What was the physical threat to the officer or others?
- Was the subject actively resisting or attempting to evade arrest by flight?

V. RULES AND REGULATIONS

A. General

This Department recognizes and respects the value and integrity of each human life. Investing law enforcement officers with lawful authority to use force to protect the public welfare requires a careful balancing of interests. Officers should only use the amount of force necessary to overcome resistance. Many decisions and actions of law enforcement officers have serious consequences, but none are as irrevocable as the decision to use force, particularly deadly force. Law enforcement officers are armed and trained to achieve control of various situations. Other means of force should be exhausted or deemed impractical before resorting to the use of deadly force. ([See OCGA 17-4-20\(b\) Use of Deadly Force](#)) Control is achieved through the officer's presence, verbal commands, control and restraint, use of temporary incapacitation, or in situations where any person is endangered, by the use or threat of deadly force. The officer shall

respond with the necessary force, and all actions by an officer are governed by the situation.

Once the subject's active resistance has ceased and control has been gained an officer is no longer authorized to use force. Officers should immediately provide any necessary medical assistance to the subject to the degree to which they are trained and provide for emergency medical response if a subject is injured or complains of an injury. (GA 1.19 5th)(CALEA 1.3.5 5th)

An officer is supported by the Department in drawing his/her firearm pursuant to official duties when circumstances dictate. Nonetheless, these guidelines are intended for internal use only, and any violation of these rules shall result in administrative and/or disciplinary action. They are not intended to create a higher standard of safety or care with respect to third party claims. A violation of the law shall be the basis for civil or criminal penalties.

B. Justification for Use of Non-deadly Force - Non-deadly force can be used by an officer in the performance of his/her duty:

1. When necessary to preserve the peace, prevent commission of offenses, or prevent suicide or self-inflicting injury;
2. When preventing or interrupting a crime or attempted crime against property;
3. When making lawful arrests and searches, overcoming resistance to such arrests and searches, and preventing escapes from custody; and
4. When in self-defense, or defense of another against unlawful violence to his/her person.

C. Justification for the Use of Deadly Force - Use of deadly force by an officer during his/her performance of duty is restricted to the following: (CALEA 1.3.2 5th) (GA 1.11 5th)

"Sheriffs and peace officers who are appointed or employed in conformity with Chapter 8 of Title 35 may use deadly force to apprehend a suspected felon only when the officer reasonably believes that the suspect possesses a deadly weapon or any object, device, or instrument which, when used offensively against a person, is likely to or actually does result in serious bodily injury; when the officer reasonably believes that the suspect poses an immediate threat of physical violence to the officer or others; or when there is probable cause to believe that the suspect has committed a crime involving the infliction or threatened infliction of serious physical harm." OCGA 17-4-20.

The following examples are provided to show when an officer may use deadly force:

1. When the officer reasonably believes it necessary to defend his/her own life or the life of another, or to prevent grave bodily injury to himself/herself or another and all available means of defense have failed or would be inadequate or dangerous under the circumstances.
2. When necessary to prevent the commission of forcible felonies; deadly force shall not be used towards persons who have committed or are committing traffic violations, misdemeanors, non-forcible felonies.

3. To affect the arrest of a person at the scene of a crime who is attempting to escape, but only if there is a serious threat of immediate danger to the officer or third persons, such as the use of firearms or taking of hostages.
4. When necessary to destroy a fatally wounded or sick animal. Prior to destroying any domestic animal, each officer will make every reasonable attempt to locate and receive permission from the animal's owner and/or contact Animal Control.
5. When necessary to destroy an obviously mad, vicious, or rabid animal that cannot otherwise be controlled. Again, Animal Control should be contacted first. Only when Animal Control officers are unable to respond in a reasonable amount of time should an officer destroy an obviously mad, vicious, or rabid animal.

D. Shoot to Stop the Commission of a Forcible Felony

1. Before using a firearm, officers shall identify themselves and state their intent to shoot, when feasible;
2. Officers shall fire their weapon to stop an assailant from completing a potentially deadly act as described in section C above. Officers should shoot at the largest available mass provided by the assailant as a target area for the officer, to stop the threat and to minimize danger to innocent bystanders;
3. Officers shall not fire their weapons from a moving vehicle; and
4. Facts unknown to an officer, no matter how compelling, cannot be considered in later determining whether the use of lawful force, particularly that of deadly force, was justified.

VI. FORCE OPTIONS

Force Options: Officers have several force options that will be dictated by the actions of the suspect upon the appearance of the police officer. Officers may be limited in their options due to the circumstances and actions of the subject. For example, an officer who immediately observes a subject with a firearm unjustifiably threatening another may immediately respond with deadly force without considering other force options.

Command Presence: Visual appearance of the officer where it is obvious to the subject due to the officer's uniform or identification that the officer has the authority of law.

Verbal Commands: Words spoken by the officer directing the subject as to the officer's expectations.

Soft Empty Hand Control: Officer's use of hands on the subject to direct the subject's movement; Techniques that have a low potential of injury to the subject.

Chemical Spray: Where subject(s) exhibits some level of active resistance/active aggression, officers may use chemical spray to temporarily incapacitate the subject(s) or disperse a potentially violent crowd.

Electronic Control Devices: Where subject exhibits some level of active resistance/active aggression an officer may use an electronic control device to temporarily incapacitate the subject.

Hard Hand Control: Punches and other physical strikes, including knees, kicks and elbow strikes that have the possibility of creating mental stunning and/or motor dysfunction.

Impact Weapons: Batons, Expandable Baton may be utilized in cases where the officers believe the use of these weapons would be reasonable to bring the event under control. Examples would be where other options have been utilized and failed or where based on the officer's perception at the time, the other options would not be successful in bringing the event to a successful conclusion.

Deadly Force: Force that is likely to cause serious bodily harm or death. Officers should warn the subject prior to using deadly force where feasible.

A. Discharge of Firearms Restrictions

1. Warning Shots are prohibited. (CALEA 1.3.3 5th)
2. Discharge of firearms is prohibited when the officer is presented with an unreasonable risk to innocent third parties.
3. When a moving vehicle is involved, use of deadly force by discharging a firearm is dangerous, can be ineffective, and should not occur when there is an unreasonable risk to the safety of persons other than the subject.
4. Even when deadly force is justified, firearms shall not be discharged at a vehicle unless:
 - a. The officer has a reasonable belief that an occupant of the vehicle poses an imminent threat of death or serious physical injury to the officer or another person, or;
 - b. The officer has a reasonable belief that an occupant is using the vehicle in a manner that poses an imminent threat of death or serious physical injury to the officer or another person, and there is no avenue of escape.

B. Less-Lethal Weapons/Tactics (CALEA 1.3.4 5th)

Prior to deployment of any less-lethal weapon, officers must be trained and certified in the proper use of the weapon from both the technical and legal aspects. All deployments must be consistent with departmental use of force training and policy. Officers will only carry less-lethal weapons that have been issued by the Department. No personally owned weapons will be carried unless specifically approved by the Chief of Police.

C. Chemical Spray

1. Chemical Spray shall not be deployed as a compliance technique for a person who is passively or verbally non-compliant. Active resistance/active aggression shall be required.
2. Chemical Spray shall never be used as a punitive measure.
3. Officers should never spray from a pressurized can directly in to a subject's eyes from a close distance due to the potential for eye injury as a result of the pressurized stream.

4. Officers shall consider alternatives to chemical spray when attempting to control a subject in a crowded-enclosed area due to the over-spray that may cause the onset of panic.
5. Officers may use chemical spray to disperse an unruly crowd when it is apparent violence is imminent.
6. Officers shall consider alternatives to chemical spray when the event is inside a building, particularly where the building has a closed-ventilation system due to the potential impact on innocent persons who may have to be evacuated (temporarily) from the locations.
7. Once control is gained, officers should immediately provide for the decontamination of the subject.
8. If the person shows any signs of physical distress or does not recover in a reasonable amount of time, officers should immediately direct an emergency medical response and render first-aid at the degree for which they are trained. (CALEA 1.3.5 5th)
9. Decontamination Procedures: After control has been established and/or resistance ceased, the officer will make reasonable efforts to allow the OC affected subject relief from the discomfort associated with the application. (CALEA 1.3.5 5th)
 - a. After the suspect has been brought under control, restraints applied, and the suspect no longer presents a threat to the officer or others; the officer will then render appropriate first aid to the suspect;
 - b. Arrange for professional medical attention (EMS) as soon as practical;
 - c. Keep the person calm by explaining the anticipated effects;
 - d. Allow affected person to flush eyes and affected area with water; and
 - e. Open doors and windows as soon as practical after usage inside a building or vehicle.

D. Electronic Control Devices

1. Electronic control weapons will be used in accordance with Use of Force policy, at the same level as OC Spray.
2. Electronic control weapons shall never be used as a punitive measure.
3. When possible, use of an electronic control weapon will be preceded by a verbal warning that force will be used if compliance is not obtained. If no verbal warning is issued, the officer will explain the circumstances in the incident report.
4. Any officer using an electronic control weapon will notify other officers on the scene of his/her intentions prior to deployment. In the event an officer must use an electronic control weapon without the opportunity to give verbal notice to other officers on the scene, the exigent circumstances will be explained in the incident report.

5. Only one officer on a scene will use an electronic control weapon, unless a malfunction or miss occurs, and the need for its use continues. If the subject is not controlled by the initial cycle, additional cycles may be utilized, in accordance with training. Officers should consider alternative methods, if control is not gained after several cycles. When more than one officer is present and the initial cycle is sufficient to gain control, the subject will be handcuffed under power in accordance with training. Additional cycles are prohibited under these circumstances, unless the initial attempt to handcuff under power is unsuccessful. Officers should consider alternative methods, if they are unable to handcuff under power after additional cycles.
6. Electronic control weapons will be aimed at center mass of the intended target on the back or at center mass, below the sternum and above the groin on the front. Officers will not intentionally aim at the face, neck, or groin area.
7. Electronic control weapons will cause most subjects to fall. Officers must consider the potential injury to subjects who are running, traveling at high speeds (bicycles, skateboards, etc.). Officers will not use an electronic control device on subjects in elevated places (roofs, ladders, trees, etc.) where a fall could result in serious injury unless the subject poses a threat of serious injury or death to the officer or others.
8. Officers will not use an electronic control device on subjects in or next to a body of water where a risk of drowning is present unless the subject poses a threat of serious injury or death to the officer or others.
9. The Taser may also be used in certain circumstances in a "drive stun" mode. Use of the "Drive Stun" is discouraged except in situations where the "probe" deployment is not possible and the immediate application of the "Drive Stun" will bring a subject displaying active, aggressive or aggravated aggressive resistance safely under control. Multiple "Drive Stuns" are discouraged and must be justified and articulated on the Use of Force form. If initial application is ineffective, the officer will reassess the situation and consider other available options. It is important to remember that when the device is used in this manner, it is:
 - a. Primarily a pain compliance tool due to a lack of probe spread;
 - b. Minimally effective compared to conventional cartridge-type deployments;
 - c. More likely to leave marks on the subject's skin; and
 - d. Subject to the same deployment (use) guidelines and restrictions as those of the Taser in cartridge deployments.
10. Post Deployment
 - a. Targeted subjects will be handcuffed as quickly as possible.
 - b. Officers deploying an electronic control weapon will immediately notify dispatch, request an EMS unit to be sent to the scene, and notify a supervisor, who will respond to the scene. (CALEA 1.3.5 5th)
 - c. The probes should be removed without delay after gaining control of the subject.

(1) Probes that are deeply imbedded, and/or located in the face, ear, breast, or groin will not be removed at the scene. The subject will be transported to the nearest hospital, and appropriate medical personnel will remove the probes.

(2) The probes, which are considered a biohazard, will be placed in the spent cartridge, barb side down. The cartridge will be securely taped, marked as a biohazard, and disposed of in a properly marked biohazard container.

d. The supervisor responding to the scene will:

(1) Ensure subjects are monitored for any adverse effects, and medical treatment is provided, if needed;

(2) Ensure all required photographs are taken;

(3) Document all relevant information in the supervisors' statement on the "[Hiram Police Department Use of Force Report](#)." If a subject exhibits adverse effects after an electronic control weapon has been used, and is admitted to the hospital or dies, the supervisor will take custody of the electronic control weapon, and follow reporting procedures in accordance with policy. The weapon will be secured until it is turned over to the designated investigator who will be responsible for downloading the data and testing the device to ensure proper functioning.

11. Electronic Control Weapons will not be deployed:

a. Near flammable liquids or fumes, as it could result in a fire;

b. On subjects who have been sprayed with OC Spray, or an equivalent, by another agency or private party, due to the potential of the spray containing a flammable substance;

c. At or from a moving vehicle;

d. On women who are known, or appear to be pregnant, unless exigent circumstances exist, as this could induce labor;

e. On subjects who are, or reasonably appear to be, elderly, substantially physically handicapped, or who appear to be under twelve years old;

f. On subjects holding a firearm;

g. On subjects who are handcuffed, except when they are actively assaulting someone and other methods of control prove to be ineffective; and

h. On subjects who are non-responsive, or have passed out.

i. On subjects whose arrests is based on the violation of a city ordinance.

12. Documentation to be completed

a. Incident report, which will include:

- (1) Location the probes attached to the subject, and how the probes attached (ex: left shoulder and right thigh in clothing only; chest and left ankle in the skin);
 - (2) Number of cycles utilized;
 - (3) How the suspect was handcuffed (ex: under power or complied with verbal commands); and
 - (4) Name(s) of the person(s) who removed the probes.
- b. Photographs will be taken of the following and will be placed in evidence:
- (1) The subject's hands and arms, legs, face, head and neck whether injuries are present or not;
 - (2) Wounds resulting from the probes contacting the subject and any other visible injuries;
 - (3) Spent cartridge case, and deployed probes; and
 - (4) Any visible injuries to the officer(s).
- c. Hiram Police Department Use of Force report will be completed and an investigation conducted to ensure compliance with this policy.

13. Unintentional Discharges

- a. If an unintentional discharge occurs and no one is struck, the officer will immediately contact a supervisor, and complete an incident report documenting the circumstances.
- b. If a subject is struck as a result of an unintentional discharge, the officer responsible will immediately notify a supervisor, complete an incident report, and complete a Use of Force report.

14. Impact Weapons: Expandable Baton

- a. Impact weapons may be utilized in cases where the officers believe the use of these weapons would be reasonable to bring the event under control.
- b. Examples would be where other options have been utilized and failed or were based on the officer's perception at the time, the other options would not be successful in bringing the event to a successful conclusion.
- c. Officers shall not intentionally strike a person in the head with an impact weapon unless deadly force would be justified.

VII. REPORTING CONTROL TO ACTIVE RESISTANCE

Police officers are given the authority to use force to overcome a subject's resistance to the officer's order to comply, effect arrest, defend against assault, and prohibit flight. It is incumbent that officers be held accountable to safeguard the rights of members of the public. This policy

mandates that members of the Department accurately, completely and timely report subject control of active resistance and a supervisor conducts a prompt and thorough investigation.

For each use of force, supervisors will conduct a review of the incident to ensure the amount of force was reasonable and necessary and in accordance with Department policy. Any recommendations/actions related to the use of force will then be addressed. The Hiram Police Department Use of Force reports will be completed by the officer using force prior to ending his/her tour of duty unless the officer needs additional time to obtain the required information. In such a case, the officer will notify his next in the chain of command that more time is needed.

The investigating supervisor, will conduct a complete investigation concerning the use of force to include completing the appropriate section of the Hiram Police Department Use of Force as well as detailed narrative of his/her investigation.

A. Procedures

1. A [Hiram Police Department Use of Force report](#) will be completed by each employee on a scene whenever the employee:
 - a. Discharges a firearm, for other than training or recreational purposes; (GA 1.21a 5th) (CALEA 1.3.6a 5th)
 - b. Takes an action that results in, or is alleged to have resulted in, injury or death of another person; (GA 1.21b 5th) (CALEA 1.3.6b 5th)
 - c. Applies force through the use of lethal or less-than-lethal weapons; (GA 1.21c 5th) (CALEA 1.3.6c 5th)
 - d. Utilizes weaponless physical force (other than verbal commands, officer presence or soft-empty hand control techniques) to compel compliance from a subject in conformance with the employee's official duties; (GA 1.21d 5th) (CALEA 1.3.6d 5th)
 - e. Utilizes a K-9 to overcome resistance, neutralize assault, or capture a fleeing suspect; or
 - f. These requirements apply whether on or off-duty or while employed in an off-duty or extra-duty paid detail.
2. In addition to the Hiram Police Department Use of Force report, an Incident report will be completed in detail including a narrative account of the following:
 - a. The actions of the subject that necessitated that use of force as a response to overcome the active resistance of the subject;
 - b. The reasons why force was required and the type of force utilized in overcoming the resistant subject; and
 - c. Any injuries or complaint of injuries of either the subject or the employee and any medical treatment received.

- d. A use of force report will not be required when an officer orients his/her weapon toward a subject. An incident report is required by the primary officer and a supplemental is required by all officers on scene.
3. Any officer on scene when force is used in an incident will complete a Supplemental report. This Supplemental requirement does not apply when an officer's force is for destroying an injured animal. (The officer putting the animal down will complete an incident report.)
4. The Hiram Police Department Use of Force report will be reviewed and approved by the investigating supervisor. Once the report has received approval, the approving supervisor will print the form, accompanying Incident report, Supplemental reports and any other documentation regarding the incident and create a Use of Force Case File that will contain all of the evidence gathered and to be gathered during the investigation.

The investigating supervisor will notify the chain of command that a use of force incident occurred and provide a copy of the Incident Report. The investigating supervisor will have 7 working days to complete the use of force investigation and provide the findings to the chain of command. If for some reason, more time is required, the investigating supervisor will notify the chain of command and provide an explanation as to why the delay is needed. The investigating supervisor will document this delay in his/her investigative narrative.

The report will be reviewed by each officer in the chain of command with final review and approval coming from the chief. If needed, the chief will initiate policy changes or changes in training when deficiencies of this nature were identified in the review of the use of force incident. (GA 1.22 5th) (CALEA 1.3.7 5th)

5. Shift supervisors are responsible for ensuring compliance with this procedure.

B. Procedures for Reviewing Use of Force Incidents

If a crime scene exists; or police equipment exists, which may contain forensic evidence, the supervisor or investigator assigned shall ensure that the scene and evidence is processed, photographed and preserved.

Once notified of an incident in which an officer has utilized force, the supervisor will respond to the incident location and:

1. Take photographs of the involved officer(s) and subject(s) depicting any potential injuries or documenting the lack of any injuries to the parties involved. This should include arms, legs, head, face and full body shots both front and back.
2. Interview, preferably tape-recorded, all witnesses to the incident and document their description of the event.
3. Ensure that a qualified health care provider handles any injuries or other medical condition being experienced by the involved person.
4. Review any video recording of the incident, if available.

5. Ensure all required paperwork is completed and written statements obtained.
 6. Exceptions: The following do not require the completion of a Use of Force report unless otherwise required by the above policy:
 - a. Handcuffing or escorting a compliant, cooperative subject;
 - b. Physical removal of peaceful demonstrators whom do not resist;
 - c. The use of soft, empty-hand control techniques where no injury (or complaint of injury) results; or
 - d. Destroying an obviously injured or rabid animal.
- C. Annual Use of Force Analysis - At the end of each calendar year the chief of police will complete an analysis of the year's Use of Force reports. This analysis will be completed by February 15th of each year. (GA 1.23 5th) (CALEA 1.3.13 5th)

VIII. TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS

A. General Training and Qualification Guidelines

1. Only employees that demonstrate proficiency in the use of Department-authorized weapons shall be approved to carry said weapons. At least annually, all agency personnel authorized to carry lethal weapons or electronic control devices will demonstrate proficiency with each issued or approved lethal weapon and electronic control device. (GA 1.16 5th, 1.17 5th) (CALEA 1.3.11 5th)
 - a. Proficiency training and qualifications must be conducted by a certified weapons instructor. (GA 1.16a 5th, 1.17a 5th) (CALEA 1.3.11a 5th)
 - b. All training and proficiency qualifications must be documented and maintained as a part of the department's training files. (GA 1.16b 5th, 1.17b 5th) (CALEA 1.3.11b 5th)
2. At least biennially all agency personnel authorized to carry less lethal weapons will demonstrate proficiency with all authorized less lethal weapons. (GA 1.18 5th)
 - a. Proficiency training must be conducted by a certified weapons instructor. (GA 1.18a 5th) (CALEA 1.3.11a 5th)
 - b. Proficiency training must be documented and maintained as part of the department's training files. (GA 1.18b 5th) (CALEA 1.3.11b 5th)
3. Weapons in this sense shall include all firearms (which shall therefore be governed by the [Authorized Weapons SOP](#)), chemical sprays, batons and any other weapon in accordance with general professional practice and state law.
4. Employees must attain and demonstrate knowledge of the law concerning the use of these authorized weapons as well as Department policy concerning the use of force, escalation of force and deadly force,

5. Failure to meet the minimum professionally established standards shall result in remedial training and, at the discretion of the chief, that employee may be reassigned until the qualification/remedial training portions of this chapter have been met. Employees who fail to demonstrate proficiency with any weapon will not be returned to duty with that weapon until such times as proficiency is demonstrated and documented.
 - a. Failure to meet the minimum requirements established by the Department and by State law/regulation or demonstrate proficiency with the primary duty weapon shall result in the employee's immediate removal from an enforcement role and shall result in the remedial actions outlined in [SOP 10.01 Agency Authorized Weapons](#). (GA 1.16d 5th)
 - b. Failure to meet minimum requirements or demonstrate proficiency with any electronic control device or other less-lethal force options will result in the officer's assignment to remedial training. Pending the remedial training and successful proficiency demonstration the weapon and authorization to use the weapon will be removed. Depending on the availability of instructors for the remedial training, and whether the weapon is required to be carried in his/her current assignment, the officer may be removed from field duty. The officer may be assigned to an administrative assignment or placed on administrative leave with or without pay at the discretion of the chief. (GA 1.17d 5th, GA 1.18d 5th)
 - c. The officer shall coordinate with the training coordinator for a time and day to attend remedial training. After the training coordinator is satisfied appropriate remedial training has been attended and documented, the officer will be given a second chance to demonstrate proficiency. Once proficiency is demonstrated the officer will be returned to assigned duty with the weapon.

B. The Use of Non-deadly Force or Weapons:

1. An officer is not permitted to use non-deadly force or a weapon unless qualified in its proficient use as determined by training procedures.
2. The following non-deadly weapons and methods are authorized:
 - a. Collapsible baton;
 - b. O.C. spray; and
 - c. Electronic control weapon.
3. The flashlight has no recognized training and should not be used as a non-deadly weapon unless the exigency of the situation justifies its use. Blackjacks, saps, etc., will not be carried.
4. Neck restraints or choke holds are prohibited. (GA 1.14b 5th)

C. Deadly Weapons

1. While on-duty, officers shall carry only weapons and ammunition authorized and registered with the Department.

2. The Department shall schedule regular training and qualification sessions for duty weapons and specialized weapons, which will be graded on a pass/fail or minimum score basis.
3. Officers failing to receive a passing score shall be immediately re-assigned to non-enforcement duties.
4. An officer who has taken an extended leave or suffered an illness or injury that could affect his/her firearms ability will be required to qualify before returning to enforcement duties.

IX. DEPARTMENT RESPONSE

- A. Any employee whose action(s) or use of force in an official capacity results in death or serious physical injury will be removed from line-duty assignment pending an administrative review. (GA 1.24 5th) (CALEA 1.3.8 5th)
- B. The Department will respect the rights of the federal or state government to conduct an independent investigation to identify any civil rights violations that may have occurred. The Department will not order or request any of its members who may be suspect to confer with state or federal investigators without the advice of counsel.