


PBP FORM 290  PITTSBURGH BUREAU OF POLICE <i>"...accountability, integrity and respect."</i>		SUBJECT: "CONTINUUM OF CONTROL"		ORDER NUMBER: 12-8	
		PLEAC STANDARD: 1.3.1		PAGE 1 OF 3	
RE-ISSUE DATE: 6/17/2016	EFFECTIVE DATE: 3/23/2007	ANNUAL REVIEW DATE: JUNE	RESCINDS: ALL PREVIOUS	AMENDS: ALL PREVIOUS	

1.0 POLICY OR PURPOSE

- 1.1 The City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police recognizes and respects the inherently special value of each human life. The law recognizes, however, that police officers, in the performance of their duties, will encounter situations where it is necessary to use force in order to affect an arrest, to otherwise protect the public welfare or a means of protecting themselves or others.
- 1.2 As set forth in section 3.2 of General Order #12-6, "Use of Force", an officer "shall only use that level of control which he/ she might reasonably believe is necessary to affect an arrest or to protect the officer(s) or others from physical harm."
- 1.3 In determining which control options may be "reasonable" in a given incident, an officer must consider all facts and circumstances with which he/ she is confronted at the time of the incident.

2.0 CONTINUUM OF CONTROL

- 2.1 The continuum of control illustrates the variety of "control" options that may be available to an officer when presented with a given level of subject resistance.
- 2.2 The continuum of control aids officers in determining whether a particular control option constitutes a reasonable method of control under a given set of facts and circumstances.
- 2.3 The theory of control is the "one plus one" theory. This theory provides that as a general rule, an officer may utilize a control option one level higher than the resistance demonstrated by a subject.
- 2.4 To gain control in a physical confrontation, e. g. where a particular method of control has failed or other special circumstances exist, an officer may be required to adapt, for example, by using higher or lower control options, by using multiple control options, etc., depending on changes in escalation/ de-escalation of resistance by a subject.

3.0 CONTINUUM OF CONTROL LEVELS

- 3.1 The City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police recognizes five levels of control:

3.1.1 Level 1 Officer Presence

- 3.1.1.1 The officer assumes control of the situation and/ or suspect(s) through his/ her visual and verbal identification of authority including uniform, badge, and verbalization.

3.1.2 Level 2 Verbal Direction

- 3.1.2.1 In dealing with people, each officer must make every reasonable attempt to make his/ her contact one that inspires respect and generates voluntary compliance.
- 3.1.2.2 The manner and form in which an officer speaks to an individual can be an effective means of exerting control over the situation. Verbal control may be in the form of advice, persuasion, admonitions and/ or orders.
- 3.1.2.3 This level also includes verbal commands, surrender rituals, 8 step "meet and greet", and 5 step "hard style".

3.1.3 Level 3 Restraint and Control

- 3.1.3.1 This level includes soft empty hand control techniques, hard empty hand control techniques, the use of Oleoresin Capsicum (O.C.), K-9 deployment, and use of a conducted electrical weapon such as a TASER.
- 3.1.3.1.1 *Soft Empty Hand Control Techniques*-Have a minimum probability of causing injury. This category typically involves the turning, moving, or directing of the subject's body in a specific direction.
- 3.1.3.1.2 *Hard Empty Hand Control Techniques*-Have a probability of causing injury. This category typically includes impact strikes using the officer's personal weapons (hands, feet, knees, and elbows).
- 3.1.3.1.3 Use of *Oleoresin Capsicum (O.C.)* to control a suspect.
- 3.1.3.1.4 *K-9* deployment
- 3.1.3.1.5 *Use of a CEW (Conducted Electrical Weapon), including a TASER.*

3.1.4 Level 4 Impact Devices

- 3.1.4.1 This level typically includes:
- 3.1.4.1.1 Batons-both straight and expandable
- 3.1.4.1.2 Extended range impact devices-such as less lethal munitions
- 3.1.4.1.3 Other impact devices

3.1.5 Level 5 – Deadly Force

- 3.1.5.1 This level includes force which under the circumstances/manner in which it is used, is readily capable of causing death or serious bodily injury such as a firearm.

4.0 LEVELS OF SUBJECT ACTION/RESISTANCE

- 4.1 Resistance is defined as the effort to oppose an arrest or other law enforcement action.
- 4.2 Levels of resistance or action that may be employed by a suspect include:

4.2.1 Level 1 – Body Language/Psychological Resistance

- 4.2.1.1 This level includes non-verbal cues indicating the subject's attitude, demeanor and physical readiness.

4.2.2 Level 2 –Verbal Non-Compliance

- 4.2.2.1 This level includes verbal responses, defiant or threatening responses that show an unwillingness to actively cooperate/submit to lawful authority or verbal direction, but no active attempts are made to harm or resist the officer's control.

4.2.3 Level 3 –Passive Resistance

- 4.2.3.1 This level includes low level physical non-compliance and some form of physical maneuver may be required in order to escort the individual from one location to another.

4.2.4 Level 4 – Defensive Resistance

- 4.2.4.1 This level includes physical, affirmative actions, which attempt to prevent an officer's control but never attempts to harm the officer. Use of dead weight, grasping of objects, moving away from the officer, flight or hiding to evade capture are all examples of defensive resistance.

4.2.5 Level 5 –Active Aggression

4.2.5.1 This level includes physical attempts to cause bodily harm to the officer or another.

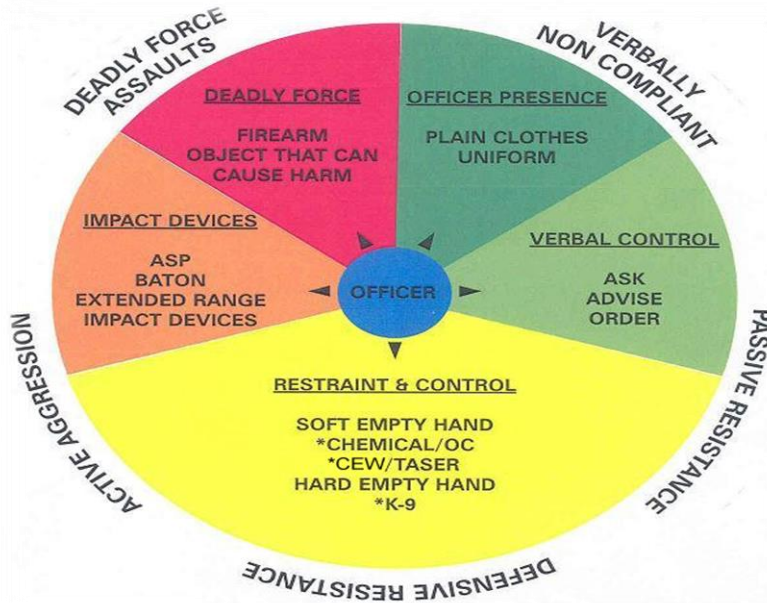
4.2.6 Level 6 – Deadly Force

4.2.6.1 This level includes resistance likely to cause serious bodily injury or death to the officer or another.

5.0 FACTORS EFFECTING CONTINUUM OF CONTROL

5.1 As a general rule the continuum of control applies to all control situations. However, situations may vary depending on the totality of circumstances which may include but not be limited to the following factors:

- 5.1.1 Officer – Subject Factors include but are not limited to age, sex, size, skill level, multiple officers or subjects.
- 5.1.2 Special Circumstances include but are not limited to close proximity to a firearm or other weapon, special knowledge / ability, disability or exhaustion, ground disadvantage, imminent danger, lighting conditions, and weather conditions.
- 5.1.3 Weapons of Last Resort - The Bureau recognizes that in some extreme circumstances, where the safety or survival of the officer is in jeopardy, the situation may dictate utilizing other implements as weapons. Use of such weapons should be viewed as weapons of last resort.



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ACTING CHIEF

