

Event 2 – Force Options - ARCON
Session 32 – Tactical De-escalation Techniques
LD 20 – Use of Force

Date Revised: 11/12/19

Event Goal: To teach recruit officers when and how to use objectively reasonable force.

Session Goal: To teach recruit officers how to use tactical de-escalation techniques to reduce the intensity of an encounter with a suspect.

Learning Objective:

- Students will understand how the principles of de-escalation can enhance contacts with the public and may result in improved decision-making, reduction in situational intensity, and opportunities for outcomes with greater voluntary compliance **[20.II]**
- Students will discuss tactical de-escalation techniques to reduce the intensity of an encounter with a suspect and mitigate the need for a higher level of force **[20.II.A.1][20.II.D]**
- Students will recognize the importance of effective communication and scene assessment and management as core concepts of de-escalation **[20.II.B.2-3] [20.II.E]**.
- Students will understand the components of a Critical Decision-making Model to include:
 - Collect information **[20.II.C.1]**
 - Assess situation, threats, and risks **[20.II.C.2]**
 - Law and policy **[20.II.C.3]**
 - Plan **[20.II.C.4]**
 - Act, review, and reassess **[20.II.C.5]**
- The student will demonstrate an understanding of how our Department's guiding value of Reverence for Human Life is the moral and ethical foundation of de-escalation, tactics, reasonable force, and officer safety.
- By the conclusion of the training, students will understand how the application of this training is in keeping with our Department's UOF policy, philosophy and tactical planning.

Session Time: 2 hours

Resources needed:

- Classroom w/tables
- Projector with cables and video capability
- De-escalation Directive No. 16 (1 per student)
- Internet connection for video case studies

Session Summary: The instructor will pass out the LAPD de-escalation directive and lead a facilitated discussion about the various elements in the directive. The instructor will lead a facilitated discussion about reverence for human life and de-escalations techniques, which will include several video case studies.

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Outline	Instructor Notes
<p>I. De-escalation techniques</p> <p>A. Reverence for human life [1]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Guiding principle in any use of force situation 2. It is both moral and ethical to place the highest value on human life 3. Not policy, but a philosophy for how to approach police work 4. Consistent with the department’s mission, vision, and values [20.II.C.3] 5. Helps build public trust 6. Using tactical de-escalation techniques and reasonable force demonstrates this principle <p>B. Tactical de-escalation policy change – special order No 5 – April 2017 [2]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Officers shall attempt to control an incident 2. By using time, distance, communications, and available resources [20.II.A.1] 3. To de-escalate the situation 4. Whenever it is safe and reasonable to do so <p>C. Definition of tactical de-escalation [3]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The use of techniques 2. To reduce the intensity of an encounter with a suspect 3. And enable an officer to have additional options 4. To gain voluntary compliance 5. Or mitigate the need to use a higher level of force 6. While maintaining control of the situation <p>D. Officer safety considerations [4]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tactical de-escalation does not require that an officer compromise his or her safety 2. Nor increase the risk of physical harm to the public 3. De-escalation techniques should only be used when it is safe and prudent to do so 4. In many incidents, using force may be the best way to reduce the intensity of the encounter <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Officers should not be hesitant to use force when reasonable if they reasonably believe that it would mitigate the need for a higher level of force b. When the use of deadly force is justified and reasonable, officers should not hesitate to protect themselves or others 	<p>Facilitated discussion (1 hour):</p> <p>[1] Ask – How can using tactical de-escalation techniques demonstrate a reverence for human life?</p> <p>[2] Ask – What is the department policy on attempting to de-escalate prior to using force?</p> <p>Handout – De-escalation Directive No. 16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask – What stands out to you in the department’s directive? • Ask – Does this directive help or hinder your job as a police officer and why? • Ask – Do you think officers have changed anything in the way they police since the implementation of this directive? Why or why not? <p>[3] Ask – What do you think the term tactical de-escalation means?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are you familiar with these techniques? • In what situations, do you think de-escalation would be helpful? <p>[4] Ask – What are some of the officer safety issues that you should consider when implementing tactical de-escalation techniques?</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Officers who fail to use force when warranted may endanger themselves, the community, and fellow officers E. Using force does not equate to a failure of tactical de-escalation techniques [5] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In many circumstances, using decisive force quickly is the most effective technique to reduce the intensity of the encounter and mitigate the need for a higher level of force [6] 2. De-escalation means using good tactics, but the suspect’s mindset and subsequent behavior will determine if voluntary compliance can be gained [7] 3. In many circumstances, successful use of de-escalation techniques will still result in a use of force 4. The use and success of tactical de-escalation techniques should be judged from the perspective of all parties involved, not just the suspect’s <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Victims or potential future victims b. Officers c. Community members/bystanders 5. Even the perfect “textbook” application of tactical de-escalation techniques may result in a use of force and injury to the suspect due to <i>their</i> behavior [8] F. Purpose of de-escalation [9] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overall objective of any tactical situation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Safely gain control b. Resolve the situation 2. Reverence for human life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Public b. Suspects c. Victims d. Officers 3. Increases the likelihood of safely and successfully resolving a situation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. If voluntary compliance is attained, safety for all parties’ increases b. Can increase the amount of time the officer has, to make good decisions 4. Managed response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use technique and tactics to reduce conflict [20.II.D] b. Or avoid the escalation of a conflict 	<p>[5] Ask – Does using force mean that tactical de-escalation techniques failed?</p> <p>[6] Ask – Can officers use decisive force to reduce the intensity of the encounter and mitigate the need for a higher level of force? Explain. Seeking: Yes, sometimes the best way to de-escalate is to use decisive force quickly.</p> <p>[7] Ask – What factor best determines if decisive force can be gained? Seeking: The suspect’s behavior</p> <p>[8] Ask – What are some examples of how the suspect’s behavior may determine the result of an incident, even when officers perfectly apply tactical de-escalation techniques?</p> <p>[9] Ask – What is the purpose of de-escalation?</p>
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<p>c. Includes the transition from one force option to a lower level force option, thereby reducing the intensity of the encounter</p> <p>5. Build public trust</p> <p>G. Elements of de-escalation [10-14]</p> <p>1. Planning [20.II.C.4]</p> <p>a. Arrive with a coordinated approach</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Based upon initial information 2) Pre-existing knowledge of the suspect or involved parties <p>b. Tactical plans must be flexible</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Adapt as information becomes known [20.II.C.1][20.II.C.2][20.II.C.5] 2) Coordinate with other officers <p>c. Contact and cover [20.II.B.2]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Contact officer responsibilities <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Make physical or verbal contact with the suspect <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Distance from the suspect <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Use as much distance as is reasonable based on the location and totality of the circumstances (b) Use patterns of movement to stay in a safe range (c) Increase the distance to create time if the suspect is high risk or is suspected of carrying weapons (2) Verbalize with the suspect <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Ask questions (b) Give commands <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i Use command presence ii Clear, firm voice iii Loud and confident, but not yelling (c) Obtain information b) Communicate with your partner <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Notify your partner of possible weapons or other contraband 	<p>➤ Note – There are five videos linked below. The instructor may use as many or as few as needed to cover the content.</p> <p>[10] Show video case study – Police Deal with Belligerent Man</p> <p>https://youtu.be/0-WQsNOQQF4</p> <p>Debrief questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What elements of de-escalation did you observe in this video? • What did the officers do well? • What could they improve? • What techniques did they use to reduce the intensity of the incident? • Why were these strategies successful or unsuccessful? • With hindsight being 20/20, what other strategies do you think you could have attempted to de-escalate this scenario? • Why would we try to reduce the intensity of an incident like this one? • What role does the suspect’s behavior play in our ability to de-escalate? • Did the suspect display any pre-fight indicators? What were they? • What plan did the officers make? • Who was contact and who was cover? Did they stay in these roles? Why or why not? • When is it unsafe to attempt de-escalation? • What would you have done differently if you were in their shoes? • What are some of the reasons you think that officers might be reluctant to de-escalate?
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<p>(2) If you move a suspect or ask them to move, tell your partner first</p> <p>2) Cover officer responsibilities</p> <p>a) Security and awareness</p> <p>(1) Maintain constant observation of the overall situation</p> <p>(2) Be aware of potential dangers</p> <p>(3) Protect the searching officer from possible interference by onlookers or associates of the subject</p> <p>b) Assist the contact officer</p> <p>(1) Restrain the suspect if necessary</p> <p>(2) Take possession of any found weapons or contraband</p> <p>c) Radio broadcasts</p> <p>3) Multiple suspect responsibilities</p> <p>a) Contact officer</p> <p>(1) Order all suspects to a position of disadvantage</p> <p>(2) Move suspects back one at a time away from the other suspects</p> <p>(3) Search suspects one at a time</p> <p>b) Cover officer</p> <p>(1) Radio broadcasting</p> <p>(2) Request additional units if needed</p> <p>(3) Keep eyes on the additional suspects</p> <p>2. Assessment [20.II.B.3]</p> <p>a. Continuously reassess as new information is received [20.II.C.5]</p> <p>b. The situation may change at any time</p> <p>c. Adjust your plan as necessary based on your assessment</p> <p>d. Assess the suspect’s behavior</p> <p>1) Visual search</p> <p>a) Not a search in the legal sense of the term</p> <p>b) Does not require reasonable suspicion or probable cause</p>	<p>[11] Show video case study – Traffic Stop Non-example https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DbBfaWzMHAQ Note: Use of Force occurs at 4:00 in video</p> <p>Debrief questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What elements of de-escalation did you observe in this video? • What did the officers do well? • What could they improve? • What techniques did they use to reduce the intensity of the incident? • Why were these strategies successful or unsuccessful? • With hindsight being 20/20, what other strategies do you think you could have attempted to de-escalate this scenario? • Why would we try to reduce the intensity of an incident like this one? • What role does the suspect’s behavior play in our ability to de-escalate? • Did the suspect display any pre-fight indicators? What were they? • What plan did the officers make? • Who was contact and who was cover? Did they stay in these roles? Why or why not? • When is it unsafe to attempt de-escalation? • What would you have done differently if you were in their shoes? • What are some of the reasons you think that officers might be reluctant to de-escalate?
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) Part of an officer’s general awareness d) Areas to be aware of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The suspect’s clothing (2) The location of the subject’s hands (3) The proximity of the subject’s obvious or potential weapons (4) Any additional subjects (5) Failing to comply with orders 2) Pre-fight indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Discernable pre-fight indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Closing the distance (2) Clenched fists (3) Tightened jaw/clenched teeth (4) Use of expletives b) Subtle pre-fight indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The adrenaline effect (2) Erratic head turning (3) Avoiding eye contact (4) Single words/verbal compression (5) Blading their stance (6) Unwarranted smile (7) Eye widening (8) Splaying of arms (9) Dropping of chin (10)The pause e. Attempt to assess the motive for the lack of compliance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Is it a deliberate attempt to resist? 2) Is the suspect attempting to escape? 3) Is it an inability to comply due to present conditions? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Environmental b) Physical c) Cognitive d) Other conditions that could limit the suspect’s ability f. Assess the location <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Awareness, observation, and judgement are key factors to a thorough assessment of the scene 2) Environmental hazards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Vehicular or pedestrian traffic b) Makeshift weapons nearby 	<p>[12] Show video case study – Police Break Window with Kids Inside Car http://www.dailymail.co.uk/video/news/video-1125543/Too-far-Police-break-car-window-taser-passenger.html)</p> <p>Debrief questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What elements of de-escalation did you observe in this video? • What did the officers do well? • What could they improve? • What techniques did they use to reduce the intensity of the incident? • Why were these strategies successful or unsuccessful? • With hindsight being 20/20, what other strategies do you think you could have attempted to de-escalate this scenario? • Why would we try to reduce the intensity of an incident like this one? • What role does the suspect’s behavior play in our ability to de-escalate? • Did the suspect display any pre-fight indicators? What were they? • What plan did the officers make? • Who was contact and who was cover? Did they stay in these roles? Why or why not? • When is it unsafe to attempt de-escalation? • What would you have done differently if you were in their shoes?
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) Falling dangers d) Poor lighting 3) Accessibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ingress b) Egress 4) Pets 5) Available cover and concealment 6) Lookouts 7) Escape routes g. Assess victim/s and/or witnesses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Evaluate their behavior 2) Listen to what they say 3) Do not assume you know the story just because of the type of radio call 4) Look for visible injuries or obvious signs of violence 5) Observe the behavior of bystanders, especially in public <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Running b) Screaming c) Or do they seem unconcerned h. Assess your resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What do you have 2) What do you need 3) Adjust your plan accordingly 3. Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Essential element of de-escalation b. Allows officers the opportunity to communicate with the suspect c. Allows officers the opportunity to refine tactical plans d. Allows officers the opportunity to call for additional resources e. Provides an opportunity for the suspect to reconsider his actions and decisions f. Distance plus cover equals time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Distance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Use as much distance as is reasonable based on the totality of the circumstances <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Type of radio call (2) Every location presents different available distance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Sidewalk (b) Parking lot (c) Backyard (d) Studio apartment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are some of the reasons you think that officers might be reluctant to de-escalate? <p>[13] Show video case study – Calm Maine State Trooper https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GXY2filmfr7Y</p> <p>Debrief questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What elements of de-escalation did you observe in this video? • What did the officers do well? • What could they improve? • What techniques did they use to reduce the intensity of the incident? • Why were these strategies successful or unsuccessful? • With hindsight being 20/20, what other strategies do you think you could have attempted to de-escalate this scenario? • Why would we try to reduce the intensity of an incident like this one? • What role does the suspect’s behavior play in our ability to de-escalate? • Did the suspect display any pre-fight indicators? What were they? • What plan did the officers make? • Who was contact and who was cover? Did they stay in these roles? Why or why not? • When is it unsafe to attempt de-escalation?
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (3) Weapons involved (4) Suspect actions (5) Witness or victim statements b) Something to be aware of, but not always feasible c) When initiating contact, the availability of distance should be a consideration in when and where to contact the suspect d) If a suspect’s behavior escalates, it may be necessary to create more distance <p>2) Cover</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Cover refers to a physical barrier that could stop a bullet b) Allows officers to increase their personal safety c) Concealment is not necessarily cover <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Keeps the officer out of sight (2) But still vulnerable to a bullet (3) May still be effective as a tactical strategy and a component of de-escalation <p>3) Distance management strategies during a physical altercation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Whoever controls the distance controls the damage b) Creating distance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Use proper stances and patterns of movement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Do not turn your back on the suspect (b) Do not cross your feet (c) Maintain base and balance whenever possible (2) Stay outside of the effective striking range of the suspect <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Double arm distance minimum (b) More distance is desirable, if feasible (3) Utilize a force option to create the necessary distance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Strikes and kicks (b) Impact weapons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What would you have done differently if you were in their shoes? • What are some of the reasons you think that officers might be reluctant to de-escalate? <p>[14] Show video case study – Patience with Drunk Man https://youtu.be/Om6L_q4oe74</p> <p>Debrief questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are your initial thoughts and impressions of this incident? • Do you like how the officer responded? Why or why not? • Were his actions reasonable? Why or why not? • What do you think he did well? • What could he have done better? • Do you think he used use good tactics? Why or why not? • Do you think he was safe? Why or why not? • What can you discern about this officer’s ego based on this encounter? • Why do you think he was so confident? • If the suspect had attacked him and hurt him would we be critiquing this incident any differently? • Is it dangerous for us to teach officers this type of behavior? Why or why not? • What do we mean when we say that we want you to be competent and confident? • Based on what you see in the video, do you think this officer is competent to defend himself and others if the need arises? Why or why not?
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<p>(c) Push off and use patterns of movement</p> <p>c) Closing distance</p> <p>(1) Based on the suspect's actions and behavior</p> <p>(2) It may not be possible to create distance</p> <p>(3) Should be used when the suspect's actions place officers within their effective striking range</p> <p>(4) When creating distance is not feasible</p> <p>(a) Based on the environment</p> <p>(b) The nature of the initial contact</p> <p>(c) The number of suspects</p> <p>(d) Size, stature, and speed of the suspect</p> <p>(e) Type of aggression the suspect uses</p> <p>(5) Examples of closing the distance</p> <p>(a) Clinch control when a suspect attacks with punches</p> <p>(b) Sprawl and take the back when a suspect attempts to tackle an officer</p> <p>(c) Body lock control from various positions on the bottom of a ground fight</p> <p>(d) Team takedown of an unarmed, combative suspect</p> <p>(e) Overtaking and catching a fleeing suspect</p> <p>4. Redeployment and or containment</p> <p>a. Can afford officers the added benefit of time and distance</p> <p>1) Reassess</p> <p>2) Communicate</p> <p>3) Request additional resources</p> <p>4) Deploy other tactics</p> <p>b. May reduce the likelihood of injury to both the public and officers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What actions make you feel that he was confident and competent? • Why is it so important to have both confidence and competence? • What are the dangers of confidence without competence? • How can becoming competent help your confidence?
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<ul style="list-style-type: none">c. May mitigate any potential ongoing threatsd. Redeployment should not enable a subject to gain a tactical advantage, arm himself/herself, or flee and pose a greater danger to the public or officers5. Other resources<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Added personnel<ul style="list-style-type: none">1) Additional unit request2) Backup3) Help call4) Air unit5) Supervisor requestb. Tools<ul style="list-style-type: none">1) Beanbag shotgun2) Taser3) Breaching tools4) Patrol rifle5) Slug shotgun6. Lines of communication [20.II.E]<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Every situation is fluid and unique and requires ongoing communicationb. Radio communication<ul style="list-style-type: none">1) Request initial information from RTO [20.II.C.1]2) Request additional resources if necessary3) Go code 64) Request for additional units, backup, help, or a supervisor5) Using a tac channel to disseminate plans or communicate with other officers on scene is an optionc. Officer to officer communication<ul style="list-style-type: none">1) Form tactical plans2) Disseminate information3) Keeps officers well organized, professional, and working as a team<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) May influence suspect not to fleeb) May influence suspect not to fight4) May slow down the incident, creating time to plan5) Responding with a coordinated approach is not possible without good officer to officer communication	
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<ul style="list-style-type: none">6) This also includes communicating with the supervisor on scene and the incident commander, if one is designatedd. Subject/suspect communication<ul style="list-style-type: none">1) Active listening2) Verbal warnings3) Persuasion4) Defusing5) Empathy6) Redirecting7) Advisements8) Building rapport9) Asking open ended questions10) Giving clear and direct orderse. Victim/witness communication<ul style="list-style-type: none">1) Can provide accurate and up to the minute information2) Use the same communication skills as when talking to a suspect3) Do not assume they will tell you everything4) You get more information when you build a rapport and demonstrate empathy5) “Just the facts, ma’am” is not the best approach6) Sometimes witnesses may be part of the problem and officer’s may need to use communication skills to control the situationH. De-escalation is not always a viable option [15]<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Tactical situations vary greatly2. There is no single solution to resolving every incident3. There are situations that cannot be de-escalated, however, using force does not automatically signify that the situation was not de-escalated<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Some situations require an immediate response<ul style="list-style-type: none">1) Using force does not mean that tactical de-escalations have failed or were not used2) In many circumstances, using decisive force quickly is the most effective technique to reduce the	<p>[15] Repeat: Using force does not mean that tactical de-escalations have failed or were not used. In many circumstances, using decisive force quickly is the most effective technique to reduce the intensity of the encounter and mitigate the need for a higher level of force.</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">intensity of the encounter and mitigate the need for a higher level of force.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">b. De-escalation techniques may not be viable or effective <p>4. The safety of all parties involved is of the highest priority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Officers should never sacrifice their safetyb. The suspect's actions and other environmental factors must be considered when utilizing de-escalation strategiesc. De-escalation strategies should guide officers' actions when those strategies will increase the officers' safety <p>I. Reasons why officers may be reluctant to de-escalate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Ego<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Peer pressure to prove yourselfb. Feeling of needing to show toughnessc. Shows weakness to de-escalated. Desire to test your abilities2. Past police culture<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Suspects who run get beatb. Street justicec. Bias towards using force3. Physiological responses<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Adrenaline rushb. Overwhelmed emotionally by the intensity of the situationc. Lack of managed, mature, competent critical thinkingd. Tunnel vision4. Fear<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. That not using force may result in injury to officersb. Of condemnation from co-workers if you choose not to use forcec. Of losing a tactical advantage by allowing timed. Of being ridiculed for not using force	
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