



# CBP Use of Force Policy

Law Enforcement Safety and Compliance Directorate  
Operations Support  
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U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection

## FOREWORD FROM THE COMMISSIONER

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is entrusted with the critical responsibility of protecting our nation's borders. This mandate carries with it the authority to use force up to and including the use of deadly force. The following policy provides guidance and parameters under which force may be used. It also provides the levels of oversight when force is used, and the ongoing training and demonstration of decision-making and skill surrounding the use of force.

A respect for human life and the safety of the communities we serve, as well as CBP's officers and agents, is paramount and shall guide all employees in the performance of their duties. In all instances, covered in this policy or not, Authorized Officers/Agents shall only use objectively reasonable and necessary force to effectively bring an incident under control, while minimizing the risk of injury for all involved parties.

The use of excessive force by CBP law enforcement personnel is strictly prohibited.

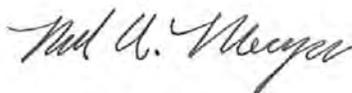
As CBP employees, this *Policy*, in conjunction with the *Administrative Guidelines and Procedures Handbook*, serves as your authoritative reference for firearms procedures and use of force related issues. By conforming to standard use of force policies, procedures, training, and equipment, Authorized Officers/Agents can more effectively protect themselves and the public they serve.

This *Policy* establishes the minimum CBP policy standards regarding the use of force. CBP offices may establish additional policy guidance where they deem necessary, in accordance with the minimum standards articulated in this *Policy*.

CBP adheres to the *DHS Policy on the Use of Force* and the *Department of Homeland Security Commitment to Nondiscriminatory Law Enforcement and Screening Activities* policy statement.

Violation of the *CBP Use of Force Policy* may constitute grounds for disciplinary action.

This document sets forth policy and training guidance for CBP employees, while meeting the requirements of the *DHS Policy on the Use of Force*, and does not create or confer any right, privilege, or benefit for any person, party or entity. United States v. Caceres, 440 U.S. 741 (1979).



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This *Policy* is consistent with the *DHS Policy on the Use of Force*, and supersedes the *U.S. Customs and Border Protection Use of Force Policy, Guidelines and Procedures Handbook* (HB 4500-01C) dated May 2014, and any prior CBP policy or directive to the extent that it is inconsistent with the content of this *Policy*.

## Chapter 1: General Guidelines

### A. Use of Force By Authorized Officers/Agents

1. A respect for human life and the safety of the communities we serve, as well as CBP's officers and agents, is paramount and shall guide all employees in the performance of their duties.
2. Among other duties, CBP has the responsibility to deter, prevent, detect, respond to, and interdict the unlawful movement or illegal entry of terrorists, drug smugglers and traffickers, human smugglers and traffickers, aliens, and other persons who may undermine the security of the United States.<sup>1</sup>
3. CBP policy on the use of force by Authorized Officers/Agents is derived from constitutional law, as interpreted by federal courts in cases such as Graham v. Connor, 490 U.S. 386 (1989) and Tennessee v. Garner, 471 U.S. 1 (1985), federal statutes and applicable DHS and CBP policies.
4. Authorized Officers/Agents may use "objectively reasonable" force only when it is necessary to carry out their law enforcement duties.
5. The "reasonableness" of a particular use of force is based on the totality of circumstances known by the officer/agent at the time of the use of force, and weighs the actions of the officer/agent against the rights of the subject, in light of the circumstances surrounding the event.<sup>2</sup> Reasonableness will be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer/agent on the scene rather than with the 20/20 vision of hindsight.
6. The calculus of reasonableness embodies an allowance for the fact that law enforcement officers/agents are often forced to make split-second decisions - in circumstances that are tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving - about the amount of force that is necessary in a particular situation.
7. A use of force is "necessary" when it is reasonably required to carry out the Authorized Officer's/Agent's law enforcement duties in a given situation, considering the totality of facts and circumstances of such particular situation.

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<sup>1</sup> 6 U.S.C. §211; 8 U.S.C. § 1357 (INA § 287).

<sup>2</sup> The Supreme Court has further determined that a Fourth Amendment "seizure" of a person occurs when an officer, "by means of physical force or show of authority, terminates or restrains his freedom of movement *through means intentionally applied* (emphasis in original)." Brendlin v. California, 551 U.S. 249, 254 (2007)(citations omitted).

A use of deadly force is “necessary” when the officer/agent has a reasonable belief that the subject of such force poses an imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury to the officer/agent or to another person.

8. An Authorized Officer/Agent may have to rapidly escalate or de-escalate through use of force options, depending on the totality of facts and circumstances of the particular situation. Once used, physical force<sup>3</sup> must be discontinued when resistance ceases or when the incident is under control.
9. Based on the totality of circumstances, different officers/agents may have different responses to the same situation, any of which may be both reasonable and necessary.
  - a. CBP Authorized Officers/Agents are permitted to use force that is objectively reasonable and necessary in light of the totality of the circumstances. This standard does not require Officers/Agents to meet force with equal or lesser force.
  - b. CBP Authorized Officers/Agents do not have a duty to retreat to avoid the reasonable use of force, nor are they required to wait for an attack before using reasonable force to stop a threat.
10. When feasible, prior to the application of force, an Authorized Officer/Agent must attempt to identify him- or herself and issue a verbal warning to comply with the officer/agent’s instructions. In determining whether a warning is feasible under the circumstances, an officer/agent may be guided by a variety of considerations including, but not limited to, where the resulting delay by issuing the warning is likely to:
  - a. Increase the danger to the officer/agent or others, including any victims and or bystanders;
  - b. Result in the destruction of evidence;
  - c. Allow for a subject’s escape; or
  - d. Result in the commission of a crime.

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<sup>3</sup> Department of Homeland Security, *Department Policy on the Use of Force*, Policy Statement #044-05 (2018) FN 5. “Other than the force reasonably required to properly restrain a subject and safely move him or her from point to point. That is, once a subject is secured with restraints, a LEO may maintain physical control of the subject via the use of a ‘come along or other control techniques’ to safely and securely conclude the incident.”

In the event that an officer/agent issues such a warning<sup>4</sup>, where feasible, the officer/agent should afford the subject a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply before applying force.

11. Following any incident involving the use of force, Authorized Officers/Agents shall seek medical assistance for any person who appears, or claims to be injured, or as otherwise required by subsections of this policy.

## B. Objectively Reasonable and the Totality of Circumstances

1. The reasonableness inquiry for an application of force is an objective one: the question is whether the officer's/agent's actions are objectively reasonable in light of the totality of facts and circumstances confronting him or her, without regard to underlying intent or motivation.
2. In determining whether a use of force is "objectively reasonable," an Authorized Officer/Agent must give careful attention to the totality of facts and circumstances of each particular case, including:
  - a. Whether the subject poses an imminent threat to the safety of the officer/agent or others;
  - b. The severity of the crime at issue;
  - c. Whether the subject is actively resisting seizure or attempting to evade arrest by flight;
  - d. Whether the circumstances are tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving; and
  - e. The foreseeable risk of injury to involved subjects and others.
3. "Totality of circumstances" refers to all factors existing in each individual case. In addition to those listed in Subsection B.2 above, these factors may include (but are not limited to):
  - a. The training, age, physical build, and strength of the officer/agent(s);
  - b. The training, mental attitude, age, physical build, and strength of the subject(s);
  - c. Disproportionate number of subjects present;

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<sup>4</sup> Officers/agents should have a reasonable basis to believe that the subject can comprehend the warning.

- d. Subject's demonstrated propensity for violence;
- e. Statements of intent from subject(s);
- f. Weapon(s) involved; present, or in proximity;
- g. Prior intelligence;
- h. National security;
- i. The presence of other officers/agents, subjects, vehicle passengers, or bystanders;
- j. Subject vehicle speed and type; and
- k. Environmental conditions and/or road conditions.

#### C. Use of Safe Tactics

1. Authorized Officers/Agents should seek to employ tactics and techniques that effectively bring an incident under control while promoting the safety of the officer/agent and the public, and that minimize the risk of unintended injury or serious property damage.
2. Except where otherwise required by inspections or other operations, Authorized Officers/Agents should avoid standing directly in front of or behind a subject vehicle. Officers/agents should not place themselves in the path of a moving vehicle or use their body to block a vehicle's path.
3. Authorized Officers/Agents should avoid intentionally and unreasonably placing themselves in positions in which they have no alternative to using deadly force.
4. Authorized Officers/Agents shall not discharge their firearms in response to thrown or launched projectiles unless the officer/agent has a reasonable belief, based on the totality of circumstances, that the subject of such force poses an imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death to the officer/agent or to another person. Officers/agents may be able to obtain a tactical advantage in these situations through measures such as seeking cover or distancing themselves from the immediate area of danger. Officers/agents do not have a duty to retreat to avoid the reasonable use of force, nor are they required to wait for an attack before using reasonable force to stop a threat.

#### D. De-Escalation

1. De-escalation tactics and techniques seek to minimize the likelihood of the need to use force, or minimize force used during an incident, to increase the probability of voluntary compliance.

2. Authorized Officers/Agents shall employ de-escalation tactics and techniques, when safe and feasible, that do not compromise law enforcement priorities.

#### E. Emergency Situations<sup>5</sup>

1. An emergency situation is an unplanned event or exigent circumstance that occurs with no advanced warning, rapidly evolves, and which requires a reactive response to address an imminent threat.

In such threatening and emergent situations, Authorized Officers/Agents are authorized to use any available weapon, device, or technique in a manner that is reasonable and necessary for self-defense or the defense of another person.

#### F. Duty to Intervene In and Report Improper Use of Force

1. CBP is committed to carrying out its mission with honor and integrity, and to fostering a culture of transparency and accountability. As such, this *Policy* ensures that CBP law enforcement personnel fully understand and adhere to the following:

The use of excessive force is unlawful and will not be tolerated. Those who engage in such misconduct, and those who fail to report such misconduct, will be subject to all applicable administrative and criminal penalties.

2. CBP law enforcement personnel have a duty to intervene to prevent or stop a perceived use of excessive force by another officer/agent - except when doing so would place the observing/responding officer/agent in articulable, reasonable fear of death or serious bodily injury.
3. Any CBP employee with knowledge of the improper use of force by law enforcement personnel shall, without unreasonable delay, report it to his or her chain of command and/or the Office of Professional Responsibility.
4. Failure to intervene in and/or report such violations is, itself, misconduct that may result in disciplinary action, with potential consequences including removal from federal service, civil liability, and/or criminal prosecution.

#### G. Procurement, Instruction, and Devices

1. The Executive Director of the LESC is responsible for the approval of firearms and less-lethal device Instructor Guide Books, training materials, and certification standards.

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<sup>5</sup> See [Appendix V](#): Use of Force Policy Clarification - Emergency Situations.

2. Firearms and less-lethal devices, systems, and associated equipment shall only be purchased through contracts and procedures established or approved by the LESC. Additional information regarding the procurement of less-lethal devices and equipment may be found on the CBP Authorized Equipment List.
3. The LESC shall be responsible for the periodic review of the usage of firearms and less-lethal devices, systems, and associated equipment, in order to evaluate compliance with policy, as well as to assess their overall safety and effectiveness.

#### H. DHS Commitment to Nondiscriminatory Law Enforcement and Screening Activities

1. The DHS *Commitment to Nondiscriminatory Law Enforcement and Screening Activities* policy statement ([Appendix II](#)) is applicable to all situations in which officers/agents exercise their use of force authority.

## Chapter 2: Use of Deadly Force

### A. General Guidelines and Responsibilities

1. Deadly force is force likely to cause serious bodily injury or death of a person.
2. Authorized Officers/Agents may use deadly force only when necessary; that is, when the officer/agent has a reasonable belief that the subject of such force poses an imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death to the officer/agent or to another person.
  - a. Serious Bodily Injury - Physical injury that involves protracted and obvious disfigurement; protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty; or a substantial risk of death.
3. Discharging a firearm at a person shall be done only with the intent of stopping that person from continuing the threatening behavior that justifies the use of deadly force.
4. Discharging a firearm as a warning is prohibited except for the limited circumstances described in [Chapter 3.C](#).
5. Discharging a firearm as a distress signal is permitted in emergency situations.<sup>6</sup>
6. Deadly force shall not be used solely to prevent the escape of a fleeing subject. However, deadly force is authorized to prevent the escape of a fleeing subject where the officer/agent has a reasonable belief that the subject poses a significant threat of death or serious physical harm to the officer/agent or others and such force is necessary to prevent escape.<sup>7</sup>
7. Authorized Officers/Agents shall not discharge their firearms at the operator of a moving vehicle, vessel, or aircraft unless deadly force is necessary, that is, when the officer/agent has a reasonable belief that the operator poses an imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death to the officer/agent or to another person.

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<sup>6</sup> An unplanned event or exigent circumstance that occurs with no advanced warning, rapidly evolves, and which requires a reactive response to address an imminent threat. [See Appendix IV Use of Force Policy Clarification – Emergency Situations](#).

<sup>7</sup> See [Tennessee v. Garner](#), 471 U.S. 1, 11-12 (1985). To further illustrate a “threat of serious physical harm,” the Garner Court explained: “if the suspect threatens the officer with a weapon or there is probable cause to believe that he has committed a crime involving the infliction or threatened infliction of serious physical harm, deadly force may be used if necessary to prevent escape, and if, where feasible, some warning has been given.” The Court has further explained that this “necessity” refers not to preventing the flight, itself, but rather the larger context: the need to prevent the suspect’s potential or further serious physical harm to the LEO or other persons.

- a. Such deadly force may include a moving vehicle aimed at officers/agents or others present, but would not include a moving vehicle merely fleeing from officers/agents unless the vehicle or the escape of the subject poses an imminent threat of serious bodily injury or death to the officer/agent or to another person.
  - b. The hazard of an uncontrolled conveyance shall be taken into consideration prior to the use of deadly force.
8. Firearms shall not be fired solely to disable motor vehicles, vessels, aircraft, or other conveyances. The only exception is that Authorized Officers/Agents, when conducting maritime law enforcement operations, may use specifically authorized firearms and ammunition to disable moving vessels or other maritime conveyances (See Chapter 3.C).
9. A firearm may be used in self-defense or in defense of another person to prevent an imminent attack by an animal. A firearm may also be used to euthanize an animal that appears to be seriously injured or diseased. This discharge does not constitute a use of deadly force.
10. The act of establishing a grip, drawing a weapon, or pointing a weapon does not constitute the use of deadly force.

## Chapter 3: Use of Less-Lethal Force<sup>8</sup>

### A. General Guidelines and Responsibilities

1. Less-lethal force is force not likely or intended to cause serious bodily injury or death.
2. Any use of less-lethal force must be both objectively reasonable and necessary in order to carry out the Authorized Officer's/Agent's law enforcement duties.
3. Less-lethal devices/weapons may be used in situations where empty-hand techniques are not sufficient, practical, or appropriate to control disorderly or violent subjects.
4. Authorized Officers/Agents may use objectively reasonable and necessary force to address a threat posed from the degradation of the International Boundary Barriers (IBB).<sup>9</sup> Officers/Agents should seek to employ tactics and techniques that effectively prevent the threat posed by the activity while minimizing any unintended injury.
5. In order to fulfil the national security obligation to protect its borders, the United States employs IBB at and between Ports of Entry, capable of controlling the flow of people and goods crossing its border. The degradation of such capabilities may facilitate the unimpeded access of unknown subjects and materials into the United States.<sup>10</sup>
  - a. An individual cutting, destroying, or attempting to destroy IBB is committing, or has committed, one or more crimes.<sup>11</sup> Authorized Officers/Agents shall make all reasonable efforts to apprehend the individual for a violation of applicable federal criminal law.
  - b. When feasible, prior to the application of force, Authorized Officers/Agents who encounter an individual engaging in degradation of the IBB shall issue a

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<sup>8</sup> Referenced in prior versions of CBP policy or applicable regulations as "intermediate force" or "non-deadly force" and used herein with the same purpose and effect.

<sup>9</sup> The International Boundary Barrier (IBB), as defined in this policy, is the physical barrier at or between Ports of Entry and placed along the international boundary.

<sup>10</sup> 6 U. S. C. §211(c)(5); Hernandez v. Mesa, 140 S. Ct. 735, 746 (2020); United States v. Flores-Montano, 541 U.S. 149, 152-53 (2004).

<sup>11</sup> See, e.g., 18 U.S.C. § 1361 (willful government property depredation), 8 U.S.C. § 1325 (improper entry by an alien), 19 U.S.C. § 1459 (requirement to report arrival in the United States).

- verbal warning<sup>12</sup> to direct the subject(s) to cease the criminal activity and should afford the subject a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply.
- c. While every use of force scenario is unique, officers/agents should consider a number of factors in determining whether to employ a reasonable amount of force when dealing with IBB destruction: whether the subject refuses to comply following a verbal warning; whether the individual continues to engage in federal criminal activity; lack of other law enforcement options to prevent the continued criminal activity; potential use of a weapon or tool used to degrade IBB; imminence of any threat posed by the IBB degradation; and the unlawful entry of goods/contraband or persons.
- d. If Authorized Officers/Agents determine that a reasonable amount of force is necessary to address a threat posed by IBB degradation, they may use authorized less-lethal devices for area saturation, or any lesser degree of force, to effect arrest and/or prevent the continued commission of federal criminal activity.
- (1) Prior to deploying such force, Authorized Officers/Agents must give reasonable consideration to any factors which may counsel against the use of such force, such as the presence of vulnerable subjects including small children, the elderly, those who are visibly pregnant, or individuals who lack the ability to quickly disperse from the area.<sup>13</sup>
  - (2) Authorized Officers/Agents must cease application of force, and seek medical assistance where feasible, when criminal activity ceases or when the incident is under control.
  - (3) Authorized Officers/Agents may not use deadly force solely in defense of the IBB unless there is an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to the officer/agent or others.
- e. The guidance provided in this subsection is a baseline by which to assess commonly occurring scenarios regarding destruction of IBB. Every incident is unique, and additional facts, intelligence, information, etc. may warrant a different response. Nothing in this section prohibits, limits, or restricts the ability of Authorized Officers/Agents to use reasonable force, and authorized use of force devices, to carry out their law enforcement duties.

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<sup>12</sup> Officers/agents should have a reasonable basis to believe that the subject can comprehend the warning.

<sup>13</sup> Nelson v. City of Davis, 685 F.3d 867, 877 (9th Cir. 2012).

6. As part of a mass unlawful entry event, if individuals enter the United States using acts of violence, or threats of violence, a reasonable amount of force may be used to effect arrests, or to protect Authorized Officers/Agents and others from an imminent threat.
  - a. Authorized Officers/Agents may utilize chemical area saturation, or any lesser degree of force, to effect an arrest or to defend self or others against imminent threats caused by mass unlawful entries when:
    - (1) There is probable cause to believe that multiple individuals in the group are using force or threatening to use force to effect an unlawful entry; and
    - (2) The criminal actions of the group have continued after the issuance of lawful commands and verbal warnings to cease the criminal activity; and
    - (3) Reasonable consideration has been given to any factors which may counsel against the use of such force, such as the presence of vulnerable subjects including, small children, the elderly, those who are visibly pregnant, or individuals who lack the ability to quickly disperse from the area.<sup>14</sup>
  - b. The guidance provided in this subsection is a baseline by which to assess commonly occurring incidents regarding mass unlawful entries. Every incident is unique, and additional facts, intelligence, information, etc. may warrant a different response. Nothing in this section prohibits, limits, or restricts the ability of Authorized Officers/Agents to use reasonable force, and authorized use of force devices, to carry out their law enforcement duties or to protect officers/agents and others from an imminent threat.
  - c. When arrests of individuals involved in a mass entry event are not feasible, the use of chemical munitions is authorized only in defense of self or others. Officers/agents do not have a duty to retreat to avoid the reasonable use of force, nor are they required to wait for an attack before using reasonable force to stop a threat.
7. Authorized Officers/Agents who are trained and LESC-certified in their use may use the following less-lethal options:
  - a. Empty-Hand Strikes;
  - b. Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray;

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<sup>14</sup> Nelson v. City of Davis, 685 F.3d 867, 877 (9th Cir. 2012).

- c. Collapsible Straight Batons (CSB);
  - d. Electronic Control Weapons (ECW);
  - e. Compressed Air Launchers (e.g., Pepperball® Launching System (PLS), FN303);
  - f. Munition Launchers (e.g., 40mm);
  - g. Less-Lethal Specialty Impact - Chemical Munitions (LLSI-CM);
  - h. Vehicle Immobilization Devices (VID); or
  - i. Other less-lethal devices or techniques (e.g. Controlled Noise and Light Distraction Devices (CNLDDs), etc.) authorized by the Executive Director of the LESC and approved for use by the Designated Official (DO).
8. While performing uniformed law enforcement duties, Authorized Officers/Agents who carry firearms are also required to carry one or more of the following: OC Spray, an ECW, or a CSB.
- a. Officers/agents may only be issued and carry devices in which they are certified.
  - b. Responsible Officials (ROs) may require that Authorized Officers/Agents carry additional less-lethal devices (that the Authorized Officer/Agent is certified to carry) while performing uniformed law enforcement duties.
9. ROs may establish requirements for non-uniformed carriage of less-lethal devices based on operational needs.
10. A less-lethal device or technique may be used in self-defense, or in defense of another person, to prevent an imminent attack by an animal. This use shall not constitute a use of less-lethal force.

## B. Use of Less-Lethal Devices/Techniques

### 1. Guidelines and Responsibilities

The following guidelines and responsibilities apply to all CBP less-lethal techniques, devices, systems, and associated equipment. Additional device-specific guidelines are contained in following subsections.

- a. The use of choke-holds, neck restraints, and/or any other restraint technique that applies prolonged pressure to the neck that may restrict blood flow or air passage, are strictly prohibited, absent circumstances where deadly force would be objectively reasonable.

- b. Only Authorized Officers/Agents may discharge a CBP less-lethal device, except during CBP-authorized training, events, or activities.

Non-CBP personnel who wish to use CBP less-lethal devices during joint operations should receive CBP-approved training in the use of the less-lethal device(s) prior to use.

- c. The use of less-lethal devices/techniques (or any other weapon) as deadly force (i.e., in a manner that could reasonably cause death or serious bodily injury) is not precluded if the use of deadly force would otherwise be objectively reasonable.
- d. Only less-lethal devices, systems, and associated equipment authorized by LESC shall be carried and deployed by Authorized Officers/Agents.
- e. Less-lethal devices, systems, and associated equipment shall not be altered in any way without the written authorization of the Executive Director of the LESC.

## 2. Contact Controls

- a. Contact Controls such as strategic positioning, escort holds, joint manipulation or immobilization, or touch pressure point stimulation may be utilized as a compliance technique on a subject offering, at a minimum, passive resistance.

## 3. Empty-Hand Strikes

- a. Strike Pressure Point Techniques may be utilized as a compliance tool on a subject offering, at a minimum, active resistance.
- b. Other strikes (e.g., punches, kicks, etc.) may be utilized as a defensive tactic on a subject offering, at a minimum, assaultive resistance.
- c. Authorized Officers/Agents shall not intentionally target the throat or spine when using Empty Hand Strikes.

## 4. Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray

- a. OC Spray may be utilized as a compliance tool on a subject offering, at a minimum, active resistance.
- b. Authorized Officers/Agents may only use chemical agents authorized by the Executive Director of the LESC. Officers/agents may not carry personally-owned OC devices for duty use.

- c. Authorized Officers/Agents should not use OC, and should consider other force options, with respect to subjects who are: small children; visibly pregnant; and operators of motor vehicles.
- d. Authorized Officers/Agents shall decontaminate subjects in custody that have been exposed as soon as practicable.
- e. Authorized Officers/Agents are responsible for advising their supervisors when the devices issued to them are approaching the end of their useable life so that the devices may be replaced prior to their expiration date.
- f. The Transportation Security Agency (TSA) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) do not permit any chemical agents in the cabin of a commercial aircraft. As provided by 49 C.F.R. § 175.10, self-defense spray (mace or pepper spray) may be carried in checked baggage, provided the container does not exceed four fluid ounces and has a positive means to prevent accidental discharge. All CBP employees will comply with this regulation. Chemical agents shall be carried aboard CBP aircraft only in accordance with *CBP Air Operations Handbook (AOH)* guidelines.

#### 5. Collapsible Straight Baton (CSB)

- a. A CSB may be utilized as a defensive tool on a subject offering, at a minimum, assaultive resistance.
- b. Authorized Officers/Agents may only use CSBs authorized by the Executive Director of the LESC. Officers/agents may not carry personally-owned batons for duty use.
- c. The following acts and techniques with the CSB are prohibited when using less-lethal force:
  - (1) Use of a baton to apply “come-along” holds to the neck area; and
  - (2) Intentional strikes with the baton to the head, the neck, the face, the groin, the solar plexus, the kidneys, or the spinal column.

#### 6. Electronic Control Weapon (ECW)

An ECW is a less-lethal weapon which is designed to deliver short duration electronic pulses (Drive-Stun Mode), or Neuro-Muscular Incapacitation/NMI (Probe Deployment Mode), with minimal risk of serious bodily injury or death.

- a. An ECW may be utilized as a compliance tool on a subject offering, at a minimum, active resistance in a manner that the Authorized Officer/Agent reasonably believes may result in injury to themselves or to another person.

- b. An ECW should be deployed for one standard device cycle and then the situation should be evaluated to determine if additional cycles are both reasonable and necessary.
- c. If the use of the ECW is unsuccessful, the Authorized Officer/Agent should transition to another reasonable force option.
- d. CBP personnel should not use an ECW, and should consider other force options, with respect to subjects who are: small children; elderly; visibly pregnant; low body mass index (BMI) persons; near known flammable materials; on elevated surfaces; operating conveyances; adjacent to traffic; in water sufficient to drown; running; or handcuffed.
  - (1) Authorized Officers/Agents should use an ECW on a subject who is running only when the officer/agent has reasonable belief that the subject presents an imminent threat of injury to an officer/agent or another person. The threat presented by the subject must outweigh the risk of injury to the subject that might occur as a result of an uncontrolled fall while the subject is running.
- e. Authorized Officers/Agents should not intentionally expose a subject to more than one ECW at a time.
- f. Authorized Officers/Agents shall not intentionally target the head, neck, groin, or female breast.
- g. When practical and when other officers/agents are present, Authorized Officers/Agents should verbalize "TASER, TASER, TASER" prior to deployment to notify fellow officers/agents of the imminent use of an ECW. This will alert fellow officers/agents to prepare to control a subject under the power of an ECW.
- h. ECWs shall be carried with a cartridge installed, on the non-gun side in a cross-draw manner.
- i. Any subject in CBP custody who has been exposed to an ECW shall, as soon as possible, be seen by an Emergency Medical Technician or other trained medical professional.
- j. CBP personnel trained and certified in the use of an ECW may remove probes embedded in a person's skin, provided the probes are not embedded in a sensitive area like the head, neck, genitals, or female breast tissue. Probe removals in those instances shall be performed by a trained medical professional.

- k. ECW probes are considered a biohazard and shall be disposed of according to established biohazard disposal protocol.
- l. Each ECW shall have all stored utilization data downloaded quarterly. ROs shall ensure that all downloaded ECW data is securely stored and maintained for a minimum of three years.
- m. After each ECW deployment, data related to that deployment shall be downloaded and saved. If the deployment was the result of a reportable use of force a copy of the data report shall be attached to the use of force report in the CBP Enforcement Action Statistical Analysis and Reporting System (E-STAR).

7. Compressed Air Launchers (e.g., PLS and FN303)

Compressed air launchers are less-lethal impact/chemical irritant delivery systems that are powered by compressed air. The launchers can deliver a variety of less-lethal projectiles including kinetic impact, PAVA pepper powder, and non-toxic marking rounds.

- a. A compressed air launcher may be used for area saturation against subject(s) who, at a minimum, demonstrate active resistance.
- b. A compressed air launcher may be used as a kinetic impact delivery system on subject(s) who, at a minimum, demonstrate assaultive resistance, with exceptions during maritime operations outlined in Chapter 3.C.3 of this *Policy*.
- c. Authorized Officers/Agents may use a compressed air launcher to mark a conveyance for identification purposes in situations where a conveyance has failed to comply with another officer's/agent's lawful attempt to stop it, in situations where the use of a vehicle immobilization device would not be reasonable, or if an involved vehicle is leaving the scene of an enforcement action without authorization. When deploying a compressed air launcher for marking and identification purposes, officers/agents may not intentionally target the conveyance's windows.
- d. Authorized Officers/Agents should not use a compressed air launcher, and should consider other force options, on subjects who are: small children; elderly; visibly pregnant; or operating a conveyance.
- e. Authorized Officers/Agents shall not use a PLS for kinetic impact on subjects less than 3 feet away unless the use of deadly force is reasonable and necessary.
- f. The FN303 shall not be deployed if the officer/agent is less than 10 feet from the subject unless the use of deadly force is reasonable and necessary.

- g. The intentional targeting of areas where there is a substantial risk of serious bodily injury or death is considered a use of deadly force. Authorized Officers/Agents shall not intentionally target the head, neck, spine, or groin of the intended subject, unless the use of deadly force is reasonable.

8. Mmunition Launchers (e.g., 40mm) and Less-Lethal Specialty Impact and Chemical Munitions (LLSI-CM)

Mmunition Launchers are a delivery system for less-lethal specialty impact/chemical munitions (LLSI-CM) that are designed to deliver an impact projectile, a chemical irritant projectile, or a combination projectile with more accuracy, higher velocity, and longer range than a projectile deployed by hand.

LLSI-CM can also be delivered by means of a device that is designed to be hand-thrown by an Authorized Officer/Agent.

- a. Subject to the exceptions described in subsection c below, a Less-Lethal Chemical Munition (LLCM) may be utilized as a compliance tool on a subject offering, at a minimum, active resistance.
- b. Subject to the exceptions described in subsection c, below, a Less-Lethal Specialty Impact (LLSI) munition may be utilized as a compliance tool on a subject offering, at a minimum, assaultive resistance.
- c. Authorized Officers/Agents should not use an LLSI-CM and should consider other force options with respect to subjects who are: small children; elderly; visibly pregnant; near known flammable materials (when using a pyrotechnic device); or operating conveyances.
- d. Authorized Officers/Agents shall not intentionally target the head, neck, groin, spine, or female breast.
- e. Any subject in CBP custody who has been exposed to an LLSI-CM shall, as soon as practicable, be seen by an Emergency Medical Technician or other trained medical professional.
- f. The (FAA) prohibits the transportation of LLCMs and LLSI-CM combinations (e.g., CS (O-Chlorobenzylidene-malononitrile), Stingball) onboard commercial aircraft. All CBP employees will comply with this regulation. Transportation of LLSI-CM munitions will be accomplished by the use of a CBP vehicle/vessel and/or an authorized commercial ground carrier.
- g. The transportation of LLSI-CM onboard CBP vessels shall conform with the appropriate safety standards such as storage and transportation of the devices in insulated, water-proof containers to prevent damage or unintended discharge.

- h. Approval from the Executive Director of the LESC is required prior to each individual purchase of LLSI-CM.

9. Controlled Noise and Light Distraction Devices (CNLDD)

A CNLDD is a pyrotechnic device that, once activated, emits a bright light and loud noise to momentarily disorient and confuse subjects giving officers/agents a brief tactical advantage.

- a. CNLDDs may be utilized with supervisory approval during pre-planned law enforcement operations when actionable intelligence of pre-assault indicators or other relevant intelligence information has been identified which requires their use to gain a tactical advantage.
- b. In all other instances, CNLDDs may be used as a compliance tool on a subject offering, at a minimum, assaultive resistance.
- c. Authorized Officers/Agents should not use a CNLDD, and should consider other force options, on subjects who are: small children; elderly; visibly pregnant; or near known flammable materials.
- d. Responsible Supervisory personnel shall ensure that ATF regulations and guidelines are known and followed by all subordinate personnel involved in the handling, storage, or use of CNLDDs.
- e. The RO (or his or her designee) shall ensure that CNLDDs are only issued to trained and certified officers/agents with an articulated need for a CNLDD.

- C. Warning Shots and Disabling Fire

1. Warning Shots - Warning shots are not permitted except as follows:

- a. Maritime Law Enforcement Operations: Authorized Officers/Agents conducting maritime law enforcement operations may use warning shots only as a signal to a vessel to stop, and only after all other available means of signaling have failed. Such warning shots are classified as less-lethal force.
- b. Aviation Law Enforcement Operations: Authorized Officers/Agents conducting aviation law enforcement operations may use warning shots only as a signal to an aircraft to change course and follow direction to leave airspace, and only after all other available means of signaling have failed. Such warning shots are classified as less-lethal force.

2. Disabling Fire - Firearms may not be used solely to disable moving vehicles, vessels, aircraft, or other conveyances, except when Authorized Officers/Agents are conducting maritime law enforcement activities against maritime conveyances.

- a. When a pursued vessel fails to comply with an order to stop, and warning shots have been deployed, the CBP Vessel or Aircraft Commander may elect to authorize disabling fire.
  - b. The authority to commence disabling fire rests with the Vessel or Aircraft Commander. The decision to fire, however, ultimately rests with the shooter. It is the shooter's responsibility to ensure the safe deployment of the disabling rounds.
3. Authorized Officers/Agents may use CBP less-lethal devices specifically approved by the LESC for use against subjects who are intentionally preventing the deployment of marine disabling fire (e.g., by blocking access to or covering the engine of a vessel) if the failure to stop the vessel would pose an imminent threat to the safety of the officer/agent or others.
4. Warning shots and disabling fire shall be deployed with adherence to CBP-approved programs, policies, procedures, and directives.
5. Only ordnance approved by the Executive Director of the LESC, shall be authorized for use in conducting warning and/or disabling fire.
6. Only those Authorized Officers/Agents who have successfully completed LESC-approved training are authorized to utilize warning shots and/or disabling fire.
7. Warning shots and/or disabling fire pose a potential hazard; therefore, good judgment shall be exercised at all times. They cannot be fired where there is a reasonable belief that personal injury, death, or unintended property damage will occur. Safety shall always be the first consideration when utilizing warning shots and/or disabling fire.
8. The use of warning shots and/or disabling fire is considered less-lethal force, and shall be reported in accordance with the requirements of this chapter.

## Chapter 4: Vehicular Immobilizations and Pursuit Intervention

### A. General Guidelines and Responsibilities

1. Vehicular Immobilization Devices (VIDs) and Offensive Driving Techniques (ODT) are specialized devices and techniques designed and deployed with the intended result of causing a vehicle to stop through the controlled deflation of a vehicle tire, intentional vehicular contact, or other means of restraint.
2. Any use of VIDs and/or ODT must be both objectively reasonable and necessary in order to carry out the Authorized Officer's/Agent's law enforcement duties.
3. VIDs and ODT may be used in situations where the law enforcement benefit and the need to immobilize the subject vehicle and/or otherwise end a vehicle pursuit outweighs the immediate or foreseeable risk of injury to involved subjects and others created by the deployment of a VID or use of an ODT.
  - a. While every use of force scenario is unique, factors to consider in determining the reasonableness of a contemplated deployment of a VID or ODT include, but are not limited to:
    - (1) Vehicle Speed;
    - (2) Proximity of Population Centers;
    - (3) Traffic Flow;
    - (4) Weather or Road Conditions; and
    - (5) Availability of Alternative Measures.
4. The direction contained within this chapter, regarding the use of VIDs and ODTs are not to supersede the direction found within the *Emergency Driving, Including Vehicular Pursuits by U.S. Customs and Border Protection Personnel Directive* (CBP Directive 4510-26).

### B. Vehicle Immobilization Devices (VID)

1. VIDs (including Controlled Tire Deflation Devices or CTDDs) are specialized less-lethal devices whose deployment is intended to result in the controlled deflation of a vehicle tire or otherwise cause a vehicle to stop.

2. The immediate or potential danger to the public created by the deployment of the VID should be less than the immediate or potential danger to the public should the suspect vehicle be allowed to proceed without deployment of the VID. The VID shall be deployed in a manner that minimizes risk of injury to persons or damage to property.
3. Authorized Officers/Agents will announce the use of a VID on the service radio. A supervisor can deny (terminate) the deployment. Preapproval for the use of a VID is not required.
4. When otherwise objectively reasonable a VID may be deployed:
  - a. When an Authorized Officer/Agent directs a motor vehicle to stop and the vehicle fails to comply with the officer's/agent's order;
  - b. When a vehicle attempts to avoid inspection at a primary or secondary inspection area of a checkpoint or port of entry (POE);
  - c. When a vehicle unlawfully crosses the border between POEs;
  - d. When an Authorized Officer/Agent, acting within the guidelines set forth in this *Handbook*, is trying to prevent a suspect vehicle from leaving the area where a warrant is being served or where officers/agents have determined, or developed at least reasonable suspicion, that a crime is being or may have been committed that the officer/agent has the authority to enforce;
  - e. When another law enforcement agency requests deployment of the VID in an emergency. Supervisory approval is required unless exigent circumstances can be articulated; or
  - f. When the configuration at checkpoints, or Ports of Entry, allows for the placement of the VID on stationary vehicles for safety of the officers/agents and others. Placement of a VID in this manner does not constitute a reportable use of force unless accompanied by an attempt to flee.
5. The road where an Authorized Officer/Agent is considering the deployment of a VID should provide an unimpeded view of vehicular traffic from all directions. The VID may be used only in areas where topography, roadway surfaces, and vehicular conditions indicate that deployment can be accomplished with reasonable safety.

6. The Authorized Officer/Agent who deploys the VID should:
  - a. During deployment of a VID, remain in visual contact and control of the VID unless the deploying officer/agent can articulate why visual contact and control are not safe and/or practical;
  - b. Prior to deploying the VID, ensure that all CBP and other agency personnel involved are notified of the pending deployment via available communication methods. Communication shall be maintained between officers/agents in the deployment area unless exigent circumstances preclude such communication;
  - c. Remove or deactivate the VID before becoming involved in the apprehension of the subject(s) unless exigent circumstances preclude such removal or deactivation; and
  - d. Remember that safety is paramount. The officer/agent retains the discretion not to deploy the VID.
7. Authorized Officers/Agents shall not deploy a VID in school zones when children are present or traveling to or from the school, or in cases when the danger to the public outweighs the enforcement benefit.
8. Authorized Officers/Agents conducting enforcement operations on CBP aircraft are permitted to overtake a pursued vehicle in order to deploy a VID. Authorized Officers/Agents operating on the ground shall not overtake a pursued vehicle without prior authorization from a supervisor in order to deploy a VID.
9. Authorized Officers/Agents shall not deploy a VID to stop the following types of vehicles, except where an immediate danger to life makes it reasonable to deploy the VID:
  - a. Two or three-wheeled vehicles;
  - b. Vehicles known or reasonably believed to be transporting hazardous materials; or
  - c. Vehicles that are believed to pose an unusual hazard to officers/agents or the public.
10. When a VID causes *unintentional* damage to a vehicle:
  - a. The involved officer/agent will immediately report the incident to the duty supervisor;

- b. The duty supervisor shall provide a tort claim form (SF-95) to the driver of the vehicle for the damages to the vehicle that may have been caused by the VID along with instructions on how to complete the form and where to send the claim; and
- c. In cases when the vehicle is rendered immobile, procedures shall be in place to assist the driver in making the vehicle mobile.

### C. Offensive Driving Techniques (ODT)

1. ODTs are any driving technique that is consistent with CBP training and is intended to end a pursuit through intentional vehicle-to-vehicle impact.
2. ODT are uses of force that may be considered less-lethal force or deadly force depending on a number of variables. As such, ODTs are classified in two different classes; Class 1 and Class 2.
  - a. Class 1 ODTs are techniques performed at low speeds, under good road/environmental conditions, resulting in a low foreseeable risk of injury to the subject; therefore Class 1 ODTs are considered less-lethal applications of force.
  - b. Class 2 ODTs are techniques used when the risk of injury to the subject is elevated due to excessive speeds and/or other known circumstances. Class 2 ODTs should only be authorized when the actions of the subject driver presents an imminent threat of death or serious bodily harm; Class 2 ODTs are considered applications of deadly force.
  - c. Officers/agents and supervisors must consider all the factors above and presented in Chapter 1, Subsection B, of this policy, as well all material presented during ODT training to determine the appropriate class.
3. ODTs may be utilized to end a vehicular pursuit when:
  - a. A supervisor that is currently certified and trained by CBP to manage/authorize the use of ODT has given authorization to employ the technique (this requirement is a must absent an articulable, exigent circumstance that warrants the use of deadly force after considering the all the factors presented in Chapter 1.B of this policy);
  - b. The officers/agents employing the ODT has been certified and trained by CBP to perform the technique;

- c. The immediate or potential danger to the public created by the use of the ODT is less than the immediate or potential danger to the public created by allowing the vehicle to proceed without deployment of the ODT or ending the pursuit via other means is less safe or has been determined impossible or ineffective; and,
  - d. The ODT is employed in a manner consistent with CBP ODT training that minimizes risk of injury to all involved parties and/or damage to property.
- 4. Remember that safety is paramount. The officer/agent retains the discretion not to employ an ODT.
- 5. Authorized Officers/Agents shall not employ ODT in school zones when children are present or traveling to or from the school, or in cases when the danger to the public outweighs the enforcement benefit.
- 6. Authorized Officers/Agents shall not employ ODT to stop the following types of vehicles, except where an immediate danger to life makes it reasonable to employ an ODT:
  - a. Two or three-wheeled vehicles;
  - b. Vehicles known or reasonably believed to be transporting hazardous materials; or
  - c. Vehicles that are believed to pose an unusual hazard to officers/agents or the public.

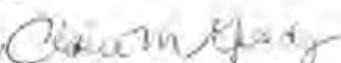
## Appendix I: DHS Policy on the Use of Force



Issue Date: September 7, 2018

Policy Statement 044-05

MEMORANDUM FOR: Component Heads

FROM: Claire M. Grady   
Acting Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security and  
Under Secretary for Management

SUBJECT: **Department Policy on the Use of Force**

### I. Purpose

Pursuant to the Secretary's authority under Title 6, United States Code (U.S.C.) § 112, this policy articulates Department-wide standards and guidelines related to the use of force by Department of Homeland Security (DHS) law enforcement officers and agents (LEOs) and affirms the duty of all DHS employees to report improper uses of force. All DHS Components employing LEOs are directed to implement this guidance, including investigation and documentation practices, through Component-specific policy, procedure, and training.

This memorandum supersedes the Memorandum from Secretary Tom Ridge, "Department of Homeland Security Policy on the Use of Deadly Force" (June 25, 2004).

### II. Use of Force Standard

#### A. Introduction

In determining the appropriateness of a particular use of force, the Department is guided by constitutional law, as interpreted by the U.S. Supreme Court.<sup>1</sup> The Fourth Amendment supplies a constitutional baseline for permissible use of force by LEOs in the course of their official duties; law enforcement agencies may adopt policies that further constrain the use of force. This policy describes the governing legal framework and articulates additional principles to which the Department will adhere.

#### B. General Statement

Unless further restricted by DHS Component policy, DHS LEOs are permitted to use force to control subjects in the course of their official duties as authorized by law, and in defense of themselves and others. In doing so, a LEO shall use only the force that is **objectively reasonable** in light of the facts and circumstances confronting him or her at the time force is applied.

<sup>1</sup> See, e.g., *Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386 (1989), and *Tennessee v. Garner*, 471 U.S. 1 (1985).

### C. Discussion: The Fourth Amendment “Reasonableness” Standard

1. The Supreme Court has ruled that “all claims that law enforcement officers have used excessive force—deadly or not—in the course of an arrest, investigatory stop, or other ‘seizure’ of a free citizen should be analyzed under the Fourth Amendment and its ‘reasonableness’ standard.”<sup>2</sup> This standard is an objective one that, in the context of use of force policy and practice, is often referred to as “objective reasonableness.”

2. Because this standard is “not capable of precise definition or mechanical application,” its “proper application requires careful attention to the facts and circumstances of each particular case.”<sup>3</sup> The reasonableness of a LEO’s 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.”<sup>4</sup> In determining whether the force a LEO used to effect a seizure was reasonable, courts allow for the fact that LEOs are often forced to make split-second judgments, in circumstances that are tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving.

3. Consequently, there may be a range of responses that are reasonable and appropriate under a particular set of circumstances.

4. Once used, physical force<sup>5</sup> must be discontinued when resistance ceases or when the incident is under control.

## III. General Principles

### A. Respect for Human Life

All DHS personnel have been entrusted with a critical mission: safeguarding the American people, our homeland, and our values. In keeping with this mission, respect for human life and the communities we serve shall continue to guide DHS LEOs in the performance of their duties.

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<sup>2</sup> *Graham*, 490 U.S. at 396. The Court has further determined that a Fourth Amendment “seizure” of a person occurs when an officer, “by means of physical force or show of authority, terminates or restrains his freedom of movement *through means intentionally applied* (emphasis in original).” *Brendlin v. California*, 551 U.S. 249, 254 (2007) (citations omitted).

<sup>3</sup> *Graham*, (citing *Garner*, 471 U.S. at 8-9: “[T]he question is ‘whether the totality of the circumstances justify[es] a particular sort of . . . seizure’”). The “totality of the circumstances” refers to all factors surrounding a particular use of force. In *Graham*, the Court lists three factors, often referred to as the “*Graham* factors,” that may be considered in assessing reasonableness: the severity of the crime/offense at issue, whether the subject poses an immediate threat to the safety of the LEO or others, and whether the subject is actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight. Other factors include, but are not limited to: the presence and number of other LEOs, subjects, and bystanders; the size, strength, physical condition, and level of training of the LEO(s); the apparent size, strength, physical condition, and level of training of the subject(s); whether an individual is forcibly assaulting, resisting, opposing, impeding, intimidating, or interfering with a LEO while the LEO is engaged in, or on account of the performance of, official duties; proximity and type of weapon(s) present; criminal or mental health history of the subject(s) known to the LEO at the time of the use of force; and the perceived mental/emotional state of the subject.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> Other than the force reasonably required to properly restrain a subject and safely move him or her from point to point. That is, once the subject is secured with restraints, a LEO may maintain physical control of the subject via the use of “come-along or other control techniques” to safely and securely conclude the incident.

B. De-escalation

To ensure that DHS LEOs are proficient in a variety of techniques that could aid them in appropriately resolving an encounter, DHS Components shall provide use of force training that includes de-escalation tactics and techniques.

C. Use of Safe Tactics

DHS LEOs should seek to employ tactics and techniques that effectively bring an incident under control while promoting the safety of LEOs and the public, and that minimize the risk of unintended injury or serious property damage. DHS LEOs should also avoid intentionally and unreasonably placing themselves in positions in which they have no alternative to using deadly force.

D. Additional Considerations

1. DHS LEOs are permitted to use force that is reasonable in light of the totality of the circumstances. This standard does not require LEOs to meet force with equal or lesser force.

2. DHS LEOs do not have a duty to retreat to avoid the reasonable use of force, nor are they required to wait for an attack before using reasonable force to stop a threat.

E. Warnings

1. When feasible, prior to the application of force, a DHS LEO must attempt to identify him- or herself and issue a verbal warning to comply with the LEO's instructions. In determining whether a warning is feasible under the circumstances, a LEO may be guided by a variety of considerations including, but not limited to, whether the resulting delay is likely to:

- a. Increase the danger to the LEO or others, including any victims and/or bystanders;
- b. Result in the destruction of evidence;
- c. Allow for a subject's escape; or
- d. Result in the commission of a crime.

2. In the event that a LEO issues such a warning, where feasible, the LEO should afford the subject a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply before applying force.

#### F. Exigent Circumstances

In an exigent situation, for self-defense or the defense of another, DHS LEOs are authorized to use any available object or technique in a manner that is reasonable in light of the circumstances.

#### G. Medical Care

As soon as practicable following a use of force and the end of any perceived public safety threat, DHS LEOs shall obtain appropriate medical assistance for any subject who has visible or apparent injuries, complains of being injured, or requests medical attention. This may include rendering first aid if properly trained and equipped to do so, requesting emergency medical services, and/or arranging transportation to an appropriate medical facility.

#### H. Duty to Intervene In and Report Improper Use of Force

1.The Department is committed to carrying out its mission with honor and integrity, and to fostering a culture of transparency and accountability. As such, DHS law enforcement Components will ensure that their policies and procedures unambiguously underscore the following:

**The use of excessive force is unlawful and will not be tolerated. Those who engage in such misconduct, and those who fail to report such misconduct, will be subject to all applicable administrative and criminal penalties.**

2.DHS LEOs have a duty to intervene to prevent or stop a perceived use of excessive force by another LEO—except when doing so would place the observing/responding LEO in articulable, reasonable fear of death or serious bodily injury.

3.Any DHS employee with knowledge of a DHS LEO's improper use of force shall, without unreasonable delay, report it to his or her chain of command, the internal affairs division, the DHS Office of Inspector General, and/or other reporting mechanism identified by Component policy or procedure.

4.Failure to intervene in and/or report such violations is, itself, misconduct that may result in disciplinary action, with potential consequences including removal from federal service, civil liability, and/or criminal prosecution. DHS Components shall ensure that all personnel are aware of these obligations, as well as the appropriate mechanism(s) by which such reports should be made.

#### IV. Less-Lethal Force and Less-Lethal Devices

A. All DHS Components employing LEOs shall have appropriate written policies and procedures regarding the use of authorized control tactics or techniques; authorized less-lethal devices; and necessary training and certifications—both initial and recurring.

B. DHS Components shall conduct less-lethal use of force training no less than every two years and incorporate decision-making and scenario-based situations in these training programs.

C. DHS LEOs are prohibited from carrying any unauthorized less-lethal device for duty use.

D. LEOs shall demonstrate proficiency, in accordance with established Component standards, for each less-lethal device that they are authorized and certified to carry. If a certification or valid waiver expires, a LEO is prohibited from carrying that device for duty use until he or she meets the requirements for recertification on that device.

#### V. Warning Shots and Disabling Fire

##### A. General Prohibition

Except in the limited circumstances described in Section V.B., “Exceptions,” DHS LEOs are prohibited from discharging firearms solely:

1. As a warning or signal (“warning shots”) or
2. To disable moving vehicles, vessels, aircraft, or other conveyances (“disabling fire”).

##### B. Exceptions

1. Warning Shots
  - a. Maritime Law Enforcement Operations: Authorized U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) personnel conducting maritime law enforcement operations may use warning shots only as a signal to a vessel to stop, and only after all other available means of signaling have failed. Such warning shots are classified as less-lethal force.

b. Aviation Law Enforcement Operations: Authorized USCG, CBP, and ICE personnel conducting aviation law enforcement operations may use warning shots only as a signal to an aircraft to change course and follow direction to leave the airspace, and only after all other available means of signaling have failed. Such warning shots are classified as less-lethal force.

2. Disabling Fire

a. Maritime Law Enforcement Operations: Authorized USCG, CBP, and ICE personnel, when conducting maritime law enforcement operations, may discharge firearms to disable moving vessels or other maritime conveyances. Such disabling fire is classified as less-lethal force.

b. Physical Protection: Authorized United States Secret Service (USSS) personnel exercising USSS's protective responsibilities, and other authorized and appropriately trained DHS LEOs assigned to assist USSS in exercising these responsibilities, may discharge firearms to disable moving vehicles, vessels, and other conveyances, and such disabling fire is classified as less-lethal force—EXCEPT: Aircraft in Flight: Disabling fire against an aircraft in flight is permitted only if the use of deadly force against the occupants of the aircraft, or in response to the threat posed by the aircraft, itself, is otherwise authorized under this policy. This is classified as a use of deadly force.<sup>6</sup>

C. Safety Considerations

1. Warning shots and disabling fire are inherently dangerous and, when authorized under this policy, should be used with all due care. DHS LEOs must exercise good judgment at all times and ensure that safety is always the primary consideration.

2. When authorized LEOs deem warning shots or disabling fire warranted, each shot must have a defined target.

VI. Deadly Force

A. General Guidelines

1. As with any use of force, a LEO's use of deadly force must be reasonable in light of the facts and circumstances confronting him or her at the time force is applied.

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<sup>6</sup>As a use of deadly force, this is not mere "disabling fire," which by definition is not intended to cause bodily injury.

2.A DHS LEO may use deadly force only when the LEO has a reasonable belief that the subject of such force poses an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to the LEO or to another person.<sup>7</sup>

a.Fleeing Subjects: Deadly force shall not be used solely to prevent the escape of a fleeing subject. However, deadly force is authorized to prevent the escape of a fleeing subject where the LEO has a reasonable belief that the subject poses a significant threat of death or serious physical harm to the LEO or others and such force is necessary to prevent escape.<sup>8</sup>

B. Discharge of Firearms

1. General Guidelines

a.Discharging a firearm against a person constitutes the use of deadly force and shall be done only with the intent of preventing or stopping the threatening behavior that justifies the use of deadly force.

b.The act of establishing a grip, unholstering, or pointing a firearm does not constitute a use of deadly force.

2. Moving Vehicles, Vessels, Aircraft, or other Conveyances

a.DHS LEOs are prohibited from discharging firearms at the operator of a moving vehicle, vessel, aircraft, or other conveyance unless the use of deadly force against the operator is justified under the standards articulated elsewhere in this policy.<sup>9</sup> Before using deadly force under these circumstances, the LEO must take into consideration the hazards that may be posed to law enforcement and innocent bystanders by an out-of-control conveyance.

b.Firearms shall not be discharged solely as a warning or signal or solely to disable moving vehicles, vessels, aircraft, or other conveyances, except under the limited circumstances described in Section V., Warning Shots and Disabling Fire.

<sup>7</sup> For more detailed discussion of the use of force standard and the “reasonableness” determination, see Section II., Use of Force Standard.

<sup>8</sup> See *Garner*, 471 U.S. at 11-12. To further illustrate a “threat of serious physical harm,” the *Garner* Court explained: “...if the suspect threatens the officer with a weapon or there is probable cause to believe that he has committed a crime involving the infliction or threatened infliction of serious physical harm, deadly force may be used if necessary to prevent escape, and if, where feasible, some warning has been given.” *Id.* The Supreme Court has further explained that this “necessity” refers not to preventing the flight, itself, but rather the larger context: the need to prevent the suspect’s potential or further serious physical harm to the LEO or other persons.

<sup>9</sup> Here, a distinction is drawn between firing at the operator, i.e., targeting the operator with the intent to cause serious physical injury or death, and firing at a moving vehicle or other conveyance solely as a warning or signal or to disable the vehicle, and with no intent to injure (see section V., Warning Shots and Disabling Fire).

## VII. Reporting Requirements and Incident Tracking

A. Uses of force shall be documented and investigated pursuant to Component policies.

B. It is a Department priority to ensure more consistent Department-wide reporting and tracking of use of force incidents. More consistent data will enable both the Department and Components to more effectively assess use of force activities, conduct meaningful trend analysis, revise policies, and take appropriate corrective actions.

C. DHS Components employing LEOs shall establish internal processes to collect and report accurate data on Component use of force activities. At a minimum, Components shall report the following as a "use of force incident" when resulting from a use of force:

1. A less-lethal device is utilized against a person (except when the device is deployed in a non-striking control technique);
2. Serious bodily injury occurs;
3. Deadly force is used against a person, to include when a firearm is discharged at a person; or
4. Death occurs.

D. Components shall report this data to the Deputy Secretary, through the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Law Enforcement Policy, on no less than an annual basis (in accordance with a process and timeline to be determined) and to others as required for official purposes.

## VIII. Departmental Review and Oversight

A. Each DHS Component employing LEOs will establish and maintain a use of force review council or committee to perform internal analysis of use of force incidents from the perspective of training, tactics, policy, and equipment; to identify trends and lessons learned; and to propose any necessary improvements to policies and procedures.

B. The Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans, working in consultation with DHS Components employing LEOs, shall establish the DHS Use of Force Council to provide a forum by which Components can share lessons learned regarding use of force policies, training, and oversight. The DHS Use of Force Council will be chaired by the Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans and comprised of one executive-level representative from each of the following DHS Components:

1. Office of the Under Secretary for Management
2. National Protection and Programs Directorate

3. United States Customs and Border Protection
4. United States Coast Guard
5. United States Secret Service
6. Federal Emergency Management Agency
7. Transportation Security Administration
8. United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement
9. Office of the General Counsel
10. Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers
11. Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
12. Privacy Office

C. Representatives of affected DHS Components will be responsible for reporting on use of force-related trends, developments, and lessons learned within their respective Components.

#### **IX. Military Activities**

This policy shall not apply to the United States Coast Guard when operating under the Standing Rules of Engagement, or to other DHS personnel when they fall under Department of Defense control as civilians accompanying the force.

#### **X. No Right of Action**

This policy is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the United States, its departments, agencies, or other entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

#### **XI. Definitions**

***A. Deadly Force:*** Any use of force that carries a substantial risk of causing death or serious bodily injury (see “Use of Force” and “Serious Bodily Injury”). Deadly force does not include force that is not likely to cause death or serious bodily injury, but unexpectedly results in such death or injury. In general, examples of deadly force include, but are not limited to, intentional discharges of firearms against persons, uses of impact weapons to strike the neck or head, any strangulation technique, strikes to the throat, and the use of any edged weapon.

***B. De-Escalation:*** The use of communication or other techniques during an encounter to stabilize, slow, or reduce the intensity of a potentially violent situation without using physical force, or with a reduction in force.

***C. Disabling Fire:*** Discharge of a firearm for the purpose of preventing a non-compliant moving vehicle, vessel, aircraft, or other conveyance from operating under its own power, but not intended to cause bodily injury.

***D. Less-Lethal Device:*** An instrument or weapon that is designed or intended to be used in a manner that is not likely to cause death or serious bodily injury (see “Serious Bodily Injury”). Examples include, but are not limited to, conducted electrical weapons/electronic control weapons, impact weapons, and certain chemical agents. These are also commonly referred to as “intermediate force” or “less-than-lethal” weapons or devices.

***E. Less-Lethal Force:*** Any use of force that is neither likely nor intended to cause death or serious bodily injury (see “Use of Force” and “Serious Bodily Injury”). Also known as “non-deadly,” “intermediate,” or “less-than-lethal” force.

***F. Lessons Learned:*** Information gleaned through internal review and analysis of use of force incidents that is sufficiently significant or critical to consider a change to policies, procedures, or training standards. Lessons learned may include, for example, information that can enhance law enforcement personnel skills; identify gaps in current training; identify current unique criminal trends being experienced in the field; provide information on new equipment recommendations or gaps; identify concerns with standard less lethal equipment/tactics; or any information that can prevent harm to the community, law enforcement, or arrestees.

***G. Serious Bodily Injury:*** Physical injury that involves protracted and obvious disfigurement; protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty; or a substantial risk of death.

***H. Use of Force:*** The intentional application by law enforcement of any weapon, instrument, device, or physical power in order to control, restrain, or overcome the resistance, or gain compliance or custody, of another.

I. ***Warning Shot:*** Discharge of a firearm as a warning or signal, for the purpose of compelling compliance from an individual, but not intended to cause bodily injury.

Distribution:

Under Secretary for Science and Technology  
Under Secretary for Management  
Under Secretary for National Protection and Programs Directorate  
Under Secretary of Intelligence and Analysis  
Commissioner, U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
Commandant, United States Coast Guard  
Director, United States Secret Service  
Director, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Administrator, Transportation Security Administration  
Assistant Secretary, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
General Counsel  
Inspector General  
Director, Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers  
Assistant Secretary of Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office  
Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans Policy  
Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs  
Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs  
Assistant Secretary for Partnership and Engagement  
Director, Operations Coordination  
Officer for Civil Rights & Civil Liberties  
Chief Privacy Officer  
Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman  
Military Advisor to the Secretary  
Director, Community Partnerships  
Executive Secretary

## Appendix II: DHS Commitment to Nondiscriminatory Law Enforcement and Screening Activities

Secretary

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528



**Homeland  
Security**

April 26, 2013

### MEMORANDUM FOR COMPONENT HEADS

FROM: Secretary Napolitano 

Subject: The Department of Homeland Security's Commitment to Nondiscriminatory Law Enforcement and Screening Activities

The Department of Homeland Security's mission is to ensure that the Nation remains a safe, secure, resilient place where the American way of life can thrive. As former Secretary Ridge explained in the predecessor to this policy, "In all we do to secure America, our strategies and our actions must be consistent with the individual rights and civil liberties protected by the Constitution and the rule of law."

The Department of Homeland Security's policy is to prohibit the consideration of race or ethnicity in our investigation, screening, and enforcement activities in all but the most exceptional instances. The following is the Department's official policy on this issue:

*"Racial profiling" is the invidious use of race or ethnicity as a criterion in conducting stops, searches, and other law enforcement, investigation, or screening activities. It is premised on the erroneous assumption that any particular individual of one race or ethnicity is more likely to engage in misconduct than any particular individual of another race or ethnicity. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has explicitly adopted the Department of Justice's "Guidance Regarding the Use of Race by Federal Law Enforcement Agencies," issued in June 2003. It is the policy of DHS to prohibit the consideration of race or ethnicity in our daily law enforcement and screening activities in all but the most exceptional instances, as defined in the DOJ Guidance. DHS personnel may use race or ethnicity only when a compelling governmental interest is present, and only in a way narrowly tailored to meet that compelling interest. Of course, race- or ethnicity-based information that is specific to particular suspects or incidents, or ongoing criminal activities, schemes or enterprises, may be considered, as stated in the DOJ Guidance.*

*Except as noted below, it is DHS policy, although not required by the Constitution, that tools, policies, directives, and rules in law enforcement and security settings that consider, as an investigative or screening criterion, an individual's simple connection to a particular country, by birth or citizenship, should be reserved for situations in which such consideration is based on an assessment of intelligence and risk, and in which alternatives do not meet security needs, and*

*such consideration should remain in place only as long as necessary. These self-imposed limits, however, do not apply to antiterrorism, immigration, or customs activities in which nationality is expressly relevant to the administration or enforcement of a statute, regulation, or executive order, or in individualized discretionary use of nationality as a screening, investigation, or enforcement factor).*

All Components should include the DHS policy stated above in all manuals, policies, directives, and guidelines regarding any activity in which the use of race, ethnicity, or nationality may arise as a security screening, enforcement, or investigative criterion. Each Component, in coordination with the Department's Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, should implement Component-specific policy and procedures to implement this guidance for law enforcement, investigation, and security activities. Moreover, all Components should ensure that all law enforcement personnel, including supervisors and managers, are trained to the standards set forth in the DOJ Guidance and the DHS policy stated above, and are held accountable for meeting those standards.

## Appendix III: DHS Policy Statement #045-06

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Deputy Secretary

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528Homeland  
Security

January 10, 2017

## MEMORANDUM FOR DEPARTMENT COMPONENT HEADS

FROM:

Russell C. Deyo  
Acting Deputy Secretary

SUBJECT:

**Required Reporting of Off-Duty Contact with Law Enforcement by DHS Law Enforcement Personnel and the Suspension and/or Revocation of Authority to Carry a Firearm or other Weapon and Perform Law Enforcement Duties**

Secretary Johnson and I greatly appreciate that every day, Department of Homeland Security (DHS or the Department) law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line in protection of our homeland. We recognize that law enforcement is a challenging occupation, characterized by high risks and inherent dangers. At the same time, DHS maintains an expectation that its law enforcement personnel will uphold the highest standards of conduct in both their personal and professional lives. To account for those occasions when a DHS law enforcement officer is involved in a situation where their conduct brings them into contact with, and places them under the scrutiny of law enforcement or the judiciary, this memorandum outlines the Department's policy for reporting such contact, and the potential implications on the law enforcement officer's authority to carry a firearm or other weapon and perform law enforcement duties.

Policy

This policy requires that DHS Components shall, at a minimum:

*Expand or Ensure DHS Law Enforcement Officers' Notification Requirements Include All Off-Duty Reportable Law Enforcement Officer/Agency or Judicial Contact*

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To ensure officer behavior is consistent with the Department's law enforcement mission, responsibilities, and values, the Department requires all law enforcement officers report to their supervisor all off-duty reportable contact with a law enforcement officer/agency as defined in Appendix A. DHS law enforcement officers must immediately report their arrest to their supervisor. DHS law enforcement officers must report all other off-duty reportable contact to their supervisor within 48 hours of the incident.

*Require Quarterly Advisement to DHS Law Enforcement Officers of their Duty Regarding Notification of Reportable Contact, the Lautenberg Amendment's Prohibitions on Carriage of Firearms, and Annual Lautenberg Certification*

As part of the Department's strong stand against crimes of domestic violence, DHS requires that all law enforcement officers receive a quarterly verbal advisement, during quarterly firearms qualifications, of their duty to notify management of any off-duty reportable contact with a law enforcement officer/agency, to include convictions for misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence and issuance of protective or temporary restraining orders, as well as notification of the Lautenberg Amendment's prohibitions on carriage of firearms. DHS also requires all law enforcement officers complete, on an annual basis, Lautenberg Amendment certifications regarding no conviction of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence, as defined in Appendix A.

*Notification of Lautenberg Amendment Convictions Shall Result in the Immediate Suspension and Subsequent Revocation of Authority to Carry a Firearm or Perform Law Enforcement Duties*

The Lautenberg Amendment requires that a law enforcement officer convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence may not possess a firearm or ammunition. DHS law enforcement officers convicted of such crimes, including pleas of no contest or sentences of probation before judgment, will no longer be authorized to carry a firearm or perform law enforcement functions. When a Component is initially notified of a potentially qualifying conviction, the Component is required to suspend the law enforcement officer's authority to carry a weapon and perform law enforcement duties within 24 hours of such notification. Once the Component is able to confirm the existence of a qualifying conviction, in consultation with the Component's legal counsel as appropriate, the authority to carry a weapon and perform law enforcement duties must be revoked. Subsequently, Components will pursue reassignment from a law enforcement position, an adverse action for failure to meet a condition of employment, or an adverse action based on the underlying misconduct.

*DHS Law Enforcement Officer's Mandatory Notification of the Issuance of Protective Orders, Temporary Restraining Orders or any Other Court Order*

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*Restricting a DHS Law Enforcement Officer's Contact with Another Individual or Ability to Possess a Firearm*

Consistent with DHS's law enforcement mission, the Department requires all law enforcement officers report to their supervisor all protective and temporary restraining orders restricting their contact with another individual or their ability to possess a firearm, about which they are aware. Notification is required to be made within 48 hours of the law enforcement officer becoming aware of the protective order, temporary restraining order, or any other court order restricting the employee's contact with another individual or ability to possess a firearm. Upon notification of the issuance of protective or restraining orders, DHS Components must implement a process by which supervisors make an initial determination of the appropriate course of action, in consultation with Component leadership, Component counsel, the Component's Office of Professional Responsibility (or equivalent) and the Component's Office of Employee and Labor Relations (or equivalent) as appropriate.

*Mandatory Suspension of Authority to Carry a Firearm or other Weapon and to Perform Law Enforcement Duties Following Notification of Law Enforcement Officer/Agency Contact Involving an Allegation of Off-Duty Violence by a DHS Law Enforcement Officer and/or Issuance of a Protective or Temporary Restraining Order Related to an Allegation of Domestic Violence or Other Alleged Violent Behavior*

To best protect the interests of the public, the Department, the officer involved, and the alleged victim(s), this policy mandates the immediate suspension of an officer's authority to carry government-issued or otherwise authorized weapon(s) and to perform law enforcement duties upon notification of (1) an off-duty DHS law enforcement officer's contact with a law enforcement officer/agency where the allegation contains a component of unlawful or unjustified violence by the law enforcement officer; or (2) the issuance of a protective or temporary restraining order against a DHS law enforcement officer related to an allegation of domestic violence or based on some other form of alleged violent behavior, or the officer's ability to possess a firearm.

This policy requires that Components provide verbal notice to the officer at the time of suspension, with formal written documentation of the suspension of these authorities within five (5) business days after the date of verbal notification. This policy coincides with Component obligations to report all allegations of criminal misconduct and all allegations of serious, noncriminal conduct in accordance with DHS Management Directive 0810.1, dated June 10, 2004.

- For all circumstances requiring the formal reporting of misconduct in accordance with DHS Management Directive 0810.1, further assessments pertaining to the suspension of an officer's authority to carry government-issued or otherwise

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authorized weapon(s) and to perform law enforcement duties will be coordinated with the appropriate DHS internal investigative entity (Office of Inspector General and/or the Component Office of Professional Responsibility, or equivalent).

- For all circumstances that do not require the formal reporting of misconduct in accordance with DHS Management Directive 0810.1, Components will develop procedures to determine if continued suspension of an officer's authority to carry government-issued or otherwise authorized weapon(s) and to perform law enforcement duties is warranted. This will include an assessment into the facts and circumstances conducted by Component leadership (not less than a second-line supervisor) to determine whether continued suspension is warranted. In conducting such assessments, Component managers will consider both the law enforcement contact, action or order issued and the conduct of the officer involved. Even if a state or local court or law enforcement agency declines to take action, a review by Component managers may reveal that the officer's conduct is inconsistent with the continued authority to carry a firearm or other weapon or perform federal law enforcement duties.

In all situations where a Component suspends or revokes an officer's law enforcement authority to carry a firearm, DHS requires that Components immediately take custody of any government-issued firearms or other weapons, and where applicable, rescind, in writing, any previous authorizations to utilize a personally-owned firearm in the performance of the officer's duties.

*Take Prompt Remedial Action for Failure to Report Law Enforcement and Judicial Contact*

In accordance with this directive, upon awareness of an off-duty reportable contact that was not reported by a DHS law enforcement officer as required by this policy, DHS Components will review the situation, the factors underlying the failure to report, and take appropriate actions based on the information received, including discipline for misconduct as appropriate and in a manner consistent with law and regulation. DHS Components' policies will include penalties for a failure to report off-duty reportable contact.

*Mandatory Biannual Reporting of All Suspensions or Revocations of DHS Law Enforcement Officer's Authority to Carry a Firearm and Perform Law Enforcement Duties*

To promote greater transparency and accountability, DHS mandates that Department Components track and report to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Law Enforcement Policy the number of law enforcement officers who have had their authorities suspended or revoked following off-duty contact with a law enforcement

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officer/agency or the issuance of a protective or temporary restraining order, and those who have subsequently had their authorities reinstated following internal agency review and assessment.

*Require Annual Training for all Department Supervisors of Law Enforcement Officers on Federal Law, Regulations, and Department Policy Regarding the Suspension or Revocation of an Officer's Law Enforcement Authorities*

As part of the Department's effort to establish sound policy and consistent practice regarding the suspension or revocation of a law enforcement officer's authorities, annual training will be provided to managers regarding the decision-making process associated with this policy.

*Require Annual Domestic Violence Awareness Training for all Department Law Enforcement Officers*

As part of the Department's strong stand against crimes of domestic violence, annual training will be provided to all Department law enforcement officers regarding these crimes to reinforce Department values and assist in preventing domestic violence.

Within 60 days from the date of this policy, each DHS Component shall designate an executive-level point of contact at the Component's headquarters office who will be responsible for the implementation of this policy, and for promoting compliance with its provisions, within his or her area of responsibility and who will consult with their Component privacy office to ensure appropriate Privacy Act coverage for the collection of this information. Upon designating a POC for this policy, DHS Components will provide DHS Law Enforcement Policy with their designee's contact information. In addition, within 60 days from the date of this policy, each DHS Component shall provide to DHS Law Enforcement Policy their plan to implement the policy, ensuring that responsibilities under labor relations statutes and union agreements are fulfilled, as applicable.

All questions regarding the scope and implementation of this policy should be directed to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Law Enforcement Policy, Office of Policy.

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APPENDIX A

**Required Reporting of Off-Duty Contact with Law Enforcement by DHS Law Enforcement Personnel and the Suspension and/or Revocation of Authority to Carry a Firearm or other Weapon and Perform Law Enforcement Duties**

For the purposes of this policy, the following terms have the definitions set forth below:

*Convicted of a Misdemeanor Crime of Domestic Violence:* a law enforcement officer who has been found guilty under federal, state or tribal law of a crime defined by 18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(33)(A), provided that the law enforcement officer “was represented by counsel in the case, or knowingly and intelligently waived the right to counsel in the case,” and, if the law enforcement officer was entitled to a trial by jury, the case was, in fact, tried by jury or the law enforcement officer “knowingly and intelligently waived the right to have the case tried by a jury, by guilty plea or otherwise,” 18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(33)(B). Convictions include no contest pleas and sentences of probation.

*Government-Authorized Personally Owned Weapon:* A firearm or other weapon that is not government-owned, but is authorized by the government for use by a law enforcement officer in performance of their official duties.<sup>1</sup>

*Government-Owned Weapon:* A firearm or other weapon owned by the government and assigned to a law enforcement officer for use in performance of their official duties.

*DHS Law Enforcement Officer:* For the purpose of this policy, a law enforcement officer is any employee within the Department who is duly sworn and authorized by law to carry a weapon, make arrests, or execute search and arrest warrants.

*Lautenberg Amendment:* Specifically refers to 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(9), which prohibits anyone who has been convicted in any court of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence from possessing any firearm or ammunition.

*Off-Duty Reportable Contact:* All instances where a DHS law enforcement officer is off-duty and not acting in an official capacity and is questioned, interviewed, detained, or arrested as a subject of an enforcement action or investigation by a law enforcement agency (either internal to DHS or external) during the course of said agency’s official duties to determine if the DHS law enforcement officer was a party to an alleged violation of law. Reportable contact also includes the known

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<sup>1</sup> Nothing in this policy shall be construed as interfering with the right of law enforcement officers to carry privately owned firearms for personal use as private citizens. Law enforcement officers are expected to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws when exercising this right.

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issuance of any protective order, temporary restraining order, or other court order restricting a DHS law enforcement officer's contact with another individual. Reportable contact excludes instances when a DHS law enforcement officer is contacted for civil violations or traffic violations where there was no allegation of violence, threat of violence, or where the civil or traffic violation did not include the possession or use of alcohol or drugs.

*Suspend Law Enforcement Authorities:* an affirmative management action, in writing and pursuant to any procedures which have been or may be established, which temporarily removes a law enforcement officer's authority to perform law enforcement duties and carry a government-issued firearm or other weapon, as well as the authority granted through their law enforcement position to carry a personally-owned or off-duty weapon as a result of alleged misconduct (including self-reported misconduct) or disciplinary action. The action results in the law enforcement officer's surrender of all DHS-issued firearms or other weapons, badges and credentials, and temporary removal of the authorization to carry a firearm in the performance of the officer's official duties and perform law enforcement duties, to include the authorization of home-to-work privileges.

*Revoke Law Enforcement Authorities:* an affirmative management action, in writing and pursuant to any procedures which have been or may be established, which permanently terminates a law enforcement officer's authority to perform law enforcement duties and carry a government-issued firearm or other weapon, as well as any authority previously granted through their law enforcement position to carry a personally-owned firearm while on duty. This action results in the law enforcement officer's surrender of all DHS-issued firearms or other weapons, badges and credentials, and termination of the authorization to carry a firearm in the performance of the officer's official duties, to include the authorization of home-to-work privileges. In accordance with law, regulation, and policy, a permanent revocation of firearms credentials may be grounds for reduction in grade, reassignment, or removal.

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## Appendix IV: CBP Domestic Violence Policy



DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION  
CBP DIRECTIVE

**DIRECTIVE NUMBER:** 51000-004

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** December 9, 2020

**SUPERSEDES:** N/A

**OFFICE:** Enterprise Services

**SUBJECT CODE:**

**SUB OFFICE:** Human Resources Management

**DISTRIBUTION:**

**PROGRAM OFFICE:** Human Resources Policy and Programs Directorate/Human Resources Policy and Regulatory Affairs Division

U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE POLICY

### 1 PURPOSE

1.1 U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) strives to promote a safe and healthy work environment for all employees, and to sustain a workforce that is free from the harmful effects of domestic violence.

### 2 POLICY

2.1 It is the policy of CBP to provide assistance to employees who are victims of domestic violence. It is also the policy of CBP to prohibit employees from committing domestic violence, and to ensure domestic violence offenders are held accountable for their actions.

### 3 AUTHORITIES / REFERENCES

3.1 Presidential Memorandum, Establishing Policies for Addressing Domestic Violence in the Federal Workforce (April 18, 2012);

3.2 Office of Personnel Management, Guidance for Agency-Specific Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Policies (February 2013);

3.3 Title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 735, Employee Responsibilities and Conduct;

3.4 Title 18, United States Code § 922(g)(9);

3.5 Department of Homeland Security Policy Directive 045-06, Required Reporting of Off-Duty Contact with Law Enforcement by DHS Law Enforcement Personnel and the Suspension and/or Revocation of Authority to Carry a Firearm or Other Weapon and Perform Law Enforcement Duties (January 10, 2017);

3.6 CBP Standards of Conduct, Directive 51735-013B (December 9, 2020);



DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
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CBP DIRECTIVE

- 3.7 CBP Table of Offenses and Penalties (December 9, 2020);
- 3.8 Arrest of CBP Employees, Directive 51735-014A (December 9, 2020);
- 3.9 CBP Use of Force Policy, Guidelines and Procedures Handbook, HB 4500-01C (May 2014);
- 3.10 Delegation of Authority for Disciplinary and Adverse Actions, Delegation Order Number 20-017 (October 6, 2020).

#### 4 SCOPE

4.1 This Directive applies to all CBP employees. Where there are differences in this Directive and a negotiated union agreement, the negotiated union agreement shall govern over those matters concerning bargaining unit employees.

#### 5 RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1 Executive Assistant Commissioners; Chief, U.S. Border Patrol; Assistant Commissioners; and headquarters office executive leadership are responsible for ensuring compliance with the provisions of this Directive within their respective program offices, and for ensuring the necessary support and resources are available to supervisors and managers in their efforts to address employee and workplace issues caused by domestic violence.

5.2 The Assistant Commissioner, Office of Human Resources Management, is responsible for ensuring the provisions of this Directive are compliant with Federal regulations and OPM guidance, for providing administrative advice and support to supervisors and managers on domestic violence matters affecting the workplace, and promoting employee awareness of CBP's domestic violence policies.

5.3 The Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) is responsible for investigating allegations of domestic violence and any workplace incidents related to acts of domestic violence, whether an employee is a victim or offender, and for serving as a CBP liaison with outside law enforcement entities.

5.4 Supervisors and managers are responsible for ensuring employees are aware of the provisions of this Directive, for maintaining a safe and non-threatening work environment, for offering assistance through the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to employees who either commit or are affected by domestic violence, for following Agency policies and procedures, and for promptly initiating administrative action against employees who are domestic violence offenders.

5.5 Employees at all levels of CBP are responsible for upholding CBP's integrity and professionalism standards. With exception of employee victims, who are urged, all CBP



DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
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CBP DIRECTIVE

employees are responsible for reporting any acts, suspected acts, or threats of domestic violence through their supervisory chain of command and OPR, and for considering use of the EAP and other resources that are available to improve personal health, wellness and safety.

## 6 DEFINITIONS

6.1 Domestic Violence – Felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction.

6.2 Domestic Violence Offender – An individual who commits or threatens to commit an act of domestic violence.

6.3 Protection or Restraining Order – A protection order, also called a restraining order or stay-away order, is an order issued by a court to protect a victim from a perpetrator. Protection orders may be issued in criminal cases as a condition of probation or condition of release, particularly in a domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking related crime.

6.4 Workplace – An employee's official duty station or alternative work location that is associated with the employee's established tour of duty (working hours). The employee is considered to be in the workplace while in or using the resources of CBP, or anywhere that he or she is conducting CBP business, or while on work-related travel.

6.5 Workplace-related incidents – Refers to incidents of domestic violence affecting the employee outside the workplace, including acts, attempted acts, or threatened acts by or against the employee and/or against the employee's family or property that are brought into the workplace, or that occur outside the workplace but have an impact on the workplace, or that occur inside the workplace.

## 7 STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

7.1 CBP recognizes an employee's right to privacy and the need for confidentiality of all incidents of domestic violence. CBP will maintain the confidentiality of employee disclosures of domestic violence, both orally and in writing, received from both victims and perpetrators, to the extent permitted by law. In the event information must be disclosed to protect the safety of the disclosing employee or for the protection of others, CBP will limit such disclosure to that which is minimally necessary for protection and safety. CBP will attempt to provide advance notice to the disclosing employee that the information minimally necessary will be disclosed, to whom it will be disclosed, the reasons for the disclosure and the information being disclosed. Written disclosures must be kept in a confidential and separate file from employee personnel records.



DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION  
CBP DIRECTIVE

## 8 PROCEDURES

### 8.1 General Awareness

8.1.1 Supervisors must ensure their employees are aware of the policies and provisions of this Directive, and the Agency's prohibition against domestic violence.

8.1.2 Supervisors and managers are required to complete agency-sponsored training on how to manage and respond to employee victims or employee offenders of domestic violence, and any workplace-related incidents stemming from domestic violence.

8.1.3 CBP employees who exercise law enforcement authority,

8.1.3.1 CBP employees are required to receive a quarterly verbal advisement, during quarterly firearms qualifications (normally), of their duty to notify management of any off-duty reportable contact, as outlined in 8.3.4, with a law enforcement officer/agency, to include convictions for misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence and issuance of protective or temporary restraining orders, as well as notification of the Lautenberg Amendment's prohibitions on carriage of firearms. These employees are also required to complete an annual Lautenberg Amendment certification which certifies they have no convictions of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence.

8.1.4 CBP employees are required to complete annual domestic violence awareness training.

### 8.2 Employee Victims of Domestic Violence

8.2.1 Reporting Requirements – Employees who are victims of domestic violence are urged, but are not required to immediately report the incident to their first-line supervisor, and/or to the Office of Professional Responsibility through the toll-free Joint Intake Center Hotline at 1-877-2INTAKE (1-877-246-8253) or [Joint.Intake@dhs.gov](mailto:Joint.Intake@dhs.gov).

8.2.1.1 Supervisors and managers are to act promptly and in accordance with applicable Agency procedures upon receiving a report of an employee victim of domestic violence. Relevant facts must be assessed to properly address any immediate effects on the employee and the workplace. Supervisors should consult with their senior management officials and contact the EAP for guidance.

8.2.2 Workplace Flexibilities – Various workplace flexibilities may be extended to employee victims of domestic violence, to the greatest extent permissible by law, and in accordance with CBP policies. Workplace flexibilities may include: various forms of paid, unpaid, and advanced leave, telework arrangements, and flexible work schedules. All possible leave options should be considered for employee victims of domestic violence. Employees must be sure to comply with procedural requirements of workplace



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CBP DIRECTIVE

flexibilities programs. The employee must disclose sufficient details about a domestic violence incident to enable the supervisor to make workplace flexibilities approval decisions. When the need for time off is foreseeable, an employee must provide reasonable advance notice to the agency.

8.2.3 Proof/Evidence – In making workplace flexibilities considerations, a supervisor may use an employee’s credible statements as proof of a domestic violence incident. Supervisors may request additional proof or verification, such as police or court reports, a service provider’s statement, a protection order, medical verification, or other forms of credible evidence, but employee-victims shall not be required to provide this information. If a supervisor believes that more information is needed before making a workplace flexibility decision, but more information is not provided by the employee-victim, then the agency will make a decision based on evidence already in the agency’s possession from the employee-victim.

8.2.4 Employee Autonomy – Supervisors must not request or require an employee victim of domestic violence to report the domestic violence incident to law enforcement authorities. To do so could ultimately place victims of domestic violence in greater danger. Furthermore, filing a report with law enforcement authorities should not be a condition for approving requests for leave or other workplace flexibilities.

8.2.5 Work Status – An employee can be charged absent without leave (AWOL) if the employee is absent from work without supervisory approval. Employee victims of domestic violence may later request to have charges of AWOL substituted by another form of leave, as permitted by Agency leave policies. AWOL substitutions are subject to supervisory approval, and based on the circumstances of each individual case.

8.2.6 Employee Referrals – Employees who are victims of domestic violence are encouraged to seek assistance through professional services (see Appendix A). In all instances, supervisors must refer employees to the EAP. Employee victims of domestic violence are advised to utilize EAP support services, although use of the EAP is not mandatory.

### 8.3 Employee Offenders of Domestic Violence

8.3.1 Workplace Incidents – Employees who commit acts of domestic violence in the workplace will be removed from the premises, reported to OPR, subject to arrest and/or prosecution, and subject to disciplinary/adverse action, up to and including removal from Federal service.

8.3.2 Employee Reporting Requirements – An employee who (whether on or off-duty) is arrested, receives a summons or citation to appear in court on criminal charges, is indicted or convicted of domestic violence, or is the subject of a protection or restraining order must report the incident to their first line supervisor (or other manager within their chain of command) and to OPR (1-877-2INTAKE) as soon as possible. If arrested, an



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employee must report the arrest immediately, or as soon as possible, but not more than 24 hours after the arrest. If reporting the arrest within the prescribed timeframe is precluded by circumstances of the arrest, then it must be reported as soon as circumstances allow, along with a full explanation of the reason the arrest was not reported immediately.

8.3.3 Arrest Notification – Upon receiving notification of an employee arrest/incarceration for domestic violence, supervisors must promptly follow Agency procedures as outlined in the Arrest of CBP Employees Directive (#51735-014A).

8.3.4 Law Enforcement and Judicial Contact Notification – CBP employees who exercise law enforcement authority who are off-duty and not acting in an official capacity and are questioned, interviewed, or detained as a subject of an enforcement action or investigation by a law enforcement agency during the course of the agency's official duties to determine if the CBP employee was a party to an alleged violation of law, must report this contact with law enforcement within 48 hours to their first-line supervisor. These CBP employees must also report the known issuance of any protective order, temporary restraining order, or other court order restricting contact with another individual or ability to carry a firearm. This reporting excludes civil violations or traffic violations where there is no allegation of violence, threat of violence, or where the civil violations or traffic violations did not include the possession or use of alcohol or drugs.

8.3.5 Work Status (Arrest/Incarceration) – Leave requests will be handled consistent with negotiated agreements, Directives, and Federal regulations.

8.3.6 Administrative Action – In accordance with the CBP Standards of Conduct and Table of Offenses and Penalties, employees who commit or threaten to commit acts of domestic violence will have administrative action taken against them. Both on and off duty acts of domestic violence can result in administrative action, i.e., disciplinary action ranging up to removal from Federal service, even for a first offense. Supervisors should contact their servicing LER Specialist early in the process for advice, and initiate swift and immediate administrative action for domestic violence offenses.

8.3.6.1 Indefinite Suspension – Where a nexus exists, an employee will be placed on indefinite suspension when there is reasonable cause to believe the employee has committed a crime for which a sentence of imprisonment may be imposed. Indefinite suspension places an employee in a temporary non-duty/non-pay status pending investigation, inquiry, or further Agency action, in accordance with Agency procedures and consistent with Federal regulations. Supervisors should immediately consult with their LER Specialist to ensure employees are placed on indefinite suspension expeditiously, as circumstances warrant.

8.4 CBP Firearms/Defensive Equipment – Employees with authority to carry a firearm, ammunition, and other CBP defensive equipment in the performance of their duties will normally have their authority revoked following an arrest or charge of domestic violence for thirty days following the arrest or charge. After 30 days, CBP will follow the procedures set



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forth in the Collective Bargaining Agreement (if applicable), and decide whether under all of the circumstances the Officer's firearm carriage authority should be reinstated. In rare circumstances, if no nexus exists, management will reinstate the officer's authority to carry a firearm and return the service-issued firearm as soon as practicable, within the initial 30 days. The revocation of authority to carry a firearm will continue throughout the disposition or proceedings of a domestic violence case. An employee who commits domestic violence will have all law enforcement authority revoked during the pendency of the matter, in accordance with Agency procedures.

8.5 Conviction of Domestic Violence (Lautenberg Amendment) – Under certain provisions of the Federal Gun Control Act, employees who are subject to a protective order related to domestic violence or convicted of a qualifying misdemeanor crime of domestic violence are prohibited from possessing or carrying firearms or ammunition (18 U.S.C. 922(g)). The provision regarding misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence is known as the "Lautenberg Amendment," which does not afford an exemption for those who carry firearms in the performance of their official duties. Within 24 hours of receiving notification of a potentially qualifying conviction, CBP will temporarily rescind and may subsequently revoke the employee's authority to carry a firearm and perform law enforcement duties. Therefore, any employee who must carry a firearm or ammunition in the performance of their duties as a condition of employment may face disciplinary action, up to and including removal from Federal service, if impacted by the Lautenberg Amendment. In the cases where the conviction has been expunged, consult the collective bargaining agreement. Absent other outstanding misconduct issues, an authorized officer who has had a domestic violence conviction (i.e., Lautenberg Amendment) expunged will be treated as if the conviction had never occurred, e.g. the authorized officer will be permitted to carry a firearm in accordance with the provisions of the CBP Use of Force Policy, Guidelines and Procedures Handbook, HB 4500-01C.

8.6 Self-Help Referrals – Employees who commit domestic violence are encouraged to seek self-help through professional services, to include services offered by the EAP. However, appropriate disciplinary action may still be imposed for committing an act of domestic violence even if an employee seeks self-help. The employee's supervisor should remind the employee of the availability of EAP services, although use of the EAP is not mandatory.

## 9 WORKPLACE SAFETY AND PRECAUTIONS

9.1 Office Security – Supervisors should be prepared to follow their local safety procedures with regards to threats or emergencies related to acts of domestic violence. Workplace safety plans should be properly executed. Supervisors and security personnel should ensure office safety precautions are administered to protect employees against impermissible entry into a work environment by unauthorized individuals.

9.2 Workplace-Related Incidents - Supervisors should appropriately address any employee circumstances that may lead to domestic disturbances in the workplace. In some instances, both a domestic violence victim and offender may be assigned to the same work unit or locale, and may need to be separated during work hours. If an employee has a protective order against



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another employee, and the order allows the alleged offender to report to a nearby or same work location, consideration should be given to changing the alleged offender’s duty location or the employee-victim’s duty location (if more feasible and the employee-victim requests/or agrees to the change), granting telework options, or changing tours of duty as preventive and protective measures. Impacted employees should be directed to avoid contact while on duty.

**10 NON-DISCRIMINATION**

10.1 CBP is committed to treating all individuals in a non-discriminatory manner, without regard to their protective status under Federal law, Executive Order, regulation, or policy in all employment programs and management decisions, to include those involved in or affected by domestic violence. CBP policy strictly prohibits any form of unlawful discrimination. Any employee, applicant for employment, or former employee who believes he or she has been discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity, and sexual orientation), national origin, age, physical or mental disability, status as a parent, genetic information, or experienced retaliation for prior EEO involvement, and wishes to file an EEO complaint, must seek informal EEO counseling within 45 calendar days of the alleged discriminatory event by: emailing the CBP EEO Complaint Filing Mailbox at [cbpeecomplaintfiling@dhs.gov](mailto:cbpeecomplaintfiling@dhs.gov); calling 1-877-MY-EEO-HELP (1-877-693-3643); or contacting the servicing EEO Specialist.

10.2 CBP is committed to ensuring domestic violence communications, resources, assistance, and workplace flexibilities are afforded to all employees, including those with limitations or disabilities.

DEC 11 2020

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Mark A. Morgan  
 Chief Operating Officer and  
 Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Commissioner  
 U.S. Customs and Border Protection

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date



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APPENDIX

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ASSISTANCE AND RESOURCES**

Local law enforcement – Dial 911 in case of an emergency

CBP Office of Professional Responsibility – Joint Intake Center  
877-246-8253

CBP Employee Assistance Program  
800-755-7002

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
[www.ncadv.org](http://www.ncadv.org)

National Domestic Violence Hotline  
1-800-799-SAFE  
[www.thehotline.org](http://www.thehotline.org)

U.S. Office of Personnel Management  
[www.opm.gov](http://www.opm.gov)

U.S. Department of Justice  
[www.doj.gov](http://www.doj.gov)

**Appendix V: Use of Force Policy Clarification - Emergency Situations**

440 Koonce Road  
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425



**U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection**

**AUG 12 2019**

MEMORANDUM FOR: See Distribution

THROUGH: William A. Ferrara  
Executive Assistant Commissioner  
Operations Support *William A. Ferrara*

FROM: Christopher A. Bishop *Chris A. Bishop*  
Acting Director  
Law Enforcement Safety and Compliance Directorate

SUBJECT: Use of Force Policy Clarification – Emergency Situations

Generally, prior to being issued any U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) authorized use of force device or firearm, the CBP Use of Force Policy mandates that all CBP law enforcement personnel receive training and demonstrate an acceptable level of proficiency on each of the devices or firearms they are issued. Failure to ensure the proper training of its personnel and/or require its personnel to demonstrate proficiency exposes the agency to allegations of negligent or inadequate training, judgment or supervision. Furthermore, officers and agents that carry or deploy use of force devices or firearms on which they have not received the appropriate training or demonstrated the required level of proficiency may also be found negligent. In either of the above cases, the agency may be liable under relevant tort law statutes. However, understanding the often unpredictable nature of law enforcement encounters, the CBP Use of Force Policy contains specific exceptions for emergency situations. The purpose of this memorandum is to clarify what constitutes an emergency situation.

An emergency situation can be defined as an unplanned event or exigent circumstance that occurs with no advanced warning, rapidly evolves, and which requires a reactive response to address an imminent threat. In such threatening and emergent situations, authorized officers and agents may use any available weapon in a manner that is reasonable, and necessary for self-defense or the defense of another person.<sup>1</sup> In these situations officers and agents must remember that the manner in which any less-lethal device or firearm is used must still comply with the objectively reasonableness analysis to which all law enforcement uses of force are subjected. For instance, deadly force must not be used unless there is a reasonable belief that the subject of such force poses an imminent threat of death or serious physical injury.

<sup>1</sup> CBP Use of Force Policy, Guidelines and Procedures Handbook, Office of Training and Development, HB 4500-01C, Chapter 4: *Guidelines and Procedures on the Use of Less Lethal Force*, at 37.

## Use of Force Policy Clarification – Emergency Situations

Page 2

In contrast, an emergency situation does not exist when the agency has advance notice, with time to plan operations and prepare for incidents that may occur in the near future. As a proactive measure to address potential threats, officers or agents must not be issued, carry, or use a less-lethal device or firearm for which they have not met the minimum training and proficiency standards.

In addition to the training and proficiency requirements listed above, CBP law enforcement personnel may only be issued and carry use of force devices or firearms that are listed on the Authorized Equipment List.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. If members of your staff have any questions, they may contact Christopher A. Bishop, Acting Director, LESC, at (304) 724-5922 or email Christopher A. Bishop@cbp.dhs.gov.

Distribution: Commissioner  
Deputy Commissioner  
Executive Assistant Commissioners  
Chief, U.S. Border Patrol  
Assistant Commissioners

## Appendix VI: Glossary

Active Resistance - A type of resistance where physical attributes are being used to resist an officer/agent's control efforts. The efforts are not directed toward the officer/agent but rather appear intended to thwart an officer's/agent's control efforts.

Authorized Officers/Agents - CBP Officers, Border Patrol Agents, Air and Marine Officers and Agents, OPR Special Agents and Investigators, and other qualified CBP personnel as designated by the Commissioner of CBP.

### Assault

Reportable Assault (Reportable in E-STAR) - Any action which meets the definition of Assault, Assaultive Resistance (Physical Injury, Serious bodily injury), or Transferred Intent regardless of whether or not the subject was apprehended, identified, or the prosecutorial disposition.

Assault - A physically manifested attempt or threat to inflict injury on CBP personnel, whether successful or not, which causes a reasonable apprehension of imminent bodily harm.

Assaultive Resistance (Physical Injury) - Resistance characterized by a level of aggression or violence that causes or has the potential to cause physical injury to the officer/agent, others, or self. This includes a subject's attempts (or apparent intent) to make physical contact in an attempt to control or assault the officer/agent.

Assaultive Resistance (Serious Bodily Injury/Death) - Resistance characterized by a level of aggression or violence that causes or has the potential to cause serious bodily injury or death to the officer/agent, others, or self.

Transferred Intent - When an intent to cause harm to one person results in harm or damage to another person or a thing instead of the intended human target. (e.g., when a launched or thrown projectile strikes an officer or agent's vehicle, but misses the area in which an officer/agent is sitting).

Authorized Equipment List (AEL) - A list of equipment that the LESC has tested, evaluated, and authorized for use within CBP. All equipment must be approved for field use by the DO. The AEL can be found on the LESC section of CBPnet.

Body Armor Coordinator (BAC) - A designated employee who is responsible for ordering and issuing body armor as required.

Carry - Carry (of a handgun) refers to any manner of carry that implies the handgun is ready to be drawn and fired if necessary. Carry (of a shoulder-fired weapon) refers to any manner of carry that implies the firearm is ready to be utilized for law enforcement operations.

CBP Firearm (as referenced in this Handbook) - A firearm that has been authorized by the Executive Director of the LESC, and approved for use by a Designated Official.

Co-Authority (COA) - An individual designated by the Responsible Official to act in his/her stead in all functions in the Firearms, Armor and Credentials Tracking System (FACTS).

Collapsible Straight Baton (CSB) - A less-lethal device composed of cylindrical shafts that lock into each other when expanded. The shafts are usually made of steel, but lightweight baton models may have shafts made from aluminum alloy.

Compliance Techniques - Actions taken by an Authorized Officer/Agent on a subject to establish and maintain control. Examples of compliance techniques include the use of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray, strike pressure points, stunning techniques, takedowns, joint manipulations and use of an Electronic Control Weapon (ECW).

Compressed Air Launcher - A less-lethal impact/chemical irritant delivery system that is powered by compressed air. The launcher can deliver a variety of less-lethal projectiles including, PAVA pepper powder, non-toxic marking rounds, and those designed for kinetic impact.

Contact Controls - Actions taken by an Authorized Officer/Agent on a subject to establish and maintain control. Contact controls may include measures such as strategic positioning, escort holds, joint manipulation or immobilization, or touch pressure point stimulation.

Controlled Noise and Light Distraction Device (CNLDD) - A pyrotechnic less-lethal device designed to emit a bright light and loud noise to momentarily disorient and confuse subjects.

Cooperative Controls - Actions taken by an Authorized Officer/Agent on a subject to establish and maintain control. Cooperative controls may include verbal commands.

Counter Assault Techniques - Actions taken when a subject has either assaulted the officer/agent or is displaying a willingness and intent to do so. Examples of counter assault techniques are concentrated strikes involving the use of empty-hand techniques (e.g., the use of body parts as weapons), the CSB and the ECW.

Deadly Force - Any use of force that carries a substantial risk of causing death or serious bodily injury (see “Use of Force” and “Serious Bodily Injury”). Deadly force does not include force that is not likely to cause death or serious bodily injury, but unexpectedly results in such death or injury. In general, examples of deadly force include, but are not limited to, intentional discharges of firearms against persons, uses of impact weapons to strike the neck or head, any strangulation technique, strikes to the throat, and the use of any edged weapon.

Designated Official - Executive Assistant Commissioners and Chief, United States Border Patrol (or their Headquarters designees); Assistant Commissioner, Office of Professional Responsibility; and the Executive Director, Law Enforcement Safety and Compliance Directorate.

Disabling Fire - Discharge of a firearm for the purpose of preventing a non-compliant moving vehicle, vessel, aircraft, or other conveyance from operating under its own power, but not intended to cause bodily injury.

Electronic Control Weapon (ECW) - A less-lethal device which is designed to use short-duration electronic pulses to cause Neuro-Muscular Incapacitation (NMI) and/or pain, with minimal risk of serious bodily injury or death.

Emergency Situation - An unplanned event or exigent circumstance that occurs with no advanced warning, rapidly evolves, and which requires a reactive response to address an imminent threat.

Employee Assistance Program (EAP) - A CBP program established to provide assistance and guidance to employees.

Empty Hand Strikes - Strikes delivered by a body part (e.g. palm heel strike, jab, cross, elbow strike, snap kick, or knee strike).

Enforcement Action Statistical Analysis and Reporting System (E-STAR) - A CBP computer system for recording assaults, reportable uses of force, pursuits, reportable firearms discharges, and other related data.

Field Armorer (FA) - A CBP-certified firearms instructor who has been LESC trained and certified to conduct limited maintenance and repair of CBP firearms.

Firearms Coordinator (FCO) - A designated employee who is responsible for receiving, controlling and issuing CBP firearms and associated equipment to CBP personnel within their duty area.

Firearms Instructor (FI) - An Authorized Officer/Agent who has been LESC trained and certified to conduct firearms training, tactics, and proficiency evaluations for CBP Authorized Officers/Agents.

Firearms, Armor, and Credential Tracking System (FACTS) - A CBP computer system that provides oversight and lifecycle accountability for specified law enforcement assets and equipment (including firearms, body armor, ECWs, and munition launchers).

FN303 - A less-lethal launcher, powered by compressed air, that delivers frangible, plastic projectiles filled with capsaicin powder. The projectiles are designed to burst upon impact and disperse the capsaicin powder either into the environment (area saturation) or onto the subject(s) (kinetic impact).

International Boundary Barrier (IBB) - A physical barrier at or between Ports of Entry and placed along the international boundary, which has been designed, manufactured and/or constructed with the capability of controlling the flow of people and goods crossing the border.

The Law Enforcement Safety and Compliance Directorate (LESC) - A division of CBP Operations Support responsible for development of CBP use of force policy, procurement of CBP firearms and tactical equipment, and the development and oversight of use of force training for CBP.

Less-Lethal Coordinator (LLCO) - A designated employee who is responsible for receiving, controlling, and issuing CBP less-lethal use of force equipment to CBP personnel within their duty area.

Less-Lethal Force: Any use of force that is neither likely nor intended to cause death or serious bodily injury (see “Use of Force” and “Serious Bodily Injury”). Also known as “non-deadly,” “intermediate,” or “less-than-lethal” force.

Less-Lethal Instructor (LLI) - An Authorized Officer/Agent who has been LESOC trained and certified to conduct less-lethal training, tactics, and proficiency evaluations for CBP Authorized Officers/Agents.

Less-Lethal Training Safety Officer (LLTSO) - An officer/agent trained in less-lethal safety procedures to augment safety requirements during authorized less-lethal training.

Less-Lethal Specialty Impact and Chemical Munition (LLSI-CM) - Less-lethal munitions that are designed to deliver impact, chemical irritant, or both. LLSI-CM can be delivered by means of designated hand thrown munitions or by a munitions launcher.

Mechanical Resistance - A type of active resistance where an object external to physical attributes is used to increase the effectiveness of resistance to an officer/agent’s control efforts. The efforts are not directed toward the officer/agent but rather appear intended to thwart an officer’s/agent’s control efforts by physically securing or holding another object.

Munition Launcher - A less-lethal specialty impact/chemical munition (LLSI-CM) delivery system that is designed to deliver an impact projectile, a chemical irritant projectile, or a combination projectile with more accuracy, higher velocity, and longer range than a projectile deployed by hand.

Non-Standard Firearm - A firearm that is not on the CBP Authorized Equipment List.

O-Chlorobenzylidenemalononitrile (CS) - The active ingredient in CS gas or spray.

Offensive Driving Techniques (ODT) - ODTs are any driving technique that is consistent with CBP training and is intended to end a pursuit through intentional vehicle-to-vehicle impact.

Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) - The active ingredient in OC spray, derived from cayenne pepper.

OC Spray - A hand held aerosol less-lethal device that disperses the inflammatory agent capsaicin in a conical mist, stream, gel or foam.

Passive Resistance - A type of resistance that is not believed to represent an immediate threat or flight risk, and which is not physical resistance to an Authorized Officer's/Agent's control efforts, but is not cooperative.

Pepperball Launching System (PLS) - A less-lethal launcher, powered by compressed air, that typically delivers frangible, plastic projectiles filled with capsaicin powder. The projectiles are designed to burst upon impact and disperse the capsaicin powder either into the environment (area saturation) or onto the subject(s) (kinetic impact).

Personal Property Management Oversight Board (PPMOB) - A board composed of representatives from all CBP offices that determines the disposition of lost or stolen CBP assets.

Range Safety Officer (RSO) - An officer/agent trained in range safety procedures and utilized as a safety officer.

Reportable Use of Force (Reportable in E-STAR) - Any use of deadly force; any intentional deployment of a CBP less-lethal device; or any use of a vehicle, weapon, physical tactic or technique that delivers (or is intended to deliver) a kinetic impact to a subject.

Responsible Officials (RO) - Executive Assistant Commissioners (EACs), Chief, U.S. Border Patrol (USBP); Assistant Commissioners (ACs); Chief Patrol Agents (CPA); Directors, Field Operations (DFO); Directors, Air Operations and Marine Operations (DAO, DMO); Executive Director of the Law Enforcement Safety and Compliance Directorate (LESC); Executive Directors, Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR);

Division Directors, Office of Training and Development (OTD); and other officials designated in writing by the Commissioner.

Serious Bodily Injury - Physical injury that involves long-term and obvious disfigurement; long-term loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty; or a substantial risk of death.

Shoulder-Fired Weapon (SFW) - A CBP rifle, shotgun, or other long arm.

Totality of Circumstances - The consideration of all facts and circumstances applicable in a particular law enforcement encounter.

Uniformed Law Enforcement Officer/Agent - Authorized Officers/Agent wearing the official uniform of the three uniformed components of CBP: Air and Marine Operations, Office of Field Operations, or United States Border Patrol.

Use of Force - When a law enforcement tactic, technique, less-lethal device or weapon is used to arrest a subject, address a potential threat, or ensure compliance with a lawful order.

Use of Force Device - Any item designed or marketed as a device which is intended to cause pain or discomfort to modify the behavior of an individual or group. This includes, but is not limited to, devices that may modify an individual's behavior through:

1. Acoustics;
2. Focused or Directed Light;
3. Electrical Current;
4. Directed Energy;
5. Kinetic Impact; or
6. Chemicals.

Vehicle Immobilization Device (VID) - A specialized device whose deployment is intended to result in the controlled deflation of a vehicle tire or otherwise cause a vehicle to stop.