

The background of the slide is composed of several overlapping, semi-transparent green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and quadrilaterals, creating a modern, abstract design. The colors range from a light lime green to a darker forest green.

## Chapter 10 - IFPO - CPO

### Officer Safety and Use of Force

# Purpose

- ▶ Protection professionals must judge each situation to determine the amount of force necessary to stop any given situation.
- ▶ You will be judged by your actions as will the organization you represent.
- ▶ Protection professionals need to understand his or her limits in order to effectively do the job without getting into legal trouble.

# Engagement

1. What are some examples of stories you have heard in the news of about use of force?
2. Provide some bad examples.
3. Provide some good examples.
4. When would you feel justified killing someone in the scope of your duties?

# Use of Force

- ▶ Use of force is any tactic used to control, disarm, capture, restrain, or otherwise physically manage an aggressive or uncooperative subject.
- ▶ Force is any touching of a person.

## Judgement of Use of Force

In a court of law the appropriate use of force will be measured by an objective “reasonableness and necessity” standard.

**These questions should be asked after an officer’s use of force:**

1. Did the aggressor have the ability to cause harm or injury. Were they able to hurt the officer or others?
2. Did the aggressor exhibit a manifest intent to cause harm or injury? Did the aggressor display intent to injure?
3. Was the officer or others in imminent jeopardy of harm or injury?
4. Did the officer or others have the ability to retreat and avoid harm or injury?
5. Was the officer in preclusion? In other words, were they precluded or prevented from taking actions other than using force? Was there no other alternative than the use of force?

# Justifying the Use of Force

There are five primary justifications for using force.

1. That harm would come to the officer or to someone else if force was not used
2. That the actions taken were necessary
3. That the actions taken were reasonable
4. That the actions taken conformed to employer policy and training
5. That the officer was precluded from escaping or taking other defensive/control actions and as a result had to use force

## Retreat

The word retreat does not mean run away and go hide somewhere.

It means to move to:

- ▶ safe place
- ▶ remaining in view of the conflict zone
- ▶ at a safe distance
- ▶ It includes being behind cover (objects or materials that protect the officer) and calling for backup assistance.

# Use of Force Case Law

- ▶ Knowing the standards by knowing the standards of how a security officer's use of force will be judged is critical.
- ▶ Knowing use of force case law is vital when training security personnel. It allows security officers to know their boundaries as established by past legal decisions.
- ▶ Use of force case law also assists those who have to investigate use of force incidents.
- ▶ Understanding case law allows security professionals to educate those under their protection on exactly what force and officer can use and when and how they can use force.

## Social Media

- ▶ The security professional must always behave as if they were the lead story on the six-o'clock news.
- ▶ Images of the incident WILL be analyzed and critiqued by the public, media, investigators and legal people.
- ▶ Give examples of use of force incidents being captured and then disseminated on social media platforms.
- ▶ Bystanders WILL record all use of force incidents and then upload the images to social media.
- ▶ These images usually go “viral” without many pertinent facts known about the incident.

# Force Continuum

- ▶ The continuum is a general guide
- ▶ Each step does not have to be taken. Actions will be taken as the situation dictates.

## Verbal De-Escalation Skills

- ▶ Verbal de-escalation is just about anything an officer can say that fits the situation at the incident scene.
- ▶ The successful de-escalation will be more a product of officer attitude and level of professionalism than that of the actions taken.
- ▶ ***Before using force use verbal de-escalation***
- ▶ Ensures that the security professional does not become a part of the problem by remaining calm and slowing everything down - speak slower, move slower, listening intently
- ▶ Respect the subject's dignity. Never demean people.
- ▶ “Defanging the snake” is the priority.

# Defanging the Snake

- ▶ A term that refers to eliminating the means of aggression from an aggressive person.
- ▶ The fangs of a snake are where the poison that can hurt or kill us is located.
- ▶ The “fangs” of an aggressive person can be found in weapons available to him/her, their fists, feet, knees, elbows, etc.

# Report Writing in Use of Force Incidents

- ▶ All reports must be written taking into consideration of the technical requirements of criminal and civil liability.
- ▶ Always assume that the report will end up in the hands of an opposing attorney and that the security professional will end up testifying in front of a judge.
- ▶ The report must be timely, thorough, concise and accurate. Above all, the report must be true.
- ▶ Review the employer's use of force policy prior to writing the report.
- ▶ The report should pass the "reasonable person" test. A jury or judge should be able to read the report and form a mental picture of what actually took place.
- ▶ When writing the report, the security professional must cover the following:
  1. Necessity for the use of force. What did the subject do to require the use of force?
  2. Reasonableness: What the officer did. Was the force used reasonable? Excessive?
  3. The report must be balanced and coordinated.