

# Knockdowns in the New Millennium

# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand the relationship between selection of tools/tactics and injuries to officers and suspects.
- Learn the injury-reduction philosophy.
- Learn more about in-custody deaths.
- Learn about policy and training to reduce injuries
- Learn about the Injury-Reduction Use-of-Force Chart
- Learn a six-step strategy for implementation of the injury-reduction philosophy.

# WE'LL LOOK AT . . .

- Policy
- Training
- Equipment
- Tactics
- Supervision
- Review Processes

# THE MISSION:

- Fewer and less severe injuries to suspects and officers
- Reduced civil liability and complaints
- Reduced disability time and pensions
- An improved public image for your law enforcement agency

# Use of Force 101

When can an officer  
use force ???????

# WHEN DO WE USE FORCE?

- To make an arrest
- To protect self or others
- To prevent escape
- To overcome resistance
- To protect the suspect!

# Use of Force 101

How much force  
can an officer use ???

# HOW MUCH FORCE DO WE USE?

- REASONABLE !
- Graham v. Connor -- police use of force incidents are “tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving”

# Use of Force 101

Why would an officer  
use force ???

# WHY DO WE USE FORCE?

- CONTROL !!!
- Control is safer for you and me
- Uncontrolled situations are dangerous

# DEADLY FORCE

- Will continue to be an option
- Armed criminals
- “Suicide by cop”

# The Injury-Reduction Philosophy

- Officers must use only that force which is *reasonable*. The most reasonable force is the type that gets the job done *and* results in the least injury to officers and suspects. Nonlethal weapons have been proven to be effective knockdown tools which result in *fewer and less severe injuries* to suspects and officers than conventional police tactics.
- ***Therefore*** nonlethal weapons should be used *before* conventional tactics whenever the dynamics of the situation allow the officer to have a choice.

# The Study

Nonlethal Weapons

v.

Conventional Police Tactics:

The LAPD Experience

# The Study

\* 502 use of force incidents involving:

Baton

Kick

Punch

Flashlight

Taser

Spray

“Misc.”

Swarm

## Suspect Injuries

Effective Force Type	No Injury	Taser/Gas Effects Only	Minor Injury	Moderate Injury	Major Injury	TOTAL
Baton	24	0	24	66	7	121
Kick	20	0	9	12	0	41
Punch	6	0	5	15	1	27
Misc. Bodily Force	51	0	20	58	6	135
Flashlight	4	0	0	14	6	24
Swarm	33	0	3	10	1	47
Chemical Spray (CS/CN)	0	18	1	0	0	19
Taser	0	88	0	0	0	88
<b>TOTAL</b>	138	106	62	175	21	502

# Officer Injuries

Effective Force Type	No Injury	Taser/Gas Effects Only	Minor Injury	Moderate Injury	Major Injury	TOTAL
Baton	99	0	4	10	8	121
Kick	36	0	0	3	2	41
Punch	19	0	0	5	3	27
Misc. Bodily Force	109	0	5	13	8	135
Flashlight	20	0	3	1	0	24
Swarm	39	0	1	6	1	47
Chemical	14	5	0	0	0	19
Taser	88	0	0	0	0	88
<b>TOTAL</b>	424	5	13	38	22	502

# Injury-Based Use of Force Chart

Suspect's Actions	Officer's Response	Expected Injury
Deadly or GBI Attack, or Fleeing Felon Rule	<b>Deadly Force</b>	Death or Serious Injury
Attacks Officer, and Unable to Use OC/Taser	<b>Baton, Kick, Other Impact</b>	Moderate to Major
Aggressive Resistance, and Unable to Use OC/Taser/Swarm	<b>Tackle, Leg Sweep or Aggressive Compliance Holds (e.g., PPCT/Carotid/LVNR)</b>	Minor to Major
Bizarre Resistance, and Unsafe to Approach, PCP/Psycho/Etc.	<b>Taser, Swarm</b>	None to Moderate
Defiance of Verbal, Plus Credible Threat	<b>OC (Pepper Spray), Stun Gun</b>	None to Minor
Passive Resistance, Drunk Pick-Up	<b>Firm Grip or Passive Compliance Holds</b>	None
Cooperative	<b>Presence, Verbalization</b>	None

<b>Suspect's Actions</b>	<b>Officer's Response</b>	<b>Expected Injury</b>
Attacks Officer, and Unable to Use OC/Taser	<b>Baton, Kick, Other Impact</b>	Moderate to Major
Aggressive Resistance, and Unable to Use OC/Taser/Swarm	<b>Beanbag, Tackle, Leg Sweep or Aggressive Compliance Holds (e.g., PPCT/Carotid/LVNR)</b>	Minor to Major
Bizarre Resistance, and Unsafe to Approach, PCP/Psycho/Etc.	<b>Taser, Swarm</b>	None to Moderate
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# NOTHING ALWAYS WORKS !

- No 100% fail-safe tools or tactics
- All might lead to injury or death
- “Stuff Happens”

# DON'T TALK THEM TO DEATH !!!!

- Verbalization usually works, not always.
- Stand-offs degenerate into shootings
- Continued verbal vs. aggressive takedown

# USE DECISIVE FORCE

- No one wins a long fight
- Get it over with fast in order to . . .
- Minimize injuries and bystander trauma

# DOING IT WRONG

- Public will not accept or support you!
- Civil disobedience, riots
- Front pages forever
- Sacrificial lambs of various ranks
- \$
- Intra-agency finger-pointing

# POLICY

# Local Govt. Policy Making

It would be more “**cost effective**’ for the city to settle claims for broken bones of combative suspects who are hit with batons rather than to pay settlements” in chokehold cases.

--L.A. Councilman Robert Farrell  
Los Angeles times, 10/7/81

# Local Govt. Policy: The Results

- Injuries to suspects went UP 661%.
- Injuries to officers went UP 521%.
- The Chief's request to modify the policy was ignored by the City Council.
- A HUGE GAP was created in the use-of-force policy; baton striking techniques became the number-one tool.

# POLICY = COMMITMENT

- More than what comes out of a thick book
- Commitment to human life
- Commitment to reduced deaths/injuries
- Commitment to reduce public liability
- Commitment to maintain public credibility
- Commitment to learn from mistakes
- Commitment to professional employees

# TRAINING

# TRAINING

- DYNAMIC
- Interactive
- Performance based
- Confidence building
- Realistic situation simulations
- Refreshed
- Recorded



[www.aele.org](http://www.aele.org)

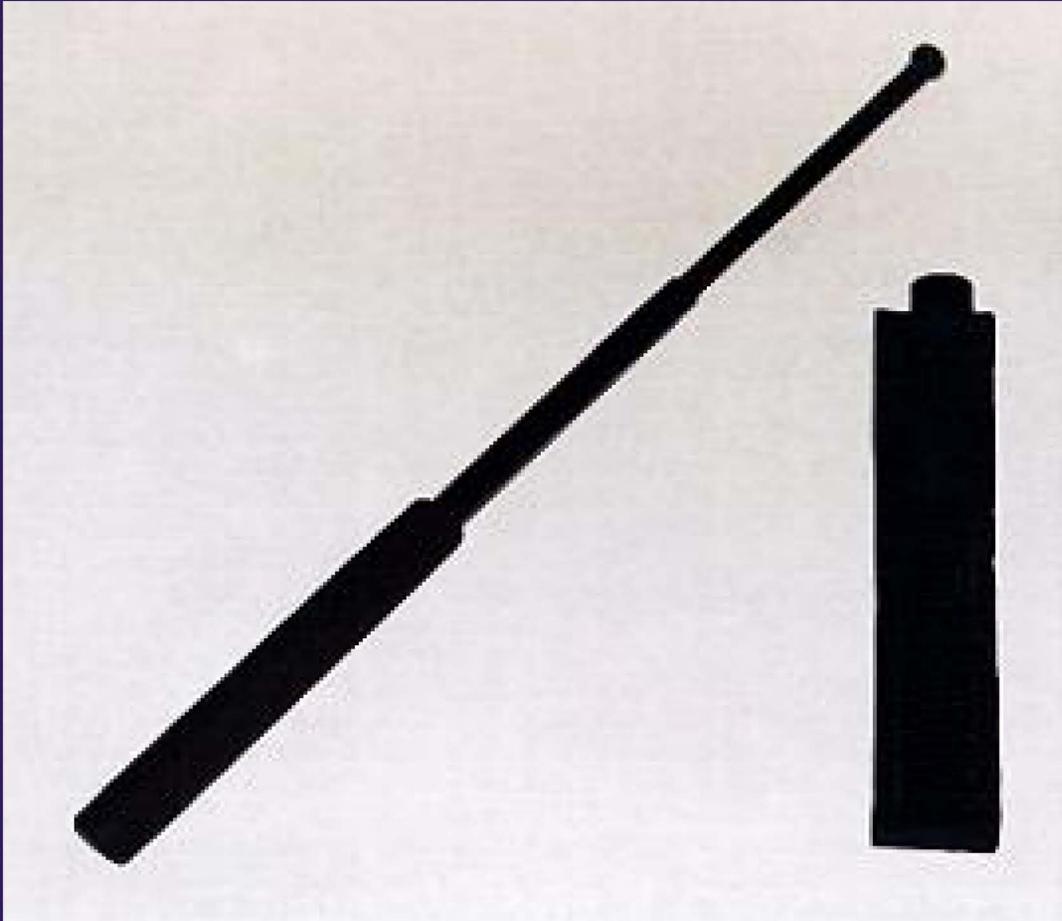


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# EQUIPMENT

# FORCE OPTIONS ???





# Product Line

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## Grenades

2 oz. and 6 oz. hand held units designed for throwing.

"Lock-On" style for continuous discharge of contents.

Ideal for control and disbursement of crowds, or for securing a confined area.



## 1 lb. Crowd Control

Take control of an individual or a crowd. This unit combines strong visual deterrent qualities with high powered cone or stream emission up to 20 feet – or more!

Available in three trigger styles:

- Pistol-Grip Fogger Unit (as shown)
- FireMaster Fogger Unit
- Trigger Top Stream Unit



Pistol-Grip



FireMaster



Trigger

Unit

"The Tank"

# Pepper Spray Effectiveness

- Less effective on druggies than on those who were drunk, mentally ill, belligerent or combative
- Odds of failure were found to be 2.5 times greater when used on druggies

--NIJ study of pepper spray incidents  
in Baltimore

# Effective Target Zones



**Sprays**



**TASER  
Technology**

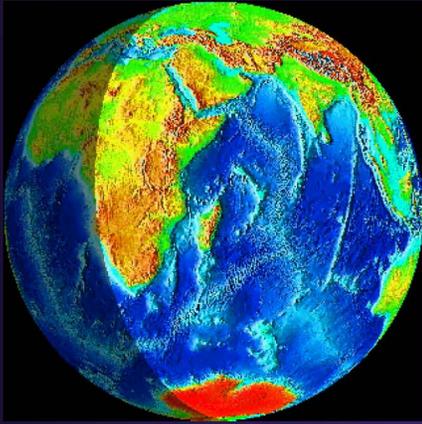


**Guns**

# THE IDEAL NONLETHAL WEAPON

- **Hand-held**
- **Single officer**
- **Immediately available**
- **Maintains distance**
- **Temporarily incapacitates**
- **Noninjurious (compared to impact devices)**
- **Affects only the intended target**
- **Easy to train**
- **Easy to maintain**
- **RELIABLE knockdown capability**





Question:

If we can put a man on the moon  
and return him safely to Earth,  
why can't we put a man on the  
ground  
and take him safely to jail???

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**Drag  
Stabilized  
Round**

**2x2 Bean Bag  
Round**

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*Early versions of the "bean-bag" concept used squared-off projectile bags.*



PHOTO / AUTHOR

PHOTO / ROY HUNTINGTON

# Study Says Police Beanbags Can Cause Serious Injury

**Safety:** County-USC reports on 40 cases, saying some bags penetrated the skin. One man died.

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By JACK LEONARD

TIMES STAFF WRITER

10-10-01

A study of patients at Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center found that beanbags fired by police can cause serious injuries and in

The study, published in this month's issue of the Annals of Emergency Medicine, looked at 40 people who were hit by beanbags and treated at the hospital between 1996 and 2000.

Doctors concluded that the large majority of patients were either under the influence of drugs or suffer-





# EQUIPMENT

- Best available for flexible response
- Readily available at the user level
- Never deployed with untrained personnel
- Properly maintained
- Inspection records

# TACTICS



# TACTICS

- TIME V. DISTANCE
- Stand-off situations
- Sudden attacks
- Don't "talk them to death"
- Lethal-force back-up
- Arrest tactics v. defensive tactics



# RELUCTANCE TO USE FORCE

- Front page of your local paper, six-o'clock news.
- Lawsuits.
- Federal consent decrees
- Peer pressure to be less proactive
- Administrative pressure to avoid adverse incidents

# Sudden In-Custody Death

- On the ground
- In the back seat of your police car
- In your holding tank
- In your jail

# Driver Dies in Custody After Dose of Pepper Spray

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By JENNIFER MENA  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

08-29-01

# CUSTODY DEATHS

- Typically it's the drugs (coke, meth, PCP)
- Excited delirium = acute exhaustive mania
- Immediate medical treatment suggested

# Excited Delirium, etc.

- “Excited delirium” is a term psychiatrists use for people who flip out. It takes about six officers to restrain such a person.”
- “Acute exhaustive mania” is the same thing

--Dr. Charles Wetli

Suffolk, NY Medical Examiner

# When do they happen?

- After a violent altercation of any sort
- After being hog-tied
- After being pepper-sprayed
- After being Tasered or stun-gun
- After a neck-hold
- After you think they've calmed down
- After they have emergency medical help

# Prevention of In-Custody Death

- Get them OFF their bellies . . . NOW!!!
- Avoid a “full hog-tie”!!!
- Have one person monitor...FULL TIME!!!
- Get them emergency medical treatment!!!
- Be especially aware of cocaine, PCP, methamphetamines, schizophrenia
- The big ones will have THE BIG ONE!!!

# DANGER SIGNS !

- a. “Fatalistic Mindset” of the violator.
- b. 3-minute or longer fight
- c. Drugs on board
- d. Obesity
- e. Increased ambient and/or body temperature

(Bob Bragg, Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission)

# What Happened???

- “In-custody deaths are multi-factorial; they look bad on TV...it does not necessarily mean that the restraint methods caused the death.”  
--Dr. Charles Wetli
- 44 cases in Miami:  
22 white male; 21 black male; 1 black female

# Miami Deaths: Common Factors

- ALL had cocaine in their systems
- No neck-holds were used
- Cardiac arrest usually after calmed down
- Hyperthermia (104-108 degrees)
- Cocaine blood-level range: .05 - 11.8 mg/L
- Tend to be chronic cocaine users on binge
- Only seven of 44 were hog-tied

# San Diego: Common Factors

“In all eleven cases, the subject was  
**PRONE** at the time of cardiac arrest.”

-- Dr. Brian Blackborne

Chief Medical Examiner, San Diego

# SUPERVISION

# SUPER VISION

- Supervisors must supervise !!!
- Guide, train, direct, motivate
- Inspire, explain, encourage
- Hold people accountable
- Negligent retention of negligent supervision



# REVIEW PROCESSES

# REVIEW PROCESSES

- Systematic and system-wide
- Compare performance to policy
- Value continuous improvement
- Thorough debriefings
- Thorough investigations
- Include your trainers !!!

# ETHICAL EXPERTS AND ATTORNEYS

- Don't use hookers
- Use experts and attorneys to help evaluate systems and practices
- After litigation, “close the loop”

# YOUR HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT

(Sorry about that, Chief!)

- Examine your own agency's use-of-force incidents. What types of tools and tactics are being used, in what situations? What types of injuries are resulting to your officers and your suspects?

# YOUR HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT

(Sorry about that, Chief!)

- What are the costs of litigation and officer disabilities resulting from your agency's use-of-force incidents?

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# YOUR HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT

(Sorry about that, Chief!)

- Grade yourself and your agency on the

Six Steps for  
Law Enforcement  
Decision Makers

HOW YA MANAGIN' ???

SIX STEPS FOR  
LAW ENFORCEMENT  
DECISION MAKERS

# SIX STEPS

1. Recognize the need to adopt more humane knockdown tools and tactics.

# SIX STEPS

2. Make a solid commitment to reducing injuries to suspects and officers.

# SIX STEPS

3. Acquire one or more effective, available nonlethal weapons.

# SIX STEPS

4. Put less injurious tools and tactics lower on your continuum.

# SIX STEPS

## 5. Train to win!

Dynamic v. static

Have a back-up plan

# SIX STEPS

6. Require officers to explain why they used a more injurious knockdown weapon or tactic instead of a less injurious one.

REALITY!!!



# DEDICATED PROFESSIONALS

- Use force in good faith
- Use force in a reasonable manner



# Knockdowns in the New Millennium