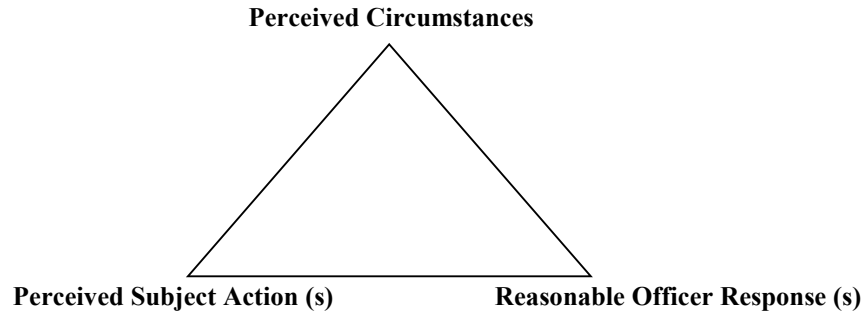


MPTC USE OF FORCE REFERENCE GUIDE



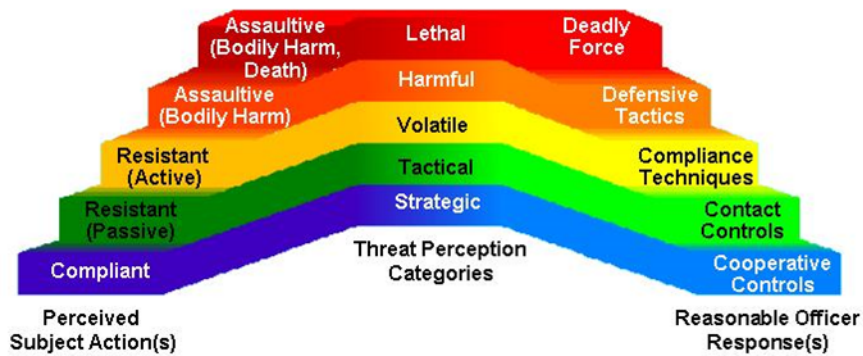
The **Totality Triangle** © depicts the three elements which must be considered in determining whether an application of force was objectively reasonable.

Perceived Circumstances - the officer’s perspective of the severity of any crime, the existence of an immediate safety threat to the officer or others, and the degree of compliance / non-compliance from the subject; culminating in its identification on the Use of Force Model.

Perceived Subject Action (s) - the subject action (s) as perceived by the reasonable officer that designate the subject at one or more of the Use of Force Model’s compliant / non-compliant categories.

Reasonable Officer Response (s) - the “balanced” response (s) appropriate for the reasonable officer’s selection from the Use of Force Model’s identified response categories, in order to maintain or gain subject compliance and control.

MPTC Use of Force Model



The Use of Force Model was developed in 1991 by Dr. Franklin Graves, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and Professor Gregory J. Connor, University of Illinois Police Training Institute. ™ 1998, G. Connor. All rights reserved.

Threat Perception Color Code - the tactically applied and color adapted correlation of the Threat Perception Categories on the Use of Force Model.

Control Superiority Principle © - the understanding and visualization method utilized to reinforce the inherent principle of officer force superiority over the subject’s degree of compliance / non-compliance.

Assessment / Selection Arrows - the mechanism utilized to indicate the dynamic nature of an officer’s decision-making process of Tactical Transition © during the enforcement encounter.

Threat Perception Categories

Strategic - the broad “mind set” of the officer, represented by the blue baseline on the Threat Perception Color Code ©. The contemporary officer must maintain this functional foundation, centered upon strategies designed to enhance the status of safety.

Tactical - the second level on the Use of Force Model, depicted by the color green. Here the officer perceives an increase in threat potential within the confrontational environment and tactical procedures are designated and deployed.

Volatile - the third level on the Use of Force Model utilizing the color yellow to indicate an activated level of alertness and threat potential. Here the officer is confronted with the presence or potential of critical dynamics, including threat intensity and severity within the enforcement encounter.

Harmful - at this level on the Use of Force Model the color orange denotes an accelerated perception of threat directed upon the officer or others. In this regard the officer must deploy initial defensive force in the effort toward eventual subject compliance and control.

Lethal - the highest level on the Use of Force Model correlates to the most intense color in the Threat Perception Color Code ©, red. Although this potentially lethal degree of threat is most infrequent, it remains most crucial for the continuation of officer safety and security.

Perceived Subject Action (s) Categories

Compliant - represents the vast majority of officer / citizen confrontations in the form of cooperation and control. Such cooperation is generally established and maintained via cultural acceptance, verbalization skills, etc.

Resistant (*Passive*) - the preliminary level of citizen non-compliance. Here, the citizen, although non-compliant, offers no physical or mechanical energy enhancement toward the resistant effort.

Resistant (*Active*) - the subject’s non-compliance is increased in scope and / or intensity. The subject’s non-compliance now includes energy enhanced physical or mechanical defiance.

Assaultive (*Bodily Harm*) - the officer’s attempt to gain lawful compliance has culminated in a perceived or actual attack on the officer or others. The officer makes the reasonable assessment that such actions by the subject would not result in the officer’s or other’s death or serious bodily harm.

Assaultive (*Serious Bodily Harm / Death*) - the officer’s attempt to gain lawful compliance has culminated in the perception of an attack or the potential for such an attack on the officer or others. The officer makes the reasonable assessment that such actions by the subject could result in serious bodily harm or death to the officer or others.

Officer Response (s) Categories

Cooperative Controls - include contemporary controls developed to preserve officer safety and security, including: communication skills, restraint applications, etc.

Contact Controls - includes resistant countermeasures designed to guide or direct the non-compliant subject. These “hands on” tactics would include the elbow / wrist grasp, Hand Rotation Position ©, etc.

Compliance Techniques - includes resistant countermeasures designed to counter the subject’s enhanced degree of resistance. These tactics could include the Hand Rotation Technique ©, chemical irritants, etc.

Defensive Tactics - includes assaultive countermeasures designed to cease the subject’s non-lethal assault on the officer or others, regain control, and assure continued compliance. These tactics could include baton strikes, kicking techniques, etc.

Deadly Force - includes assaultive countermeasures designed to cease an assault which is lethal or could cause great bodily harm on the officer or others. These tactics could include the use of a firearm, lethal strikes, etc.

© **Copyright, 2000, G. Connor. All rights reserved.** For any questions relating to the Use of Force Model contact David Standen @ (413) 218 4510 or E-mail: DTIStanden@comcast.net