



# Professionalism in Policing

## Reasonable Officer Response (R.O.R.)

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# The Use of Force by the Police as seen through the lens of...



# FORCE CONTINUUM - BEGINNINGS





# Part I

## The Test

*Given the totality of the circumstances, the following factors will be considered by the court:*

- a) Was the officer lawfully placed?
- b) Did the officer subjectively believe that the amount of force used was reasonable?
- c) Would an objective reasonable person (standing in the officers' shoes) believe that the level of force used was reasonable?



# Part I

## Environmental Factors:

- Location (confined space, isolation)
- Cover
- Weather
- Lighting
- Footing
- Other exigent circumstances



# Part I

## Subject Factors:

- Age, size, gender
- Number of subjects
- Training, experience, fitness
- Exhaustion, injuries
- Goal oriented
- Nature and severity of crime
- History
- Mental state
- Alcohol, drugs
- Verbal, non-verbal threat cues
- Weapons, proximity to weapons
- Fleeing, risk of escape
- Immediate / imminent threat to police/public/themselves
- Audience/peers





# Part I

## Officer Factors:

- Age, size, gender
- Number of officers
- Training, experience, fitness
- Exhaustion, injuries
- Prior knowledge of the subject
- Distance from subject
- Position
- Equipment

# Reasonable Officer Response Training Aid Part II

## The Standard - Objective Reasonableness

### OFFICER PERCEPTION

Cooperative

Low Level Resister

High Level Resister

Assaultive

G.B.H./Death

**Lethal Options**

**Intermediate Weapons**  
(O.C. spray, C.E.D., baton)

**Empty Hand - Hard**  
(distraction techniques, takedowns, punches, kicks)

**Empty Hand - Soft**  
(pressure points, joint locks)

**Tactical Considerations**

**Tactical Communication Skills**

**Lawful & Professional Presence**

**OFFICER RESPONSE**





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Questions and Comments