

**Valdosta State University Announces:****Assessing Less-Lethal Force Options, Applied Science, & Associated Liability Issues**

Taught by: Darrell L. Ross, Ph.D.

Training Date: **December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 at 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

Location: **Valdosta State University**

**University Center – Magnolia Rooms  
1203 N. Patterson Street  
Valdosta, GA. 31601**

Contacts: **Sgt. Tim Balch or Major Will Leschber  
229-333-7816**

**Course Description:**

Law enforcement officers are authorized to use physical force and less-lethal force equipment to minimize the need of using deadly force. Although empirical research consistently shows that the use of force is rarely applied by officers, these force options have been associated with incidents of serious injuries to subjects and temporally associated with non-firearm arrest-related deaths. Invariably, the subject or the estate of the subject will file a civil action claiming the officer used excessive force, misused the force option, failed to follow the manufacturer's specifications, acted contrary to the agency policy and training, and the administrator failed to properly train and supervise the involved officer, all which allegedly contributed or caused the injury or death. Further, in some death incidents, the involved officer (s) has been criminally prosecuted.

Even though officers complete training in the application of less-lethal force options, they are infrequently provided with relevant scientific research underscoring the option, and infrequently deploy the option in the field, many officers struggle with articulating in a report, in an investigation, during a deposition, or at trial: how the respective device operates; adequately describing the agency's force policy; how they were trained to use the device; how to justify the decision for using the device and under what circumstances; and how to attend to a subject after an application of the force option. The officer's community, agency administrators, and the courts expects that the officers demonstrate competency in all use of force options.

In our contemporary society, law enforcement officers need ongoing training which specifically provides current information on the scientific research of the design, methods of operations, and the application of less-lethal force options. Officers also need advanced training which address the justification of using the force option consistent with subject resistance and constitutional standards, and training on the methods the courts use to analyze an officer's force application. Recognizing these emerging issues, this 8-hour course addresses:

- Police and subject contacts, the probability of force application, and resultant outcomes;
- Subject threat analysis, contextual cues, and de-escalation techniques;
- The science, design and application of physical force techniques and their potential injury patterns;
- The science, design, application of various types of restraints, and their potential injury patterns;

## LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

- The science, design, application of intermediate weapons, and their potential injury patterns including: aerosols; conducted energy weapons; impact weapons; kinetic impact projectiles; and potential injury patterns;
- The science and application of prone restraint of violent subjects and aftercare protocols;
- The associated human factors involved in the use of force;
- The factors associated with force options transitioning;
- The application of the United States Supreme Court and lower courts standards of review used to analyze claims of excessive force;
- The impact of body-worn cameras on use of force incidents;
- The review of case studies/court decisions and incident videos; and
- The implications for agency policy and training strategies to mitigate liability exposure

Law enforcement officers, use of force instructors, agency investigators, and administrators are encouraged to attend this unique training seminar.