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GARFIELD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
POLICY / PROCEDURE
GENERAL

SUBJECT: DEFENSIVE TACTICS

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 01, 2024
Revised: September 01, 2024

POLICY:
The Sheriff's Office adheres to a Defensive Tactics training program that ensures adequate training for the proper use of force and safety by all sworn personnel of the Office. The basis for this training will be the **Gracie Survival Tactics discipline** with additional disciplines added as necessary to ensure the best practices.

PURPOSE:
Sheriff's Deputies are instructed to use the minimum amount of force necessary to gain compliance in accordance with State and Federal law. The policy hereunto provides guidelines for qualified and adequate training of defensive tactics.

METHOD:
Course Development:
The responsibility for developing and providing appropriate training and for supervising all facets of defensive tactics training rests with the Defensive Tactics Instructor Team. They will be assigned duties that are commensurate with their training and experience.

Entry Level Training Required:
All entry level sworn deputies shall receive an equivalent of 16 hours of training. Additionally, entry level sworn deputies shall participate in the regularly scheduled quarterly trainings while in the FTO Program and continue with their required proficiency upon completion of the FTO Program.

Demonstrating and Maintaining Proficiency:
All sworn personnel will be required to attend and participate in a minimum of 16 hours of training per year, within a regimen equal to 4 to 6 hours per quarter. Deputies are expected to give their best effort throughout the 4 hours of training. All personnel will need to arrive to scheduled trainings on time, and sign in, with the proper duty gear as established including tennis shoes or running shoes for static stretching and low impact dynamic warm up. (Protective gear is recommended but not required). Any deputies on restricted duty due to an injury will submit a copy of their restricted duty documents to Human Resources to be filed. HR will be responsible to inform the instructors and Professional Standards to ensure accurate training records.

If any personnel is unable to attend the required quarterly training due to approved leave or training, they will be required to attend the next scheduled training to make up the hours missed. This is an exception and not a means to bypass the scheduled monthly trainings.

Any personnel that require additional help with the maneuvers can contact any instructor to receive personal assistance to achieve proficiency.

Because it is important to perform all the different maneuvers effectively, all deputies will be required to demonstrate the specific maneuvers taught during each quarterly training (Note: each quarterly training has a different lesson plan and may not include all maneuvers). The instructor will assess each maneuver and will mark as passed or failed. Deputies will be allowed three (3) attempts to effectively perform the maneuver. In the event a Deputy fails on their third attempt, a required mandatory remedial training will be necessary prior to returning to regular duty. Remedial training will be scheduled as soon as possible. The length of remedial training will be determined based on the needs of each individual Deputy, but in no case shall exceed a total of eight (8) hours. During remedial training, if the Deputy feels ready, he/she may demonstrate the maneuver. If the Deputy passes, the remedial training will be completed. If not, the remedial training will continue. If the Deputy fails to pass after a total of eight (8) hours of remedial training, they may be subject to disciplinary action.

CHOKEHOLDS:
In accordance with SB20-217, **CHOKEHOLDS** are prohibited by law (unless lethal force is justified) and therefore, will not be part of the GCSO training curriculum.

CHOKEHOLD is defined as*: A METHOD BY WHICH A PERSON APPLIES SUFFICIENT PRESSURE TO A PERSON TO MAKE BREATHING DIFFICULT OR IMPOSSIBLE AND INCLUDES BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO ANY PRESSURE TO THE NECK, THROAT, OR WINDPIPE THAT MAY PREVENT OR HINDER BREATHING OR REDUCE INTAKE OF AIR, APPLYING PRESSURE TO A PERSON'S NECK ON EITHER SIDE OF THE WINDPIPE, BUT NOT TO THE WINDPIPE ITSELF,TO STOP THE FLOW OF BLOOD TO THE BRAIN VIA THE CAROTID ARTERIES.*