

# GENERAL ORDER CHANGE



Topic  
**GO-RAR-901.07 (Use of Force)**

Series / Number  
**GOC-05-02**

Effective Date  
**November 10, 2005**

Distribution  
**B**

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

**I. REMOVE FROM:**

GO-RAR-901.07  
Page 3-4

**INSERT:**

GO-RAR-901.07  
Page 3-4 (rev. 9/2/05)

**II. RESCIND: N/A**

**ADD: N/A**

**III. NOTES:**

In Section IV, A, 3, the phrase :

“At or from a moving vehicle, unless deadly force is being used or threatened against the member or another; situations where a moving vehicle itself constitutes the use of deadly force, such as when a subject intentionally tries to run an officer down with his or her vehicle. In those instances, an officer’s use of deadly force may be reasonable and justifiable. However, members shall, as a rule, avoid tactics that could place them in a position where a vehicle could be used against them. (CALEA 1.3.4) ”

is replaced with:

“At or from a moving vehicle unless deadly force is being used against the officer or another person. For purposes of this order, a moving vehicle is not considered deadly force. Members shall, as a rule, avoid tactics that could place them in a position where a vehicle could be used against them. (CALEA 1.3.4)”

The purpose of this change is to restore the policy set by the Chief of Police in the original General Order 901.7, Section IV, D, 4, b, published November 13, 1998, and replaced with the current version, effective date October 7, 2002.

**IV. RESCISSION OF OTHER DOCUMENTS : N/A**

//SIGNED//  
Charles H. Ramsey  
Chief of Police

CHR:SOA:DAH:jah

4. all uses of force by an MPD officer resulting in a loss of consciousness, or that create a substantial risk of death, serious disfigurement, disability or impairment of the functioning of any body part or organ;
  5. all other uses of force by an MPD officer resulting in a death; and
  6. all incidents where a person receives a bite from an MPD canine.
- D. **Use of Force** – any physical contact used to effect, influence or persuade an individual to comply with an order from an officer. The term shall not include unresisted handcuffing or hand control procedures that do not result in injury.
- E. **Use of Force Indicating Potential Criminal Conduct by a Member** – includes, but is not limited to, all strikes, blows, kicks or other similar uses of force against a handcuffed subject and all accusations or complaints of excessive force made against the member.
- F. **Serious Physical Injury** – any injury that results in hospitalization and that creates a substantial risk of death, serious disfigurement, disability or protracted loss or impairment of the functioning of any body part or organ.
- G. **Less-Than-Lethal Weapons** – any object or device deployed with the intent or purpose of eliminating a threat without causing death. These include, but are not limited to, a 37 mm gas gun containing a cloth bag filled with small lead shot pellets, rubber bullets, batons, OC Spray, A.S.P. (Armament System Procedures) tactical batons.
- H. **Use of Force Continuum** – a training model/philosophy that supports the progressive and reasonable escalation and de-escalation of member-applied force in proportional response to the actions and level of resistance offered by a subject. The level of response is based upon the situation encountered at the scene and the actions of the subject in response to the member's commands. Such response may progress from the member's actual physical presence at the scene to the application of deadly force.
- I. **Objective Reasonableness** – Reasonableness of a particular use of force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene in light of the facts and circumstances confronting the officer without regard to the officer's underlying intent or motivation.

#### IV. RULES

- A. No member of the Metropolitan Police Department shall discharge his/her firearm under the following circumstances:
1. As a warning. (CALEA 1.3.3)
  2. Into a crowd.
  3. At or from a moving vehicle unless deadly force is being used against the officer or another person. For purposes of this order, a moving vehicle is not considered deadly force. Members shall, as a rule, avoid tactics that could place them in a position where a vehicle could be used against them. (CALEA 1.3.4) ”
  4. In a felony case which does not involve an actual attack, but involves a threatened attack, unless the member has reasonable cause to believe the threatened attack is imminent and could result in death or serious bodily injury. (CALEA 1.3.2)
  5. In any misdemeanor offense, unless under exceptional circumstances.
  6. Solely to protect property interests.
  7. To stop an individual on mere suspicion of a crime simply because the individual runs away.
- B. No member shall draw and point a firearm at or in the direction of a person unless there is a reasonable perception of a substantial risk that the situation may escalate to the point where lethal force would be permitted. When it is determined that the use of lethal force is not necessary, as soon as practicable, firearms shall be secured or holstered.
- C. When feasible, members shall identify themselves as a police officer and issue a warning before discharging a firearm.
- D. No member of the Metropolitan Police Department, in the normal exercise of his or her responsibilities, shall carry, use or discharge any firearm or other weapon, except those issued or approved for use by the Metropolitan Police Department under direction of the Chief of Police. (CALEA 1.3.9)
- E. No member of the Metropolitan Police Department shall carry, use, or discharge any unauthorized ammunition in their issued service weapons. Members are prohibited from obtaining service ammunition from any source except through official departmental channels. Members are further required to carry only the requisite amount of service ammunition as applicable to the authorized service weapon they are utilizing. (CALEA 1.3.9)