



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
AND PUBLIC PROTECTION
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE
STATE POLICE TRAINING ACADEMY



TRAINING BULLETIN # 2020-15
Use of Force / Duty to Intervene / BWC

Introduction

We are reminded by current events that it is important for the Connecticut State Police to regularly review current policy, procedures, and training practices to ensure they are aligned with local, state, and federal law, legislative mandates and industry standard "Best Practices." Existing policies and procedures, training methodology and areas for organizational improvement are currently under review. The following topics should be individually reviewed by agency personnel, and discussed at roll call by supervisors/commanders.

Duty to Intervene

It is the policy of the Connecticut State Police that Troopers use only the objectively reasonable degree of force that is necessary to overcome the immediate threat and/or to effectuate an arrest. **Excessive force will not be tolerated.** Troopers shall exercise all safe and reasonable means of control and containment; the application of force shall be guided by existing Connecticut State Statutes (C.G.S. 53a-22) and Agency policy (A&O Manual Section 13.4.3) Troopers are reminded that they should immediately intervene if they observe the unreasonable, unnecessary, or disproportionate use of force. (Federal 42 U.S.C. 1983)

Should use of force (deadly or otherwise) be required, Troopers shall render the appropriate medical aid when safe to do so. Request further medical assistance for the suspect and any other injured individuals, including the Trooper if necessary. (Reference A&O Manual Section 13.04.01C)

Future policy review will be forthcoming, outlining and clarifying specific responsibilities and reporting requirements when excessive force is observed and a use of force intervention is warranted.

Choke Holds

The Connecticut State Police does not teach nor advocate the use of Neck/Choke Holds to control a suspect during arrest. There are several variations of the Neck/ Choke Hold to include but not limited to:

- (1) Arm-bar control hold, a hold that inhibits breathing by compression of the airway in the neck;
- (2) Carotid restraint hold, a hold that inhibits blood flow by compression of the blood vessels in the neck;
- (3) Lateral vascular neck constraint; or
- (4) A hold with a knee or other object to the back of a prone subject's neck.

A Neck/Choke hold is considered lethal force.

Please be reminded of the Use of Force Matrix attached to this Training Bulletin. (A&O Manual Section 13.4.1a)

Body Worn Camera

Troopers are reminded of the requirements for Body Worn Camera use and should refer to Department Policy on same (Reference A&O Manual Section 13.15.11)