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**This packet is normally a part of a lesson package that includes a corresponding video. See the back page for a special offer for purchasing this video and other videos that correlate to the Introduction to Law & Justice curriculum.**

**Subject Control and Compliance I:  
Force Continuum and Relative Positioning**

**Series III Video 12**

**Training Guide  
Overview  
Test Questions and Answers**

## OBJECTIVES

**BLOCK:** \_\_\_\_\_

**INSTRUCTOR:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE PREPARED:** \_\_\_\_\_ **PREPARED BY:** ALERT

**Synopsis:** Through lecture, class discussion, the showing of the ALERT instructional video, field training sessions, and the administration of the accompanying test, the training officer or instructor will be able to offer this course in "Subject Control and Compliance I: Force Continuum and Relative Positioning."

### Objectives:

1. to learn the basic levels of the force continuum;
2. to know the levels of resistance;
3. to comprehend the importance of maintaining the Reactionary Gap in officer/citizen contacts;
4. to understand basics of relative positioning;
5. to know the most dangerous level position when trying to control subject;
6. to recognize the components of a safe field interview position;
7. to recognize the elements of the escort position;
8. to know the five factors of force escalation that increase liability risks.

**"Subject Control and Compliance I: Force Continuum and Relative Positioning"**  
*Series III Video 12*  
**Training Guide**

**INTRODUCTION**

**I. FORCE CONTINUUM--Officer**

NOTES  
**SHOW VIDEO**

**A. Officer Presence/Professional Presence**

1. uniform
2. physical build
3. mannerisms
4. law enforcement vehicle

**B. Verbal Commands**

1. skilled, professional
2. friendly, but not overly so
3. empathy

**C. Empty Hand Control**

1. **soft**--*lesser possibility of serious injury to subject*
  - a. pressure points
  - b. handcuffing
  - c. supplementary restraints
  - d. wristlocks
2. **hard**--*increased possibility of serious injury to subject*
  - a. strikes
  - b. punches and palms
  - c. knees and kicks

**D. Intermediate Controls**

1. soft
  - a. impact weapons
  - b. joint locks
  - c. restraint techniques
2. hard (*impact weapon strikes*)

**E. Deadly Force**

***(NOTE: OC SHOULD BE PLACED SOMEWHERE BETWEEN  
EMPTY HAND AND INTERMEDIATE CONTROLS)***

**DISCUSS  
AGENCY  
USE OF FORCE  
POLICY**

**II. LEVELS OF RESISTANCE--Subject**

- A. Psychological Intimidation** (*non-verbal response, thousand yard stare, verbal cues which indicate subjects unwillingness and attitude*)
- B. Verbal Non-Compliance** ("*No*")
- C. Passive Resistance** (*goes limp, demonstrator*)
- D. Defensive Resistance** (*in escort position and resists, pushes officer, runs away*)
- E. Active Aggression** (*bites, punches, runs at officer, kicks, head butt*)
- F. Deadly Force Assault** (*tries to seriously injure or kill officer*)

**III. Research Findings**

- A. Only two (2%) percent of officer/citizen contacts will involve force.**
- B. Ninety-eight percent of those contacts involve verbal interaction.**

#### IV. Reactionary Gap

A. The space and distance between an officer and a subject

B. Approximately six (6) feet

C. The factors that could increase the Reactionary Gap

1. heightened awareness of danger
2. advanced age
3. return to duty from injury

**DISCUSS  
EXAMPLES**

D. Option to Subject Responses

1. *danger zone*--penetrate the gap to get within one (1) arm's length from subject
2. *safe zone*--disengage, create distance between officer and subject to a safe place to react

**ROLE PLAY  
WITH  
EXAMPLES**

**V. Relative Positioning**

**A. Level or Zone Zero (0)**

1. directly in front of subject
2. most dangerous position

**B. Level or Zone One (1) Front Right**

1. blade away gun or strong side
2. keep weapons (gun, baton, OC) away from subject
3. 45 degree angle
4. 4 to 6 feet (preferably) away

**C. Level or Zone One (1) Front Left (same as above)**

**D. Level or Zone Two (2) Rear Right**

1. behind subject
2. blade away gun or strong side
3. 45 degree angle
4. 4 to 6 feet away
5. good for giving instructions, getting ready for handcuffing
6. good for handcuffing

**E. Level or Zone Two (2) Rear Left (same as above)**

**F. Level Zone Two and A Half (2 1/2) Rear Right**

1. effective handcuffing and escort position
2. behind subject
3. within arm's length of subject

**G. Level or Zone Two and A Half (2 1/2) Rear Left (same as above)**

**H. Escort Position**

1. your strong (gun) hip up against subject's thigh
2. your strong (gun) foot behind subject's ankle
3. your strong (gun) hand under subject's elbow
4. your weak (non-gun) hand pulls subject's wrist back, subject's palm up for control
5. gun safer up against subject

**I. Level or Zone Three (3) Rear**

1. directly behind subject
2. 4 to 6 feet (preferably) away
3. safest controlling position

**J. Officer responsible for subject's safety during escorts or when handcuffed**

**K. Keep hands on subjects to guide them where you want them to go**

**L. Give simple, direct verbal commands**

**PRACTICE  
ESCORT  
POSITION**



**NOTES**

**VI. Factors that could lead to unnecessary FORCE ESCALATION'S and increase officer and subject safety and liability risks**

- A. Lack of Equipment**
- B. Lack of Skill and/or Training**
- C. Lack of Physical Ability and/or Conditioning**
- D. Fear**
- E. Anger**

**VII. Any FORCE used by police or law enforcement agencies must be *reasonably necessary*, or it will be unconstitutional**

**DISCUSS  
AGENCY'S  
USE OF FORCE  
POLICY**

**REVIEW**

**ADMINISTER  
TEST**

**GRADE  
AND DISCUSS  
RESULTS**

**ALERT would like to thank the following law enforcement agency and people for assisting us with producing this video and training guide: Palm Beach County, Florida, Sheriff's Office, Sgt. Jack Strenges, Law Enforcement Trainers Howard Berg and David Ross, and Law Enforcement Attorney Randy Means, of Thomas and Means.**

## **CONCLUSION:**

What you have learned:

ALERT has provided information in a training guide and video for understanding the first basic factors of Subject Control and Compliance" Force Continuum and Relative Positioning.

We have defined in detail the objectives, lesson plans, evaluations, records, attendance policies, and documentation, and the importance of each of these. Your packet should contain examples of each.

These materials should not supersede department policy, and ALERT is not, under any circumstances, dictating that policy.

Instructors, trainers, and law enforcement personnel must consult their own department legal consul on specifics of the law in their area.

You have permission to make copies of the written material for your training course only.

**"Subject Control and Compliance I: Force Continuum and Relative Positioning"**

*Series III Video 12*

**Test Questions**

1. What Level or Zone is the most dangerous position in Officer/Citizen Contacts?
  - a. Level 2 Left
  - b. Level 0
  - c. Level 1 Right
  - d. Level 2 1/2 Right
  - e. none of the above
  
2. Any FORCE used by police or law enforcement must be \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ to be constitutional.
  
3. Only two percent of officer/citizen contacts will involve use of force.  
 True  False
  
4. Officer Presence could also be called \_\_\_\_\_ Presence.
  
5. Which one of these is NOT a Soft Empty Hand Control?
  - a. handcuffing
  - b. supplementary restraints
  - c. pressure points
  - d. wristlocks
  - e. all of them are examples of soft empty hand controls.
  
6. The higher up the Force Continuum, the greater the risks of \_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_ to the officer and citizen.
  
7. Officers are not necessarily responsible for subjects during escorts.  
 True  False

8. The \_\_\_\_\_ is the space and distance between an officer and a subject.
9. In the Escort Position, it is safer to have your strong (gun) side closest to subject than away.  
 True  False
10. What percentage of officer/citizen contacts involve verbal interaction?\
- a. 50%
  - b. 35%
  - c. 98%
  - d. 12%
  - e. 100%
11. What Level of Resistance might a subject likely use in a Demonstration?
- a. Deadly Assault
  - b. Active Aggression
  - c. Verbal Non-Compliance
  - d. Passive Resistance
  - e. none of the above
12. A typical Reactionary Gap distance is approximately \_\_\_\_\_ feet.
13. The \_\_\_\_\_ zone is within one arm's length from subject.
14. Anger is a factor that might lead to unnecessary \_\_\_\_\_ escalation.
15. Some of the factors that could lead to increasing the Reactionary Gap would be a heightened awareness of danger, advanced age, and a return to duty shortly after an injury.  
 True  False
-

**"Subject Control and Compliance I: Force Continuum and Relative Positioning"**  
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**Test Answers**

1. Level 0, It's directly in front of subject
  2. reasonably necessary
  3. True
  4. Professional
  5. e. all of them are examples of soft empty hand controls
  6. injury/liability
  7. False, Officers are responsible for subject's safety during escorts
  8. Reactionary Gap
  9. True
  10. c. 98%
  11. d. Passive Resistance
  12. 6 feet
  13. Danger
  14. force
  15. True
-

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