

# Documenting the Display of Deadly Force

## Independent Review Panel Survey

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*On August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006 the Executive Director of the IRP, Dr. Eduardo Diaz, requested a report concerning other law enforcement agencies' policy pertaining to the display of a firearm. From September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006 to September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006, 16 law enforcement agencies nationwide were contacted to determine which ones had a written policy that required their officers to document the display of their firearms, and if so, the specific language it contained.*

### **Law Enforcement Agencies with a Policy Requiring Officers to Document the Display of Their Firearm**

#### **Tallahassee, FL Police Department**

**Contact: investigator David Bell**

##### *VII. Use of Force Report*

*A. A Use of Force Report shall be completed when:*

- 5. Officers remove their handgun from their holster or their shoulder firearm is deployed for use, and there is a subsequent citizen/suspect encounter or confrontation.*

#### **Tampa, FL Police Department**

**Contact: Larry Mckinnon, Public Information Officer**

*538 – Use of Force*

##### *VI. Special Situations*

- A. Display of a Firearm: Aiming a firearm at an individual to gain compliance with verbal commands is considered a use of force and a Custody Memo (TPD 970) will be completed.*

#### **Albuquerque, NM Police Department**

**Information obtained from Department's website**

*1-05-6 Personnel of the Department Will Write Reports On*

*I. When personnel:*

- 5. Points his/her firearm directly at a subject to de-escalate a situation (this does not include use of the "low ready" position). A use of force form is not required.*

**San Diego, CA Police Department**

**Contact: Lt. Brian Blagg**

*1.04 – Admin*

*Use of Force*

*VI. Reporting the Use of Force*

*B. Reportable Force*

*For reporting purposes only, the following are considered use of force:*

*13. The pointing of a firearm at a person to gain compliance.*

**Portland, OR Police Department**

**Information obtained from Department's website**

*Policy and Procedure*

*Notification and Reporting (1010.20)*

*"...when the reportable use of force was pointing a weapon at one or more subjects...one UFR (Use of Force Report) needs to be completed."*

**Detroit, MI Police Department**

**Contact: Commander Fields, Office of Civil Rights**

*Training Directive: Use of Force Reporting/Investigating*

*Number 04-7*

*Category 2 Use of Force: f. Drawing of a firearm and acquiring target*

**State of California Highway Patrol**

Contact: Officer John Soto, Training Academy

*Pending Receipt of Written Policy*

**Law Enforcement Agencies with No Written Policy**

Dallas, TX Police Department

Contact: Senior Cpl. Jamie Matthews

Atlanta, GA Police Department

Contact: Sgt. Jeff McGirt, Training Bureau

Pierce County, WA Sheriffs Department

Contact: Lt. Ed Smith

Kansas City, MO Police Department

Contact: Robin Jackson, Administrative Asst, Training Academy

State of Florida Highway Patrol

Contact: Captain John Crotta

Hartford, CT Police Department

Contact: Lt. Kevin Martin

Boston, MA Police Department  
Contact: Officer John Boyle

Philadelphia, PA Police Department  
Contact: Sgt. Frank Beztosky

### **Department with Restrictions on Firearm Display**

#### **Minneapolis, MN Police Department**

##### **Information obtained from Department's website**

*5-305 Threatening the Use of Force (10/16/02)*

*"...Officers may display an authorized weapon as a threat of force. The threatened use of force shall only occur in situations that an officer reasonably believes may result in the authorized use of force. This policy shall not be construed to authorize unnecessarily harsh language."*