TRAINING POINTS FOR TACTICAL COMMUNICATION & VERBAL WARNINGS

This bulletin contains recommendations and guidelines based on case law changes where de-escalation techniques and verbal warnings are required by police officers. Please take note of the following two laws:

SB 230 & Government Code 7286.

(1) A requirement that officers utilize de-escalation techniques, crisis intervention tactics, and other alternatives to force when feasible.

An important element of any de-escalation plan is to utilize tactical communication with subject(s) who are agitated or in crisis. Please consider the following tactical communication options if/when applicable:

a. An officer may issue calm, nonthreatening commands to ensure compliance of an individual.

b. The officer may increase his or her volume of voice or issue very specific, short commands in an attempt to gain compliance.

c. Speak in common language, rather than professional jargon.

d. Be aware of how tone of voice and demeanor can affect a situation.

e. Use active listening skills.

f. Show respect for the subjects involved.

g. Be culturally aware of all subjects involved.

h. Have a way to close the situation so all feel there is positive resolution (win-win).

AB392 brought many changes to 835a PC which dictates when force may be used. Furthermore, it is now advised that officers shall identify themselves as a peace officer and issue a warning when deadly force may be used.

835a PC

(B) To apprehend a fleeing person for any felony that threatened or resulted in death or serious bodily injury, if the officer reasonably believes that the person will cause death or serious bodily injury to another unless immediately apprehended. Where feasible, a peace officer shall, prior to the use of force, make reasonable efforts to identify themselves as a peace officer and to warn that deadly force may be used, unless the officer has objectively reasonable grounds to believe the person is aware of those facts.

Officers are encouraged to verbally identify themselves as police officers when dealing with hostile, confrontational or violent subject(s). Officers should also consider providing a verbal warning that force may be used when confronted with a situation where a low, intermediate, or deadly force may be used.