

SCAT (Subject Control Arrest Techniques) Study Guide

I. Force Options for Law Enforcement

1. Non-Deadly Force:

- Techniques that do not pose a significant risk of death or serious injury. Used to control suspects, effect arrests, or protect the officer and others.
- **Includes:**
 - **Soft Hand Techniques:** Control holds, pressure points.
 - **Hard Hand Techniques:** Strikes, punches, knee strikes.
 - **Chemical Sprays:** Oleoresin capsicum (pepper spray).
 - **Impact Weapons:** Baton strikes to non-lethal areas.

2. Deadly Force:

- Used only when the officer reasonably believes it is necessary to prevent death or serious bodily injury.
 - **Examples:** Firearms, strikes to lethal areas (e.g., head, throat).
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II. Writing Use of Force Reports

When documenting use of force, ensure these key points are included:

1. **Initial Call Details:** Information from dispatch or witnesses.
 2. **Observations Upon Arrival:** Subject behavior, surroundings, and potential risks.
 3. **Actions Taken:** The specific verbal commands and physical actions used, including escalation and de-escalation steps.
 4. **Subject's Behavior:** Detail the subject's level of resistance (verbal or physical).
 5. **Injuries or Medical Attention:** Include all injuries to the suspect or officers, and any medical treatment provided.
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III. Pressure Point Control Techniques

These techniques use touch pressure to cause pain and compliance through minimal force.

1. Brachial Nerve Plexus:

- **Location:** Along the side of the neck.
- **Use:** Striking or applying pressure to incapacitate a subject temporarily. Methods include an open-hand strike, forearm, or elbow.

2. Hypoglossal Nerve:

- **Location:** One inch forward of the jaw angle, under the jaw.
- **Use:** Touch pressure here can cause intense discomfort and compliance.

3. Mandibular Angle:

- **Location:** Base of the ear, between the mandible and the mastoid process.

- **Use:** Applying pressure here affects multiple nerves (vagus, hypoglossal) and forces compliance.
 - 4. **Jugular Notch:**
 - **Location:** Hollow area at the base of the throat, between the collarbones.
 - **Use:** Applying pressure with two fingers to force compliance, especially useful in making a subject sit or stop.
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IV. Stunning Techniques

Stunning techniques involve overwhelming sensory input that can incapacitate a subject for a short period (3–7 seconds), allowing time for follow-up control.

1. **Brachial Plexus Stun:**
 - **Location:** Side of the neck.
 - **Striking Methods:** Open hand, heel of hand, or forearm strike.
 2. **Suprascapular Stun:**
 - **Location:** Junction where the trapezius muscle meets the neck.
 - **Striking Methods:** Downward hammer fist, knife-hand strike.
 3. **Radial Nerve Stun:**
 - **Location:** On top of the forearm, about two inches below the elbow.
 - **Striking Methods:** Knife hand, forearm strike, or impact weapon.
 4. **Common Peroneal Nerve:**
 - **Location:** Side of the thigh, between the knee and hip.
 - **Striking Methods:** Knee strike, angle kick, or impact weapon.
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V. Defensive Techniques

1. **Arm-bar Takedown:**
 - Use leverage on the wrist and elbow to take a subject to the ground.
 2. **Transport Wrist Lock:**
 - Effective in controlling a subject during escort by applying pain compliance to the wrist.
 3. **Leg Sweep:**
 - A takedown technique used to destabilize and bring the subject to the ground safely.
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VI. Weapon Retention and Disarming

- **Weapon Retention:** Protecting your firearm or other weapons during close encounters to prevent an assailant from disarming you.
- **Disarming:** Techniques to safely disarm a subject who is attempting to use a weapon against you.

VII. Use of Impact Weapons

- **Purpose:** To control a combative subject or defend an attack using a baton or other impact tools.
 - **Target Areas:** Non-lethal zones such as arms, legs, and torso. Avoid targeting the head or other lethal areas unless deadly force is justified.
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VIII. Control Techniques for Various Levels of Resistance

1. **Passive Resistance:**
 - **Example:** A subject goes limp or refuses to comply but is not physically aggressive.
 - **Response:** Pressure points, joint manipulation.
 2. **Active Resistance:**
 - **Example:** A subject pulls away or attempts to escape.
 - **Response:** Control holds, leg sweeps, takedowns.
 3. **Aggressive Resistance:**
 - **Example:** A subject attempts to strike or physically harm the officer.
 - **Response:** Stunning techniques, punches, impact weapons.
 4. **Deadly Resistance:**
 - **Example:** A subject uses or threatens to use lethal force.
 - **Response:** Use of deadly force, firearm deployment if justified.
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IX. Use of Aerosol/Chemical Sprays

- **Considerations:**
 - Always assess the subject's threat level before deploying chemical sprays.
 - Ensure the environment is suitable (avoid confined spaces, wind).
 - Be aware of medical conditions or vulnerabilities that may increase risks for the subject.
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X. Tactical Considerations

1. **Reactionary Gap:**
 - Maintain a minimum distance of 6–8 feet to allow time to respond to an attack.
2. **Positioning:**
 - **Inside Position:** Directly in front of the subject—avoid this.
 - **Interview Position:** At a 45-degree angle to the subject's front.
 - **Escort Position:** 45-degree angle from behind either shoulder.
3. **De-escalation:**

- Whenever possible, use verbal de-escalation techniques to avoid the need for physical force.