

Basic Training Module Specifications

Functional Area: IV. Police Skills
Subject Area: C. Police Physical Skills
Module Title: 1. MECHANICS OF ARREST AND SEARCH
Hours: Not less than 8 hours

Notes to Instructor:

Review the legal basis for the objectives but the emphasis should be on techniques.

Module Objectives:

IV.C.1.1. Conduct a Frisk or Pat Down.

- a. Determines that there is reasonable suspicion to justify a stop and frisk:
 - (1) believes that suspect may be armed and presently dangerous; and
 - (2) believes that a crime is about to be or has been committed; or
 - (3) the officer can articulate an objective and reasonable belief that the suspect is potentially dangerous.
- b. Stops the suspect if there is reasonable suspicion for the stop.
- c. Informs the suspect of the reason for the stop, if appropriate.
- d. Orders the suspect to assume an appropriate position for the pat down.
- e. Conducts the pat down for weapons and possible weapons, paying specific attention to armpits, waistband, groin area, middle of back, hats, etc.
- f. Seizes any possible weapon, if found and continues to search.
- g. Identifies suspect of stop and pat down before releasing him/her, if there is no cause to affect an arrest.

IV.C.1.2. Execute the Arrest of a Person.

- a. Advises the person that he/she is under arrest.
- b. Takes the person into physical custody.
- c. Uses the amount and type of force appropriate to complete the arrest:
 - (1) uses only that force objectively reasonable to control the situation;
 - (2) this may mean avoiding a confrontation until adequate backup is available.

IV.C.1.3. Handcuff a Suspect or Prisoner.

- a. Controls subject through the use of commands and/or physical force, so that he/she is in position to be handcuffed.
 - (1) ensures subject is under control prior to handcuffing.
- b. Places subject in appropriate position to be handcuffed (e.g., spread-eagle, prone, kneeling, standing).
- c. Applies handcuffs to subject so that the prisoner is securely restrained (i.e., locked securely, but sufficiently loose so that the subject is not injured.)
- d. Ensures subject handcuffed behind back, double locked.
- e. Demonstrates an understanding of the procedures that should be used to prevent Police Custody Death Syndrome (PCDS) by:
 - (1) using restraints and/or procedures that will not place the subject in a position where breathing will be dangerously impaired (e.g., head down with chin on chest);
 - (2) recognizing the signs and symptoms associated with PCDS (e.g., bizarre, aggressive behavior, shouting, paranoia, panic, violent behavior, use of drugs and/or alcohol, unexpected physical strength, obesity, sudden tranquility, ineffectiveness of chemical agents, etc.);
 - (3) seeking medical assistance when appropriate
- f. Handcuffs subjects transported long distances in front if using a belly chain.

IV.C.1.4. Conduct a Field Search of Arrested Persons.

- a. Evaluates degree to which suspect may resist search based on nature of offense, number of suspects and number of officers present.
- b. Positions searching officer and covering officer(s) to maintain an open line of fire in the event of resistance.
- c. Places suspect in position where officer can maintain physical control (e.g., spread-eagle, prone or standing, kneeling, etc.).
- d. Handcuffs suspect prior to searching.
- e. Conducts a systematic search of suspect starting at head and working down, paying specific attention to groin, armpits, waistband, middle of back, etc.
- f. Seizes any weapons, contraband, evidence, or fruits of a crime found in the field search.
- g. Segregates searched suspects from unsearched suspects.

IV.C.1.5. Conduct a Custodial Search.

- a. Requests prisoner to remove all personal property.
- b. Searches prisoner systematically, removing all property (e.g., belt, money, jewelry, contraband).
- c. Inventories prisoner's personal property following departmental procedures (e.g., counts all money in prisoner's possession, lists all property on inventory sheet, requests prisoner to verify inventory list, stores prisoner's property).
- d. Seizes evidence discovered during the custodial search including weapons, contraband, and fruits of a crime.
- e. Documents the articles seized during the custodial search to preserve the chain of evidence (e.g., tags evidence, writes report, initials evidence).
- f. Delivers evidence to the proper authorities for further processing (e.g., crime lab, arresting officer) ensuring that the chain of evidence is preserved.

Module History

Revised 7/15