

- D. Unnecessarily or prematurely drawing or exhibiting a firearm limits a deputy's alternatives in controlling a situation, creates unnecessary anxiety on the part of the public and may result in an unwarranted or accidental discharge of the firearm. A deputy's decision to draw or exhibit a firearm should be based on the tactical situation and the deputy's reasonable belief there is a substantial risk that the situation may escalate to the point where deadly force may be justified. When a deputy has determined that the use of deadly force is not necessary, the deputy should, as soon as practicable, secure or holster the firearm.
- E. The application of deadly force requires that the deputies' objective be to stop or incapacitate the suspect, and no other choice presents itself. The objective in the use of any force of any type is to overcome the suspect's unlawful resistance to a deputy's lawful purpose. The application of this policy requires that deputies do not unreasonably or unnecessarily endanger themselves or the public.
- F. Deputies must make every attempt to comply with the Force Model however, it is noted that the Force Model is dynamic and fluid, depending upon a variety of factors present during the encounter. All sworn personnel shall receive annual training in the Use of Force.

II. PURPOSE:

This general order establishes guidelines governing the use of force, its limitations, and clearly describes prohibited activities.

A. Sanctity of Life:

It is the policy of the Northumberland County Sheriff's Office, that deputies hold the highest regard for the sanctity of human life, dignity, and liberty of all persons. The application of deadly force is a measure to be employed only in the most extreme circumstances and after all lesser means of force have failed or could not be reasonably employed.

B. Duty to Intervene:

Any deputy present and observing another deputy using force that is clearly beyond that which is objectively reasonable under the circumstances shall, when in a position to do so, safely intercede to prevent the use of such excessive force. Deputies shall promptly report these observations to a supervisor. Any deputy involved in intervening during the use of excessive force will not suffer any forms of retaliation from fellow employees or superiors.

III. DEFINITIONS:

- A. Use of Force: Any physical contact above the level of a "guiding" or "escort" hold between a deputy and another person, or the use of lethal or less lethal weapons, which further the deputy's intent to establish or maintain control or custody or to defend themselves or another person.
- B. Deadly Force: Any force that has the substantial likelihood of causing serious bodily harm or death.
- C. Serious Bodily Injury: Any injury that creates a substantial risk of death, extreme