Ontario Public-Police Interactions Training Aid (2023)

Conflict Prevention

The pre-emptive use of verbal and non-verbal strategies with people in situations with a potential to escalate (speeding ticket, neighbour dispute)

De-escalation

The use of verbal and non-verbal strategies intended to prevent conflict or reduce the intensity of a situation without the application of force and, if force is necessary, reducing the amount of force if viable

Assess-Plan-Act

A cognitive process applied by the officer to circumstances related to the subject/situation and impacted by perceived/actual risk, available time, and resources. This process is continuous, allowing for reassessment based on changing information.

Situation & Subject Considerations

Some factors impacting an officer's perception and decision-making of the subject and situation are: weather conditions, indoors/outdoors, number of officers/subjects, perceived subject ability (cognitive ability, skill, size, weapon), cultural awareness, gender identity.

Subject Behaviors

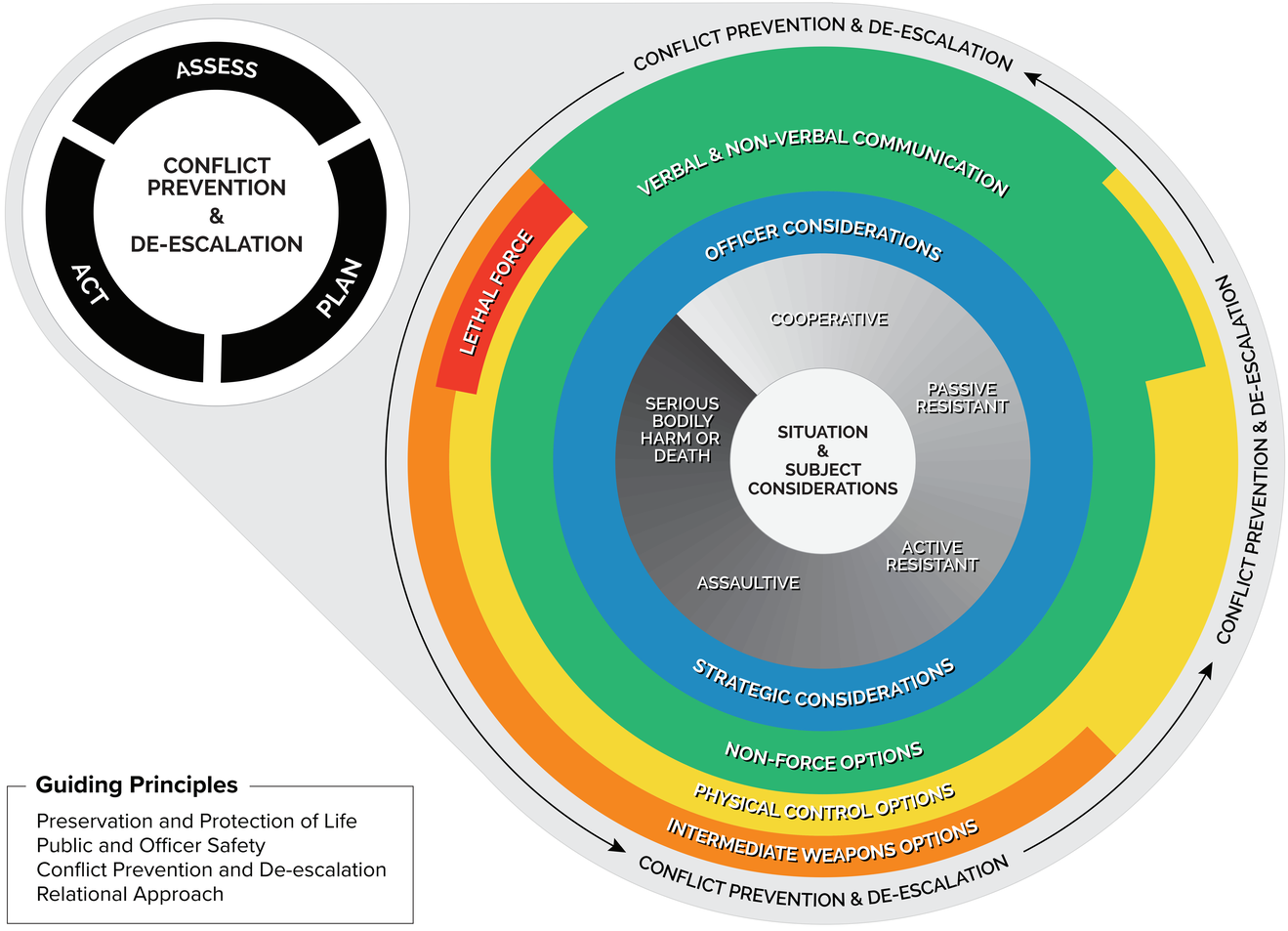
Cooperative: Subject complies with a lawful request

Passive Resistant: Subject refuses a lawful request, verbally and/or physically by standing still, sitting, laying down

Active Resistant: Subject pulling/pushing away, walking away, running away

Assaultive: Threatens/attempts/strikes the officer, kick, punch, spit, headbutt (no weapon)

Serious Bodily Harm or Death: The use of any weapon or technique reasonably likely to cause serious bodily harm or death



Guiding Principles

Preservation and Protection of Life
Public and Officer Safety
Conflict Prevention and De-escalation
Relational Approach

The officer continuously assesses the interactions and selects the most reasonable option(s) relative to the subject and circumstances given available resources and time.

Officer & Strategic Considerations

Factors impacting perception and decision-making, including ICEN, ICLEAR, NRA, POL personal experience, skills/ability, stress, injuries, specialty units, available time

Verbal & Non-Verbal Communication

First Contact Approach: Hello, my name is
Relational Approach: I can see you are struggling, I'm here to help you.
Directive Approach: Police, don't' move!
Consistent Verbal/Non-Verbal Approach: facial and body expressions consistent with message, applies to both subject and officer

Non-Force Options

Increasing available time to delay/eliminate the need for force may be done using: Distance, Physical Presence, Isolation, Containment, Evacuation, Cover, Concealment, Reposition, Teamwork, Disengagement

Physical Control Options

Soft: controlling an arm/wrist, pressure points, barrier assist
Hard: strikes/grounding techniques

Intermediate Weapons Options

Pepper Spray, Expandable Baton, Conducted Energy Weapon, Less Lethal Shotgun, ARWEN, Shields, Canine, Horses, any other approved weapon

Lethal Force

Use of any weapon/technique reasonably likely to cause serious bodily harm or death

This Training Aid is not prescriptive and does not replace the law. An officer's actions must be lawful, necessary,reasonable and proportional.

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