

**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**

MARTIAL ARTS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE  
THE BASIC SCHOOL  
24191 GILBERT ROAD  
QUANTICO, VIRGINIA 22134

**STUDENT OUTLINE**

**EMPLOY THE CONTINUUM OF FORCE**

**MAIB1035LP**

**MARTIAL ARTS INSTRUCTOR COURSE**

**M02MMET**

APPROVED BY: Maj. Carter C.T. DATE: 1 January 2020

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES.** This is a lesson purpose class with no associated learning objectives.

1. **RESPONSIBLE USE OF FORCE.** This lesson is intended to teach the Marine Corps policy, guidelines, and procedures for the use of force for Marines functioning as law enforcement or security personnel. This does not apply to Marines performing military operations subject to the DoD Standing Rules of Engagement or mission specific rules of engagement. In order to act responsibly, Marines must understand and possess the knowledge and skills required to handle all situations appropriately, without unnecessarily escalating the violence.

a. **Missions of the Marine Corps.** The missions of today's Marine Corps encompass peacekeeping, humanitarian assistance, and domestic leadership. This includes evacuation operations, maintaining law and order, riot control, courtesy patrol, and the example Marines must set while off-duty. As you hone your martial arts skills and those of your students, you need to be aware that you may eventually find yourself confronted with one of these situations. Marines in this type of environment must learn to use only the amount of force necessary, without escalating the violence, to meet the demands of the situation.

b. **Moral Principles.** The responsible use of force is tied to the following moral principles:

(1) **Service before Self.** A Marine is a warrior-defender, willing to give his life for the life of others. Where a Marine walks, people are safer. A Marine is the defender of others, rather than just a defender of one's self.

(2) **Equality.** In any type of mission, Marines must believe that the people they are protecting are equal and that their lives and the lives of their loved ones are just as important as the Marine's.

(3) **Core Values.** Marines embody the core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment. These values guide Marines to exemplify ethical and moral behavior, respect human dignity, and adhere to a higher standard of personal conduct. The core values are what establish the Marine as the warrior and citizen others strive to emulate. Marines must be physically, mentally, and morally fit to uphold these values.

c. **Deadly Force.** Deadly force is the force which a person uses causing, or that a person knows or should know would create a substantial risk of causing, death or serious bodily harm or

injury. Deadly force is only employed as a last resort, and only after all lesser means of force have failed to produce the intended result, or when circumstances prevent the use of lesser means.

**2. TEMPER AND INTENT.** In order to respond appropriately to a situation, the Marine must be able to quickly assess the temper and intent of the person so they can make a judgment as to the person's intended actions.

**a. Temper.** Temper is a person's emotional state. Emotional state can be inferred from physical behavior such as yelling, crying, nervousness, uneasiness, calmness, joviality, aggressiveness, etc.

**b. Intent.** Intent is a person's intended actions. Intent can be inferred from physical behavior that is more action-oriented such as running, hitting, carrying or drawing a weapon, reaching for a purse, etc. Intent can also be inferred from a person's equipment or clothing. Does the person's clothing and belongings conform to their reason for being there?

**c. Assessing Temper and Intent.** The Marine's response to a situation depends on their assessment of temper and intent. The Marine should constantly assess the temper and intent of every person with whom they come into contact. This must be done very quickly to determine the threat a subject poses and the way the Marine will respond to the person. Marines should become more focused when something is out of the ordinary. Throughout any situation temper and intent must be constantly re-evaluated and the Marine must adjust their actions accordingly.

**3. LEVELS IN THE CONTINUUM OF FORCE.** Marines must understand that when confronted with a situation where force may be required, their response must be appropriate to the perceived threat. The continuum of force is a wide range of possible actions, ranging from verbal commands to deadly force, which may be used to gain and maintain control of a potentially dangerous situation. The threat level can rise and fall based on the actions of both the Marine and the person involved. Marines must control the situation with the minimum amount of force necessary to gain compliance. The Continuum of Force is broken down into five levels that describe the behavior of the subject and the appropriate response of the Marine to handle the situation.

**CONTINUUM OF FORCE**

1. Compliant (Cooperative): Verbal Commands
2. Resistant (Passive): Contact Controls
3. Resistant (Active): Compliance Techniques
4. Assaultive (Bodily Harm): Defensive Tactics
5. Assaultive (Serious Bodily Harm/Death): Deadly Force

**a. Level One - Compliant (Cooperative)**

(1) Behavior of Subject. In the first level in the continuum of force, the vast majority of people will cooperate with Marines and obey their instructions. In many cases, the Marine will be dealing with local civilians and military personnel on a daily basis.

(2) Response by Marine. Simple verbal commands used with firmness and courtesy will be sufficient to control most situations the Marine will encounter. Marines who are overly aggressive may antagonize a subject, causing them to be less cooperative, resulting in an unnecessary escalation in the continuum of force.

**b. Level Two - Resistant (Passive)**

(1) Behavior of Subject. In the second level in the continuum of force, subjects start to refuse to obey the Marine's verbal commands. There is no immediate danger of physical harm to either the subject or Marine.

(2) Response by Marine. Contact controls can be used as a bridge between verbal commands and physical force. These are techniques short of physical force, which psychologically intimidate the subject in order to eliminate resistant behavior or reestablish cooperation. Contact controls include repeating verbal commands in a more forceful manner, warning the subject of the consequences of disobedience, and assuming a more authoritative posture. If the subject continues to be uncooperative, the Marine should request assistance through their chain of command.

**c. Level Three - Resistant (Active)**

(1) Behavior of the Subject. In the third level in the continuum of force, the subject first demonstrates physical resistance. The subject does not actively attack the Marine, but continues to openly defy the Marine's verbal commands. The subject may be refusing to comply with directions, pulling away, shouting, struggling, locking oneself in a car, or fleeing from the area. At this level, the physical threat to the Marine remains low.

(2) Response by Marine. Compliance techniques are used at this level to control the situation. This includes martial arts techniques designed to physically force a subject to comply. Examples of compliance techniques include come-along holds, joint manipulation and the use of pressure points to gain compliance. When issued, OC spray and Tasers may be employed before escalating to level four.

**d. Level Four - Assaultive (Bodily Harm)**

(1) Behavior of Subject. In the fourth level in the continuum of force, the subject may physically attack the Marine, but does not use a weapon. Their behavior is characterized by aggressive and combative actions which present physical harm to the Marine. The subject may try to strike, kick, wrestle, or bite the Marine to prevent apprehension.

(2) Response by Marine. Defensive tactics will be used at this level to defeat an assailant's attack, and to establish and maintain control of the subject. Marines must quickly stop the subject's combative behavior to prevent the situation from escalating to deadly force. Defensive tactics include blocks, strikes, kicks, enhanced pain compliance, and baton strikes. Marines must avoid striking a subject in the head with batons because this is considered deadly force.

**e. Level Five - Assaultive (Serious Bodily Harm/Death)**

(1) Behavior of Subject. In the fifth and final level in the continuum of force, the subject will either kill or seriously injure someone if they are not stopped immediately and brought under control. Guns and knives are the most obvious weapons, but improvised weapons such as pipes, chains, or hazardous materials may pose a lethal threat. Any physical confrontation, in which the Marine is in fear of imminent death or serious bodily harm, even if no weapon is involved, constitutes authorization to apply deadly force.

(2) Response by Marine: Deadly Force. Deadly force is most often applied by the Marine through use of a firearm or some other type of weapon but it may also be delivered by martial arts techniques.

**4. REAL WORLD SCENARIOS**. As a Marine, the first situation you may find yourself in where you must react as a warrior may not be on the battlefield, but while on liberty. In our daily lives we interact with fellow Marines, our families, friends, and the civilian population. Eventually you may find yourself in a potential confrontation that could range from a minor disagreement, domestic dispute, road rage, potential fight, or riot. You must be prepared to respond appropriately to each of these situations. Listed in descending order are options available for a Marine to take in order to arrive at a peaceful solution.

**a. Avoid the Situation**. Identify a possible confrontational situation before you become involved and avoid becoming entangled in that situation.

**b. Remove Yourself from the Situation**. If you have become involved, attempt to remove yourself from the situation as quickly as possible.

**c. Deescalate the Situation**. If unable to leave or if extenuating circumstances prevent you from leaving attempt to deescalate the situation. Do not become confrontational yourself.

**d. Use Minimum Force Necessary**. If you find yourself being assaulted or attacked, immediately take charge of the situation by using the minimum amount of force necessary.

\*Alcohol and emotions do not mix and may further aggravate a confrontational situation. All Marine must control themselves, their emotions, and the situation at all times.

**REFERENCES:**

Standing Rules for the use of Force by US Forces, CJCSI 3121.01B

Arming of Law Enforcement and Security Personnel, MCO 5500.6