

<b>Directive</b>	<b>Response to Aggression Options</b>	<b>500-1</b>	<b>1 of 2</b>
<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>January 1, 2010</b>		



## **Wilkesboro Police Department**

### **Electronic Written Directives Document**

An officer is justified in using the degree of response that the officer reasonably believes to be necessary to obtain lawful objectives, such as an arrest, and in self-defense or defense of others. All responses must be reasonable and necessary.

Response to aggression decisions must be based on the need for control vs. the potential for death or serious physical injury. Response must not start before aggression starts and must stop when aggression stops. Response cannot be used to affect an unlawful arrest, because an individual's resistance to unlawful arrest is lawful as long as it is not excessive.

The following categories outline the options of response available. The individual's actions will dictate as to the options that an officer may use. The officer must select the appropriate option. The listed order of options in no way dictates to the order the officer will respond, however; the officer must only apply the necessary and lawful response to stop the aggression.

### **Levels of Response**

**Professional Presence-Verbal Command:** The officer assumes control of the situation through announced and/or uniformed appearance and professional bearing. If presence alone fails, the officer begins verbal direction, dialog, and concise warning commands using a voice tone that reflects professionalism and control.

**Soft Hands:** The officer places hands on the suspect and advises the suspect that he/she is under arrest. Any resistance to lawful authority beyond this point is unlawful and must be countered by the officer.

**Pepper Spray (OC Spray) or Taser:** Oleoresin Capsicum is a less than lethal force option available to officers that enhances their chances to neutralize aggressive situations before they escalate; thus, decreasing the chance of injury to officers, subjects, and the public. When practical, OC Spray should be used in place of striking the subject with fist, elbow, knee, or weapon to reduce chance of injury to the subject and the officer. The X26 Advanced Taser is a less than lethal force option on the same level as chemicals (i.e. O C Spray) in the response options. The X26 Advanced Taser may be used only for controlling combative or resistive subjects.

<b>Directive</b>	<b>Response to Aggression Options</b>	<b>500-1</b>	<b>2 of 2</b>
<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>January 1, 2010</b>		

**Hard Hands:** The use of open hands to pressure points, joint locks, and strikes or kicks to the body, or the use of other "come along" techniques. Once the suspect is under control, the pain application must be released. Some techniques apply counter joint pressure using leverage that may be applied using handcuffs.

**Lethal response:** An officer will apply lethal response *only* to protect themselves or others from death or serious injury, or to apprehend a fleeing felon when all other means of apprehension have been exhausted *and* the suspect presents an imminent risk of death or serious injury to members of the community. A verbal warning shall be given if feasible and if such warning will not increase the danger to the officer or others. Officers' responses will be dictated by the hostile actions of the suspect and the need for immediate control.

An officer is not restricted to only a firearm when faced with an imminent threat of death or serious physical injury and is authorized to use any means available to protect himself/herself or a third party from such threat.