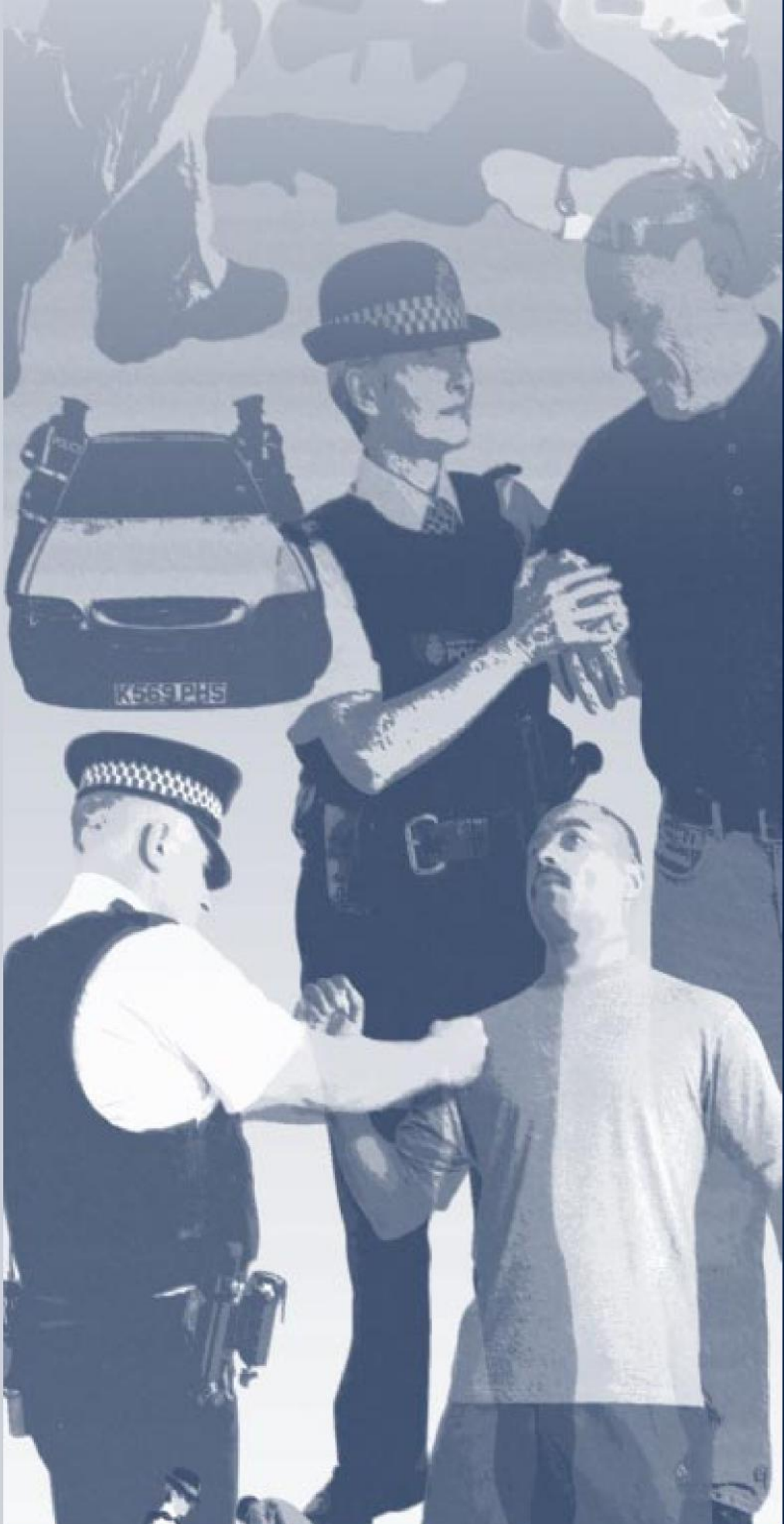


Introduction



Personal Safety





Copyright Notice

© Centrex (Central Police Training and Development Authority), Harrogate, 2005.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, modified, amended, stored in any retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without the prior written permission of the Central Police Training and Development Authority or its representative.

The above restrictions do not apply to police service authorities, who are authorised to use this material for official, non-profit making purposes only

Enquiries:
Telephone +44 (0)1256 602650

Content enquiries only telephone:
+44 (0)1423 876714

Acrobat(R) Reader copyright
©1987-1996

Adobe Systems Incorporated. All rights reserved. Adobe and Acrobat are trademarks of Adobe Systems Incorporated.

CENTREX
DEVELOPING POLICING EXCELLENCE



INTRODUCTION

Purpose

This manual has been produced on behalf of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) by Centrex (Central Police Training and Development Authority), Harrogate, in conjunction with the ACPO Standing Sub-Committee on Self Defence and Arrest. Its purpose is to support and inform operational decision-making and training to improve safety during the policing of violent or potentially violent situations. General guidance relating to the use of force, relevant techniques and use of equipment is included *. Further advice in relation to the police use of firearms and group tactical options for use during public disorder can be found in the 'ACPO Manual of Guidance on Police Use of Firearms' and the 'ACPO Manual of Guidance on Keeping the Peace'.

Status

As its title suggests, this manual exists for the guidance of chief officers in carrying out their duty to provide appropriate training and policies, and for police and civilian staff who may be required to deal with conflict as part of their operational duty.

The nature of policing is so diverse that it will never be possible to document guidance to cover every circumstance or eventuality. For this reason, there will always be occasions when individual officers resort to tactics or techniques not described in this manual. In such circumstances, the actions of the officer will not necessarily be wrong or unlawful, provided they have acted reasonably and within the law. The individual concerned must be prepared to account for their decisions and to show that they were justified in doing what they did. Similarly, chief officers will need to be in a position to justify any decision or action taken, in order to avoid or defend possible civil proceedings.

*** Note: - The illustrations contained within this manual may not be specifically represented.**

CENTREX
HELPING TO DEVELOP POLICING



Scope

In addition to general guidance on use of force issues, this manual includes a 'directory' of techniques, all of which have been the subject of medical and legal review. It is not intended that all officers be trained in all the techniques or that the manual be viewed as a prescriptive training programme. A basic training package is recommended, but individual forces will, of course, be free to select any additional techniques that may be required for specific policing problems or specialist roles. This approach enables flexibility while, at the same time, recognising that the understanding of the techniques and the standard by which competence is measured should be uniform.

Review

To ensure that the guidance contained in this manual remains current it is intended that the content be reviewed on a regular basis. In addition, the flexible approach that has been adopted will enable existing material to be amended, updated or deleted and new material to be added.

Provision of training

The benefits of appropriate and regular training in officer personal safety cannot be overstated. Where such training is given, the number of assaults on police officers has decreased and if an assault does occur it is often less severe. Complaints from members of the public regarding the use of protective equipment or unnecessary use of force have also fallen in number.

CENTREX
HELPING TO DEVELOP POLICING



Since July 1998, by virtue of the Police (Health and Safety) Act 1997, police officers are regarded as 'employees' for the purposes of the Health and Safety Act 1974. This has increased the importance of proper risk assessments. Officer personal safety policies will form a large part of the control measures required under this legislation to ensure the health and safety of staff, particularly when facing violent or potentially violent situations. The Human Rights Act 1998 has increased the focus on this responsibility since, in their position as 'public authorities', police forces are, amongst other things, under a duty to protect the human rights of their staff.

Non-compliance by a force with these statutory requirements, and any policies that have been introduced to support them, may constitute a criminal offence. Equally, individual members of staff are under a legal obligation to co-operate with their employer. For this reason, non-compliance by them with instructions relating to these policies may constitute a criminal as well as disciplinary offence.

ACPO recommend that every officer should receive a minimum of 12 hours personal safety refresher training per year to ensure that their skills remain at a competent level. Whilst 12 hours is the recommended minimum time consideration should be given to the content of a force personal safety programme. It should be recognised that some skills take longer to acquire to a competent level, therefore, the overall time allocated to the training may need adjusting accordingly.

Forces should ensure that adequate training and periodic refresher training is provided. Where an officer is not currently trained, or where they have not attended all aspects of training or refresher training, consideration should be given to whether they should be allowed to perform operational duties and



Provision of training

continue to possess items of protective equipment already issued.

Any individual officer not attending or participating in all aspects of training may not only compromise their ability to protect themselves and others, but may also leave themselves liable to committing a disciplinary offence and a breach of their individual legal obligation under health and safety legislation. Such non-attendance should be brought to the attention of a supervising officer for action to be taken in accordance with force instructions. The standards that an officer is required to achieve during officer personal safety training should be clearly defined and documented.

These are likely to reflect a balance between what it is realistic to expect a person to achieve in the training time available and the requirement to ensure safe systems of work. Officers who fall below the standard should be given as much support as is reasonable to ensure that they reach the required level of competence.

An officer who is medically unfit to take part in all aspects of officer safety/self defence training should be dealt with in accordance with procedures applicable to unfitness for duty. Where such a medical condition is merely temporary, a period of restricted duty may be considered appropriate. Although an officer may be given an opportunity to attend and take part in any non-physical aspects. However, they should not be regarded as fully trained until such time as they have undertaken all the elements when fit to do so. As much support as possible and close liaison with the Occupational Health Department/Advisers is likely to be appropriate in such circumstances.

CENTREX
HELPING TO DEVELOP POLICING

