

## **WEAPON RETENTION**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

**I.** Anytime a suspect uses physical force against you to arm him/her with your firearm, you should consider yourself in a fight for your life. If the suspect takes your rifle from you, would you be in reasonable fear for your life? Would there be a risk of death or serious bodily harm to you or others? The violent action of a suspect to take control of your firearm creates a deadly force situation that you should defeat immediately using any/all means necessary.

### **II. Performance Objectives:**

Each student will be required to demonstrate the following rifle retention methods:

- A. Tuck, Pull, Aim, and Fire
- B. Transition to Handgun
- C. Level II Defensive Techniques
- D. Push Down and Rotate (a.k.a. “d” Method)

**INSTRUCTORS NOTE: Notice that these techniques were all demonstrated or practiced using blue/inert training weapons only. As instructors we must ALWAYS follow the four safety rules.**

### **PRESENTATION:**

“NECESSARY” as related to use of force, means that no reasonable effective alternative to the use of force appeared to exist and that the amount of force was reasonable to effect the lawful purpose intended. (*RCW 9A.16.010*)

**I. Tuck, Pull, Aim and Fire Method:**

- A. Used when a suspect is using physical force against you, to take your rifle from you, arming him/her with your rifle in a manner which leads you to believe that the suspect is intent on killing you and deadly force becomes “necessary”!
1. The suspect grabs the muzzle of the rifle.
  2. A round is chambered –**or**- the charging handle is not impeded by the suspect and you have the ability to chamber a round, by pulling and releasing the charging handle.



*Suspect grabs the rifle*

B. SKILL STEPS:

1. The firing hand holds onto the pistol grip, while the non-firing hand holds onto fore-end. Give verbal commands if possible.
2. The officer '**tucks**' the butt of the rifle into shoulder pocket, or under his / her arm and '**pulls**' the rifle away from the suspect.



*Officer Tucks and Pulls*

3. If the suspect continues to hold onto the rifle, the officer must be able to **'pull'** with sufficient force, to **'aim'** the rifle muzzle at the suspect. This may be accomplished by rapidly bending the knees or squatting, thereby directing the rifle muzzle at the suspect.
4. If the officer is unable to break free from the suspects attack, the safety is flipped 'off', and the rifle is fired into any significant portion of the suspect's anatomy in an attempt to stop the deadly threat to the officer's life.



*Officer Fires the weapon*

## II. Transition from the Rifle to the Handgun:

- A. Used when a suspect is using physical force against you, to take your rifle from you, arming him/her with your rifle in a manner which leads you to believe that the suspect is intent on killing you and deadly force becomes “necessary”!

A life and death struggle for the rifle ensues and you have been unable to control the rifle.

### B. SKILL STEPS:

1. Hold your rifle with your non-firing hand, while you employ your duty pistol with your firing hand.



*Officer holds rifle with support hand and draws handgun*

- a. Ensure you hold onto your rifle until:
  - (1) Your duty weapon has cleared your holster.
  - (2) Unless you are utilizing a tactical sling, you are prepared to release your rifle and IMMEDIATELY step back to avoid being struck with the rifle.
- b. Use your handgun and shoot suspect if “necessary”, to eliminate deadly threat to your life.



*Officer fires handgun to stop the threat*

As an alternate technique for a weapon with a standard sling: The officer should try to retain a grip on the butt end of the sling until he/she can draw the handgun (and shoot if necessary). This allows for a greater gap which lessens the risk of the suspect to now attack the handgun.



*Officer retains grip on sling to help keep the rifle's muzzle pointed away*

### III. Level II Defensive Tactics:

- A. Used when a suspect is using physical force against you, to take your rifle from you, arming him/her with your rifle in a manner which leads you to believe that the suspect is intent on killing you and deadly force becomes “necessary”!
- B. The officer holds onto the rifle with one or both hands and uses his / her knees, elbows, feet, and / or hand to deliver punches and/or kicks; until the suspect releases the rifle or another option is used by the officer.



*Knee strikes*

**IV. “D” Method or “d” Method ( a.k.a. Baton Retention Technique):**

- A. Used when a suspect is using physical force against you, to take your rifle from you, arming him/her with your rifle in a manner which leads you to believe that the suspect is intent on killing you and deadly force becomes “necessary”!
- B. ‘Push Down and Rotate’ (“D” or “d”) Method; used when the suspect takes a hold of the muzzle end of the rifle barrel.
  - 1. The officer retains hold on pistol grip with firing hand.
  - 2. The non-firing hand goes over the top of the barrel as close to the suspect’s hand(s) as practical, controlling most of the rifle.



*Non-firing hand over the top*

3. The officer locks his / her arms straight down and bends at the knees, dropping his / her weight over the rifle.



*Arms locked – knees bent – weight presses down*

4. The officer keeps his /her firing hand and arm locked and braced against leg.

5. The non-firing hand and arm moves the barrel in a circular motion, so that the barrel rotates over the suspect's thumb, breaking the suspect's grip.



*Officer begins a large “D” motion with the barrel of the weapon*



*The “D” motion causes the suspect to break their grip on the rifle*



#### **APPLICATION:**

- I. Students form pairs and practice each of the four retention techniques. **It is highly recommended that the training be conducted with blue dummy weapons (both rifles and handguns), but at the very minimum muzzle/chamber blocks will be inserted. This is not only safer, but barrels can be bent and accessories damaged during these training scenarios.** Gloves are also recommended to reduce hand injuries
- II. Instructors coach officers in the proper technique.

#### **PERFORMANCE MEASURE:**

Each officer will properly demonstrate each of the four retention techniques, when another person attempts to violently take the rifle from the officer.