

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

1350 Norris Road, Bakersfield, CA 93308
661.391.7500 - www.kernsheriff.org

DONNY YOUNGBLOOD
Sheriff - Coroner - Public Administrator



Issue: 26-14

TRAINING BULLETIN

DATE: February 23, 2026

KCSOPPM F-Sections 400, 500, and 550 Policy Release

Over the past several years, the Sheriff's Office has been working closely with the California Department of Justice (CalDOJ) and the Monitoring Team (MT) to refine F-section policies addressing use of force to align them with the Stipulated Judgment (SJ). Final approval of these policies was recently granted.

The release of revised KCSOPPM F-section of policies began on February 9, 2026. They will continue to be released over the next several weeks to give staff time to familiarize themselves with the changes, but the policies will not take effect until **April 15, 2026**. These policies pertain to the use of force, force options, and critical incident reviews. Each set of policies will be released with a training bulletin and relevant PowerPoint.

- **KCSOPPM F-0400: Use of Force - Oleoresin Capsicum**
 - Updated to include optimal ranges and target areas
 - Updated to provide guidelines on vulnerable populations
 - Updated to provide guidelines on positional asphyxia (Govt. Code 7286.5)
 - Updated to provided guidelines on use of OC in crowd control
 - Updated to include requirement for supervisor notification
 - Civilian employees authorized to carry OC spray should carefully review Procedures G and H

- **KCSOPPM F-0500: Use of Force – Baton**
 - F-500 was previously "Use of Force – Carotid Restraint" which was deleted after passage of AB 1196 adding Govt. Code 7286.5.
 - Renumbered (Previously F-600)
 - Updated to provide guidelines on vulnerable populations
 - Updated to include optimal target areas
 - Updated authorization for collapsible batons in detentions assignments

- **KCSOPPM F-0550: Use of Force – Personal Weapons**
 - Renumbered (Previously F-650)
 - Updated to include optimal target areas
 - Updated to include requirement for supervisor notification

These policies and their respective attachments can be found on SheriffNet or via the hyperlink below:

- [Procedure Manual](#)
- [Policy updates F-400 F-500 F-550.pptx](#)

All personnel are required to review the above-listed policies, PowerPoint, and acknowledge this training bulletin no later than **Friday, March 27, 2026, at 1700 hours.** All personnel are directed to read these policies and acknowledge the training bulletin by the due date. After **April 15, 2026**, an audit will be conducted to ensure all required policing readings, training bulletin acknowledgements, and mandatory training are completed. Failure to complete one or all of the above-mentioned requirements can lead to disciplinary action.