

# Use of Force Continuum

## Totality of the Situation

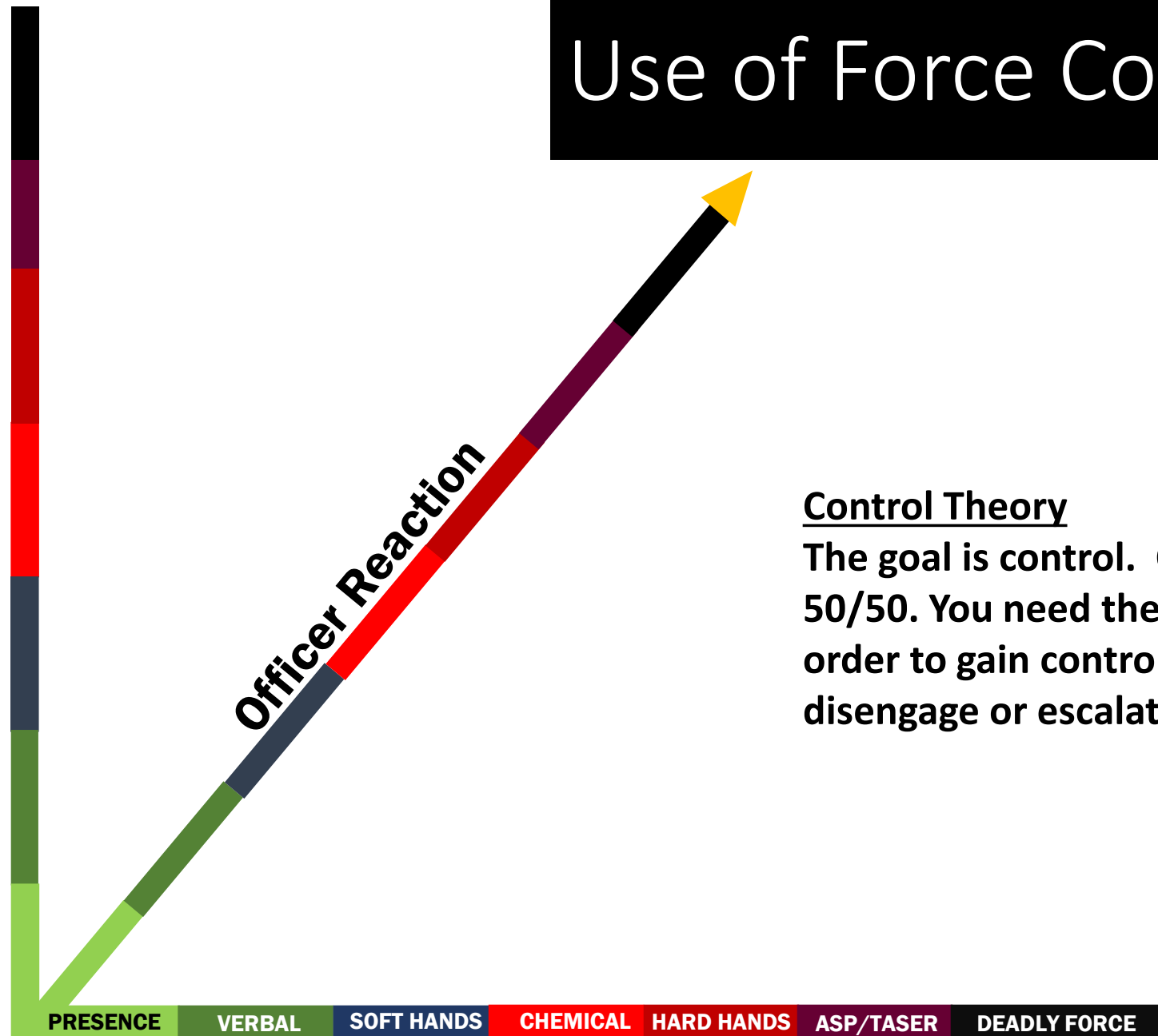
## Officer/Subject Factors

- Age
- Gender
- Size
- Fitness Level
- Multiple Officers
- Multiple Subjects

## Special Circumstances

- Close Proximity to a Weapon
- Special Knowledge
- Injury or Exhaustion
- Ground Position
- Disability
- Imminent Danger

Assailant Action



## Control Theory

The goal is control. Control is not 50/50. You need the advantage in order to gain control. The ability to disengage or escalate is imperative.

Force Options

# Use of Force Continuum Definitions

- **Officer Presence — No force is used. Considered the best way to resolve a situation.**
  - The mere presence of a law enforcement officer works to deter crime or diffuse a situation.
  - Officers' attitudes are professional and nonthreatening.
- **Verbalization — Force is not-physical.**
  - Officers issue calm, nonthreatening commands, such as "Let me see your identification and registration."
  - Officers may increase their volume and shorten commands in an attempt to gain compliance. Short commands might include "Stop," or "Don't move."
- **Empty-Hand Control — Officers use bodily force to gain control of a situation.**
  - *Soft technique.* Officers use grabs, holds and joint locks to restrain an individual.
  - *Hard technique.* Officers use punches and kicks to restrain an individual.
- **Less-Lethal Methods — Officers use less-lethal technologies to gain control of a situation.**
  - *Blunt impact.* Officers may use a baton or projectile to immobilize a combative person.
  - *Chemical.* Officers may use chemical sprays or projectiles embedded with chemicals to restrain an individual (e.g., pepper spray).
  - *Conducted Energy Devices (CEDs).* Officers may use CEDs to immobilize an individual. CEDs discharge a high-voltage, low-amperage jolt of electricity at a distance.
- **Lethal Force — Officers use lethal weapons to gain control of a situation. Should only be used if a suspect poses a serious threat to the officer or another individual.**
  - Officers use deadly weapons such as firearms to stop an individual's actions.