



RCMP Use of the Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW)

CACOLE Conference

Regina

June 16, 2008

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Background

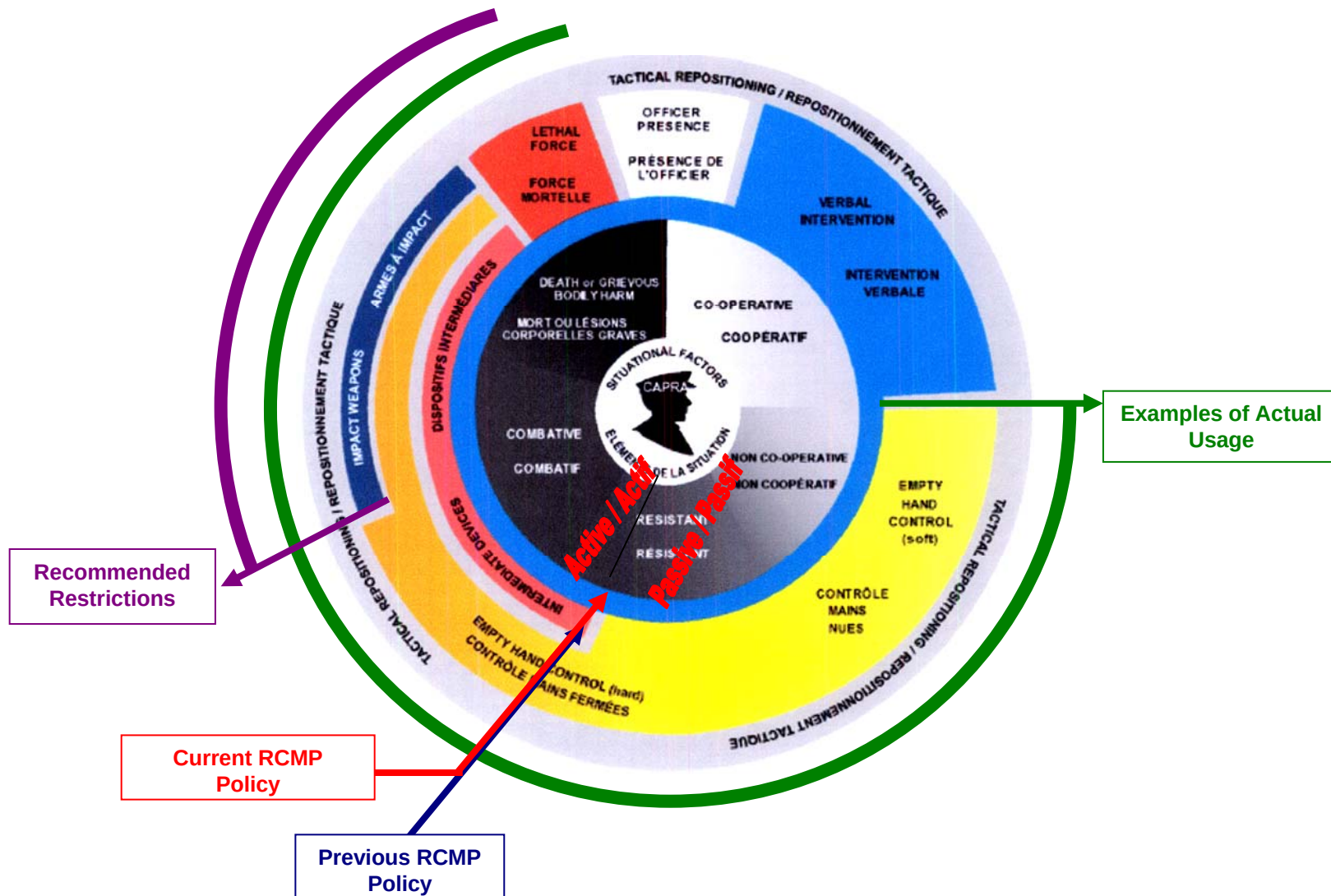
- Issue: RCMP Use of Conducted Energy Weapons (Tasers)
- November 2007, Minister gives CPC mandate to:
 - Review all RCMP policies and protocols related to use of CEWs
 - Make recommendations in relation to RCMP CEW deployments
- Provide advice to Minister of Public Safety
- Interim Report issued December 2007
 - Systemic issues identified within the RCMP



Key Interim Report Recommendations

- No moratorium recommended
- 10 recommendations, key among them:
 - RCMP immediately reclassify CEW as “impact weapon”
 - Proposed restriction on Incident Management/Intervention Model
 - RCMP allow CEW deployment only when behaviour is classified “combative” or poses risk of “death or grievous bodily harm”
 - RCMP action: Divided “Resistant” category into “Active” and “Passive”
 - RCMP re-certify members on the CEW every two years
 - RCMP action: One year re-certification
 - RCMP appoint a National Use of Force Coordinator
 - RCMP action: Appointed National Use of Force Coordinator
 - RCMP institute and enforce stricter reporting structures
 - National uniformity of reporting critical
 - RCMP produce quarterly and annual statistical reports on CEW use

Proposed Restrictions on RCMP Incident Management/Intervention Model





Key considerations

- Multiple stakeholder perspectives needed to inform use of force debate
 - Unique perspectives of panellists here today, for example, are the kind of opinions that should be considered in use of force (and taser) discussions
- Usage creep
 - Weapon deployed outside prescribed objectives
 - Shift from intent when introduced in 2001 to less restrictive use
- Deployment should be based on principle of proportionality
 - Level of force used should correspond to amount of resistance faced
- Police response to host of medical crises
 - Consistency in application of CEW required
 - Even in cases involving medical crises, use of the CEW must depend on combative behaviour being present prior to use



Going Forward

- Outstanding challenges from Interim Report
 - Accuracy of data and reporting compliance
 - Evaluation of RCMP data on CEW use by RCMP members
 - Cross-jurisdictional comparisons of CEW policies
 - Unknown effect on at-risk groups
- Overall, further examination of RCMP use of conducted energy weapon required
- Final Report on RCMP CEW use to be issued June 18, 2008
 - Will address outstanding issues from Interim Report
 - Outline key recommendation for immediate implementation
- Critical need to share information and independent evaluation among review and oversight bodies in this area
 - CPC/OPCC(BC) Parliamentary Committee Appearance