



**POLICE EXECUTIVE  
RESEARCH FORUM**

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**FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2005**

**PERF RELEASES NEW BOOK ON POLICE USE OF FORCE**

*Washington, DC*—A new report designed to help police chiefs make more informed decisions about the use of force was released here today by the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF).

*Chief Concerns: Exploring the Challenges of Police Use of Force* is a compilation of successful strategies for reducing deadly force incidents as well as advice on how to handle the aftermath of officer-involved shootings. The culmination of more than a year's work, the book is the first in PERF's Critical Issues in Policing series, undertaken to provide insights into the most pressing issues facing today's law enforcement executives and to share innovative responses for addressing them.

"There is probably no other issue that keeps chiefs up at night quite as much as the use of force, especially deadly force," said Chuck Wexler, PERF's executive director. "Such an incident is often a defining moment for a police chief. With the publication of this report, we hope to give chiefs the advice and support they need to meet such challenges. We wanted to look at successful practices across the country and around the world and this publication is the first step in that process."

According to PERF President and Los Angeles Police Chief William Bratton, a number of strategies are being used by departments across the country that have led to a decline in deadly use-of-force incidents. "It is our hope that this book will save lives of both citizens and officers by identifying approaches that will help minimize use of force and defuse volatile incidents," said Bratton. "But should an incident occur, this book also lays out the mechanisms for dealing openly and appropriately with the community, the media and the officers involved to ensure accountability and maintain the trust of both the public and the rank and file."

*Chief Concerns* looks at policies and training; tools, including firearms and less-lethal devices; effective prevention and de-escalation measures; K-9 deployment; community engagement; use-of-force investigations and officer aftercare.

To obtain data for the book, edited by Joshua A. Ederheimer and Dr. Lorie A. Fridell, PERF staff reviewed prevailing literature on use of force, interviewed experts from around the country and abroad, and convened executive sessions where chiefs and community leaders could share successful use-of-force strategies. For example, the San Diego Police Department has found that sending a supervisor to the scene of a non-routine call within the first 15 minutes can drastically reduce

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the chances that deadly force will be used. It also dispatches a specially trained Crisis Response Team (CRT) for all high-risk calls after finding that many people involved in officer-related shootings suffer from a mental illness.

PERF partnered with Motorola, Inc. on this project. “Motorola is pleased to be working with PERF again and to contribute to this effort to ensure that the nation’s police leaders have the information they need to do the best jobs possible,” said Jim Sarallo, senior vice president of Motorola’s Government & Enterprise Mobility Solutions business. “We are proud to support this research on an issue of utmost concern to the nation’s police executives, and we hope this book will prove to be a useful reference for them.”

PERF and Motorola last collaborated in the mid-1990s on the 21st Century Policing Project, which helped departments adopt “process mapping” to identify and eliminate costly inefficiencies in their operations.

To order a copy of this publication (product number 851) visit PERF’s online bookstore at [www.policeforum.org](http://www.policeforum.org), or call 888.202.4563.

*PERF is a DC-based nonprofit membership organization of police professionals who are committed to advancing police services to all communities through research, national leadership, debate and technical assistance.*

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