Abstract

Justification to Kill

Recent police shootings have garnered a lot of attention from the public and the media. This is especially true within populations comprised of African Americans. Controversy has been the focal point with many groups claiming that the use of deadly force by the police has been aimed primarily at members of the African American community. While some of the shootings were deemed justified based on evidence that was revealed through follow-up investigations by the police, other shootings remain questionable with some being obvious cases of misapplication of deadly force. It seems that basic standards that were once a part of police training regarding the use of deadly force would be a good way to lessen the chances of a poor shooting occurring. This paper will highlight the need to reintroduce officers to the requirements that ability, opportunity, and jeopardy be present prior to making the decision to shoot.

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