

NUMBER: 12-004	Original Issue:	Revised Date: June 24, 2013	Effective Date: July 26, 2013
SUBJECT: ASP TACTICAL BATON			Pages: 4

I. ASP Tactical Baton (“ASP”) Policy

All uses of an ASP are governed by the Use of Force Policy 96-007, and the additional requirements of this policy. All ASP uses must be objectively reasonable, as set forth in the Use of Force Policy 96-007. The definitions set forth in the Use of Force Policy 96-007 apply to this policy.

The Department issues ASPs to all officers to provide them with additional use-of-force options for gaining compliance of actively resisting individuals in arrest and other law enforcement situations. Officers should only use ASPs when warranted against subjects who are exhibiting Active Resistance or who are actively resisting in a manner that is likely to result in injury to themselves or others.

ASP strikes to the head or neck must comport with Departmental standards for the use of Deadly Force. The Department will review all such ASP strikes for compliance with Deadly Force standards.

II. Qualification Procedure

- A. WPD shall train all officers on proper use of departmentally issued ASP at least once per year.
- B. Upon the completion of training and qualification, each officer shall carry a departmentally issued ASP when on duty.
 - 1. Departmentally authorized ASPs are required to be carried on the duty gun-belt.
 - 2. The Chief of Police may exempt officers from carrying a departmentally issued ASP only while on plain-clothed assignment
- C. No officer shall carry or use any impact weapon other than a departmentally issued ASP while on duty.

III. Usage Criteria

- A. ASP usage is a use of force. If feasible, the officer should only use the ASP as a force option after the subject has failed to comply with verbal compliance tactics and lesser force options are not feasible, and the subject is actively resisting the officer’s efforts to make the arrest.

- B. Whenever practical and reasonable, officers should issue a warning to the subject of the ASP's impending use.
- C. The ASP is to be used by police personnel in the following manner for defense from attacks, and to counterattack violent, aggressive, or unruly subjects:
 - 1. to block kicks, punches, and strikes; and
 - 2. to strike subjects when necessary in the following manner:
 - a. Weapon and Reaction Closed Mode Strikes will be directed at a downward 45 degree angle to center mass of subject's body;
 - b. Closed Mode Straight Strikes will be directed forward to center mass of the subject's body;
 - c. Weapon and Reaction Open Mode Strikes will be directed at a downward 45 degree angle to center mass of the subject's weapon delivery system, those being the subject's arms and legs;
 - d. Open Mode Straight Strike will be directed forward to center mass of the subject's body;
 - e. Rapid Response Strikes will be directed at a downward 45 degree angle to center mass of the subject's weapon delivery system, those being the subject's arms and legs; and
 - f. all ASP strikes are delivered at a downward 45 degree angle.
- D. Strikes to the center mass target areas have a higher potential for control and a lower potential for fatal injury.
- E. Baton strikes are delivered at full force and as few times as necessary until compliance is achieved. Each strike is considered an application of force and must be legally justified in accordance with policy.
- F. Once a subject is incapacitated or restrained, use of the baton is no longer justified.
- G. All subjects shall be handcuffed as soon as possible after being struck with the baton. Officers should also be prepared to employ other means to control the subject to include, if necessary, other force options consistent with this department's use-of-force policy if the subject continues to actively resist and cannot otherwise be subdued.

- H. Subjects that have been struck with an ASP shall be monitored for indications of medical problems and shall not be left alone while in police custody.
 - 1. Once the subject is under control and the situation no longer presents a danger, officers shall provide or arrange for first aid and/or transport to a medical facility consistent with Departmental policy.

IV. Restrictions

- A. The ASP will not be used to strike the below listed areas on any subject, unless the officer has justification to use deadly force. Strikes to these areas may produce injuries that are potentially fatal, while not immediately terminating the assailant's resistance.
 - a. Head
 - b. Neck
 - c. Spine
 - d. Sternum
 - e. Groin
- B. The ASP should never be opened to the side because unintentional subject(s) could be struck.

V. Reporting Procedures

- A. Any use of the ASP against an individual in an enforcement capacity shall be reported to the officer's immediate supervisor as soon as possible.
- B. Officers shall complete a Use of Force Report following all uses of the ASP except during training.

VI. Replacement

- A. All ASPs shall be maintained in an operational state. Officers to whom ASPs are issued are responsible to obtain replacements for damaged, inoperable, or defective ASPs.
- B. Officers can obtain replacement batons from the Weapons Unit.

END ASP TACTICAL BATON POLICY 12 – 004

The aforementioned rules, regulations, policy, procedure, to wit; PO/PR 12-004, be and the same, are ratified, prescribed, adopted, approved, made and promulgated, by me, on this 11th day, of July 2013, at 2:00 AM/PM



AS SO ORDERED,

**Enzo C. Cantalamessa
Director of Public Service and Safety**

The aforementioned rules, regulations, policy, procedure, to wit; PO/PR 12-004, be and the same, are ratified, prescribed, adopted, approved, made and promulgated, by me, on this 11th day, of JULY 2013, at 2 AM/PM



AS SO ORDERED,

**Eric J. Merkel
Chief of Police**