



Deployment of Advanced Taser X-26®

REFERENCE

Current Procedural Instruction entitled, "Use of Force" Current Procedural Instruction entitled, " Physical Health Protection"

RESCINDS

Department memorandum 04-7 entitled, "Deployment of Advanced Taser X26"

I. Introduction

The Advanced Taser X26® (referred to as a taser from here forward) is an alternative less-lethal application of force not intended to replace firearms or self-defense techniques. This memorandum will provide officers with procedures for the taser, to include; method of carry, deployment, and the after care of the tasered person(s).

II. Purpose

To outline policy and procedure as it applies to the deployment of the Advanced Taser X26®.

III. Definitions

- A. **Taser X26®:** A less lethal weapon system which fires two electrical probes that emit a shaped pulse discharge of 50,000 volts at a flow rate of 0.0021 amperes. It is designed to incapacitate a target from a safe distance of up to 7 meters/21 feet without causing death or permanent injury.
- B. **Air Cartridge:** A separate attachment that affixes to the front of the taser, which houses two electrical probes that are fired by 1800 psi of nitrogen propellant with 8° probe separation angle.
- C. **After Care:** An 8-step procedure for caring for an individual after application of a taser, which covers from probe removal and disposal to an observation period while in police custody.
- D. **CID (Central Info Display):** A 2 Digit LED readout on the back of the taser above the grip, which displays remaining battery charge, burst time, warranty expiration, and illumination status at the appropriate times.
- E. **Deploying Officer:** The officer who has control of and activates the taser.
- F. **Discharge:** Any firing of a taser at an animal or human being, even if the probes miss the intended target. For administrative tracking purposes a taser misfire will also be treated as a discharge.
- G. **DPM (Digital Power Magazine):** Taser power source, which is housed in the base of the grip. It contains lithium energy cells and a digital memory chip, which records the date, time, length of activation, the temperature, and the percentage of battery life remaining in the DPM each time the taser is activated. The DPM will produce approximately 300 firings before requiring replacement.
- H. **Less-Lethal:** Any use of force other than that which is considered lethal.
- I. **Lethal Force:** Any use of force that is likely to cause death.

- J. **Misfire:** When the taser is activated and the probes do not deploy or an electrical arc is not observed between the electrodes affixed to the front of the taser.

IV. POLICY

- A. Only personnel who have successfully completed the required training and can demonstrate proficiency will carry or deploy the taser.
- B. The taser is not a substitute for deadly force.
- C. The taser may be deployed at force **Level III - Active Resistance**, found in the current procedural instruction entitled "Use of Force".
- D. Proper consideration and care should be taken when deploying the taser on subjects who are in an elevated position or in other circumstance where the subject may fall and sustain serious bodily injury or death.
- E. The taser will not be used punitively or in a manner that is inconsistent with this instruction. It is to be used only as a way of averting a potentially injurious or dangerous situation. Any use of the taser in a punitive manner will subject the deploying officer to appropriate disciplinary action.
- F. The Taser may be used more than once upon a subject in a specific incident only if the subject continues to engage in conduct that meets the force **Level III – Active Resistance** standard.
- G. The taser will not be deployed near flammable materials or liquids to include Meth labs. The arcing from the probes could ignite flammable material.
- H. Only a department issued taser (Advanced Taser X26®) will be carried.
- I. The taser will only be carried in a department approved holster with an air cartridge attached to the front of the taser and the safety engaged.
- J. The battery display will be checked on the CID at the beginning of each tour of duty. A reading of 20% or less will require that the DPM be changed.
- K. A taser will not be left unattended. When issued a taser for on duty use an officer will wear the taser at all times. When not in use the taser should be secured at the station or locked in the trunk of a police vehicle.
- L. Officers will not carry the taser in any detention area. The taser will be placed with duty weapon in the provided secured area.

- M. Any air cartridge deployment or misfire intended to impact a subject will require the completion of a Response to Resistance, Form 246 P.D. Air cartridges that misfire will be retained and returned to the Supply Unit for replacement.
- N. The taser will only be drawn when a possibility of use exists.

V. PROCEDURE

A. Responsibilities:

1. Deploying Officer:

A taser should always be treated as if it were activated and ready to deploy. The finger should be out of the trigger guard and along the frame until you are ready to deploy.

- a. An officer deploying the taser will be aware of his target and what is beyond it.
- b. The taser will be turned off as soon as compliance is obtained.
- c. Probes will be removed from the individual following the procedures described in section V, C of this directive.
- d. A Response to Resistance, Form 246 P.D. will be completed and approved prior to the end of the deploying officer's tour of duty.
- e. All written reports associated with the incident are to be completed and approved before the end of the deploying officer's tour of duty and forwarded to any appropriate investigative units, if applicable.
- f. Any discharge, intentional or accidental will be recorded on the Taser Incident Log.
- g. An on-duty sergeant and a commander will be notified anytime a taser is deployed and will respond to the scene.

2. Field Sergeants:

- a. Ensure that proper medical treatment is given to injured officers and/or citizens.
- b. Ensure all responsibilities have been carried out regarding care for the injured, apprehension of the suspects and protection of the scene.

- c. Ensure that a Response to Resistance, Form 246 P.D. report is completed and approved prior to the end of the deploying officer's tour of duty.
- d. Ensure that all written reports associated with the incident are completed and approved before the end of the deploying officer's tour of duty.

3. Desk Sergeant / Detention Unit Supervisor:

Supplies:

- a. Taser related equipment will be requested on an Office/Vehicle Requisition, Form 296 P.D. **No other supplies will be requested on this form.**
- b. Entries will be hand written on the blank lines on the bottom of the form.
- c. The requisition will be signed by a captain or a designated sergeant.
- d. The taser equipment will only be released at Supply to a sergeant or their designee.

Inventory:

- a. Issue tasers to the appropriate marked vehicles within the division.
- b. Maintain accountability for Air Cartridges and DPMs stored at the Division/Unit.
- c. Maintain the Division/Unit Taser Incident Log, Form 150 P.D.
- d. Retain the Taser Incident Log, Form 150 P.D. at the division station/unit for a period of five years.

B. Deployment

Deployment of the taser should be supported with the availability of lethal force. Prior to the deployment of a taser, the person deploying the taser has the responsibility to visually and physically confirm that the tool selected is in fact a taser and not a firearm.

Deployment against a human being:

- a. Center mass of the body should be the target area when firing a taser, particularly the center mass of the back; as clothing tends to be tighter on this part of the body.

- b. Personnel encountering subjects wearing heavy or loose clothing on the upper body should consider targeting the legs. The head and face should not be targeted unless the appropriate level of force can be justified.
- c. If feasible, the deploying officer should also notify any on-scene, assisting officers that they intend to deploy a taser. Prior to deployment the deploying officer should announce, "**TASER! TASER! TASER!**" The announcement should be made only if it would not endanger any civilians, officers or the suspect.

Deployment against a vicious animal: The full effect of a taser on animals is not yet proven. Field deployments have shown positive results and the taser has been an effective tool against vicious animals.

A taser may be deployed at an animal when:

- a. A vicious animal has threatened or attacked a citizen, an officer, another animal, or has caused a continuing public nuisance and the vicious animal needs to be controlled for reason of public peace or safety, preservation of property, or other legitimate purpose. The taser will be used in an effort to safely facilitate the application of more conventional animal control methods in these situations.
- b. Center mass of the animal should be targeted. The head and other sensitive areas on the animal should not be targeted.
- c. Personnel will take reasonable measures to ensure the animal's welfare is provided for, in the event that probes impact a sensitive area, or it appears the animal's health is in jeopardy.

C. Post Care / Probe Removal Procedure

1. Make sure subject is compliant and secured prior to post care procedures.
2. DO NOT ATTEMPT to remove probe if it is imbedded in the following areas of soft tissue: **face, neck, ear, breast, or groin**. In this instance, THE PROBE WILL BE REMOVED BY MEDICAL PERSONNEL ONLY.
3. Any officer removing or handling spent taser probes will utilize latex gloves.

4. Isolate the area of impact with one hand. Firmly grasp the probe with the other hand. With one pull, remove the probe from the subject and place the probe point down in the spent cartridge. **DONOT HOLD THE CARTRIDGE IN YOUR HAND WHILE PLACING THE USED PROBES INTO THE CARTRIDGE.**
5. Follow the same procedure for removal of the second taser probe.
6. To prevent infection, an antiseptic wipe and clean dry bandage will be provided to the tasered individual.
- * 7. Phlebotomy sharps containers that have been mounted in patrol wagons are to be used for disposal of used taser probes. Officers will request a patrol wagon, if available, to respond to the scene of a taser deployment for use of the phlebotomy sharps container. The container can be easily removed from the holder and brought directly to the subject for probe removal. If a patrol wagon is not available to respond to the scene, the used taser probe can be transported to the Headquarters detention facility for disposal in a mounted phlebotomy sharps container. **The container is for used taser probes only. DO NOT place latex gloves or taser air cartridges in the container.** Once the container is full the officer assigned to the patrol wagon will respond to a detention facility and dispose of the phlebotomy sharps container in the red bio-hazardous material bag. The officer will then respond to the Supply Unit for a new phlebotomy sharps container to be placed in the patrol wagon. When an officer is assigned to a patrol wagon, the officer is to check the phlebotomy sharps container at the beginning of the officer's shift to ensure the container is not full or requires replacement.
9. Remove and discard gloves in a bio-hazardous container and thoroughly clean hands as described in the Procedural Instruction, entitled "Physical Health Protection".

D. Documentation

1. Activity Log, Form 112 P.D.: The serial number of the issued taser will be recorded in the equipment section of the log in the space titled "Other".
2. Equipment Issue/Return Log, Form 218 P.D.: Each taser assigned to a marked vehicle equipment box will be signed out at the beginning of each tour of duty and signed back in at the end of each tour of duty by the assigned officer using the current divisional equipment issue/return procedures.

3. Taser Incident Log, Form 150 P.D.: Each taser activation will be recorded whether the activation was an actual deployment incident, maintenance test, show of force, or accidental deployment incident. One line will be completed for each activation incident. For the purposes of this memorandum, several activations to control the same individual or animal will be entered on one line, with the number of activations noted in the appropriate column. The information on the Taser Incident Log will also be entered into an on-line form by an on-duty sergeant.

The steps for completing the on-line form are as follows:

- a. Enter the KCPD Intranet webpage.
- b. From the Intranet webpage, choose Patrol B Reports.
- c. From the list on the left side of the Patrol Bureau Reports System page, under Submit Report, choose "New Taser."
- d. On the Submission Form, Fill in the boxes using the suggested formats highlighted on the page.
NOTE: The information to be entered on the on-line form is the same as the information entered on the paper form Taser Activation Log, Form 150P.D.
- e. The last entry on the screen will be a Verification Confirmation question which asks "Are you sure you want to submit this report?" When you are sure the information is accurate, choose the "Yes" button. You will then be given the option to print the report.

NOTE: If you want a copy of the report, you must print it at this time. You will not be able to review or print the report after you send it.

4. Advanced Taser X-26 Dataport: Each month the Watch I Desk Sergeant at the Patrol Stations or designated Supervisor at Detention and Tactical Units will have all tasers downloaded on the unit or division X26 Dataport. The first download of the taser will require the time on the taser and the time on the computer to be synchronized (see "d" below).

Downloading the taser is accomplished by:

- a. Replace the DPM with the download adapter and plug the opposite end of the taser download cable into the USB dataport on the designated division/unit computer.
- b. Using the computer mouse, left click on the taser download icon. This will access the "welcome" window.

- c. Point and left click on the "Continue X26 Download" button. A "time synchronization" window will open. This window will only appear during the first download of each taser.
 - d. This step will only be necessary for the first download. Two choices will appear on the time synchronization window. Point and left click on the button to synchronize the taser's time to the computer. The password for this step is "62XRESAT" The download window will appear when the synchronization is complete.
 - e. Enter the appropriate "from and to" dates to keep the download size to a minimum. After the download is complete a window will appear which contains the downloaded data.
 - f. Point and left click the "Save as Encrypted Log" button. An "Open" box will appear. Left click on the drop down arrow in the "look in:" box and choose the 'public on 'kcpdservernas1' (p:) drive.
 - g. Point and left click on the Taser Download folder.
 - h. Point and left click on the Unit or Division subfolder.
 - i. Point and left click on the Sector or Squad subfolder.
 - j. Point and left click on the Radio Number to which the taser being downloaded is assigned.
 - k. Rename the file in the "file name:" box as **district number-from date – to date** entered into the original download window using the format of (i.e. 111-01012004-02012004).
 - l. Click on save.
5. Response to Resistance, Form 246 P.D.: Will be completed for each incident as outlined in the current directive entitled, "Use of Force" for each deployment incident, even if the deployed probes do not make physical contact.

E. Certification Requirements

The Advanced Taser X-26 Certification Course will be taught by Certified Instructors at the Regional Police Academy. The course will consist of lecture, practical applications, and a written test. Trainees must be successfully complete the course to be able to carry the Advanced Taser X-26.

James D. Corwin
Chief of Police

Adopted by the Board of Police Commissioners this _____ day of _____
2005.

Javier M. Perez, Jr.
President

DISTRIBUTION: Law Enforcement Personnel
Civilian Supervisory Positions
Department Element Manuals
Post on bulletin boards for two weeks.