

Jackson Police Department

ELECTRONIC CONTROL WEAPON / TASER

SOP-13

I. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to provide officers with guidance and direction on the use of and after action practices for the Electronic Control Weapon (ECW). When properly used the ECW can reduce the possibility of injury to police officers and/or the person on whom the device is used by stopping threats from a safe distance.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of this agency to use only that level of force that is reasonable to control a situation, effect an arrest or investigatory detention, or to overcome resistance to arrest or defend themselves or others from harm. Electronic Control Weapons may be used by authorized and trained personnel in accordance with this department's Use of Force Policy and additional guidelines established herein.

III. DEFINITIONS

Electronic Control Weapon (ECW): Weapons designed to disrupt a subject's central nervous system by means of deploying battery powered electrical energy sufficient to cause uncontrolled muscle contractions and override an individual's voluntary motor responses.

AFIDs: Confetti-like pieces of paper that are expelled from the cartridge when fired. Each aphid contains an alpha-numeric identifier unique to the specific cartridge used.

IV. PROCEDURES

A. Authorized Users

Only officers who have satisfactorily completed this agency's approved training course shall be authorized to carry ECWs.

B. Weapon Readiness

1. The device will be carried in an approved holster [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The officer may elect to carry the weapon cross draw or reaction side draw configuration.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

5. Only agency approved battery power sources shall be used in the ECW.

C. Deployment

1. The ECW is generally analogous to Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray on the use of force continuum, and decisions to use an ECW involve the same basic justification. As such, the device is prohibited from being used:

- a. In a punitive or coercive manner.

[REDACTED]

- c. Behavior that cannot be reasonably dealt with in any other less intrusive fashion.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- g. To wake a sleeping or unconscious person or intoxicated person.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

2. The ECW may be used against a subject who is displaying active aggressive resistance or a credible or imminent threat of aggressive resistance coupled with an appropriate ability to carry it out.

[REDACTED]

re [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- a. Primarily a pain compliance tool due to a lack of probe spread.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- d. Subject to the same deployment (use) guidelines and restrictions as that of the ECW in cartridge deployments.

[REDACTED]

D. Aftercare

1. The ECW darts shall be removed from the subject after being restrained, but do not attempt to remove the probes if the subject is combative or the probe is embedded in the face, neck, ear, groin or a woman's breast. Officers can touch a subject while the ECW is live, but the officers should not step on the wires or touch the probes.
 2. If the barb is embedded in one of the sensitive areas or if the barb shaft is embedded so deep as to prevent the probe from hanging loosely, medical personnel shall be summoned to remove said probes and treat the subject, who may have to be transported by ambulance to a medical facility to be treated. If the officer removes the probe, then he/she shall wear latex gloves, place their hand above the probes and stretch the skin taut. Using a brisk pull, the officer shall pull the probe out of the subject, wipe the wound with an antiseptic, and apply an adhesive bandage to the site. Inspect the probe and wound site to ensure the entire probe has been removed intact. Alcohol swabs, gloves and bandage packing shall be disposed of in a biohazard bag or receptacle.
- [REDACTED]

4. While in custody, subjects on which the ECW has been used shall be monitored continuously for indications of medical problems.
- [REDACTED]

E. Reporting

1. The deploying officer shall notify his/her supervisor as soon as practical after using the device and complete the appropriate Use of Force Report. A copy of the data port download must be attached to the Use of Force Report.
2. Each discharge, including accidental discharges, of the ECW shall be documented and investigated. No officer shall playfully, maliciously or intentionally misuse the unit in an improper display of power.

F. Use Against an Officer

[REDACTED]

Care and Maintenance

1. Check the batteries and expiration of the air cartridges at the beginning of each shift. Only authorized batteries will be used in the weapon.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Once checked, the unit is to [REDACTED] and replaced in the secure holster. Make sure to check the expiration date on both air cartridges.

[REDACTED]

4. The officers shall not store or carry the ECW or air cartridges in their pockets, as static electricity can cause the cartridges to fire.
5. Avoid dropping.

[REDACTED]