

GENERAL ORDER, OPERATIONS, NUMBER 34
AUGUST 8, 2006
WATERLOO POLICE DEPARTMENT

A. SUBJECT:

Deployment of Department Issue TASER

B. PURPOSE

To establish a standard and effective procedure for the deployment of the Department issue TASER.

C. POLICY:

All Department sworn personnel shall comply with the following procedures when deploying the Department issue TASER.

D. DEFINITIONS:

TASER X26: A TASER device is an electronic control device that is a less lethal use-of-force option for law enforcement personnel.

Medical Personnel: Hospital doctors and nurses.

TASER Training Officer: This Officer, selected by the office of the Chief of Police, will inventory and issue all TASERS and cartridges. This Officer will also provide the maintenance for the TASER.

TASER Deployment: Anytime an Officer un-holsters and points and/or shoots the TASER at a suspect, it shall be considered a TASER deployment. This would include arching the TASER as a deterrent.

E. PROCEDURES:

1. TASER Training and Certification:

- a. All Waterloo Police Officers will be trained with the TASER. The TASER will only be carried for duty use by those Officers who maintain WPD annual certification.
- b. Annual qualification/training exercise(s) will be conducted by the Department TASER training officer.

2. Issued Equipment:

- a. Prior to issuance of the TASER or cartridges, the TASER Training Officer will record the serial numbers of those items. Each Police Officer will be issued the following equipment:
 1. TASER model X26, yellow in color
 2. 1 – 25' air cartridge (green door)
 3. Exoskeleton Holster

- b. Extra cartridges will be kept in the weapons locker in the briefing room. If a cartridge is deployed, a new one will be issued by a supervisor, the serial number recorded and the information forwarded to the TASER training officer.

3. TASER Maintenance/Storage:

- a. The TASER will be treated with the same care and caution as a lethal firearm. Indiscriminate use or carelessness by an Officer will result in disciplinary action. The following specific rules will apply:
 - 1. When the TASER is being worn, it will be secured in the duty holster. When not being worn, the TASER should be placed in a secure area.
 - 2. Officers will be responsible for cleaning and general upkeep of the TASER.
 - 3. The overall maintenance of their TASER will be conducted by the TASER Training Officer in accordance with manufacturers' and Department's recommendations.

4. Carrying Regulations:

- a. Any malfunctions with the TASER will immediately be reported to a supervisor or Watch Commander. This malfunction will also be reported to the TASER Training Officer.
- b. If you pull the trigger for any reasons during your watch, except for the "spark" test, you must report the incident to a supervisor.

5. TASER Deployment:

- a. Any time an Officer deploys the TASER at a suspect, it will be considered a documented use, and a use of force form will be completed before the end of the watch.
- b. The TASER may be used when it becomes necessary to use force against any individual(s) in order to:
 - 1. Overcome resistance to any lawful arrest and to maintain control
 - 2. Protect the officer(s) or other innocent person(s) from an immediate threat of physical injury or death
 - 3. To prevent the commission of suicide or self-inflicted serious physical injury
 - 4. Control individuals or groups as per General Order, Operations, Number 18, High-Risk incidents
 - 5. Protect the Officer or other innocent person from a violent animal attack.
- c. If the TASER probes are deployed:
 - 1. A supervisor will be notified and respond to the scene. The scene will be secured and proper procedures will be followed to process the scene.
 - 2. When possible, medical personnel will remove all probes. Before medical personnel remove the probes, they will be photographed. After the probes are removed, photographs of the probe site(s) will be taken. If the subject is taken to jail, a medical release form shall be obtained.
 - 3. The probes will be placed back in the cartridge, seized and tagged as evidence.
 - 4. The TASER Training Officer will collect the data from the TASER. This information will be submitted with the use of force report.

5. Injuries to the suspect and the Officer will be documented in an incident report as well as the use of force report.
6. Unauthorized Uses:
 - a. Any unauthorized use or failure to document a use will be considered a serious violation of Departmental policy.
7. Accidental Discharges:
 - a. Accidental discharges will immediately be reported to a supervisor.
 - b. A use of force form will be completed and a new cartridge will be issued.
 - c. All accidental discharges will be documented and reviewed by the Captain of Patrol.
8. Supervisor Responsibilities:
 - a. The immediate supervisor will be responsible for ensuring the Officer involved documents the TASER deployment and that all of the evidence is properly collected.
 1. If the probes are deployed, the Chief or his designee will be contacted.
 2. If a death or serious injury results from the use of a TASER, an investigation will begin.
9. Theft or Loss of a TASER:
 - a. Any theft or loss of a TASER will immediately be reported to a supervisor.
 - b. Any loss due to carelessness may result in disciplinary action.
10. Assisting Other Agencies:
 - a. If another agency requests assistance regarding the TASER, the Watch Commander or street supervisor will be contacted for approval per General Order, Operations, Number 1, Outside Agency Request for Assistance.

BY ORDER OF:

Thomas J. Jennings
Chief of Police