

Erlanger Health System Policy and Procedure

Origination Date: <u>6/09</u>		
Approval: _____		
Reviewed/ Revised Date:	Effective Date:	Approval:
_____	<u>6/09</u>	_____
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Index Title: Electronic Weapon Taser
Originating Department: Security
Number: 8076.61
Description for EHS Intranet: Taser

Policy Statement

To establish a standard operating policy for electronic weapon, Taser.

Scope

All Hospital Police.

Definitions Electronic Weapon, Taser

Procedure

Only authorized officers who have completed the prescribed course of instruction on the use of the electronic weapon will be authorized to carry or utilize the electronic weapon.

Officers shall receive retraining in the use of the electronic weapon during in-service. (See TNG-3) [1.3.11]

All uniformed officers shall carry the electronic weapon, if issued, in its holster in a cross draw position on their duty belt.

Officers shall carry the weapon with an air cartridge seated in the weapon.

Officers may dispense with carrying the baton if they have been issued an electronic weapon. Personnel are encouraged to have available their baton which will be worn on the belt.

Usage Criteria

Electronic weapon is a force option listed at the same time as OC (pepper spray) on the use of force continuum.

The electronic weapon may be used when all verbal commands have failed to bring about the subject's compliance and the subject has signaled his intention to actively resist the officer's efforts to make the arrest.

No individual officer shall have a firearm and Taser deployed at the same time.

When practical and prior to firing the Taser device, the officer discharging the Taser shall:

1. Loudly announce "If you don't comply, you will be Tazed" when the Taser is discharged.
2. Under unusual circumstances, and the announcement stated above will enhance the situation, the officer will announce "Level Two" indicating to other in the area that a Taser is going to be deployed.

The electronic weapon is programmed to give a 5-second "electrical current". The operator can shorten or extend this time. The probes should not be touched during this time period, as the officer would also receive the same "electronic current."

The preferred target area when deploying an electronic weapon should be center mass of the body. The face, neck and groin areas are to be avoided if at all possible.

The device shall not be used in any of the following places and/or situations

Near flammable gases or liquids.

As a defense against a deadly weapon.

Officers will refrain from use of the electronic device in the Emergency Department, patient treatment rooms or while the patient is in the bed unless there is immediate danger to other patients, visitors or staff.

In cases of passive resistance by a person unless a lesser means of force:

Has been attempted and failed;

Is not an option due to exigent circumstances; or

If attempted, will result in a significant possibility of injury to

suspect, officers or others.

To threaten a person or patient in an attempt to gain information from that person.

Against a subject already in custody unless physical resistance has to be overcome.

To wake up a medicated patient or suspected intoxicated individual.

As a form of punishment to any person.

No officer may use an electronic weapon on an obviously pregnant women, juvenile, or elderly patient or suspect unless verbal commands, soft empty hand techniques and pepper spray have been used and have failed. In such cases, an officer shall fully articulate in the use of force report the circumstances which justified the use of the electronic weapon.

No officer shall playfully, maliciously, or intentionally misuse the electronic device in an improper display of power.

Post Electronic Weapon Usage

A suspect shall be handcuffed as soon as possible after being exposed to electronic weapon. Officers shall also be prepared to employ other means to control the suspect including, if necessary, other levels of force consistent with the department policy, if the suspect does not respond sufficiently to the electronic weapon and cannot otherwise be subdued.

Immediately after utilizing the electronic weapon on a suspect and getting the suspect in custody, the officer who deployed the electronic weapon shall immediately examine the suspect for any indication that the individual needs medical care. Upon observing complications or other medical problems, or if the suspect requests medical assistance, the officer shall immediately summons emergency aid.

Suspects on which the electronic weapon has been used shall be monitored continuously for indications of medical problems and shall not be left alone while in police custody.

If the probes penetrate the skin the officer shall summon medical assistance and the puncture sites shall be brought to the attention of medical personnel, who will determine if the officer can remove the probes.

An officer shall not remove a probe if the barb shaft is embedded so deep as to prevent the probe from hanging loosely. The officer shall request EMS or Emergency Room personnel to examine the person if the probes cannot be removed because of the depth of penetration of the probe or a hit to the head, groin or a woman's breast. Officers are to wear rubber gloves when removing probes from skin. Officers shall use the two-finder method for removing probes.

Unless a person subjected to any electrical shock from an electronic weapon is exhibiting signs of medical distress, the person shall be escorted or transported to a medical facility by the officer for examination and treatment. If a person subjected to an electrical shock from an electronic weapon is exhibiting signs of medical distress, the officer shall immediately summon emergency medical personnel, who will decide whether the person needs to be transported by ambulance.

Officers shall obtain medical clearance from the emergency department physician before transporting a subject shocked by an electronic weapon to a detention facility. This clearance can be obtained from the physician.

Officers must be aware that one easily overlooked aspect of injury in shooting a subject with an electronic weapon is that falling from a stand position. An examination with particular emphasis on secondary injuries should be performed by paramedics or emergency personnel if on the scene.

The air cartridge and probes used shall be tagged into evidence until there is a disposition on the case. Since the probes will probably have blood on them (biohazard). Officers shall wear protective gloves when handling. The wires shall be wound around the cartridge. The probes shall be inverted into the portals they originally were deployed from (this will prevent the sharp ends from penetrating the envelope). Tape should then be applied over the portals to secure the probes in the cartridge. Place into evidence envelope.

Reporting Procedure

Use of the electronic weapon against an individual in an enforcement capacity shall be reported to the officer's immediate supervisor as soon as possible.

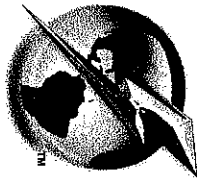
Use of Force Reports shall be completed by each involved officer following all discharge of the electronic weapon except during testing and training. Individual officers shall document only their actions and not those of other officers.

Officers shall notify the jail staff when turning over an arrestee on whom the electronic weapon has been used.

Any accidental discharge of an electronic weapon or malfunction of an electronic weapon shall be reported in an EOF report. Any officer completing an EOF in such circumstances shall forward a copy of such report to the Chief of Hospital Police.

Committee	Approval/Date
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Medical Director	Approval/Date
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TASER
P R O T E C T L I F E

TASER X26

M. SHANE WEBB

Certified User

This Certifies that

M. SHANE WEBB

*is trained in the proper and safe use of the TASER® X26 Electronic Control Device
and has passed the requirements of the Erlanger Police TASER X26 training program under the supervision of a Certified
Instructor.*

In Witness Whereof, Certified Instructor

ANDY LOPEZ

has certified the successful completion of the training requirements this day:

09-04-09

Certified Instructor:

Certified Instructor ID:

090202013471412871346C