

Merced Police Department (3130) - 23093
Electronic Weapons Course Outline

Revised 04/15/2024

COURSE OBJECTIVE:

This is an update course in the use of conductive energy weapons including the Taser X26. The course contents include the effects of electricity on various biological systems including the central nervous system. Students will review the Taser weapon system, deployment, safety guidelines, equipment needs and review of case law.

- I. Introduction/Registration
 - A. Registration
 - 1. Department Paperwork
 - 2. POST/Agency
 - 3. Liability waiver (if necessary)
 - B. Facility Safety Guidelines; Illness and Injury Prevention per Sheriff Policy 1060
 - 1. Equipment
 - 2. First Aid
 - 3. Location of Nearest Hospital
 - 4. Communications Devices (Telephone and Cell Phone Back up) in classroom
 - C. Introduction
 - D. Instructor(s)
 - E. Students
 - F. Course Overview
 - 1. Refresh Officer(s) who have had the basic training
 - 2. Ensure Officer(s) are able to effectively use their Taser
 - 3. Refresh Department Policy, Legal & Moral aspects
 - G. Weapon Specific Course
 - H. Taser X26
 - 1. Stinger
- II. History and Definitions
 - A. Definitions
 - 1. Handheld Devices
 - 2. Projective Devices
 - B. Origins of Electronic Weapons
 - 1. Primer Driven weapons (1973)
 - 2. Firearm (BATF Classification)
 - 3. Non-Firearm Taser (1994)
 - 4. Advanced Taser (1999)

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- a) Stinger (2005)
 - b) Others
- C. Electronic Incapacitation vs. Pain Compliance Devices
- 1. Pain Compliance/Stun Systems
 - a) Affects sensory nervous system
 - b) Affects communication from the muscles to the brain
 - 2. Electronic Incapacitation
 - a) Affects both sensory and motor nervous systems
 - b) Affects communication from the brain to the muscles
- D. Statistics
- 1. Historical Use
 - 2. Deployment Data
- III. Exposures
- A. Safety Procedures
- 1. Environmental precautions
 - 2. Proper spotters for exposure
 - 3. Post exposure care
 - 4. Safety Equipment
- B. Individual Exposures
- 1. Benefits of voluntary exposure
 - 2. Not Required
- C. Group Exposure
- 1. Benefits of voluntary exposure
 - 2. Not Required
- IV. Electronic Weapons and Nomenclature
- A. Nomenclature
- 1. Manufacture specifications and safety guidelines
 - 2. Weapons specifications
 - 3. Holster specifications
 - 4. Cartridge specifications
 - 5. Battery specifications
- B. Pro's and Con's
- 1. The EDW is never 100%
 - 2. Reduce injuries to subjects and officers
 - 3. Accessibility
 - 4. Comparison with other force options
 - 5. Environmental considerations

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6. Compatibility with other force options

V. Legal and Ethical Considerations

A. Statutory and Case Law

1. Federal Statutes
2. State Statutes
3. Civil Law Considerations
4. Relevant Case Law

B. Recent 9th Circuit Court Case Law Decisions

1. Mattos v Agarano
2. Bryan v. Pearson
3. 9th Circuit Court has now determined ECD devices are now considered "SIGNIFICANT FORCE"

C. Department Policy

1. Use of force policy
2. Electronic weapons policy
3. Documentation

4. Medical policy

D. Ethics

1. Used consistent with policy and training
2. Sanctions for misuse

VI. Medical Aspects

A. Medical considerations

1. Method of delivery
2. Electrical output
3. Physiological effects
4. Known pre-existing medical conditions

B. Subject Risk Factors

1. Drug and alcohol consumption
2. Positional/restraint/compression asphyxia
3. Preventative measures

VII. Deployment and Documentation

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The primary focus is on the issue of "immediacy" of threat. Officers need to err on the side of officer safety and the deputies should know that "immediacy" can occur suddenly from a subject who initially may not appear to be an immediate threat. Officers should recognize not only the actual levels of violence/danger present but also that the POTENTIAL level of violence or danger is a major factor.

The second primary focus is on report writing. Officers should avoid generalized statements such as "I feared for my safety and others". Officers must articulate the SPECIFIC FACTS/THOUGHTS as to why he/she chose the electronic weapon (taser) as an option.

- A. Pre-deployment
 1. Modes of deployment
 2. POST recommended weak-side carry
 3. Communication/contact-cover
 4. Deadly force cover considerations
 5. Scene assessment/environmental considerations
 - a) Height (fall risk)
 - b) Body of water
 - c) Flammable conditions
 6. Force options considerations
 - a) Alternative/back up plan
 - b) Department Policy
 - c) Multiple applications
 - d) Multiple electronic weapons used on a subject
 - e) Use on handcuffed subject
 7. Known pre-existing medical considerations
 - a) Age of subject
 - b) Pregnant female
 - c) Pacemaker
 - d) Obviously frail

- C. Deployment
 1. Recommended distance from subject
 2. Target areas for subject
 3. Communications
 - a) Other officers
 - b) Subjects (warning/directions)
 4. Evaluate effect after each application
 5. Application of additional or different force options
 6. Safely take subject into custody (handcuff under power)
 7. Cover officer considerations in an arrest situation

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- D. New Deployment Techniques and Considerations
 - 1. Probe spread considerations
 - 2. Distance to target
 - 3. Target size considerations
 - 4. Deployment for Taser for better spread results at close distance
 - 5. Cognizant of other officers and bystanders
 - 6. Verbal Commands and other application of force prior to deployment
 - 7. Evaluate after each application
 - 8. Application of additional or different force options
 - 9. Safely take subject into custody (handcuff under power)
 - 10. Cover officer considerations in an arrest situation

- E. Post-deployment
 - 1. Medical assessment for subject or officers
 - 2. Supervisor notification
 - 3. Probe/dart removal
 - 4. Transportation/medical clearance
 - 5. Evidence collection

- F. Documentation
 - 1. Subject's behavior and actions
 - 2. Independent witnesses
 - 3. Documentation of the facts (injuries, medical care, etc)
 - 4. Data downloads
 - 5. Audio, video, etc

- VIII. Practical Application and Testing
 - A. Scenario Training
 - 1. Static drills
 - 2. Scenario based exercises

 - B. Written Test
 - 1. Students will complete an oral test on material covered
 - 2. Students will have test graded and will go over results
 - 3. Remediation will be provided for any student that fails

 - C. Practical Test
 - 1. Students will perform a practical test to demonstrate learning
 - 2. Students will demonstrate competency with the electrical weapon
 - 3. Students will be allowed to remediate if needed, prior to the end of the course
 - 4. Course evaluations will be given and certificates distributed

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