

FAYETTEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS 72702

GENERAL ORDER # 14

SUBJECT: Police Baton

CROSS-REFERENCE: 1.3.1 USE OF FORCE; 1.3.4 LESS LETHAL WEAPONS AND DEFENSIVE TACTICS, CALEA 4.14, 4.3.1, 4.3.2, 4.3.3, 4.1.5, 4.2.1



DATE APPROVED BY COP: December 8, 2020

Chief Mike Reynolds

PURPOSE: The purpose of this general order is to establish specific guidelines for the use of the police baton [CALEA 4.1.4].

ORDER: The department issued impact weapon is the expandable baton. Officers have discretion to use the expandable baton as a defensive tactics tool to counter resistance and assaultive behavior. The baton provides officers with additional use of force options for gaining compliance of resistant or aggressive individuals in arrest and other enforcement situations that occur in the line of duty. It is the policy of this department that officers use the baton when warranted, but only in accordance with the guidelines of the general order set forth here and in the Fayetteville Police Department's Use of Force and Less Lethal Weapons and Defensive Tactics policies. The baton will be used at the same level in the use of force continuum as other intermediate weapons. It will be the officer's discretion as to which device is used. All officers of the Fayetteville Police Department who choose to carry and use the police baton must first obtain training and certification. The chief of police will determine the specific baton to be used by officers of the Fayetteville Police Department. The administrative lieutenant will maintain an official list of weapons approved for use by the chief of police, including the baton [CALEA 4.3.1 a.]

PROCEDURE:

A. Authorization

1. Only certified officers who have successfully completed a certified defensive tactics course are authorized to carry the police baton [CALEA 4.3.2].
2. In-service training on the baton will be provided to officers at least biennially [CALEA 4.3.3].
3. Uniformed officers may carry the departmentally authorized police baton in the prescribed

manner on the duty belt. Non-uniformed officers may carry the police baton in alternative devices authorized by the agency.

B. Usage Criteria

1. The police baton is considered a use of force and shall be employed in a manner consistent with this agency's use-of-force policy. The police baton is classified as an intermediate weapon.
2. The police baton may be used when:
 - a. Verbal dialogue has failed to bring about the subject's compliance, and
 - b. The subject has signaled his intention to actively resist the officer's efforts to make the arrest,
 - c. The use of empty hand techniques has been, or will likely be, ineffective or not reasonable under the circumstances; or
 - d. When confronted with an aggressive animal.
3. Whenever practical and reasonable, officers should issue a verbal warning prior to using the police baton against a suspect.
4. An officer may use deadly force to protect himself from the use or threatened use of a police baton when the officer reasonably believes that deadly force will be used against him if he becomes incapacitated.
5. Once a suspect is incapacitated or restrained, use of the police baton is no longer justified.

C. Usage Procedures

1. Impact weapon strikes to the nerve motor points in the legs and arms are considered to be at the intermediate weapon level on the force continuum.
2. Any impact weapon strikes to the head, throat or clavicle are considered to be deadly force.
3. The two target areas on the arms for blocking points are:
 - a. The radial nerve motor point on the outside of the upper forearm.
 - b. median nerve motor point on the inside of the forearm.
4. The three target areas for striking on the legs are:
 - a. The common peroneal nerve motor point on the outside of the leg.
 - b. The femoral nerve motor point on the inside of the leg.

- c. The tibial nerve motor point on the top of the calf muscle.
5. Strikes should be delivered with maximum power in an effort to eliminate the need for multiple strikes, decrease the need to escalate in levels of control, and shorten the time span of the confrontation.
6. After striking a subject, officers should employ other methods of follow-up control.
7. Following the use of a baton, appropriate medical aid shall be rendered as quickly as reasonably possible following any law enforcement action in which injuries have been sustained or reported. This includes notifying the Central Dispatch Center (CDC) to alert Central EMS and the Fayetteville Fire Department when obvious severe injuries have occurred, medical distress is apparent, the individual is unconscious or the individual requests medical assistance. [CALEA 4.1.5].

D. Reporting Procedures

1. A Use of Force Report shall be completed following the use of the police baton and turned into the officer's immediate supervisor before the end of the shift in which the baton was used [CALEA 4.2.1 b., c.].
2. Off-duty officers using the police baton are subject to the same reporting requirements as on-duty officers. The immediate supervisor shall be the shift supervisor at the time of the use of force.

E. Inspection Procedures

1. Each officer assigned a baton shall be responsible for maintaining it in an operational state. If the baton becomes damaged or inoperable, the assigned officer shall report to their immediate supervisor in writing and request a replacement weapon [CALEA 4.3.1 d.].
2. Batons shall be inspected annually and prior to carry by a certified use of force or qualified weapons instructor [CALEA 4.3.1 c.].