

Advanced Taser Procedure

PURPOSE

This procedure sets forth the Akron Police Department policy regarding deployment of an Advanced Taser.

INFORMATION

The Advanced Taser provides a force option in which the officer does not have to get dangerously close to a threat before deploying the tool. The Advanced Taser may reduce the need for other types of physical force by the officer(s).

The Advanced Taser is deployed as an additional police tool and is not intended to replace firearms or self-defense techniques. Advanced Tasers fall into the category of **less lethal force technology and equipment**.

The department approved M26 Advanced Taser fires two probes up to a distance of **21 feet** from a replaceable air cartridge. These probes are connected to the weapon by high-voltage insulated wire. When the probes make contact with the target, the M26 transmits powerful electrical pulses along the wires and into the body of the target through up to two inches of clothing.

This Electro-Muscular Disruption technology uses a powerful **26-Watt** electrical signal to temporarily override the central nervous system and directly control the skeletal muscles. This causes an uncontrollable contraction of the muscle tissue, allowing the M26 to physically debilitate a target regardless of pain tolerance or mental focus.

The M26 Advanced Taser is laser-sighted – the top probe will follow the front, rear, and laser sight; the bottom probe will travel at an 8-degree downward angle below the aim point/laser sighted area. The rule of thumb for the bottom probe is that it drops 1 foot for every 7 feet that it travels.

The M26 Advanced Air Taser has a dataport. It stores the time and date when it was fired. This data protects officers from claims of excessive use of force by providing complete and accurate documentation of each firing.

Without the air cartridge attached, an Advanced Taser also acts as a touch stun system when brought into immediate contact with a person's body.

An Advanced Taser may be used to control a dangerous or violent subject when it is reasonable to do so.

PROCEDURE

I. OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

- A. Authorized Advanced Tasers shall be issued to and used only by officers who have completed the Department's Advanced Taser training program.
- B. Requests for an Advanced Taser equipped officer shall be made through Safety Communications.
- C. Each discharge of an Advanced Taser shall be documented utilizing an **Advanced Taser Use Report (ATUR)**.
- D. The M26 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 you would also receive the same electrical current. In addition, officers should avoid stepping on or tripping over the wires.
- E. The preferred target area when deploying an Advanced Taser should be the center mass of the body. The face, neck and groin area is to be avoided if at all possible.
- F. Expired and expended air cartridges are replaced through the Commissary.
- G. **The Advance Taser has the ability to ignite flammable liquids.** It will not be deployed at subjects who have come in contact with flammables or in environments where flammables are obviously present. Some police departments' self-defense sprays are flammable and could be dangerous to use in conjunction with the Advanced Taser. Our authorized OC Spray is non-flammable. Do not deploy the Advanced Taser in highly flammable methamphetamine labs, etc.
- H. Proper consideration and care should be taken when deploying the Advanced Taser on subjects who are in an elevated position or in other circumstances where a fall may cause substantial injury or death (e.g. pregnant woman). Officers must be prepared to justify such a deployment.
- I. The Advanced Taser will never be used punitively or for the purposes of coercion. It is to be used as a way of averting a potentially injurious or dangerous situation.

II. OFFICERS DISCHARGING AN ADVANCED TASER SHALL

- A. Request the response of a supervisor.
- B. Request the response of an EMS unit.
- C. Persons who have been subjected to the Advanced Taser, or the probes, shall be

treated as follows:

1. Once in custody, officer(s) shall advise paramedics or the emergency room staff that the person has been subjected to the Advanced Taser and relate the approximate time the action occurred. If the probes penetrate the skin the puncture sites shall also be brought to the attention of the officer's supervisor, paramedics or emergency room staff. Only emergency room staff may remove Advanced Taser probes (Probes can only penetrate to a maximum depth of ¼ inch).
2. If the probes used are no longer impaled in the skin the subject may be released to the custody of the officer(s) pending EMS evaluation.
3. Officer(s) shall obtain medical clearance from the emergency room physician before transporting the subject to a detention facility. This can be obtained from the attending physician or EMS if treated on the scene.

D. Complete an ATUR and submit with the Incident Report.

E. The air cartridge probes used are considered "sharps" and shall be discarded in the biohazard container that all EMS units carry. Officers must use protective gloves when handling.

III. SERGEANT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Respond to scenes where the Advanced Taser has been deployed.

B. If not already on the scene, summon EMS.

C. Insure that officers who use the Advanced Taser complete an ATUR

D. Complete a Use of Force package and submit with the ATUR.

IV. USE OF FORCE ISSUES

A. The use of an Advanced Taser constitutes a use of force.

B. An Advanced Taser is placed on the Use of Force Continuum at the **baton level**.

Shift Commanders are responsible for ensuring that incidents involving ANY discharge of an Advanced Taser are investigated and appropriately documented and to monitor it's use and related tactics.

By Order Of,

Michael T. Matulavich
Chief of Police

Date _____

Officer most knowledgeable on this procedure: Lt. Michael Woody