

## M26 ADVANCED TASER

### A. PURPOSE

*8/10/00 Draft*

This procedure sets forth the Akron Police Departments policy regarding deployment of the M26 ADVANCED TASER.

### B. INFORMATION

The ADVANCED TASER is deployed as an additional police tool and is not intended to replace firearms or self-defense techniques. The ADVANCED TASER may be used to control a dangerous or violent subject when deadly physical force does not appear to be justified and/or necessary; or attempts to subdue the subject by other conventional tactics have been, or will likely be, ineffective in the situation at hand; or there is reasonable expectation that it will be unsafe for officers to approach within contact range of the subject.

The M26 Advanced ADVANCED 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.

The M26 Advanced ADVANCED TASER falls into the category of **Less Lethal force technology and equipment**, which is defined as:

Those items which, when used properly, are less likely to result in death or serious physical injury than force commonly referred to as “deadly”.

Note: Less Lethal Force is defined as a concept of planning and force application which meets operational objectives, with less potential for causing death or serious physical injury than conventional police tactics.

The M26 fires two probes up to a distance of **21 feet** from a replaceable ADVANCED 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.

### C. PROCEDURE

1. ADVANCED TASERS shall be issued to and used only by officers who have completed the Department’s ADVANCED TASER Training Program.
2. Only properly functioning and charged ADVANCED TASERS shall be carried in the field.

3. Each discharge, including accidental discharges, of an ADVANCED TASER shall be investigated and documented utilizing an **ADVANCED Taser Use Report (ATUR)**.
4. 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.
5. **Never** aim the ADVANCED TASER at the eyes or face. It is laser-sighted – the top probe will follow the **front and rear sights and the 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.**
6. Keep hands away from the front of the unit at all times unless the safety slide is forward and the ADVANCED TASER is deactivated.
7. Always replace Air Cartridges by their expiration date **and use for training only.**
8. **Do not** fire the ADVANCED TASER near flammable liquids and fumes. The ADVANCED TASER can ignite gasoline or other flammables. Some self-defense sprays are flammable and would be extremely dangerous to use in conjunction with the ADVANCED TASER. **Do not deploy the ADVANCED TASER in highly flammable meth labs.**

#### D. Uniform Subdivision Commander Responsibilities

1. Review each use of an ADVANCED TASER by officers within their subdivision.
2. Ensure training on less-lethal devices is provided as needed.
  - a. ADVANCED TASER refresher training will be conducted on a yearly basis by members of the ADVANCED TASER Certified Instructor Staff.

#### E. Shift Commander Responsibilities

1. Ensure that incidents involving **ANY** discharge of an ADVANCED TASER are investigated and appropriately documented.
2. Ensure use of the ADVANCED TASER is delegated to a trained officer.
3. Monitor the use of ADVANCED TASERS and related tactics.

## F. Sergeant's Responsibilities

1. Ensure the batteries of the ADVANCED TASER are properly charged. (Duracell Ultra alkaline AA batteries or Energizer Nickel Metal Hydride rechargeables are only recommended. When checking the batteries, the Air Cartridge must be removed. A blinking LED light indicates the batteries are good. Otherwise replace. Duracell Ultras Batteries during the winter need to be above freezing if Duracell Ultras are to be used. If rechargeable Energizers are used, the batteries must be recharged properly. Note: The battery indicator will not properly work with rechargeables. To test rechargeables, remove the Air Cartridge and check for a rapid pulse rate of 12-15 pulses per second.)
2. Respond to scenes where the ADVANCED TASER has been deployed.
3. Ensure that officers who use the ADVANCED TASER complete an ATUR. Use includes presentation, "stun" or discharge. CAN YOU MAKE THIS SOP?: The ATUR should be forwarded to TASER International for its national Use of Force database for the Int'l Assn. Of Chiefs of Police.
4. Investigate each incident in which an ADVANCED TASER is fired or used as a "stun gun" and review the Incident Report and ATUR.
5. If not already on the scene, summon EMS to administer emergency medical care.
6. Ensure that Polaroid pictures are taken of the probe penetration sites and any secondary injuries caused by falling to the ground, etc.
7. Complete a Use of Force Package.

## G. Field Officer Responsibilities

1. Upon encountering a situation, which may require the use of an ADVANCED TASER, request an ADVANCED TASER equipped backup, if available, and a supervisor.
2. When practical, don't escalate the situation prior to the arrival of an equipped backup and a supervisor.

## H. Officers discharging an ADVANCED TASER shall:

1. Request the response of a supervisor if not enroute or on-scene.
2. Prior to the use of the ADVANCED TASER, if practical, request an EMS unit and broadcast "Code Zebra," indicating a use of the ADVANCED TASER is imminent to prevent sympathetic nerve shootings.

3. Persons who have been subjected to the ADVANCED TASER, or the probes, shall be treated as follows:
  - a. 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 be brought to the attention of the officer's supervisor, paramedics or emergency room staff. **Note: the probes are #8 straightened fishhooks that can only penetrate a maximum of ¼ inch.** Only emergency room staff may remove ADVANCED TASER probes.
  - b. After examining the affected person, the paramedics will make the determination if the person should or should not be transported to the hospital. Transportation to a medical facility will be by police transport unless an ambulance is more appropriate.
  - c. 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 and their discussion with on-line Medical Control.
  - d. The officer(s) shall obtain Medical Clearance from the emergency room physician before transporting a subject shot by an ADVANCED TASER to a detention facility. This can be obtained from the physician, if the subject has been treated in the emergency room. If on-scene, the subject must be evaluated by EMS and discussed with Medical Control to determine if release to the officer(s) is medically appropriate.
  - e. Officers must be aware that one easily overlooked aspect of injury in shooting a subject with an ADVANCED TASER is that of falling from a standing position. A thorough physical examination with particular emphasis on secondary injuries should be performed by the paramedics.
4. Complete an ATUR and submit with a copy of the Incident Report.
5. The Air Cartridge and probes used shall be tagged into evidence. Since the probes will probably have blood on them (biohazard) the officers should wear protective latex 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 evidence envelope). Tape should then be placed over the portals to secure the probes in the cartridge. Place into an evidence envelope.
6. Tactical Deployment
  1. Use common sense.
  2. Use verbal commands and point laser sight at subject prior to firing.

3. Have a second Air Cartridge present or a second M26 ready to fire in case probes miss the target, a malfunction or an Air Cartridge is a dud.
4. Required backup/arrest team (depending on situation possibly with lethal force option)
5. Aim at center of mass and from rear if possible. Watch for thick and/or loose clothing. If probes hit clothing, the electrical current can only penetrate from maximum of two inches away.
6. Use cover and distance to ensure officer safety.
7. Use to avert violent confrontation.
8. If target runs, officer must run also to prevent wires from breaking.
9. Avoid use on slanted rooftops or on edge of tall buildings.

**NOTE:** The ADVANCED TASER is a sensitive electronic product and costly device, which should be encased in its protective holster, when not in use. Care should be taken to avoid dropping the ADVANCED TASER and to assure that it is adequately secured while being transported in vehicles. Defective ADVANCED TASERS and Air Cartridges shall be returned to the Commissary. The faceplate of the ADVANCED TASER Air Cartridge is secured to the Air Cartridge body. Direct sunlight, heat, or pressing on the faceplate may cause the cover to disengage from the Air Cartridges. Air Cartridges with loose faceplates should be returned to the Commissary. Do not place Air Cartridges near static electricity.

#### I. Use of Force Issues

1. The use of the ADVANCED TASER constitutes a Use of Force.
2. The ADVANCED TASER is placed on the Use of Force Continuum at the Baton level.
3. The ADVANCED TASER may be used from up to 18 feet away when:
  - a. The suspect is punching or kicking, or
  - b. Threatening to punch or kick, or
  - c. Lesser force options are ineffective, or
  - d. Likely to be effective, or
  - e. The officer reasonably believes the suspect poses a credible threat, or
  - f. The suspect poses a threat from a distance and the officer is at risk of injury if he/she attempts to close the gap.
  - g. Other considerations on deployment are:
    1. Imminent threat to officers and/or others.
    2. Suspect actively resisting arrest (detention).
    3. Circumstances are tense, uncertain and rapidly evolving.
    4. Severity of the crime at issue.
    5. Attempting to evade by flight.
  - h. Officer/Subject Factors that may be considered:
    1. Age

2. Sex
3. Pregnancy (avoid use if possible on late term women as the ADVANCED TASER could cause complications from a secondary injury fall).
4. Skill level
5. Multiple Subjects/Officers
6. Relative strength
- i. Special Circumstances:
  1. Closeness of a weapon
  2. Injury or exhaustion of officer
  3. Officer on ground
  4. Distance between officer and subject
  5. Special knowledge
  6. Availability of other options

By Order Of,

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Michael T. Matulavich  
Chief of Police

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