


PUEBLO, COLORADO POLICE DEPARTMENT
OPERATIONS BUREAU

MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL PERSONNEL

FROM: D.C. JOHN P. ERCUL 

SUBJECT: AIR TASER POLICY

DATE: 12/5/00

A comprehensive policy covering the use of less lethal weapons is in the works. That policy will cover, among other things, the use of the air tasers. In advance of the issuance of that policy, this memorandum will set forth the guidelines for use of the tasers, which will be addressed by the policy.

- 1. All officers will be afforded the opportunity to receive training in the use of the air tasers. The training will begin (in fact, has begun) on each of the Patrol Division watches. The training will be MANDATORY for Patrol and Traffic Division officers. Officers assigned to other divisions and sections may make arrangements with one of the watch commanders, and their own chain of command, to attend one of the training sessions. Eventually, the Training Section will be offering the taser training, so every officer will have the opportunity to attend. ONLY THOSE OFFICERS WHO HAVE ATTENDED A TRAINING SESSION, WILL BE PERMITTED, BY POLICY, TO CARRY OR USE THE AIR TASER, however, it will probably be mandatory for every officer who routinely responds to calls for service to have an air taser readily available.**
- 2. The tasers will ONLY be deployed and used in a manner consistent with the training provided. A verbal warning will be given BEFORE deployment, not only to warn the individual and encourage compliance, but to advise other officers present that a LESS LETHAL weapon, as opposed to a firearm, is being deployed. The tasers should ALL be conspicuously marked with the bright yellow decals indicating "less lethal".**

- 3. In most cases, the police officer who uses the taser, will remove the barbs from the individual against whom the taser was deployed. Only when a barb enters a sensitive area of the body (head, face, neck, groin, etc.) will medical attention be sought for removal of the barb. In those cases, the individual should be taken, by the officer(s), to one of the emergency rooms, where the barb can be removed by medical authority. Fire Rescue personnel and personnel employed by private ambulances, will NOT, by their own policy, remove the barbs. Fire Rescue MAY be summoned to evaluate a person shot with a taser, if that person insists on a medical evaluation, or if the officer or supervisor determines treatment is necessary. It is NOT necessary to call Fire Rescue EVERY time the taser is deployed.**
- 4. A supervisor shall be notified EVERY TIME a taser is deployed, and that supervisor should respond quickly to the scene when possible. All uses of the taser shall be documented by a "Subject Management" report. If possible, photographs shall be taken of the individual and the marks caused by the taser barbs. Copies of the photographs, and the disc, shall be turned in with the subject management report.**
- 5. Once removed from the individual, the used barbs shall be treated as any contaminated item. They shall be handled with care, and reasonable measures should be taken to prevent blood borne contamination. The barbs shall be safely placed in the launching capsule, and both shall be deposited in one of the bio-hazard waste receptacles at the police station, for disposal.**

Those who have been trained in the use of the air-tasers may begin carrying them, and using them in accordance with the directives contained herein.