

Titusville Police Department

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Training Directive O-T-001 Rev _____

Title: Advanced Taser M-26, Conducted Energy Weapon.

D.H.Rev. _____ Date _____

Purpose: To establish guidelines for the use of the "Advanced air taser, hereafter referred to as the M-26 taser. To develop safety practices concerning the handling, carrying, and storage of M-26 taser probes after use of the taser.

Definitions:

Advanced Air Taser : The "Advanced air taser" (M 26 taser) is an electro-muscular disruption device. The M-26 taser fires two probes up to a distance of 21 feet from a replaceable cartridge. These probes are connected to the weapon by high voltage insulated wires. When the probes make contact with the target, the M-26 taser transmits powerful electrical pulses along the wires and into the target's body. The pulses can travel through 2.25 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 M-26 taser to physically debilitate a target regardless of pain tolerance or mental focus.

Less lethal force : A concept of planning and force application which meets operational objections, with less potential for causing death or serious physical police tactics.

A. M-26 Taser Operation

1. The M-26 taser is considered less lethal force technology and equipment.
2. Department instructors or other certified trainers will provide training in the use of the M-26 taser. Only officers trained in their use will be issued M-26 tasers.
3. Only properly functioning and charged M-26 tasers shall be carried in the field.
4. Each discharge, including accidental discharges, of the M-26 taser shall be documented by the officer utilizing an M-26 taser use report and investigated by a defensive tactics instructor. The M-26 taser use report shall be attached to the officer's Levels of Resistance Report.
5. The M-26 taser is programmed to give a five (5) second burst of "electrical current." The operator can shorten or extend this time period. The probes should

not be touched during this time, as you would receive the same "electrical current". In addition officers should avoid tripping, or stepping on the wires.

6. Never aim the M-26 taser at the eyes or face. The M-26 taser is a laser sighted. The top probe will follow the front and rear sight and laser. The bottom probe will travel at an eight-degree downward angle below the aim point/laser sighted area. The rule of thumb for the bottom probe is that the probe drops one (1) foot for every seven- (7) feet it travels.
7. Keep hands away from the front of the unit at all times unless the safety slide is forward and the M-26 taser is deactivated.
8. Always replace the air cartridges by their expiration date and mark the air cartridge " for training use only."

E. Tactical deployment:

1. Use common sense.
2. Use verbal commands if the situation permits.
3. Have a second air cartridge present or a second M-26 taser ready to fire in case the probes of the first M-26 taser miss the target, or a malfunction, or if the cartridge is a dud.
4. Utilize backup units and/or arrest teams whenever possible.
5. Aim to the center of mass and from the rear of the subject if possible. Watch for thick and/or loose clothing. If the probes hit clothing, the electrical current can only penetrate a maximum of 2.25 inches.
6. Use cover and distance to ensure officer safety.
7. Utilize the M-26 taser to prevent violent or escalating confrontations.
8. If a target runs, the officer must run also to prevent wires from breaking.
9. Avoid the use of the M-26 taser on subjects near slanted rooftops or on the edges of tall buildings.

F. Use of force issues:

1. The use of the M-26 taser constitutes a use of force.
2. The M-26 taser is placed at the level of a baton, chemical spray, or beanbag rounds. There are special circumstances, which allow the use of the M-26 taser at a lower level on the use of force continuum. (See officer subject factors, F.D.L.E and C.J.S.T.C. use of force matrix).
3. The M-26 taser may be used up to 18 feet away when the subject poses a credible threat to the officer or the general public.
4. The M-26 taser may be utilized on animals when necessary.

G. Maintenance of the M-26 Taser:

The M-26 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 M-26 taser and assure that the M-26 taser is adequately secured while being transported in vehicles. Direct sunlight, heat, or pressing on the faceplate may cause the cover to disengage from the air cartridges.