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			Distribution: All
Title: ELECTRONIC CONTROL WEAPONS		Section: Weapons	
Issued: 09/15/2010	Effective: 09/22/2010	Revised: 12/14/2015	
Rescinds: All Previous		Amends:	
CALEA References: 1.3.4 – 1.3.12			
Review: Annual	Authority: Chief Michael A. Keller 		

I. Purpose

The purpose of this General Order is to provide guidance and direction on the use of electronic control weapons (ECWs).

II. Policy

It is the policy of this agency to use only objectively reasonable force to control or overcome resistance put forth by individuals who are violent, exhibiting threatening behavior, or physically resisting arrest. ECWs may be used by authorized and trained personnel in accordance with the use-of-force policy and additional guidelines established herein.

III. Definitions

- A. **Electronic Control Weapon (ECW):** A weapon designed to disrupt a subject's nervous system or sensory nervous system by deploying battery powered electrical energy sufficient to cause muscle contractions and override voluntary motor responses.
- B. **AFIDS:** Confetti-like pieces of paper that are expelled from the cartridge when fired. Each anti-felon identification tag (AFID) contains an alphanumeric identifier unique to the cartridge used.
- C. **Sensitive Population Groups:** Sensitive populations include those who reasonably appear to be, or are known to be, children, elderly, medically infirm, pregnant, or users of a cardiac pacemaker.

IV. Regulations

- A. Members of the department will not engage in unsafe handling of an ECW. A member is responsible for and will be held accountable for any incident that occurs from the unsafe handling of a weapon [B].
- B. ECWs will be properly secured at all times to prevent unauthorized use [B].
- C. Prior to carrying any ECW, the ECW must be authorized and the member must successfully complete Use of Force and ECW training [C] (1.3.10).
- D. No member of the department shall modify, or authorize modification of any ECW which deviates from manufacturer specifications [C] (1.3.9d).

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- E. Any member who discovers a malfunction or defect in an authorized ECW shall immediately report the defect to the department ECW instructor who will take the ECW out of service until repaired [A].

V. Procedures

A. Authorized Users

1. Only those individuals who have satisfactorily completed this agency's approved training course and this agency's approved retraining shall be authorized to carry an ECW (1.3.10).
2. The department ECW instructor will maintain a list of ECWs and ECW cartridges approved by the Chief of Police for agency use. The list will include the make and model of each (1.3.9a, 1.3.9b).
3. ECW retraining will occur annually and will be monitored, if not conducted, by a certified ECW instructor and will include training on the content of General Order O2102 Use of Force and this General Order (1.3.11a, 1.3.12).
4. The training coordinator must maintain documentation of the training and individual proficiency results (1.3.11b, 1.3.12).
5. Officers who are unable to demonstrate proficiency with the ECW will not be authorized to carry the weapon until they have completed remedial training and successfully demonstrated proficiency (1.3.11c, 33.1.5).

B. Weapon Readiness

1. The device shall be carried in an approved holster on the side of the body opposite the service handgun in a manner that requires a weak hand draw. Although a weak hand draw is required, a strong hand discharge is not prohibited.
2. The device shall be carried fully armed with safety on in preparation for immediate use.
3. Cartridges issued with the ECW shall be stored and carried in a manner consistent with training, and the cartridges will be replaced consistent with the manufacturer's expiration requirements.
4. Only manufacturer approved battery power sources shall be used in the ECW.
5. The ECW shall be subjected to a pre-shift "spark test" as defined in training to ensure the device is functioning properly.
6. No modifications or repairs shall be performed on the device unless authorized by the department in writing.

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C. Deployment

1. Justification to use an ECW generally involves the same type of situations where the use of oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray would be justified. The primary goal of the ECW is to overcome resistance and gain control of the subject. Officers are authorized to use the ECW on persons who demonstrate an overt intention to do any of the following:
 - a. Use force against the officer or another person;
 - b. Use force to resist arrest or detention;
 - c. Flee in order to avoid arrest or detention in circumstances where officers would pursue on foot and physically affect the arrest or detention; or
 - d. Engage in self-destructive behavior.
2. When possible, officers should give a clear verbal warning in accordance with training before discharging the ECW.
3. Recognizing that use-of-force encounters are fluid and rapidly changing, officers should target the areas of the body consistent with training when deploying the ECW.
4. The ECW may also be used in certain close range circumstances in the "touch stun" mode. When the device is used in this manner, it is:
 - a. Primarily a pain compliance tool;
 - b. Less effective than conventional cartridge type probe spread deployments; and
 - c. Subject to the same deployment guidelines and restrictions as those of the ECW in cartridge deployments.
5. An alternative method of close-range deployment is the "cartridge on drive stun" mode, which involves activating the device in probe mode at an appropriate target as determined in training, then removing the device and reapplying it to an alternate target area to facilitate spread. When the device is used in this manner, it is
 - a. Potentially as effective at neuromuscular incapacitation as a conventional cartridge-type probe spread deployment, and
 - b. Subject to the same deployment guidelines and restrictions as any other ECW cartridge deployment.
6. The ECW should normally not be used in the following manner:
 - a. On a handcuffed or secured prisoner, absent overtly assaultive, self-destructive, or violently resistive behavior that cannot reasonably be addressed by other readily available means.
 - b. In any environment where an officer reasonably believes that flammable, volatile, or explosive material is present, including, but not limited to, OC spray with volatile propellant, gasoline, natural gas or propane.
 - c. In any environment where the subject would be reasonably likely to fall, resulting in death or serious physical injury.



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7. Officers shall be aware of the general concerns raised when an ECW is used on a member of a sensitive population group. Officers are not prohibited from using an ECW on such persons, but use is limited to those exceptional circumstances where the need to use the device reasonably outweighs the risks to those involved.
8. Upon activating the device against a person, the officer shall energize the subject for not longer than objectively reasonable to overcome resistance and bring the subject under control.
9. To minimize the number of cycles needed to overcome resistance and bring the subject under control, the subject should be secured as soon as practical while affected by ECW power or immediately thereafter. In determining the need for additional energy cycles, officers should be aware that an energized subject may not be able to respond to commands during or immediately following exposure.

D. Post-Deployment Considerations

1. The ECW darts may be removed from the subject after the subject is restrained following procedures outlined in training. The ECW darts should be treated as a biohazard risk.
2. Officers shall ask persons if they desire medical attention following exposure to an ECW. Persons shall be transported to a medical facility for examination if any of the following occur (1.3.5):
 - a. They request medical attention;
 - b. They are hit in a sensitive area (for example, eyes, face, head, female breasts, genitals);
 - c. The officer has difficulty removing the probes;
 - d. They do not appear to recover in a reasonable period of time after being exposed, as determined by the officer following training guidelines;
 - e. They are part of a sensitive population group as defined in this General Order;
 - f. They have been energized more than three times.
 - g. They have received the effects of more than one ECW at the same time during the incident;
 - h. They are reasonably believed to have been subjected to a continuous energy cycle of 15 seconds or more; or
 - i. They have exhibited signs of "excited delirium" as outlined and defined in training, prior to and or during ECW exposure.
3. If the probes penetrate the flesh or touch stun mode is used, photographs of the contact area should be taken.
4. When the device has been used operationally, the officer should collect the cartridge, wire leads, darts, and AFIDS and secure them as evidence.

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5. ECWs that are equipped with audio/video recording shall be downloaded following use and the file reviewed to ensure officer compliance with training and policy.

E. Reporting

1. The deploying officer shall notify his or her supervisor as soon as practical after using the device, and the appropriate use-of-force report shall be completed. When an ECW is used that has audio/video capability, the device will be downloaded following use and the file considered a part of the use-of-force review pursuant to General Order O2102 Use of Force (1.3.6c, 1.3.7).
2. Officers shall specify the rationale in their use-of-force report for any instance in which
 - a. An ECW is energized more than three times;
 - b. An energy cycle of longer than 15 seconds in duration is used;
 - c. More than one ECW is used against a subject in any given incident; or
 - d. An ECW is used against an individual designated to be in a sensitive population group as defined in this General Order.
3. The procedures in General Order O2519 Officer's Use of Deadly Force will be followed whenever a person who has been subject to an ECW deployment dies or has serious physical injuries proximately to the deployment (1.3.8).

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F. Auditing

Rev. 12142015

1. All agencies ECW's will be subjected to random data downloading, and when it is used or suspected of being used in a use of force incident. The data obtained will be reconciled with existing use-of-force reports to ensure accountability between the cycles recorded and those documented in such reports and occurring in pre-shift spark tests.

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2. All Authorized ECW's shall be maintained in a clean and safe operating condition and shall be inspected by an agency approved ECW Instructor prior to being issued and annually at the time of qualification. ECW's not in good repair or not functioning properly will be removed from service until the problem is corrected (1.3.9c, 1.3.9d).
3. The agency's designated ECW instructor will maintain a record of each ECW to include the name of the officer the ECW is assigned, the date of last inspection, and the serial number of the cartridge(s) issued with each ECW (1.3.9e).

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4. Upon issuance or replacement of an ECW, the departments ECW instructor will forward the information to the departments Administrative Assistant.