

INTRODUCTION TO IMPACT WEAPONS

Every peace officer must understand that an impact weapon (i.e. baton) should be used only when an officer is acting in a reasonable manner or to repel or protect in certain tactical situations.

A peace officer's impact weapon is a deadly weapon as defined in Penal Code Section 22210. In law enforcement, however, to be used in an authorized manner, it must be used reasonably or to repel or protect.

Peace officers have the authority to use an impact weapon (i.e., baton):

- to protect property.
- in self-defense.
- in defense of others.
- to effect an arrest.
- to prevent escape.
- to overcome resistance.
- in tactical and crowd management situations.

Each set of circumstances will require peace officers to exercise judgement in the decision of the force to use. Peace officers must be aware of and follow their agency's policies regarding the use of an impact weapon as a force option.

There is no one type of impact weapon used exclusively by law enforcement. They are constructed of various materials and come in

various weights and lengths. Officers should only use the type of baton authorized by their departments and that they are properly trained to use.

Various types of batons include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Straight batons
- Side-handle batons
- Expandable batons
- Long batons
- Short batons (billy)
- Yawara stick/kubaton
- Corded double baton
- Emergency impact weapons i.e.. flashlight, cell phone, hand held radio
- Personal weapons

JUSTIFICATION FOR USE

When verbalization is ineffective, the officer may draw the an impact weapon as a show of force. This action alone may control the situation. Even after an impact weapon has been drawn, peace officers should continue giving verbal commands when appropriate to control the situation. As the subject's actions vary, officers must constantly reevaluate the situation and the amount of force needed. The following chart illustrates possible conditions where officers are justified to use their baton:

- Size of the subject compared with the size of the officer

- Officer reasonably believes that the level of resistance or assault cannot be overcome to gain compliance of the subject by using a lesser amount of force.
- Subject exhibits a trained fighting skill: Stance or action of the subject leads officer to believe that the assault cannot be overcome and the officer cannot gain compliance of the subject by use of defensive tactics.
- Multiple subjects: Officer is faced with several unarmed subjects who are threatening and capable of carrying out the threat, or who make an overt act to carry out the threat.
- Control needed due to tactical considerations: Officer is involved in a crowd control or riot situation (to move, separate, disperse, or deny access).
- Officer is attacked by suspect who is armed (to disarm, distract, or disable the subject).
- Past history of subject: Officer has had past contacts with subject and/or subject has a history of physically assaulting officers.
- Subject is under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol

TARGET AREAS

When using an impact weapon, the peace officer's goal is to gain compliance and control of the subject and the situation. Target areas on a subject's person should be selected carefully to avoid areas that may either

be ineffective or present the danger of causing more extreme injury than was intended. Appropriate and effective target areas may include:

Any area where bone comes close to the surface of the skin:

- Hands, fingers, arms, shoulders, clavicles.
- Legs - Knees and below, feet.

and

- Upper center mass front and rear.

Certain areas should be avoided; if possible, however on a resistive and/or combative subject the goal is to control the subject and the situation in a reasonable manor and those areas may inadvertently be struck. The areas to avoid, if possible are:


- Head, neck, throat.
- Groin
- Heart
- Xiphoid process
- Spine
- Kidneys

***REFER TO P.O.S.T. LEARNING DOMAIN 33, CHAPTER 7**

STRIKE ZONES

To assist officers in the proper documentation of the use of an impact weapon, the body is divided into four strike zone that the officer may refer to when describing how and where an impact weapon was used:

- Zone #1: From the shoulders to the waist, including the arms, hands and fingers.
- Zone #2: From the waist to the ground, including the feet.
- Zone #3: A figure eight laying on its side, a downward 45 degree strike

crossing the "X" of the eight in a downward swing  . This strike

is a speciality strike against a boxing or similar stance where the tops of the fists and arms can be struck.

- Zone #4: Is the opposite of zone #3 also against a boxing or similar stance where the under portions of the arms or bottoms of the fists may be struck. The "X" of the eight is crossed with an upward swing

 . This strike is a speciality strike against a boxing or similar

stance where the bottoms of the fists and arms can be struck.

The impact weapons that are taught is this course are utilized by striking with the officer's baton side forward. This may be contrary to the thought that the gun side should be back to keep it away from the subject you are contacting, however there are several advantages to striking with the baton side forward. This is called a **baton ready position**.

- You are closer to the subject you are contacting - you can strike them if reasonable, but they can not strike you. You have the reach advantage.

- You are not swinging across your own body and you are out of your own swinging arch.
- You are actually protecting your gun from the front with the baton and from the rear because it is in your view and under your baton.
- The only exception would be the long baton as it is primarily used with a two hand spread grip.

FOOTWORK

Forward Shuffle:

From the one or two hand ready position the officer pushes forward off of the rear leg, sliding the front leg forward, as the front leg plants, the rear leg steps up.

Rear Shuffle:

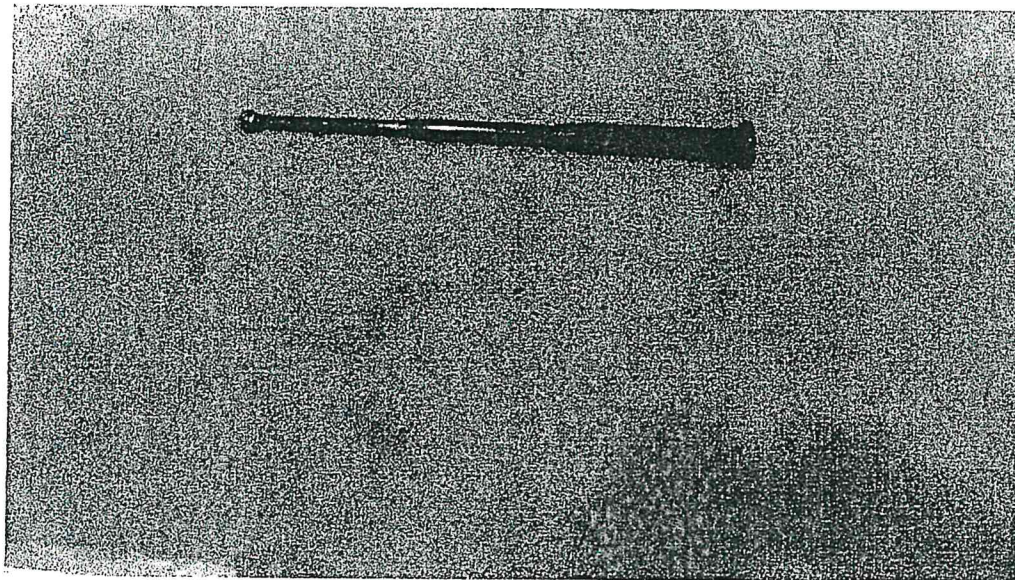
From the one or two hand ready position the officer pushes back off of the front leg, sliding the rear leg back, as the rear leg plants, the front leg steps back.

Shuffle Pivot:

From the one or two hand ready position the front leg steps forward and to the outside at a 45 degree angle, the front hand passes across the front of the face, from the off to the on side, the rear leg circles behind the front leg, moving the body to a 90 or 180 degree position from the original stance.

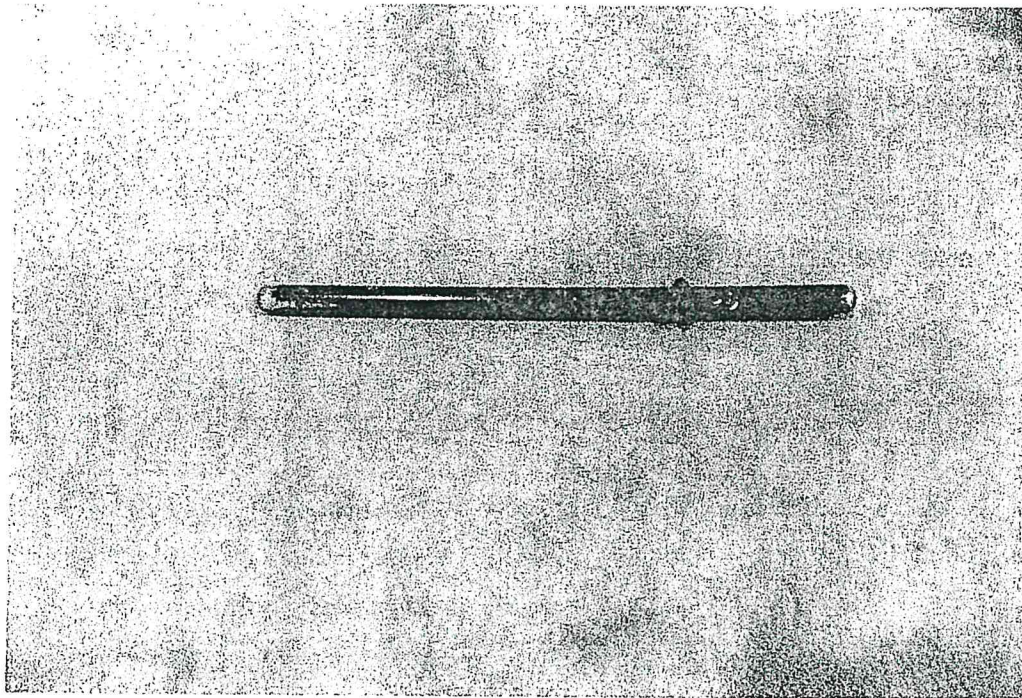
Behind You Strike:

From the one or two hand ready position the front leg stays planted and the officer steps with the rear leg behind the front leg turning 180 degrees and striking or addressing a subject behind the officer.



Tip Telescoping Shaft Handle Butt

EXPANDABLE BATON



Tip

Long Shaft

Grommet Handle

Butt

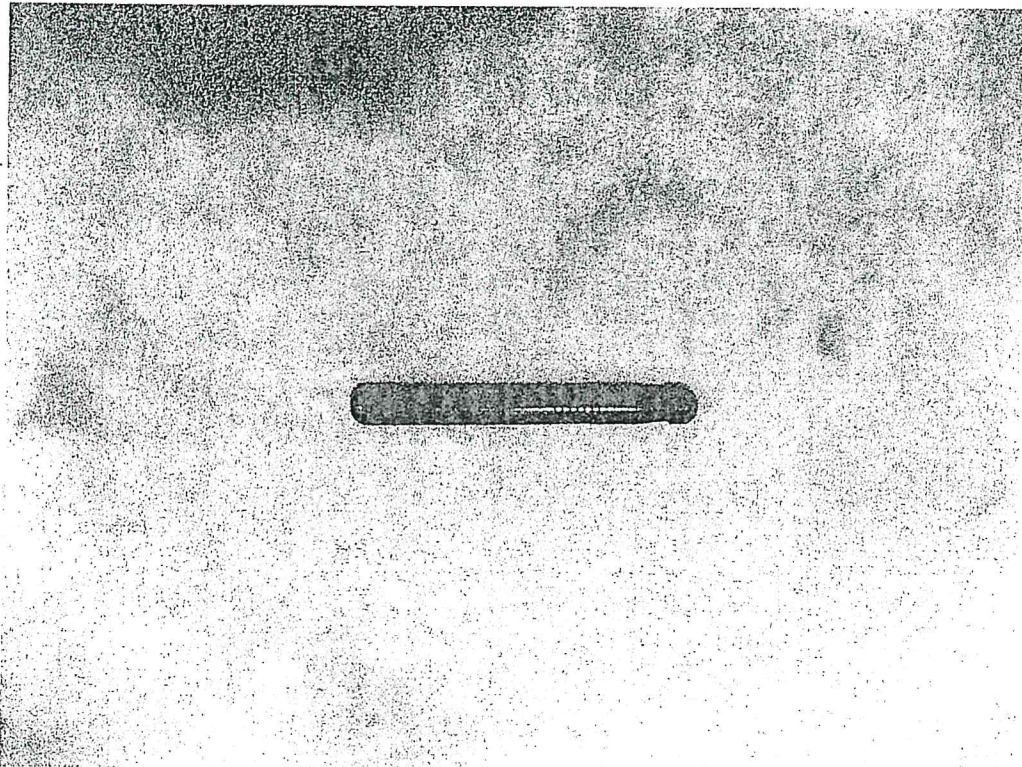
MID-RANGE STRAIGHT BATON

SHORT BATON (BILLY)

TIP

SHAFT HANDLE

BUTT

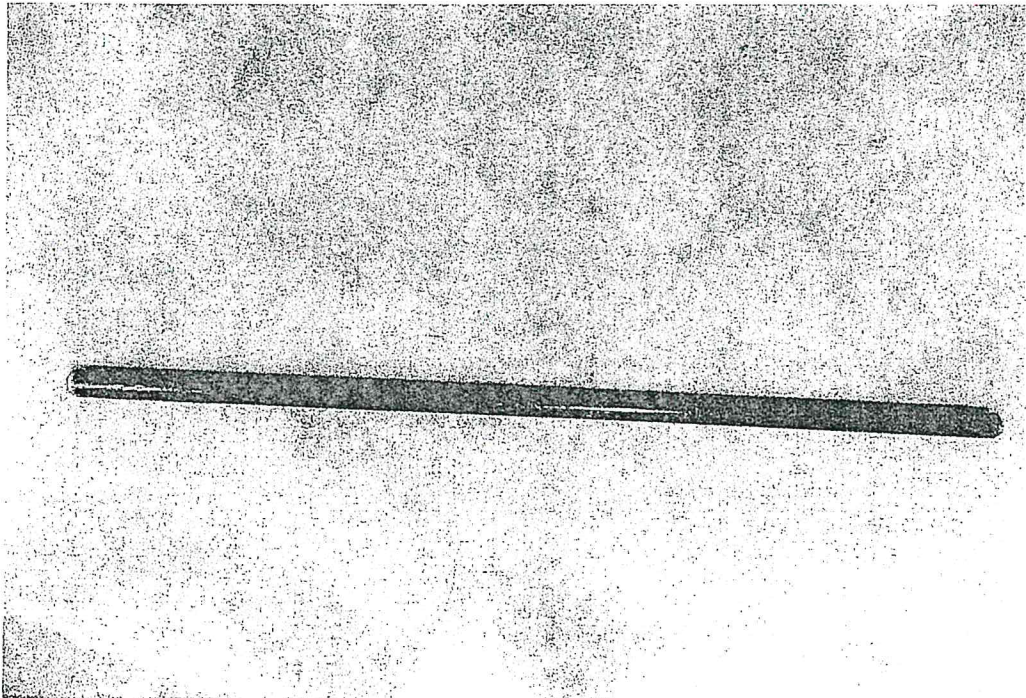


LONG BATON

Tip

Shaft

Butt



ALBANY POLICE DEPARTMENT
IMPACT WEAPONS COURSE OUTLINE

1. Introduction 10 min.
 - a. Introduction of instructors
 - b. Introduction of course

2. Baton Lecture 30 min.
 - a. Justification and use
 - Legal Guidelines
 - APD Use of Force Policy
 - b. Not recommended and prohibited target areas
 - c. Force options

3. Warm UP/ Stretching 20 min.

4. Break 5 min.

5. Side Handle Baton 50 min.
 - a. Nomenclature
 1. Butt
 2. Handle
 3. Yawara Tip
 4. Tawara Handle
 5. Shaft
 6. Tip

 - b. Draws
 1. Cross Draw
 2. Power Draw
 3. Rear/Back Draw
 4. Off Side Draw

 - c. Baton Ready Positions
 1. High Ready Position One Hand
 2. Parallel Ready Position
 3. Two Hand Ready Position- Low Set

4. Two Hand Ready Position – On Guard
5. Two Hand Ready Position- High Set

d. Strikes

1. Forehand Swing
2. Backhand Strike
3. One Hand Jab Strike
4. Two Hand Jab Strike
5. Elbow Strike
6. The Power Chop
7. The Crescent Strike
8. Yawara Strike
9. Two Count Strike
10. Circle Strike
11. Circle Elbow Strike

e. Baton Retention

1. Slap Off
2. Pull Up
3. Circle In
4. Circle Out
5. Figure Eight

f. Blocks

1. One Hand Block for strike Zone 1-4
2. Two Hand Block for Strike Zone 1-4

6. Break 5 min
7. ASP/Straight Baton 50 min
- a. Nomenclature
1. Tip
 2. Long Shaft
 3. Grommet
 4. Handle
 5. Butt
- b. Draws (Straight Baton)

1. Cross Draw
2. Power Draw
3. Rear/Back Draw

c. Baton Ready Positions

1. High Ready Position
2. Arm Tuck Ready Position- Near Side One hand
3. Arm Tuck Ready Position- Far Side One Hand
4. Two Hand Ready Position- Low Set
5. Two Hand Ready Position- On Guard
6. Two Hand Ready Position- High Set

d. Strikes

1. Forehand Swing
2. Backhand Strike
3. One Hand Jab Strike
4. Two Hand Jab Strike
5. Elbow Strike
6. The Power Chop
7. The Crescent Strike
8. Yawara Strike
9. Two Count Strike
10. Circle Strike
11. Circle Elbow Strike

e. Baton Retention

1. Slap Off
2. Pull Up
3. Circle In
4. Circle Out
5. Figure Eight

f. Blocks

3. One Hand Block for strike Zone 1-4
4. Two Hand Block for Strike Zone 1-4

Break

5 min

8. Short Baton

50 min

- a. Nomenclature
 - 6. Tip
 - 7. Shaft
 - 8. Handle
 - 9. Butt

- b. Draws
 - 1. Sap or thigh Pocket

- c. Baton Ready Positions
 - 1. Low Ready Position
 - 2. High Ready Position

- d. Strikes
 - 1. Forehand Strike
 - 2. Backhand Strike
 - 3. One Hand Jab Strike
 - 4. Elbow Strike
 - 5. The Power Chop
 - 6. Yawara Strike
 - 7. Two Count Strike
 - 8. Circle Strike
 - 9. Circle Elbow Strike

- e. Baton Retention
 - 1. Baton Retention
 - 2. Slap Off
 - 3. Pull Up
 - 4. Circle In
 - 5. Circle Out
 - 6. Figure Eight

Break

5 min

9. Long Baton

50 min

- a. Nomenclature
 - 1. Tip

2. Long Shaft
3. Grommet
4. Handle
5. Butt

c. Draws

1. Cross Draw

d. Baton Ready Positions

1. Two Hand Ready Position- Low Set
2. Two Hand Ready Position- On Guard
3. Two Hand Ready Position- High Set

e. Zone Strikes 1-4

f. Strikes

1. Forehand Swing
2. Backhand Strike
3. Jab Strike
4. Jab Strike
5. Elbow Strike
6. The Power Chop
7. The Crescent Strike
8. Yawara Strike
9. Two Count Strike
10. Circle Strike
11. Circle Elbow Strike

g. Baton Retention

1. Slap Off
2. Pull Up
3. Circle In
4. Circle Out
5. Figure Eight

h. Blocks

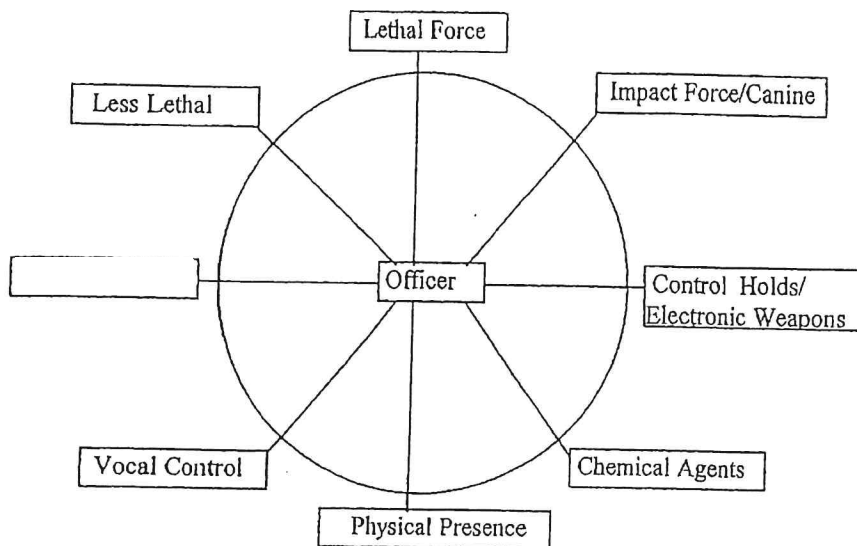
1. Two Hand Block for Strike Zone 1-4

10. Personal Body Weapons

45 min

- a. Punch
- b. Palm strike
- c. Bottom Fist
- d. Chop
- e. Elbow strike
- f. Shin rake
- g. Push kick
- h. Front kick
- i. Side Knee Lift
- j. Extended Side Knee Lift

11. Review



Note: The above graphic is termed "The Force Wheel." The Officer is placed at the center of the Force Wheel and is expected to immediately use the reasonable level and amount of force to control and restrain the suspect(s), then de-escalate when it is safe and appropriate to do so.

LEVELS OF FORCE

- A: Lethal Force:** Consists of force or threat of force likely to produce great bodily injury or death to the officer or another and is not limited to firearms use.
- B: Impact Force:** Consists of issued impact weapons as well as body weapons or other implement used for striking a blow or blows to the suspect(s).
- C: Less Lethal:** Consists of specialized ammunition issued or used against suspect(s) delivered through use of a firearm. "Less Lethal" is understood not to mean "non-lethal," however can be implemented in instances of (but not limited to) barricaded or suicidal subjects. Less lethal can be deployed at the officer or supervisors discretion when deemed reasonable to do so. Less Lethal Force level is equivalent to "remotely delivered impact force." It is understood that Less Lethal Force will generally be accompanied by the ability to deliver lethal force. When feasible and when doing so does not increase the danger to self or others, verbal warning that force will be used against the suspect(s) should be delivered.
- D: Canine Force:** Employment of a canine to bring a suspect under control.
- E: Chemical Agents:** Employment of CS, CN or O.C. irritant or other chemical agent or device.
- G: Control Holds:** Includes "joint-lock," "come-along," bio-mechanical, "pain-compliance," "take-downs," "grappling," or other method of physical restraint or control holds.
- H. Electronic Weapons:** Includes Taser or any other electrically powered weapon discharged into or against a subject's body.
- Verbal Control:** Verbal direction given to subject(s) to gain compliance. An officer need not verbally warn when doing so would increase the danger to the officer or another.
- J: Command Presence:** Simple presence of a uniformed or identified officer.

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