



# Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

## **INSTRUCTIONAL BULLETIN**

### CUSTODY DIVISION HEADQUARTERS TRAINING UNIT

Date: 04-01-12

#### **DRIVE STUN TECHNIQUES**

#### **PURPOSE**

It is the goal of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department to train its deputy personnel in the proper handling and tactical usage of the TASER Electronic Control Device. This training bulletin is specifically focused on various "Drive Stun Methods".

#### **PROBE DEPLOYMENT vs. DRIVE STUN WITHOUT CARTRIDGE**

Probe deployments are more desirable and effective than drive stuns without a cartridge for several reasons:

- (1) There is an increased probability of Neuro Muscular Incapacitation (NMI) versus the pain compliance of the drive stun;
- (2) Probe deployments can be applied from a safer distance than a drive stun applied with direct contact;
- (3) Probe deployments usually require fewer cycles and fewer injuries are typically observed; and
- (4) Probe deployments usually results in less skin and tissue damage than drive stun.

#### **PROBE DEPLOYMENT – DRIVE STUN**

Probe Deployment – Drive Stun: This drive stun technique is used when there is a probe deployment and both probes impact the subject. The drive stun is applied with the cartridge still on.

#### **DRIVE STUN FOLLOW - UP**

Drive Stun – Follow Up: This drive stun technique is used when there is a probe deployment and only one probe impacts the subject. The drive stun is applied with the cartridge still on.

#### **DRIVE STUN WITHOUT CARTRIDGE**

A Drive Stun without the cartridge is the least desirable method of drive stun techniques. This method has limited ability to be effective and leaves increased signature marks (skin burns).

#### **WHAT SHOULD WE BE LOOKING / LISTENING FOR**

When the TASER is activated we should be watching for a "CHANGE IN BEHAVIOR" in the subject. By observing the subject we can immediately identify if the TASER deployment is producing the desired effect. If there is no change in behavior there may be a miss with one or both of the probes. There also may be a broken wire. These situations are easily identified by simply listening the sound being emitted from the TASER. Remember "SILENCE IS GOLDEN". If the arcing sound coming from the TASER is loud it is likely there is a disconnect in the circuit (either probe or wire). If the arcing sound coming from the TASER is quiet it is an indicator there is a completed circuit.

#### **PROBE SPREAD**

If there is a probe deployment where the probes impact less than 4 inches apart it is likely only the sensory nervous system is being affected. This will cause centralized pain only and is not likely to affect the large muscle groups.

The greater the distance of the probe spread the more muscle groups are affected.

## PURPOSES FOR DRIVE STUN

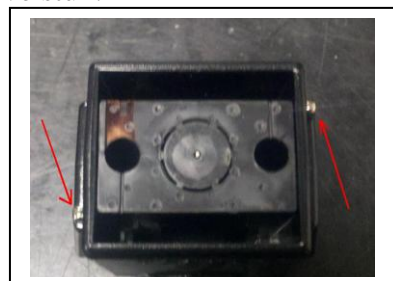
\* When the probe spread is not sufficient (less than 4 inches) to achieve (NMI), and the desired change in behavior has not been achieved. A drive stun is then used to expand the points of contact and affect a larger area. This is an example of a standard probe deployment with both probes making contact.

\* When only one probe makes contact with the subject the drive stun is used to complete the circuit and achieve the desired change in behavior.

\* If the subject is aggressing and the probes do not contact the subject. A drive stun with the cartridge in can then be used to stop the aggression and create distance. This is often the case when a drive stun without a cartridge is used. Often when probes miss the subject the operator conducts a reload for a second shot. If the subject continues to aggress towards the operator during a reload the TASER can be used in the same drive stun fashion. This will only achieve localized pain and is used to create distance between the operator and the subject. Creating distance will allow the operator to reload the TASER, re assess the situation, or transition to another option.

## UNDERSTANDING THE CARTRIDGE

There are two exposed electrodes on the TASER Air Cartridge. These electrodes are where the current transfer from the TASER to the subject takes place when used as a drive stun.



## PROCEDURE (THE HOW TO)

Probe Deployment (2 PROBE HIT) Drive Stun with cartridge



Close contact is made by two probes. A Drive Stun is used to increase the distance in which the circuit is completed. Rock the front of the TASER cartridge from upper right to lower left across the face of the cartridge which allows the electrodes to make contact with the subject. If the positive polarity electrode makes contact with the subject it will complete the circuit with negative polarity probe. Completing the circuit over a larger area will affect larger muscle groups. Rock the TASER from electrode to electrode until NMI is achieved.

Probe Deployment (1 PROBE HIT) Follow – Up Drive Stun with cartridge



You will know immediately one probe missed by the loud arcing sound coming from the TASER and no change in behavior by the subject. Rock the front of the TASER cartridge from upper right to lower left across the face of the cartridge which allows the electrodes to make contact with the subject. If the positive polarity probe is in contact with the subject the negative polarity electrode will complete the circuit. Rock the TASER from electrode to electrode until NMI is achieved.



Drive Stun with probes deployed but no contact with the subject. With the cartridge still in place press the face of the expended cartridge against the subject (NO ROCKING) and activate the TASER. Remember this will only cause localized pain.



Drive Stun with no cartridge. There are two electrodes at the front of the TASER which transfer current from the TASER to the cartridge. Push the front of the TASER against the subject and activate the TASER. This will cause localized pain only.

Avoid extended, repeated, or prolonged ECD applications when practical. Whenever possible handcuffing under power should be accomplished as soon as possible. Remember to give the suspect commands and the opportunity to comply when practical.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this bulletin contact the Custody Headquarters Training Unit at [REDACTED] ATTN: [REDACTED].