



# Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

# **INSTRUCTIONAL BULLETIN**

## CUSTODY TRAINING AND STANDARDS BUREAU

Date: October 2013

### **RECENT TASER ISSUES**

Force occurring within Custody Division had been a major issue to the Department in recent years. When dealing with a possible force scenario, Deputies should remember:

- To utilize the tools they have available to them.
- Focus on the entire situation and realize the magnitude of the situation.
- Decide on what is the best option(s) available and utilize it/them.
- If deputies do not have the proper equipment, how can they get it? Is there time to get it? Or use what is available if the situation is time sensitive.
- Form a plan and have a contingency plan too.

#### **Training**

There have been situations lately where deputy personnel were involved in force incidents and have not been carrying equipment that was available to them. If we limit ourselves by not carrying the available tools given to us (Taser, O.C., baton, asp, flashlight), we have less options to end the situation. Ask yourself If you would "go 10-8" in a radio car without a flashlight, baton, or OC spray? This could lead to a greater amount of force needed to gain safe control and stop the problem. This may increase the chances that we may be hurt or be scrutinized for the force we used. If the situation could best be resolved with the application of a Taser and we do not carry a Taser, our actions taken could be questioned. If a Taser is available for our use we should carry it during our shift. There should be a Taser available in all work areas for most personnel. We need to take advantage of all our available force options. Do not let the question arise later in the investigation as to why you did not have a Taser with you.

#### **Inspection**

When checking the Taser prior to shift, inspect the Taser for any physical damage. Check the Digital Power Magazine (DPM) to make sure it is seated properly in the Taser grip and that the gasket around the DPM is not missing or split. If the DPM is not seated properly, or the DPM moves within the body of the weapon, it could cause the weapon to malfunction and/or it may create corruption in the software. If this occurs, it may cause the Taser unit to revert back to its original date/time settings in the year 2000-2001 (see photo on next page). During the boot up process the Taser will flash a series of numbers on the Central Information Display (CID). The second set of numbers after the separator (- -) will be the year-month-day and time (GMT). Check to make sure that the date and time are correct. Facility training staffs should download the Tasers every month to ensure accuracy, sync the unit, and look for time discrepancies.

#### **Drive Stun**

Probe deployments are more desirable and effective than drive stuns for several reasons. Probe deployments are typically more effective due to the increased probability of Neuro-Muscular

Incapacitation (NMI). Probe deployments can be applied from a safe distance. A drive stun can only be applied with direct contact to the subject. If only one probe impacts the subject, the 3-point drive stun is an effective follow up technique. This occurs when the electrodes on the end of the TASER cartridge are put into contact with a part of the subject's body, completing the circuit with the single probe. When both probes impact less than four inches apart the Drive Stun follow up is an option. Even though both probes have impacted the subject, NMI may not be successfully achieved. By using the Drive Stun technique as a follow up, the electrodes from the TASER cartridge will act as third point of contact, creating a longer distance for the current to travel and increasing the probability of NMI. Whenever using the Drive Stun techniques, it is important to target the larger muscle groups to obtain the desired response. Using the Taser without a cartridge will not achieve NMI and is only a pain compliance tool. When using the Taser in a close quarters situation be sure to communicate to your partners that the Taser will be deployed. Make sure your partners maintain control of the individual and be cognizant of the wires after deployment. If one of your partners touches the wires or in between the points of contact, they will automatically correct their point of contact and will not become incapacitated. Communications during a close quarter event like this is essential to reduce injury to one another and the individual you are dealing with, as well as to establish control as quickly as possible.

### **Authorized Personnel**

To insure continuity within Custody Division, only sworn personnel (deputy or higher) may carry and/or use the X-26, X-2, X-3 and M-26 Tasers. Personnel authorized to use the X-26, X-2, X-3 and M-26 Tasers must have successfully completed an approved TASER Users Course. For further information regarding the carry/use of the X-26, X26P and M-26 TASERs, refer to Custody Division Directive 10-005, Personnel Authorized to Use the M26, X26, X-2 and X3 TASER Electronic Control Devices.

912	01/17/2011 19:26:01	01/17/2011 11:26:01	FIRE	5s	34°C	98%
913	01/17/2011 19:26:06	01/17/2011 11:26:06	FIRE	5s	34°C	97%
914	01/17/2011 19:27:10	01/17/2011 11:27:10	FIRE	5s	35°C	97%
915	01/17/2011 19:27:15	01/17/2011 11:27:15	FIRE	5s	35°C	97%
916	01/17/2011 19:28:08	01/17/2011 11:28:08	FIRE	5s	35°C	98%
917	01/17/2011 19:28:14	01/17/2011 11:28:14	FIRE	5s	161°C	98%
918	01/17/2011 19:28:15	01/17/2011 11:28:15	FIRE	1s	161°C	0%
919	01/01/2000 01:12:14	12/31/1999 17:12:14	FIRE	2s	27°C	99%
920	01/01/2000 01:56:41	12/31/1999 17:56:41	FIRE	4s	28°C	99%
921	01/01/2000 01:57:12	12/31/1999 17:57:12	FIRE	5s	28°C	99%
922	01/01/2000 01:58:00	12/31/1999 17:58:00	FIRE	3s	29°C	98%
923	01/01/2000 01:58:22	12/31/1999 17:58:22	FIRE	5s	30°C	98%
924	01/01/2000 01:58:48	12/31/1999 17:58:48	FIRE	5s	31°C	98%
925	01/01/2000 01:58:54	12/31/1999 17:58:54	FIRE	5s	31°C	97%
926	01/01/2000 01:58:56	12/31/1999 17:58:56	FIRE	2s	32°C	97%

Any questions or concerns regarding this bulletin contact the Custody Training and Standards Bureau at

ATTN: [REDACTED]