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To: Kevin@asp-net.com
Subject: ASP policy posted on IACP Net -- FYI

Marietta, Georgia Police Department

Standard Operating Procedure
Subject: ASP Baton
Effective Date: August 15, 2001
SOP #: A021
Special Instructions: Review Annually

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide all employees with guidelines for the use of the ASP baton.

II. Policy

This policy shall apply to all sworn & non-sworn personnel. It shall be the policy of this department to ensure that all police officers are properly trained in the use of the ASP baton, and that all police officers follow prescribed procedures for its use, wear, and maintenance. The Chief of Police may exempt any rank from training and subsequently carrying the ASP baton.

III. Procedures

A. All police officers and Civilian Transport Officers must successfully complete the department's basic ASP baton training course taught by a certified ASP baton instructor before carrying an ASP baton. In addition, all officers and Civilian Transport Officers must be trained on the department's standard operating procedures on the ASP (S.O.P. #A021) and Use of Force (S.O.P. #A020) prior to being issued the ASP baton.

The ASP baton instructor will notify the shift or division commander of any officer or Civilian Transport Officer that fails to demonstrate proficiency with the ASP baton. The shift or division commander, with the approval of the Chief of Police, will immediately place the officer or Civilian Transport Officer in an administrative position pending a demonstration of proficiency. The ASP baton instructor will schedule remedial training for the officer or Civilian Transport Officer as quickly as possible. While in this administrative position, the officer or Civilian Transport Officer will be relieved of his or her departmental firearms (sworn only), shall perform no police function on or off-duty and shall report to work in civilian business attire.

If after remedial training, the officer or Civilian Transport Officer fails to demonstrate proficiency, all paperwork will be forwarded to the Chief of Police by a Division Commander for further action, up to and including termination.

B. All police officers and Civilian Transport Officers will carry only ASP batons and holders issued by this department. Current ASP batons authorized and issued by this department include the ASP Tactical Baton F-21C and ASP Tactical Baton F-26C.

C. All uniform police officers will wear the ASP baton holder on the uniform belt. The ASP baton will not be placed near the spine due to the possibility of a disabling injury occurring in an accident or assault.

D. Police officers and Civilian Transport Officers shall not intentionally direct ASP baton techniques to the head, spine, neck or other bodily areas, as referenced in training, which could cause death or serious injury, unless the use of deadly force is justified.

E. The ASP baton is not designed to replace the firearm. When the use of deadly force is appropriate, police officers may resort to their firearm if necessary.

F. Any police officer or Civilian Transport Officer who strikes an individual with an ASP baton will notify a supervisor, and must complete a "Use of Force Report, MPD #100" form as outlined in standard operating procedure A020, section VII., subsection A.

G. Any police officer or Civilian Transport Officer who strikes an individual with an ASP baton must ensure that medical care is provided, up to and including an ambulance if necessary. Any time deadly or non-deadly force is used and the individual has a visible injury or complaint of injury, medical care will be provided. The medical care provided will be the responsibility of any officer or employee who has immediate knowledge of the injury or complaint of injury to ensure that the medical care is provided. Individuals requiring medical treatment will normally be transported to Kennestone/Wellstar Hospital. Any time that medical care is summoned for an individual involved in a use of force incident, the police officer or employee will immediately notify a supervisor.

H. Any police officer or Civilian Transport Officer who detects a problem with their issued ASP baton will report to property immediately where they will have the baton replaced by a working baton. All police officers and Civilian Transport Officers will have their ASP baton inspected annually by a certified ASP baton instructor. This inspection will be scheduled by the department, and documented in the police officer's training and employee files.

I. All police officers and Civilian Transport Officers will receive in-service training on this policy and techniques of ASP baton use once every two years from a certified ASP baton instructor. Proficiency in the use of the ASP baton will be documented in the police officer's training and employee files.

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