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March 30, 1992

Enclosed are the ASP batons and scabbards which were loaned to this agency for testing and evaluation. Having had the opportunity to evaluate the baton convinced us to adopt the ASP expandable baton as a supplement impact weapon for our personnel.

Attached is a copy of the summary which was presented to our Chief and command staff following the conclusion of the evaulation period. All of the officers who participated in the project praised the ASP baton as an effective defensive weapon. Their comments reinforced the advantages cited in the ASP literature.

The ability to evaluate the baton on a trial basis proved very useful to our agency.

Cordially,

Robert J. Squire

Officer Robert J. Squire

ASP EXPANDABLE BATON
PRACTICAL USE SURVEY
October 1991 - January 1992

This report summarizes the results of the evaluation program for the ASP Expandable Baton. The evaluation of the ASP Baton was initiated last October (1991) by former Officer Steve Shockley. The program was developed so that the baton could be "field tested" by personnel during their regular duties. The evaluation period ended January 1, 1992.

The program involved 23 participants who, after completing an eight (8) hour training class, carried the baton on-duty and, if desired, off-duty. The participants included uniformed and non-uniformed personnel as shown below:

Uniform - Patrol	9
Special Operations Section	9
Team Police - Narcotics	
(Sergeant)	1
C.I.D. Narcotics	2
(Sergeant)	1
Training Academy	1

The evaluation focused on two of the three ASP models currently available, the 16 inch and 21 inch. The ASP Baton model not evaluated was the 26 inch model. Although it was not tested, the general consensus was that the 26 inch model would be too long and heavy for use by non-uniformed personnel. Nearly all of the batons evaluated were equipped with the foam grip, versus the textured metal grip. About one-half of the batons were equipped with chrome center shafts while the others were equipped with the black painted shafts. All of the batons were equipped with black grips.

The field evaluations failed to provide a consensus regarding which ASP model, 16 or 21 inch, was better suited as a defensive weapon. The program did not provide for an exchange of equipment whereby each participant could assess both models. The 16 inch model provides for greater concealment and lighter weight. When collapsed it is 1-3/4 inches shorter than the 21 inch model. This fact makes the 16 inch easier to carry in a pocket which is a valuable asset to non-uniformed personnel.

Each participant was instructed to complete an evaluation form at the conclusion of the survey period. All of the participants praised the ASP as an excellent defensive weapon. The comments and observations made by the participants have been summarized below. The predominant issues focused on carrying the baton, its size, deployment and use, training, and overall construction of the ASP.

*** CARRYING:** None of the participants complained of problems with carrying the baton. The baton is easily carried, either in a pocket or on the gun belt. Because it is compact, the officers always had the baton with them. It was unlikely to be left in the vehicle as with a full-sized baton. Additionally, the weight of the baton is light enough that its contribution to the gun belt is minimal.

*** SIZE:** One of the predominant features noted about the ASP Baton was its size. When collapsed, the baton can be easily carried by plainclothes and off-duty personnel. Prior to the introduction of the ASP, it was unlikely for these personnel to carry a defensive impact weapon. The baton can be readily concealed within a pocket. For uniformed personnel, the baton is not bulky. It is easy to secure allowing officers to engage in physical activity, such as running, without the baton swinging about.

*** USE/DEPLOYMENT:** Results of the survey revealed several advantages of the ASP Baton. A majority of the restraint holds and body strikes applicable to the PR-24 and other batons (including the Kubaton) may be executed with the ASP. Many of the participants stated that the ASP was easier to control and to direct the force of strikes as opposed to the PR-24. It was felt that the rotational swing of the PR-24 is more difficult to control and direct. Striking with the ASP Baton is a more natural swing. As such, the ASP was cited as being an excellent defensive weapon in close quarters while not losing its effectiveness as a full-sized baton. The ASP also functioned as a psychological deterrent. The rapid expansion of the baton provides a "startle" effect on an aggressor. On the other hand, if the officer desires to present a non-aggressive posture, the baton can be relatively concealed in the hand while at the same time being ready for deployment.

*** TRAINING:** Training personnel to use the ASP is uncomplicated. The same strikes and restraint holds applicable to any straight baton are applicable to the ASP, as well. An added benefit to this style of training is that straight baton techniques are applicable to any straight defensive weapon (including baton and flashlight).

*** CONSTRUCTION:** The ASP Baton is well constructed. There were no reports of failure including unintended expansion or collapse. The foam handle received several compliments. It was noted as durable and provided a non-slip grip. The foam also reduced the transmission of cold ambient temperatures and the shock produced from striking.

The survey indicated only two negative comments (other than the manufacturer's price):

*** COLLAPSING AFTER DEPLOYMENT:** To collapse the baton, it must be struck on a hard surface with a firm strike. Depending upon the location and situation in which the officer is involved, this can present a problem. Nonetheless, the baton is still relatively easy to secure without being collapsed.

*** RESTRAINT HOLDS AND BATON SIZE:** It was noted that some of the restraint holds were more difficult to execute with the 16 inch ASP versus the 21 inch. This was especially true

when applying to larger suspects. Although some difficulty was experienced, the holds are still possible.

*** OTHER COMMENTS/CONSIDERATIONS:** With regard to the color of the center shafts, chrome versus black, the opinion was split. The black shaft was praised for being non-reflective which some officers felt was necessary for tactical reasons. Other officers had an affinity for the chrome shaft concluding that it provided more of a psychological impact.

During the evaluation period, the participants were also requested to forward any reports where the ASP was deployed. This included whether or not a suspect was struck or intimidated by the baton. During the evaluation period, there were three reports of the ASP having been deployed:

Northern District, November 1: During an encounter with an intoxicated subject, the officer struck the suspect in the knee and elbow. The officer reported that the knee strike was a glancing blow; however, it knocked the suspect off balance. The elbow strike temporarily incapacitated the arm. There was no serious or permanent injury.

Northern District, November 13: Suspect resisted arrest and was struck once in the upper left thigh by the officer. The suspect collapsed and was easily handcuffed. There was no report of injury to the suspect.

Northern District, November 5: Officers confronted the suspect in his ex-wife's home after he had broken in. At the time the officers arrived, the suspect was threatening another occupant with a knife. The officer expanded the ASP after conversation failed. The suspect dropped the knife but continued to resist arrest. The suspect was struck in the left and right shins whereupon he surrendered. The suspect was treated at the District station for minor lacerations to the shins and refused further treatment.

Although only three incidents were reported during the evaluation, each demonstrates that the baton is an effective defensive weapon. The strikes imposed on the suspects were sufficient to end the confrontations without unnecessary injury. In one incident, the ASP appeared to demonstrate having had a psychological impact on an aggressor.

After carrying the ASP Baton and reviewing the survey forms from other officers, I believe it is feasible that the ASP Expandable Baton could replace the PR-24 baton as the mainstay defensive impact weapon. The ASP offers the advantage of being carried by the officer at all times. This is not possible with the PR-24. During this survey period, the ASP functioned as intended with no report of being ineffective on the aggressor. There have been occasions where the PR-24 failed to develop sufficient take down power. The ASP can develop sufficient force with a shorter stroke than the PR-24 which requires a full rotational swing. This fact alone makes it easier to direct the strike. Training for the ASP is consistent with that of any straight baton. The prevailing viewpoint asserts that the PR-24 offers no substantial advantages over a straight baton and is, in fact, more difficult to master. Transition back to the straight baton philosophy would mean that only one training session would be necessary for any device that has a semblance of a straight baton. This would include the ASP Expandable Baton, the Kubaton, a flashlight, a straight baton, even a broomstick. For special tactical situations, a straight baton or "riot" baton could be deployed. Obviously, the one-device training concept would be easier and less time consuming to instruct. This would spare student officers the task of having to learn the

differing manipulation of weapons with similar functions. At a time when resources are at a premium, consolidation makes sense.

SELECTED SPECIFICATIONS: The ASP Baton is constructed of aluminum. The center shafts, when expanded, lock in place by means of a taper in shaft ends. The locking pressure is evenly distributed around the shaft so that one point does not fatigue (as seen at the expansion locking point of the expandable PR-24). The baton is relatively maintenance free and should offer a substantial life expectancy.

ASP Models:

16 inch (expanded) - collapsed 6 inches

21 inch (expanded) - collapsed 7-3/4 inches

26 inch (expanded) - collapsed 9-1/2 inches

The ASP Baton may be equipped with the foam handle grip or a textured metal surface.

Prepared by Officer Robert J. Squire,
Anne Arundel County Police Department, Training Academy
January 30, 1992