



**U.S. Department of Justice**

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

P.O. BOX 1683  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30370

December 5, 1989

Staff Sergeant K. D. H. Alexander  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police  
Victory Subdivision  
2881 Nanimo Street  
Victoria, British Columbia V8T 4Z8

Dear Sergeant Alexander:

Reference is made to your telephone call of October 16, 1989, to Special Agent (SA) Leon H. Blakeney of the Atlanta Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Since your telephone conversation, SA Blakeney has retired from the FBI. His replacement is SA George P. Johnson, who has participated in the evaluation of the ASP Baton, and who has furnished much of the information regarding this evaluation.

The Atlanta FBI SWAT Team has used the ASP Tactical Batons for over a one year period and has found them to be extremely satisfactory. Concerning the issues raised in your initial evaluation of the baton, the following information is being submitted:

Issue Number One - The baton retracting after a number of strikes or jabs - This has not been a problem in field experience and it is felt that problems encountered may be due to lack of training in the proper method of drawing and extending the baton.

Issue Number Two - Failure to lock - The above would also apply to Issue Number Two. The FBI's experience is that if a baton is forcefully arched into the locked position, it does lock and stays locked until it is collapsed by hitting the head of the point on concrete. A failure to lock was experienced in one

agent's case, when he added break free lubricant to his baton. This lubricant made the baton unable to either lock, open or close. Concerning the awkwardness of retracting the baton, it appears that this is the "nature of the beast", and to have a baton that will stay in a locked position when extended, it must be a function to retract it that it be tapped against concrete or another similar hard substance.

Concerning another issue - addressing the size of the business end of the baton - incidences have occurred where individuals have been hit and have not had the experience of separating the rib, exposing inner organx to further damage.

The only damage inflicted upon the baton itself has been in the breaking of car windows. This has occurred on several occasions during the past year. The Armament Systems Company pre-warned this office that using the baton to break car windows would cause the baton to be scarred, however, the scarring did not seem to affect the baton's effectiveness, only its appearance.

Regarding the carrying pouch, this item was issued and designed for SWAT tactics. It has a velcro closure flat cover that holds the baton in its carrier even when running or during rough activities.

Hopefully, this information will be of some assistance in making a decision whether to obtain the ASP Baton. The Atlanta Office of the FBI has been very pleased with its use and has found it to be a viable addition to its armament.

If any further information or assistance is required, please do not hesitate to contact SA George P. Johnson at this office at (404) 521-3900.

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM L. HINSHAW, II  
Special Agent in Charge

By:

HAROLD R. JONES  
Supervisory Special Agent

cc: Armament Systems and  
Procedures, Inc.