

SECURITY RESTRICTED

# HOME OFFICE



## THE A.S.P. BATON (F21)

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An evaluation report on the ASP expandable friction lock baton, as an alternative to the issue stave and kubaton for protective use by staff employed within HM Prisons.

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NOT FOR INMATE'S EYES

## ASP TACTICAL BATON

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ASP TACTICAL BATON

# FOREWARD

# FORWARD

I joined the Prison Service in early 1988 at HMP Manchester and I will have eight years service by September 1995. During this service, I have attended several major incidents including the disturbances at HMP Manchester in April 1991.

As a result of attending internal training courses, I am a qualified First Aider, Hostage Negotiator and qualified to Control a Restraint level 3. I hope to become a Control and Restraint 1 Instructor at HMP Liverpool later this year.

Because of personal training in a Martial Art, I have developed an interest in protective equipment, self defence techniques and training programmes with regard to staff within the Prison Service. This interest has increased in light of my own professional experiences and personal history within the Service.

At an Exhibition in London in the autumn of 1994, I met Sgt. Bob Bryant of Avon and Somerset Constabulary. This officer informed me that his force had recently adopted the ASP Expandable baton, after a trial period in the Weston-Super-Mare district. Even on first inspection, it was evident that the ASP baton was far superior to both our current stave and kubotan. The ASP has replaced the traditional truncheon in this force and has since been adopted by another 17 Police Forces in the UK.

In May 1995 with Sgt Bryant's assistance, I attended the ASP baton instructors course which I successfully passed. This training has enabled me to complete this evaluation report on the baton, in the hope of persuading the Prison Department to consider replacing both the current issue stave and kubotan.

The ASP baton and its training package, are far in advance of our traditional programme. The five hour training programme contains two hours spent in the classroom where staff are instructed in the "use of force" and how to document this "use of force" correctly. The baton is an effective defensive instrument suitable for our Departments requirements, which can be carried in an inconspicuous, low profile manner on prison landings by all staff regardless of rank or sex. It is available in several sizes, including a combined baton and "Mag-lite" torch suitable for dog handlers, grounds and night duty staff. For staff working in isolated areas of prisons, it offers vastly improved personal protection, while still remaining non aggressive in appearance. It is a highly effective impact instrument that has the benefit for the Department of being Court defensible.

All baton training is supplied free of charge by ASP, the only expense incurred by the adopting agency is the initial cost of the batons themselves. This cost will be substantially discounted for bulk agent orders. All equipment is covered by the Companies "Lifetime - No quibble" guarantee.

As I can obtain the batons from ASP free of charge to conduct an evaluation, I would like the Prison Department to consider carrying out an evaluation trial period, here at HMP Liverpool.

Finally, if you should have any questions, queries or comments on the baton, training or this evaluation report, please direct them to me at this establishment.

## THE ASP TACTICAL BATON

# INTRODUCTION

Current statistics indicate, that acts of violent aggression by inmates against staff and fellow inmates are on the increase. This aptly illustrates the shortcomings in current techniques and equipment used by prison staff for self protection within the Prison Service.

Opinion from experts within many agencies such as the Police, Government Departments, Prison Service and the Martial Arts all agree that the use of edged weapons is increasing and that applying "empty hand" defences against this threat is at best unrealistic.

Recently with the introduction of X-ray screening, numerous items have been detected on entry into prisons. Here at HMP Liverpool arrests have resulted from attempts by visitors to bring in various articles such as Stanley knives, blades for these knives, butterfly knives and on one occasion a purpose made cast aluminum knuckle duster, all legally described as offensive weapons.

At present within the prison service, uniformed male staff are issued with a police style regulation wooden stave and female uniformed staff with a plastic 4" kubotan for protection. The standard issue stave which is constructed of hardwood, is approximately 14" in length and weighs 14 ounces. It is carried in a special stick pocket on the right hand side of the issue trousers. The stave is of round cross section and tapers in profile towards a grooved handle at the narrowest part of its length.

The advantages of the stave are its ease of carry, concealment and its apparent acceptance by the public and the media. The origin of the stave dates back over 150 years to the advent of the Navy Press Gangs. At that time, it was used to persuade drunks in naval ports to accept the challenge of "The King's Shilling", normally by the application of a swift blow to the head, always from behind.

The stave is categorised as a club and is used to apply a head strike to subdue an assailant. It uses power to generate its effect, mainly because of its short length. The short length of the stave is an advantage in terms of image and concealment. But this creates a major disadvantage as a means of protection as it can not

create a protective safety zone for the officer, especially against an "edged weapon" attack.

Officers of smaller stature or physical build, could compensate for the stave's short length and ineffectiveness, by using extra force when striking with the stave. Current training in the use of the stave is at best limited, targeting strikes against the assailant's upper arms and leg areas. Head strikes are properly advised against. However, if the assailant is wearing heavy winter type clothing, the type of which is issued to inmates within prisons or has attired himself in numerous clothing layers, these strikes will be ineffective as the padding effect will absorb the force of the strike. This leads eventually to the last resort, a head strike and all the resultant implications for the inmate, the member of staff and the Prison Service.

The plastic kubotan issued to female officers is also no match against an "edged weapon" attack and is properly used to enable an officer to create a "breakaway" technique to aid escape.

In my experience, I feel most staff do not carry either their stave or kubotan as they have little confidence in their effectiveness against an assailant, even if that assailant is unarmed. Most staff cannot recall their training and would doubt their ability to use the stave or kubotan properly in a confrontation. This is due to the physiological effects of stress upon the officer's fine motor skills when in stressful conditions.

The Prison Department is by nature a reactive type of organisation. It is now time to change the current attitude to the issue of modern protective equipment and Self Defence training for staff within the Prison Service.

The introduction of a viable alternative to the issue stave is long overdue. The stave should now be relegated to the Prison Service Museum, properly identified as the dinosaur that it is. It uses the techniques of a short length impact weapon causing "crushing type" trauma, resulting in orthopaedic injury, to disable the assailant.

## **HISTORY OF THE ASP BATON**

The first ever patented telescopic baton was registered in the early 1900's by a British company called J P Hudson. This invention remained dormant for many years, until it resurfaced in Japan in the early 1950's.

The first commercially available baton called a "Tokushi Keibo" was manufactured by the Nobel Company in Tokyo, Japan. Another baton was the Ni baton, designed by Professor Ni of the Central States Police College in Taipei, Japan.

The Nobel baton was issued to the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department and the National Railway Police. Whilst well intentioned, the baton suffered from the primitive construction methods of that era, easily damaged thin metal tubing, sharp edges and knurling, not compatible with modern police usage. Additionally, the baton was fitted with a wrist strap, contrary to all Modern training principles.

Poor construction technology also effected the Ni baton, which was operated by a extending spring mechanism. It was overly complex, prone to breakage's and tended to open inadvertently. These primitive batons were observed by American Service personnel stationed in Japan and the Far East and they brought back examples, on their return to the USA. As a result the first "American made" expandable baton appeared in the early 1960's with the name, the "Titon Taper".

Again due to primitive construction methods and poor durability, the baton was not considered compatible with long term police usage. Modern baton designs are manufactured to strict specifications in order to overcome previous deficiencies in expandable baton technology and design.

In 1985, the concept of the expandable baton was resurrected in the USA by Dr. Kevin Parsons of Armament Systems & Procedures (A.S.P.), and was marketed to Law Enforcement Agencies world-wide as the ASP Tactical baton range. ASP decided to utilise the friction lock method of operation and patented their product internationally as such.

The companies design brief was to develop an intermediate impact baton that was concealable, inconspicuous, highly effective in an operational setting and yet durable enough for extended usage. The reliability of the design was extensively field tested over a five year period to improve its handling characteristics, durability and ease of maintenance. The design range produced a family of batons in various lengths meeting the requirements of investigative, civilian, tactical, plainclothes or uniformed officer use.

All the ASP range of batons are characterised by an absence of any sharp edges or knurling that might abrade clothing or cut the skin of an assailant. This baton design offers a compact, concealable, reliable product with all the advantages of a straight baton including longer reach than the traditional issue stove. It is lightweight, therefore easily carried by staff and offers instant accessibility when required.

The ASP is the first baton of its type to meet exacting specifications imposed by American Federal Law Enforcement Agencies. Recently, the ASP range has been adopted by the US Capital Police, major agencies within the US Department of Justice and The Department of The Treasury. It is the only baton approved for use by the F.B.I.

Further research of the baton by the US Army Advanced Testing & Development Branch, has encouraged interest in the ASP baton range, from numerous County, Municipal and State agencies in the USA. All agencies concerned have recognised and accepted the vastly improved effectiveness of the ASP family of batons.



## THE ASP TACTICAL BATON

### DESIGN CRITERIA

Batons in the ASP range come in a variety of sizes, finishes and different grips. The F-21 baton adopted by UK Police Forces has a foam covered handle, is 8" in length in the closed mode, extending to 21" long when opened. Its weight is only 15 ounces, just slightly heavier than the issue staff.

The batons are only manufactured in America and are constructed from Aerospace Alloys and ordinance Quality Synthetics. Every component of the baton evolved from the results of an extensive research and development program, which brought innovative pioneering technology to the field of expandable batons.

The baton is low profile, with a non reflective finish that is highly rust resistant. The baton handle is covered in textured foam vinyl that gives a firm, durable, slip free gripping surface. Consciously, there are no sharp edges or knurling anywhere on the ASP that would damage clothing or cut an assailants skin. Therefore all the batons in the range provide staff with a compact, inconspicuous, effective impact instrument.

Individual parts of the baton are phosphate treated for effective rust resistance and then powder paint coated to ensure long life. The quality of these coatings are readily apparent, even when the baton is disassembled for a visual inspection. As a result of these treatments the ASP is furnished with a very durable finish.

The specially alloyed seamless tubing used in manufacture of the ASP, is a result of an extensive quality search. When no commercially available tubing could be found that would meet the required specifications at the company, a specially formulated alloy tube was ordered. The metallurgy involved is so unique and therefore expensive that metal for tubing is only available in mill run quantities, which produce a minimum of 25,000 batons per release. This volume purchasing, allows ASP to secure materials, processing them using exacting technologies consistent with a quality product.

The metal tempering process employed in manufacture of the baton, is found only in a few heat treating operations. The resultant steel used in the baton

tubing has a Rockwell hardness of 55c, similar to the hardness of steel used in knife blades.

All the ASP expandable baton range produced by Armament Systems and Procedures are manufactured at the Wisconsin production facility in the USA. They allow no one else to make the ASP under licence, therefore guaranteeing the quality control of the range. The uniqueness of the production processes used in the manufacture of the baton, have enabled ASP to register them with International Patents.

Due to this level of quality control the ASP is the only baton that meets US Federal Law Enforcement and US Military specifications.

All the ASP expandable batons operate on the friction lock principle and internally, only contain an adjustable retaining clip. This clip securely holds the shafts within the baton when it is in the "closed mode". The baton is extended to the open position by a sharp flick of the officer's wrist and then locks in place by friction. The extended baton is collapsed by tapping it vertically downwards against any hard unyielding surface.

## THE ASP TACTICAL BATON

### BATON NOMENCLATURE

Surprisingly, all the ASP expandable batons only consist of five working parts -

- i. A threaded handle end cap.
- ii. A retaining clip (internally secures the collapsed baton shafts within the handle).
- iii. A threaded handle covered with a choice of grip finishes.
- iv. The expandable telescoping shafts, consisting of the midsection and the end section.
- v. An end tip which is screwed into the end section and further secured in position by gluing with "loc-tight" glue.

Spreading the retaining clip increases baton closed retention and increases the amount of force necessary to open or "rack" the baton. Conversely, narrowing the retaining clip has the opposite effect on baton opening.

All ASP batons come factory adjusted with the retaining clip at the optimum tension for operation.

Maintenance of the ASP baton is simplicity itself, requiring keeping the baton dry, oil and grit free, checking the tightness of the threaded parts and periodic examination of the shafts.

An armour's kit supplied with all bulk ASP baton orders contains all replacement parts - grips, end tips etc. that could be required should there be any need for replacement due to accidental damage or wear. All batons come complete with a life time guarantee from the ASP Company.

## THE ASP TACTICAL BATON

# TRAINING TERMINOLOGY

The ASP baton training program uses certain terminology to teach students the proper methods of baton usage.

The following list contains the main terms used:

1.    Weapon Hand               -     The strong hand; e.g. left hand for a left hander.
2.    Reaction Hand           -     (The opposite hand) the non-natural baton hand used to: parry an assailant's movements, or to maintain safe distance or separation.
3.    Weapon Leg               -     Strong side leg; left leg for a left hander.
4.    Reaction Leg             -     The opposite leg.
5.    Closed Mode             -     The baton is fully closed within the handle.
6.    Open Mode               -     The baton is fully extended or "racked" and locked into position by friction.
7.    Interview Stance       -     Open stance used by officer when carrying out an interview.

- |     |                  |   |  |
|-----|------------------|---|--|
| 8.  | Combat Stance    | - | The officers weapon hand holds the extended baton at the point of the shoulder. The reaction hand is up and ready to check or parry. |
| 9.  | Checking         | - | The officer uses his/her hands in a blocking manner to stop an assailant's forward movement.   |
| 10. | Re-direction     | - | Officer uses the reaction hand (or both hands) to parry or redirect an assailant away from the officer.                              |
| 11. | Decentralisation | - | Officer keeps the assailant off balance through proper distancing techniques.  |
| 12. | Step a Drag      | - | Officer steps with one foot, then drags the other foot to remain balanced.   |
| 13. | Power Generation | - | Maximising the power of a strike by a combination of balance, speed, focus and body mechanics.                                       |

## **THE CONFRONTATION CONTINUUM**

ASP baton instructors teaching staff to use the expandable baton, utilise a "Confrontational Continuum", designed by the FBI.

Officers in the Prison Service, can like their colleagues in the Police, use force to protect themselves, the life of others or to prevent a breach of security. The use of this force is closely scrutinised by the Courts, the Public, the Media and various other groups.

The Continuum was designed to allow feasible evaluation of force used in a given situation. It provides an officer with a definable means of determining what level of force is necessary and to later document the use of that level of force.

Force is used to gain control of an assailant in a confrontation. However, excessive use of force after subject control is gained is considered punishment, illegal and constitutes an assault against the assailant.

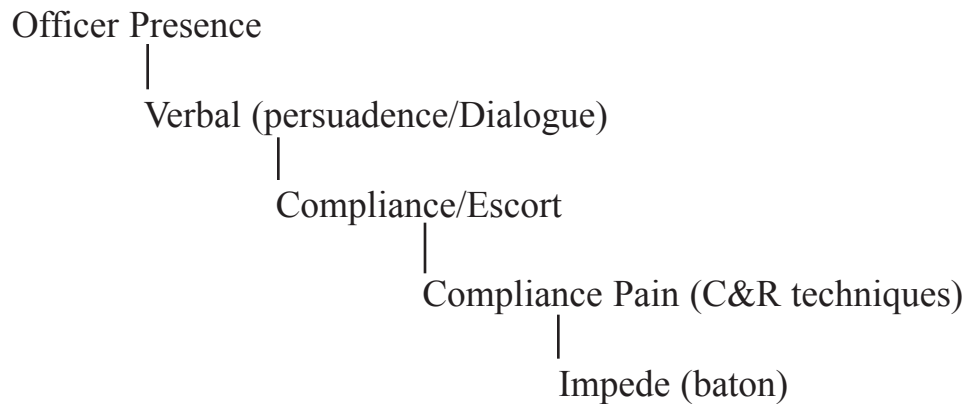
As far as control is concerned for staff, it is not a game of chance where there is the probability of a 50/50 win in an incident. Staff cannot afford to win only 50% of the time. In a confrontation they must always gain control of situation if not in 100% of the time, then with as high a percentage as possible.

Whatever force option is chosen, it must be evaluated by the likelihood of gaining control against the likelihood of causing injury or damage.

Another major factor in the Continuum is Officer Safety. The force option chosen must allow instant disengagement from that force level, or the ability for the officer to escalate to a higher force option if necessary.

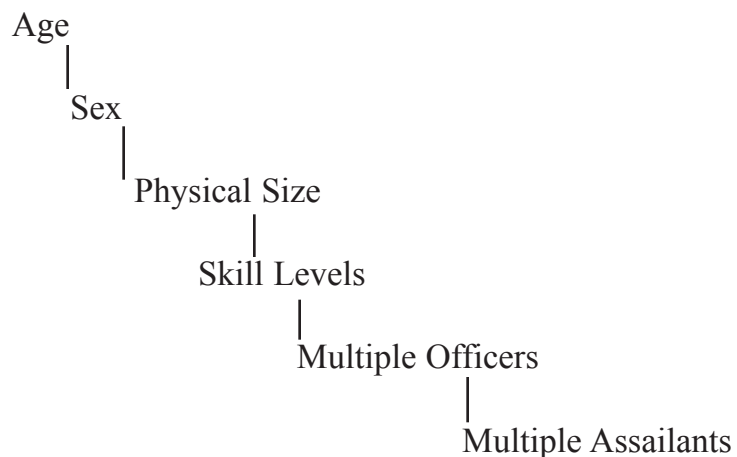
The only force options available to an officer in the Prison Service consists of the following:-

## FORCE OPTION



The Officer's reaction and Force option chosen, increase or decrease with the aggressive or non-conforming action's decreed by the assailant. Factors effecting both the officer's chosen force option and the aggressive actions of the assailant include the following:-

## OFFICER/SUBJECT FACTORS



Additional factors that also effect an officer's reaction and chosen force option in a confrontation with an assailant are identified as Special Circumstances, and are listed as follows:-

### SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Close proximity of assailant to a weapon/firearm

Special background knowledge of assailant or incident

Officer(s) injury or exhaustion

Disability/handicap of officer(s)

Ground Position/Location of incident

Imminent Danger to officers, inmates or  
bystanders.

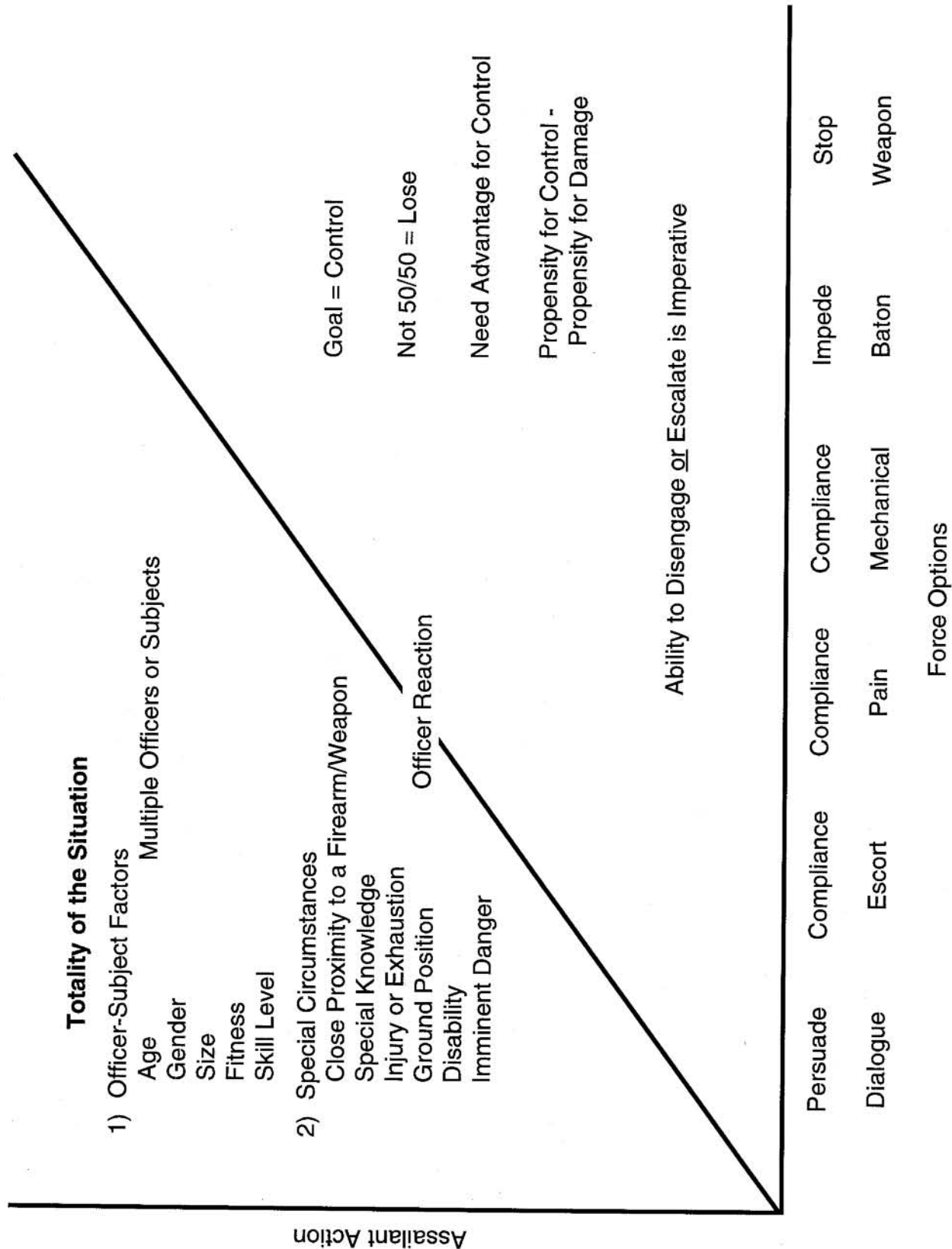
In a Confrontation all Actions, Situational factors and Conditions are described in the training package by ASP as the Totality of Circumstances.

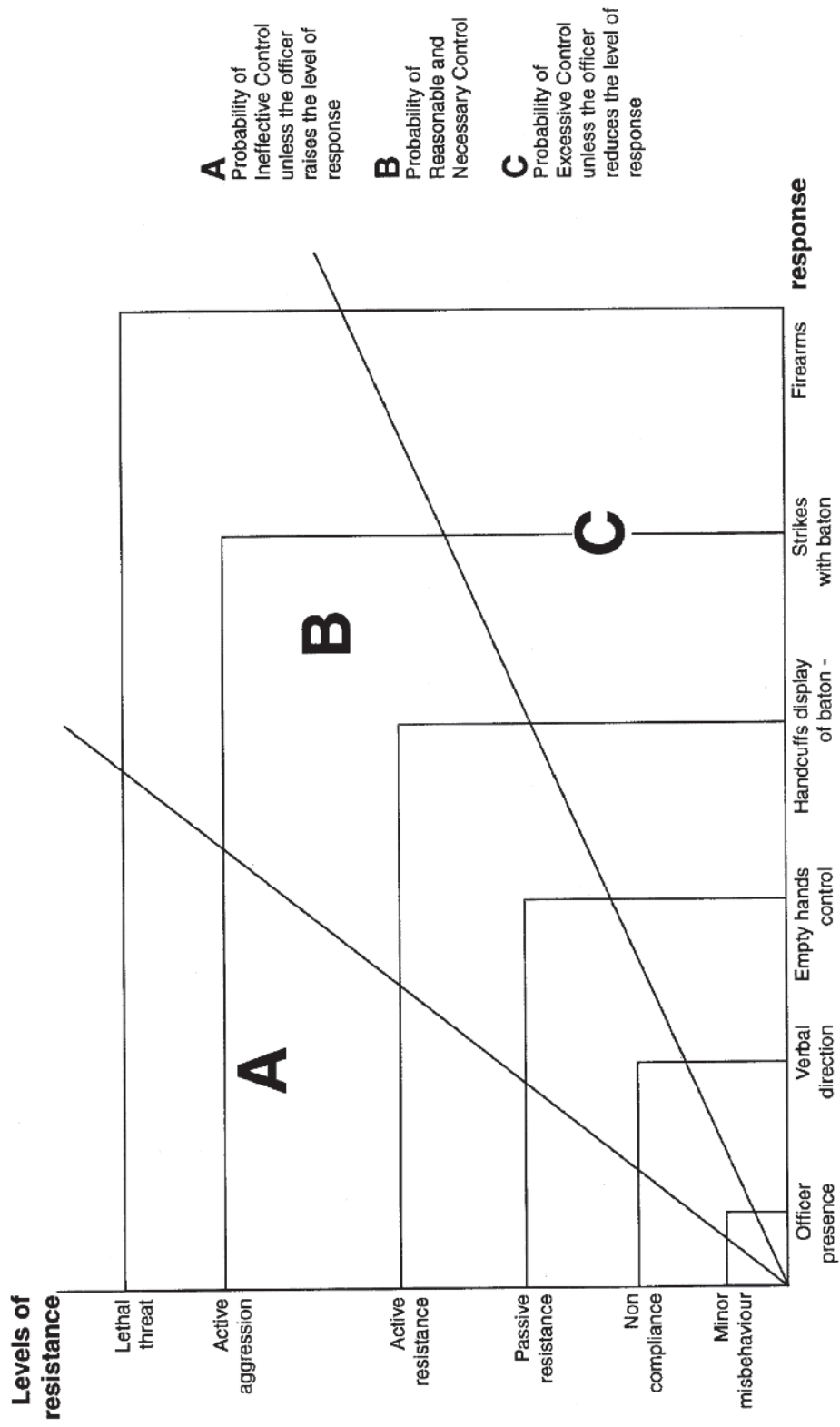
### TOTALITY OF CIRCUMSTANCES

Evaluation of all the factors which influence an incident give a more accurate picture of how force was used by an officer(s) to gain control of an assailant. The evaluation considers the officer/subject factors, Special Circumstances, the chosen Force option and the assailants actions proceeding, during and after the confrontation.



# THE CONFRONTATIONAL CONTINUUM™





**An Example of the "Confrontational Continuum" as used by a UK Police Force.**

## **DOCUMENTATION OF A CONFRONTATION**

It is vital after any confrontation where an officer strikes an assailant with the baton, that he properly documents the incident. This will assist in defending the force option he took and will help the Department avoid any potential Criminal or Civil liability by accurately recording what occurred at the time of the incident.

In the Prison Service this can be achieved through S.I.R., N.O.I.F'S, written reports to the Governor, F213 (injury Reports), Medical officer's reports and witness reports by other staff and possibly inmates. Photographs of any injuries, and the weapons used to inflict them during the incident, can be very productive. Through these written reports the Department can avoid any latter allegation of post incident fabrication.

A report from an officer should include the following:

1. How the initial contact with the inmate occurred.
2. The number of inmates involved in the incident.
3. The date, time of day, physical location and setting.
4. The type of incident (hostage taking attempt etc.).
5. Inmates demeanour, attitude and any verbal statements.
6. What the officer said.
7. Inmates action and reaction/officer's reaction.
8. Detailed report of all injuries/photographs if possible.
9. Any information from other staff involved - or persons who were neutral witnesses
10. Neutral inmate/bystanders, witness information.

All of the above are vitally important as previous legal judgements in the courts have ruled, that if it was not recorded when it happened, it did not happen. Staff should also remember that the Department can win a criminal case and then lose the same case in a civil court, since the levels of guilt are lower in a civil case and liability if proven in civil court is against the individual concerned not the Department.

## THE ASP TACTICAL BATON

# USE OF FORCE REPORT

Remember:

- \* The Incident Report is your account of what happened in a confrontation
- \* Many individuals including a jury may read this report.
- \* Be certain to indicate the causes for your actions including all reasonable suspicion and probable cause.
- \* Quote the subject directly if possible.
- \* Quote your statements as accurately as possible.
- \* Be chronological.
- \* Show the totality of the circumstances.
- \* List all factors that contributed to the incident.
- \* Detail the debriefing that occurred.
- \* Specify the care rendered to the subject after control was effected.
- \* State your perception at the time of the incident based upon your training and experience.
- \* Be specific with regard to the force you employed, areas to which it was directed and why it was employed in place of other force options.

## THE ASP TACTICAL BATON

### A FORCE PROTOCOL

The use of force within the Prison Service is documented in Prison Rule 44(1) and Y.O.I. 47 (1), which states the following:

"An officer in dealing with a prisoner shall Not use force unnecessarily and when the application of force to a prisoner is necessary, no more force than is necessary shall be used."

The legal interpretation of this rule is further documented in CI 31/1991 from The Prison Departments Legal Advisers Branch. Further documentation is found in S.O. 3E "Management of Violent or Refractory Prisoners", in which section 25 gives directions in the use of the stave, PR24 and kubotan. It states that these batons can be used to enable staff to:-

- i. defend an officer from attack
- ii. intervention on behalf of a colleague
- iii. to effect release from a prisoners grip, in order to get further staff assistance
- iv. to secure and restrain a prisoner if other staff are not readily available

S.O.3E states the drawing of a stave and its use must be regarded as an exceptional and extreme measure and that written reports have to be submitted to the governor on each and every occasion. Additionally, the Medical Officer must see an inmate as soon as possible after being struck by a stave and a written report sent to the Governor.

All these fundamentals are included in the ASP training package as the Company, its products and training come from a country where litigation is freely available and almost constitutes a "hobby" for certain sections of the Prison and General Population alike.

In response to the easy availability of redress to litigation, the company has introduced a "Force Protocol" to provide protection to Agencies adopting the baton against either civil or criminal claims and liability. The protocol comprises of the "Confrontational Continuum", including Control Theory, Confrontation factors, the officer choice of force option, evaluation of the force used and the totality of all the circumstances involved in the incident. Also importantly included is the accurate documentation of what happened in order to avoid civil or criminal liability for the Agency concerned. This will require a rethink of S.O.3E by the Department. Police Forces in the UK who have adopted the baton, have drafted their force protocols in conjunction with the Home office, which covers the use of the ASP by their officers.

When in use, if an officer enters a situation where he feels he could be threatened, he removes the ASP from it's scabbard and holds it in front of his waist by both hands in the low profile position. He can then adopt the "Interview Stance", having the baton readily available for protection in a low profile manner as observed by neutral witnesses.

Due to the introduction of a Police "Force Protocol", Police officers are not required to submit a written report for the above action. A report however, must be submitted on every occasion the baton is used to strike an assailant, whether in the Open or Closed modes. This allows the officer to use the ASP in the low profile closed mode, providing instant accessibility and protection while limiting unnecessary paperwork. This allows the batons "psychological deterrence" to be utilised by the officer and ensures the assailant is given every opportunity to become non-aggressive and compliant.

The officer's transition from the "Interview Stance" to the "Combat Position" accompanied by their "verbalisation" and the visual effect of the officer racking the baton, leaves the assailant in no doubt that if they do not decelerate their aggressive actions and comply, they will receive an ASP strike in order for the member of staff to gain control of the incident.

As a result of American court action and the Company's training program, expert US Federal Court qualified instructors provide free legal defence testimony for staff and agencies using the ASP in any litigation.

To date, in both the USA and the UK and as a result of the training, correct incident documentation and court defensibility, no claim for civil or criminal litigation against the ASP have been found in favour of the litigant against staff or any agency.

## THE ASP TACTICAL BATON

### BATON EFFECTIVENESS

Impact type weapons such as the stave, ASP or the PR24 have striking potential that is inversely proportional to their weight. The mathematical equation for this action is the formulae for speed and power represented as:-

$$E = \frac{MV^2}{2} \quad \text{Where } E = \text{Kinetic Energy}$$

$M = \text{Mass}$   
 $V = \text{Velocity}$

This in layman's terms means the heavier the baton, the slower the striking potential, the lighter the baton the faster the striking potential. As the formulae demonstrates, doubling the weight or mass of a baton doubles its shocking power. Velocity has a greater effect on shocking power than mass. Therefore, by doubling the velocity shocking power can be quadrupled.

The difficulty emerges if a baton is too light and thus lacks effectiveness. ASP weighs only 15 ounces and therefore has an extremely fast striking potential, but importantly a very fast recovery capacity.

As a result, the ASP baton is an extremely effective defensive instrument. When properly applied by a trained officer against the assailants delivery system (the arm for example), it provides unparalleled potential for controlling an extremely aggressive assailant.

Because the ASP is lightweight with a fast striking potential it impedes an assailant by utilising a "Fluid Shock Wave Dynamic". This means instead of causing Orthopaedic injury as a result of "crushing" type trauma to an assailant, the ASP imparts its Kinetic Energy from a strike into the assailants body. The resulting "Fluid Shock Wave" resonates through the assailants body causing basically the same effect as a "dead leg".

The limb remains disrupted for several minutes and is effectively unusable. This effect is not negated if the assailant is under the influence of drugs or alcohol, which will inhibit the associated painfulness of a strike, but can not effect the action of the baton's "Fluid Shock Wave".

## THE ASP TACTICAL BATON

### TACTICAL IMPACT

There is no doubt that psychologically, the ASP baton has a greater advantage than any other defensive impact instrument currently available. Staff trained properly in its use, benefit from this characteristic in various ways. They feel they are better protected, more self reliant and confident in their abilities due to the content of the training syllabus and the high manufacture quality of the baton. They also know that an ASP strike will have a dramatic and positive effect upon an assailants actions.

This psychological deterrence is stressed in the training received for the ASP and is exploited by staff against an assailant in a confrontation.

In America, agencies who adopted the ASP received reports from staff stating, that the effect of an officer presenting the baton in an incident, were similar to the effect of "racking" a pump action shotgun at the assailant.

During a confrontation all the assailant sees is a confident officer dramatically presenting the baton from the low profile closed mode and adopting the defensive "Combat position" with the extended baton held in his weapon hand, its tip resting on his shoulder.

This visual change in the officers stance and posture, combined with the verbalisation techniques taught in training such as instructions to "Get Down" or "Back Away" leave the assailant in no doubt; comply immediately with the officers instructions or risk receiving an ASP strike.

"Use of Force" report returns from ASP equipped staff in the USA and the UK, have illustrated that officers involved in violent incidents frequently present their batons but rarely actually have to strike. So dramatic is the effect upon an assailant of the baton's psychological deterrence.

The training techniques contained within the ASP program are based on instinctive reactions to stress which rely on simple body dynamics rather than superior upper body strength; this ensures that female officers can use the ASP giving them an effective defensive impact instrument for their protection.



The psychological deterrence, successfully combines with the batons rapid striking potential and its counter strike capability. With the ASP, staff have the advantage of short length, concealment and portability, with the addition of extended baton reach which provides a protective space between the officer and the assailant.

Because of this the ASP can be utilised as an impact instrument either in the low profile closed mode or in the deterrent extended high profile mode. The ASP baton is the only one available that can offer staff this dramatic low to high profile range of force options.

With the easily achieved adoption of the ASP into the existing C&R syllabus as a replacement for the stave and the kubotan, the Prison Department would provide an effective defensive instrument for male and female uniformed staff and civilian attired Governor grades.

Finally, the ASP impedes an assailants aggressive actions by using pain and disruption of the assailants attacking delivery system (the arm for example) instead of the receipt of an orthopaedic injury.

All these factors combined with the ASP training package, the obvious benefits in improved staff safety and protection, the measures taken against civil or criminal court liability, reveal the ASP baton as the only realistic viable option using minimum force available to the Department.

## THE ASP TACTICAL BATON

### TARGET AREAS

In America, unlike the UK all police officers carry a personal fire arm in addition to a baton. Accordingly their "Force Protocols" and "Confrontational Continuum" contain a firearms response to any life threatening confrontation.

If an assailant is armed with a knife or a firearm, officers use their firearm to protect themselves. In that particular circumstance they do not rate a baton as an option as the officer has a firearms response built into their force "Confrontational Continuum".

Staff employed within Prisons in the UK, do not have a firearms force option available to them.

ASP have defined the target areas on an assailants body as such:-

Dependant on the particular situation, any area on an assailants body could be conceivably considered as a striking area. Even strikes to the neck or head could be acceptable if the situation is such that the use of lethal force could be justified.

The largest part of the human body is the trunk. Strikes are directed to this region, targeting three zones:-

#### **ZONE 1:- (Primary - 1st choice targets)**

Covers areas where pain would be inflicted resulting in minimal long term injury e.g. calves, thighs, buttocks, ribs, pectorals, shoulder blades, hands, forearms, biceps and triceps.

## **ZONE 2:- (Secondary - 2nd choice targets)**

Covers areas where pain would be inflicted which may possibly result in long term, or permanent disability e.g. joints of the ankles, knees, wrists, elbows, soft body parts, solar plexus etc.

## **ZONE 3:- (Last Resort)**

Covers areas where permanent paralysis or death could occur if struck e.g. The front/rear of the head, neck and a two inch wide band running vertically on either side of the spinal column.

Obviously, Zones 1 and 2 encompass the assailants delivery systems, (the arm and legs). Zone 3 targets are only to be struck in a life or death scenario as a last resort. They are to be excluded as targeting if at all possible.

## THE ASP TACTICAL BATON

### **BODY MECHANICS & BATON OPERATION**

The ASP baton is carried in the closed mode, most importantly with its end tip facing downwards. This ensures when the baton is removed from its scabbard it is in the right position for presentation.

The baton is worn in a scabbard on the weapon side (strong side), or on the opposite hip in a Reaction Side Carry. If the officer carries the baton on his reaction side to present the baton, he removes it from its scabbard with his reaction hand, then transfers the baton across to his weapon hand ready for circumstances to warrant its deployment.

Drawing the ASP from a scabbard worn on the Weapon Side Carry is easy, as the Weapon Hand is used. If using the weapon hand to draw the baton, it could be carried in a pocket or tucked inside the waistband.

The scabbards used to carry the ASP by Police forces in the UK, are manufactured from leather or ballistic nylon weave. They can be opened topped or with a covering flap. Both types incorporate a rear sleeve, so that the racked baton can be placed into the scabbard in the extended position until the officer feels safe enough to collapse the ASP.

ASP also supply a special scabbard devised for the baton called the "Sidebreak Scabbard". This is composed of a hard plastic material that allows the baton to be slightly lifted up, then pushed away from the officers body allowing a quicker draw in a crisis situation.

The baton is held in a full hand grip with the four fingers. It is centred in the hand with equal lengths protruding from each side of the hand.

To operate hold the baton handle and quickly snap the wrist. This action causes racking and the shafts lock in position by friction. The baton is NEVER racked in the direction of an assailant as this would limit the "psychological deterrence" and would be in the vertical plane possibly causing a head strike. All ASP strikes using the racked baton are made at a downward 45 degree angle to maximise the effect of the "Fluid Shock Wave Dynamic".

Alteration of the retaining clip inside the ASP, adjusts the force required for racking the baton. The baton is always closed by collapsing the shafts downwards against a hard unyielding surface, while looking at the complying assailant.

The training package developed by ASP has been deliberately kept as uncomplicated as possible, to ensure that the widest range of students can become proficient in the use of this instrument.

On a linear scale of ability, rated from 1 - 10, ASP recognises that while instructors will rate an 8 or higher, the average officer will register about a 2. Therefore, all training is simplified to encompass the widest range of students, identified as, training the "twos".

All the stances in the programme are based on basic body postures that feel natural, are easily learnt and more importantly remembered by students with abilities rated at the skill levels of the "two's".

Initially, students are instructed how to maintain a protective stance that is well balanced, safe and provides tactical protection for the officer. This is called "establishing your pyramid". It is achieved by maintaining a stance that has a wide base, with a low centre of gravity keeping the head over the centre of the body. This allows the student to move in a safe, balanced way and ensures that an assailant will be kept physically and mentally off balance through out an incident.

The defensive stances incorporated into the training are all developed from the natural posture the body adopts when under threat, stress or fright.

When frightened we are physiologically controlled by the body's unconscious reaction to internal chemical changes, commonly described as the "adrenaline rush" or "the fight or flight response".

When this occurs we adopt a smaller crouched posture, with slightly bent knees and instinctively raise our fists to protect the face and head. These are all basic components of the "Combat Position" taught to students.

The student therefore only has to modify a naturally occurring reaction to enhance his protection factor in a confrontation. The tactical awareness of students is increased by various training drills, scenarios, bag drills and the use of partner practice and role-play.

## THE ASP TACTICAL BATON

### **BATON STRIKES**

The ASP baton training programme contains relatively fewer striking techniques for a student to learn than other comparable baton systems. This is in keeping with the ASP training policy, aiming the tuition at a level achievable by staff at "two's" rating.

Strikes with the ASP baton are taught in both the extended and closed modes. All strikes executed with the baton in the extended mode are done using the last three inches of the extended baton shafts. This ensures the performance of the batons "fluid Shock" potential and limits the chance of an assailant trying to grab hold of the end of the batons shafts.

The strikes in the closed mode utilise the end cap of the baton primarily in a downward fashion. When carrying out one of the strikes in the closed mode the officer positions his thumb over the tip of the baton to prevent accidental baton opening during the strike.

Striking with the baton is always executed in conjunction with "verbalisation" from the officer, directed towards the assailant. Verbal instructions are issued to the assailant such as "Get Back", "Get Away" or "Get Down Now". These are always given in as loud a voice as possible to reinforce the instructions and to illustrate to the assailant that they are not optional. These verbal instructions play an important part in the process of "psychological deterrence" and assist the officer to mentally dominate the incident and illustrate to the assailant that the officer is in charge. There are no "blocks", "take downs", or "come along holds" taught with the ASP, although these are all possible with this baton.

They are excluded from the training programme because for the students rated as "twos" these techniques are normally complicated and extremely difficult to successfully apply when under the effects of stress.

Their application also requires close physical proximity to the assailant, ensuring that the officer loses the protective space provided by the extended baton and increases likelihood of sustaining an injury from any edged weapon used by the assailant. Also in the event of an officer not properly racking the baton, utilising a locking technique could possibly cause the shafts to collapse, an event which would leave a physically smaller officer in a more precarious position.

Strikes are executed while holding the baton in the Weapon hand, either from "The Interview Stance" or "The Combat Position". The following list contains the full range of strikes taught to students in the ASP syllabus:

### **OPEN MODE - baton in the extended position.**

- Weapon Side Strike** - Executed at a 45° downwards angle. Helps to avoid contact with the assailants Zone 3 targets.
- Reaction Side Strike** - A follow through strike which enables the officer to return the baton back to the strong side for another 45° weapon side strike in the event of a missed primary strike.
- Crisis Strike** - An immediate strike from the weapon side while in the Interview stance. The baton is still in the closed mode and is racked straight out instinctively without presentation to increase the protective distance between both parties.

### **CLOSED MODE - Baton used as a kubotan**

- Weapon Side Strike** - The baton is securely held in the weapon side hand striking at a downwards 45° angle on the assailants pectoral region utilising the end cap. The purpose of the strike is to drive the assailant back to create the protective safety zone. The officer positions his thumb over the baton tip to stop accidental baton opening.
- Reaction Side Strike** - A follow through strike as described with the baton in the open mode.

## **Straight Punch**

- The baton is held in the officer's closed fist and delivers a straight punch to the centre of the assailant's trunk. The baton reinforces the fist and the punch creates space for protection and baton extension.

These are all the main strikes contained within the six hour programme given to all students.

To reiterate the ASP company policy including their "Use of Force" and "Force Protocols", after any strike to an assailant, written documentation on the incident and the use of force utilised to terminate the incident must be submitted to the officer's Supervisors.

Tuition is also given in Baton Retention Drills with the baton in closed and open modes, while hand held or in the scabbard.

If at all possible depending on training time constraints students are introduced to a Protective Suit call "Redman". This provides full body protection and is used with training batons when doing knife defence drills.

In my opinion this training element and the drills taught provide the best defence against an assailant armed with an edged weapon, that I have seen to date in either the work place environment or the Martial Arts.

I deliberately do not fully describe the drill here in case this report should be seen by inmates, however when wearing the full "Redman" suit, I could not successfully stab an opponent protecting himself with the ASP baton.

I personally, would rather defend with the ASP instead of a side handled baton, as the ASP drill is instinctive and therefore easier for the "two's" to learn.

I found the deterrent effect of the baton even when attacking in the "Redman" impressive. From the perspective of the assailant the psychological and visual effect of the ASP, even in a drill with a training partner is devastating. The effectiveness of the training impressed me and made me feel confident in my ability to defend myself with an ASP against an assailant.



## THE ASP TACTICAL BATON

### **TRAINING - (Objectives, Testing & Certification)**

Training with the ASP baton as outlined in the training package consists of two separate parts.

#### **1. OFFICER LEVEL - ASP Basic Certification (ABC)**

#### **2. INSTRUCTORS LEVEL - ASP Instructor Certification (AIC)**

If a student successfully completes a course of training at either level they are issued with a certificate of competence, which is registered with the company and with the students employing agency.

Mere attendance at a baton training course does not guarantee a successful pass mark, the student has to attain the required standards in both the written examination and satisfy the instructors that they can competently use the ASP before they can become registered.

The officer level programme is of six hours duration and is outlined below.

This is the same tuition as used by the 15 Police Forces who have adopted the ASP in England and Wales, other forces who originally chose a different baton are now in the process of retaining with the ASP and its training programme.

#### **HOOR 1 - Classroom Tuition.**

History of the baton, baton nomenclature, baton maintenance and the terminology used in training.

#### **HOOR 2 - Classroom Tuition.**

The "Use of Force" and the "Confrontational Continuum".

**HOOR 3 - Gymnasium Training**

Warm up routine, stretching and body mechanics.

**HOOR 4 - Gymnasium Training**

Operation of the ASP baton - consisting of means of carrying the baton, drawing the baton, gripping the baton, the opening drills, baton presentation and the proper method of closing the expanded baton.

**HOOR 5 - Gymnasium Training**

Training drills, learning the "Interview Stance", and the "Combat Position". Power generation, the open and closed mode strikes with the baton, partner practise.

**HOOR 6 - Gymnasium Training**

Learning baton retention drills, how to disarm an assailant, physical skills testing, the written examination, student feedback from the training, issue of certification of competence to successful students.

The objective of the officer level training programme, is to provide the officer with enough knowledge and training experience to be functional with this less than lethal alternative and to be fully conversant with all information relevant to the use of force.

Officers should receive periodic refresher training/re-certification on at least a yearly basis as is the current case with C&R 3 training. The effectiveness of the ASP in use, increases with the amount of practise time a student gets. A common trait when training with all impact type instruments.

Less practise only increases the likelihood that the officer would not be able to utilise the baton properly and could possibly cause unwarranted injury to an assailant or others.

Within the prisons in this country, the majority of staff still respond to acts of violence and concerted indiscipline in the main unarmed. As a result the case for staff to remain proficient in Control a Restraint training and to be properly equipped with a modern defensive instrument is more important now than at any time in the service's history. With the recent increased media interest and public awareness of what the Service actually does, we are in the public view as never before. The benefits of the training can do nothing to harm the professional reputation of staff either in the work environment, or in a court should they have to appear as a result of litigation.

Management at local and headquarters level are only too aware that the cost of staff training is equivalent to the number of hours an officer will be absent from his normal duties and the resultant pressure this factor imposes on prison regimes due to shortages in manpower. Therefore, if the ASP is to be adopted into the service, the most logical means of retraining would be for the National C&R staff to be trained first, a process taking only two days. Consequently, local establishment instructors and C&R coordinators can then be trained by the National staff.

Local instructors once trained, can then train staff at their own establishments to officer level in a period of six hours per man (the equivalent of an E shift), without local management incurring the loss of manpower, the payment of travelling subsistence allowances or disruption of local regimes or operational commitments.

As previously mentioned all training for staff to Instructor level by ASP is free, all the adopting agency has to pay for are the batons themselves. This fact coupled with the equipment's life time guarantee, court defensibility, provision of expert defence witnesses in court actions, increased staff safety and confidence and the possibility of reduced levels of violence, make the adoption of this baton a very viable proposition for the Prison Service.

## PRINCIPALS OF TRAINING

1. Training targets are achievable for students rated at the "twos" level.
2. The training comprises of set formats, line drills, practise wheel drills, circle drills and either "the three minute war" scenario or the use of "Redman" practise for realistic confrontational drills.
3. All the training is based on simplicity, optimising naturally occurring body reactions to stress which the student can utilise in a real situation.
4. The "Pyramid Concept" used as a core theme in training, enables students to recall the training fundamentals after the period of training has ceased.
5. The results of the training have proven themselves to be effective in real situations as attested too by officers from 15 different police forces. This fact is stressed to the students to increase their confidence in themselves, the baton and the training they receive during the programme.
6. The training is by nature dynamic as it consists of learning by "hands on" experience, formats and drills and the practise drills with their partners and the possible inclusion of "Redman" confrontations. The baton strikes deliberately exclude any forgiving techniques by teaching the students to hit hard to nullify an attack and to minimise the assailants actions.

They learn to generate full power in every strike to an assailant to stop a threat in its earliest stages. If one full powered strike can enable them to gain control of the assailant, it limits the total force used, prevents excessive force use and keeps the student within the "Use Of Force" guidelines.

7. The training encourages the use of the reaction hand for defence by parrying and redirection of the assailants forward motion. Counter strikes are incorporated into the defence against an assailant.

No blocks, take-downs or come a long techniques are taught to the students to ensure their safety. These techniques require extraordinary levels of skill especially when in a pressure type scenario. It is also important to note that the use of any of these techniques requires the officer to get physically closer to an assailant which lessens the protective space the extended baton creates for the officer. In all cases this space is paramount, but especially when confronted with an assailant armed with an "edged weapon".

8. Instructors naturally have to give 100% during the sessions to inspire confidence in the baton to the students. The objective for the instructor is to "fire up" the students so they will give their all during the training.
9. The students are taught to disarm rather than to defend (always striking to disarm, not attempting to defend by striking).
10. The instructors must insist on injury free training emphasised by the use of the safety drills, learning to strike using the training batons and the training bags. It is the instructors responsibility to ensure constant student supervision.
11. The ASP training programme gives the student a defense using a Primary technique instead of a Secondary technique. The baton design function and its training programme are devised to enable the student to take out the assailants attacking delivery system in order to achieve control in an incident.
12. The training encourages the student to utilise bridging techniques by moving from one technique to another instinctively, the weapon side strike to the reaction side strike for example. This provides protection for the officer by limiting the assailants chances of counter attacking and increases the officers chances of striking the delivery system.
13. The training is based on progression, one technique leads naturally into another. This is easier for the "twos" to digest mentally and for them to recall when they are put under pressure during the drills and in real life confrontations.
14. The trauma effect caused to an assailant:-

There are two types of trauma caused when the human body is hit by an object, they are categorised as "Crushing Trauma" and "Bouncing or Bounding Trauma".

"Crushing" trauma occurs when a heavy solid object hits a body part resulting in a crushing type injury. This is due to the object dumping its kinetic energy primarily at the site of the point of contact. This usually results in an Orthopaedic injury to the assailant i.e. a fracture of the nearest bone.

"Bouncing or Bounding" trauma occurs when a light weight, fast moving object hits any body part. This results in the baton imparting its kinetic energy at this contact point, however due to the velocity of the ASP and its lighter mass a "Fluid Shock Wave" resonates through the body from that point of contact.

This effects the assailants "Central Nervous System", in particular the local Neural System at the point of contact, causing limb dysfunction similar to the effect of a "dead leg".

The fluid shock wave effect is not negated if the assailant is under the effect of alcohol and or narcotics. The assailants pain threshold may be increased and they might not feel as much discomfort from a strike as when sober, but the strike will still cause limb dysfunction without the necessity of breaking bones to achieve control.

## THE ASP TACTICAL BATON

### CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REPORT

1995 heralded a perilous start for the Prison Service commencing with disturbances at several establishments, followed by a vividly reported escape from a dispersal prison.

As a result a major security review was implemented, which has led to many proposed changes including the introduction of a compulsory drug testing programme for all inmates held in prisons.

The inmate reaction to disciplinary awards as a result of a positive test result is still unknown. What is certain however, is that the culture of drug use within prisons is still increasing regardless of various innovations implemented to curb its growth.

The consequences of drug use within prisons effects everyone, staff and inmates alike. An inmate effected by drug misuse either illegal, or by "cock tailing" on prescribed prison medication, acts and reacts differently to persons around him than he or she normally would.

Personality changes occur, irrational acts seem sensible and tolerance to pain is noticeably increased. These changes pose a difficult dilemma for staff, for if an inmate is irrational and benefiting from the Analgesic effects of drugs, they are not as susceptible to defensive techniques that are reliant on "pain compliance".

Accordingly, any use of an impact instrument like a stave by a member of staff that depends on inflicting "crushing" type Orthopaedic trauma to stop an assailant, will have a correspondingly reduced effect.

It is in situations like these that the ASP baton comes into its own, due to its capability to create the "fluid shock wave dynamic" which works effectively regardless of the pain reducing qualities of certain drugs.

Here at HMP Liverpool from 1991, staff have been involved in several major incidents where extreme violence including the use of "edged weapons" have been used against them.

One particular incident occurred when a lone female Health Care Officer was brutally attacked by an inmate who's sole intention was to perpetrate a sexual type assault. Only the intervention of other members of staff prevented this incidents outcome being more serious.

The other major incidents happened outside the establishment. These involved escort staff who were producing inmates for their court appearances. In both these cases inmates involved used weapons indiscriminately to overcome the escorting staff, enabling them to escape lawful custody.

In the first incident, three members of staff received serious slash type wounds, including one Officer who had his face slashed by a bladed weapon. This injury alone required 50 stitches, and the officer was extremely fortunate not to lose an eye.

Another Officer received a serious slash wound to his forearm that was nine inches in length, that required 18 stitches to close the wound. Other staff involved received injuries including a fractured wrist, a broken arm, torn knee ligaments and a serious back injury. The staff involved in this incident were off work recovering from their injuries, and the ordeal itself for a considerable amount of time.

Two inmates on the coach who did not assist the others in the escape were also assaulted, one had his throat slashed and the other received a suspected fractured jaw for deciding to play no part in the proceedings.

Police at the scene recovered various discarded weapons used in the escape including two home made knives, believed to have been manufactured in the prison prior to the incident. The knives were made from toothbrushes which provided the handle component, into which a "Stanley" blade was embedded and secured in position by wrapping with twine removed from a blanket. All the component parts are commonly available to inmates in every prison establishment.

The second incident happened when 6 staff were escorting 13 inmates, consisting of both Adults and Young offenders. On the return journey as the escort reached a rural area, staff inside the 18 seater civilian minibus were attacked. Staff then fought a "hand to hand" battle with the inmates, until advised to stop as a member of staffs life was being threatened. This staff member was over powered and had been taken hostage by several inmates after being stabbed repeatedly in the face with a white metal spike or pen like object. As the life of a colleague was in danger the staff surrendered.



The staff were then forcibly herded together, were robbed of valuables, assaulted, head butted and punched, finally being handcuffed together with Prison handcuffs. One particular inmate then proceeded to further assault several members of staff with a stave he had commandeered in the melee. The civilian driver was also attacked in the incident. Six inmates escaped from the coach, four of which stopped and hijacked a car from a passing motorist. They then fled the area, only being recaptured several weeks later.

In both incidents some members of staff had the presence of mind and the opportunity to defend themselves with their staves. Unfortunately, they found them to be ineffective and provided no protection against inmates armed with "Edged Weapons".

The ASP training programme is structured into 2 separate levels comprising of Basic and Instructor Certification. ASP basic certification (ABC) requires only 6 hours tuition and ASP Instructor certification (AIC) comprises of a 2 day course. Staff can receive tuition to either level at their own establishments, causing their local management no financial penalty from payment of subsistence or curtailment of local regimes in their absence due to release for training.

The prospective adopting agency do not have to pay for the training programme as it is freely supplied by the company, an offer that no other competing expandable baton company offer as policy. In addition, the batons and all their associated sundry equipment are fully covered by the companies "no quibble" life time guarantee. The company therefore, offers a complete package including training that is financially viable and administratively manageable for any department looking to adopt a more efficient defensive tool to protect its staff.

Training with the baton is centred on the concept of the minimum use of force, emphasising inmate compliance by Psychological Deterrence and application of the batons "Fluid Shock wave Dynamic" to impede an assailants aggression. Included within the training programme is "The Confrontation Continuum", "A Force Protocol", the use of force and proper incident documentation providing the adopting agency with liability insurance cover against any litigation. In all cases of litigation the company provides expert legal defense witnesses for the agency using the baton, its certified training programme and equipment.

The major consideration placed on the training by ASP is its inherent simplicity. All the techniques can be mastered by staff of all ages, sexes, physical builds and physomotor skill levels.

The techniques are easily learnt, understood and are effortlessly remembered even when under stress in an incident. This is because the techniques are based on the natural reactions that occur when the body is put under stress. The

emphasis of the training is the creation of the "protective space" and due to this staff are not instructed in how to use the ASP as a "come along" tool, but solely as a defensive impact instrument.

To provide enhanced protection and to ensure officer safety no complicated holds, restraints or take down techniques are taught. To apply any of the above mentioned techniques would require the officer to sacrifice the "protective space" created by the use of the extended baton.

Officers state the presentation of the baton is normally sufficient to successfully end an incident, rarely do they have to resort to striking an assailant but when they do the baton is always effective.

The recent implementation of legislation such as "The Management of Health And Safety At Work Regulations 1992" which includes job risk assessment, has encouraged many employers and Police Forces to better equip their officers giving them increased protection. The Prison Department is covered by this legislation and steps will have to be taken to better protect its staff.

The range of options for increasing staff protection available to The Prison Department can be divided into the following categories-

1. Firearms Response.
2. Electronic / Electrical Disrupters.
3. Chemical Agents.
4. Mechanical Devices.
5. Baton Options.

At the 1995 P.O.A. Conference several of these options were discussed, they are listed at the end of this report. There are advantages and disadvantages to each of these options.

I personally feel that the firearms option is not a viable one for the Department, even if faced with a major disturbance. This force option is regarded as a last resort even within Agencies like Police Forces. It is extremely costly in terms of training, support and officer recertification.

Within the Police, firearms officers are specialists who receive competency evaluations from a force psychiatrist every three months, and are solely employed on firearms duties within their forces.

Even with the vast availability of firearms in the USA, within American prisons they are mainly employed for perimeter security, as their use within Prison residential units or wings means that only one side of the landing can be used to

contain inmates. The opposite side of the wing is securely fenced off to provide walkways for patrolling armed staff. This immediately results in the establishments management losing half of its holding capacity. This would not be a bonus for any Department with overcrowding difficulties.

There is little support from staff or the public for us to be armed, and after discovering the effects of stress upon an individuals mental, physical faculties and fine motor skills, I would not like to have an armed colleague to my rear with a loaded shotgun in an incident.

Individuals who support the firearms option should be aware that in the USA the majority of officer fatalities, occur when the assailant kills the officer with the Officer's own firearm lost in the melee with the assailant

Staff members armed with a firearm would have individual responsibility for their weapon, its usage in any incident and would be legally accountable for their actions in the Courts at a later date.

To quote an old saying "People cause accidents" and any accident with a firearm is potentially fatal and could kill a member of staff. There is also the associated problem of on site secure storage for the establishments weapons, a major logistical concern for all establishments as the last thing we need are armed inmates, combined with the possibility of hostage taking.

The next category concerns Electronic or Electrical Disrupters, commonly described as "Stun Guns". These include the disrupter in use with the LAPD called the "Taser". These devices control an assailant by imparting a small electrical charge into their body, which effects the assailants Central Nervous System making continued aggressive actions impossible.

The "Taser" is hand held, the size of a small torch, battery powered and when activated fires two small darts into the assailants clothing. The darts are attached to the unit by unbreakable wire traces, through which the electrical current is transmitted to disable the assailant.

The unit was developed to counter the aggressive actions of drug abusers under the effects of PCP, a chemical stimulant originally used to tranquillise racehorses. It has the opposite effect in humans, giving the addict phenomenal strength, resistance to pain and vastly increased endurance levels.

However, it is not infallible and occasionally does not work effectively as demonstrated in the infamous "Rodney King" incident, who continued to fight even after being "Tasered".

Stun guns act in a similar manner, but need to be applied directly to the assailants skin for a period of between 3-5 seconds to be effective. If you can safely apply current for 5 seconds in the first place begs the question, why do you need to use a stun gun? There is no public support for the use of these weapons within our prisons, their only advantage is their small size, low profile and simple training programmes. Trying to defend the use of these weapons in a British Court would be difficult. In the USA there have been cases where assailants have died after been stunned, due to medical complications from heart or circulatory conditions being aggravated by the weapons.

The option of Mechanical Restraints have recently been adopted by many UK police forces with the introduction of 'Quick Cuffs' or 'Speed Cuffs'. These are handcuffs with an extended rigid handle between the bracelets Prisoner control is achieved by applying pressure to a single wrist using one bracelet.

Prisoner compliance is guaranteed as pressure is directed on to the radial or ulna nerves in the assailants forearm. The handcuffs are low profile, easy to use and effective regardless of the officers physical size. However, police equipped with any of the new batons only use the cuffs to restrain an armed assailant after disarming with a baton strike.

When properly applied to both wrists, it is impossible for an assailant to remove them even if they have a hidden copy of a cuff key. As the police carry these cuffs openly, there would be no media or public concern about their issue to prison staff.

The next category are the various Chemical Incapacitants. These are refined natural compounds or manmade chemicals suspended in aerosol form which are sprayed at an assailant. Their inhalation or absorption causes pain, excess production of lachrymal fluids in the mouth and nose and in the case of some sprays temporary blindness.

Different incapacitants available to the Department include Mace, CS and CN sprays and pepper spray (oleoresin Capsicum). Mace, CS and CN sprays are all manmade chemical powders that cause the mucous membranes to swell, produce fluid and make breathing difficult. They primarily rely on pain to disable the opponent

The chemical sprays are used by police and prison staff in the USA, however as they are dry chemical powder agents in suspension they can later cause cross contamination of staff and physical areas like cells. This leads to secondary incapacitation of innocent parties at a later time.

The development and introduction of pepper spray has greatly reduced this problem as the spray is composed of a natural ingredient that is used in catering called Cayenne Pepper. To clarify the position, anyone can take cayenne pepper and throw it into an individual's face causing irritation and burning to the eyes, but without it having too much of an effect. The reason for this is that, catering grade cayenne pepper is very coarse, even though the heat or scoville rating is similar at 1.5 million scoville heat units. The finer the grain the more effective it becomes as a stopping agent in spray form.

The grade of pepper contained in protection sprays is of pharmaceutical grade that is very fine, therefore effective as a stopping agent. The important consideration with pepper spray is that not only does it cause the mucous membranes to dilate, it also causes the tiny capillaries in the eyes to swell and slam shut effecting temporary blindness with no permanent repercussions. This effect lasts 20-30 minutes and therefore does not solely rely on pain compliance to stop an assailant. There are no associated problems with cross contamination or loss of cell space. Additionally, the effects of the spray are considerably magnified in enclosed spaces like a cell or dormitory. The quantities required to stop an assailant are so minute that the ASP company have developed a pepper spray inserted into a standard sized kubotan. They call this product the "O C Defender". Another ASP kubotan called the "P 9 Baton" can be fitted with a magnetic tip to detect metallic contraband when searching prisoners.

In the USA the "P 9 Baton" has been widely adopted in Federal prisons has lessened accidental needle stick injuries when searching inmates. Its use means staff do not have to put their hands into inmates pockets to check for contraband and drugs. The "O C Defender" sells for the princely sum of £12 per item, and is exactly the same size as the kubotan issued to female staff in our Department.

All chemical incapacitants are issued in low profile containers, are very easy to train staff with and are more effective in enclosed environments like cells, corridors, dormitories and offices.

If the Department were to adopt a chemical force option, I would recommend pepper spray as not only does it cause inmate compliance by utilising pain but also temporary blindness. To quote the old saying "what you cannot see you cannot hit" and if an aggressive inmate has been pepper sprayed they cannot physically continue the assault.

Therefore pepper spray is instantly effective, can be used in enclosed locations, does not cross contaminate, causes no lasting injury, is cost effective, only requires a short training course, provides a protective space for staff of up to 12

feet and utilises a dramatic psychological component which deters an aggressive assailant

The only evidence which I have found against the chemical incapacitants is, that in the USA there have been a few cases where sprayed individuals have later died.

Evidence suggests the sprays were not the cause. Respiratory complications developed after the assailants were 'Hog Tied' for transportation into custody. Hog tying is the practise of applying a figure of 4 leg lock, held in place with a strap attached to the handcuff chain with the hands cuffed behind the back. This practise limits breathing and exaggerates respiratory problems.

The reluctance to the issue of "O C pepper" spray seems to originate from the Office of The Home Secretary, who does not want it issued even to Police forces.

Reaction from the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) suggest they would prefer to issue CS sprays contrary to all the available evidence indicating the superior performance of OC pepper spray.

As a Newspaper article contained within this report shows, an inspector in a London training programme was recently hospitalised when a mishap occurred when using CS spray.

As for the problem of cross contamination ACPO advise police forces to transport any CS sprayed individual to the nearest station in the Immediate Response Car (IR) with all its windows fully wound down to enable the increased ventilation to assist in decontamination of the prisoner and the vehicle! This problem would not occur with OC pepper spray, which is why most American forces have adopted its use.

The final force option available to the Prison Department are the various batons, which include the Anderson 24" straight baton adopted by The City of London Police and The Metropolitan Police Force. The PR24 side handled baton including the expandable version and expandable friction lock batons such as the ASP.

The Anderson baton and the PR24 solid baton are good all round defensive instruments, but their length makes them too cumbersome and overtly aggressive to carry on prison landings. The PR24 expandable is smaller, but is more awkward to use and some forces have experienced problems with the baton not extending to its full length when required.



These batons provide excellent 'protective space' for their users, but training to reach competency levels takes two full days per officer, with recertification taking 1 day every year.

There is no court defensibility cover with these batons which is odd, considering they are slow, heavy batons that operate by 'crushing' type trauma.

The recognised PR24 training programme contains 39 separate techniques and several police forces who have adopted its use have later expressed reservations about its effectiveness in real situations especially when defending against a knife attack.

The application of any of these batons restraining techniques also sacrifice the 'protective space' that the baton creates.

These batons are an improvement on the issue stave, but I feel their training programs are too complicated, costly and not fully proven in reality to offer a viable alternative to the weapons staff already have in their possession.

Finally, this leaves us with the option of the expandable friction lock batons on the market such as the ASP, the CASCO and the PPCT. All these instruments are low profile and are easily carried by staff. The CASCO and the PPCT are 'look a likes' based on the ASP design. The CASCO baton is manufactured by 'Counter Assault Systems International Inc.', the American sister company of 'Monadnock' who supply PR24's to the Department at present.

Examples I have seen for Police issue are of inferior quality, obviously a cheap copy of the ASP. I saw one that had never been issued that was rusting inside its container. The training programme I witnessed lasted 2 days and was primarily for the PR24, with the last 45 minutes tuition in respect of the CASCO baton. It was chosen by plain clothes officers on CID duties. There have been unsubstantiated reports of the CASCO batons shafts separating when "racked" in an incident.

The PPCT baton is an interesting concept as it is constructed from "Kevlar", a man made material from the space programme associated with the manufacture of bullet proof clothing. In independent tests against the ASP, the blades of the PPCT baton shattered when striking a solid floor while the ASP remained undamaged. The PPCT reacted badly to environments with high concentrations of salt in the air by becoming brittle, similarly cold and moisture effected it adversely. If during a strike with a PPCT expandable baton the officer missed his target area and inadvertently struck a solid object resulting in the blades shattering, this would amount to a disaster.

Currently ASP holds the international patent rights to their design, and are in the process of suing these companies for product duplication and patent infringement. If they are successful in this country, as they have been in the USA then all CASCO and PPCT batons will have to be surrendered to ASP for destruction.

The best case scenario for any Agency that has already adopted any of these batons is that spare parts will become unobtainable, and when their staff require recertification training they will have to be retrained by the company to ASP standards.

They will then have to be equipped with the ASP baton itself, in anticipation of this action several Police Forces in the UK are now in the process of retraining and equipping their officers with the ASP.

During the compilation of this evaluation report I had the opportunity to speak to Prison and Police Officers about the ASP. I have shown the baton to numerous people who have expressed a keen interest in it and the associated training programme. All have held and disassembled the baton and have expressed wonderment at its simplicity of design. All staff have been impressed with the baton and the most common expression has been "when are we getting it"?

Several members of staff who saw the baton were involved in the previously documented incidents where inmates used "edged weapons" against them. They were of the opinion that if they had the baton in the incidents they would have felt better protected, and that the baton could have made the difference by giving them an advantage that the standard stave did not.

Interestingly all the staff were impressed with the training packages inclusion of the "use of force", the "Confrontational Continuum" and the backing by expert defense witnesses in any litigation in the courts. They felt for the first time someone had considered how, when and why force is used, explained it to them in legal terms and had given them the means to justify their actions to themselves and the courts.

All force options including batons are a compromise as what ever choice is taken has "to be all things to all men", but the ASP is the best choice for the Prison Department at this juncture.

I strongly feel, that the ASP baton should be introduced immediately to replace the issue stave and kubotan. This would give staff increased personal protection in the work place, increased confidence in themselves and the legal backup they deserve against assault and unfounded litigation.



Consideration should also be given by the Department to the introduction of "O C Pepper Spray" and either "Quik-Cuffs" or "Speed-Cuffs". These options all use minimum use of force and are ideally suited to the Prison environment as they are low profile, inconspicuous, inexpensive to train staff with and achieve inmate compliance initially by Psychological Deterrence.

If the Department is not ready to accept the need for a Mechanical or Chemical force option for staff, then it should at least introduce the ASP and its training as the modern alternative to the issue stave and kubotan.

If through the adoption of the ASP package one incident is resolved where a member of staff avoids being assaulted, taken hostage, prematurely retired due to sustaining injury or is killed then this alone will have more than justified the adoption of the baton.

At this time in 1995 staff morale in the Prison Service is at its lowest ebb for a long time and adoption of the ASP would show the Departments concern for its most valuable asset, its members of staff.

All the opinions expressed within this concluding section of the report are my own, and do not reflect Departmental policy either at local or national level.

I sincerely hope this report will result in the issue of the ASP, however if this is not to be, then at least the debate into alternative force options for the Department will have been opened. The staff employed within the 130 Establishments in the Prison Estate deserve that at least.

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