

## ILLINOIS STATE POLICE

### Expandable Baton - Preliminary Evaluation

	<i>Strongly Agree 1</i>	<i>Agree 2</i>	<i>No Opinion 3</i>	<i>Disagree 4</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree 5</i>
1. The low carrying profile of the expandable baton produces a smaller likelihood of antagonizing a citizen or suspect than other impact weapons.	61.5%	38.5%	0%	0%	0%
2. Carrying the expandable baton in the belt ring is more uncomfortable than carrying a conventional straight baton.	19.2%	0%	30.7%	11.5%	38.4%
3. Wrist locks and comealongs are more easily executed with the expandable baton than with a conventional straight baton.	46.1%	27%	23%	3.8%	0%
4. The expandable baton is less versatile than the straight baton.	0%	0%	7.6%	69.2%	27%
5. 12 hours of training is sufficient to properly instruct an officer in how to perform basic techniques with the expandable baton.	27%	46.1%	7.6%	19.2%	0%
6. Officers are more likely to carry the expandable baton on a regular basis than the straight baton.	57.6%	34.6%	3.8%	3.8%	0%
7. The expandable baton is awkward to use.	0%	0%	0%	42.3%	57.7%
8. Techniques utilizing the expandable baton are not effective or adaptable to law enforcement.	0%	3.8%	0%	57.7%	38.5%

#### COMMENTS: General

Easily accessible was the primary comment. (7)

A non-slip grip would be a definite improvement. (6)

12 hours of training should be expanded. (3)

The expandable baton is more convenient than the straight baton because of its size. (2)

The diameter is a little small for grip. (1)

\* \* \* \* \*

*(This information was compiled after the initial training and before the baton was in the field.)*

*(The testers were asked to fill out a Field Evaluation for each tactical situation in which they used the expandable baton and whether or not it was effective. The following are examples of baton usage:)*

Name:  
District: 3  
Time: 2:45 a.m.  
Situation: D.U.I. Processing - The defendant became violent and R/O displayed and expanded the baton. The defendant backed off immediately. Battery and officer retaliation had already occurred with another officer.

**-EFFECTIVE-**

Name:  
Zone: NEMEG  
Time: 6:00 p.m.  
Situation: Building Entry - Officer used the baton closed for building entry. In the same situation, the officer expanded the baton when a large male subject became belligerent. Subject quickly stopped in his tracks when seeing the baton.

**-EFFECTIVE-**

Psychological Deterrent - In this report the officer states that there have been several occasions where quickly expanding the baton at the right moment has stopped problems before they started.

**-EFFECTIVE-**

Name:  
District: 3  
Time: 3:00 p.m.  
Situation: D.U.I. Arrest - While assisting another officer in transporting a passenger (also under arrest), the passenger made several attempts to exit the squad car (both moving and parked). Using the short stick, the R/O agitated the baton across the subject's rib while advising him to sit still. After the subject made no further attempts to exit the vehicle, the R/O made sure the baton stayed in his hand in plain sight. The R/O stated that the short baton proved very useful in the small area of the moving vehicle and that it was easily accessible. He also felt that it was a valuable psychological deterrent.

**-EFFECTIVE-**

Name:  
District: 3  
Time: 11:00 a.m.  
Situation: 10-96 Arrest - A 10-96 subject was resisting and the R/O reports that the baton was not effective. (This is the only statement that Trooper Sykes makes. I tried to reach her to find out the actual circumstances but was unable to. Trooper Sykes does state that she felt comfortable with the baton.)

**-NOT EFFECTIVE-**

Name:  
Zone: Northern Intelligence (NIA)  
Time: 6:50 a.m.  
Situation: Animal Threat - During the arrest of a male subject, the mother of the suspect was unsecured and threatened to allow a large German shepherd to attack the officers. R/O displayed the baton (expanded) and the mother decided to remove the dog.

**-EFFECTIVE-**

Name:  
District: 4  
Time: 9:25 p.m.  
Situation: Fight in Progress - R/O used the expanded baton for a forward jab to break up a fight where the larger of the two parties continued to attack the other.

**-EFFECTIVE-**

Name:  
District: 11  
Time: 11:00 p.m.  
Situation: Street Gang Fight (City of East St. Louis) - R/O dispersed a large group of youths who had been fighting. He expanded the baton when confronting one of the youths but did not have to use it to strike. He states that he also got the attention of the other youths.

**-EFFECTIVE-**

Name:  
District: 3  
Time: 2:00 a.m.  
Situation: Assault - R/O had a violent offender in custody for assault on R/O and disorderly conduct. Subject became belligerent and the baton was used for a take down and proved to be invaluable as the subject would not cooperate until a wrist lock with the baton was placed on him. R/O also commented on the baton being readily accessible when he needed it. He felt this could have kept him from being injured.

**-EFFECTIVE-**

Name:  
District: 4  
Time: 3:15 a.m.  
Situation: D.U.I. Pursuit - R/O used the baton to apprehend and restrain the driver. When he expanded the baton, the driver was intimidated. R/O felt it was a great psychological tool in apprehension and also a good control tool for holding down the subject.

**-EFFECTIVE-**

Name:  
District: 4  
Time: 2:55 p.m.  
Situation: D.U.I. Arrest - R/O used the baton in an arm bar hold and also used a distraction technique. R/O felt that due to the drunkenness of the subject, his size, and position between the guard rail that this technique was not effective. "It still took four officers to handcuff the subject." R/O does state that the baton did keep the subject from any further physical violence and that it was easily accessible when she needed it.

**-EFFECTIVE-**

Name: Unknown  
District: Unknown  
Time: Unknown  
Situation: In a different "comments" section of this evaluation, a Trooper stated that he/she used the expandable baton to clear some broken glass at an accident scene.

**-EFFECTIVE-**

As you can see, even though there are twelve accounted usages of the baton, many R/O's report a deterrent effect where they did not actually use the baton. We have 60 batons in the field for this evaluation. Ten of the reports were by Troopers, and two of the reports were by plainclothes officers. This could be partially due to the fact that 42 of the batons went to Troopers and 18 to plainclothes officers.

The most common comment in whatever situation the baton was used was that it was easily accessible when needed.

# ILLINOIS STATE POLICE

## Expandable Baton - Six Month Evaluation

	<i>Strongly Agree 1</i>	<i>Agree 2</i>	<i>No Opinion 3</i>	<i>Disagree 4</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree 5</i>
1. The low carrying profile of the expandable baton produces a smaller likelihood of antagonizing a citizen or suspect than other impact weapons.	52%	44%	2%	0%	2%
2. Carrying the expandable baton in the belt ring is more uncomfortable than carrying a conventional straight baton.	17%	6%	17%	22%	38%
3. Wrist locks and comealongs are more easily executed with the expandable baton than with a conventional straight baton.	44%	39%	15%	2%	0%
4. The expandable baton is less versatile than the straight baton.	0%	0%	6%	63%	31%
5. 12 hours of training is sufficient to properly instruct an officer in how to perform basic techniques with the expandable baton.	25%	52%	9%	14%	2%
6. Officers are more likely to carry the expandable baton on a regular basis than the straight baton.	69%	25%	2%	2%	2%
7. The expandable baton is awkward to use.	2%	2%	2%	38%	56%
8. Techniques utilizing the expandable baton are not effective or adaptable to law enforcement.	2%	4%	2%	52%	40%

### COMMENTS: General

The expandable baton is easier to carry. (16)

The expandable baton is readily accessible. (16)

The baton is a psychological deterrent. (8)

The night stick is often not carried by the officer. (7)

This item should be carried by all Troopers as standard equipment. (6)

We need more practice. (6)

I like the baton very much and prefer it over the straight baton. (4)

The handle is too slick. (3)

The snap is broken on my case. (2)

\* \* \* \* \*

*(This information was compiled after the baton was in the field for six months.)*

As you can see, the response has essentially remained the same.

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Expandable Baton - Six Month Evaluation

	"Yes"	"No"
1. Do you carry the baton in the case?	88%	12%
* Most officers prefer to carry the baton in its case.		
2. What is the length of the baton? (16" or 21")		
(20 officers responded to the 16", and 27 responded to the 21")		
Plainclothes 16" / Uniform 21"		
Do you prefer this length?	100%	0%
* All officers prefer the length they carry.		
3. Have there been situations where you feel the baton had a deterrent effect and you did not fill out an evaluation form because you did not use the baton?	57%	43%
* See below		
4. Do you think, as a Department, that our officers should carry the expandable baton?	98%	2%
* Self-explanatory		

Question 3 is important in considering the uses of the baton. More than one-half of the evaluators state here that they did not consider this usage. Since it is, it adds greatly to the number of situations that the baton is of value in the field. (Psychological deterrent)

\* \* \* \* \*

(This page was an addition to the six-month evaluation. Hopefully, it can help answer some concerns about how our people feel about the expandable baton. As you can see, the preferences are clear.)

In the "Comments" section of the six-month evaluation, you can see that certain statements, both pro and con, appear regularly.

POSITIVE:

1. The expandable baton is readily accessible.
2. The expandable baton is easy to carry.
3. The expandable baton is a psychological deterrent.

NEGATIVE:

1. We need more practice.
2. The handle is too slick.
3. The case (snap) broke.

I would like to address the three negative comments because the positive ones are self-explanatory.

I believe that the desire for more training is primarily a desire for Defensive Tactics Training rather than specifically Expandable Baton Training. I believe that 12 hours is sufficient to adequately train in the expandable baton if the practitioner has a base in Defensive Tactics. There were many comments on the value of the Defensive Tactics review involved in the training.

In response to the handle, ASP now makes both a 16" and 21" with a foam grip. This makes it less slippery when wet and provides a thicker grip for people with larger hands.

I have corresponded with the manufacturer about the case, primarily the snap. They assure me that they know about this weakness and that it has already been corrected by using a larger snap. I still have some question about the durability of the corfam case for the 21" baton.

In conclusion, it appears that our people prefer the expandable baton. I hope this information will be of value to you. I would be happy to discuss this matter at your convenience.