

**CITY OF MADISON  
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL  
CORRESPONDENCE**

TO: David C. Couper, Chief of Police

FROM: Tony Jarona, Police Officer

SUBJECT: Expandable Baton

DATE: January 13, 1988

In November 1986, I contacted Jim Rohan of US Capitol Police and Mike Nakamura of FBI Training Academy reference the subject of expandable batons. Rohan sent me a copy of his research dated 12/26/85. You read that report and instructed me to look into the feasibility of the use of expandable batons by MPD personnel. Rohan and Nakamura recommended the incorporation of the expandable baton in the police arsenal.

In March 1987, I received RISC training in the use of batons including the expandable baton. I subsequently trained the SPT Unit in the use of expandable batons in April 1987. We were authorized, on an experimental basis, to carry the ASP 616. In October 1987, SPT, Neighborhood Bureau, one detective, two P&BB personnel, two sergeants, two lieutenants and one captain received eight hours of comprehensive training in the use of the ASP expandable baton. The instructors were Tim Powers and Randy Revling. Different models were used by each officer, and they subsequently chose the model they felt best suited them. The models were ASP 616, 821, and 926. Those officers carried the model of their choice from October 1987 to date. They evaluated the ASP expandable batons in a written survey in January 1988. I am submitting those survey results and recommendations in this report:

EQUIPMENT DESCRIPTION

ASP Expandable Baton, Model #:

616 - 6" foam-padded handle with a 16" expandable baton  
821 - 8" textured metal handle with a 21" expandable baton  
926 - 9" foam-padded handle with a 26" expandable baton

Some blades are chrome metal and some are flat black. The baton is carried in a collapsed condition. The blade is a telescoping metal tube which can be collapsed into the handle. It is expanded by a snapping action of the wrist and elbow. The blade expands in a telescoping action, each section being locked in place by a "dead lock" action due to the tapered design of the tubes. To collapse the baton you strike the tip of the blade on a solid surface, thus breaking the deadlock and collapsing the blade.

SURVEY RESULTS

Fourteen of 20 surveys were returned - a 70% return.  
Results are as follows:

No. of Officers who carried ASP Model #

7	616
4	821
3	926

<u>Model Preferred by # of Officers</u>	<u>Percentage**</u>
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616	4	29%
821	9	64%
926	3	21%

\*\* Percentage of 14 surveys returned. Two respondents indicated two preferences depending on plain clothes or uniform duty.

Results indicate that 43% of officers would change from the 616 to 821.

<u>Foam Padded Handle</u>	<u>Textured Metal Handle</u>	<u>No Preference</u>
13	1	0
<u>Chrome Blade</u>	<u>Black Blade</u>	<u>No Preference</u>
5	5	5

#### EMPLOYEE COMMENTS

##### Advantages

- You have it with you all the time, if you need it, you have it. It's compact and easy to carry
- Less obtrusive, harder to misplace
- Better command presence when extending it under threatening conditions/ease of carry
- More easily carried/does not interfere with normal activities
- Much more convenient to carry, less visible to the public, greater psychological value when extended
- Ease of carry/available at all times
- Easier to carry/better concealment
- Easier to walk with, lighter to carry on your person at all times

##### Disadvantages

- May collapse with forward thrust
- Must get closer to subject
- Difficult to collapse/may collapse if not locked before use
- Burns poorly in fireplace
- Heavier
- Less reach
- More difficult to put away

##### Advantages

##### Disadvantages

- Easy to carry/easy to conceal/not in the way
- More compact/easier to carry/will not be left in car/can be held in hand ready for use while collapsed
- Easy to carry, won't forget in the car, definite psychological effect
- Convenient/low profile/out of the way

#### OTHER COMMENTS

- I recommend that officers have a choice of which baton they want to carry. I like the expandable baton. I haven't had to use it yet.
- I believe the expandable baton is superior to the 26" wood baton for all aspects of police work, with the exception of riot control. I believe it's imperative that plainclothes personnel be issued an intermediate weapon between physical force and deadly force.
- I strongly recommend that the expandable baton be authorized for all Department personnel.
- I love my ASP.
- I really prefer it.
- I like it very much. I feel confident in using it. I believe I've gained proficiency in the short time I've carried it. I wouldn't hesitate to use it now. Because of the hassle in carrying wood batons we have officers resorting to physical contact with greater possibility of injuries.
- I feel the baton is a real asset especially for plainclothes personnel. It adds another alternative in situations involving escalating force.

One officer related that on three occasions he was confronted by threatening suspects, when alone. In each case the suspects backed off when officer engaged the expandable baton into action. To quote, "The suspects' focus shifted to the baton and they lost confidence in the position they had taken."

#### SUMMARY

The majority of officers indicated preference for the ASP 821 with the foam padded handle. Officers were evenly divided on the issue of the blade type. Tactically, chrome or black blade types have no specific advantages or disadvantages over one another, cost is not a factor. All officers involved were able to use all models during training. Some people who at first opted for the 616 model indicated they'd switch to the 821. Some officers indicated they'd like both Models 616 or 821 depending on the type of assignment. The 616 seemed better suited for plainclothes duty while 821 seemed better for uniformed duty. All officers who initially chose the Model 926 would elect to stay with that model.

A review of comments submitted by individual officers reflects an overwhelming support for the use of the expandable baton by both plainclothes and uniform officers. The number of advantages cited far outweigh the number of disadvantages. The disadvantages cited are not

enough of a major concern as to justify not adopting the expandable baton. The advantages listed are pretty standard in comparison to findings in other research done in the past by other departments. The batons have proven to be advantageous to our officers in ease of carry, concealability, convenience, more positive psychological effect, as was related by one officer account of three threatening encounters in which the baton was engaged into action, and potential physical involvement was thwarted by the mere presence of the expandable baton. One other major point reflected in the surveys is that officers will carry the expandable batons at all times, guaranteeing the ability to use a level of force between active countermeasures and deadly force when that level of force is needed. This prevents the possibility of officers using too little force, thus exposing them to unnecessary injury or using too much force exposing the citizen to unnecessary injury and eliciting excessive force complaints.

Attached is a three-page synopsis describing the history, advantages, and effectiveness of the expandable baton as submitted by ARMAMENT SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURES, INC, TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION SECTION, Box 1794, Appleton, Wisconsin, (414) 735-6242. I think this report verifies the claims made in that statement.

### COST

ASP Expandable Baton, Model #616	-	\$30 each
#821	-	\$35 each
#926	-	\$40 each

Leather holders for Models 616 and 821 are \$15.00. Holders for the 926 are \$20.00 each. Schenk-Huegel is the only local distributor for ARMAMENT SYSTEMS, INC.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Survey results reflect strong support for the use of the expandable baton. Many officers felt that the option of carrying different models would be the most reasonable. Considering the great diversity in job assignments and personnel on the MPD, that seems to be a viable recommendation. Therefore, it is recommended that the ASP Models 616, 821 and 926 expandable batons be authorized for MPD personnel. The foam-padded handles are preferred. Blade type is not of major concern. Neither blade style or handle style affects cost. It has been suggested that officers be allowed to buy expandable batons and holders through the uniform allowance. Training needs are the same for 26" wood batons and expandable batons, so that poses no problem.

TONY JARONA, Police Officer  
SPT

TJ:alp

attachment

## EXPANDABLE BATON SURVEY

1. What model are you using? *(Please circle)*      616      821      926
  
2. How long have you had the expandable baton you carry? \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. Was the training adequate?      Yes      No      *(If no, please explain:)*
  
4. What advantages does the expandable baton have as compared to the 26" wood baton currently used?
  
5. What disadvantages does the expandable baton have as compared to the 26" wood baton?
  
6. Based on the above observations, which do you prefer? *(Please circle)*  

26" Wood Baton	16" Expandable Baton (Model 616)
21" Expandable Baton (Model 821)	26" Expandable Baton (Model 926)
  
7. Which grip style do you prefer? *(Circle one)*  

Foam Padded	Texturized Metal
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8. Which blade type do you prefer? *(Circle one)*  

Chrome	Black
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9. Additional Comments:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ *(Optional)*