

MEMORANDUM

OREGON STATE POLICE

TO: Captain K. E. Chambers
FROM: Patrick B. Gregg, Sergeant
SUBJECT: EXPANDABLE BATON SURVEY

DATE: May 15, 1990

The following are the results of the ASP expandable baton survey.

The study was conducted over a period of four months from January 1990 through April 1990.

As you know, I obtained 30 of the expandable batons from ASP, Inc. The batons represented the following models:

<u>Model</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Handle</u>	<u>Shaft Finish</u>
F-16B	16	Foam	Black
F-16C	16	Foam	Chrome
F-21B	21	Foam	Black
F-21C	21	Foam	Chrome
F-26B	26	Foam	Black
F-26C	26	Foam	Chrome

The batons were issued to the defensive tactics instructors. They were instructed to try the different models and complete a prepared evaluation form (see attached Form 1-A) at the completion of this study.

The defensive tactics instructors were requested to demonstrate the baton and its use during the district defensive tactics classes. Members were then encouraged to use the ASP baton on the heavy bags. At the conclusion of the class, members were requested to fill out a prepared survey form (see attached Form 1-B). The results of this survey indicate an overwhelming acceptance of the expandable baton.

A total of 447 survey forms were submitted. I have tabulated the results of this survey by bureau.

Instructors were requested to fill out a more in depth survey form. During the study they were requested to carry at least the 21" and 26" batons while on patrol and evaluate them. The results of this survey have been tabulated separately.

PBG/ks

cc: Bureau Commanders

**OREGON STATE POLICE
PATROL BUREAU**

(260 Members Responding)

EXPANDABLE BATON - PRELIMINARY EVALUATION

	<i>% Strongly Agree</i>	<i>% Agree</i>	<i>% No Opinion</i>	<i>% Disagree</i>	<i>% Strongly Disagree</i>
1. The expandable baton is easily snapped into the extended position for use.	76.5	20	1.1	1.9	.3
2. The expandable baton appears balanced and when extended is effective when striking the bag.	82.6	15.3	.7	.7	.3
3. The grip on the expandable baton appears to be adequate.	73.8	20.7	2.6	1.9	.7
4. Carrying the expandable baton on the duty belt in the baton case would be preferable to carrying the present issue equipment.	79.6	13	4.2	2.6	.3
5. Members would be more likely to carry the expandable baton on a regular basis than the straight baton.	80.7	13	3.4	1.1	1.5
6. The expandable baton would be less versatile and less effective than the present issue baton.	1.5	1.5	4.6	19.6	72.6

260 members responded

98.6% prefer the expandable baton over the present issue. Almost all preferred the 26".

**OREGON STATE POLICE
GAME BUREAU**

(69 Members Responding)

EXPANDABLE BATON - PRELIMINARY EVALUATION

	<i>% Strongly Agree</i>	<i>% Agree</i>	<i>% No Opinion</i>	<i>% Disagree</i>	<i>% Strongly Disagree</i>
1. The expandable baton is easily snapped into the extended position for use.	63.7	36.2			
2. The expandable baton appears balanced and when extended is effective when striking the bag.	65.2	26	8.6		
3. The grip on the expandable baton appears to be adequate.	57.9	36.2	4.3	1.4	
4. Carrying the expandable baton on the duty belt in the baton case would be preferable to carrying the present issue equipment.	84	10.1	4.3	1.4	
5. Members would be more likely to carry the expandable baton on a regular basis than the straight baton.	71	26	1.4	1.4	
6. The expandable baton would be less versatile and less effective than the present issue baton.			10.1	31.8	57.9

69 members responded

95.6% prefer the expandable baton over the present issue. Almost all preferred the 26".

**OREGON STATE POLICE
CRIMINAL BUREAU**

(85 Members Responding)

EXPANDABLE BATON - PRELIMINARY EVALUATION

	<i>% Strongly Agree</i>	<i>% Agree</i>	<i>% No Opinion</i>	<i>% Disagree</i>	<i>% Strongly Disagree</i>
1. The expandable baton is easily snapped into the extended position for use.	76.4	21.1	1.1	1.1	
2. The expandable baton appears balanced and when extended is effective when striking the bag.	84.7	12.9	2.3		
3. The grip on the expandable baton appears to be adequate.	67.0	29.4	1.1	1.1	
4. Carrying the expandable baton on the duty belt in the baton case would be preferable to carrying the present issue equipment.	82.3	10.5	4.7	1.1	1.1
5. Members would be more likely to carry the expandable baton on a regular basis than the straight baton.	81.1	15.2	2.3	1.1	
6. The expandable baton would be less versatile and less effective than the present issue baton.		1.1	4.7	28.2	65.8

85 members responded

100% preferred the expandable baton over the present issue. Almost all preferred the 26".

**OREGON STATE POLICE
OTHER**

(12 Members Responding)

EXPANDABLE BATON - PRELIMINARY EVALUATION

	<i>% Strongly Agree</i>	<i>% Agree</i>	<i>% No Opinion</i>	<i>% Disagree</i>	<i>% Strongly Disagree</i>
1. The expandable baton is easily snapped into the extended position for use.	75	25			
2. The expandable baton appears balanced and when extended is effective when striking the bag.	91.6	8.3			
3. The grip on the expandable baton appears to be adequate.	58.3	41.6			
4. Carrying the expandable baton on the duty belt in the baton case would be preferable to carrying the present issue equipment.	83.3	16.6			
5. Members would be more likely to carry the expandable baton on a regular basis than the straight baton.	66.6	33.3			
6. The expandable baton would be less versatile and less effective than the present issue baton.				41.5	58.3

12 members responded

100% preferred the expandable baton over the present issue. Almost all preferred the 26".

FAVORABLE COMMENTS (Field Force)

Although one more item on the belt, it would at least not be hanging down and dangerously be hanging up on parts of the patrol car.

The expandable baton is always available.

The expandable baton is easier to hold and run with.

The expandable baton is less cumbersome and would be more likely to be carried.

The expandable baton would be good for raids as we don't carry the standard baton now.

Highly concealable for criminal members.

When snapped into position it has the effect of loading a shotgun. Very good psychological effect.

SUGGESTIONS - CRITICISMS (Field Force)

The greatest criticism of the ASP equipment was not the baton, but the baton belt case.

Several members felt that the carrying case could be improved if it were sewn instead of snapped. This would reduce the chances of the baton and case accidentally coming unsnapped and falling off the duty belt.

It was also suggested by several members that the baton case have a hole in the bottom of it. This would enable the baton to be stored in the extended position if needs dictate. The present design of the case requires that the baton be collapsed when carried.

**OREGON STATE POLICE
DEFENSIVE TACTICS INSTRUCTORS**

(21 Members Responding)

EXPANDABLE BATON SURVEY

	<i>% Strongly Agree</i>	<i>% Agree</i>	<i>% No Opinion</i>	<i>% Disagree</i>	<i>% Strongly Disagree</i>
1. The low carrying profile of the expandable baton produces a smaller likelihood of antagonizing a citizen or suspect than other impact weapons.	71.4	23.5		4.7	
2. Carrying the expandable baton on the belt is more comfortable than carrying the conventional straight baton.	85.7	9.5	4.7		
3. The expandable baton is easily snapped into position and easily accessible.	85.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	
4. The expandable baton is a well balanced, affective impact weapon.	80.9	14.2		4.7	
5. Which model were you using?	(16") 2		(21") 4		(26") 14
6. Was the training adequate?	85.7 (Yes)	14.2 (No)			

7. ADVANTAGES - FAVORABLE COMMENTS

- a. The expandable baton is more comfortable to wear in a vehicle and does not snag on the seatbelt when exiting the vehicle. When running, the expandable baton does not get in the way.
- b. The expandable baton is concealable and much more comfortable to carry.
- c. It is always carried and available. It presents a very low profile on the belt and is very comfortable to wear. The baton presents a psychological impact when deployed.
- d. Availability - ease of carrying - not cumbersome.
- e. The expandable baton is more comfortable, it is always there when needed and is a strong deterrent when expanded.
- f. When running it remains firmly in place. When carried in the low profile position, suspects never recognized the object in my hand as a baton (ready for use).
- g. It will always be with the officer and not left in the car.
- h. The baton is always with you.
- i. The expandable baton is comfortable, easy to carry, an effective deterrent, more accurate and better balanced for striking.
- j. The expandable baton is a refined and balanced weapon making the current issue baton appear crude by comparison. The expandable baton, I have found, is swifter on the strike and repeat strikes as well as having considerable more force as the power is delivered by steel over a smaller surface area.

The expandable baton has a two-fold psychological factor. It is less antagonizing when on the belt and more clandestine than the current issue baton, when in situations like bar calls or other crowd psychology situations.

Contrary to current policy, the expandable baton can be carried into Court without visually violating Court protocol.

Carrying an expandable on duty, in a patrol unit, is like not wearing a baton at all, simply stated. Many members who are notorious for not carrying their batons have stated they would not be without this weapon.

The baton, once expanded, is formidable looking, as well as possibly causing an aggressor to pause and evaluate exactly what it is that he is up against.

Running with the expandable baton is like carrying same in a patrol unit. It is like it is not even there. It does not get in the way with a swinging action, impede your ability to run, and foremost does not rotate and fall out of the ring.

One member made the mistake of attempting to take the baton away from writer. Due to the expandable baton's slick and narrow diameter surface, a swift pull immediately returned writer's control of the baton and brought considerable pain to the

member's hands.

- k. The expandable baton is much easier carried and does not come free when pursuing someone on foot or taking someone into custody.
- l. Due to the ease in carrying the baton, I believe there would be compliance from all divisions.
- m. It is smaller in size and much easier to carry.
- n. Very easily carried.
- o. Compact nature of the baton. Very easily carried, especially under jackets, does not bang the floor/ground when kneeling, useful for left-handed persons to get out of a vehicle. In dealing with crowd control, would not present a visible "weapon" to unruly persons.
- p. No sign of deterioration of the mechanics of the baton. Despite use by persons with no training in retracting the baton, no sign of damage was observed.
- q. The audio affect of the baton being extended is an unmistakable sound that the officer means business, and may be helpful in de-escalating a would-be confrontation.
- r. Useful for officers who are moving around (i.e., Game officers), boats, equipment or rough terrain, with the ability to remain silent.
- s. The baton stays in one place when running. It does not bounce, swing against the leg or fall out of the holster.
- t. I would recommend the 26" baton over the 21", as the longer baton is what most officers have become accustomed to using.
- u. The expandable baton is easily concealed.
- v. The expandable baton is applicable to close-in techniques.
- w. The foam handle on the expandable baton provides for a better grip.
- x. The expansion of the baton has a psychological effect on an adversary.
- y. The expandable baton has many positive aspects. It is concealable, easy to carry, extend and use, would require minimal training to adapt, is an excellent impact weapon and when closed and used in a manner similar to that of a kubaton for jabs/thrusts/pressure control, would provide an impact weapon that all members could carry regardless of bureau. Appears less threatening until extended, which is advantageous for public image, but also from the perspective of holding it in a closed position while dealing with potentially volatile situations; would undoubtedly be more durable than the present issue baton; seems as if it would be better able to incapacitate a limb temporarily, with no more damage than the present issue; is much more comfortable to wear in the patrol car, is easily maintained, and is easier to run with.

8. DISADVANTAGES - UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS

- a. The only disadvantage is having to collapse the baton and put it away in a hurry.
- b. Once the baton has been extended, it is not easily put away.
- c. The cost to change over.
- d. After repeatedly opening and closing the baton over the test period, the chrome finish near the handle grip started to peel.
- e. The holder should be sewn and not snapped and the holder should have a hole in the bottom to accommodate the expanded stick.
- f. The baton is difficult to get to when wearing the heavy jacket.
- g. The short grip strikes are impractical with the expandable baton.
- h. The expandable baton is not as easily drawn and not a visible deterrent until snapped into position.
- i. It is not as effective as the present issue for thrusting techniques.
- j. The chrome plating tends to flake off.
- k. My only real concern with the expandable baton is that once it is extended, it may become a hindrance if dealing with multiple suspects in a situation that wouldn't allow time to collapse and return the baton to it's holster. This could easily be addressed by putting a small nightstick ring on the duty belt similar to the one used for the present issue baton. Another option would be to cut a hole in the bottom of the holster and reinforce the leather bottom with a washer. Either alternative would provide quick and efficient means of securing the baton in an expanded position.

9. Which blade did you prefer?

Chrome - 80.9%

Black - 19%

10. Based on your observations, which do you prefer?

26"	Present Issue	-	9.5%
21"	Expandable	-	4.7%
26"	Expandable	-	85.7%
16"	Expandable	-	0

TOTAL THAT PREFERRED THE EXPANDABLE BATON: 90.4%

COMMENTS

1. I am very impressed with the expandable baton. I feel more Troops would wear the new baton due to comfort and it does not interfere with your movements. I think the expandable baton gives the Trooper a psychological advantage.
2. Impact tests reveal that the expandable baton is just as effective as our present issue. All supervisors I have talked with thought the expandable baton is badly needed to upgrade our equipment.
3. The impact weapon is easily carried and always with you. It is easier to run with and once deployed, strikes can be delivered faster and harder.
4. Very effective and should be issued to the Department.
5. I would like to see this piece of equipment adopted for immediate use. When holstered or carried low profile, the public is not threatened by an offensive club.
6. Good tool, should be purchased as soon as possible. I think the expandable baton would be used more than the present issue because it wouldn't be left in the car.
7. I would prefer the holder to be made a little shorter for easier access. Also, the holder needs to be sewn instead of snapped, with a hole in the bottom for securing the baton after use.
8. The expandable is a poor substitute and it will be discovered down the road when no more guys are carrying it, than they are carrying the present issue. For a like amount and a small amount of additional training, the PR-24 could be put into use.

SUMMARY

The ASP Baton was found to be a quality enforcement tool by most of the instructors and overwhelmingly accepted by both instructors and members participating in the survey.

Defects in the ASP baton that were noted over the course of the study were limited and are listed below:

1. The chrome plating on the blade of three of the F-26C ASP Batons started flaking off.
2. The instructors experienced a problem with the snaps on the carrying cases. In general, they felt that the snaps were inadequate and that the carrying cases should be sewn.
3. A detriment to the ASP expandable baton is that once expanded, it is necessary to collapse to return it to the belt case. Numerous members who participated in the survey felt that if the carrying case had a hole in the bottom of it, this problem would be alleviated.

Over the four month test period, the ASP Baton was used to subdue one person. (See attached report by Trooper Carl Rhodes.) This encounter occurred outside of Madras to Trooper Carl Rhodes. Trooper Rhodes reflected that he found the ASP Baton to be a very effective enforcement tool.

On another occasion, the ASP Baton was snapped into position and the member involved in this incident (See attached report by Senior Trooper Rutledge) reflected that the mere presenting of the baton eliminated any further confrontation.