

# ASP Batons

by Tony Lesce

Chemical sprays, even the very successful Cap-Stun, don't always work, as we've seen before. Stun guns also have occasional failures. When a violent inmate threatens the safety of officers and other inmates and it's impossible to control him with an aerosol or stun gun, it's a "baton day."



*This ASP 125™ Baton is a modern plastic version of the traditional 26" straight baton. This solid baton is 1.25" in diameter, weighs 18 ounces and comes with a plain or foam grip. A quick-draw belt carrier snaps on or off.*

There are today many types of batons, ranging from small sticks to larger batons, collapsible batons and side handle batons. Side handle batons are gimmicky and superficially attractive but take a lot of training to learn to use proficiently. Straight batons are easier to use, and advanced tactics are always available for those who are interested enough to put in the time and effort.

Collapsible batons are especially useful in a correctional setting. These fit easily into small belt holders or pockets, making it easy for an officer always to have one handy in case of need. The best brand of collapsible batons is ASP, and these have gained acceptance among many state, local and federal police agencies.



*This baton, Model F21, has a foam grip, is 8" collapsed, and extends to 21" with a flick of the wrist.*



*This Model F26 is 9" collapsed and 26" long deployed, allowing a lot of reach and momentum in use.*

The collapsible baton is particularly important because of the confined spaces within the walls. ASP batons come in various sizes, ranging from small pocket size units to larger "riot control" batons that are too long to fit in most pockets, even collapsed.

Batons are suitable for swinging blows against the arms, legs and joints. A baton also provides the extra reach needed for defense against an inmate using an edged weapon. When confronting an armed inmate, the baton allows more severe measures, such as strikes against the wrists, elbows and knees or even the neck and head if nothing else works. A blow to the head can easily result in a fracture, as will a neck strike. As a last resort, an officer can use the baton in a grip against the throat, crushing the windpipe.

A larger baton sometimes becomes necessary, especially during a disorder. A baton of the ASP type is somewhat more versatile than others because of the knob at the end, which is useful for spot impacts while the officer can strike with the shaft of the baton for broader impact areas. The difference in effect is that a spot impact focuses the blow on a small area less than an inch square and can easily break bone. Using the side of the baton spreads the force over a wider area for a more diffuse effect less likely to leave marks. ASP batons are available from Armament Systems and Procedures, INC.