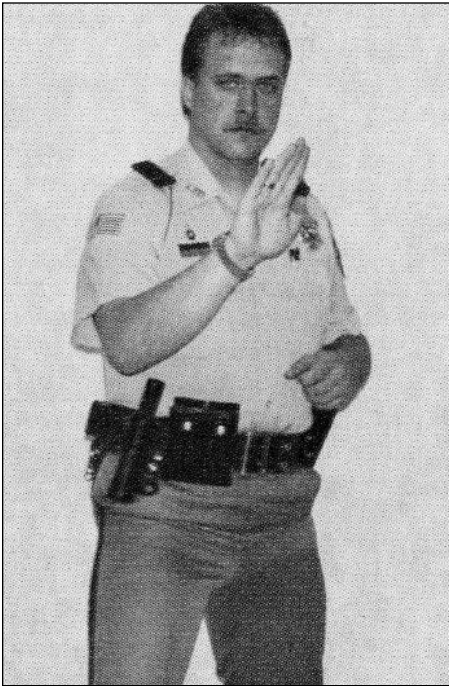
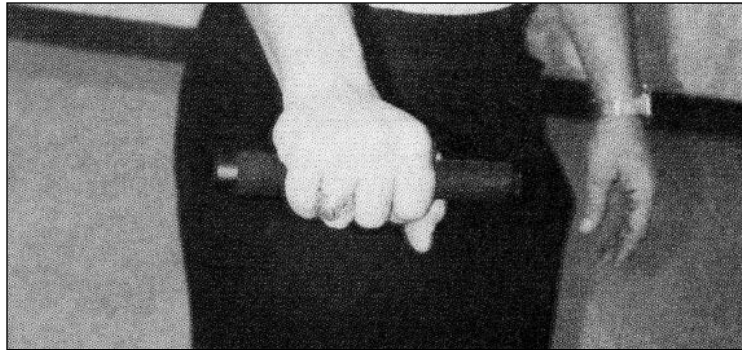


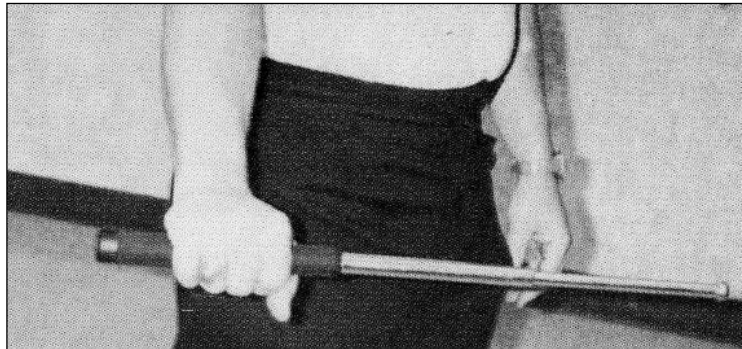
THE *ASP* TACTICAL BATON



^ 1a. Basic field interview stance.



< 2a. Baton in the close mode.



< 2b. Baton in the open mode.

By, Tim White and Derek Burleson

PART 1

Picture in your mind the following incident which many Police Officers face every day of the week. A one man patrol responds to a day time neighborhood disturbance. Upon arrival, a male subject, 6 foot 2", 225 lbs., steps out of his house as the officer approaches. The officer, in a polite voice, asks the subject to calm down and discuss the matter in a rational manner. The subject starts getting upset and demands to know if he will be arrested. Again, the officer asks the subject to back off and calm down. The subject refuses. At this time the officer removes his expandable baton from his belt, and now orders the subject to back down. The subject still refuses. The officer, now contemplating a confrontation, expands the baton with lightning speed, causing the baton to lock-out with the sound of a shotgun loading a round in the chamber. The

subject stops in his tracks and replies, "Hey, I don't want any trouble." The officer has quelled the individual and kept the situation from getting out of hand, therefore, minimizing his need to escalate to a higher level of force to control the situation. This is just one of the incidents that we in Law Enforcement face every day.

The ASP Tactical Baton was made just for that particular type of day to day operation for today's Police Officers, who serves and protects our homes and loved ones.

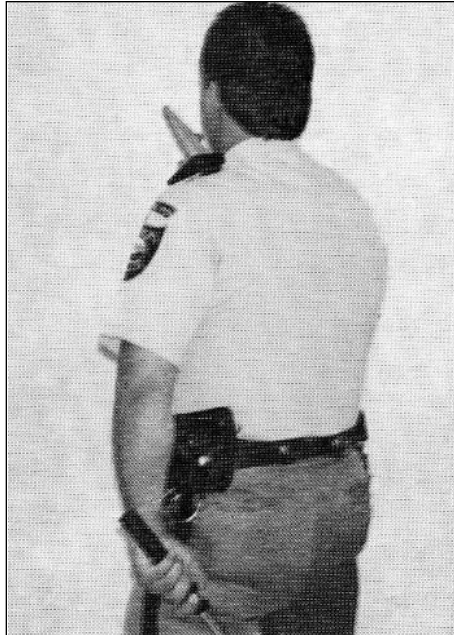
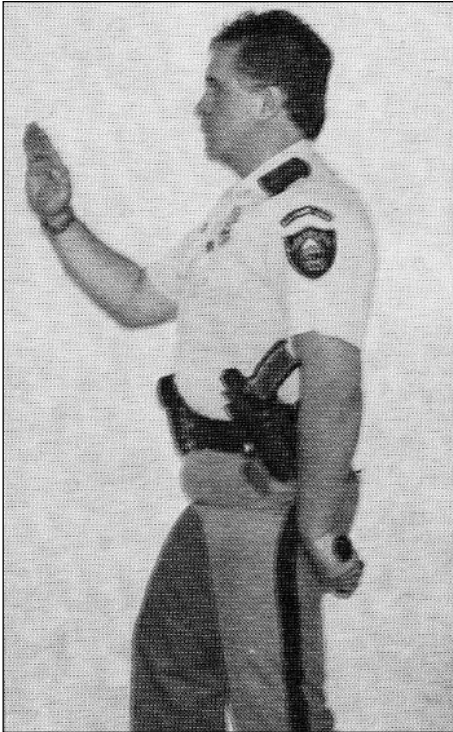
Part one of this series is to introduce the Confrontational Continuum, the techniques with the ASP baton, and describe some of the basic parts of its training. Part two of this series will describe the elements in escalating to higher levels of force and simulation training.

The ASP Tactical Baton is made of a space age steel. Its method of opening and closing is based on centrifugal force. At the flick of the wrist, one of the most versatile batons in law

enforcement today appears. It gives the officer a low profile approach to incidents, which may or may not get out of hand. This will also give him the element of surprise when the time comes to confront a violent offender. Once the baton is locked out, most offenders stop dead in their tracks, uncertain of what to expect. There are many factors which play a role in deterring an incident, such as, a good command presence, and a good command voice. One point to remember while reading this article is, training for the ASP Baton is more of a Use of Force procedure, than using the baton itself. The basis for the ASP Tactical Baton is set in the Confrontational Continuum, and it is the primary reason the baton has become so successful in the past few years.

The Confrontational Continuum provides the basics in evaluating the need for escalating to a higher level of force to control the situation.

These principles are not new, but sometimes are forgotten in the heat of



^ 3b. Baton in the open mode ready position.

< 3a. Baton in the close mode ready position.

battle, so to speak.

Let's first discuss how the Confrontational Continuum is set up. The first level is that of the Presence of The Officer. He has a good appearance and has a good command voice. This means that he looks in good physical condition, has a neat and professional appearance, and he speaks with authority. This becomes more evident when a possible confrontation is likely.

The next level of force would be unarmed defense techniques. These start from the simplest escort position, to pain compliance, then to restraint techniques. At its highest level, stun techniques, such as kick, punches and throws are evident. In most cases the buck stops here for many officers. However, when it comes to larger populated areas the situations change. The way the situations are handled change, and the method and tactics change. This is where the next two levels of force take their toll.

The third level of force in the Confrontational Continuum is that of Intermediate Use of Force. Personally, I like to divide this area into primary and secondary components. Primary Intermediate Use of Force is that of an

impact weapon, whether it be a PR-24, ASP Tactical Baton, or a regular Straight Baton, etc. Secondary Intermediate Use of Force is that of restraint devices, chemical weapons, such as Cap Stun and Mace.

The last level of force on the Confrontational Continuum is none other than that of Deadly Force, or a firearm.

The use of force procedural training of the ASP Tactical Baton was so impressive that the baton was adopted by the DEA, FBI, US Secret Service and the US Coast Guard.

The first part of ASP training is to develop a stance which can be maintained at all times. One that will give stability and quick maneuvering ability. We call this the Pyramid Stance. It is also known as the Field Interview Stance. (Photo #1-A). The officer faces forward and is slightly bladed towards the subject. The officer will maintain a wide and deep base, lower his center and keep his head over his center, such as the design of the pyramid.

To determine which side is forward, we need to know that each one of us has a dominate side and a non-dominate

side. The non-dominate side will be referred to as the Reaction side. This side of the officer is used for blocking, gaining distance and decentralizing the subject. The strong side will be referred to as the Weapon side. This side is where the officer normally wears his service firearm.

All strikes with the ASP Tactical Baton are done at a 45 degree angle or straight in. This is represented by the ASP LOGO worn by many ASP Instructors and Certified Officers.

Strikes coming from the weapons side of the body are called "Weapon Strikes." Strikes coming from the reaction side of the body are called "Reaction Strikes," and Straight Strikes are self-explanatory.

There are two positions and two modes for the ASP Tactical Baton, and they are explained as follows. The ready position is a position whereby the baton is placed behind the thigh, just below the buttocks and out of sight. The Loaded Position is a position where the baton is up and ready for action, and it presents a threat to the subject. The modes for the baton are the Open or Closed. The Closed mode is the baton in the collapsed state, and is used in low threat situations that may get out of hand quickly, but gives the officer a low profile. The Open mode is the baton in the expanded or extended state, and gives the presence that the officer is ready for a confrontation, or that a confrontation is eminent, (see Photo 2a, 2b, 3a, 3b, 4a, 4b). All the strikes for the baton can be done from any position, or any mode.

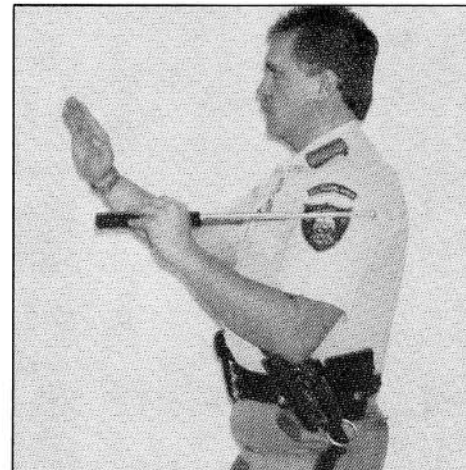
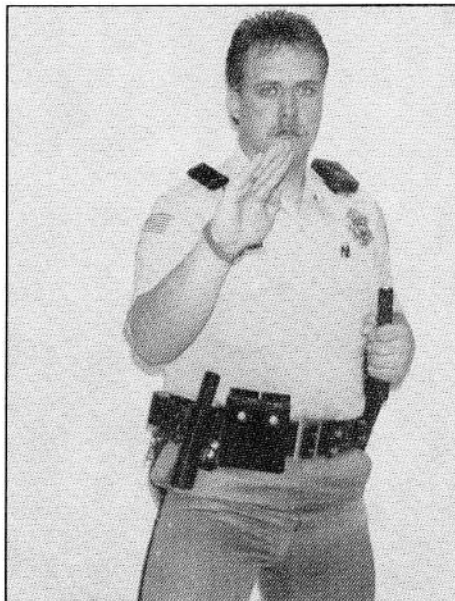
The Target areas for the ASP Tactical Baton are the center mass of the arms, legs, and abdomen. Strikes to the head are never done with the baton, unless deadly force is a threat. (see Photo 5a, 5b, 6a, b, c).

To insure high levels of progressive training, ASP developed a striking bag, which cannot be torn or split during training. Instructors also wear safety gear and use specially made training batons to prevent injury. This gives the student and the instructor the

opportunity to do simulation training without the likelihood of getting injured.

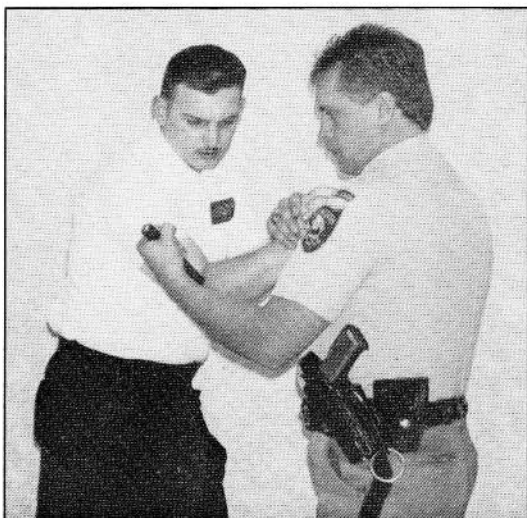
In conclusion to this part, I would like to say that the ASP Tactical Baton is the ideal baton for both the uniformed and the plain clothes officer. It gives them a low profile, it's with them all the time, and it provides the officer with a less than deadly force option in a confrontation. But most of all, the baton and its training are court defensible.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS: Tim White and Derek Burleson (in uniform) are both ASP Certified Instructors. Tim is a Military Policeman stationed at Ft. Leavenworth, KS. He is a certified Defensive Tactics Instructor, a 5th degree Black Belt in Jujitsu, and a member of ASLET. Derek is an officer with the Leavenworth City Police Department. He, too is a certified Defensive Tactics Instructor.

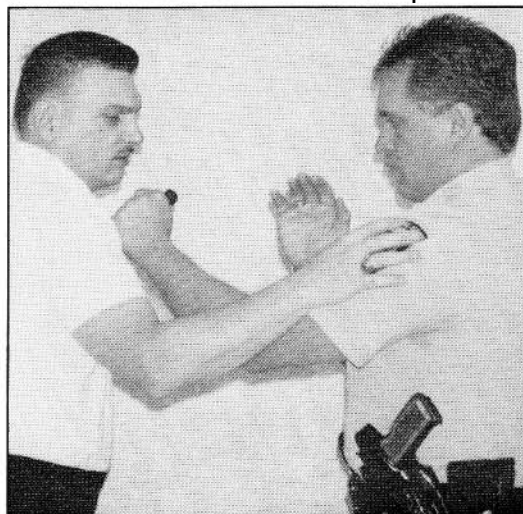


< 4a. Baton in the closed mode loaded position.

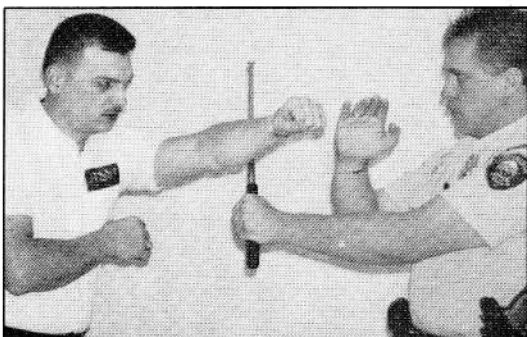
^ 4b. Baton in the open mode loaded position.



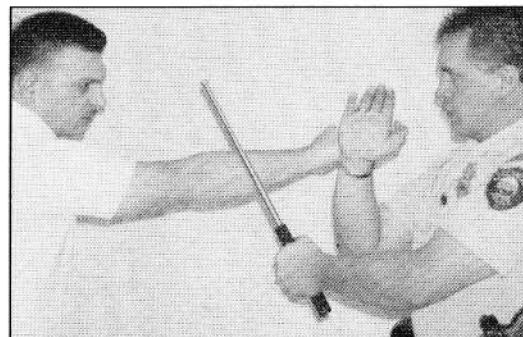
< 5a. Closed mode, weapon side strike to the elbow.



< 5b. Closed mode, reaction strike to pectoral area.



^ 6a. Open mode, weapons strike to the arm.



< 6b. Open mode, reaction strike to arm.

v 6c. Closed mode, straight strike to abdomen.

> 6d. Open mode, straight strike to ASP training bag.

