

CITY OF ANDERSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Anderson, South Carolina

DIRECTIVE TYPE General Order	EFFECTIVE DATE March 20, 2006	NUMBER 170.A
SUBJECT TASERs (Addendum to General Order 171.1)		
REVISED		
REFERENCE General Orders 109, 170, 171 & 181	AMENDS/SUPERSEDES All Others	
DISTRIBUTION All Personnel	RE-EVALUATION DATE Annual	NO. PAGES 6

I. Purpose

The purpose of this general order is to set forth the standard operational procedures for the utilization of a TASER in the course of transacting official police business. This general order establishes a policy for the procedures that apply to the training, carriage, deployment and post-deployment phase of TASER usage.

Within the City of Anderson Police Department the TASER is one of many law-enforcement tools available to agency members. The role of the TASER is to limit the amount of hand-to-hand tactics that is necessary to secure a belligerent subject. The South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy teaches new recruits to meet force with a level of force that is one step above the level of force being used by the officer's opponent.

Increasing numbers of officers, on both local and national scales, are being injured in the line of duty. Many of these injuries are directly related to the increased number of subjects who resist arrest. The TASER provides a force option in which the officer does not have to get dangerously close to a threat before deploying the tool. Using the TASER may greatly reduce the need for other types of physical force by officer(s) resulting in serious or potential deadly injury to the offender, officer, or to others present.

In such instances, the use of a TASER weapon becomes an option available to the arresting officer so as to reduce the risk of injury to both the officer and suspect which could result from a hand-to-hand encounter. In these types of situations – if the circumstances allow -

the officer should attempt to verbally command the subject that he/she is to submit to arrest.

II. Policy

The TASER is a defensive weapon, listed in the use of force continuum as one level above verbal commands and one level below empty-hands fighting.

The TASER is not intended to be used in deadly force situations nor is anything in this general order to be construed to mean that a TASER should be used instead of a firearm when the use of a firearm is warranted.

The TASER should not be used without a firearm back up in those situations where there is a substantial threat towards the officer(s) or others present.

It is the policy of the City of Anderson Police Department that when a subject fails to comply with verbal commands and submit to arrest during the course of an arrest and/or when the subject appears to pose a threat of combat during official police contact, utilization of the TASER is justified.

III. Procedures

The TASER is deployed as an additional police tool and is not intended to replace firearms or other self-defense techniques. The TASER may be used to control dangerous or violent subjects when deadly physical force does not appear to be justified and/or necessary; attempts to subdue the subject by other tactics have been or will likely be, ineffective in the situation; or there is reasonable expectation that it will be unsafe for officers to approach within contact range of the subject.

The decision to use the TASER is based on the same criteria officers use when deciding to use the OC Spray. The decision must be made dependant upon the actions of the subject(s) or threat facing the officer(s), and the totality of the circumstances surrounding the incident. In any event the TASER usage must be reasonable and necessary.

A. Training

Members of the City of Anderson Police Department are required to become certified with the weapon before they will be issued a TASER or allowed to carry a TASER. Members are not per se required to be certified with the weapon, but if they are to carry one as part of their normal duty-equipment or if they are to have access to a TASER, they must become certified first. Refer to general order 171.1 for additional clarification.

Training and certification procedures include classroom instruction, which will discuss proper techniques in use of the TASER and caring for the tased individual(s). An instructor who is certified in use of the TASER will conduct the training.

B. Carriage

1. The only TASERs that may be carried by members of the City of Anderson Police Department are TASERs that are **OWNED and ISSUED** by the City of Anderson Police Department. Members are forbidden from carrying their own or someone else's non-departmentally issued TASER.
2. Prior to carrying a TASER, officers must successfully complete agency approved training.
 - (a) Members of the City of Anderson Police Department must be trained and certified in the use of the TASER before being issued a TASER.
3. Upon certification, officers of the City of Anderson Police Department are eligible to be issued a TASER.
 - a. The City of Anderson Police Department recognizes that the TASER is a relatively new weapon in the list of non-lethal tools available to law enforcement and as such, some personnel may be uncomfortable with the use or potential use of the tool.
 - (1) Therefore, any supervisor in the chain-of-command of a member or group of members of the City of Anderson Police Department who is/are issued a TASER may elect to restrict any particular member or a group of members from carrying the weapon.
 - (2) Furthermore, any member of the City of Anderson Police Department who is uncomfortable with the use or potential use of the TASER as a nonlethal law enforcement tool may elect to forego the option to carry the tool.
4. Normally, members of the City of Anderson Police Department who carry a TASER are to carry the tool on the "weak" side of their gun belt in a holster specially manufactured to hold the item in place. Carriage of the tool in any other location on the body must be approved in writing by the member's supervisor.

- a. The weak side is the side of the body opposite the side of the body whereon the firearm is carried.
5. The TASER will be worn on the duty belt when the member is in uniform or otherwise on duty.
6. The TASER can also be carried by those members whose positions require civilian attire. In these cases, the TASER will be worn under the same guidelines as those in effect for the concealed wearing of the service weapon while wearing civilian clothing. Additionally, the TASER should be carried on the weak side. Carriage of the tool in any other location on the body must be approved in writing by the member's supervisor.
7. Members are permitted to carry a department-issued TASER while engaging in pre-approved secondary employment which requires police-type duties. This is referred to as "Extra-Duty Employment". Refer to general order series 1400 for more information.
8. No changes, alterations, modifications or substitutions shall be made to the TASER. All repairs to TASERs or accessories shall be completed by an authorized vendor or personnel who are certified by the respective vendor to work on those models.
 - a. Any proposed changes, alterations, modifications or substitutions must receive prior written approval by the Chief of Police.

C. Deployment


1. TASER-certified members may use a department issued TASER when they reasonably believe that it is justified in order to prevent the use of physical force for protection from assault.
2. TASER-certified members may use a department issued TASER when they reasonably believe that it is justified in order to prevent the use of physical force to take a person into custody.
3. When reasonable, the TASER should be used before "hands on" techniques or the use of impact weapons.
 - a. The TASER shall not be intentionally aimed at a person's head, neck or groin.

D. Post-Deployment

1. After an officer utilizes a TASER to take a subject into custody, the officer shall:
 - a. Handcuff the subject to minimize the threat of injury to either the officer or the subject.
 - b. Remove the TASER prongs at the earliest opportunity.
 - (1) The TASER prongs shall only be removed by officers who have completed agency approved training in the use of the TASER.
 - (2) TASER prongs that have struck the face, groin or female breasts shall only be removed by EMS or medical personnel.
 - c. After removal of the probes, the wires shall be wound around the cartridge. The probes shall be inverted into the portals they were originally deployed from. Tape should then be placed over the portals to secure the probes in the cartridge. Submit in an evidence container.
 - d. The air cartridge and probes used shall be tagged into evidence. Probes are to be treated as a biohazard and shall be handled, packaged and stored per policy.
 - e. Visually examine the area struck to determine if an injury was sustained.
 - (1) It shall be at the discretion of the on-scene supervisor to determine if EMS needs to respond to the scene for a subject who has fallen. This includes situations where multiple subjects exist, possibly receiving contact or secondary shock.
 - f. A photograph shall be taken of all significant injuries.
 - g. All injuries or the absence of injuries shall be noted on the Use of Force Report
 - h. All photographs shall be turned in to evidence
2. Any discharge other than the function test, either intentional or accidental, shall necessitate the immediate notification of the officer's immediate supervisor.

3. When a member, either intentionally or accidentally, uses the T A S E R , even if a subject is not struck, he or she shall prepare a Use of force form.
4. Data Storage
 - a. The dataport on the TASER stores the time and date the TASER was fired.
 - b. The information from the dataport will be downloaded on at least an annual basis.
 - c. Only personnel trained in the TASER download software may download the information from a TASER.

By order of:


Martin D. Brown, Chief of Police

3-6-2006
Date