



GENERAL ORDERS: Chapter 7.3

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Firearms - Bean Bag Shotgun

I. Purpose

To establish guidelines for the use and deployment of the bean bag shotgun.

II. Policy

The bean bag ammunition and shotgun are authorized to be used as a less lethal weapon. The bean bag shotgun is intended to incapacitate a person with a minimal potential for causing death or serious physical injury when compared to conventional projectiles. It is not intended to replace deadly force when such force is justified.

III. General

A. Authorized bean bag shotgun

1. Remington 870 police magnum, 12-gauge shotgun with an orange stock and forearm equipped with rifle sights

B. Authorized Ammunition

1. 12-gauge clear cartridge containing a lead-filled Kevlar sock (bean bag), designed to impact the body in a less lethal manner, causing temporary incapacity.
2. Each bean bag shotgun will have six, 12-gauge bean bag shells which will be carried only in the ammunition carrier on the receiver of the shotgun until deployment.
3. Officers will not be individually issued bean bag shells and commanders will ensure replacement bean bag shells are stored separately from any other ammunition.

C. Training

1. Officers shall receive initial training in the academy followed by periodic training in the use of the bean bag shotgun.
2. Only bean bag certified officers will be authorized to deploy the bean bag shotgun.

D. Maintenance

1. Bean bag shotgun repairs and modifications will be coordinated through the Personnel and Training Section.
2. All bean bag shotguns will be inspected and armored annually by certified personnel.

IV. Bean bag shotgun assignment and storage

A. Location and assignment of bean bag shotguns

1. Patrol supervisor vehicles (sergeant, lieutenant, captain)
2. Airport Section
3. Metro STAR Unit
4. Personnel and Training Section

B. Storage

1. For patrol supervisor vehicles, the bean bag shotgun will be secured in a locking shotgun holder in a safe and unloaded condition (no shells in the chamber or magazine), until deployment is anticipated.
2. For all other locations, the bean bag shotgun will be secured appropriately in a safe and unloaded condition.

V. Shotgun safety

A. Out-of-service condition

1. Prior to a vehicle being taken out of service or for scheduled maintenance, the bean bag shotgun shall be removed from the vehicle, unless the officer is available to standby with the vehicle until maintenance is completed.
2. When moving the bean bag shotgun to an out-of-service condition:
 - a. The action shall be open and the safety on
 - b. The muzzle shall be kept pointed in a safe direction, preferably directly up or down

VI. Deployment

A. Approval

1. A supervisor should authorize the deployment of the bean bag shotgun.
2. If circumstances allow, supervisors should assign a specific officer to deploy the bean bag shotgun so they can maintain command and control of the scene.

B. Loading and unloading

1. Prior to loading, officers shall visually ensure there are no rounds in the magazine or chamber.
2. When deployment is anticipated, shells shall be loaded with the safety on, through the loading port and into the magazine until full.
 - a. The officer is responsible for visually confirming each shell loaded is a bean bag round.
3. After deployment, shells not in the chamber shall be administratively unloaded, with the safety on, directly from the magazine via the loading port until empty and returned to the ammunition carrier. Shells shall not be removed by sequentially loading them into the chamber and ejecting.
 - a. A visual inspection of the chamber and magazine is required to confirm empty.

C. Guidelines

1. The bean bag shotgun may be used to control aggressive, suicidal or combative persons. It will not be used to gain compliance from passively resisting persons or in civil unrest situations unless there is division commander approval.
2. The bean bag shotgun will not be deployed unless there are a sufficient number of back-up officers present to provide cover and take control of the person.
 - a. Officers should have a back-up plan of action if the deployment fails to achieve its goal.
3. Officers should attempt to position themselves approximately 20-50 feet from the intended target to reduce the possibility of serious injury from and increase the accuracy of the bean bag round, unless deadly force is justified.
4. All officers on scene shall be advised "bean bag, bean bag, bean bag" when the firing of a bean bag round is imminent (in order to avoid spontaneous gunfire from cover officers hearing a shotgun discharge).
5. After each round is fired, officers should evaluate the effectiveness and give the person a chance to comply, if reasonable and appropriate, before firing any subsequent rounds.

D. Target areas

1. Officers shall follow training and target primary areas with the lowest potential for injury. These areas have the greatest amount of muscle mass and fewest number of vital organs, such as:
 - a. Buttocks, thigh, calf, lower arm, lower abdominal area, etc.
2. Officers should avoid targeting areas, if possible, which have a greater potential for injury. These areas lack muscle density or have vital organs, such as:
 - a. Upper abdominal area, shoulders, upper arms, knees, hands, etc.
3. Officers shall avoid intentional shots to areas which have the greatest potential for serious injury or death, unless deadly force is justified. These areas have vital organs, such as:
 - a. Chest (center mass), spine, head, neck, kidney area, groin.

E. Use

1. If the bean bag shotgun is fired and the person is struck (or missed), once the threat is over or the situation resolved, the officer will:
 - a. Provide and arrange for medical treatment as needed. All persons struck by a bean bag round will be transported to a medical facility for evaluation and treatment.
 - b. When possible, mark the physical location of the bean bag round and ensure it is collected as evidence and placed on property
 - c. Follow [use of force reporting](#) requirements, including reporting the distance of engagement.
2. In the event of a serious injury or death relating to the discharge of a bean bag shotgun, it will be investigated as an officer-involved shooting by the Investigations Division.