

## FREDERICK POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER

<b>Section 07:</b>	Force, Detention, and Arrest	<b>Order Number:</b>	712
<b>Topic:</b>	LESS LETHAL FORCE: IMPACT WEAPONS	<b>Issued by:</b>	Chief of Police
<b>Approved:</b>	03/06/23		
<b>Review:</b>	Annually in March by Support Services Division Commander		
<b>Supersedes:</b>	G.O. 712 dated 01/20/21		

### **.01 PURPOSE:**

To specify the type of impact weapons approved for use by sworn members of the agency, the appropriate uses for these weapons, and to provide the training and reporting guidelines required for officers to carry them.

### **.02 CROSS-REF:**

G.O. [705](#), "Use of Force"  
G.O. [710](#), "Less Lethal Force: Chemical Agent Weapons"  
G.O. [773](#), "Sick or Injured Prisoners"  
G.O. [1125](#), "Inventory and Inspection"  
G.O. [1663](#), "Uniforms and Appearance"  
G.O. [1710](#), "Roll Call"

### **.03 DISCUSSION:**

Appropriate, effective impact weapons have long been considered necessary personal protective equipment to be carried by law enforcement personnel. The Frederick Police Department currently issues for use by all sworn personnel a Monadnock 21" expandable baton as a primary impact weapon. In addition, the Department authorizes the use of straight batons and impact munitions under certain circumstances.

### **.04 POLICY:**

It is the policy of the Frederick Police Department that its members will use impact weapons only in accordance with the use of force policy and guidelines specified in [General Order 705, "Use of Force."](#) In addition, no member will be issued or permitted to carry or use any impact weapon until he has been trained in its use and demonstrated proficiency with it on an annual basis. The provisions of this Order apply to personnel both while on and off duty.

### **.05 DEFINITIONS:**

BATON: An expandable baton or a straight baton.

EXPANDABLE BATON: A three stage friction lock expandable/collapsible baton constructed of hardened, aircraft quality seamless alloy steel, with a firm foam grip handle, ball tip and end cap, manufactured by Monadnock Lifetime Products, Inc., which is approximately 21" long when expanded.

IMPACT MUNITION: Any firearm-based or explosive-based, less lethal weapon which functions by striking the body of the target.

IMPACT WEAPON: A baton or impact munitions.

STRAIGHT BATON: A straight baton constructed of wood, aluminum, steel, or composite material,

with or without ball tips, which is approximately 36" long.

**.10 TRAINING:**

1. Sworn officers will receive training in the use of batons during Entrance Level Training and annually during In-Service Training. Training will be developed and conducted by certified Monadnock Expandable Baton Instructors and/or certified defensive tactics instructors. Training will include, at least, the use of batons, laws concerning the use of batons, Department policy on the use of force, escalating force, and deadly force, recognized safe-handling procedures for batons, and legal updates on use of force issues concerning batons. Entrance Level Training will include a Monadnock Expandable Baton Basic Certification Course.
2. Only sworn officers demonstrating proficiency in the use of batons during initial and annual training may carry or utilize batons. "Demonstrating proficiency" means attaining a score of at least 70% on a written test covering the training topics and successfully demonstrating, to a certified Monadnock Expandable Baton Instructor and/or a certified defensive tactics instructor, basic skills in deploying, striking, blocking, control holds, and weapon retention with a baton. In addition, officers must successfully complete the Monadnock Expandable Baton Basic Certification Course during Entrance Level Training. All training and testing, both academic and practical/skills, will be documented. Documentation will be maintained by the Training Division.
3. In the event that an officer is unable to successfully demonstrate proficiency with a baton during annual re-training, his police powers will be immediately suspended and he will relinquish his baton, firearm, badge, and Department identification card to the course instructor. The course instructor will immediately notify the officer's supervisor and will complete a written report to the officer's chain of command and to the Training Unit Supervisor. The officer will be temporarily assigned to the Training Unit for skills enhancement and remedial training. If, after remedial training and re-testing, the officer is able to demonstrate proficiency with a baton, he will be returned to duty. If, after all reasonable remedial training avenues have been exhausted, the officer is unable to demonstrate proficiency with a baton, the Training Unit Supervisor will notify the Chief of Police, in writing and via chain of command, of the officer's unsatisfactory performance.
4. During Entrance Level Training and before being issued a baton, all sworn personnel will be issued copies of, and instructed in, all of the Department's General Orders concerning the use of force. The Training Unit will document the issuance of, and instruction in, these General Orders.

**.20 AUTHORIZATION, ISSUANCE, AND INSPECTION:**

1. Following the successful completion of baton training, the Firearms Coordinator will issue all sworn personnel an expandable baton and holster. The Firearms Coordinator will document and track the issuance of equipment in Skills Manager.
2. All uniformed personnel are required to carry the expandable baton, in the issued holster, on their belt, whenever they wear the uniform of the day. This directive also applies to all personnel engaged in uniformed off-duty employment, regardless of assignment.
3. Personnel when not in uniform, must have access to the expandable baton whenever they are on-duty and must follow the direction of their supervisor concerning when and how to carry the expandable baton.

4. In accordance with [G.O. 1710, "Roll Call,"](#) supervisors will inspect issued expandable batons and holsters for damage and serviceability on a daily basis. Batons and holsters which are damaged or unserviceable will be immediately removed from duty, replaced with spares, documented, and returned to the Firearms Coordinator for repair or replacement. The Firearms Coordinator will ensure that a supply of spare expandable batons and holsters are located in a secure area accessible to on-duty supervisors.
5. The Firearms Coordinator will ensure that a supply of straight batons is maintained at a secure location in the Headquarters building for use during disturbances, crowd control, and other appropriate situations. When needed, supervisors will inspect and issue straight batons to appropriate sworn personnel. The straight batons will be returned at the conclusion of the assignment necessitating their issuance. Issuance and return of straight batons will be documented by the issuing supervisor
6. Straight batons will be inspected for damage and serviceability on a periodic basis as described in [G.O. 1125, "Inventory and Inspection."](#) Damaged or unserviceable batons will be immediately removed from duty and returned to the Firearms Coordinator for repair or replacement.
7. The Firearms Coordinator, in conjunction with the Department's defensive tactics and Monadnock Expandable Baton instructors, will continually evaluate the effectiveness of the Department's batons in comparison to other available impact weapons. In the event that the Firearms Coordinator believes that the Department should replace its batons with more effective impact weapons, he will submit such recommendation in writing, via chain of command, to the Chief of Police.
8. Officers will carry and utilize only those batons that were issued to them by the Department. In the event of an extreme emergency as described in [G.O. 705, "Use of Force,"](#) when use of an impact weapon is necessary and authorized by Department policy, and issued batons are unavailable, officers may utilize other objects as impact weapons.

#### **.30 USE OF AN IMPACT WEAPON:**

1. Any use of an impact weapon will be in accordance with the use of force policy and guidelines specified in [G.O. 705, "Use of Force."](#)
2. A baton may be utilized by officers to perform strikes, blocks, or control holds on resistant subjects, in accordance with training and regulations.
3. When initiating strikes or blocks with a baton or other impact weapon, officers must be cognizant of appropriate striking areas on the body. These striking areas (red, yellow, and green) are delineated on the Monadnock chart issued to all students during initial baton training. Appropriate striking areas will also be discussed and practiced during any impact weapons training.
4. Departmental policy makes two changes to the standard Monadnock striking area chart, upgrading the shins to a yellow target area, and the groin to a red target area.

#### **.40 REPORTING IMPACT WEAPON USE:**

1. A Blue Team Use of Force Entry will be submitted by any officer who utilizes an impact weapon in such a manner as to require submission of such a report under [G.O. 705, "Use of](#)

[Force."](#)

2. The mere un-holstering, expansion, or presentation of an impact weapon will not require a Blue Team Use of Force Entry to be completed.

**.50 MEDICAL TREATMENT OF INJURED PERSONS:**

Following any use of an impact weapon, the officer utilizing the weapon will ensure that appropriate steps are taken to determine if the use of the impact weapon caused injury to the suspect or any other person. All injured persons will be provided with appropriate medical aid as described in [G.O. 705, "Use of Force."](#)