



Policy Manual	
Standard Operating Procedure	
SOP Number: 11-02i	Subject: Intermediate Weapons
Authorized by: Chief Robert Connolly	Effective Date: January 17, 2024
Signed: The original signed copy of this directive is on file in the Office of Professional Standards.	Date signed: 1/17/2024

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## 1. PURPOSE

This standard operating procedure establishes guidelines for the proper use and care of intermediate (less lethal) weapons; training and qualification for carrying and using intermediate weapons; and specifications for intermediate weapons. The procedural guidelines of this Department are to accomplish its mission as effectively as objectively reasonable within the bounds of applicable law.

CALEA 6<sup>th</sup> edition standard 4.1.4

## 2. POLICY

2.1 Only Georgia Tech Police Department (GTPD) employees who meet the qualifications in this directive are authorized to carry and use intermediate weapons in the performance of their duties.

CALEA 6<sup>th</sup> edition standards 4.1.4, 4.3.2

- 2.2 Sworn and public safety officers will carry and use only Department-issued or approved intermediate weapons in the performance of their official duties.
- 2.3 The Department provides sworn officers with firearms and intermediate weapons, along with appropriate training in their use, to provide a range of options for officers when dealing with uncooperative or combative subjects.
- 2.4 Intermediate weapons are provided to officers as less lethal force options. Intermediate weapons may not be effective in every situation. Officers must assess the effectiveness of each application and determine whether further applications are reasonable, or if a different tactic or use of force option should be employed.
- 2.5 The Department provides public safety officers batons, OC Spray and appropriate training in their use. Public safety officers are authorized to use less lethal weapons primarily for self-defensive.
- 2.6 The Department will conduct refresher training and qualifications on intermediate weapons for all employees issued intermediate weapons biennially.  
CALEA 6<sup>th</sup> edition standard 4.3.3

### 3. RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 The Training Coordinator will organize all intermediate weapons training in accordance with this standard operating procedure and will ensure thorough documentation of training and proficiency.  
CALEA 6<sup>th</sup> edition standard 4.3.3 b
- 3.2 Officers will adhere to the prescribed procedures for carrying and using intermediate weapons in performance of their official duties and will maintain proficiency with them.
- 3.3 **Supervisors will monitor officers' compliance with this directive.**

### 4. ACTION

- 4.1 Sworn officers wearing standard-issue police working uniforms will carry chemical agents, Tasers and batons, in the carriers provided, on their equipment belts in a manner that does not interfere with their duty sidearm or other authorized equipment (e.g., magazines, handcuffs, etc.). Public safety officers in uniform will carry chemical agents and batons in the carriers provided on their equipment belts in a manner that does not interfere with their daily work activities.

- 4.1.1 Tasers will be carried on the support hand side of the body (opposite side of the body from the issued firearm).
- 4.1.2 Officers are cautioned to avoid carrying any equipment near their spines because of the possibility of sustaining a disabling injury during an accident or assault.
- 4.1.3 OC spray canisters will be placed in an upright position within the holder. The canister safety should remain in the on position until the officer is ready to dispense the chemical.

#### 4.2 Chemical Agents

- 4.2.1 Be aware that when using a chemical agent indoors, the agent may contaminate a building through its ventilation system.
- 4.2.2 Officers should be prepared to use other force options, for controlling a subject who is not subdued by the OC spray.
- 4.2.3 Whenever possible, officers should be upwind from the subject before using the OC spray, and they should avoid entering the spray area.
- 4.2.4 Officers will never transport (or otherwise restrain) in a prone or “face down” position any handcuffed person who has been exposed to chemical agent due to the possibility of positional asphyxia (respiratory arrest, leading to death).
- 4.2.5 After an officer has used the chemical agent or when the container has reached its expiration date, he or she will turn it in for replacement.
- 4.2.6 Prior to deployment of launchable chemical munitions from a 40mm, qualified personnel must receive the Incident Commander’s approval.

#### 4.3 Impact Weapons

- 4.3.1 Officers will not intentionally direct baton strikes to the head, spine, or neck (or other areas of the body referenced in training which would cause death or serious injury) unless the use of deadly force is justified.
- 4.3.2 Only escort holds, bars, and defensive tactics taught in the Department’s baton training course are authorized. The Department does not teach or authorize the use of neck restraints or other similar weaponless control techniques.

#### 4.4 Less-Lethal Munitions

- 4.4.1 Sworn officers and supervisors who have received the required training are authorized to carry the 12-gauge launcher dedicated to less lethal (bean bag) munitions. The 12-gauge less lethal munition is considered an extended range impact weapon and is classified with other less lethal impact weapons in force option decision making.
- 4.4.2 Sworn officers and supervisors who have received the required training are authorized to carry the 40mm launcher (single or multi-shot) dedicated to less lethal (direct impact and chemical) munitions. The 40mm launcher is considered an extended range impact weapon and is classified with other less lethal impact weapons in force option decision making.
- 4.4.3 Sworn officers and supervisors who have received the required training are authorized to carry the Pepper Ball launcher. The Pepper Ball launcher is considered an extended range impact weapon/chemical agent and is classified with other less lethal impact weapons and chemical agents in force option decision making.
- 4.4.4 Supervisors issued less lethal dedicated 12 gauge launchers will be issued ten (10) rounds of less lethal munitions. The weapon will be carried with five rounds in the magazine and five rounds stored with the launcher in the vehicle. Lethal 12 gauge shotgun ammunition will never be loaded into these launchers and will not be in the same vehicle as a less lethal launcher at any time.
- 4.4.5 Officers issued less lethal 40mm launchers will be issued three (3) rounds of less lethal munition. The launcher will be stored with no round in the chamber and three rounds stored with the weapon in the vehicle.
- 4.4.6 Officers issued less lethal Pepper Ball launchers will be issued one (1) speed pod (approx. 120 rounds) of less lethal munition, and one (1) magazine of extended range munitions (15 rounds). The launcher will be stored with no round in the hopper, and the speed pod and magazine stored with the weapon in the vehicle. This system will be function checked at the beginning of each shift.
- 4.4.7 Less lethal munitions provide an additional resource to assist in and present a reasonable force option for resolving situations where it is necessary to compel an individual to cease his or her actions. Personnel are not required to use less-lethal munitions in lieu of other reasonable tactics.
- 4.4.8 Circumstances appropriate for less-lethal munitions deployment (examples, not all-inclusive):

- a. An offender is armed with a weapon and the tactical circumstances allow for the safe application of less-lethal munitions. Less-lethal munitions should be used against an offender armed with a firearm only if there is a cover officer present as outlined in Section 4.4.8 of this directive.
- b. A violent offender armed with a weapon that is not a firearm (e.g. Baseball bat, sword, knife, crow bar, shovel, etc.)
- c. Civil disturbances where the offender is engaged in riotous behavior, or is throwing rocks, bottles, or other dangerous projectiles at civilians or officers.
- d. The suspect has made credible threats to harm him/herself or others.

4.4.9 Deployment Considerations - The following factors should be considered before discharging less-lethal projectiles:

- a. The severity of the crime or incident
- b. The offender's capability to pose an immediate threat to the safety of officers or others
- c. The offender's active resistance to arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight
- d. The credibility of the subject's threats as evaluated by officers present, as well as the subject's physical capacity and capabilities
- e. The type and proximity of the weapons available to the subject
- f. The officer's versus the subject's physical factors
- g. The reasonableness of other force options versus the offender's threat
- h. Distance and angle to the targets on the offender
- i. Type of munitions employed
- j. Type and thickness of the subject's clothing
- k. The subject's actions dictate the need for an immediate threat response and the use of less-lethal munitions appears appropriate.
- l. When possible, use of less lethal munitions will be preceded by a verbal warning.

#### 4.4.10 Shot Placement

- a. The need to immediately incapacitate the subject must be weighed against the risk of causing serious injury or death. Less-lethal munition projectiles will be delivered to suspect target areas based on the circumstances, the established safety priorities, and the level of force reasonable to conclude the incident.
- b. The potential for causing death or serious physical injury with such projectiles is a reality. This potential is greatly reduced when impacts to the head and neck are avoided, and when appropriate medical examination is provided in cases where a suspect is struck in an area that might conceal a closed injury, including such areas as the chest, back, thoracic and abdominal cavities, and the groin.
- c. The intentional placement of shots to the extremities, lower abdomen, and the buttocks will be considered when incapacitation is reasonable and a minimal potential for injury is an appropriate response. These targets carry a low risk of serious injury with a low potential for immediate incapacitation.
- d. The intentional placement of shots to the front torso, back, and groin will be considered when incapacitation is reasonable and a potential for increased injury is reasonable given the circumstances as they appeared to the officer. These targets carry a higher risk of serious injury with a higher potential for immediate incapacitation.
- e. The intentional placement of shots to the head, neck, or spine will be considered when incapacitation is reasonable and a high potential for injury is an appropriate response. These targets carry a very high risk of serious injury with a high potential for immediate incapacitation and should only be utilized when deadly force would be authorized.

#### 4.4.11 Safety Considerations in the Deployment of Less-Lethal Munitions

Generally, this system will not be deployed in the field without a cover officer utilizing firearms loaded with conventional, Department-issued ammunitions. Exceptions may be required in circumstances where a cover officer is not practicable. The cover officer will be responsible for protecting the officer employing less-lethal munitions from assault that would cause a reasonable officer to be in fear of imminent death or serious bodily injury based on the circumstances at the time.

#### 4.4.12 Medical Treatment

CALEA 6<sup>th</sup> edition standard 4.1.5

- a. Persons struck with less-lethal projectiles shall be treated by Fire or EMS personnel or at a designated treatment hospital as soon as practicable after the incident.
- b. Persons should be medically cleared prior to being booked into Jail.
- c. Photographs for evidentiary purposes of all areas of the body struck by the projectile(s) will be taken following the initial medical treatment.

#### 4.5 Taser Electronic Control Weapons

##### 4.5.1 Taser Specific Definitions

- a. TASER – A less-lethal Conducted Electrical Weapon that uses propelled wires to conduct energy to a remote target, thereby controlling and overriding the body's central nervous system. It uses an electro-muscular disruption system to temporarily override the central nervous system and directly control the skeletal muscles. This causes an uncontrollable contraction of the muscle tissue, allowing the Taser to physically debilitate a target regardless of pain tolerance or mental focus. The Taser affects the sensory and motor nervous systems, both stunning and physically incapacitating the target.
- b. Primary Target Area – Center mass of the human body is the target area when discharging the Taser, particularly the center mass of the subject's back (preferred). Officers encountering subjects wearing heavy or loose clothing on the upper body may consider targeting the legs. Sensitive areas should not be intentionally targeted unless these areas can be justified as primary intended targets under the totality of the circumstances reasonably known to the officers at the time the Taser is deployed.
- c. Sensitive Areas - Areas which include the face, neck, groin and female's breasts.

4.5.2 The use of a Tasers is generally authorized in the same circumstances in which other intermediate (non-deadly) weapons would be appropriate. Tasers will be used in conformance with State and Constitutional law based on the Supreme Court's ruling of objective reasonableness.

4.5.3 At the beginning of each shift officers will perform a function test to ensure the Taser is working properly and verifying the device is adequately charged. To test the Taser, point it in a safe direction away from the body. Press and release both Arc Switches simultaneously. The

CID will display firmware version and battery percentage remaining. Axon signal is muted. Move the safety switch to the armed position and any arc switch functions that follow will log as Functional Test Mode. Press the Arc Switch and release; this will initiate a 5-second Function Test of the warning arc. Move the safety switch to the safe position, and the Taser is ready for duty. A Taser will not be carried if it is not functioning properly, or has an expired cartridge. Non-functioning Tasers will be turned in to the officer's immediate supervisor for replacement. Expired cartridges will be turned in to the officer's immediate supervisor, who will have access to replacement cartridges.

- 4.5.4 Tasers will be properly loaded and holstered with the safety switch in the off position. Only Department issued Taser holsters will be used.
- 4.5.5 Whenever practical (including, but not limited to: subject is not reasonably perceived as an immediate threat or flight risk), officers should brandish, display, laser dot, display arc warning, and/or provide a warning prior to deploying a Taser.
- 4.5.6 Officers will aim at the primary target areas identified in training and defined in this policy. Officers will not intentionally aim at the face, neck, or groin area.
- 4.5.7 Use of a Taser causes a subject to lose muscular control and may result in a fall. Consideration must be given to the subject's actions and reaction where there is an increased risk of injury beyond that which would be considered reasonable, given the situation. Examples include but are not limited to:
  - a. Running or fleeing subjects when the location presents a reasonable belief that the subject will sustain serious injury or death if the subject falls to the ground as a result of the Taser deployment.
  - b. Subjects on a structure's edge, ledge, or other height.
  - c. Tall fences.
  - d. Bridges/overpasses.
  - e. Crossing a moving lane of traffic.
  - f. Deep water.
- 4.5.8 Only one officer on a scene should use a Taser unless a malfunction or miss occurs or exigent circumstances exist.



4.5.9 Officers should use the minimum number of cycles or seconds of delivered discharge practicable to take a subject into custody or mitigate their active resistance and/or assaultive behavior.

- a. After the first Taser cycle the officer shall reevaluate the situation to determine if subsequent cycles are reasonable.
- b. If the subject is not controlled by the initial cycle, additional cycles may be utilized in accordance with training. Officers shall not exceed 15 seconds of exposure, whether due to multiple applications or continuous cycling, without justification.
- c. Any subsequent exposure should be independently justifiable, and the risks should be weighed against other force options. Officers are required to independently justify each cycle used against a subject in their report of the use of force.
- d. Officers should consider alternative methods, if control is not gained after additional cycles.

#### 4.5.10 Verbal Commands and Notification

- a. Unless doing so would place any person at risk, officers shall issue a verbal warning to the subject that the Taser will be used prior to its use, and that it will hurt. Where feasible, the officer will defer application for a reasonable time to allow the subject to become compliant after the warning.
- b. In an attempt to minimize the number of Taser discharges needed for subject compliance, officers should, while deploying the Taser, reasonably direct (order) the suspect as the incident dictates. Such verbal commands may include, but are not limited to “stop resisting,” “lie flat,” “put your hands behind your back,” “do it now, or you will get the electricity again,” etc.
- c. Deploying officers should reasonably notify on-scene, assisting officers that they intend to deploy a Taser. A reasonable announcement such as “TASER! TASER! TASER!” should be considered. The announcement should be made only if it would not reasonably further endanger any officers, other persons, or the suspect.

#### 4.5.11 Medical Treatment

CALEA 6<sup>th</sup> edition standard 4.1.5

When an officer discharges a Taser where one or both of the probes imbed in a subject's body the following procedures will be followed:

- a. The probe(s) will be removed as quickly as possible after gaining control of the subject, in accordance with training. Probes that are deeply imbedded, difficult to remove, and/or located in the neck, head, groin, male nipple or female breast will not be removed at the scene. The subject will be transported to the hospital and the probes will be removed by appropriate medical personnel.
- b. The subject will be monitored for any symptoms of physical distress while in police custody, as defined in training. Emergency medical treatment will be provided as requested or needed.
- c. EMS will be notified if requested or the subject does not appear to be fully recovered after a reasonably short period of time.
- d. EMS will be notified if the subject falls into a vulnerable class such as a young child, a pregnant woman, elderly persons, or those with a known or reported preexisting medical condition that increases likelihood of danger to the individual.

#### 4.5.12 Deployment Considerations

As with all weapons, the use of the Taser must be objectively reasonable based on the totality of circumstances. Tasers may be used in response to circumstances that include, but are not limited to:

- a. Active resistance when another compliance technique has failed or the officer has reason to believe that attempting another compliance technique will fail and/ or result in a greater risk of injury to themselves, the subject, or a third person and such force is objectively reasonable. A subject's flight should not be the sole justification for deploying the Taser. Prior to deploying the Taser against a fleeing subject, the officer should consider such factors as the severity of the offense and any immediate threat to the safety of the officer or others posed by the subject.
- b. Assaultive behavior/active aggression or to control a violent subject when attempts to subdue the suspect by other less intrusive methods have been, or likely will be, ineffective and there is a reasonable expectation that it will be unsafe for officers to approach the suspect within contact range and when deadly force does not appear to be objectively reasonable.

- c. To prevent the commission of a suicide or self-inflicted serious physical injury.
- d. To deter vicious or aggressive animals that threaten the safety of the officer or others. The use of Tasers on animals has not been extensively tested and may have minimal effects. If utilized, Officers should be prepared to act quickly after the Taser deployment since it may only temporarily disable the animal.
  - 1. Center mass of the animal should be targeted and care should be taken to avoid the head and other sensitive areas of the animal.
  - 2. Personnel will take reasonable measures to provide for the animal's welfare in the event that probes impact a sensitive area, or it appears the animal's health is in jeopardy.
- e. During a situation not giving rise to deadly force, an officer will aim for the primary target area. The intentional use of a Taser to sensitive areas should be AVOIDED unless it is the intent to deliver deadly force.
- f. A Taser may be used against combative, assaultive, foreseeably violent, detainees, in the same manner as provided for Taser use against any person under this policy.
- g. **A Taser is Not a Substitute for Deadly Force.** A Taser should generally not be used as a substitute for deadly force and should not be used in those situations. In deadly force situations, officers' decision(s) to deploy the Taser should be backed up with the immediate availability of deadly force.
- h. **Weapon Confusion.** Prior to the deployment of a Taser, the officers deploying the Taser have the responsibility to reasonably visually and physically confirm that the use-of-force tool selected is in fact a Taser and not a firearm – in order to avoid inadvertent use of the wrong weapon (weapon confusion).

#### 4.5.13 Drive Stun Mode

- a. The use of a Taser in "drive-stun" mode will not reliably or foreseeably incapacitate the subject. Officers will not use the Taser in drive-stun mode if they reasonably believe that discomfort will not cause the subject to be compliant with the officers, e.g. a Taser use in drive-stun mode on a drug induced, highly pain-resistant subject.

- b. Officers may use drive stun to cause subjects to release their grip on something for safety reasons, such as a person or object (e.g., a steering wheel). If the person is not reasonably perceived as an immediate threat or flight risk the officer shall give the person a reasonable opportunity to comply, and release their grip, before any application of force.
- c. Officers should avoid using drive-stun except for:
  - 1. A brief application to attempt pain-compliance or distraction.
  - 2. A “break-contact” or distraction tactic when tied up with subject
  - 3. A 3 or 4-point contact to attempt to achieve neuromuscular incapacitation.

#### 4.5.14 Prohibited Uses of Tasers

The use of a Taser is prohibited in the following circumstances:

- a. On a subject in operation of a motor vehicle.
- b. As a punitive measure.
- c. To awaken unconscious or intoxicated individuals.
- d. Against suspects who are passively resistant, non-responsive, or have passed out.
- e. Near flammable liquids or fumes, or on subjects who are known to have been sprayed with OC spray by another agency.
- f. In “drive stun” mode for pain compliance more than two times, while attempting to take someone into custody; however, the “drive stun” mode may be used in a defensive manner more than twice, if the suspect is actively assaulting an officer, or exigent circumstances exist.
- g. On women who are known to be pregnant, except where lethal force would be permitted, or where the officer has reasonable cause to believe there is an imminent risk of serious physical injury.
- h. On young children, subjects who are elderly, or visibly frail individuals, unless exigent circumstances exist. Officers shall determine the reasonableness of Taser use based upon all

circumstances, including the subject's age, size, physical condition, and the feasibility of lesser force options. Officers will be trained in the increased risks that Tasers may present to the above-listed vulnerable populations.

- i. On subjects who are handcuffed, except when they are violently resisting or assaulting someone, and other methods of control are likely to be ineffective.
- j. While off duty or in a non-law enforcement related capacity.

#### 4.5.15 Data Downloading and Deployment Reporting

- a. Tasers contains an integrated computer system that tracks all activations of the unit. The information recorded includes dates, times and number of activations.
- b. Tasers will be downloaded at least monthly when not discharged and after any discharge. Data is downloaded automatically when the Taser battery is placed into the docking station for charging. Data downloads will be conducted by watch commanders. Tasers requiring maintenance will have all data downloaded prior to shipping.
- c. Downloaded data will be reviewed by watch commanders to ensure that officers are properly conducting daily functionality checks and reporting all discharges.
- d. In addition to other Department Use-of-Force and incident reporting requirements, all written reports associated with the Taser incident will be completed before the end of the Taser deploying officers' shift, or as reasonably practicable thereafter.
- e. The Taser deployment or discharge documentation shall include, but not be limited to:
  - 1. To what extent the Taser was utilized;
  - 2. The known results of the Taser's utilization;
  - 3. The type of Taser deployment, i.e., brandish, display, laser paint, warning arc, drive-stun, probe deployment, 3-4 point application;
  - 4. The number of Taser cycles used, the duration of each cycle, and the duration between cycles; and
  - 5. The approximate range at which the Taser was used.

- f. The department shall also collect the download data, cartridges, probes, and wires from the Taser that was deployed and shall maintain them pursuant to Department evidence collection policy.
- g. All collected evidence will be placed into a temporary evidence locker with a property receipt for storage in the property room.
- h. Collected evidence will be kept for a minimum of 5 years to ensure availability of required for court presentation.

#### 4.15.6 Unintentional Cartridge Discharge.

In the event of an unintentional Taser cartridge discharge, the officers will promptly notify their supervisor. The supervisor will have the officers prepare a written incident report and make appropriate notifications.

### 4.6 Remote Restraint Devices

- 4.6.1 The BolaWrap device is intended to immobilize and control resistive/non-compliant persons and persons with known or suspected mental health issues. The BolaWrap is a hand-held remote restraint device that discharges an eight-foot bola style Kevlar tether to entangle an individual at a range of 10-25 feet.

#### 4.6.2 Issuance and carrying BolaWrap Device

The following guidelines shall be adhered to:

1. Only a department-approved BolaWrap device that has been issued by the Department shall be utilized by personnel.
2. Only members who have successfully completed department- approved training may be issued and carry the BolaWrap device.
3. All BolaWrap devices shall be clearly and distinctly marked to differentiate them from the duty weapon and any other device.
4. Officers shall be responsible for ensuring that their issued BolaWrap device is properly maintained and in good working order.
5. Officers should not hold both a firearm and the BolaWrap device at the same time.

- 4.6.3 Verbal and Visual Warnings A verbal warning of the intended use of the “less lethal” device should precede its application, unless it would

otherwise endanger the safety of officers or when it is not practicable due to the circumstances.

The purpose of the warning is to:

1. Provide the individual with a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply.
2. Provide other officers and individuals with a verbal warning that the BolaWrap device may be deployed. A reasonable announcement such as “Wrap, Wrap, Wrap!” should be considered.
3. The aiming laser should never be intentionally directed into the eyes of another as it may permanently impair his/her vision.
4. The fact that a verbal or other warning was given or the reasons it was not given shall be documented by the officer deploying the BolaWrap device in the related report.

4.6.4 Use of the BolaWrap device has limitations and restrictions requiring consideration before its use. The device should only be used when its operator can safely approach the subject within the operational range of the device. Although the BolaWrap device is generally effective in controlling most individuals, officers should be aware that the device may not achieve the intended results and be prepared with other options.

#### 4.6.5 Application of the BolaWrap Device

The BolaWrap device may be used in any of the following circumstances, when the circumstances perceived by the officer at the time indicate that such application is reasonably necessary to control a person:

1. The subject is violent or is physically resisting.
2. The subject has demonstrated, by words or action, an intention to be violent or to physically resist, and reasonably appears to present the potential to harm officers, him/herself or others.

#### 4.6.6 Special Deployment Considerations

The use of the BolaWrap device on certain individuals should generally be avoided unless the totality of the circumstances indicates that other available options reasonably appear ineffective or would present a greater danger to the officer, the subject or others, and the officer reasonably

believes that the need to control the individual outweighs the risk of using the device. This includes:

1. Individuals who are known to be pregnant.
2. Elderly individuals or obvious juveniles.
3. Individuals who are handcuffed or otherwise restrained.
4. Individuals detained in a police vehicle.
5. Individuals in danger of falling or becoming entangled in machinery or heavy equipment, which could result in death or serious bodily injury.
6. Individuals near any body of water that may present a drowning risk.
7. Individuals whose position or activity may result in collateral injury (e.g., falls from height, operating vehicles).
8. The BolaWrap™ device shall not be used to psychologically torment, elicit statements, or to punish any individual.

#### 4.6.7 Targeting Considerations

The preferred target areas are the lower part of the body and the extremities. The head, neck, chest, and groin should not be intended target areas.

#### 4.6.8 Multiple Applications of the BolaWrap Device

If the first application of the BolaWrap device appears to be ineffective in gaining control of an individual, the officer should consider certain factors before additional applications of the device, including:

1. Whether the Kevlar cord or barbs are making proper contact.
2. Whether the individual has the ability and has been given a reasonable opportunity to comply.
3. Whether verbal commands, other options or tactics may be more effective.

#### 4.6.9 Actions Following Deployments

Following the use of the BolaWrap device:



1. Personnel shall request a supervisor to the scene.
2. After securing the subject in handcuffs or other appropriate restraints, if the barbs are or were embedded in skin tissue, the officer shall request EMS personnel to examine the subject. The officer should not attempt to remove the barbs. If the barbs are embedded in soft tissue areas such as the eyes, neck, or groin, the puncture sites shall immediately be brought to the attention of EMS personnel who may recommend transport to a medical facility.
3. The expended cartridge, barbs and Kevlar cord shall be collected and submitted into evidence. Collected evidence will be kept for a minimum of 5 years to ensure availability of required for court presentation.

#### 4.6.10 Documentation

Officers shall document all BolaWrap device discharges in the related arrest/crime report and in a Use of Force Report. Unintentional discharges should be reported to the Training Coordinator and an incident report shall be completed by the on-duty supervisor.

#### 4.6.11 Supervisor Responsibilities

When possible, supervisors shall respond to calls when they reasonably believe there is likelihood the BolaWrap device may be used. A supervisor should respond to all incidents where the BolaWrap device was deployed.

A supervisor should review each incident where a person has been exposed to an activation of the BolaWrap device. Photographs of the affected area should be taken, including if the skin is penetrated, and witnesses interviewed.

### 4.7 Care of Weapons

- 4.7.1 Officers' intermediate weapons are subject to inspection at any time by supervisors.
- 4.7.2 Officers are responsible for keeping their intermediate weapons clean and in good operating condition at all times. Report damage to or malfunction of a Department weapon to a supervisor immediately.
- 4.7.3 No modifications will be made to any duty weapon without approval from the Chief of Police or Deputy Chief of Police. Under no circumstances shall any person be authorized to tamper with or alter in any manner any Taser devices and Taser replaceable cartridges. Misfires and duds shall be recovered, rendered safe, and removed from service.

- 4.7.4 Repairs to Department-issued weapons must be made by a certified armorer or the weapon manufacturer.
- 4.7.5 The safe and secure storage of intermediate weapons should be given special attention as well. At home, they will be stored so that they are not accessible to others in the residence, especially children.  
CALEA 6<sup>th</sup> edition standard 4.3.1 f

## 5 Training and Qualification

CALEA 6<sup>th</sup> edition standard 4.3.3

### 5.1 Training on the use of Intermediate Weapons

All officers will complete Use of force Training where they are issued copies of, and are instructed in, this SOP and the Use of Force SOP before being authorized to carry an intermediate weapon. Such issuance and instruction will be documented. The Department will conduct refresher training for all sworn personnel biennially.

CALEA 6<sup>th</sup> edition standards 4.3.3, 4.3.4

- 5.2 Officers will only carry or use intermediate weapons in which they have received training and demonstrated a requisite level of proficiency. These officers will subsequently demonstrate proficiency with Tasers annually and all other less-lethal weapons they are authorized to carry at least biennially. All such training will be conducted and documented by a certified weapons and/or Taser instructor.

CALEA 6<sup>th</sup> edition standard 4.3.3, BOR 1.10.5

- 5.3 The training regimen for use of chemical agents and Taser includes direct exposure unless there is a documented medical reason preventing exposure. Officers refusing to submit to exposure to chemical agents or Taser as a function of training that do not have a documented medical exemption may be subject to discipline up to and including termination.
- 5.4 Less lethal Weapons Training. Officers must receive initial training and qualify with the baton, Taser and OC Spray prior to issuance of the weapon. Supervisors and authorized officers must receive initial training and qualify with less lethal munitions before issuance or authorization for use.
- 5.5 Officers failing to demonstrate required competencies, either in a training environment or on the job, will be required to satisfactorily complete remedial training to correct these deficiencies. Intermediate weapons will not be carried on duty until required proficiency is demonstrated. Failure to attend the required training will result in the removal of the weapon from the officer until the required training is completed and proficiency demonstrated. This does not

preclude officers from receiving disciplinary action if the attendance failure is not excusable.

CALEA 6<sup>th</sup> edition standard 4.3.3 c

5.6 The Training Coordinator will document all training and proficiency on intermediate weapons.

CALEA 6<sup>th</sup> edition standard 4.3.3 b

6. Specifications

CALEA 6<sup>th</sup> edition standard 4.3.1 a

6.1 Chemical Agent:

6.1.1 Body Guard LE-10 (10% Oleoresin Capsicum) spray or fog is the Department's standard-issue chemical agent. The Chief may authorize other types of chemical agents or delivery systems (e.g. foam) for use by officers upon satisfactory completion of appropriate training and proficiency testing.

6.2 Impact Weapon

6.2.1 The ASP F-21C tactical expandable baton is the Department's standard issue impact weapon. The Chief may authorize other models and/or types (e.g., side-handle baton) of impact weapons for use by officers upon satisfactory completion of appropriate training and proficiency testing.

6.2.2 The Taser 7 is the Department's standard issue Electronic Control Weapon.

6.2.3 A distinctively marked 12-gauge launcher will be dedicated for the deployment of beanbag rounds. Only less-lethal munitions will be loaded in these launchers. The munition issued by the Department will be either rubber baton, rubber pellets or round sock filled shotgun shells.

6.2.4 A distinctively marked 40mm launcher, either single shot or multi-shot, will be dedicated for the deployment of direct impact and chemical munitions. Only less lethal munitions will be loaded into these launchers. The munitions issued by the Department will be either direct impact or direct impact marking.

6.2.5 LMT single launcher 1425, B&T GL06 single shot, and LMT multi launcher 1440 40mm less-lethal launchers are in use by the Department. Only approved less-lethal, direct impact ammunition will be stored in vehicles containing these launchers.

6.2.6 Use of "sap" gloves, blackjacks, or similar devices is strictly prohibited.

## 7. Inspections and Records

### 7.1 Weapon Inspections

CALEA 6<sup>th</sup> edition standard 4.3.1 c, d

- 7.1.1 A certified instructor or armorer will thoroughly inspect all weapons for function, cleanliness, and safety prior to initial use by employees and at least biennially thereafter, usually during refresher training. He or she will document these inspections. Malfunctioning or unsafe weapons will either be repaired on the spot or removed from service until the problem(s) can be corrected.
- 7.1.2 Employees will report suspected material or functional defects of intermediate weapons to a supervisor without delay.
- 7.1.3 The team watch commander, or corresponding supervisor in other assignments, will inspect intermediate weapons at least monthly.

### 7.2 Storage and Record Keeping

CALEA 6<sup>th</sup> edition standard 4.3.1 e

- 7.2.1 The Department Principle Firearms Instructor (PFI) is responsible for the storage of unissued Tasers and cartridges. Replacements will be kept in a secured locker available to Patrol Division supervisors. The PFI will be notified when replacements are removed. If the replacement is removed due to the expiration date of a cartridge, the cartridge will be provided to the PFI for inventory documentation. The expired cartridge will then be used in Taser training,
- 7.2.2 The Department Quartermaster is responsible for maintaining a complete record of all intermediate weapons issued to and recovered from employees. The record will include, at a minimum, the date of issue, manufacturer/model, serial number (if any) and the names of both the assignee and issuing person.
- 7.2.2 Taser data will be maintained in compliance with the Georgia State Retention Schedule.

## 8. DEFINITIONS

Active Aggression: Means a threat or overt act of an assault (through physical or verbal means), coupled with the present ability to carry out the threat or assault, which reasonably indicates that an assault or injury to any person is imminent.

Active Resistance: A subject's physical actions to defeat an officer's attempt at control and to avoid being taken into custody. Verbal statements alone do not constitute active resistance.

Intermediate weapon: A weapon that is less lethal than a firearm, such as a baton, pepper spray, or electronic device.

Officers: For the purpose of this directive, the term used without a specification to sworn or public safety officer means both.

Official duties: For the purpose of this directive, the term means actions performed by an employee in his or her capacity as a law enforcement officer.

Passive Resistance: Physical actions that do not prevent the officer's attempt to control, for example, a person who remains in a limp-prone position or behavior that is unresponsive to police verbal communication or direction.

Pepper Ball Launcher: Consists of a compressed air launching device that delivers .68 caliber plastic sphere projectiles filled with inert powder or powdered 5% PAVA (made from peppers). The PAVA projectiles burst on impact and release the powder that is intended to subdue suspects by inflaming the mucous membrane in the nose, lungs, and respiratory tract (resulting in coughing, shortness of breath and involuntary closing of the eyes). Response to inhaling Pepper Ball OC varies greatly among individuals. In most cases, the symptoms last for five to twenty-five minutes. The Pepper Ball system can deliver projectiles with enough kinetic energy to produce temporary abrasion, bruises, and/or welts.

Weapon: Includes, but is not limited to: firearms (e.g. handguns, rifles, etc.) and less lethal weapons (e.g., impact weapons, stunning devices, and sprays.)

## 9. CANCELLATION

This directive cancels SOP 11-02h, "Intermediate Weapons"

## 10. REFERENCE

Georgia Code section 17-4-20 (b) "...Nothing in this Code section shall be construed so as to restrict such sheriffs or peace officers from the use of such reasonable nondeadly force as may be necessary to apprehend and arrest a suspected felon or misdemeanor."

CALEA 6<sup>th</sup> edition standards 4.1.4, 4.1.5, 4.3.1, 4.3.2, 4.3.3, 4.3.4

SOP 12-01, "Use of Force"