The Pennsylvania State University
Police and Public Safety Department **POLICY AND PROCEDURAL ORDER**

SUBJECT		
5.16 Impact Weapons		
CALEA REF.	EFFECTIVE DATE	REVISED DATE
4.1.1, 4.1.5, 4.2.1, 4.2.2, 4.3.2, 4.3.3	11/15/18	11/11/25
APPROVED BY		ASSIGNED TO GROUP(s):
Chief of Police and Public Safety, Wesley Sheets		5 and 6

This Policy is for departmental use only and does not apply in any criminal or civil proceeding. This Policy should not be construed as creation of a higher legal standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense with respect to third party claims. Violations of this Policy will only form the basis for departmental administrative sanctions. Violations of law will form the basis for civil and criminal sanctions in a recognized judicial setting

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish rules and procedures for the training, carrying, and use of impact weapons. The batons are authorized and issued impact weapons to be used for an officer's personal defense, and for controlling a subject who is actively resisting an officer's attempts to lawfully control him. The Pennsylvania State University Police and Public Safety (UPPS) Department's use of force is governed by Federal and Pennsylvania law, including, but not limited to, the Constitution of the United States.

II. POLICY (4.1.1)

The policy of UPPS is to use only that amount of force reasonably necessary to effect an arrest, control a situation, or defend themselves or others from harm. The Department recognizes that combative, non-compliant, armed and/or violent subjects cause handling and control problems that require specialized training and equipment. Thus, the Department has adopted the use of a less-lethal force philosophy to assist with the de-escalation of potentially violent confrontations. Any use of an impact weapon must comply with the Department's Use of Force Policy, 5.2.

Any police officer who makes an unlawful, excessive, or unauthorized use of an impact weapon will be subject to disciplinary actions and may be subject to civil and criminal liability.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. **Actively Resisting:** When a subject makes physically evasive movements to interfere with an officer's attempt to control that subject; including bracing, tensing, pulling away, actual or attempted flight, or pushing.

B. **Authorized Weapons:** The weapons that Department officers are permitted to carry, which meet Department specifications, and for which officers demonstrate proficiency and successfully complete training.

C. **Deadly Force:** Any physical force that can reasonably be expected to cause death or serious physical injury.

D. **Deployment:** Includes removal of any firearm, TEW or less lethal weapon from its carrier.

E. **Discharge:** The firing of any weapon.

F. **Force**: Any physical strike or instrumental contact with a person; any intentional attempted physical strike or instrumental contact that does not take effect; or any significant physical contact that restricts the movement of a person. The term includes, the act of pointing a firearm at or in the direction of a human being, discharge of a firearm, pointing or discharging an active Taser Energy Weapon (TEW) in the direction of a human being, use of impact weapon to strike, discharge of chemical spray, use of chokeholds or hard hands, taking of a subject to the ground, and a K-9 bite. The term does not include escorting or handcuffing a person with minimal or no resistance. Use of force is lawful if it is **objectively reasonable** under the circumstances to effect an arrest, prevent escape or protect the officer or other person.

G. **Harm:** Injury inflicted upon a person, whether visible or not.
H. **Imminent Threat:** An officer's reasonable perception of impending danger, death, or serious injury from any action or outcome that may occur during an encounter. A subject may pose an imminent or impending threat even if s/he is not pointing a weapon at an officer but, for example, has a weapon within reach, is running for cover carrying a weapon, or is running to a place where an officer has reason to believe that a weapon is available.
I. **Impact Weapons:** Department-approved tools that provide methods for gaining control of a subject when lethal force is not justified, but when empty-hand control techniques are not sufficient to effect control. These weapons should only be used when an officer is met with active resistance. The various batons authorized and/or issued by the Department are impact weapons.
J. **Officer:** Any **sworn or non-sworn** employee whose primary responsibility involves protecting life or has public or property protection duties.
K. **Passive Resistance:** The actions of a subject who does not cooperate with an officer's commands, but who does not take action to prevent being taken into custody. For example, a protestor who lies down in front of a doorway and must be carried away upon request.
L. **Serious Use of Force:** Any action by an officer that involves: (1) the use of deadly force, including all critical firearm discharges; and/or (2) a use of force in which the person suffers serious physical injury.
M. **Show of Force:** Displaying a weapon from its holstered or stored position, during an incident where no force is applied against a human being or animal.

III. Procedure

A. Equipment and Training
    1. Officers may carry and use only Department issued and approved impact weapons. Any impact weapons purchased by a member of the department must be of a type the Department has authorized and approved, the department impact weapons are (4.3.1a):
        a. Monadnock Autolock 22" Baton; and
        b. Less Lethal Impact Munitions 40 MM (SIM).
    2. Authorized personnel will train officers in the use and handling of the issued and approved impact weapons.
    3. Officers will not carry or use impact weapons until properly trained and certified and until they can demonstrate proficiency with such weapons (4.3.2).
    4. Officers assigned to Patrol functions, will carry an impact weapon when wearing their uniform in public (on duty). Impact weapons will be carried in a holster or carrying device specifically designed for such purpose.
B. Use of Impact Weapons
    1. Officers may deploy impact weapons in response to active resistance. Officers may also use impact weapons to assist with restraining subjects or applying escort holds, consistent with Department training.
    2. Officer must adhere to a progressive use of force theory to determine the degree of force that may be used. It is important to consider:
        a. The severity of the crime involved;
        b. The threat level encountered; and
        c. The level of resistance by the subject.

3. Officers will use only the minimum degree of objectively reasonable force necessary to gain control of the situation, in light of the circumstances present. Any use of impact weapons must comply with the Pennsylvania State University Police Department's Use of Force policies. Officers are reminded that use of force is only authorized when it is objectively reasonable and for lawful purposes (See Policy 5.2, Use of Force).
4. Officers are obligated to de-escalate their use of force as the subject's resistance decreases.
5. Officers should avoid raising an impact weapon above the level of the head of the subject.
6. Officers must avoid extreme levels of force which may cause serious bodily harm when striking a subject with an impact weapon, except when the circumstances justify using such force because of imminent danger of serious bodily harm and the officer is acting in self-defense or in the defense of others.

C. Specialty Impact Munitions (SIM)
1. The SIM will only be used at Stations that have an issued weapon, and by officers who have received the proper training.
2. The only authorized SIM for duty use, is the 40mm Exact or Direct Impact rounds fired from a 40 mm launcher with a rifled barrel.
3. This SIM is in effect, a baton fired out of a launcher. It allows officers to stand some distance from a potentially violent subject and deliver a strike without closing on the subject. It is also an option that in some instances may reduce the need to use a firearm.
4. Authorized uses for the SIM include but are not limited to:
    a. Targeting riot instigators;
    b. Subduing a person who is armed and threatening suicide;
    c. Subduing persons armed with an edged or blunt weapon; or
    d. Subduing persons who assault or attempt to assault or non-compliant (ex: a less lethal officer can be added to a raid team to deal with non-complaint persons held at gunpoint)
5. If officers are considering deploying a SIM against a subject armed with a firearm, careful consideration is necessary. Officers must weigh the subject's actions, ability to safely deploy the SIM, threat to others, etc. the SIM is not an appropriate option when the subject is an immediate or imminent threat with a deadly weapon.
6. If a SIM is to be deployed against a subject armed with a weapon, at least one officer will be assigned to cover (must be in immediate proximity to the SIM officer) the SIM officer in case an immediate need to use deadly force arises.
7. A SIM is generally intended to target green and yellow areas of the human body in an effort to dissuade a person presenting a greater threat and thus requiring more force. A SIM that hits an especially vulnerable area of the human body can cause death or serious bodily injury, so officers may not intentionally target "red" areas (according to the body chart) unless the subjects actions rise to the level of deadly force or it appears that firearm will have to be used if the SIM fails.
8. The officers on scene may reasonable determine that a SIM cannot safely be deployed or may not have the opportunity to deploy a SIM.
9. Injuries as a result of the SIM hit will be photographed whenever possible.
10. The spent SIM should be collected as evidence.

11. The launcher and SIMs are to be removed from the station only when there is specific incident that may require its use and when authorized by an incident commander, supervisor or station commander. This does not apply to training.
12. The incident commander, supervisor or station commander may authorize the use of the SIM in any incident where its deployment may be necessary.
13. An incident report shall be completed if the launcher and SIMs are removed from the station for an incident. In addition, a use of force report will be completed if the SIM is fired whether or not the SIM hits a person.

D. Body Areas Vulnerable to Impact Weapon Strikes with Less Likelihood of Causing Serious Bodily Harm
   1. Impact weapons should be used in a manner consistent with training in order to cause the minimum possible harm, by contacting pressure points, nervous centers, and any other area where the bones are close to the skin, especially the limbs.
   2. Vulnerable areas less likely to cause serious bodily harm as identified in Diagram 1 as green and yellow target areas (see Diagram on page 6 of this Policy).

E. Body Areas to be Avoided by Impact Weapon Strikes
   1. The following are considered potentially fatal impact spots and should not be intentionally targeted with an impact weapon unless lethal force is justified, consistent with Department policy and the law. The following areas are identified as red target areas in Diagram 1:
      a. Any area of the head/neck;
      b. Spinal area;
      c. Kidney area; or
      d. Solar plexus or celiac plexus (sternum, abdominal and cardiac trauma)

F. Verbal Commands
   1. A verbal warning and time to allow the subject to comply must be given, prior to the use of an impact weapon, unless such warning would present a danger to the officer or others.
   2. Verbal commands before, during, and after the use of an impact weapon are important in order to de-escalate any situation and gain compliance and control of an actively resisting subject.

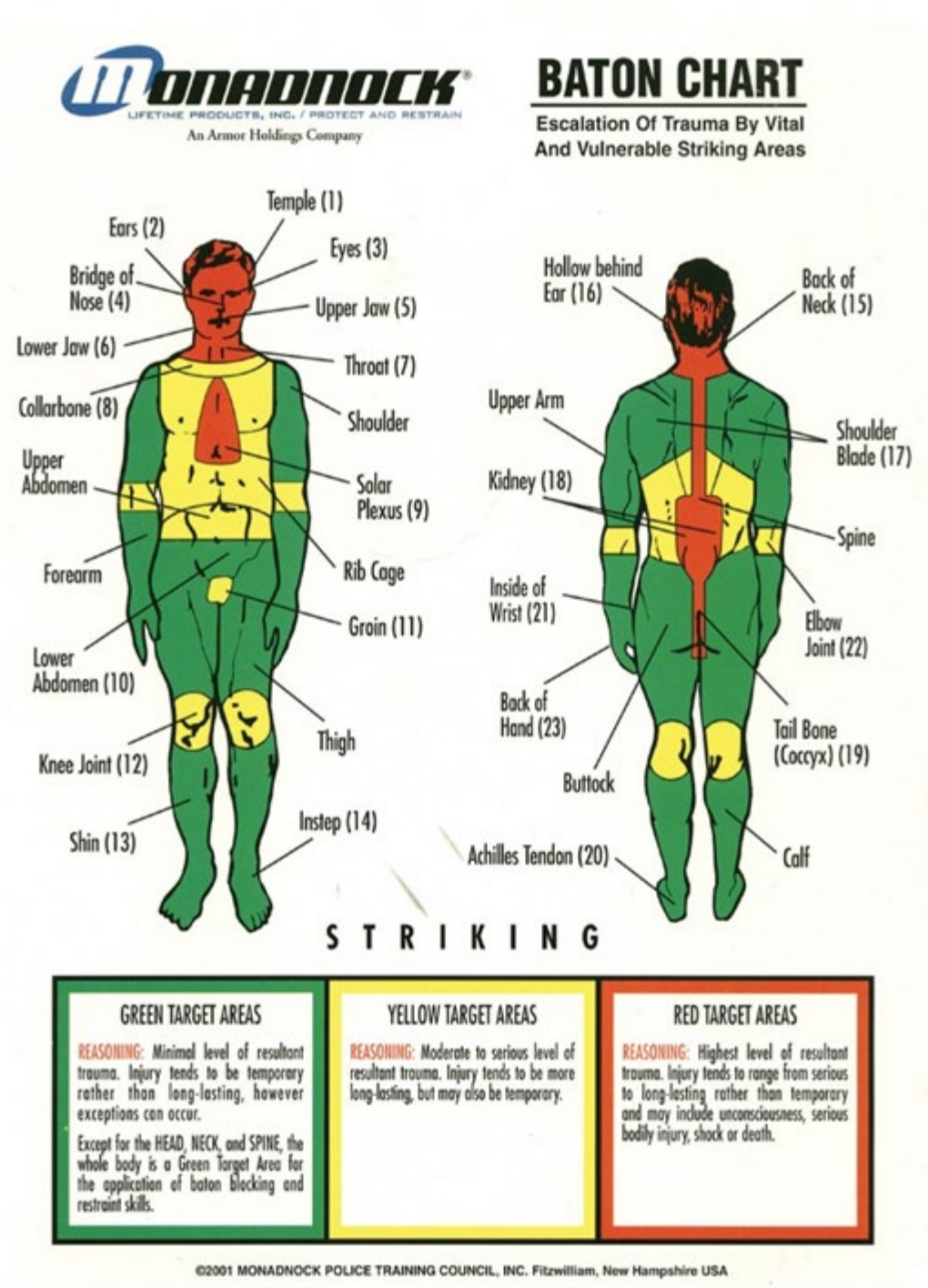
G. Medical Aid
   1. Any subject against whom an impact weapon is used, who is visibly injured or complains of injury, will be evaluated by qualified medical personnel. Qualified medical personnel include medical professionals such as medical doctors, licensed nurses, or EMS first responders (4.1.5)

H. Training
   1. Only those officers specifically trained, assigned, and authorized by the University Police and Public Safety Chief of Police, or their designee, will carry or utilize impact weapons. Officers must be trained and certified every year (calendar) by a certified instructor or trainer (4.3.3a)

I. Reporting Responsibilities
   1. Refer to UPPS Policy 5.3 Reporting and Investigating Force for the proper reporting procedures.

Updates:

- 11/3/22
    - Changes made to definitions or new definitions added for Actively Resisting, Deployment, Discharge, Force, Show of Force.
    - Title changes made to reflect current structure.
    - Reporting Responsibilities section updated.
- 11/1/23: Title and definition
- 11/11/25: Sections III.A.1.b, III.C.2, III.C.4,


MONADNOCK
LIFETIME PRODUCTS, INC. / PROTECT AND RESTRAIN
An Armor Holdings Company
BATON CHART
Escalation Of Trauma By Vital And Vulnerable Striking Areas
Temple (1)
Ears (2)
Eyes (3)
Bridge of Nose (4)
Upper Jaw (5)
Lower Jaw (6)
Throat (7)
Collarbone (8)
Shoulder
Upper Abdomen
Solar Plexus (9)
Forearm
Rib Cage
Groin (11)
Lower Abdomen (10)
Thigh
Knee Joint (12)
Instep (14)
Shin (13)
Hollow behind Ear (16)
Back of Neck (15)
Upper Arm
Shoulder Blade (17)
Kidney (18)
Spine
Inside of Wrist (21)
Elbow Joint (22)
Back of Hand (23)
Tail Bone (Coccyx) (19)
Buttock
Achilles Tendon (20)
Calf
STRIKING
GREEN TARGET AREAS
REASONING: Minimal level of resultant trauma. Injury tends to be temporary rather than long-lasting, however exceptions can occur.
Except for the HEAD, NECK, and SPINE, the whole body is a Green Target Area for the application of baton blocking and restraint skills.
YELLOW TARGET AREAS
REASONING: Moderate to serious level of resultant trauma. Injury tends to be more long-lasting, but may also be temporary.
RED TARGET AREAS
REASONING: Highest level of resultant trauma. Injury tends to range from serious to long-lasting rather than temporary and may include unconsciousness, serious bodily injury, shock or death.
©2001 MONADNOCK POLICE TRAINING COUNCIL, INC. Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire USA