



GLENDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Gary J. Montecuolo, Chief of Police

GENERAL ORDER: # 13-001

SUBJECT: TASER™ Deployment

DATE: February 26, 2013

INTRODUCTION

The Glendale Community College District Police Department hereby authorizes the deployment of the TASER™ by those sworn personnel who have received the proper training, as defined herein. The TASER™ device shall only be utilized in accordance with legal parameters per 835(a) of the California Penal Code. This General Order is the policy for use of the TASER™. The Glendale Community College District Police Department Operations Manual is currently under review. This General Order will be incorporated into the revised policy manual at a later date.

PURPOSE

I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE:

The policy of this District is to protect and serve students and members of the academic community, while at the same time, respecting the rights of suspects and balancing the need for District police officers' safety in use of force incidents. Situations may occur in which District police officers may find it necessary to defend themselves, defend others, or restrain a suspect against their will. Inherent in these situations is the risk of injury to both police officers and other members of the academic community. In an effort to reduce these risks, and as an alternative to what would otherwise require a greater level of force, authorized officers will be issued TASER™ devices. It is the policy of this District that officers will use only force that is objectively reasonable.

II. TASER™ TRAINING

Prior to being issued a TASER™, an officer shall attend a Department approved TASER™ training session conducted by a certified TASER™ instructor, who will ensure the officer successfully demonstrates proficiency in the use of the device. The training will provide officers instruction in the safe, effective and efficient use of the devices. All personnel shall be recertified every year by a Department approved TASER™ instructor. A reassessment of an officer's knowledge and/or practical skill may be required at any time if deemed appropriate by the Chief of Police and/or the TASER™ instructor.

III. POLICY

A. Only personnel who have completed department approved training, as set forth above, are authorized to carry the TASER™. TASER™ units are individually assigned to the officer.

B. Officers shall use only the Department supplied TASER™ and cartridges.

C. Uniformed officers issued a TASER™ shall carry the TASER™ and cartridges in a Department approved holster and cartridge carrier. Whenever practical, officers should carry two or more TASER™ cartridges.

D. When the TASER™ is carried as part of a uniformed officer's equipment, the TASER™ will be carried on the side opposite from the officer's duty weapon.

E. All TASER™ devices shall be clearly and distinctly marked to differentiate them from the duty weapon and/or any other device.

F. Officers should never hold a firearm and a TASER™ at the same time unless lethal force is justified.

G. Spare TASER™ cartridges shall not be attached to the grip extender while the TASER™ device is holstered as this can damage the “blast doors” to the cartridge.

H. Officers are responsible for ensuring their issued TASER™ is properly maintained and in good working order at all times. Prior to being taken in the field, each officer shall safely (with the air cartridge removed) conduct a “spark test” of the TASER™ to ensure it is working properly. Officers shall be aware of the estimated battery power remaining. A depleted power source, an error code displayed on the unit, or any other irregularity or malfunction shall be reported to a supervisor immediately.

IV. CRITERIA FOR DEPLOYMENT

In addition to compliance with the District’s use of force policy all deployment of a TASER™ as a response to resistance must comply with the provisions of this policy.

A. The TASER™ as a force option is considered equivalent to the use of chemical spray (a non-lethal level/intermediate level of force).

B. A TASER™ may be used when it is reasonable to subdue or control (1) a violent or physically resisting subject, or (2) a potentially violent or physically resisting subject (i.e. a subject that has verbally or physically demonstrated an intention to resist). Prior to using a TASER™ on a potentially violent or resisting subject, the officer must have determined that other available options would be ineffective or would present a greater danger to the officer or subject.

C. The TASER™ shall not be considered for a passively resistant subject.

D. Flight from an officer, by itself, is not a justification for the use of a TASER™

E. Officers shall give consideration to the nature of the offense the subject is suspected of committing, the degree of suspicion that the subject committed the offense, the risk of harm to others and all other circumstances surrounding the incident.

F. Whenever practicable, an officer who anticipates using a TASER™ should ensure there is sufficient assistance from other officers, or request assisting officers prior to use.

G. Unless it would endanger officer safety, or it is impractical to do so, a verbal announcement of "TASER™" shall precede the application of a TASER™ to allow the individual with time to voluntarily comply and to provide other officers and individuals with warning that a TASER™ may be deployed. The fact that a verbal warning was given, or reasons it was not given, shall be documented in any related report(s).

H. The TASER™ should only be used when the officer can safely approach the subject within the operational range of the TASER™.

I. The aiming laser should never be intentionally directed into the eyes of another as it may permanently impair vision.

J. Target areas on the body for effective deployment are areas of muscle mass. Officers shall attempt to target the center mass of the subject's back. Where back targeting is not possible, areas of muscle mass should be targeted such as the abdomen, side and legs. Officers shall make all reasonable efforts to avoid targeting an individual's head, neck, eyes, chest or genitals.

K. If, after a single application of the TASER™, an officer is still unable to gain compliance from an individual, and where circumstances allow, the officer shall consider whether the probes or darts are making proper contact, or if the use of the TASER™ is limiting the ability of the individual to comply, or if other options or tactics

are appropriate. This shall not preclude an officer from multiple applications of the TASER™ on an individual where reasonable and consistent with the District's use of force policy. If subsequent activations of the TASER™ are necessary, they should ordinarily be limited to two (2) subsequent reactivations and the duration necessary to place the suspect in custody by the use of handcuffs.

L. Application of the TASER™ in the Drive Stun mode (i.e. direct contact without darts) relies primarily on pain compliance and requires close proximity to the subject. Additional caution should be exercised and the controlling effects may be limited.

M. Officers shall not use the TASER™ in the following circumstances:

1. On a subject who is near, or has been exposed to, potentially flammable, volatile or explosive material, such as gasoline, natural gas, or alcohol-based pepper spray;
2. When a subject is in a significant amount of water;
3. Punitively, as a means of coercion in any other unjustified manner, such as to torture, psychologically torment, elicit a statement or inflict undue pain on any individual.

N. Although not absolutely prohibited, officers should give special consideration, consistent with training, for use of the TASER™ on any of the following individuals:

1. Pregnant females;
2. Individuals who are handcuffed or otherwise restrained;
3. Elderly individuals, obvious juveniles, or other individuals who are obviously physically limited;
4. Individuals actively fleeing/running;

5. Individuals whose position or activity may result in collateral injury or who are elevated above the officer (e.g. individual on roof, fire escape, tree, stairwell, etc.).

O. Officers may use the TASER™ to defend themselves or others from a vicious or attacking animal. Should such an occasion arise, the officer will make reasonable attempts to notify the owner of the animal, and shall thoroughly document the incident in a departmental report.

V. POST-EXPOSURE PROCEDURES

A. Once in custody, officers shall call the Glendale Police Department and EMTs to arrange for the arrest and transportation of the suspect. The suspect should be transported to a medical facility for removal of the probes and treatment of any condition.

B. Any individual exhibiting signs of distress after use of a TASER™ shall be medically cleared prior to booking. If a person upon whom a TASER™ has been deployed is not to be booked and refuses medical attention, their refusal shall be fully documented in related reports.

C. Officers are to inform medical personnel if it is believed the individual is suspected of being under the influence of drugs/alcohol or who exhibit extreme agitation, violent irrational behavior accompanied by profuse sweating, extraordinary strength beyond physical characteristics, unusually high tolerance of pain, or who require a protracted physical encounter with multiple officers to bring under control may be at increased risk of sudden death and should be examined by qualified medical personnel as soon as practicable.

V. DOCUMENTATION AND REPORTING OF TASER™ USE

1. Officers shall notify their immediate supervisor as soon as possible after a TASER™ has been deployed. A supervisor will immediately respond to

the scene of any deployment of a TASER™, including unintentional discharges.

2. All deployments of the TASER™ shall be documented, including those cases where a subject complies once threatened with a TASER™. Supervisors shall ensure that all proper documentation is made.
3. Photographs will be taken of the suspect, including contact sites and areas of the suspect's body believed to have sustained injury. Where the push-stun method has been used, photographs are extremely important due to the increased potential for this method causing scarring.
4. Supervisors shall ensure that officers have included all critical information in all required reports and that the chronology and specifics for the event, as well as individuals involved, are properly documented.

VI. POST-USE PROCEDURES

A. A supervisor shall, as soon as practicable, ensure that the data from the TASER™ is downloaded and stored.

B. The expended air cartridge, blast doors, AFID ID tags, and probes shall be collected and booked into evidence.

C. Expended probes are considered a bio hazard, similar to a used hypodermic needle, and shall be booked into the appropriate "Sharps" container.