

Glendale Heights Police Department

GENERAL ORDER # 133

SUBJECT: Impact Weapons

ACTIVE DATE: 11-7-2013

RESCINDS: GO #133, issued 6-24-2011

AUTHORITY: Michael S. Marron, Chief of Police

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

.01 Purpose

Police officers frequently confront persons who will resist arrest or who are physically aggressive toward officers or others. Officers are justified in responding with force, but only that force that is necessary and reasonable and within the limits permitted by law, to prevent the defeat of arrest or overcome aggression. This may necessitate the use of an impact weapon capable of inflicting serious bodily injury or even death. This directive provides Department policy in the use of impact weapons.

.02 CALEA Standards

1.3.1, 1.3.4, 1.3.5, 1.3.6, 1.3.7, 1.3.9, 1.3.10, 1.3.11, 1.3.12, 1.3.13 (5th Edition)

.03 Policy

It shall be the policy of the Glendale Heights Police Department to provide direction to its personnel regarding the use of impact weapons in response to resistance occurring in the performance of their duties. Impact weapons shall only be used when it is necessary and reasonable in order to prevent the defeat of arrest or overcome aggression. Training shall be provided and proficiency demonstrated by members prior to being authorized to carry these weapons. The Department shall review and analyze all incidents of the use of impact weapons as a part of the review of use of force by its members annually.

.04 Definitions

ASP Baton—An expandable, friction lock, metal baton.

Deadly Force—Any force which is likely to cause death or great bodily harm. (720 ILCS 5/7-8)

Great Bodily Harm—Any bodily injury that creates a substantial risk of death, causes serious permanent disfigurement, or results in long-term loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ.

Impact Weapon—A weapon used to physically strike another person.

Impact Weapon Instructor--Instructors shall be selected by the Deputy Chief of Operations and approved by the Chief of Police. Instructors shall meet the following minimum qualifications:

1. Successful completion of an Instructor course for the use of authorized impact weapons from North East Multi-Regional Training Unit, or other similar instructor's certification course for the use of authorized impact weapons.
2. Department instructors shall be sworn officers with a minimum of two years of service.
3. Certified instructors from outside agencies may be authorized by the Chief of Police to assist the Department in providing impact weapon training and qualification when no Department instructor is available.

Less Lethal—A technique or weapon, the use of which is not designed to, and is less likely to, cause death or great bodily harm.

Non-Deadly Force—Any use of force other than that which is considered deadly force. This includes any physical effort used to control or restrain another, or to overcome the resistance of another by the application of defensive or offensive techniques or weapons. Such force or weapon use is not intended to cause death or great bodily harm.

Straight Baton—A straight club or stick, 24”-26” in length, made of wood or non-metallic substance, equipped with a rubber grommet positioned 6”-8” from the butt. The straight baton will not be altered in any manner.

Subject—The person who is the focus and the intended recipient of the use of an impact weapon.

Riot Baton—A wooden club or stick between 26”-42” in length, used mainly in crowd control situations.

ORDER

.10 Authorization for Use

A. Impact weapons are authorized for use by sworn officers of the Glendale Heights Police Department.

1. The Deputy Chief of Operations shall issue all Department impact weapons and maintain a list of the names of certified users and instructors. The Deputy Chief of Operations shall inspect each impact weapon prior to issuance.
2. The Chief of Police shall maintain all records of use of impact weapons according to Department Use of Force reporting requirements (see GO #120).

B. Only officers who have successfully completed a Glendale Heights Police Department-approved training course in the proper use and deployment of impact weapons shall be authorized to use them.

C. Authorized officers shall be required to pass the Department-approved biennial recertification training for continued authorization.

D. The training course and recertification training consist of the following:

1. Training shall be coordinated by the In-Service Training Coordinator / Supervisor.
2. Training shall be conducted by a certified Impact Weapon Instructor.
3. Training shall also include instruction on the Department’s Use of Force GO #120.
4. Proficiency for impact weapons includes demonstrated skills in deployment, blocking, and striking; maintenance and carriage of weapons; and legal issues.
5. A record of the training and certification shall be maintained in the officer’s training file.

E. Officers failing to successfully complete the training or identified as having performance deficiencies with an impact weapon shall not be authorized to use it until successfully completing remedial training in accordance with section .10(D) above.

.15 Authorized Impact Weapons

A. The following impact weapons are the only weapons approved for use by members of the Glendale Heights Police Department:

1. Solid straight baton.
2. Riot baton
3. ASP expandable baton.

B. No other impact weapons, including but not limited to PR-24 batons, kubatons, blackjacks, billy clubs, sap gloves, or nunchakus, are permitted at any time while on duty.

C. In the event of a sudden assault, the Department authorizes the use of a flashlight or other objects close at hand that may be used in self defense as an impact weapon, provided that the officer transitions to a weapon issued by the Department as soon as practicable.

.20 Justification for the Use of Impact Weapons

The Glendale Heights Police Department recognizes a use of force continuum in the application of the use of force. Impact weapons may be used under General Order #120, section .20 (Use of Non-Deadly Force). Active resistors exhibit resistive movement to avoid physical control.

.25 Carrying of Impact Weapons

A. ASP batons shall be carried in a specifically designed scabbard on the duty belt, in accordance with training. Plainclothes personnel may carry ASP batons at their discretion.

B. Straight batons are stored in a rack within patrol vehicles, and may be carried on a ring on the duty belt.

C. Riot batons are stored in a rack in the trunk areas of patrol vehicles.

.30 Impact Weapons in Holding Facility

The only impact weapon authorized to be carried into the Department's Holding Facility is the ASP expandable baton (see GO #3230, section .10 (B)). All other impact weapons will be secured prior to entering the Holding Facility.

.35 Use on Animals

A. If feasible, an impact weapon may be used against an animal exhibiting aggressive or threatening behavior towards an officer or a third party, before a higher level of force is used. If the impact weapon is not effective on the animal, the officer may have to use other measures to control the animal. In the context of this directive, an animal is any non-human creature, domestic or wild, that may or may not be considered a common house pet.

B. Use of an impact weapon on an animal shall be subject to Use of Force policies as outlined in GO #120.

.40 Post Deployment

A. The subject is to be handcuffed to minimize the threat of injury to officers and the subject.

B. Officers shall be alert to any indications that the subject needs medical care. Whenever an officer causes injury to a person by the use of impact weapon, or if the subject requests medical assistance, the officer shall immediately summon emergency medical aid.

.45 Reporting

A. The officer using an impact weapon shall complete the appropriate Incident or Supplemental report on his/her actions, including the circumstances of the weapon's use, in accordance with Department reporting requirements and the Use of Force GO #120.

B. The supervisor shall review the reports and complete a review of the incident. All reports shall be forwarded to the Deputy Chief of Operations for review.

.50 ASP Baton

A. Officers may use the department issued ASP Police Baton when efforts involving the use of less force have failed, or it appears that the use of less force would be ineffective. The ASP is an available intermediate weapon step between becoming involved in a dangerous physical confrontation and a greater use of force. In every case, the use of the ASP must be the minimum force necessary for the situation, and in compliance with the Department's Use of Force GO #120.

B. The ASP may be used in the following circumstances:

1. In self-defense, or the defense of a third party.
2. To subdue a violently resisting subject.

C. When using the ASP baton, a primary strike and a reverse strike will be directed center mass to the part of the body being used as a weapon against the officer, consistent with Department training, to disable an assailant's ability to inflict injury.

D. The ASP may be used as a barricade or repelling device in crowd control situations, or to ward off offensive attacks from suspects/assailants.

E. Strikes to the face, head, neck, and spine areas are authorized only if the use of deadly force is justified.

.55 Straight Baton

Members using straight batons will follow the same policies and procedures as those listed for ASP batons in section .50, and consistent with Department training.

.60 Riot Baton

Riot batons are primarily used in crowd control situations to block strikes and move the crowd. Riot batons shall be used consistent with Department training.

.65 Inspection and Maintenance of Impact Weapons

A. It is the duty of each authorized officer to carry functional impact weapons when on-duty. It shall be in violation of this order to carry an impact weapon which is dirty or inoperable. Shift supervisors and commanding officers may inspect any officers under their command at any time and without notice, to ascertain if their impact weapon is clean and ready for duty, and is the Department issued weapon.

B. Any adjustments, alterations, or repairs to an impact weapon will only be performed by a Department authorized repair technician. Nothing in this order prohibits an officer from cleaning and maintaining his/her impact weapon per the manufacturer's recommended specifications.

C. Members are responsible for maintaining the Department-issued ASP as follows:

1. It shall be kept free of markings, disfigurement, or modifications.
2. The shaft(s) of the ASP will be kept clean and dry.
3. If exposed to water, perspiration or other foreign substances, the shaft(s) will be cleaned and dried at the first opportunity.
4. The shaft(s) will not be lubricated.
5. Members will not carry a damaged or otherwise malfunctioning ASP and will immediately request the repair or replacement of the weapon through their supervisor.

D. All repairs and replacements will be noted by the Deputy Chief of Operations. Any suspected or obvious misuse or damage noted on an impact weapon will be reported to the Watch Commander or

applicable supervisor immediately, who shall ensure repairs or replacement via the Deputy Chief of Operations.

.70 Annual Review

The Chief of Police shall cause an annual review of impact weapons in accordance with the Department's Use of Force review requirements.