HENRICO POLICE	**TYPE OF DIRECTIVE** GENERAL ORDER	**NUMBER** G-28-96 REV.
	SUBJECT LESS-THAN-LETHAL WEAPONS	**EFFECTIVE DATE** 11/30/96
	REFERENCE BATON, TASER, TACTICAL DEVICES, OC	**REVIEW DATE** 10/01/98
	CALEA STANDARDS (3rd Edition)	**RESCINDS** G-28-96

PURPOSE

To establish guidelines governing the use of less-than-lethal weapons by Division members.

PROCEDURES

I. BATON

A. The police baton is a less-than-lethal weapon issued to officers in the Division for use while performing a function either on-duty or off-duty. It may be employed in the officer's defense or in the defense of another, to control the actions of others, or to the extent necessary to effect a lawful arrest. Unless special circumstances dictate otherwise, carrying of the baton, while encouraged, shall be optional for uniform wear.

B. Only those officers who have been certified by the Training Unit in the use of the police baton shall be issued a baton, and only those who have been certified are authorized to carry a baton either on-duty or off-duty.

C. When it becomes necessary to employ force through the use of the police baton, and that force results in the injury or death of another person, the involved officer(s) shall immediately notify a field supervisor through the Communications Center. The field supervisor shall respond to the scene and initiate further notifications according RP-46. Internal Affairs shall initiate an investigation of the baton use, which shall include the gathering of a written report from the involved officer(s), and shall submit a report of findings to the Chief of Police.

D. Overt display of the baton shall not be considered use of force.

II. TASER

A. The TASER, an electronic control device, is designed to be used as an alternative subduing method and when traditional

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control tactics have proven or are likely to be ineffective. The device emits electrical energy that temporarily overcomes the human neuromuscular system. As with any other methods of subduing unwilling persons, officers must exercise due caution to prevent injury to the suspect, innocent parties, and fellow officers.

B. The use of the TASER is limited only to those instances where a **Division supervisor** has authorized its use.

C. Use of the TASER is limited to only those Division personnel who have been trained in its operation and thereby certified by the Training Unit and approved by the Chief of Police.

D. The TASERS shall be assigned to platoons and the Incident Management Team/SWAT Element.

E. The TASER may be used, but not limited to, the following circumstances:

G. The TASER may not be used when the following circumstances exist:

1. When it is unsafe for officers to approach within contact range of the suspect.

2. Mere verbal threats of violence by a suspect do not by themselves justify use.

3. When any chemical agent containing an alcohol base is used. ***This is not relevent for the O.C. issued to Henrico Officers, but operators should determine the base of the O.C. or mace used by other jurisdictions when assisting them.***

4. When you have knowledge that a female subject is pregnant.

H. Once the TASER is on the scene, its operator shall determine the propriety of its use, and if use is indicated, the operator shall assume immediate control of the situation until the subject is completely subdued.

I. No officer shall attempt to remove barbs that have penetrated the subject's body.

J. All persons upon whom the TASER has been applied shall be taken to an appropriate medical facility for examination, and if applicable, for removal of barbs and treatment of wounds.

K. Use of the TASER shall cause the utilizing officer to direct an ICR and a TASER Report Form, (DOP-148), prior to the end of his tour of duty, through the chain of command, to the ***Internal Affairs Unit***. The DOP-148 shall include, but not be limited to, reason for use of the TASER, pertinent data as to the identity of the suspect, his reactions to the device, any injuries noted, the location of the treatment facility, name of attending physician, and the nature and extent of treatment.

II. TACTICAL DEVICES

A. Tactical devices designed for police applications are to be considered less-than-lethal when used in accordance with manufacturers recommendations. These devices are a safe and effective method of conflict resolution that significantly reduce the chance of death or serious injury to law enforcement personnel, the public, and the suspects involved during high-risk operations.

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