



Office Of The Sheriff
Allegany County
Maryland

GENERAL ORDER NO: 3-500.00

TO: All Allegany County Sheriff's Office Employees

RE: **DEPARTMENTAL USE OF TASERS**

PURPOSE: To regulate the safe and proper use of the X26 Taser®

EFFECTIVE DATE: 2004

REVISION DATE: 3/1/2016

3-501.00 The following guidelines have been set forth for the safe and proper use of the X26 Advanced Taser®, by the Allegany County Sheriff's Office. not intended to replace firearms, self defense techniques or the use of K-9. The advanced Taser® may be used to control dangerous or violent subjects, when deadly force does not appear to be justified and/or necessary; or attempts to subdue the subject by other conventional tactics have been or will likely be, ineffective in the situation; or there is reasonable expectation that it will be unsafe for officers to approach within contact range of the subject.

- .01 Each X26 Advanced Taser® has a data port that stores the date and time of each firing of the weapon. The data protects the officer from claims of excessive force by providing complete and accurate documentation of each firing. The X26 Advanced Taser® falls into the category of Less Lethal Force Technology and Equipment defined as: that force which is unlikely to lead to death or serious physical injury.

3-502.00 Use of the X26 Taser®

- .01 The X26 Advanced Taser® shall be used by only those Deputes that have completed the proper training class given by the Allegany County Sheriff's Office or other certified Maryland Taser Training Class.

- .02 Only properly functioning and charged X26 Advanced Tasers® will be carried and used.
- .03 Each X26 Advanced Taser® unit that has been discharged, including accidental discharges, will be investigated and documented. A Taser Deployment Report shall be completed, along with an Allegany County Sheriff's Office incident report, after each use. Any discharges of the X26 Advanced Taser® during training will not require the completion of such reports.
- .04 The X26 Advanced Taser® is programmed to deliver a 5 second "electrical current." The officer using the weapon can shorten the automatic 5 second cycle by turning the weapon off. It is recommended that during the field deployment and use of the weapon, the full 5 second cycle is delivered to gain maximum effectiveness and compliance of the subject tasered.
- .05 The X26 Advanced Taser® is not to be aimed at the eyes or face of the suspect. It is laser sighted and the probes are designed to follow a set course consistent with aiming center mass.
- .06 DO NOT fire the X26 Advanced Taser® near flammable liquids or fumes. The Taser can ignite gasoline and other flammables. Some self-dense sprays are flammable and should not be used in conjunction with the X26 Advanced Taser®.
- .06 Replace cartridges by the expiration date. All expired cartridges will be turned into the training officer and replaced with new cartridges. Expired cartridges will be sent to the Taser Training Officer for use during training exercises or disposal.
- .07 During the deployment of the weapon the officer or operator of the Taser® will announce to all officers present that the Taser is going to be used.

3-503.00 Sheriff's Responsibility

- .01 Review each use of an X26 Advance Taser® by officers
- .02 Ensure training on less than lethal devices is provided as needed.

3-504.00 Shift Supervisor's Responsibilities

- .01 Respond to scenes where the X26 Advanced Taser® has been or is expected to be deployed, when able to do so.
- .02 Evaluate the scene and ensure that the appropriate investigation is conducted on the deployment.
- .03 Ensure that deputies who discharge the X26 Advanced Taser® has completed a Taser Deployment report and Incident Report.
- .04 Ensure that the proper reports are forwarded, through the chain of command, to the Sheriff.
- .05 Investigate each incident where the X26 Advanced Taser® is used on the subject (with actual firing of the probes or touch stunning). Review the officer's incident report and Taser Deployment Report.
- .06 Ensure the subject that the X26 Advanced Taser® was deployed on is examined by EMS and /or medical personnel, if requested by the subject.
- .07 Ensure that photographs are taken of the probe penetration sites and any secondary injuries caused by falling to the ground, etc.
- .08 Ensure that incidents involving any discharge of the X26 Advanced Taser® is investigated and appropriately documented.
- .09 Ensure that only trained deputies are issued and using the X26 Advanced Taser®.

3-505.00 Patrol Deputies Responsibilities

- .01 Upon encountering a situation which may require the use of the X26 Advanced Taser ® requested an officer equipped with an X26 Advanced Taser.
 - A. If the situation should change and the X26 Taser is no longer need the response should be canceled.
- .02 When practical, do not escalate the situation before the arrival of a supervisor and Taser Deputy.

3-506.00 Taser Equipped Deputies

- .01 The X26 Advanced Taser® shall be carried on duty unless specifically exempted by higher authority.
- .02 The X26 Advanced Taser® shall be carried in the issued thigh holster or other approved holster.
- .03 When not in use the X26 Advanced Taser® shall be secured properly in a carrying case and treated as a weapon.
- .04 The X26 Advanced Taser® will at no time be left unattended or unsecured in a Police unit.
- .05 Ensure that batteries of the X26 Advanced Taser® are properly charged.
- .06 Upon request from other deputy or supervisor the Taser equipped deputy shall respond to any scene and stand by with the Taser.
- .07 After discharging the X26 Advanced Taser® the officer shall request a supervisor to respond to scene, if one is not present. If a supervisor is not available the Shift Lieutenant will be notified of the event. And the following procedure will be followed.
 - A. After a discharge the air cartridge and probes shall be retained and in the file cabinet in the mail room marked “BOHAZARD.” The deputy should wear protective latex gloves when handling the cartridge and the probes, due to the potential biohazard.
 - B. The wire shall be wound around the cartridge and the probes inverted into the portals they deployed from. This will prevent the sharp ends from penetrating the evidence envelope.
 - C. Tape should be placed over the portals to secure the probes in the cartridge.
 - D. The evidence shall be placed in an evidence envelope and appropriately packaged.
 - 1. A biohazard sticker shall be placed on the outside of the envelope unless the evidence envelope is already clearly marked “Biohazard”.

3-507.00 Treatment of Persons Subjected to Taser

- .01 After securing the subject in handcuffs and other appropriate restraints, the Taser deputy shall remove the probes using prescribed methods. However, if the probes are imbedded in soft tissue area, the deputy shall require the subject to be treated by the medical staff at the Allegany County Detention Center or at the hospital and the probes removed.
- .02 Attempts to remove the probes will be made at the scene when possible.
- .03 The treatment of the probe injuries should require the subject to be provided with alcohol swabs and band-aids to place over the injuries area after having been properly photographed and documented.

3-508.00 Use of Force Issues

- .01 The use of the X26 Advanced Taser® constitutes use of force.
- .02 The x26 Advanced Taser® is placed on the force continuum before the use of pepper spray and the ASP baton. The responding deputy will have the discretion upon arriving at the scene to use either pepper spray or the M26 Advanced Taser®.
- .03 It is understood that the use of the X26 Advanced Taser® will vary on each situation. The use of the X26 Advanced Taser® will not hinder the use of any other use of force, including K-9 because of this reason.
- .04 The X26 Advanced Taser® may be used from up to 21 feet away when:
 - A. The suspect is punching or kicking, or;
 - B. Threatening to punch or kick, or;
 - C. Lesser force options are ineffective, or;
 - D. Likely to be ineffective, or;
 - E. The deputy reasonably believed the suspect is a credible threat, or;
The suspect is a threat from a distance and the officer is a risk of injury if he/she attempts to close the gap.

F. Other deployment considerations include:

1. Imminent threat to deputies or others.
2. Suspect actively resisting arrest.
3. Circumstances are tense, uncertain and rapidly evolving.
4. Severity of the crime.
5. Attempting to evade by fight or flight.

3-509.00 Training Officers Responsibilities

- .01 Provide annual retraining to certified users and instructors.
- .02 Co-ordinate training for certification as requested by need of field services or other personnel in the department.
- .03 Review copies of the Taser Deployment Report for completeness.
 - A. Retain one copy in the deploying officers training file, one copy in the X26 Advanced Taser® use file and send one copy to Air Tam International for inclusion in the national use data base.
 - B. Maintain training updates from Air Tam International and distribute updates to all department members who are X26 Advanced Taser® users.

By order of:

Craig A. Robertson, Sheriff